

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Cory T. Wilson, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Cory Gardner, Lamar Alexander, Richard C. Shelby, Steve Daines, David Perdue, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, Tim Scott, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Barrasso, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Thune.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Cory T. Wilson, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 124 Ex.)

YEAS—51

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoehn	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Loeffler	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Rosen
Bennet	Harris	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hassan	Schumer
Booker	Hirono	Shaheen
Brown	Jones	Smith
Cantwell	Kaine	Stabenow
Cardin	King	Tester
Carper	Klobuchar	Udall
Casey	Leahy	Van Hollen
Collins	Manchin	Warner
Coons	Markey	Warren
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murphy	Wyden
Durbin	Peters	
Feinstein	Reed	

NOT VOTING—6

Heinrich	Murkowski	Sanders
Merkley	Murray	Sinema

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this past Saturday, June 20, we marked the 20th commemoration of World Refugee Day. Since 2000, World Refugee Day annually shines a light on the struggles of displaced people all over the globe and encourages us all to redouble our efforts to help them.

We are currently experiencing the most severe refugee crisis in recorded history. There are almost 80 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, of which more than 30 million are refugees and asylum-seekers. Every 2 seconds, someone is forced to leave his or her home because of conflict or persecution. That means that, since I began speaking, roughly 20 individuals have become newly displaced.

These numbers are staggering and difficult to comprehend, but try to imagine for a moment what it means to be a refugee: to watch your home torn apart by conflict; to become a target of violence and oppression; to fear so greatly for your life and the lives of your loved ones that you choose to leave everything you know behind and take a dangerous journey to a place where the language and the culture are unfamiliar, where you have no support system, where you may struggle every day to make ends meet.

This nightmare is the reality for almost 80 million human beings around the world. The situation has only worsened since the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of refugees are in low and middle-income countries, where weak health systems are already struggling to provide the basics of care. According to the International Rescue Committee, just 34 conflict-affected and fragile countries could see between 500 million and 1 billion COVID-19 infections, leading to between 1.7 million and 3.2 million deaths over the course of the pandemic. Furthermore, refugees and displaced persons tend to live in precarious conditions that make them even more vulnerable to the coronavirus. They often live in crowded housing situations with little access to basic hygiene services, the perfect breeding ground for infectious diseases to spread. For instance, there are about 850,000 Rohingya refugees living in congested camps in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. As the coronavirus began to take hold there in March, experts warned that the lack of

sanitation and capacity for social distancing in these refugee camps would create the "perfect storm" for transmission of the disease.

Additionally, many refugees are employed in informal industries with little to no options for sick leave, restricted access to public health services, and have few, if any, resources to weather the financial burden of quarantine measures. Many are forced to defy stay-at-home orders to find ways to support their families, risking their health and that of their loved ones to provide basic shelter and food.

Take, for example, the story of Orlando, a member of an indigenous community in Venezuela who is among the 4.5 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees who have fled the country's hunger, violence, and insecurity since 2014. He now lives in Brazil with 18 other families from his indigenous group. He and his family make their living as artisans, but when lockdown orders prevented them from selling their crafts, they could no longer afford rent. All 120 of the individuals living in his house were expelled, sent to the street in the middle of a pandemic. Meanwhile, many of Orlando's family members became sick with the virus, and one sadly passed away, devastating the community. Unfortunately, stories like this one are common among refugees.

The good news is that there are a number of incredible multilateral and nongovernmental organizations working tirelessly to ensure that displaced people are safe, healthy, supported, and treated with the dignity they deserve. These organizations deserve our gratitude and, more importantly, our assistance. In my home State of Maryland, organizations such as the IRC, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society—now HIAS—and World Relief are there to help refugees start a new life in the United States. Especially now, as the COVID-19 pandemic stretches resources and capacity of service providers around the world, it is critical that the United States do its part to help address the refugee crisis.

That is why I joined all the other democratic members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in introducing legislation to provide an additional \$9 billion in funding for international efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen our refugee resettlement process to accommodate those affected by the global health crisis. I also urged Secretary of State Pompeo to contribute at least \$500 million to the U.N. campaign to protect displaced and disadvantaged persons around the world from the coronavirus.

Historically, the United States has prided itself on offering safe harbor to the world's refugees. This country, after all, was founded by a group of people fleeing religious persecution. The plaque on the Statute of Liberty, perhaps the most famous symbol of American freedom and democracy,

reads, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” But we have not always lived up to the values on that inscription. When World War II displaced millions of Jews, many of them sought asylum in the United States. Thousands were turned away and sent back to their deaths in their home countries. The most infamous incident was a ship called the *St. Louis* that carried almost 1,000 Jewish refugees to a port in Miami. After being denied entry and forced to return to Europe, more than a quarter of those passengers perished in the Holocaust.

It is important to acknowledge and learn from dark chapters in our history like this one, so that we can do a better job of respecting and protecting human life moving forwards. This is why I have been so troubled by President Trump’s anti-refugee policies. Whether by making the lowest Presidential determination on refugee admissions in the program’s history or by locking up asylum-seekers at our southern border, the Trump administration has turned our Nation’s back on those fleeing violence and oppression and stained the U.S. reputation as a champion of human rights.

