

So let us hear about Rear Admiral McLane's 33-year Navy career.

Again, are you noticing something? It is 33, 34, 35—General Wilsbach, 38 years. Patriots—and now they are like: Wait. Why am I stuck? Why are they going after my career? It is something I have nothing to do with.

It is wrong. We all know it is wrong. It is wrong.

In Rear Admiral McLane's 33-year naval career, he has served as the Commodore of Destroyer Squadron 50—a huge deal—commanded Task Force 55 and Coalition Task Force 152, U.S. Fifth Fleet. Additionally, he served aboard the USS *Lewis B. Puller*, the USS *Vicksburg*, the USS *Moosbrugger*, Destroyer Squadron 14, the USS *Simpson*. Jeez, look at all of these commands and deployments.

While in command of the USS *Kearny*, his ship won the Battle "E" and Battenberg Cup and deployed with the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group for the U.S. Fifth Fleet. By the way, the "Ike" carrier strike group is in the Middle East right now.

In major command, he served as Commodore of Destroyer Squadron 50, commanded Task Force 55 and Coalition Task Force 152, U.S. Fifth Fleet—again, the Middle East.

Most recently, Rear Admiral McLane served as the 60th Commander of Naval Surface Force Atlantic.

The amount of experience we are hearing tonight that we are not letting go fight and protect our nation—it makes you humble, by the way, when you hear about all these great patriots, but it sure makes me frustrated. They are on the bench.

But let us try and get them off the bench. We can confirm this nominee by voice vote right now.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 193, Brendan R. McLane, to be Vice Admiral and Commander, Naval Surface Forces; Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I am going to talk about one more Navy officer. We have a number to go. I am going to do this quick. This is Christopher S. Gray to be Vice Admiral and Commander of Navy Installations Command. He has got a great resume, a 34-year Navy career.

Rear Admiral Gray has been the Commanding Officer of the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron before reporting as Operations Officer aboard

the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*, where he conducted back-to-back deployments to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

At sea, Gray has served in operational assignments with Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadrons and a flag aide to the Commander in the U.S. Second Fleet, Striking Fleet Atlantic.

More recently, Rear Admiral Gray served as the Commander of the Navy's Mid-Atlantic Region on June 30, 2020.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 195, Christopher S. Gray, to be Vice Admiral and Commander, Navy Installations Command; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. I would ask that my colleagues yield so that I can ask unanimous consent to prepare for tomorrow's session.

Ms. ERNST. I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 367; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Herro Mustafa Garg, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Garg nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 2; that following the prayer and pledge, the journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Franchetti nomination; further, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, 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.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REED. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of my Republican colleagues.

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

Mr. REED. Madam President, I yield the floor, and I yield back to the Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS— EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, our next nomination is a fine officer serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Our colleague from Alaska, Col. DAN SULLIVAN, also serves in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. I will read a little bit about this gentleman, and we will take an individual vote on the floor this evening, I am hoping, because this gentleman does deserve to be promoted and placed into his next position.

So this gentleman is Maj. Gen. Leonard F. Anderson IV, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, to be Lieutenant General and Commander of Marine Forces Reserves, Commander Marine Forces, South.

So here is a little bit about the good General. The Major General most recently served as the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. He does have some prior experience as well in serving as the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations, but Major General Anderson also served in a marine aviation logistics squadron. So it is interesting that the Executive Calendar number for Maj. Gen. Leonard F. Anderson is 248 as I also—not in the Marines, but I served in an aviation support battalion, which is a logistics battalion, supporting aviation, the 248th Aviation Support Battalion. This gentleman has

served in the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron, and his experience has allowed him to support those men and women who are in the air, similar to the circumstance we talked about prior with a pilot who provided close air support during combat. These are the guys and gals who keep those aircraft up, flying, fueled, maintained—ready to go.

So this is an important position he is going into. It is the Marine Forces Reserves, Commander Marine Forces South, and I am hoping we will be able to take a vote on him this evening.

Therefore, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 248, Leonard F. Anderson IV to be Lieutenant General and Commander Marine Forces Reserves Commander, Marine Forces South; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. OK, Madam President. We are just going to keep going. We have quite a few exceptional men and women who are proud to defend our glorious Nation. Many of them, again, have served in combat. We just came out of 20 years of the Global War on Terror, and we know what service is. Many of us know what service is. The Presiding Officer—her father certainly knew what service was, so I thank him very much for his service to our Nation.

So we will proceed to Executive Calendar No. 262, Timothy D. Haugh. I apologize to the gentleman if I am mispronouncing his name. It is H-A-U-G-H. He is a member of the U.S. Air Force, and he has been nominated to be the Commander of U.S. Cyber Command and Director, National Security Agency.

At a time when we see many nations around the world using grey-zone techniques to infiltrate various infrastructures in the United States of America and that of allied nations, we know how important Cyber Command is to protect not only our military assets but then to track and push back against those foreign agents who are going after civilian infrastructure as well.

Lieutenant General Haugh's 32-year career has been exemplary, and he has commanded intelligence and cyber commands at every level as the Commander of 16th Air Force, Air Forces Cyber, and Joint Force Headquarters-Cyber, where he was responsible for more than 44,000 personnel conducting worldwide operations.

The Lieutenant General most recently served as Deputy Commander of U.S. Cyber Command. Anyone, if they are paying attention, understands how important Cyber Command is. Again, the Lieutenant General has served as the Deputy Commander of U.S. Cyber Command. We would love to see him confirmed this very evening, with a single vote, into the position of Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, and Director of the National Security Agency—an extremely important position.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 262, Timothy D. Haugh, to be Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, and Director of our National Security Agency; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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 (Mr. REED). Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, our next nominee as well is hoping to be confirmed this evening, again, by an individual vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Just as my colleague has asked, has demanded, my colleagues and I this evening are attempting to satisfy that demand for single votes on the floor of the U.S. Senate. We are providing that avenue of opportunity this evening and are hoping that we will see the confirmations of some of America's finest fighting men and women, who have absolutely nothing to do with the policy that has been proposed by Secretary Lloyd Austin.

In front of us, we have MG Charles D. Costanza. He is a member of the U.S. Army. He is being nominated as Lieutenant General and Commanding General of V Corps.

Over Major General Costanza's 32-year career—again, another plus 30 years of experience and decorations during war—he has served as the Commanding General of the 3rd Infantry Division, the Deputy Chief of Staff for U.S. Army Forces Command, and the Director of Training for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff. Major General Costanza's deployments include to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Major General Costanza has most recently served as Special Assistant to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command.

Once again, as an individual vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination of this fine individual: Executive Calendar No. 290, Charles D. Costanza to be Lieutenant General and Com-

manding General, V Corps; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. OK. We will move on to the next conferee, and we will bring to the table now No. 291, James H. Adams III to be Lieutenant General, and this is a fellow marine.

Mr. SULLIVAN. "Oorah."

Ms. ERNST. "Oorah."

OK. A fellow marine.

To my good friend and colleague, Col. DAN SULLIVAN, Senator SULLIVAN of Alaska, we have Maj. Gen. James H. Adams III to be Lieutenant General and Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources Headquarters of U.S. Marine Corps.

