

but they are doing it very effectively. That is what China does.

To protect our intellectual property, the NDAA—this is the bill we are talking about—creates the mechanisms to restrict employees or former employees of the defense industrial base from working for companies owned by or under the direction of China.

Now, this is something that has not been done before. We wake up and we find out that some of our industries that we are depending on for our defense are very close to China, so we are taking steps to stop that now.

Further, we are requiring universities to, No. 1, share information on defense-funded research; No. 2, disclose external funding for Federal grant recipients, so those recipients of grants are not working with the Chinese; and No. 3, limit funding for universities with Confucius Institutes.

The NDAA also directs the President to create a whole-of-government strategy to deter China's industrial espionage and large-scale theft of personal information. For the first time ever, we will impose real costs on the PRC for this behavior.

We know a big part of China's strategy is to fly under the radar. They don't want us to know what they are doing, so we also establish numerous provisions that will give us a better look at just what China is up to—all of this in the NDAA.

Right now, for instance, we don't have a great sense of exactly how much China is spending on their national defense. They lie a lot. So we task the DOD and federally funded research and development centers to conduct a full study of China's defense budget. Now, this is something we haven't done before. That is in the NDAA.

We also establish an ongoing assessment of China's industrial base, require a list of Chinese military companies operating in the United States to be publicly shared in the Federal Register, and mandate that recipients of Federal contracts disclose beneficial ownership. We need to know who those people are, and that is set up in the NDAA.

Over the past few years, it has become clear that we are too reliant on China for everything from critical materials to complex manufactured items, like parts of naval vessels—and even for medical supplies, as we saw just this year. The pandemic really showed us what happened and how vulnerable we are. And we are. Everybody knows that.

The NDAA protects and reforms our defense industrial base to mitigate these risks and to attract new performers to replace China, in other words, to get out of China any dependence that we have on China. It is all in the NDAA.

That is why the American Enterprise Institute, which has always been the conscience, declared that this is the toughest legislation on China in the last 20 years.

Lastly, the NDAA takes steps to protect the U.S. bases overseas by requiring the Secretary of Defense to notify Congress of how host countries using 5G networks from companies like Huawei and ZTE are mitigating the security risks from these networks before we base new major weapons systems there.

The last two NDAAs set the ball in motion when it comes to countering China, and with this NDAA, I am confident that we are finally achieving the irreversible momentum we need to effectively implement the national defense strategy against China.

There is no turning back now. With this NDAA, we are sending China an unmistakable signal that, whether it is today or tomorrow, there will never be a good time for China to test America's military.

I will never forget that 4 years ago we had that meeting in Trump Tower, and we had 10 of us in there. We were talking about the military at that time. That is when the President became convinced—that is why I know that it is not President Trump who is saying this about the National Defense Authorization Act; it is advice that he is getting from advisers who just are not telling him the right thing.

Mr. President, I want you to know we have got our foot on the throat of China with our NDAA, and we are not going to let it up. And if any of your advisers tell you any different than this, they are not serving America well.

That concludes—well, not quite. Today is a very special day. I tell everybody who cares or not—not many people do, but I do—this is my wife's and my 61st wedding anniversary—today, December 19.

On the floor of the Senate yesterday, I talked a little bit about that and made the comment that I don't want to be here on my wedding anniversary, implying that I was not going to be here to vote. These votes that we are having right now are among the most critical votes that we have had, and I assure you I am going to be here until the last vote is cast.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the postcloture time with respect to the Harwell nomination expire at 6 p.m. today and that the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; I further ask that the cloture motion with respect to the Noland nomination ripen

at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow; finally, that if either nomination is confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. TOOMEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Harwell nomination?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 280 Ex.]

YEAS—59

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Durbin | Leahy |
| Bennet | Gardner | Lee |
| Blackburn | Graham | McConnell |
| Boozman | Grassley | Moran |
| Braun | Hassan | Murkowski |
| Brown | Hawley | Murphy |
| Capito | Hoeben | Murray |
| Carper | Hyde-Smith | Peters |
| Cassidy | Inhofe | Reed |
| Collins | Johnson | Roberts |
| Coons | Jones | Romney |
| Cornyn | Kaine | Rubio |
| Cotton | Kelly | Sasse |
| Cramer | Kennedy | Schatz |
| Crapo | King | Scott (FL) |
| Daines | Lankford | Scott (SC) |

Shelby
Sinema
Sullivan
Tester

Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Warner

Whitehouse
Wicker
Young

NAYS—25

Baldwin
Blumenthal
Booker
Cantwell
Cardin
Casey
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Gillibrand

Heinrich
Hirono
Klobuchar
Markey
Menendez
Merkley
Rosen
Sanders
Schumer

Shaheen
Smith
Stabenow
Udall
Van Hollen
Warren
Wyden

NOT VOTING—16

Alexander
Blunt
Burr
Cruz
Enzi
Ernst

Feinstein
Fischer
Harris
Loeffler
Manchin
Paul

Perdue
Portman
Risch
Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Dietz nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in 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.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I was absent for the rollcall vote No. 279, on the motion to invoke cloture on Calendar No. 757, the nomination of Beth Harwell of Tennessee to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEI KHRUSHCHEV

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the life and contributions of a prominent Rhode Islander, Sergei Khrushchev.

