

CONCLUSION OF MORNING  
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

TED STEVENS ARCTIC CENTER FOR SECURITY  
STUDIES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it was several weeks ago—actually, October 23—that here in the Senate we had the opportunity to recognize a friend of so many of us; a mentor, certainly, to me; and a leader in Alaska. We recognized the life and contributions of Senator Ted Stevens.

The Alaska congressional delegation was able to join with members of the Stevens family, many of his friends, his congressional colleagues, and a lot of former staff. We were able to unveil a portrait of Senator Stevens that had been commissioned for him as the President pro tempore of the Senate. It was a lovely ceremony and a great occasion, and now his portrait hangs back in the hall, behind where the Presiding Officer is sitting.

It was a great occasion to be remembering the contributions of Ted Stevens. He represented my State from 1968 to 2009. He was the longest serving Republican Senator in Senate history at the time that he left office.

He left office with considerable policy legacies. Those in the fishing industry remember the work he did with Senator Magnuson in creating the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which really has become the framework for our sustainable fisheries. It is something we continue to look to. He also worked in sports with the creation of the U.S. Paralympics. We remember his encouragement and all that he did with women and girls in sports regarding title IX.

We all know his background and his history. He was a pilot in World War II. Certainly, here in the Senate, he was a staunch advocate for our veterans and for all of our military. He worked hand in glove with his Senate brother and friend, Senator Daniel Inouye, chairing not only the Appropriations Committee itself but also the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations. In that role, he helped to advance so many of our national priorities.

Today is Ted Stevens' birthday. If he were alive today, he would be 96 years old. Later this evening, there is going

to be a gathering. It is an annual gathering on November 18, when friends of Ted gather to raise a glass to a wonderful man, a strong leader, a great Alaskan, and truly a friend of mine.

I think today Ted Stevens would be smiling at what Senator SULLIVAN, Congressman YOUNG, and I were able to observe this morning.

The three of us—the full Alaska delegation—were in Fort Worth, TX, at the Lockheed Martin plant, and we were able to participate in the signing as we seek to roll off the line the first F-35 that will be based there at Eielson Air Force Base. It will be the first of two squadrons with there being a total complement of 54 F-35s. It was a reminder to all of us of all we have done in the State of Alaska in our focusing on Alaska's geostrategic position, not in the country but in the world.

Ted Stevens clearly recognized that. He was a visionary in so many areas, and he was certainly a visionary when it came to understanding the promise but also the challenge of the Arctic itself and how we were to ensure that in this region. It is a region that is pretty remote and pretty isolated, but it is a region that is prepared and then, with that preparation, is able to protect.

As we think about that role today that Senator Stevens envisioned for Alaska in terms of our role in protecting and defending the country but also our broader, more global role and responsibility, I come to talk about legislation that I have introduced, along with Senator SULLIVAN, to authorize the Department of Defense to create a sixth regional center for security studies that is focused on the Arctic.

I think it is very, very clear to us that the Department of Defense, in particular, is keying in on the challenges that we face in the Arctic. With the growing prominence of the Arctic and global geopolitical and strategic affairs, now is the time to give the Department of Defense the tools as well as the abilities that it needs to foster the research and the dialogue that we think will be critical to our Nation's security.

Let me give a little bit of background in terms of these regional centers. Currently, the Department of Defense has five academic regional centers for security studies. They cover the regions of Europe, the Asia-Pacific, Africa, Near East South Asia, and the Northern Hemisphere. What these centers aim to do is to support defense strategy objectives and policy priorities through a pretty unique academic forum, as well as to foster strong international networks of security leaders.

Just to give a kind of basic comparison of what we are talking about here, in specifics, the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies is actually fully entitled the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. It was established in Hawaii back in 1995, but it is a DOD institution that provides a

forum at which current and future military and civilian leaders from the Indo-Pacific gather to address regional and global security issues and enhance security cooperation through programs of executive education, professional exchange, and building relationships of trust and confidence. Currently, over 30 countries send participants to engage, to learn, and to really build those relationships.

The Ted Stevens Arctic Security Studies Center, which is what we seek to name this Arctic center, will be modeled after the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. There being the fact that the two of them worked hand in glove for so many years—really, for decades—on these issues of national security and national defense from both the perspective of the far north as well as the Asia-Pacific, it is only fitting that we model the Ted Stevens Arctic Security Studies Center after the Arctic center named after Daniel Inouye.

Senator SCHATZ clearly understands the value of the Asia-Pacific center, and he has joined Senator SULLIVAN and me as a cosponsor of this legislation.

What we are really seeking to do here—the overarching goal of this Arctic security studies center—is to find solutions for the greatest security challenges of the circumpolar Arctic region in order to help promote a greater understanding of the Arctic—we know we have to do more there—as well as to facilitate greater engagement and potential solutions for the many challenges that we know lie ahead.

