

Mr. TESTER. 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.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, The Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."; and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 55 Ex.]

#### YEAS—87

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Risch
Blackburn	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt	Hoeven	Rounds
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Boozman	Johnson	Sanders
Braun	Kaine	Sasse
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	Kennedy	Schumer
Capito	King	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Lankford	Shelby
Casey	Leahy	Sinema
Cassidy	Lee	Smith
Collins	Lujan	Stabenow
Coons	Lummis	Sullivan
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	Menendez	Tuberville
Daines	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Fischer	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wicker
Graham	Peters	Wyden
Grassley	Portman	Young

#### NAYS—7

Cotton	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Hawley	
Ernst	Marshall	

#### NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Inhofe	Paul
Burr	Moran	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). 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.

The Senator from Ohio.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. 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.

The Senator from Ohio.

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

#### CONFIRMATION OF DENIS RICHARD McDONOUGH

• Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I would like to speak in support of confirming Denis McDonough to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Mr. McDonough has demonstrated his dedication to public service over the last 25 years and has assured me that he will bring that same dedication to the Department of Veterans Affairs in its mission to serve our veterans.

He has experience leading and implementing policy across the Federal Government and has earned a reputation for being able to make government work better. Although he is not a veteran, he has made his case that he is personally devoted to serving veterans and seeing them achieve success, and it is my belief that he is sincere in that assertion.

Mr. McDonough testified that he appreciates the clear roles of Congress in passing law and of the executive branch in executing them. He has committed to me and to our committee that he will faithfully implement critical VA reforms in line with congressional intent, and I intend to hold him accountable for the decisions and actions he makes as Secretary.

We have made significant progress with the VA to provide permanent veterans' choice in access to care, mental health and suicide prevention, employee accountability, and improved benefits for veterans, their dependents, and survivors. We cannot backtrack on this progress, and the next VA Secretary must be ready on day one to continue building on this success.

I will support Mr. McDonough's confirmation and hold him to his commitment to work with our committee and with our veteran stakeholders to deliver the improved benefits and services Congress has legislated. •

#### REMEMBERING RICHARD THORNBURGH

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to the late Richard L. Thornburgh, a former Pennsylvania Governor and former U.S. Attorney General. Dick Thornburgh was also a hero to the disability community for his longstanding advocacy for the rights and self-determination of people with disabilities.

Born in Pittsburgh on July 16, 1932, Dick received an undergraduate degree from Yale University and a law degree from the University of Pittsburgh Law School before going into private practice.

In 1969, President Richard Nixon appointed Dick as the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and in 1975, President Gerald Ford appointed him to serve as the Assistant

Attorney General for the Justice Department's Criminal Division. Two years later, he returned to Pennsylvania.

In 1978, Dick was elected Governor of Pennsylvania and was reelected in 1982, becoming the first Republican to serve two successive terms as Governor of the Commonwealth.

During his time in office, Governor Thornburgh provided a steady hand and a calm demeanor. Most notably, he led Pennsylvania through the Three Mile Island crisis, America's worst nuclear meltdown. He took charge of the crisis and in so doing won praise from President Jimmy Carter and from Pennsylvanians for how he handled the potential disaster. At the time of the Three Mile Island Crisis, Governor Thornburgh said:

You have to reassure people. You have to go before the cameras and microphones and tell them what you know and what you don't. You have to stop the rumors and, of course, you have to make decisions. There isn't any Republican or Democratic way to deal with a nuclear crisis. Nobody has ever had to deal with this kind of accident before.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan nominated Governor Thornburgh to be the U.S. Attorney General, a position in which he served until 1991. He resigned in 1991 to run for the U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania following the tragic death of Senator John Heinz in a plane crash. Governor Thornburgh lost the Senate election to Harris Wofford, who had been appointed to the vacancy 6 months before the 1991 election.

Following his Senate run, Governor Thornburgh served a 1-year appointment as Under-Secretary General at the United Nations at the request of President George H.W. Bush. In that role, he sought to bring reform, transparency, and accountability to the United Nations.

After his service at the United Nations, Governor Thornburgh returned to private practice but would continue to serve in advisory roles at the State and Federal level, imparting his wisdom and experience in a number of different arenas.

Of his many contributions to public life, Governor Thornburgh was especially respected in the disability rights community for his tireless advocacy for the rights and self-determination of people with disabilities.

Governor Thornburgh's son, Peter, was injured in a car accident in 1960, a tragic accident that also killed Thornburgh's wife, Ginny Hooton. The accident left Peter Thornburgh, then just 4 months of age, with a significant brain injury that caused physical and intellectual disabilities. Governor Thornburgh is quoted as saying that the accident "made him think about what he could do with his life to contribute to the world."

As Attorney General in Bush Administration, Dick Thornburgh helped to shepherd the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, through Congress during a most critical period in 1989. On