Brigadier General Hanson has most recently served as the Mobilization Assistant to the Director of Operations for Air Combat Command. A number of us who serve in the Senate have worn the uniform of our Nation and have deployed, and we understand how important these activities are, especially when you have a good friend at Mobilization and Operations for Air Combat Command.

Through the mobilization process, there are a lot of logistics there in moving folks around. So we know that Brigadier General Hanson is very well qualified to move into this position at Programs and Resources at the Headquarters of the U.S. Marine Corps. He has served in numerous positions at the squadron, the group wing, and numbered Air Force and Combatant Command levels as an Active-Duty and traditional Reservist and individual mobility augmenting member.

General Hanson has flown the A-10 and F-16 in a variety of operational assignments and is a command pilot with more than 3,400 flying hours and over 200 combat hours. He has deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, Willing Spirit, and Enduring Freedom.

Mr. President, I bring forward to you for an individual vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate, as requested by my colleague. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 291, James H. Adams III to be Lieutenant General; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. It is good to see the Presiding Officer in the Chair. I appreciate his being here.

Mr. President, several of my nominations that I have been trying to get my colleague to agree with—again, he still hasn't answered the quote "If they want to vote on these nominees one at a time, I am all for it. I will probably vote for them." He still hasn't answered that. We are doing it. We are doing it. This is not a joke either. We are watching the experience of America's greatest military generation probably since World War II just kind of being flushed down a river right now. Just listen to this.

Now, the one thing that is really disturbing to me is how many of these nominees are from the U.S. Navy. My dad was in the Navy. I love the U.S. Navy. But we know that the Navy right now is being stressed. The President sent two carrier strike groups over to the Middle East. We need carrier strike groups in the INDOPACOM.

President Biden—and I criticize him a lot for this—is shrinking the Navy. That is idiotic. But our Navy officers and enlisted are going through a really stressful period because they are needed all over the world, and they are ready or are trying to be ready for any kind of contingency. It is tough to do a 9-month deployment and then come around, do the maintenance, and get back at it.

But what I have been noticing is how many of these holds are impacting the Navy. I am going to go through like five more right now. I just did five. If we want to be a global, capable, powerful nation, especially today, you need a strong U.S. Navy.

And the idea of reading these military members' experiences and how there is this big jam-up now, that this is not impacting readiness is patently absurd—patently absurd—with all due respect to my colleague.

So let's just keep talking about the Navy and the men and women in the Navy and the great experience that they have. We need a lot of help from the Navy right now, and we have the Senate making leaders in the Navy sit on the bench. So let's talk about some of these leaders, and maybe my colleague will budge—maybe my colleague will budge.

Let's talk about James E. Pitts to be Vice Admiral and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Requirements and Capabilities, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. Rear Admiral Pitts, a 38-year career in the Navy—there you go, 38 years—let's sit him on the bench during this really difficult time. It includes extensive numerous deployments on nuclear attack submarines. Do you think we need that experience in the South China Sea

right now? That is one of our great strategic advantages over the Chinese—notably, as the Commander of USS Tucson and the Submarine Squadron 7 and a number of shore assignments in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Naval Submarine School, and the Joint Staff.

So we have one of America's top naval submarine-experienced Admirals, which is exactly what Xi Jinping and the Chinese fear, and he is sitting on the bench over a dispute, which is a serious dispute. I don't deny that at all. Again, I am where the Senator from Alabama is on that. But these guys have nothing to do with it. All we are doing is hurting our own national security by keeping them on the bench.

So let's get him confirmed right now. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 197, James E. Pitts, to be Vice Admiral and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Requirements and Capabilities, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, here we go again, more Navy. Like I said, the Navy is stressed, but we do have a great Navy. God love the U.S. Navy. And our submarine force, like I said, keeps Xi Jinping and his communist dictator admirals up at night. And it should because we could crush them with our Navy, as long as it is ready—as long as it is ready.

Well, let's see whom we have next, whom we are holding up next. RADM Robert Gaucher, U.S. Navy, to be Vice Admiral and Commander, Naval Submarine Forces Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Commander of Allied Submarine Command. It sounds like a pretty darn important bill, if you think subs are important, which they are critical.

Let's hear about Admiral Gaucher. He is currently Director of Strategic Integration, the N2, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. Admiral Gaucher's prior operational assignments include service in both fast attack and ballistic missile subs. Who has that experience? No one else in the whole world but our Admirals. It includes service as a division officer, USS *Flying Fish*, SSN-673; navigator operations officer, USS *Oklahoma City*, SSN-723; executive officer, USS *Maryland*; commanding officer, USS *City of Corpus Christi*; and Commodore of Submarine Development Squadron 5.

I certainly hope that this isn't one of these Admirals who is going to be like:

You know what, 35 years, I have all of this experience, I am sick of this. I am leaving.

Could you imagine if this Admiral, with this submarine experience, walked out the door because of the games being played right now? That is a risk. That is a risk, and we don't seem to give a damn. I give a damn.

During these tours, he completed three strategic deterrent patrols in U.S. submarines, as well as deployments to the Arctic—my neighborhood—the Caribbean, North Atlantic, and the Mediterranean. This is incredible submarine experience.

By the way, Xi Jinping is watching us right now going: I can't believe they are not letting these guys command. I am scared to death of subs.

He is loving this, so is Putin. They are loving it. How dumb can we be, man?

But we can confirm this guy, if my colleague just has a change of heart, because we are going to bring them up individually.

So, therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 204, Robert M. Gaucher, to be Vice Admiral and Commander of Naval Submarine Forces Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and Commander of Allied Submarine Command; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, we are going to continue with the U.S. Navy. Again—I just thought of this—the Chinese admirals and their military, they are probably watching this debate right now, going: I can't believe my luck. I can't believe our luck. Maybe we should attack Taiwan tomorrow.

The whole Navy is being held up. Let's go to another Navy officer.

This is Daniel W. Dwyer to be Vice Admiral and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Development, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

OK. We have had a lot of good bios here tonight, with a lot of experience. When I saw Vice Admiral Dwyer's experience, I was like: Wow. This should scare the heck out of every Chinese admiral, every Chinese military official when they read this guy's bio.

So let me read it. I hope we can get him confirmed because he is sitting on the bench, and the Chinese are cheering.

Over Vice Admiral Dwyer's 35-year naval career—there we go; 35 years, 40 years—he has commanded Strike

Fighter Squadron, VFA-27; Provincial Reconstruction Team, Kunar Province, Afghanistan; Fleet Replacement Squadron, VFA-106; Carrier Air Wing 8; Carrier Air Wing 17.

As a flag officer—that means as an Admiral—Admiral Dwyer commanded the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group, the big stick that every country in the world, including China, fears. He commanded the Teddy Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group. That is unbelievable experience. And he was the 36th Chief of Naval Air Training.

Vice Admiral Dwyer is a career F/A-18 naval aviator, a graduate of the Navy Fighter Weapons School, a.k.a. TOPGUN, in which he completed eight carrier deployments to the Western Pacific, North Atlantic, Mediterranean, and North Arabian Sea, supporting Operation Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn, flying over 75 combat missions.

Vice Admiral Dwyer was most recently the Commander of the Second Fleet and Joint Forces Command.

