The Senate met at 10:01 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Michael F. Bennet, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, our God and provider, we thank You for the many blessings we enjoy as citizens of this great Nation. May we be good stewards of Your gifts. Lord, as we reflect on the future, we pray that Your sovereign presence will protect our Nation and world from evil. Equip us to do what is right and just and good.

We pray for our Senators today, asking that You would keep them courageous and focused on Your plans to guide and prosper us. We are grateful that You are here on Capitol Hill, listening, watching, and judging. May all of our elected leaders do what is right for Your everlasting glory.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. Murray).

Mr. BENNET thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore. The Honorable Michael F. Bennet, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The Acting President pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS
The Acting President pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
The Acting President pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey M. Bryan, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER
The Acting President pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in the coming weeks, Congress has a responsibility to equip America and our allies to face a historic array of national security challenges. To understand the urgency of this moment, just look at the impossible choices facing our ally Israel as it works to bring innocent people home from terrorist captivity.

These brutal terrorists bankroll their existence with the blood of innocent people. They know that their hostages can be cashed in for a brief reprieve from justice or in exchange for terrorists incarcerated in Israel. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza is one of Hamas’s own design. Just as there is no moral equivalence between terrorism and self-defense, there is no moral equivalence between innocent hostages and convicted terrorists and criminals.

Unfortunately, this is not just a reminder for the activists on elite campuses and in national newsrooms who uncritically lapped up and regurgitated activist propaganda. It is also for some of our colleagues here in Congress.

According to some reports, Senate Democrats will use their caucus lunch today to discuss placing restrictions on U.S. military assistance to Israel. One of our colleagues is already on the record demanding that President Biden “be more aggressive with the Israelis.” Another has declared that “not one penny will be coming to Israel” unless our ally bends to his view—offered from the comfort of a Senate office—on how Israel should conduct self-defense operations.

If Senate Democrats want to vote to tie the hands of Israeli soldiers as they defend their country against vicious terrorists, I welcome such a debate.

For anyone who needs to hear it again, the conflict unfolding today is between a sovereign democracy that takes great pains to avoid civilian casualties and terrorist butchers who go out of their way to inflict civilian casualties and put their own civilians in harm’s way. Israel deserves the time, the space, and the resources to restore its security, and I will stand by our ally 100 percent.

For that matter, our own people—American men and women in uniform—deserve the same unwavering commitment to restoring credible deterrence against Iran.

Since October 17, Iran-backed terrorists have launched at least 73 attacks against U.S. personnel in Iraq and
Syria. Clearly, President Biden’s strikes against desert warehouses have not given our adversaries pause. The world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism remains demonstrably undeterred.

Right now, we have a responsibility to equip Israel to destroy Hamas, deter violence against American service-members, and invest seriously in American hard power—a language our adversaries in Iran, in Moscow, and in Beijing actually understand. Supplemental national security legislation is our chance to uphold this responsibility.

**BORDER SECURITY**

Mr. President, on another matter, as my colleagues and I on this side of the aisle have made abundantly clear, national security begins with border security, and any serious supplemental legislation with a shot at passing the Senate in the coming weeks will have to take meaningful steps toward fixing the Biden administration’s border crisis. Even the administration continues to acknowledge that this broken asylum and parole system is the central problem driving the border crisis. Even the administration continues to acknowledge that this broken asylum and parole system is the central problem driving the border crisis. Well, that is exactly what the border crisis. Well, that is exactly what the border crisis.

On President Biden’s watch, record-setting illegal migration has strained border protection facilities and personnel to their breaking point. On this President’s watch, catch-and-release has gone from a shortsighted policy option to the dangerous first resort for a profoundly broken asylum and parole system. Right now, immigration courts are facing over 2 million pending asylum cases. That backlog has grown by 50 percent just since President Biden took office. The average asylum case waits more than 4 years for judgment. Talk about sending the wrong signal to legitimate asylum seekers and to bad actors alike.

A wide, bipartisan consensus continues to acknowledge that this broken system is the central problem driving the border crisis. Even the administration’s border czar, Secretary Mayorkas, has acknowledged that the way the United States handles asylum claims needs to be “reformed from top to bottom.” Well, that is exactly what Senate Republicans have been working on for weeks. Senators Lankford, Graham, Cotton, and Cornyn are trying in good faith to help DHS solve its problem by identifying policy changes that restore a measure of common sense to the way we process asylum claims and grant parole.

But at the same time, the Democratic leader has called border security measures “the biggest holdup” for passing national security supplemental. Well, he is right about one thing: The single largest obstacle in the way of urgent resources to help Israel, Ukraine, and Taiwan is Democrats’ refusal to address the crisis at the southern border.

National security begins right here at home, and the sooner our colleagues admit it, the sooner the Senate can move forward on the urgent business before us.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The **ACTING PRESIDENT** pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The **ACTING PRESIDENT** pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, artificial intelligence—or what is referred to as AI—has been with us for quite some time now. And another one of the chatbot providing help on Amazon, or personalized recommendations on Netflix, or the algorithms that are curating your social media feeds, these days, most of us interact with artificial intelligence on a daily basis. But as the release of ChatGPT to the public last year demonstrated, artificial intelligence is about to take a giant step forward.

The AI applications I have mentioned, like chatbots and personalized recommendations, or so-called narrow AI, which is AI trained to perform specific tasks. But ChatGPT is an example of the next generation of AI—artificial intelligence systems set up to imitate the human brain and production, advances based on the assimilation of vast sets of data.

This next generation of AI—so-called foundational models which underpin systems like ChatGPT—offers tremendous possibilities: advances in medicine, in manufacturing, the automation of routine tasks, new ways to manage infrastructure, better and more resilient supply chains, advances in national defense. And the list, literally, goes on and on.

But as with any sophisticated technology, this next generation of AI presents risks as well. And those risks are heightened by the enormous capabilities of AI and the potential for this technology to pervade every corner of our society. That is why we need to be encouraging the promise of AI while putting safeguards in place to minimize potential dangers.

The light-touch approach the United States has taken to internet regulation is a good model to follow as we approach AI regulation. The explosive growth of internet innovation in the United States is, in large part, a result of the fact that the government has not weighed down this sector of the economy with heavyhanded regulation. And we should maintain a similarly light touch when it comes to AI to encourage innovation and keep the United States at the forefront of the next generation of artificial intelligence.

Leadership in AI will benefit our economy. And there are also serious security reasons why staying at the forefront of the AI revolution is important. There is no question that AI will come to play an important role in national defense, and falling behind adversaries—like the Chinese Communist Party—could put our country at a serious disadvantage when it comes to our national security. So we need to start establishing some basic rules of the road that will allow AI innovation to flourish, while at the same time minimizing the dangers that it presents.

The race to regulate AI has already started. President Biden issued a sweeping Executive order that empowers multiple government Agencies and Departments to regulate all AI systems, and even the algorithms that recommend our next move on Netflix or remind us that we need to order more paper towels.