You may recognize his last name. His father, Nikita Khrushchev, came to power after the death of Joseph Stalin and led the Soviet Union during some of the darkest days of the Cold War. Sergei Khrushchev's life is necessarily intertwined with that of his father. Yet Sergei was his own man and achieved much in his own right.

Sergei Khrushchev was born in Moscow in July 1935. Naturally gifted and

with a keen mind, he received a doctorate from Moscow Technical University. He would become an accomplished rocket and computer scientist, working on guidance systems for missiles and in the Soviet space program. In 1964, his father was removed from power and relegated to obscurity. During this time, Sergei helped his father write his memoirs.

At the end of the Cold War, Sergei came to America with his wife Valentina and joined Brown University as a visiting scholar. He became a senior fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs and taught there until his retirement in 2012. Sergei used his considerable talents to benefit students, colleagues, and fellow Rhode Islanders. He gave generously of his time, taught at other institutions, and gave lectures across the country.

Sergei sought to increase knowledge and understanding, particularly between Americans and Russians. In 1991, he was quoted in *The Providence Journal* stating, "I think it is important for everyone to understand that many of the mistakes made during the Cold War that led to dangerous conflicts were based on misconceptions and misunderstandings . . ."

Fully embracing their new life in America, Sergei and Valentina received their green cards in 1993 and became citizens in 1999. Sergei was proud to become a citizen. Sergei and Valentina were proud members of their Cranston community. Sergei owned a large Buick for years as it reminded him of the cars he saw when he first visited America as a young man with his father.

After his death, one of his colleagues described Sergei as " . . . very passionate about the subjects he taught" who "managed to infect the students with his genuine enthusiasm and curiosity." The colleague also said that even years after leaving Sergei's class, students " . . . recall [his] amazing combination of open-mindedness, thorough knowledge of the subjects . . . and unassuming manner of discussion and debate."

It is clear that Sergei lived an impactful life, a life that broke down walls and built bridges. I offer my heartfelt condolences to Sergei's wife Valentina, their family, and Sergei's many friends, neighbors, colleagues, and students.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LARRY "SKIP" AHLGREN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Larry "Skip" Ahlgren of Petroleum County for his dedication to his community and volunteer efforts.

Skip currently serves as president of the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts and previously served

as county commissioner. These titles are only the beginning of his service to Petroleum County. Skip and his wife Diane spend hundreds of hours volunteering in various community groups and focus putting their time into Montana's youth.

Winnett Agriculture Community Enhancement and Sustainability, ACES, is a group cofounded by Skip that brings Petroleum County producers together to address the problems facing the environment and their community. The group also works with Montana's youth to create opportunities that will bring them back to the community where they were raised. As farmers and ranchers play a key role in one of the most rural counties in Montana, Skip saw an opportunity to serve them and created this incredible organization.

Skip is described by friends and colleagues as an all-around good guy, a man who embodies Montana values, and a true friend. It is my honor to recognize Larry "Skip" Ahlgren for his service and dedication to Petroleum County.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID W. ARMSTRONG, JR.

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the legacy of David W. Armstrong, Jr., of Helena, MT on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Dave is a distinguished World War II veteran who played a pivotal role in the U.S. Army's plan to liberate Norway from Nazi occupation as well as numerous search and rescue missions across northern Europe.

Dave first came to Helena in February 1943 to begin training sled and pack dogs at nearby Camp Rimini. Camp Rimini was one of only two sites that produced dogs for the Army's K-9 Corps during the war. Later, Dave found himself stationed in Newfoundland, where he and his dogs participated in the recovery of downed personnel and sensitive equipment from aircraft wreckage sites in Greenland and Baffin Island.

After the war, Dave returned to Montana with his wife Alice and founded the annual Race to the Sky, which preserves the legacy of the soldiers and the dogs who served at Camp Rimini. Dave also preserved the legacy of this special program in his 2008 memoir "Camp Rimini and Beyond." Were it not for his efforts, the memory of this unique program and its special place in our State's history may have been lost to time.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I want to thank Dave for his service to our State and to our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO NICK BUTOROVICH

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing Butte Police Officer Nick Butorovich for his heroism in the face of danger.

On Tuesday, September 15th, 2020, during a routine late night shift, he