

I will just give you one final example—the Colonial National Historical Park, which is home to Historic Jamestowne and the Yorktown Battlefield. At this park, containing some of our Nation's most significant sites—beginning our Nation and the birth of our Nation in terms of the revolution—there are deferred maintenance needs totaling over \$433 million.

With this legislation, the wait on these repairs is over. We are going to create jobs and make sure this important part of our history is around for years to come.

In addition to securing these funds for the Park Service and other public lands, the Great American Outdoors Act also provides the full mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

LWCF is the most important tool the Federal Government and States have to conserve natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage, and expand recreation opportunities to all communities.

Over the past four decades, Virginia has received over \$360 million in LWCF funding that has been used to preserve critical places in the Commonwealth, like the Rappahannock River Valley and Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

With full funding from the LWCF, we will be able to conserve additional critical lands in the Commonwealth and provide more recreational opportunities for Virginians from the coalfields to the Chesapeake Bay and everywhere in between.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to support this historic legislation that will help restore our national parks and public lands, create tens of thousands of jobs across the country, and expand recreation opportunities for millions of Americans. This bipartisan piece of legislation, which also has the support of the administration, is legislation whose time has arrived. I look forward to its successful passage later this week.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if my remarks go over the time for the recess at 12:30 that they be allowed to extend beyond that.

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

NOMINATION OF CHARLES Q. BROWN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, this is going to be a historic day for the U.S. Senate, as we come to the floor after the recess, after lunch here, to be voting on the confirmation of Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., to be the Chief

of Staff of the U.S. Air Force—Gen. C.Q. Brown. I will be voting for General Brown because he is the right man, at the right time, for this very important job. Let me explain why.

General Brown has an impressive academic record and a sterling record of service to our great Nation and, of course, to the U.S. Air Force. He is a distinguished graduate of the Armed Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Texas Tech—the Presiding Officer might like that—as well as a master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Currently, General Brown is the commanding officer—the four-star general—in charge of Pacific Air Forces, all Pacific Air Forces. Of course, Mr. President, you know that is really important because he is literally on the frontlines in implementing the national defense strategy, which has a focus on great power competition, particularly China, as the pacing threat to our Nation for the next 50 to 100 years. General Brown is in that battle right now, frontlines, every day, in his current billing. That is really important.

Prior to being commander of the Pacific Air Forces, he was the deputy commander of U.S. Central Command for 2 years. He knows all about the national security challenges that we have from that region of the world, which are still very significant—particularly violent extremist organizations, like al-Qaida and ISIS—that continue to threaten the United States.

From 2015 to 2016, he served as the U.S. Air Force's Central Command Combined Force Air Component Commander, where he oversaw the strategic bombing campaigns against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, as well as operations against insurgent groups in Afghanistan.

With a record like that—pretty remarkable—he understands the threats we are currently facing. He understands the big challenges we are seeing over the horizon with regard to China. And he is ready to lead the Air Force to take on those threats as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Secretary of the Air Force, Barbara Barrett, said of General Brown:

He has unmatched strategic vision and operational expertise. His leadership will be instrumental as the service continues to focus on the capabilities and talent we need to implement the National Defense Strategy.

That is the Secretary of the Air Force on Gen. C.Q. Brown.

In my conversations with him, I certainly believe these qualities, these characteristics, the Secretary of the Air Force describes to certainly be true. I have had many good conversations with him on strategy, on strategic basing, including in the Asia-Pacific region, and I am very confident that, again, he is the right person for the right job at this moment.

I also want to mention that he will be the first African-American to serve

as a chief in our military's history. I have known General Brown for some time, but I was actually surprised when I realized this. Colin Powell was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and did an amazing job, but we have not had an African-American serve as chief in any other services in the history of the United States.

I think that is very important right now. In many ways, this is a historic nomination, particularly, as our country is roiling over the killing of George Floyd and the protests that are taking place—peacefully now, which is great—to demand justice for him and his family, and as we look at some of the challenges we have in our Nation with regard to countering racism across America.

In a very moving video address last week, General Brown recently talked about what is on his mind in terms of some of these challenges. He talks about many of the things that are on his mind, many aspects of his career. It is very powerful. I would recommend that people who care about these issues take a look at that very powerful speech. He said that he was thinking about the conversations his wife of 31 years, Sharene, and his two sons, Sean and Ross, have had on these times recently but, also, the immense responsibility that comes from his historic nomination. He was thinking, of course, about how he could make our country better for others from a national security standpoint and with regard to other issues.

Think about that. That is a tremendous weight for anyone to carry, but I firmly believe that General Brown's shoulders are broad and strong enough to carry this weight.

I am going to be voting enthusiastically yes with regard to the vote we are going to take at 2:15 this afternoon. I want to encourage all of my colleagues to vote yes, to have a 100-to-0 vote for this important, impressive nomination to be the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:32 p.m., recessed until 2:16 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of General Charles Q. Brown, Jr., for appointment as Chief

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TAXPAYER FIRST ACT OF 2019—
MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The Senator from Tennessee.