It is an evolving world up there. Let me tell you that it is an evolving world. As we are seeing the impact from climate changes, as we are seeing ice recede, as we are seeing waterways open up, as we are seeing greater access, as we are seeing greater threats, what are we doing to prepare?

I think it is important to recognize that the proposed center would be additive in nature. It is not looking to take away from any of the other very excellent efforts that support the DOD's mission in the Arctic. What we are seeking to do is to provide additional value while creating new partnerships and supporting critical research. We hope—certainly, it is the intent here—to complement current structures, like the multinational Security Forces Roundtable, led by USEUCOM and the Norwegian Defence Staff. The center will build on the Arctic Coast Guard Forum, wherein, effectively, you have senior leaders from the Coast Guards from all over the Arctic nations gather to discuss defense and security concerns.

Just this last Thursday, I had an opportunity to be part and spoke via videoconference of the importance of this strategic dialogue at the Arctic Symposiums and Arctic Senior Leader Summits, which was held by NORTHCOM and ALCOM.

Again, what we are seeking to do here is to help facilitate the array of international senior leaders and Arctic subject matter experts to come together for these substantive dialogues on the Arctic. The Arctic presents an opportunity to expand the DOD Regional Center's model to study the rapid changes in communications, technology, environment, and societies in remote and sparsely populated areas with underdeveloped infrastructure.

I mentioned that this would be additive in nature, that we seek to collaborate with other current structures that are doing good work, but we seek to have close partnerships with research centers like we have at the Wilson Center's Polar Institute, at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Arctic Domain Awareness Center, as well as at the Coast Guard Academy Center for Arctic Study and Policy.

We need to have strong involvement from Native leaders and indigenous peoples. How we incorporate and how we elevate the Native expertise in the Arctic that has been informed by centuries of experience of having lived in the region must also be a priority. The center should also be used as a joint commanded venue with Canada and other Arctic partners. This would be effectively replicating the success of the model that we have with the George C. Marshall Center with Germany.

Since Senator SULLIVAN and I introduced this bill to establish this new DOD Arctic security studies center, we have gotten great input. I am pleased that we have seen a lot of interest from within our State and outside as well. Several have reached out to our offices to express their interest in supporting and developing the concept of this center.

I think we see Arctic security emerging as an area of threat as well as interest, and it certainly remains the likely spillover conflict area should confrontations occur within Europe or Asia. So great scholarship, plus international and interdisciplinary engagement from an Arctic center, would help to advance defense readiness, develop our awareness, and improve ally and partner capabilities to support multinational security cooperation across the circumpolar Arctic.

This is something that I am excited to be working on, and I know Senator SULLIVAN is as well. I invite other colleagues to join us in this effort. I think that our friend Ted Stevens would approve of this as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Rick Scott, Steve Daines, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, John Thune, John Cornyn, Deb Fischer, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Tim Scott, Mitch McConnell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the 11th Circuit shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 61, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 357 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Alexander	Feinstein	Perdue
Baldwin	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Reed
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Carper	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Jones	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Sinema
Coons	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Leahy	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Whitehouse
Cruz	McSally	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Enzi	Murkowski	
Ernst	Paul	

NAYS—30

Bennet	Cardin	Durbin
Blumenthal	Casey	Gillibrand
Brown	Cortez Masto	Hassan
Cantwell	Duckworth	Heinrich

Hirono	Murray	Stabenow
Kaine	Peters	Tester
King	Rosen	Udall
Markey	Schumer	Van Hollen
Menendez	Shaheen	Warner
Merkley	Smith	Wyden

NOT VOTING—9

Booker	Klobuchar	Sanders
Harris	Murphy	Schatz
Isakson	Roberts	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 61, the nays are 30.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 357, the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 487, Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

REMEMBERING SENATOR KAY HAGAN

● Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, our nation mourns the loss of former Senator Kay Hagan, an exemplary civil servant who thoughtfully represented the people of her beloved North Carolina. She was a role model for women across the Nation, and will be remembered as an example of committed service to the American public.

Senator Hagan was born on May 26, 1953, in Shelby, NC. She learned about the importance of public service at an early age from her uncle, U.S. Senator and former Florida Governor Lawton Chiles, and her father, Joe P. Ruthven, a Navy veteran who served as the mayor of Lakeland, FL. Senator Hagan earned her bachelor's degree in 1975 from Florida State University, followed by a juris doctorate from Wake Forest University. She worked in banking and as a stay-at-home mother before turning to politics, which gave her a valuable insight into both the private sector and the needs of everyday families.

Senator Hagan served in the North Carolina Senate, where she became one of the body's chief budget writers. This