And internationally, the European Union has continued to press forward with a heavily hand regulatory regime. It is time for Congress to ensure that innovation in the United States continues. Regulating AI by Executive order is not the way to go about things. Even if the President’s Executive order on AI weren’t overly broad and heavily handed, Executive orders are, by their very nature, not permanent, since they can be reversed or amended at any time—and stand a good chance of being reversed or amended when a new administration comes into office. This creates uncertainty for companies, which can stunt innovation and growth.

The right way to approach AI regulation is to pursue a bipartisan, nationwide approach in Congress that will protect innovation while putting in place the necessary safeguards for the responsible applications of this technology.

To that end, shortly before Thanksgiving, I introduced bipartisan AI legislation with Senator KLOBUCAR and several of our Commerce Committee colleagues from both parties. Our bill is intended to establish some basic rules of the road for artificial intelligence while protecting the ability of companies to innovate and advance this technology.

Our bill focuses on two things: transparency for consumers and a tiered, risk-based framework for oversight of the highest impact applications of AI. On the transparency front, our bill would require any large-scale internet platform that uses generative AI to create content to clearly inform consumers of that fact. One of the risks presented by generative AI is the difficulty distinguishing AI-produced content from human-produced content. And now that AI can generate content that may not be a huge issue if the content we are talking about is an amusing meme, but it is a real issue if a consumer is trying to figure out whether information or an image is real or whether it has been generated by AI. So requiring transparency about whether the content is being produced—or at least partially produced—by generative AI needs to be a priority.

The second part of our bill deals with high-impact and critical-impact AI, that is, AI applications used to make significant applications in particularly high-risk sectors. Our bill establishes a two-tiered system for overseeing these applications.
The image contains a page of a document with text that appears to be a combination of legislative proceedings and a tribute to a person named Peggy J. Dunn. The text is structured as follows:

**TRIBUTE TO PEGGY J. DUNN**

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you for the opportunity to address my colleagues here on the Senate floor today.

I come here with a smile on my face because I have the privilege of being joined by many friends and co-workers today, and they are wonderful people who have made a difference in the lives of many of their fellow citizens back home in Kansas.

I want to recognize a lifelong Kansan who has served her family, her community, and her State. Peggy Dunn has been serving the city of Leawood as mayor since 1997 and has cultivated a flourishing and beautiful community. In January, Mayor Dunn’s last term will come to an end. Her dedication to the city of Leawood will not be forgotten, and she will be greatly missed.

Peggy J. Dunn was born in greater Kansas City and has been serving the city of Leawood for 31 years. Prior to being elected mayor, she was a city council member for 4 years until she was sworn in as mayor in 1997.

Mayor Dunn has played a critical role in the growth of Leawood, and during her years in office, many, many notable developments have been made. Shopping centers such as Park Place and Town Center, Mission Farms and Prairie Fire have brought immense expansion and success to the area. Buildings like the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection reveal the architectural brilliance. The developments were deliberately planned and came to fruition with guidance from Mayor Dunn.

Mayor Dunn has dedicated her life to creating a lasting community by forming relationships with Leawood’s business leaders, volunteer organizations, religious communities, and residents, working together for the city’s success.

I have seen her meet people and I know when I meet her—every time there is a conversation, you know that she cares about you. She listens, and she cares that way for the people of her city and the people of the State of Kansas.

Through Mayor Dunn’s work, new fire stations, police headquarters, and courts protect the community. Beautiful parks, recreation centers provide opportunities for residents and visitors alike to enjoy what the city has to offer. Mayor Dunn is a servant leader. She is an innovator, and she is totally dedicated to her community.

Leawood as a city, has close relationships with sister cities. In 2003, Mayor Dunn and Mayor Peter Weiss of the Gezer region in Israel signed a resolution in agreement to become sister cities. Since then, Mayor Dunn has hosted delegations from abroad and traveled to Israel multiple times. Additionally, Leawood dedicated the I-Lan Park to its sister city in Taiwan. The park is home to a lovely Taiwanese garden, an open play space, and a piece of art called Cloud Tower.

Through Mayor Dunn’s leadership, Leawood has a very bright future ahead.

Mayor Dunn’s family has played a key role in her success as a leader. She has 4 children with her husband Terry and many grandchildren. I guess, needless to say, Mayor Dunn has plenty to keep her busy as she retires as mayor.

Thank you to her family for supporting Peggy during her tenure.

I congratulate Peggy on her retirement and wish her the very best in the future.

Thank you, Mayor, for all you have done for the city of Leawood, its citizens, and all you have done for the State of Kansas.

Mr. President, for two decades, Michael Boehm has served as the mayor of Lenexa, KS, and he will now retire in January, having served as the longest serving mayor in the city's history.

Mike has built his life and career in Lenexa. He is a lifelong resident, and Mike knows the ins and outs of his community. I have never met anyone who knows more about Lenexa than Mike Boehm. He understands the unique importance of every single business on Main Street and the men and women who run those businesses.

During his 20 years as mayor, the population of Lenexa has grown by nearly 20,000 residents. That is remarkable growth, and it is a testament to the quality of the community he has led.

Under Mike’s leadership, downtown Lenexa was transformed with the relocation of city hall and the development of a new downtown district known as City Place. With new shops, restaurants, parks, and public spaces, Lenexa is attracting new families and young people who want to put roots down in Kansas. Mike also worked to open the Lenexa branch of the Johnson County Library system, as well as to bring the District Aquatic Center to the city of Lenexa.

I admire Mike’s leadership and determination for the city. I have always, always appreciated my conversations with Mike, whether he is visiting me here in Washington DC or when I am meeting with him in Lenexa. He is a true public servant, and the city and State are better because of Mike’s service.

I have enjoyed many times conversing on the phone with Mike and solid and good advice about what is in the best interest of the people of Lenexa and Johnson County and Kansas. Mike has been significantly helpful to me as we have worked to try to make sure good things happen in all places across our State.

I congratulate Mike on his retirement and look forward to seeing what this next chapter holds for him.
Office for the District of Minnesota for 6 years, where he handled more than 1,000 hearings in Federal court. During his time as an assistant U.S. attorney, he directed the largest cocaine and methamphetamine investigations ever conducted in the district, recovering more than 6,000 cases of methamphetamine and securing the convictions of more than 60 defendants. In 2013, Judge Bryan was appointed as a trial court judge for the Second Judicial District of Minnesota, where he presided over more than 6,000 cases and nearly 120 trials. In 2016, Judge Bryan was appointed to the Minnesota Court of Appeals, where he has participated in more than 500 decisions and has authored over 180 written opinions and orders.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Bryan "well qualified" to serve on the district court, and he has the strong support of Senators KLOBuchar and SMITH. With nearly two decades of public service, as well as his extensive courtroom experience, Judge Bryan is well-positioned to handle the demands of the District of Minnesota from day one.

I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

Mr. MORAN. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON BRYAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bryan nomination?

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I announce that the Senate of Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. O’SOFF), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. WARNock) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 315 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Butler
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Collins
Coons
Courtenay
Duckworth
Durbin
Fetterman
Gillibrand

NAYS—46

Barrasso
Blackburn
Boozman
Braun
Britt
Budd

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINe). 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.