Xi Jinping reads about a guy like this, and he is scared to death, and we bench him over a dispute Vice Admiral Dwyer has nothing to do with. But maybe we can fix that right now.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 180, Daniel W. Dwyer, to be Vice Admiral and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Development, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations—so dammed qualified; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, here we go, crushing the Navy. Here is another Navy Admiral that we are going to have him sit on the bench. This is kind of remarkable. I mean, we are going to get to about 60 of these tonight. The experience here is unbelievable, but the U.S. Navy is really being hurt by this, and we need a strong Navy.

Again, the Chinese are like—they are watching it, I guarantee you.

Hello, guys.

And they are like: Gosh. I can't believe how dumb these guys are.

So let's keep talking about whom we are going to bench now. This is Douglas G. Perry to be Vice Admiral and Commander of Second Fleet, Commander of Joint Forces Command Norfolk.

Let's look at Rear Admiral Perry's incredibly impressive career—over 30 years. He began his career serving as a sea division officer, Navy diver, aboard

the USS Pittsburgh, SSN-720; executive officer, operations officer aboard Submarine NR-1; and executive officer of the USS Maine. These are all subs. This is another great Admiral with great submarine experience, just what keeps the Chinese up at night, and we are going to bench him. That is SSBN-741.

His deployment experiences span the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic, and Pacific—essentially, the whole world. As commanding officer of the USS Pasadena, SSN-752, he led the ship on highly successful deployments to the Eastern and Western Pacific. Again, that is a sub.

Perry has served as Commander of the Submarine Development Squadron 5, where he led Submarine Force Development of Unmanned Systems and Tactics and Employment and commanded the Navy squadron of Seawolf-class fast-attack subs. These guys are all submariners. The Chinese are scared to death of them, and we are benching them. What are we doing?

Most recently, Perry served as Director of Undersea Warfare Division of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. He is another great submariner to keep Xi Jinping up at night, and we are not going to allow him to get confirmed. But maybe we will.

So, Mr. President, as my colleague had asked, we are bringing individual votes. He still hasn't answered the question why he is not doing what he said he was going to do. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 205, Douglas G. Perry, to be Vice Admiral and Commander of Second Fleet and Commander of Joint Forces Command Norfolk; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I have one more before I turn it over to my colleague from Iowa. It is a joint operation here. The only reason I am doing one more is because, guess what, another Navy officer—another Navy officer. The Chinese are like: Man, I can't believe it. We have been wanting to take out the U.S. Navy for decades, and the U.S. Senate is doing it right now.

So what do we have here, another Vice Admiral, VADM Craig Clapperton, U.S. Navy, to be Vice Admiral and Commander of Fleet Cyber Command, 10th Fleet Commander, Navy Space Command—boy, oh boy.

He has had almost 35 years in the U.S. Navy. He has commanded the Shadowhawks of VAQ-141, the U.S. 6th

Fleet, and the NATO command ship, USS Mount Whitney, the USS Theodore Roosevelt. That is a carrier, Carrier Strike Group 12.

These guys are incredible. As an American, it makes you almost want to weep, how great they are.

Listen to this career: During his command tours and his ship and squadron tours, he supported Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, New Dawn, Inherent Resolve, and operated in the Baltic, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, and Pacific Ocean.

Some of the best naval officers in America, certainly, right here, tonight. And the Chinese are scared to death of Vice Admirals like this, and we are going to let them sit on the bench. But maybe not. So we can confirm him right now by voice vote, individual voice vote, which is what our colleague has asked for.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 138, Craig A. Clapperton to be Vice Admiral and Commander, Fleet Cyber Command; Commander, Tenth Fleet; and Commander, Navy Space Command; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, so I am going to pick up where my colleague is leaving off. We will keep on with the Space Force theme as we go forward here.

I am bringing forward another really fantastic nominee, and this is Maj Gen Douglas A. Schiess. And I apologize again if I am getting these names wrong, but, heck, maybe we will get them confirmed tonight, and we won't have to read it again on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

So Maj Gen Douglas A. Schiess, U.S. Space Force, to be Lieutenant General and Commander, U.S. Space Forces—Space/Combined Joint Force Space Component Commander—again, serving in a joint force, just as Senator SULLIVAN and I are operating as a joint force here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

We have another really great nominee with a lot of years of service to this incredible country. He has a 31-year career. And we have heard a lot of these guys. They are 30-plus. We have seen some lower officers just being promoted to Brigadier General. But let me tell you, these men and women who have over 30 years of service are to be commended. As my colleague from

Alaska has said, they have been put on the bench. I would think we would want the players with the most experience, the most finesse, the means to get a job done—I think we would want them in the game.

So Maj Gen Douglas Schiess has that 31-year career. He has commanded 4th Space Operations Squadron. He has been with the 45th Operations Group, the 21st Space Wing, and the 45th Space Wing. He deployed to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Resolute Support, and Inherent Resolve. Most recently, he served as the Vice Commander for Space Operations Command, U.S. Space Force.

Those who have paid attention in the last handful of years as we have developed our U.S. Space Force understand that this is a very important domain moving forward. So not only do we have land, sea, and air; now we have space as well.

I am very hopeful that we will move forward on this nomination—again, 31 years of honorable service. He certainly deserves to be placed in this position of authority, Mr. President.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 392, Douglas A. Schiess to be Lieutenant General and Commander, U.S. Space Forces—Space/Combined Joint Force Space Component Commander; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, we will move on to the next individual vote, as requested by my colleague from Alabama. Here we are moving on the floor of the U.S. Senate. I am glad to be joined by a number of colleagues in the Chamber this evening to support our men and women in uniform.

I do want to make the point—because we continue to talk about these incredible nominees and their service to our Nation during times of war and times of peace—I do want to bring it back to the reason that we are here. It is because of the abhorrent policy that has been put into our Department of Defense by a political nominee, Secretary Lloyd Austin. He is the civilian in charge of the Department of Defense. Again, it is about an abortion policy that has been placed in the Department of Defense.

I will remind everyone once again that I am a pro-life woman. I am also a veteran and a combat veteran, at that. I do believe in protecting innocent life. I will continue to fight for in-

nocent life. It was my amendment that was taken up in the Armed Services Committee earlier this year as we debated this policy during the debate on the National Defense Authorization Act.

I have been a pro-life leader for well over 30 years now, since I was a young woman going through Iowa State University; making my career in the civilian workforce; then going into the Iowa Senate, where I was a proud defender of life; and now into the U.S. Senate, where I continue fighting for life in ways that make sense.

We have civilian nominees who can be held and held responsible for this very, very bad policy at the Department of Defense. The men and women who are being brought forward tonight by Senator DAN SULLIVAN, by Senator TODD YOUNG, by Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, and myself, they have nothing to do with the DOD abortion policy—nothing to do with the DOD abortion policy.

I have joined in life marches. I have given life speeches. I have objected to the practice of abortion, late-term abortion, in Western Iowa, in Council Bluffs. I have done this, as I said, for three decades—three decades. I challenge anybody in this Chamber to be more pro-life than I am or more military than I am. I have served, and I have borne a child.

