

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 John Fitzgerald Kness, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to move to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 535.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Philip M. Halpern, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 Philip M. Halpern, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for these cloture motions be waived.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### TRIBUTE TO DONNA PASQUALINO

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President I would like to recognize a remarkable Senate career that has drawn to a close after nearly 30 years. Donna Pasqualino began her career with the Office of the Legislative Counsel in May of 1990. Donna came to the office having spent several years at the Naval Research Lab. Hired to serve as a staff assistant in the office Donna quickly mastered the job and became a valuable asset to the office attorneys as they worked to produce draft legislation for the Senate. In 2001, Donna was promoted to office manager. She flourished in that position, carrying out her duties with the highest degree of professionalism keeping the office running smoothly and efficiently for the last 20 years.

Donna is a people person. While working for the office, she was frequently seen in the halls of the Senate office buildings, hustling to the Disbursing Office to drop off vouchers and other important papers for the office, just doing her daily walk during her lunch break to get in some exercise. Whether she was on official office business or just getting in some exercise, Donna always had a smile on her face or a kind word for the many Senators and Senate staffers that she met along the way.

Donna is now moving on to a well-earned retirement. She has relocated to the Eastern Shore of Maryland with her husband Frank and plans to learn to read music, to speak Italian, and spend more time with her four grandchildren. She departs with the immeasurable thanks and gratitude of the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Senate and with our best wishes for her and for her family.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, throughout my time in Congress, I have worked to address our Nation's most pressing environmental issues and have supported aggressive action to protect our environment, address climate change, and reduce air and water pollution. Although I was not present for the votes on the following nominees and legislation on the floor, I did vote no on the nomination of Aurelia Skipwith to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during her Senate Environment and Public

Works Committee markup. In addition, if I had been present for the floor vote on her nomination and the additional votes outlined below, I would have voted in the following way: yes on 2/7/19 for vote No. 18, motion to table amendments to the Natural Resources Management Act, S. 47, PL 116-9.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked to address our Nation's most pressing environmental issues and have supported aggressive action to protect our environment, address climate change, and reduce air and water pollution. Although I was not present for the votes on the following nominees and legislation on the floor, I did vote no on the nomination of Aurelia Skipwith to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during her Senate Environment and Public Works Committee markup. In addition, if I had been present for the floor vote on her nomination and the additional votes outlined below, I would have voted in the following way: no on 2/7/19 for vote No. 19, motion to table amendment to the Natural Resources Management Act, S. 47, PL 116-9.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked to address our Nation's most pressing environmental issues and have supported aggressive action to protect our environment, address climate change, and reduce air and water pollution. Although I was not present for the votes on the following nominees and legislation on the floor, I did vote no on the nomination of Aurelia Skipwith to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during her Senate Environment and Public Works Committee markup. In addition, if I had been present for the floor vote on her nomination and the additional votes outlined below, I would have voted in the following way: no on 4/11/19 for vote No. 77, the confirmation of David Bernhardt to be Secretary of the Interior.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked to address our Nation's most pressing environmental issues and have supported aggressive action to protect our environment, address climate change, and reduce air and water pollution. Although I was not present for the votes on the following nominees and legislation on the floor, I did vote no on the nomination of Aurelia Skipwith to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during her Senate Environment and Public Works Committee markup. In addition, if I had been present for the floor vote on her nomination and the additional votes outlined below, I would have voted in the following way: no on 9/24/19 for vote No. 300, the confirmation of Daniel Habib Jorjani to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked to address our Nation's most pressing environmental issues and have supported aggressive action to protect our environment, address climate change, and reduce air and water pollution. Although I was not