We cannot allow these policies to continue. First and foremost, they are wrong. This sort of behavior violates the most basic tenets of our democracy: equality, freedom, and justice. But beyond that, it actively hurts our country to ignore the plight of refugees. When we shirk our responsibility as a global leader in humanitarian assistance, we exacerbate worldwide instability that will affect us, too. Moreover, by closing our doors to refugees, we miss out on the valuable contributions that they make to our society. Think of the contributions to science, art, and politics that refugees like Albert Einstein, Gloria Estefan, and Madeline Albright have made to the United States and to humanity. As I speak, think of all the displaced people around the world who are working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic to help keep their adopted communities, including ours, safe.

To improve our country’s treatment of refugees, I worked with Senators LEAHY, BOOKER, and HARRIS and Representative ZOE LOFGREN to introduce the Refugee Protection Act of 2019. This bill is a comprehensive blueprint for reinvigorating U.S. refugee and asylum systems. It bolsters the U.S. Refugee Admission Program and expands protections for refugees, and restores due process and dignity for asylum seekers. Broadly, it seeks to repair the U.S. role as a refuge for the persecuted. I urge all of my colleagues to support this crucial, lifesaving measure.

The most important thing to remember is that refugees are our fellow human beings who have found themselves in the most difficult of circumstances. They are brothers, daughters, fathers, grandmothers, and friends. They have ideas, hopes, and as-

pirations and deserve the same respect, security, dignity, and opportunity we wish for ourselves and our families and friends. This World Refugee Day, let us recommit to providing safe harbor to the vulnerable, no matter where they are from. I always like to say that our values are our strength, so let us live by our values and help build a brighter future for all the world’s peoples.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL PATRICK “PAT” A. PIERCEY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a great leader and an exceptional officer, Rear Admiral Patrick “Pat” A. Piercey who will soon retire from the U.S. Navy after over 35 years of dedicated service to the Nation. Rear Admiral Piercey is a native of Clinton, OK, and graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1985. He is a true professional and a dedicated leader. Throughout his career, he commanded our great sailors at many levels, deployed numerous times in defense of the Nation and served in some of the most critical positions in our Navy. Rear Admiral Piercey has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to the Navy, Congress, and the Nation.

Rear Admiral Piercey commanded USS *Howard*—DDG 83—USS *Bunker Hill*—CG 52—Carrier Strike Group 9, and Naval Surface Forces Atlantic. Due to his sound judgment and intellect, Rear Admiral Piercey served in many critical assignments, including special assistant to the Deputy Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, executive assistant to the Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Director for Operations—J3—U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

For the past 2 years, Rear Admiral Piercey has served as the Chief of Staff of U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. During this period of extraordinary change and challenge in Europe’s security environment, Rear Admiral Piercey has improved relationships with NATO allies and European partners. Through his strategic vision, he has successfully positioned U.S. European Command to meet every mission requirement in Europe.

On behalf of my colleagues and the entire U.S. Congress, I want to thank Rear Admiral Piercey for his decades of dedicated service to the Navy and our Nation. I am sure that many officers and sailors will continue to emulate him as a role model for service, sacrifice and leadership. I also want to thank his wife, Katherine, and their children, Rebecca and Andrew, for their sacrifices and tremendous support. I join my colleagues in wishing him and his family fair winds and following seas and future success in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOSH JORGENSEN

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Josh Jorgensen, a legislative aide in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, his colleagues, and the State of South Dakota.

Josh is a native of Sioux Falls, SD. He is a graduate of Bishop O’Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD, and the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD. During his undergraduate career, Josh majored in journalism and political science and served as president of the College Republicans.

Josh first joined my office as an intern in the spring of 2016. During this time, he proved himself to be a diligent and dedicated worker and became a true asset to my office.

He later returned as a senior legislative correspondent, and through hard work and dedication, he worked his way up to legislative aide, handling Tribal relations, healthcare, and education issues for my office. Josh has played an instrumental role in my office by providing insight and guidance into these issues.

Josh has been a dedicated and faithful public servant during his time working in the Senate. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to him for his fine work. As he continues on with his career, he bears the esteem of a grateful State and my utmost gratitude for a job well done.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN ASHCRAFT

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Carolyn Ashcraft on her retirement as State librarian and director of the Arkansas State Library after 15 years of transformative leadership.

Carolyn has a dedication to the State of Arkansas and a passion for books, and her departure from a career that blended the two will leave a significant void in Arkansas’ library community. Her enthusiasm for libraries has been evident since childhood, leading to an invitation to serve as a student library aide in sixth grade. She went on to serve in a similar position at the university level while earning her degree in English at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. She continued her education at the University of Alabama, where she earned a master’s degree in library science. In 1981, Carolyn launched her professional career at the Grant County Library and next served as director at the Saline County Library. She held this position until she started with the Arkansas State Library in 1993, where she served in various positions, including deputy director in the library development unit before being selected as State librarian in 2005.

Carolyn’s career and the accomplishments of the Arkansas library system