So our next nominee is Michael Guetlein. He is a Lieutenant General, U.S. Space Force, to be General and Vice Chief of Space Operations—another incredible individual, a 32-year career. He also has served in command, leadership positions, at the flight, squadron, division, directorate, Program Executive Officer, and field command levels.

Lt Gen Guetlein's commands include the Director of Remote Sensing Systems and the Commander for the Rapid Reaction Squadron. Lieutenant General Guetlein most recently served as the Commander of Space Systems Command.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 292, Michael A. Guetlein for appointment to the grade of General with assignment as Vice Chief of Space Operation; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, we will continue again with the U.S. Space Force theme.

We have another gentleman: Lt Gen Stephen N. Whiting of U.S. Space

Force to be General and Commander of U.S. Space Command—again, a very, very important position to have. As we are working in the gray zone areas, we need to know that our space assets are protected, and we have the right man for the job.

So this is Lt Gen Stephen N. Whiting. He has a 34-year career as a Space Operations Officer. He has commanded the 13th Space Warning Squadron, the 614th Air and Space Operations Center and Joint Space Operations Center, the 21st Space Wing, and the Combined Force Space Component Command and 14th Air Force.

Lieutenant General Whiting most recently served as the Commander of Space Operations Command—again, a gentleman who has absolutely nothing to do with DOD abortion policy, a man who has honorably served his country in uniform for 34 years.

We are probably going to see and witness the back-benching of Lt Gen Stephen N. Whiting this evening, but, as my colleague from Alaska says, maybe not. Maybe we will see a man of honor step forward and voice vote on the confirmation of this officer by allowing us to move forward individually, as requested, on votes on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 328, Lt Gen Stephen N. Whiting for appointment in the U.S. Space Force to be General and Commander, U.S. Space Command; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, this one hits home. It is another nominee from the Navy. Hey, I am Army, but I love my Navy brothers and sisters. I love them all. This one is a Navy sister.

This is Executive Calendar No. 347, Heidi K. Berg to be Rear Admiral. RDML Heidi K. Berg has—and as I was reading through these nominees, this struck me because she has an over 30-year career.

Now, I know—because I was commissioned over 30 years ago—I know what a difficult climb it has been for women who were entering into the U.S. armed services at that time. Those women who entered in the seventies, eighties, nineties—they were trailblazers. They increasingly were put into positions of authority.

This Rear Admiral, Heidi Berg, has commanded in some very significant positions. She has commanded the Navy Information Operations Command in Bahrain, the Navy Element of

the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Joint Military Intelligence Training Center.

Rear Admiral Berg's operational tours include Navy Security Group Activity in Rota, Spain, where Berg flew over 1,000 hours as a Communications Intercept Evaluator on board EP-3E aircraft in support of Operations Provide Promise/Sharp Guard, aboard the USS *LaSalle*, Italy, and as Director of the International Security Assistance Force Red Team at ISAF headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Most recently, Rear Admiral Berg served as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy. And, again, we have had a number of women who have been brought up this evening in this debate, many of them having decades-plus experience. And I can tell you that women who were commissioned and have served over these last number of decades, they are to be commended. They have broken down barriers and allowed other women to see her and be her.

So for You, Admiral Heidi K. Berg, I commend you.

And I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 347, Heidi K. Berg, to be Rear Admiral; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. And there is another one that, as I said, you can see her; you can be her. Unfortunately, young ladies won't see her, at least for a while.

Mr. President, I have a couple here more before I turn it back over to my colleague from Alaska.

We are on a Navy theme again. So we have in front of us Michael T. Spencer, to be Rear Admiral Lower Half. He is a Navy 06, a Captain in the Navy, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Captain Spencer's 30-year naval career has been exemplary. He has commanded VFA-102 and CVW-11 and served in leadership positions for Fighter Squadron VF-211 Carrier Air Wing CVW-1 and VFA-213. His deployments include aboard the USS *Nimitz*, the USS *John C. Stennis*, the USS *Enterprise*, the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, and the USS *George Washington*, and again, most recently, on the USS *Nimitz*.

Again, an admirable career. We are bringing him up for an individual vote on the U.S. Senate floor, as requested by my colleague from Alabama. So we will try once again.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nom-

ination: Executive Calendar No. 327, Michael T. Spencer, to be Rear Admiral (lower half); that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Another one that I have known for a number of years now—this one is in the U.S. Army—and I am very proud to be able to bring forward this nomination this evening—again, an individual vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate, as asked by our colleague from Alabama. I hope that we can get this one over the finish line tonight.

So this nominee is Executive Calendar No. 390. It is Douglas A. Sims II. And he has been nominated to be Lieutenant General and Director of the Joint Staff.

We have brought up so many incredible individuals this evening. All of them are incredibly important positions.

Now, if you are familiar in the military, we do have a Joint Staff. And as a Director, this gentleman would be making sure that that Joint Staff operated seamlessly. Things just don't happen in the military, especially when you don't have the right leadership in the right positions.

So we have Lieutenant General Sims. He has a 32-year career. He has served as the Commanding General of the First Infantry Division, the Deputy Director for Regional Operations and Force Management, and the Deputy Commanding General for Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan.

Let me say that again: the Deputy Commanding General for Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan. The weight of his authority.

Lieutenant General Sims has completed three deployments to Afghanistan and two to Iraq. Most recently, Lieutenant General Sims, an exemplary man serving in the U.S. Army, served as the Director for Operations of the Joint Staff J-3.

Mr. President, I am going to try again. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 390, Douglas A. Sims II, to be Lieutenant General and Director, Joint Staff; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I just want to comment on my colleague here—Joint Forces, Marine Corps—Army operation—but Senator ERNST was talking; she is being very humble. She is such a strong leader on pro-life issues in the Senate and such a strong voice. And I just wanted to really commend her on that. We have had Senator GRAHAM here before. I am proud of my strong record on pro-life issues. I care deeply about it.

Ironically—I mean, of course, we don't know, but I guarantee you—both of us know in the military so well—that these 380 officers and their families—I am sure not all but probably many, many—have very similar strong views on that important issue. And it is ironic that, somehow, they are being caught up in this, when you think about it. I am sure it is really bitter for them.

It is not just pro-life; it is pro-military views that we have here. And it is not just words. A lot of people just say: I support the troops. No. We have lived it. That is why we are here. It is 10 at night. That is why we have been on the floor for 4 hours. We have lived it, and we have seen the heroes we are talking about today. And we have seen their families.

When you join the military—I always tell my wife and three daughters—you know, whether you are wearing a uniform or not, you are serving. And sometimes—in my view, a lot of times—it is harder for the spouse and the kids who are home when you have deployments and they are caught up in all of this. We haven't even talked about them. They are caught up, thousands of them—thousands of them. And there is polling out right now that is showing that the kids of military families, who are really the big pipeline in the continuing recruiting and people wanting to join the service, that the numbers are declining dramatically, where they are saying: You know what? I don't think I want to do what mom and dad did. I think I am going to not do that. Those numbers are declining. And this isn't helping. This isn't helping.

And I will say another thing in terms of, you know, officers who are dealing—I have talked—again, my grade, I am a senior Colonel. I talked to some Brigadier Generals very recently who are in the Middle East, some of whom are caught up in this. Guess what they are doing right now. They are putting on flacks. They are putting on helmets. They are taking incoming. Right? Just read the paper. And they literally said to me: We can't believe that we are, like, taking incoming again for our country and this is happening.

