

major infrastructure project has to be connectivity—broadband and high speed. We have been working on hot spots just to get through these 5 months.

There are things we agree on. Democrats and Republicans are coming together as Americans. We agree. We would like to help. They are just arguing over amounts and this and that and the other.

The bottom line is that we have to agree on what we can agree on and meet the needs of the people on the frontlines. That is the most important thing. So I whole-heartedly engage in any type of bipartisan cooperation or bipartisan talks that we can move along to show people that we can put the needs of the public above the partisan divide that we have here and have had for a long time—since I have been here—and for decades.

I am happy to support Mr. Menezes, and I appreciate the bipartisan support we have for him.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 Mark Wesley Menezes, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Todd Young, Pat Roberts, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, Martha McSally, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Joni Ernst, Cory Gardner, Thom Tillis, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch.

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 Mark Wesley Menezes, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, should be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (HEINRICH), the Senator from Vermont (LEAHY), and the Senator from Vermont (SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 78, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 154 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Alexander	Enzi	Perdue
Baldwin	Ernst	Peters
Barrasso	Feinstein	Portman
Bennet	Fischer	Reed
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Booker	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hassan	Rounds
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Brown	Hoeven	Sasse
Cantwell	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Jones	Shaheen
Carper	Kaine	Shelby
Casey	Kennedy	Sinema
Cassidy	King	Smith
Collins	Lankford	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Loeffler	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Udall
Crapo	McSally	Van Hollen
Cruz	Murkowski	Warner
Daines	Murphy	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murray	Wicker
Durbin	Paul	Young

NAYS—14

Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cortez Masto	Markey	Schumer
Gillibrand	Menendez	Warren
Harris	Merkley	Wyden
Hirono	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—8

Burr	Leahy	Tillis
Heinrich	Moran	Toomey
Hyde-Smith	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 78, the nays are 14.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

(At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD)

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS L. BOWLIN

• Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Thomas L. Bowlin, Colonel, USAF, Ret., who in addition to a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force, has served as the first Director of Government Affairs for the North Carolina National Guard. I thank him for his many years of service to the great State of North Carolina and our great Nation.

Colonel Bowlin began his military career with the U.S. Air Force in 1975. He has served across the United States, as well as in Germany, Hawaii, Pakistan, and Alaska. He was the first USAF officer to attend Pakistan’s War College and served in a number of key assignments with increasing levels of responsibility.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Air Force in 2001, Colonel Bowlin continued his dedication to service by beginning a second career and becoming the first Director of Government Affairs for the North Carolina National Guard. He served as an essential component of North Carolina National Guard leadership for nearly two decades where he has advised the adjutant general directly and interfaced with local, State, and Federal officials.

Colonel Bowlin has served roughly 11,500 citizen soldiers and airmen in the North Carolina Army and Air National Guard through many deployments overseas and harrowing natural disasters at home. Tom’s contribution to advancing the overall readiness and operational capabilities of the North Carolina National Guard has been vital in maintaining an effective and resilient reserve force. Through operations including Inherent Resolve, Enduring Freedom, and Freedom’s Sentinel, as well as during Hurricanes Irene, Matthew, Florence, and Dorian, Colonel Bowlin has ensured that the men and women of the Guard had the utmost preparation of every mission that they embarked upon.

Colonel Bowlin has worked tirelessly on a number of both Federal, State, and local priorities and policy reforms for the North Carolina National Guard. Just to name a few, these range from appropriations for facilities, programs, and assets, family readiness, GI Bill transferability, TRICARE expansion, tuition assistance, occupational licensing, rental agreement protections, and many more, which will continue to benefit National Guard servicemembers and their families for years to come.

As a U.S. Senator, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and a North Carolinian, I am pleased to congratulate Colonel Bowlin on his retirement from the North Carolina National Guard and for his impressive career of military service and steadfast commitment to our country.●

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

The National Defense Authorization Act provides crucial resources for our Armed Forces and our national defense, including a pay increase for our men and women in uniform. I am glad that the Senate was able to come together on a bipartisan basis to pass this legislation to support our servicemembers, strengthen our national security, and invest in critical projects in my home State of Maryland. While there are parts of this legislation that I do not support and will seek to change in conference, I believe that, on balance, this bill serves our national interest.

In particular, I am pleased that this NDAA grants expanded acquisition authority for U.S. Cyber Command,