RACISM

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, U.S. Senator TIM SCOTT, who is an African-American Republican from South Carolina, once told our Bible study that police in his hometown had stopped him several times for being a “Black man in the wrong place” even though, at the time, he was serving as chairman of the Charleston City Council.

During these last few days, I have been thinking a lot about what TIM SCOTT told us, and I wondered how many White Americans know things like that happen—White Americans like me. I wondered how I would feel if I were stopped for being a White man in the wrong place in my hometown, especially if most of the people in the town were Black. Would I feel hurt? Scared? Disillusioned? Angry? Weary? Disappointed? Intimidated? Probably all of those things.

One result of George Floyd’s killing is that Black Americans are telling more stories like TIM SCOTT’s. A professor of religious studies in Nashville wrote in *The Tennessean* that he carries a licensed firearm with him when he goes for a run. A columnist remembers that, as a 6-year-old, a White woman outside a Dallas gas station restroom said to him: Now, you don’t belong here.

Well-educated Black businessmen count the times they have been profiled because of their race. One of my friends in Memphis, who is now vice president of Memphis’s largest hospital, told me that when he went to Memphis State in the 1960s, it was clear to him that almost everyone thought that he didn’t belong there.

During my lifetime, I have seen profound changes in racial attitudes. In 1958, when I enrolled at Vanderbilt University, I had no Black classmates. African Americans couldn’t sit at lunch counters in Nashville. Blacks driving across Tennessee couldn’t stay in most motels; they couldn’t eat at most restaurants; they couldn’t ride at the front of most public buses.

Then, in 1962, in the spring, the Vanderbilt University Board of Trustees changed its policy and admitted Black undergraduate students.

In August of 1963, I remember standing in the back of a huge crowd late that month. I was an intern in the U.S. Department of Justice, and I heard a booming voice—which was Dr. Martin Luther King’s voice—say: “I have a dream.”

In 1968, I was a Senate aide here, and I remember being in the room, which is today the Republican leader’s office, where Senators were around a big table, and Senator Everett Dirksen and then-President Lyndon Johnson were writing the Civil Rights bill.

During the 1980s, I saw Tennessee adopt a Martin Luther King holiday and swear in its first Black supreme court justice. In the 1980s, the University of Tennessee hired its first two Black vice presidents, and it hired its first Black basketball coach who, as a teenager in Alcoa, once sat in the “colored” section at UT football games.

I saw the Voting Rights Act help to elect thousands of African-American public officials, including President Barack Obama and Senator TIM SCOTT. Last week, I asked Senator SCOTT if I could tell the story that he told us privately in the Bible study. He said: Sure. It happened again just last month.

So despite a half century of profound change, an African-American U.S. Senator is stopped again by police for being a Black man in the wrong place in his hometown. So what do we do now? Bringing those who killed George Floyd to justice will help. Dealing firmly with looters who hijack peaceful protests will help. Some new laws and government actions will help, such as criminal justice reform and permanent funding for historically Black colleges that became law in this Congress. It would also help to open schools and colleges in August and to open them safely because a good education is the surest ticket to a better future for minority students, and those students will suffer more from schools being closed.

Benjamin Hooks, the former NAACP president from Memphis—he was the national president of the NAACP; he lived in Memphis. He taught students this. Dr. Hooks said: America is a work in progress. We have come a long way, but we have a long way to go.

That long way to go, I would say, will not be as easy as passing laws. It will take changing behavior. One way to do that could be last week’s peaceful protest organized by Nashville teenagers, which was a textbook example of First Amendment citizenship, and it hopefully will encourage more victims of racism to tell their stories and more White Americans to adjust our attitudes.

I am grateful that TIM SCOTT gave me permission to tell his story. Perhaps a good first step to changing attitudes toward racial discrimination would be for each of us who is White to ask ourselves this question: How would I feel if police in my hometown repeatedly stopped me for being a White man or a White woman in the wrong place, especially if most of the other people in the town were Black?

I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from New Mexico.

H. R. 1957

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, during these past months, in the midst of a pandemic that has kept most of us inside our homes, Americans have grown to appreciate, in new ways, how critical each moment of fresh air can

of Staff, United States Air Force, and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 9033: to be General.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of General Charles Q. Brown, Jr.?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 115 Ex.]

YEAS—98

Alexander	Gillibrand	Portman
Baldwin	Graham	Reed
Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Bennet	Harris	Roberts
Blackburn	Hassan	Romney
Blumenthal	Hawley	Rosen
Blunt	Heinrich	Rounds
Booker	Hirono	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sanders
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Brown	Inhofe	Schatz
Burr	Johnson	Schumer
Cantwell	Jones	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kennedy	Shaheen
Casey	King	Shelby
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Lankford	Smith
Coons	Leahy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Loeffler	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Toomey
Cruz	Menendez	Udall
Daines	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Enzi	Murphy	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murray	Wicker
Feinstein	Paul	Wyden
Fischer	Perdue	Young
Gardner	Peters	

NOT VOTING—2

Cardin	Markey
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The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote the yeas are 98, the nays are 0, and the historic nomination of Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., as the U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff is confirmed.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.