There is real bitterness. We better wake up. There is a recruiting retention problem. And we better wake up to the fact that this is not helping.

Again, my colleague—oh, no readiness problem. That is such baloney. Baloney. And everybody knows it. Spend one day in the military, and you know it. It really makes me frustrated. Really frustrated. Yeah, guys taking incoming right now caught up in this. I have talked to them. This is just not right. It is not right. We all know it. We all know it.

Mr. President, let's continue on. Another important promotion: a Major General in the U.S. Army, David Isaacson, to be Lieutenant General and Director for Command, Control, Coms and Computers and Cyber Chief Information Officer, J-6, for the U.S. Army.

By the way, that is another theme: subs, Navy, and a lot of cyber—a lot of cyber, which is the new gray area of warfare as Senator ERNST mentioned. And we are keeping our cyber leaders on the bench.

So let's hear about Major General Isaacson's 35-year career in the U.S. Army. He has served as Deputy Commanding General of Army Network Enterprise Technology Command—thank God for smart officers like that—the Deputy Chief of Staff of the G-6 of the Army; Director of Network Services and Strategy for the Department of the Army. Major General Isaacson has multiple operational deployments, including Operation Just Cause in Panama, Desert Shield, Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Iraq, Uphold Democracy in Haiti, several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, supporting the Global War On Terrorism and overseas contingencies.

Major General Isaacson most recently served as the Director of Manpower Personnel For Joint Chiefs.

Incredible experience right here. So let's move him. Let's move him. We can do a voice vote. My colleague wanted voice votes on individuals. He still hasn't answered the question why he is objecting to everything.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 391, David T. Isaacson, to be Lieutenant General and Director for Command, Control, Communications, and Computer/Cyber and Chief Information Officer, J-6, Joint Staff—I misstated it earlier. That is not just for the Army. That is for the J-6. That is for the Joint Staff of the U.S. Military. Wow. Really important—that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, we haven't had a marine in a while. I love the Marine Corps. It is not the big serv-

ice, though, so we haven't had as many marines. I will tell you this: This Colonel, Kelvin Gallman, to be Brigadier General in the U.S. Marine Corps, he certainly is not a paper pusher. He is not some woke guy. He is a warrior. He is a warrior.

Let's read about Colonel Gallman: 29 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served as the Commanding Officer of the Marine Corps Marine Air Group 26—MAG-26—personnel support detachment. Marine Tilt Rotor Squadron, VMM-261. Those are Ospreys. Marine Aviation and Weapons Tactics Squadron, MAWTS-1. Colonel Gallman has several deployments in support of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Here we go, another Marine hero—another Marine hero. By the way, he has nothing to do with this—nothing. He sacrificed—I am going to read what he did. And we are saying: Oh, these guys aren't the warriors. What? Who the hell is saying that?

Colonel Gallman received the Air Medal with a Combat Distinguishing Device for heroic achievement in connection with operations against the enemy as a pilot of a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter while attached to Marine Air Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, on 1 April, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, while providing assault support under direct enemy fire for the U.S. Army 1st Ranger Battalion, in a daunting quest to rescue a U.S. Army prisoner of war from the Saddam Hussein hospital in Nasiriyah, Iraq, and the recovery of nine U.S. casualties, previously killed in action. This mission served as one of history's most daring and successful prisoner-of-war rescues.

Do I need to read that again for anybody? Pure courage. Pure heroism. And what is happening here? This Colonel needs to be promoted to Brigadier General in the Marine Corps.

By the way, that is really hard to do in the Marines. There are not many Brigadier Generals.

Heroic actions. Combat Distinguishing Device flying a helicopter—I guarantee it was at night. He recovered nine U.S. casualties previously killed in action. He went and got dead Americans so they wouldn't be left in the desert of Iraq. And this body is holding him. Come on.

Whatever you think about this issue—and we all agree with the Senator from Alabama—this is not the guy to make a point with. Flying at night recovering POWs and dead Americans—heroic actions—and the U.S. Senate response is “Thank you very much. You are not going to go anywhere. We are going to punish you. Why? Because we can. Because we feel like it.” What a bunch of baloney.

Let's try to at least get this guy promoted. Let's try to get this hero, Col. Kevin Gallman, U.S. Marine Corps, to be a Brigadier General because he is not no woke paper-pusher, I guarantee you that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Col. Kelvin W. Gallman to be Brigadier General in the U.S. Marine Corps under Executive Calendar No. 95; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Let's move to the Air Force. Let's move for Scott L. Pleus to be Lieutenant General and Director of Staff at the U.S. Air Force. As you know, Mr. President, being an Army man, West Point grad, Director of Staff of your service is one of the most important positions in your service.

Let's look at Lt. Gen. Scott Pleus's remarkable career. He has 34 years in the Air Force. Lt. Gen. Pleus's time in the Air Force has included serving as Director of Air and Cyber Space Operations and as Executive Officer to the Air Force Chief of Staff. Lieutenant General Pleus is also a command pilot with more than 2,500 flying hours, with combat hours earned during Operations Desert Fox and Southern Watch. Most recently, Lieutenant General Pleus served as Deputy Commander for U.S. Forces Korea—all forces, not just Air Forces—and Commander for the Air Component in United Nations Command in Korea.

Again, phenomenal—phenomenal—American patriot. Thirty-four years. And he is being benched at one of the most dangerous times since World War II. This isn't hurting readiness? Come on. Mr. President, maybe we can get him confirmed.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 184, Scott L. Pleus to be Lieutenant General and Director of Staff, U.S. Air Force; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, let's go back to our great U.S. Navy.

CAPT Craig Mattingly to be Rear Admiral (lower half) in the U.S. Navy. Let's look at Captain Mattingly's 28-year career. He has led Squadrons on deployments supporting EUCOM,

AFRICOM, and CENTCOM; areas of responsibility as commander of multitask force groups. His major command was Commodore of Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11. During his tenure as Commodore of CPRW-11, supported global initiatives include the inaugural INDOPACOM deployments of the MQ-4 Charlie Triton unmanned aerial systems in the PA Poseidon Advanced Airborne Sensor—that is a sub hunter—as well as the P-3C radar system.

Captain Mattingly's most recent assignment was serving as Senior Military Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy. He is a naval aviator. He hunts subs, Russian and Chinese subs. How long has he been doing that? He has a little bit of experience here. Captain Mattingly—3,900 flight hours in P-3C Orions and P-8 Poseidon aircraft.

If you are a sub and you are an enemy of America, this guy has tracked you. Again, subs. The Chinese are scared to death of P-8s, and we have one of the best P-8 pilots in America, and he is on the bench, and Xi Jinping and his communist dictator buddies are smiling.

Maybe we can get him done with a voice vote because our colleague asked for individual votes. I think we are almost at 60 individual votes right now—great Americans.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: CAPT Craig T. Mattingly to be Rear Admiral (lower half) of the U.S. Navy under Executive Calendar No. 97; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, let's go back to the importance—you are seeing some themes here. Navy, certainly. Boy, are we decimating the U.S. Navy. Decimating. Unbelievable. I am just shocked at how many Navy Admirals we are putting on the bench right now. The Chinese are smiling. Whoa, are they smiling.