NOMINATION OF MARGARET M. GARNETT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Margaret M. Garnett to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Ms. Garnett earned her B.A. from the University of Notre Dame in 1992, her M.A. and M. Phil. from Yale University in 1995 and 1997, and her J.D. from Columbia Law School in 2000. Ms. Garnett began her legal career working as an associate at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz from 2000 to 2004, where she focused on bankruptcy litigation. She then clerked for the Honorable Gerald E. Lynch on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York from 2004 to 2005. Following her clerkship, Ms. Garnett joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, where she would go on to rise in the ranks throughout her 15-year tenure with the office. Although she presently serves as special counsel, Ms. Garnett has also served as Deputy United States Attorney, Chief of Appeals, Deputy Chief of Appeals, Chief of the Violent and Organized Crime Units, Deputy Chief of the Violent Crimes Unit, and assistant United States attorney. From 2017 to 2018, Ms. Garnett served in the Office of the New York Attorney General, serving as the executive deputy attorney general for criminal justice.

In 2018, Ms. Garnett was nominated by the mayor of New York City and confirmed by the New York City Council to serve as the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation, an agency charged with investigating individual and systemic corruption, waste, fraud, and abuse in city government. A substantial majority of the American Bar Association’s Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary rated Ms. Garnett as "well qualified," and her nomination is strongly supported by her home State Senators, Mr. SCHUMER and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

With deep ties to the Southern District of New York and significant experience working on criminal matters, Ms. Garnett will serve on the bench with distinction. I am proud to support her nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Could we have a bit of order, please?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Order in the Chamber.

NOMINATION OF MARGARET M. GARNETT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, so in a few minutes, we are going to proceed on the nomination of an outstanding public servant, Margaret M. Garnett, whom I was proud to recommend to President Biden as district judge for the Southern District of New York. She is a proud resident of Brooklyn, a brilliant legal thinker, and someone whose entire life story has been defined by public service.

She has had more than a decade of experience prosecuting cases, ranging from murder to robbery, to financial fraud, and more, as part of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York. Fifteen times, she has tried a case all the way to jury verdict, including what was, at the time, the largest tax fraud case in U.S. history.

But Ms. Garnett is also a fierce defender of the rights of the accused. She was instrumental in exonerating five individuals wrongly convicted of murder.

Our courts need more public servants like Margaret Garnett, described by her colleagues not just as brilliant but wise, not just determined but kind, not just an outstanding lawyer but a true friend and defender of our system.

If anyone—anyone—has mastered the recipe for serving as an excellent jurist, it is certainly Margaret Garnett. So I was eager to recommend her to the President for the Federal bench, and I am proud to support the nomination of Margaret Garnett today and encourage my colleagues to support her as well.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 398, Margaret M. Garnett, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. S6622 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE November 28, 2023
Coons, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Margaret M. Garnett, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSEOFS), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSEOFS), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 316 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin Hassan Rosen
Bennet Heinrich Sanders
Blumenthal Hirono Schatz
Booker Kaine Schumer
Brown Kelly Shaheen
Butler King Smith
Cantwell Klobuchar Tester
Carper Manchin Tester
Casey Menendez Van Hollen
Collins Merkley Warnner
Coons Markowski Whitehouse
Cortez Masto Murphy Wyden
Durbin Padilla Wyden
Fetterman Peters Wyden
Gilibrand Reed Wyden

NAYS—46

Barrasso Grasley Risch
Blackburn Hagerty Romney
Boozman Hawley Rounds
Brown Hoeven Rubio
Budd Johnson Scott (FL)
Capito Kennedy Scott (SC)
Cassidy Lankford Sullivan
Cornyn Lee Thune
Cotton Lummis Tuberville
Cramer Marshall Vance
Crapo McConnell Wicker
Cruz Moran Young
Daines Mullin Young
Ernst Paul Young
Fischer Ricketts Young

NOT VOTING—5

Graham Markley Warnock
Hickenlooper Ossoff

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON GARNETT NOMINATION

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSEOFS), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 317 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin Hassan Rosen
Bennet Heinrich Sanders
Blumenthal Hirono Schatz
Booker Kaine Schumer
Brown Kelly Shaheen
Butler King Smith
Cantwell Klobuchar Tester
Carper Manchin Tester
Casey Menendez Van Hollen
Collins Merkley Warnner
Coons Markowski Whitehouse
Cortez Masto Murphy Wyden
Durbin Padilla Wyden
Fetterman Peters Reed
Gilibrand Reed Wyden

NAYS—46

Barrasso Grasley Risch
Blackburn Hagerty Romney
Boozman Hawley Rounds
Brown Hoeven Rubio
Budd Johnson Scott (FL)
Capito Kennedy Scott (SC)
Cassidy Lankford Sullivan
Cornyn Lee Thune
Cotton Lummis Tuberville
Cramer Marshall Vance
Crapo McConnell Wicker
Cruz Moran Young
Daines Mullin Young
Ernst Paul Young
Fischer Ricketts Young

NOT VOTING—5

Graham Markley Warnock
Hickenlooper Ossoff

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 117, Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollon, Tammy Duckworth, Peter Welch.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSEOFS), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 44, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 318 Ex.]

YEAS—44

Baldwin Gylbrandy Rosen
Bennet Hassan Sanders
Boozman Heinrich Schacht
Booker Hirono Schumer
Brown Kelly Shaheen
Butler King Smith
Cantwell Klobuchar Tester
Carper Manchin Tester
Casey Menendez Van Hollen
Collins Merkley Warnner
Coons Markowski Whitehouse
Cortez Masto Murphy Wyden
Durbin Padilla Wyden
Fetterman Peters Wyden
Gilibrand Reed Wyden

NAYS—51

Barrasso Grasley Risch
Blackburn Hagerty Romney
Boozman Hawley Rounds
Braun Hoeven Rubio
Budd Johnson Scott (FL)
Capito Kennedy Scott (SC)
Cassidy Lankford Sullivan
Cornyn Lee Thune
Cotton Lummis Tuberville
Cramer Marshall Vance
Crapo McConnell Wicker
Cruz Moran Young
Daines Mullin Young
Ernst Paul Young
Fischer Ricketts Young

NOT VOTING—5

Graham Markley Warnock
Hickenlooper Ossoff

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 44, the nays are 51. The motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Motion to Proceed
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 379, Micah W.J. Smith to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 379, the nomination of Micah W.J. Smith, of Hawaii, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as in legislation session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1250; that the Durbin amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. I think I would like to...

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I am sorry. Proceed.

Mr. DURBIN. I thought that they told me the script was for some other reason. I ask consent to withdraw the request until—I made a misstatement, and Senator GRASSLEY and the Senator from Idaho would agree.

Mr. CRAPO. I would. I would agree.

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
Mr. DURBIN. Thank you. I am new here. I am sorry I made that mistake.

Mr. President, for years, one of the greatest challenges facing American families has been the rising cost of prescription drugs. A recent AARP survey found that the price for the top 25 medications used by seniors has tripled, on average, since those drugs came to market. Those drugs include: Xarelto, Trulicity, Januvia, Jardiance, Humira, and Eliquis.

