

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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