But this is another theme tonight, and, again, we didn't really plan it, Senator ERNST and I; it is just what is happening. We have a big military. Space ops. Cyber and space ops. That is another theme tonight. It is a really, really important area of warfare. The Chinese and Russians are gaining on us. We have the best, though. Here is another one.

David N. Miller to be Lieutenant General and Commander, Space Operations Command, U.S. Space Force. That is a really big, important billet.

Maj Gen David Miller has an over 30-year career where he has commanded at the squadron group and wing levels, including the 2nd Range Operations Squadron, 21st Operations Group in the 46 Space Unit.

Most recently, Maj Gen Miller served as a Special Assistant to the Vice Chief of Space Operations. This is a hugely important billet to protect our entire country. He has incredible background in this area.

Space, cyber, missile defense—those have all been brought up tonight, and all were shut down—without explanation, by the way. We are bringing up individual votes. We still haven't heard why we are not going to allow those to move.

But anyway, Mr. President, we can confirm this nomination right now by a voice vote. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 351, David N. Miller, Jr., to be Lieutenant General and Commander, Space Operations Command, U.S. Space Force; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, we have just a couple more to go as we wrap up the evening. We have been reading off these nominations as fast as our staff could get them to us, and I guarantee that my colleague, Senator SULLIVAN of Alaska, and I would go all night if we could. We won't keep you in the Chair, Mr. President.

But we have seen a number of really incredible human beings come in front of us. Before I move on these nominations, that is what I want all of us to remember.

For those who might be viewing this evening, those who will read through this tomorrow, I want them to understand that these are human beings. They are men and women who serve our country for all different reasons.

I can't speak for Col. DAN SULLIVAN, but I know that when I decided as a young woman to serve my country, it was truly because I wanted to serve my country because I believe that our country provided great opportunities for kids like me who came from nothing.

I literally came from nothing in Southwest Iowa. I am the first in my family to graduate from a 4-year school. My brother did not have the opportunity to go to college. He went into the workforce. My sister has an associate's degree from a community college. My parents are both high school educated, and I am blessed that they were high school educated.

I had the great opportunity to attend an agricultural exchange while I was at Iowa State University, and that ag exchange took me to the USSR in 1989, to a place we now know as Ukraine. After living on that collective farm with my Ukrainian brother and sister and their family—no running water, no refrigerator, no car, no telephone. The kids I lived with had never traveled off of the collective farm.

After that experience and coming back to the United States, I understood that, growing up on a tiny little farm in Southwest Iowa, that I was so very blessed to be an American.

My country afforded me all kinds of opportunities. Even though I came from a family without means, I could do anything. And I tell you what, when I was that kid, that 19-year-old kid who had traveled to the Soviet Union and back, I can tell you that my grandparents, at that time, would have never believed that that little kid would grow up and become a U.S. Senator.

But what I took from that experience was that I was blessed. DAN was blessed. Coach is blessed. I think all of us are blessed by virtue of our birth and our citizenship here in the United States.

So it was that experience that led me into the U.S. Army ROTC Program at Iowa State University because I didn't come from wealth or means, but what I did have was my service. And I knew that I needed to give back to my country and protect the values that we all hold dear. And I do not question anyone who serves in this U.S. Senate. We are all sent here for a purpose.

But I do know that many of these men and women whom we have talked about tonight, they believe in their country as well. They are human beings. Many of them have backgrounds just as I do. They are flesh and blood, and they have chosen to wear the uniform and the flag of our United States.

They have done that without any mental reservation. They have stepped forward to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. And they do it because they believe in our country. And it is really unfortunate that tonight these men and women have been denied their promotions. We have done the best that we can to honor the request of a fellow Senator that these nominations be brought to the floor and voted on individually.

And I really respect men of their word. I do not respect men who do not honor their word. We have brought forward nearly 60 nominees. Every one of them have been denied an opportunity to move forward.

They have given more than most of us have. Certainly, they have given more than I have in this Chamber. They have given more than Dan has given in this Chamber. We talked about many that had over 30 years of honorable service, and we are punishing them for what all of us here believe to

be a very bad policy at the Department of Defense—a policy that they have absolutely nothing to do with.

There are 379 nominations as of the end of October, concerning 375 general and flag officers here in the Senate for consideration. Of the 375 officers, 362 are currently impacted by a blanket hold as they wait here on the Senate floor pending confirmation.

We gave opportunity to nearly 60 of them this evening. These military families are in limbo. The families of 172 officers have been disrupted by these holds. Again, these are men and women. They have families who are being impacted. Their salaries are being impacted. Their retirements are being impacted. They had forced cancellations of coast-to-coast moves with homes that were sold. Many of them are now living in temporary housing and paying out of pocket for storage without any clarity about the length of time that they will be in this hold.

Many of their children were disenrolled from current schools and—and—again, these are innocents—they are unable to reenroll in school or enroll in a new school since they do not have a permanent address. And there were many spouses who had employment that was terminated. That is a kick in the seat. I was a military spouse. I understand how difficult it is doing those PCS moves from duty station to duty station because your country demands it and having to start your life all over again.

So I am going to bring up these last two nominations, and maybe we will see a result, again, bringing the nominations individually to the floor of the U.S. Senate to be voted on. I anticipated a man of his word would honor his word. We haven't heard an explanation. But I will tell you, this was not time wasted tonight. I will do this all over again. I will do it all over again.

I am bringing forward now Capt. Frederic C. Goldhammer to be Rear Admiral (lower half) in the U.S. Navy, under Executive Calendar No. 97. Captain Goldhammer has a 28-year career, actually over 28 years now, and he has held several command positions, including while deployed aboard USS *Enterprise*, USS *Nimitz*, and USS *Eisenhower*, supporting Operation Southern Watch, Joint Endeavor, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

Captain Goldhammer also completed Individual Augmentee assignments as an Air Planning Officer for the Coalition Combat Air Operations Center in Saudi Arabia, Liaison Officer to the U.S. Army's 18th Airborne Corps in Afghanistan, and as a Combat Search and Rescue Watch Officer for the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet staff in Bahrain.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Capt. Frederic C. Goldhammer to be Rear Admiral (lower half) in the U.S. Navy, under Executive Calendar No. 97; that the Senate vote on the

nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. And our final nomination this evening—so I mentioned that I was a former military spouse, and Senator SULLIVAN had brought up First Ranger Battalion. And those who have served around many of those in the Rangers, they understand that there is a—there is a stanza of the Ranger creed that is “I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy.”

We have talked about those who have saved the lives of other men and women in uniform. We heard about the marine who saved a life of many other men and women in uniform and went to retrieve those who have fallen so that they wouldn't forever be in the hands of the enemy.

We have heard about women who led the way, as well, with their service and showing other young women that they could serve and do great things for the Nation that has given them so much. We have heard so many stories about heroics and combat, “V” for Valor, Silver Star. We have heard brief resumes of warriors we really can't go into on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Again, those of us who served understand why we can't do that.

But these are people. They are human beings. They are flesh and blood. They have done everything they possibly can and given more than most for their country: duty and honor, their service, sacrifice for this Nation.

And what is this body, this Nation doing to them? This will be remembered. It is a dark evening. This will be remembered. I want to thank them so much for their service to our country. We will continue pressing forward because we will not leave them to fall. We will not leave them to fall.

So, with that, I will turn the floor back over to my colleague and thank you—oh, excuse me, I haven't completed this final nomination.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I have three more.

Ms. ERNST. Oh, we have more. We could go all night, Dan. We have done it before.

But I am going to move on Col. Kevin J. Merrill to be a Brigadier General in the U.S. Air Force. Col. Kevin Merrill most recently served as the Deputy Director of Strategic Plans, Programs and Requirements for Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command.

Previously, Col. Merrill was the Mobilization Assistant to the Director of Operations for the Air Force Special Operations Command, AFSOC.

Col. Merrill conducted around-the-clock HH-60G battlefield and medical

evacuation for coalition forces during Operation Enduring Freedom. He most certainly did not leave a man behind. He led rescue operations in response to the aftermath of Hurricane Rita and provided 24-hour combat search-and-rescue coverage for coalition assets during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Col. Kevin J. Merrill to be Brigadier General in the U.S. Air Force under Executive Calendar No. 86; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, we have three more that we are going to do. That will be 61 tonight. And Senator ERNST and I—and I know a lot of our other colleagues want to join us—we are going to keep coming down here. So let me get through these, and then I will have a few words to conclude. And I want to thank the Presiding Officer for staying late. I know you care about this issue as well.

This is Brig. Gen. Robert M. Blake, and he is being considered to be promoted to Major General in the U.S. Air Force—again, incredible, incredible background. He most recently served as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, LA.

He has flown the C-130 H2 Hercules. He has amassed more than 4,500 hours in military aircraft, including combat sorties and tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Brig. Gen. Blake flew 16 total missions, including 12 air refueling sorties supporting C-5s and C-17s in Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. And he flew 10 missions in support of humanitarian relief for operations for Operation Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom.

Again, a transport aviation pilot, incredible. Just, I mean, we look at these numbers like oh, no big deal—4,500 flying hours in military aircraft. That is incredible experience for our military. So let's get him confirmed. Let's get him confirmed by voice vote, right here, individual, as our colleague requested.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Brig. Gen. Robert M. Blake to be Major General in the U.S. Air Force under Executive Calendar No. 88; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, another heroic Air Force pilot with incredible experience. Let's just move on to Brig. Gen. Mitchell Hanson. We are trying to get him confirmed to be Major General.

By the way, Senator GRAHAM made this point at the beginning: All of these military members went through their promotion board process. As we all know, the military is kind of an up-or-out organization, right? So for Brigadier General Hanson to go from Brigadier General to Major General—a two-star General—that is really hard to do. These guys are the best, right? We just kind of take it for granted. That is all done by the military, in the military selection boards. They are picking their own, but we have to confirm it.

So, again, think about the frustration—let me read about his background—that they have done all this, the boards have met, they said these are our top people, and we are going to keep promoting them.

Normally, for the last 200 years—by the way, as stated earlier, there are a lot of holds. I have put holds on. No one has ever done a blanket hold on every flag officer promotion for this long in the history of America. Let me repeat that. There has never been one-, two-, three-, four-star Generals and Admirals, a blanket hold on all of them.

People have threatened it. They have done it for a couple of weeks, but it has never been done for almost a year in the history of the United States of America. That is a fact. Contemplate that one.

So let's look at Brigadier General Hanson's background. He most recently served as Mobilization Assistant to the Director of Operations, Air Combat Command. Brigadier General Hanson has served in numerous positions at the squadron group wing in numbered Air Force. That is getting bigger in each unit. You know that, Mr. Chairman, but some people watching might not know.

Brigadier General Hanson has served as a reservist, an individual mobilization augmentee member on the Reserve side of the military. He has flown the A-10 and the F-16 in a variety of operational assignments and as a command pilot, with more than 3,400 hours—again, just enormous experience, flying over 200 combat hours.

He has deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, Willing Spirit, Enduring Freedom. Brigadier General Hanson executed 20 close air support combat missions supporting NATO and international security assistance forces battling Taliban insurgent fighters in Afghanistan.

He provided armed overwatch for dismounted infantry patrols—the grunts on the ground looking up: Oh, my God, I got air cover. Thank God.

He conducted convoy and helicopter escorts and responded to U.S. infantry platoons on the ground receiving effective fire from an insurgent machinegun team. He employed 160 rounds of 30 mike-mikes against the insurgents and killed them all—killed them all. He saved American grunt lives on the ground. Another hero. Another hero. So we are going to put him on a bench.

By the way, it is a great way to say thanks for your service, Brigadier General Hanson. We will just keep you on the icebox. Thanks for your service. Very heroic.

But maybe my colleague will relent here. We are down to one more. So maybe, maybe it will work.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Brig. Gen. Mitchell A. Hanson to be Major General, U.S. Air Force, under Executive Calendar No. 88; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President immediately be notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, the final one. It is so ironic. I didn't mean it to be this way, but I am so proud of it. It is a U.S. Marine Colonel—I am a U.S. Marine Colonel; these are my peer groups—to be Brigadier General of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Let's read about Col. Richard Joyce to be Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation, U.S. Marine Corps—again, another heroic American.

Colonel Joyce has deployed numerous times to Iraq and Afghanistan and served as the Commanding Officer of an attack squadron. He is a Cobra pilot. That is an attack helicopter, the AH-1. He was Director of the staff group for Gen. Robert Neller when he was the 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Colonel Joyce received the Air Medal with the combat distinguishing device—that means heroism in combat—for heroic achievement while participating in aerial flight as an attack helicopter pilot of an AH-1—that is a Cobra helicopter—assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, deployed with Marine Air Group 40 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on 22 May 2009. He was under direct fire from three different directions, with enemy forces effectively engaging his aircraft—incoming from three different directions. He placed precision fires on each of these enemy positions, destroying them and pro-

viding direct relief to outnumbered friendly forces on the ground.

Not a paper pusher. Not a woke warrior. A real, true American hero right here, and we are going to tell him: Stay on the bench.

Maybe not. This is the last one, Mr. President, No. 61 for the night—a Marine Colonel to be promoted to Brigadier General, who has nothing to do with this damn dispute on the floor here—nothing—and, somehow, he is going to get caught up in this.

By the way, these are the kinds of guys I am hearing about. These are my peer group. They are saying: You know what? Seven deployments, tough on the wife and kids. I am getting stuck in an issue that I have nothing to do with. I can't—you know what, I am punching out. I am punching out.

So we are going to lose guys like this. We are going to lose guys like this.

The Chinese, Putin, Xi Jinping—they are going to be like: Oh, my God, I am so scared of a marine like this. He would come over and kick the you know what out of the Chinese and Russians.

We are going to drive him out of the Marine Corps—drive him out of the Marine Corps.

But maybe not—maybe my colleague will relent on this just last one, just out of good grace. He still hasn't explained why, all that he said about not blocking a single vote if you bring up nominees one at a time. I am all for it. I will probably vote for them. We just brought up 61, one at a time, in regular order. Come on.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Col. Richard D. Joyce to be Brigadier General of the U.S. Marine Corps on Executive Calendar No. 95; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I am just going to conclude. I am disappointed. We are done here. We don't have any more for tonight, but I think this has been enlightening. I think this has been enlightening because what we have been able to do—hopefully, some people are watching in our great Nation—is to distill to the people of the country: Look at how blessed we are to have these incredible Americans. Look at how blessed we are, how heroic they are.

So my message to our Generals and Admirals who are being held up: Hang in there. Hang in there. Some of us have your back. We have your back. We

will be coming here every night to try and get you guys confirmed.

I have been very honored to be here with Senator ERNST on the floor. And I will tell you that I think she and I both have a feeling that I think a lot of people have—but people who served, mostly—just the love for our military, military families.

I am coming up, just at 30 years in the Marine Corps. The INDOPACOM theater has been the bookends of my career. My first deployment was the INDOPACOM, a Marine amphibious ready group, in the Taiwan Strait.

When the Chinese were threatening to invade Taiwan, we sent a Marine amphibious ready group. I was on that as a young infantry officer, in two carrier strike groups. And we went in the Taiwan Strait and looked at the Chinese and said: Not today, guys. Not today. Not today. The U.S. Marine Corps is here. The U.S. Navy is here. Don't even think about it.

That was almost 27 year ago, and I am out at the Marine Force's Pacific Command. In between, I have deployed as a staff officer in the Middle East, in Afghanistan.

But I think, like Senator ERNST, the biggest honor of my life has been serving and leading marines. I have a lot of good friends in the Senate. I have met a lot of good people in the U.S. Senate. The best people I have ever met in my life by far—not even close—are U.S. marines. They are the best.

And I think what is happening right now—you know, the Marine Corps' motto is *Semper Paratus*, always faithful. And this body is not keeping faith with our military right now. It is not, and the military knows it, and they are frustrated.

So many of these officers had 30 years or more of experience, thousands of years of experience we are putting on hold. The distinct comparative advantages we have say, for example, in submarine forces in the Indo-Pacific theater that the Chinese fear—they fear it—we are putting that on hold.

So I am hopeful that my colleague who left, Senator TUBERVILLE, can work with us. I have been working with him for months. This is just kind of a frustration moment, right? Enough. But I am hopeful we can still work together. I am hopeful we can find a way forward. The idea that I have been pitching to him: Hey, let's lift the hold on the men and women who have nothing to do with this and put a hold on the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, who is in charge of the abortion issue, and he is a civilian. That is the way to use the hold, not to take out a Marine Corps Brigadier General who is a war hero.

So I am hopeful that we are going to make progress on that. We are facing a really dangerous period right now, as you know, as Senator ERNST knows, and we are impacting readiness. We are definitely impacting morale, and that is readiness.

So, again, to my colleague saying, "Don't worry; there is no problem, no

readiness problems," no offense, but that is just ridiculous, and he knows it. We all know it.

So we are going to keep working this. I am honored to be on the floor with Senator ERNST. I appreciate, Mr. President, your sticking around.

We are not done. If you are a flag officer—one-star, two-star, three-star, or four-star General—we have got your back. We are going to work this. We are going to work it. You deserve it, and our Nation has to have it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise to provide a brief statement on the rollcall votes on October 26, 2023. I was unable to attend the votes because I was in Maine to respond to a mass shooting in Lewiston, ME. Had I been here on Thursday, October 26, 2023, I would have voted in "nay" on vote No. 270, on the Motion to Discharge S. J. Res 44, a joint resolution directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Niger that have not been authorized by Congress.

I rise to provide a brief statement on the rollcall votes on October 26, 2023. I was unable to attend the votes because I was in Maine to respond to a mass shooting in Lewiston, ME. Had I been here on Thursday, October 26, 2023, I would have voted in "nay" on vote No. 271, on the Braun Amdt. 1182 to S. Amdt. 1092 to H.R. 4366, to prohibit earmarks.

I rise to provide a brief statement on the rollcall votes on October 26, 2023. I was unable to attend the votes because I was in Maine to respond to a mass shooting in Lewiston, ME. Had I been here on Thursday, October 26, 2023, I would have voted in "nay" on vote No. 272, on the S. J. Res 42, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Food and Nutrition Service relating to "Application of Bostock v. Clayton County to Program Discrimination Complaint Processing-Policy Update".

GAO LEGAL DECISION REGARDING SEC STAFF ACCOUNTING BULLETIN 121

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, on March 31, 2022, the Securities and Exchange Commission—SEC—issued Staff Accounting Bulletin 121—SAB 121—which purported to address the accounting treatment of crypto assets. The bulletin was not issued as a rule under the Administrative Procedure Act—APA—and was not submitted to Congress as required by the Congressional Review Act.

On August 2, 2022, I sent a letter to the Comptroller General requesting a

GAO legal decision regarding the applicability of the Congressional Review Act to SAB 121. On October 31, 2023, GAO issued a legal decision finding that SAB 121 was a rule under both the Administrative Procedure Act and the Congressional Review Act and that no exception applied.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the GAO legal decision regarding SAB 121 be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DECISION

Matter of: Securities and Exchange Commission—Applicability of the Congressional Review Act to Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121.

File: B-334540.

Date: October 31, 2023.

DIGEST

On March 31, 2022, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121 (Bulletin). The Bulletin provides interpretive guidance regarding how covered entities should account for and disclose their custodial obligations to safeguard crypto-assets held for their platform users. SEC did not submit a report pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to Congress or the Comptroller General on the Bulletin.

CRA requires that before a rule can take effect, an agency must submit a report on the rule to both the House of Representatives and the Senate as well as the Comptroller General, and provides procedures for congressional review where Congress may disapprove of rules. CRA adopts the definition of rule under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) but excludes certain categories of rules from coverage. We conclude the Bulletin is a rule for purposes of CRA because it meets the APA definition of a rule, and no exceptions apply. Therefore, the Bulletin is subject to the requirement that it be submitted to Congress.

DECISION

On March 31, 2022, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC or the Commission) issued Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121 (Bulletin) and published it on the Commission's website. SEC, Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121, available at <https://www.sec.gov/oca/staff-accounting-bulletin-121> (last visited Oct. 25, 2023). The Bulletin became effective on April 11, 2022, and was published in the Federal Register on that same date. 87 Fed. Reg. 21015. We received a congressional request for a decision regarding whether the Bulletin is subject to the Congressional Review Act (CRA). Letter from Senator Cynthia M. Lummis to Comptroller General (Aug. 2, 2022). For the reasons described below, we conclude that the Bulletin is a rule under CRA and thus subject to CRA's submission requirement.

Our practice when rendering decisions is to contact the relevant agencies to obtain their legal views on the subject of the request. GAO, Procedures and Practices for Legal Decisions and Opinions, GAO-06-1064SP (Washington, D.C.: Sept. 2006), available at <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-06-1064sp>. Accordingly, we reached out to SEC to obtain the agency's legal views. Letter from Assistant General Counsel, GAO, to General Counsel, SEC (Oct. 24, 2022). We received SEC's response on November 21, 2022. Letter from General Counsel, SEC, to Assistant General Counsel, GAO (Response Letter).