Now, I imagine most Americans already recognize the name. I have read. They sound familiar because they are among the most heavily advertised products and medications on television. You may even have seen one of these ads during the Thanksgiving parade you and your family watched or while you watched a football game this weekend.

Every year, Big Pharma spends more than $6 billion each year on ads. That is the size of the entire budget of the Food and Drug Administration. In fact, we know that most pharma companies spend more on advertising than on drug research and development of new drugs.

It turns out, the United States is one of only two countries in the world that allows pharma companies to advertise prescription drugs on television. Anybody want to guess the name of the other one? New Zealand. That is the only other country that allows this to occur.

You want to know why pharmaceutical companies spend so much money promoting their drugs? Because it increases their profits dramatically. The average American sees an average of nine ads per day, nine. Pharma thinks if they pummel you with enough ads that you will finally learn how to pronounce and spell Xarelto. You will insist to your doctor that this is the one blood thinner you really need. Sometimes it is easier in a 10-minute meeting for a doctor to just write the prescription than to take the time to explain why the drug may not be needed or a generic version might be just as good for a lot less money.

With billions in targeted spending, patients are bombarded with information but are left in the dark about one fact. Of all the things they mumble and chatter about at the end of these ads, the one thing they never want you to know is how much these drugs cost, the price.

This name is probably familiar to you if you watch television at all. Rinvoq. With billions in targeted spending, patients are bombarded with information like the name of this drug. Take Rinvoq—which is manufactured by an Illinois-based company, AbbVie, for eczema and arthritis—it is now the most advertised drug on TV.

AbbVie spent $315 million last year for new and expensive drugs, even when these drugs may not be appropriate.

Think about that—inflating demand for new and expensive drugs, even when they are not the best drug that the person should take.

In 2018, Senator GRASSLEY and I asked the GAO to look at the impact of these ads on television on Medicare’s budget. The GAO found that between 2016 and 2018, these drugs accounted for 58 percent of Medicare spending on drugs. The drugs on television are more than half of the budget of Medicare’s spending on drugs. These ads ballooned Medicare’s spending on drugs from $220 billion over 3 years. Humira topped the list with $500 million in advertising in 2018, which contributed to 2.4 billion in Medicare costs.

Let me show you this Humira chart so you get an idea of what we are talking about. I used this chart in 2017 when I first introduced this legislation and when the monthly cost of Humira was a mere $3,745 a month. Guess what has happened. The cost of Humira has now risen to $6,900 per month. It shouldn’t be. AbbVie, the pharmaceutical company that makes Humira, disclose that real cost of the drug to you so you can use the information in making treatment decisions?

Our bill is supported by AARP, which speaks for seniors across America; the American Medical Association, which speaks for doctors across America; the American Hospital Association and 88 percent of Americans support the concept of this bill. How can anyone object to it?

Hold on tight. You will find out.

In fact, President Trump supported it. After our bill passed the Senate but...
was stopped by a single House Repub-
lcan. President Trump issued rules to
require these price tags. Famous for his
tweets, here is one that I want to ad-
terest. Look what he said:

Big announcement today. Drug com-
panies have to come clean about their prices in TV
ads.

This is from former President Trump.

Historic transparency for American pa-
tients is here. If drug companies are ashamed
of those prices—lower them.

I didn’t always agree with President Trump, but he was right on in
that statement. In fact, he supported
our bill.

Unsurprisingly, Big Pharma went to
the courts to stop this legislation. They hate the idea of being open, hon-
est, and transparent with the American
people about the price of their drugs.

They hate the idea of being open, hon-
est, and transparent with the American
people about the price of their drugs.

But the courts rejected their move
to stop this legislation.

In this Congress, I have gotten passed
the Prescription Pricing for the People
Act out of the Judiciary Committee
and with bipartisan support. I hope the
Senate does not miss the opportunity to
hold the Federal Trade Commission ac-
countable by requiring the 6(b) study of
drug middlemen to be produced within
1 year instead of the typical 3 to 5
years that it takes the FTC to do
something.

I have also worked with the junior
Senator from Washington State to pass
the PBMA Transparency Act out of the
Commerce Committee with bipartisan
support. The FTC can play an impor-
tant role in holding PBMs accountable
in spreading rebates and clawbacks
across all health insurance.

I have also contributed to and sup-
ported two Finance Committee mark-
ups this year that included six of my
PBMA accountability and transparency
provisions along with the PBMA pro-
visions that have come out of the
Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
sions Committee to deal with this
problem in the commercial insurance
market.

I hope the full Senate doesn’t ignore
the aggressive actions the four com-
mittees have taken this Congress to
hold PBMs accountable. We must enact
these bold committee-passed bills into
law. If we are timid, we will be right
back here a few years from now still
fixing the problem.

On top of PBMA reforms and account-
ability, we need price transparency; so
that brings me back to where Senator
DURBIN and I are right now. With
that background and in the interest of
this unanimous consent request and
the Durbin-Grassley bill to bring im-
portant price information to prescrip-
tion supply chain that reward high-cost
drugs and their manufactur-
ers, along with powerful middlemen.

If you watch these commercials on
television, you see a lot of information
very quietly stated by the drug compa-
nies such as the side effects possible
from using some of these drugs. You
gain all the information about what
these drugs will accomplish, but you
don’t know what they cost. And that
information ought to be available to
the consumer.

I thank Senator DURBIN for giving me
this opportunity to express my view on
this piece of legislation.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1250

Mr. DURBIN. I want to thank Sen-
ator GRASSLEY. He is a proud Repub-
lcan conservative. I am on the other
side of the spectrum. I am a Democrat,
proud of my progressive background.

The two of us agree on this because it
is common sense. If the drug companies
are willing to spend millions of dol-
ars—more than they spend on re-
search for new drugs—advertising these
drugs, we have a right to ask: What
does it cost? Is that such a tough ques-
tion to answer? Not if you are proud of
your product. Not if you are proud of
the price you are charging.

But if you don’t want the American
public to know, you conceal the price
and send Senators to the floor to
vote.

Now, both political parties spend an
awful lot of money on political opinion
surveys: What are Americans thinking?
Do you know what shows up as a No. 1
concern year after year after year? The
high cost of prescription drugs. That
isn’t getting any better.

If you ask insurance companies: Why
does the cost of health insurance keep
going up? The No. 1 driver: the high
cost of prescription drugs.

So, what are we going to do about Medi-
care’s runaway costs? You have to
do something about the high
cost of prescription drugs.

We are addressing that issue directly,
but there are only four U.S. Senators
on the floor of this Senate for this oc-
casion, because we are not going to go
to the measure and actually debate and
consider it. It is going to be pushed
aside for a procedural reason, and it
will go back to an empty floor and an
empty Chamber waiting for the next
rollcall on a nomination.

The American people have lost faith
in this institution because we are
afraid to tackle the real issues they
care about. This is one of those issues. It is a bipartisan matter, even approved by former President Trump, and I am sitting here talking about it. It is an indication to me that this is an idea whose time has come.

