

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

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 9/26/19 for vote No. 310, amendment to continuing appropriations, 2020/health extenders, H.R. 4378, PL 116-59.

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 9/26/19 for vote No. 311, passage of continuing appropriations, 2020/health extenders, H.R. 4378, PL 116-59.

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 10/17/19 for vote No. 324, passage of the powerplant rule disapproval, S.J. Res. 53.

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 10/31/19 for vote No. 339, amendment to further continuing appropriations, 2020, H.R. 3055.

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 10/31/19 for vote No. 340, amendment to further continuing appropriations, 2020, H.R. 3055.

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 10/31/19 for vote No. 341, passage of further continuing appropriations, 2020, H.R. 3055.

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 12/11/19 for vote No. 395, confirmation of Aurelia Skipwith to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DENMAN WOLFE

• Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, Denman Wolfe of Scottsville, AR, was called home to be with the Lord last Thursday at age 98. He was Arkansas's last surviving Army Ranger who served in the Second World War.

Denman's whole life was a portrait of honor, but he will be remembered especially for his heroic actions at age 23, when he took part in the invasion of Normandy—one of many thousands of

American troops who stormed the beaches that morning to free Europe from Nazi tyranny.

Private Wolfe was part of the elite 5th Ranger Battalion charged with silencing the guns atop Pointe du Hoc, a dagger-like cliff well-guarded by German defenders. His force landed at Omaha Beach amid intense artillery fire, sustaining casualties amid the fighting on the beachhead. He was still on the beach with his fellow Rangers when MG Norman Cota shouted the order that has now become part of Ranger lore: "Rangers, lead the way!"

Denman Wolfe obeyed this order with distinction over the course of his military service. In addition to fighting on D-day, Wolfe led the way during the Allied invasions of North Africa and Sicily during World War II and later in Asia during the Korean war. In total, he served in the Army for more than 20 years, remaining on Active Duty until 1964 and attaining the rank of sergeant first class. For this valorous service, Wolfe was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and many other combat decorations.

Denman's service to his country didn't end once he left the military, however. Once marked, a Ranger serves for life. After settling in Arkansas after the war, Denman was called to work for his adopted State as a correctional officer, deputy sheriff, and election judge.

But his heart was always with the land, where he worked for many years as a rancher. Denman's many friends and relatives remember him as an avid outdoorsman who spent his free time fishing, hunting, gardening, foraging—even winemaking.

Denman took special joy in sharing these hobbies with his family, including his wife, Kay, his two daughters, Lesa and Lori, and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Denman Wolfe was among the greatest of a great generation. It is fitting we honor him for his bravery at age 23 as a young private but also for a lifetime of service to his country and community. We honor him for his sake but also to hold up his life as an example worthy of emulation. It is worth noting that Denman has already inspired others to follow his lead: his daughter, Lesa, served in the U.S. Army just like he did. Let's hope that many others are inspired to serve by his example.

In every aspect of life, Rangers lead the way. Denman Wolfe took this motto to heart during his long life. Now he is leading the way again, going ahead of us to our eternal home. May he rest in peace.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3922. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget,