

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of John L. Ratcliffe, of Texas, to be Director of National Intelligence.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S2563–S2616*

**Measures Introduced:** Fifty-three bills and eight resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3792–3844, S.J. Res. 74, and S. Res. 594–600.

**Pages S2584–86**

#### Measures Passed:

**United States Foreign Service Day:** Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 556, designating May 1, 2020, as the “United States Foreign Service Day” in recognition of the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States, and honoring the members of the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty, and the resolution was then agreed to.

**Pages S2609–10**

**Older Americans Month:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 597, designating May 2020 as “Older Americans Month”.

**Page S2610**

**National Foster Care Month:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 598, recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

**Page S2610**

**Honoring Judge Lee Roy West:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 599, honoring the life and legacy of Judge Lee Roy West.

**Page S2610**

**Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the actions of the Senate with respect to S.J. Res. 72, providing for the reappointment of Michael M. Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, be vitiated.

**Page S2564**

**Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, May 22, 2020, at 9 a.m.; Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.; Thursday, May 28, 2020, at 11 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, May 28, 2020, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, June 1, 2020.

**Page S2610**

**Badalamenti Nomination:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of John Leonard Badalamenti, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

**Pages S2572–74**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 65 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. EX. 102), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

**Pages S2573–74**

**Mercado Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Victor G. Mercado, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

**Page S2574**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of John Leonard Badalamenti, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

**Page S2574**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

**Page S2574**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

**Page S2574**

**Miller Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Brian D. Miller, of Virginia, to be Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery. **Page S2574**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Victor G. Mercado, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. **Page S2574**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2574**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2574**

**Anderson Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of James H. Anderson, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. **Page S2574**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Brian D. Miller, of Virginia, to be Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery. **Page S2574**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2574**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2574**

**Tipton Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Drew B. Tipton, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. **Page S2574**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of James H. Anderson, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. **Page S2574**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2574**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2574**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, June 1, 2020, Senate resume consideration of the nomination; further that at 5:30 p.m., Senate resume

consideration of the nomination of John Leonard Badalamenti, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, Monday, June 1, 2020 count as the intervening day with respect to the motions to invoke cloture filed on Thursday, May 21, 2020. **Page S2610**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 49 yeas 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 101), John L. Ratcliffe, of Texas, to be Director of National Intelligence. **Pages S2564–72**

Kenneth J. Braithwaite, of Pennsylvania, to be Secretary of the Navy. **Page S2578**

Christopher T. Hanson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2024.

David A. Wright, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2025. **Pages S2578–79**

34 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

8 Army nominations in the rank of general.

12 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral.

14 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

6 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S2579–81**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Liam P. Hardy, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term of fifteen years to expire on the date prescribed by law.

Sarah E. Feinberg, of West Virginia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Chris Koos, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

J. Mark Burkhalter, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway.

William A. Douglass, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Patrick Hovakimian, of California, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Aileen Mercedes Cannon, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Toby Crouse, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

Dirk B. Paloutzian, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Roderick C. Young, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Routine lists in the Air Force and Army.

**Pages S2613–14**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Page S2584**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S2584**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S2586–88**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**  
**Pages S2588–S2609**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S2583–84**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S2609**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today.  
(Total—102) **Pages S2572–74**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:48 p.m., until 9 a.m. on Friday, May 22, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2610.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 238, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 712, to provide assistance for United States citizens and nationals taken hostage or unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3176, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 192, to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, H.R. 4331, to modify and reauthorize the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Res. 567, commending career professionals at the Department of State for their extensive efforts to

repatriate United States citizens and legal permanent residents during the COVID-19 pandemic;

S. Res. 148, supporting efforts by the Government of Colombia to pursue peace and regional stability, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Res. 392, recognizing the importance of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative to the relationship between the United States and the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and to advancing the policy of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Res. 406, recognizing that for 50 years, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its ten members, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, have worked with the United States toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia, and expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States will continue to remain a strong, reliable, and active partner in the ASEAN region, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Res. 454, calling for the immediate release of Cuban democracy activist Jose Daniel Ferrer and commending the efforts of Jose Daniel Ferrer to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Res. 502, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the amphibious landing on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima during World War II and the raisings of the flag of the United States on Mount Suribachi;

S. Res. 511, supporting the role of the United States in helping save the lives of children and protecting the health of people in developing countries with vaccines and immunization through GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Res. 523, recognizing the 199th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States;

S. Res. 525, expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should continue to support the people of Nicaragua in their peaceful efforts to promote the restoration of democracy and the defense of human rights, and use the tools under United States law to increase political and economic pressure on the government of Daniel Ortega, with amendments;

S. Res. 533, supporting the goals of International Women's Day, S. Res. 542, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp during World War II, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;