So, Mr. President, now at the appropriate time, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1250; that the Durbin amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, Americans deserve a transparent, accountable, and affordable prescription drug market. I agree with the concerns that each of my colleagues have raised here tonight. The current system fails to meet these needs, and I appreciate the intentions of my colleagues in attempting to shed light on the current pricing but disagree with the approach taken by this bill. As many of my colleagues have pointed out, list prices are deceptive to consumers just doesn’t square.

Have you ever heard of AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons? Most of us respect them because we have worked with them over the years. They speak for seniors. They have endorsed this bill. They don’t think it is confusing or deceiving to tell consumers how much these drugs actually cost.

Let’s get down to reality. Whether it is from healthcare providers or pharmaceutical companies, many times the starting price is not the end price. But you never know where that is going to end up. It depends on the insurance company, for example, as to how much they are going to reimburse or whether there are any copays involved in it. So the one price we can stick with is the price created by the pharmaceutical companies themselves. And, now, to argue that the price that they agree on, that they advertise, is one that is somehow deceptive to consumers just doesn’t square.

For Americans with solid prescription drug coverage, list prices provide a realistic price to attach to a drug. When I was the majority whip, A drug’s list price includes none of the discounts, none of the rebates or other price concessions found in the net price—the real price that is paid between the insurers and the PBMs and often then dealt with in pharmacies that are integrated with the insurance companies and the PBMs.

A recent study showed that this gap between the list and the net price continues to inflate every year. In 2022, for instance, sticker prices for branded drugs, like those you have seen on charts here, grew by 3.7 percent; whereas, the net prices—the real price—which was not able to be figured out by the consumer accounting for rebates and discounts, remained unchanged.

Rather than broadcast and validate the price created by the pharmaceutical companies themselves, and, now, to argue that the price that they agree on, that they advertise, is one that is somehow deceptive to consumers just doesn’t square.
I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

ISRAEL

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, a month and a half ago, Hamas terrorists committed a horrific act of barbarism. More than 1,000 innocent civilians, including 43 Americans were murdered in cold-blooded acts of evil. It was the deadliest massacre of the Jewish people since the Holocaust and the deadliest foreign attack on Americans since 9/11. Those who have committed no stranger to violence, but the October 7 attack was particularly heinous: systematically hunting down and slaughtering young people at a concert; kidnapping elderly women out of their homes; beheading babies and burning them in ovens. The line between good and evil is as clear as it has ever been.

For the remaining innocent hostages currently being illegally held in Gaza, the terrorists and the terror continue. While we are grateful for the release of some hostages over the weekend, our hearts remain with those still being held. This includes several Americans, includingKeith Siegel, a native of my home State of North Carolina. So clear as I can: Hamas’s continued holding of these innocent hostages is a violation of the law, and it represents a complete disrespect for the value of human life. Every single one of them must be released. Hamas leaders of our government must remain united in working to get them home.

In this clash between good and evil, the question that the United States should be asking is, Who can we count on to be on our side, and who stands on the side of the terrorists?

This brings us to the state of Qatar. This is a nation that hosts Hamas’s so-called political office, including Hamas leaders. From the safety of Doha, these terrorists are watching and celebrating the attacks on October 7.

Now, it is important to remember that Qatar is a major non-NATO ally of the United States, and it hosts U.S. military forces at Al Udeid Air Base—a strategically important location for our operations in the Middle East. Our two nations are friends, but sometimes friends must be honest with one another. You see, Qatar claims that they only host Hamas at the request of the U.S. Government and in coordination with Israel. There is some truth to this. Since October 7, Biden administration officials, such as CIA Director Burns, have beaten a path toward Doha, hoping that the Qatari Government’s hosting of Hamas’s senior leadership would provide a pathway toward ending the hostage crisis that Hamas initiated.

I certainly agree that the U.S. Government, including both the administration and Congress, should be doing everything it can to bring the hostages home, including working through allies and partners, and, to be sure, Qatar’s mediation with Hamas’s leaders has helped free some hostages, but at what cost and to what end?

In exchange for the release of innocent women and children who were kidnapped by Hamas, Israel was forced to exchange three Palestinian prisoners for every one innocent Israeli victim. Many, if not all, of these prisoners were arrested, charged, and sentenced for stabbings, attempted car bombings, and other heinous crimes as part of the campaign of terror. Some have already called political office, including Hamas’s infamous Hamas headband and calling for the slaughter of more Jewish people.

Every day that goes by without a resolution to the hostage crisis exposes Qatar’s decision to host Hamas as both foolish and flawed.

Earlier this month, I met with the Qatari Ambassador in my office. I told him in no uncertain terms that his government must pressure Hamas leaders living in Doha to immediately and unconditionally release all hostages.

In the nearly 2 months after Hamas’s horrific October 7 massacre, however, we need to recognize that Qatar’s current approach, while yielding limited successes, is attempting to do something unwise, and that is to legitimize Hamas.

Simply put, there is no future for Gaza or the Palestinians that includes Hamas. In the past 2 months, we have watched Hamas leaders use Qatar’s hospitality to promote the war and the hostage crisis from the comfort of their luxury accommodations. While Palestinians suffer in Gaza because of the war that Hamas started, we have seen Hamas leaders push their genocidal agenda from Doha, including in multiple meetings with Iran’s Foreign Minister and even in a visit to Moscow. If Qatar’s leadership believes that any of this is consistent with what Washington has asked of them, it is not.

So my message to the Qatari Government is very simple: Stop this now. You are hosting a brutal terrorist organization with American blood on its hands and who is holding American hostages. Your media organizations, starting with Al Jazeera, are regularly pushing out Hamas’s propaganda that only further inflames tensions in the Middle East. Your leadership continues to speak out of both sides of its mouth—on one hand, committing to negotiating the hostage crisis while, on the other, blaming Israel and absolving Hamas at every turn.

We need to tell our friends in Doha loudly and clearly: Qatar is accepting a significant liability with its pro-Hamas policy.

So we must end this myth that this policy is something that Washington wants and urge the Qatari Government to end this policy immediately. This is personal for Americans, and I have met with the families of hostages right here in Washington. I have heard their stories. I look at their photos every day on my desk. Every day that these families have to live with the pain and uncertainty is unacceptable. We must stand united and say: Not one more day.

We must also start thinking about the day after because there will come a day when Israel will halt its military operations in Gaza because they will have achieved their stated goal of destroying Hamas. The remaining question will then be what to do with the Hamas leaders in Doha. My view is that they should be extradited to the United States so that these terrorists can face justice in a U.S. court of law for killing and kidnapping American citizens.

I would hope that our friends in Qatar will not only be partners for peace and stability but will also be partners in ensuring that Hamas and its leaders are brought to justice for the despicable acts of terror they have committed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

BIDENOMICS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the failures of Bidenomics and to talk about the devastating impact Bidenomics has had on American families.

Certainly, people in Wyoming are worried about the high cost of groceries. I hear it every time I am at the grocery store. People wince every time they fill up the gas tank. People have turned to either raiding their savings accounts or taking on increasing debt just to stay up to the current cost of living.

President Biden has a message for all of these people who are wincing as they fill up, who are worried about the cost of groceries, and who are raiding their savings accounts. Joe Biden’s message to them is just this. He says: Don’t believe your lying eyes. That is what he believes.

Tomorrow, the President will be in Colorado, and he is going to say some things that the American people just will not believe.

He will say inflation is getting better. He will say Bidenomics is working. He will say that anyone who believes anything other than that is just a victim of misinformation. Well, that is not what the families of America are feeling. Americans know that they are subjected day in and day out to incredible high prices, and they know that Joe Biden is the President of high prices.

Before Thanksgiving, we got new inflation data, and prices went up again. Prices are now over 17 percent higher than they were the day Joe Biden took office. In real terms, families are paying over $900 each and every month more now for their cost of living than they were for the same things the day Joe Biden came into office. Americans are feeling it everywhere but specifically in the cost of gas, the cost of groceries, and the cost of everyday goods.
As prices continue to go up, people are falling further and further behind when it comes to trying to pay their bills.

Let’s look at personal savings accounts. Do people have more money or less in their bank accounts now than they did before? Well, the answer is clearly they have less. Bidenomics is forcing three out of every five Americans to live paycheck to paycheck.

Let’s look at personal debt. Credit card debt now exceeds $1 trillion. This is a record high in the history of the United States.

Let’s look at interest rates. Americans are maxing out their credit cards just to get by, and they are having to do it at higher interest rates just to pay their bills, so their debt number continues to go up.

Under Bidenomics, Americans barely have enough money to pay their bills, let alone save for the future.

President Biden is now bailing out Bidenomics with the American dream. So what do people think about the American dream? Well, for most families right now, that American dream is further and further out of reach than it ever has been before.

According to a recent poll by NBC News, only one in five Americans today feels confident that their children’s lives will be better than their lives were. That is an all-time low, and this is talking about the future and the loss of hope.

President of the United States Joe Biden is disturbingly out of touch. According to NBC News, President Biden is baffled—baffled—that the American people are unhappy with the state of the economy. It is not baffling; it is the definition of “Bidenomics.” Americans are unhappy with the economy because they don’t like paying 20 percent more for food, $1 more for a gallon of gas, or 6 percent mortgage rates. So why is the President of the United States so disconnected from the feelings of everyday Americans?

Well, hard-working Americans deserve better leadership than what they have gotten out of this White House for the last 3 years. On issue after issue after issue, President Biden’s actions have made matters worse. He has continued and increased wasteful Washington spending. The Democrats are as guilty as he is. He keeps attacking our affordability, reliable American energy, and my home State of Wyoming is America’s energy breadbasket. He has pursued the costliest regulatory burden in American history. The regulations coming out of this administration are penalizing and punishing and are costing the American people a lot.

Let there be no confusion that the policies of Joe Biden and the Democrats are why families have suffered the worst inflation in 40 years. Democrats have done nothing to correct course or steer the American economy in the right direction. Instead of working to cure inflation, Senate Democrats tell Americans to endure it. They are pushing policies that increase spending and choke off American energy—policies that keep driving prices and costs higher.

Two weeks ago, President Biden met with the Chinese President XI. It was Joe Biden’s first trip to China this year. Tensions with China continue to rise. Yet President Biden seems more eager to appease President Xi than to address China’s serious threat to America’s economy and safety. None of this lowers the cost of living. None of this makes our country stronger.

Republicans have solutions to get the country back on track. Our solutions will lower the cost of living, will increase wages, will reduce Washington redtape, will unleash American energy, and will end our Nation’s dependence on China.

In this Congress alone, Republicans have put forward legislative solutions—workable, meaningful solutions—to restore a strong economy. We have introduced bills to reverse these political mandates and eliminate these punishing regulations. We have introduced bills to end America’s dependence on China, reduce dependence for medicine for medicines, and to promote our own manufacturing. We have introduced bills to increase America’s production of oil, gas, coal, and critical minerals. That would immediately lower the cost to America’s families across the country.

Under Joe Biden and the Democrats, America is heading in the wrong direction, and by overwhelming numbers, the American people will tell you that.

Republicans have solutions to make a difference—to lower prices, to unleash American energy, to secure the southern border, and, in time, to get America back on track. The time to act is now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

ISRAEL

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, so far—so far—the United States is standing behind Israel, as it should, in Israel’s fight against Hamas—so far.

Don’t go wobbly on us, President Biden. Don’t go wobbly on Israel.

But some people in Washington seem confused as to why America backs Israel. We’re helping to save Israel from the violence and wringing from folks who like to pretend that there is some kind of—use this word a lot: “nuance”—that there is some kind of nuance we need to apply to the Hamas terrorist attacks of October 7 before we can condemn Hamas and hold its supporters accountable. President Obama has even suggested that somehow we are all complicit in the bloodshed.

Some people promoting this idea of nuance, frankly, believe that Israel got what it deserved. Now, they don’t say that, but that is what they believe. They believe that Israel got what it deserved. These folks who believe that also apparently believe in diversity, equity, inclusion, and the right to kill Jews.

Thankfully, that is not most Americans. That is a lot of people here in Washington, DC. Louisiana, however, my State, we understand that the debased people who slaughtered hundreds of young people at a peace concert are the bad guys. In Louisiana, we understand that the odious men who raped women, raped and sodomized women next to the bodies of their dead friends, don’t deserve to be on this planet. We in Louisiana understand that the degenerates—the degenerates—who forced kidnapped Holocaust survivors to pose for photos—to pose for photos, for God’s sake—next to their terrorist captors are just wrong.

Nothing—nothing—that the Israeli Government hasever done or could do warranted throwing grenades at children hiding in a bomb shelter. Why are some people reluctant to admit that?

You don’t need to read a treatise on the Middle East to know that only monsters—monsters with black hearts—would put a baby in an oven and flip on the switch, as one first responder reported. That is not nuance; that is evil.

The evil we saw unfold when Hamas butchered Israeli civilians is indefensible. It is indefensible. Those terrorists brutalized thousands of people, including dozens of our American friends and neighbors. Hearing the stories from the survivors and from the first responders—it is nauseating. It is not nuance; it is evil.

Yet the Hamas terrorists took joy, they yanked for joy, as they massacred women, children hiding in a bomb shelter. Why would someone say something like that? Another Hamas official—called his mother—to brag that he had “killed 10 Jews with my own hands.” Who would brag about something like that? Another Hamas official celebrated the violation of women’s rights and vowed to continue to wage attacks like this “again and again and again” until Israel no longer exists.

No family in Israel will be able to sleep soundly at night until these terrorists are wiped off the face of the Earth.

Israel has both the right and it has the responsibility to defend itself. I am proud that the United States of America is supporting Israel.

Don’t go wobbly on us, President Biden. Stand your ground. Don’t go wobbly.
It is not surprising, then, that some who oppose intervention in Gaza have turned to attacking Jewish Americans. In New York City, those people cornered Jewish students in a library, forcing a librarian to offer to hide the students in an attic. At Cornell University, they threatened to shoot up the kosher dining hall. At my State’s Tulane University, activists broke a student’s nose because he opposed their anti-Israel demonstration.

There is no cease-fire. Hamas had a permanent cease-fire, to let Hamas go so relieved. And I did not know what position President Biden would take unilaterally. Hamas wants to terrorize Israel until all of the Jewish people are dead. Hamas wants to terrorize Israel until all of the Jewish people are dead. Hamas wants to kill Jews. Hamas wants to kill Jews and drink their blood out of a boot. That is a fact, President Obama; that is evil.

President Biden needs to show the world—and, frankly, some members of his own party—that the United States of America and its good people will continue to stand with Israel until Hamas is in ruins, until Hamas is dead and we drink their blood out of a boot, until Hamas’s genocidal agenda is abandoned.

The world will be safer on that day, and it will certainly be safer because Hamas is not in it. By supporting Israel’s efforts, Americans are helping to ensure that an attack like October 7 never happens again, and I think most fair-minded Americans understand that. I suggest there’s no other quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TRUMP). The roll will be called.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have had an opportunity over the years to work with some extraordinary leaders in our military, but one of the exceptional leaders whom I have recently come to know and work with is Gen. Glen D. VanHerck. He is the commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command—what we know it as NORAD—and the U.S. Northern Command, or USNORTHCOM.

General VanHerck has also been instrumental in leading a wide range of homeland defense operations, including defense efforts against Russian long-range aviation, North Korean intercontinental ballistic missiles, and Russian and Chinese out-of-area maritime operations. He established a clear strategic vision, focus, and priorities, inspiring consistent and organizational excellence throughout pandemic response operations; Operation Allies Welcome, which supported over 84,000 Afghan refugees; and the first kinetic engagements of hostile objects over North America in the whole history of NORAD and USNORTHCOM.

General VanHerck also led a collaborative effort to focus on homeland defense, the top priority of the national defense strategy, by adopting a modernized and integrated approach toward strategic competitors. Prioritizing domain awareness, information dominance, decision superiority, and global integration empowered NORAD and USNORTHCOM to successfully campaign day to day in competition and will improve the commands’ ability to deter in crisis and defeat, if necessary, in conflict.

General VanHerck’s strategic foresight and collaboration with members of both his highest level command, both here in the United States as well as in Canada, guided the commands to look beyond traditional approaches and customary missions and to examine evolving adversary actions, capabilities, and intent.

Recognizing an urgent need to advance NORAD and USNORTHCOM’s capabilities to outpace peer competitors and rogue nations, General VanHerck operationalized the commands, reaffirming their unyielding commitment to the highest priority mission of homeland defense.

In response to our adversaries’ efforts to operate and train in and through the Arctic region, NORAD executed the northernmost deployment of fighter and supporting aircraft from forward operating locations in Northern Canada to Pituffik Space Base in Greenland, formerly known as Thule.

For its part, USNORTHCOM oversaw Arctic Edge—this is the largest exercise—Alaska in 2020 deploying a joint and combined force of 800 to advance communications, domain awareness, infrastructure, and sustainable

From August 2020 to November 2023, General VanHerck oversaw the most robust and dynamic transformation in the history of NORAD and USNORTHCOM. This transformation enabled the commands to support the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense in ensuring the defense of both homelands. His direction singlehandedly resulted in decisive national and international military actions that operationalized the commands and shifted from a reactive regional focus to a more proactive and globally integrated campaigning effort.
presence in coordinated air, land, maritime, and cyber domain field training.

Additionally, for the first time ever, USNORTHCOM led a large-scale, multi-combatant—command, homeland defense exercise from the USS Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group while the strike group was under USNORTHCOM’s operational command. This allowed four combatant commands and NORAD to conduct homeland defense operations, exercise joint integration, conduct multinational operations, and strengthen interoperability in command and control.

Throughout, General VanHerck clearly articulates warfighter requirements, including the need for ready, trained, and well-equipped forces that are capable of operating wherever they are needed. That, in turn, has led to significant advances in Arctic capabilities for the joint force, including infrastructure upgrades at northern bases, improvements to the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex, and facilities to support deployment of ground-based air defense systems at Eielson Air Force Base.

These forward-looking efforts have also led to testing cold-weather technologies, developing deployable extreme cold weather expeditionary capabilities, evaluating satellite and terrestrial Arctic communication solutions aboard an icebreaker, and significantly increasing communications coverage in the region.

Mr. President, as one who has focused on the Arctic for decades now, I can attest that General VanHerck gets the Arctic. He knows and understands the value and the significance of the Arctic. He gets it.

Across decades and assignments, General VanHerck continuously demonstrated a clear strategic vision for defending the homeland, and his focus and priorities consistently yielded operational success and organizational excellence. His leadership and passion have defended the people of the United States and Canada, and, for that, we are grateful.

So to General VanHerck, I thank you for your long and your distinguished career in the service of our Nation, and on the occasion of your well-deserved retirement, I wish you and your family nothing but the very best and congratulate you for a job well done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative business and be in a period of non-business with Senators be permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO MARY ELLEN STONE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mary Ellen Stone on her retirement, after 44 years of service leading the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, KC SARC. Over that time, she has laid foundational essential elements, establishing and strengthening the organization into what has become a respected, comprehensive nonprofit provider of supportive services for survivors of sexual assault and their families. Her passion, tenacity, and leadership have shaped KC SARC into the strong, vibrant nonprofit it is today.

Mary Ellen began at KC SARC in 1979, serving about 100 clients with a staff of 3 and a budget of $50,000. As she retires in 2023, the nonprofit serves 5,000 survivors and their families with a staff of more than 70 and an annual budget of $8.2 million. Over the decades, Mary Ellen has been a bold, visionary advocate for sexual assault survivors throughout King County and the State of Washington. Mary Ellen was influential in establishing the State’s first accreditation process for sexual assault providers, professionalizing service delivery and ensuring core services are available to survivors in every county of the State.

Under Mary Ellen’s leadership, KC SARC published one of the first educational pieces in the Nation for parents to talk with their children about sexual assault called “He Told Me Not To Tell.” It was a milestone for community awareness about child sexual abuse. Today, this publication remains an essential educational tool, and its importance and relevance remain to this day as half of KC SARC’s clients are children and teens under 18 years old. Mary Ellen’s vision and tenacity allowed KC SARC to respond to specific needs in the community, including to sexual assault survivors who are experiencing homelessness, children and youth survivors, and Latino survivors.

Mary Ellen has shared her time and expertise in so many ways to better inform systems and communities about the needs of victims, including serving on the Seattle Archdiocese Review Board, Mental Illness Drug Dependence Oversight Board, Seattle Chief of Police Search committees, Washington Coalition of Rape Assault Programs, Sex Offender Management Committee, Women’s Funding Alliance, and Municipal League Seattle-King County.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to share news with the Senate. Dennis Gray Maxwell—Gray to all of us—my floor director and most senior legislative adviser since I arrived in the Senate almost 17 years ago, is retiring at the end of December. For many of us, Senate staff, this is heartbreaking news, as we will miss Gray’s good counsel, impeccable speechwriting skills, remarkable knowledge of Senate history, and award-winning home brew. He always had a relevant story, whatever the circumstance. And, of course, Gray was the one who got us to finally put the Senate Democratic Conference rules in writing, so it is no wonder that he knows them inside and out better than any other Senator or parliamentarian.

Gray loves the Senate. He lives it for all it was meant to be, as drafted by the Founding Fathers, and all that it should be in modern times—a respected
entity dedicated to upholding the values and ideals that drive this great Nation forward. Year after year, Gray has dedicated himself to finding ways to preserve the Senate's role as the world's greatest deliberative body, which is not always easy. It pains him to see the rules change when 10 years of work to pass a significant law, like the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, is undone in 10 minutes. But he does cherish the days when we finally clear a record vote through the Senate, together in a landmark bipartisan vote.

Gray has worked for so many Senators over the years that his love of this institution should not surprise anyone. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, John Heinz, Jim Jeffords, Bill Cohen, Moynihan again, Dianne Feinstein, Carl Levin, Frank Lautenberg and, since 2007, he has been part of Team Cardin. This impressive list, nearly 40 years in the making, is why I jumped at the opportunity to hire Gray.

A registered Independent his whole life, Gray lives the words of John F. Kennedy: 'Men of goodwill and generosity should be able to unite regardless of party or politics.'

I had the honor of being in the House, on January 3, 2007, despite being a State delegate, including speaker, for a total of 20 years, and a Member of the House of Representatives for 20 years, I had zero direct experience in the U.S. Senate. Gray has had the honor of decades of legislative service in the Senate with some of the most consequential Senators to walk these halls. I wanted to learn from him. I had brought over some core staff from my House office, but I knew that if I had Gray on my team, he would help me quickly translate my previous legislative experience into this new arena. Today, I love being a Senator, and I credit Gray for sharing his fever for the institution and showing me what great things we could accomplish.

Gray’s path to public service perhaps was unexpected. The summer after he graduated Stanford University, he came to Washington, DC, to work at a branch of his father’s law firm before starting law school. His life would change though, when his roommate, who worked for Senator Moynihan, told Gray there was an opening as a legislative correspondent, or LC. Gray loved the job and the content. His position was promoted quickly within the office and even met his future wife, Eileen, during this time. Eileen, a fifth-generation Washingtonian, came from a long line of public servants and had joined the Foreign Service. Some may not know this, but Gray passed both the written and oral Foreign Service exams in an effort to join his wife for her new posting in Bolivia. In the end, they decided to stay in Washington, and Gray’s long career in the Senate was off.

I have been told that there were quite a few conversations with Gray’s dad to explain that he would not be returning home to Connecticut or going to New York to become a lawyer. But life would be okay. His dad came around eventually. He would become one of Gray’s greatest cheerleaders and immensely proud of everything his son would accomplish—despite not being a lawyer.

During the late 80s, Gray worked for Senator John Heinz and served as legislative director of the Northeast-Midwest Institute, of which Heinz was a cofounder. As the Senate’s legislative director at the time of his tragic plane crash in 1991, Heinz was a witness to history during his nearly 40 years in the Senate, and he has done his part to make history, as well. As a lifelong public servant, Gray has become one of the most vociferous champions for public service unions and Federal workers, generally. He meticulously combs through data annually from the Office of Personnel Management and other official sources to create the most accurate snapshots of Federal workers in every State and the District of Columbia. Among other uses, these charts have been invaluable each time one of our Bills is discussed. For Gray, he enjoys the opportunity to lift up stories about Federal workers, serves as a watchdog for attacks on well-earned benefits, and consistently advocates for the rights of all Federal employees and retirees.

During the Trump years, Gray led the charge to pass S. 24, the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act, which guarantees back pay to Federal workers furloughed during a government shutdown. Thanks to Gray’s doggedness, if and when we have another shutdown of the Federal Government, no longer will hundreds of thousands of Federal workers have to wait and see if Congress will provide relief to those workers caught in the crossfire.

Another project Gray helped carry forward was the National Memorial to Fallen Journalists. Based on his work and coordination with stakeholders, days before the 1-year anniversary of the fatal “Capital Gazette” shooting in Annapolis—the most deadly newsroom shooting in American history—Gray helped finalize legislation to introduce a resolution introduced by Rob Portman. Our bill authorized a privately funded memorial within the District of Columbia to honor journalists, photographers, broadcasters, and media workers killed in the line of duty. The Memorial was formally dedicated in March 2022.

Far too many pieces of legislation that have become law have Gray Maxwell’s fingerprints on them for me to name every one. But let me talk briefly about the recent legislation that has come to the heart of Gray’s integrity and strong belief that Congress should be a leader in protecting civil rights and values. Back in 2020, Senator Chris Van Hollen and I introduced legislation in the Senate that would remove from the U.S. Capitol the statue of Andrew Jackson and Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney. Taney was the author of the infamous Dred Scott decision that ruled that African-Americans were not U.S. citizens and that Congress could not prohibit slavery. In addition to removing the Taney bust, our bill authorized the placement of a new bust of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American to serve on the Nation’s highest Court, and also a Marylander. The bill was reintroduced this Congress and approved unanimously by the Senate in 2022.

Following House passage, President Joe Biden signed the measure into law, and the massive Taney bust was removed in February of this year. Despite Gray’s legislative acumen and pure persistence, the bust of a man who actively helped prolong slavery would still greet visitors to the Old Senate Chamber.

I am thankful that Gray shared his knowledge of the Senate with me. I also am grateful that he shares this bounty with every new staffer and intern that walks into our office. Capitol Hill can be a magnet, attracting young people who want to work to serve and help make government work. If not for Gray’s legislative acumen and pure persistence, the bust of a man who actively helped prolong slavery would still greet visitors to the Old Supreme Court Chamber.
gives a copy of this speech to every new intern in our office and takes time from his hectic schedule to discuss it with each group. Anecdotes and surveys from interns year after year mention this discussion and how it stays with them long after their semester is complete. RFK’s words echo throughout our work.

He said: “It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or risks his comfort, or his property, or even his life to be free—there is a宁愿 to entice them to Maryland, but they have a beautiful home on 6 acres of land and are surrounded by wheat and corn, which I believe are still being grown by my family. I would try to entice them to Maryland, but they have been visiting this area for 40 years, ever since Gray bought Eileen her very first riding lesson as a birth-
gift. Even from Virginia, he will fondly remember the Japanese American trains as an astrotur, one of mankind’s first explorers into outer space; another is the chief barrister of Watts and Southside Chicago.

For there are millions of Negroes untrained for the simplest of jobs, and thousands every day denied their full and equal rights under the law; and the violence of the disfranchised, the insulted and the injured, as a constant looms over the streets of Harlem and Watts and Southside Chicago.

But a Negro American trains as an astrotur, one of mankind’s first explorers into outer space; another is the chief barrister of Watts and Southside Chicago.

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sit on the benches of our court; and another, Dr. Martin Luther King, is the second man of African descent to win the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent efforts for social justice between races.

We have passed laws prohibiting discrimination in education, in employment, in housing; but these laws alone cannot overcome the hurdles—of broken families and stunted children, and poverty and degradation and pain. Socially secured equality of freedom is not easy, and great cost and danger march alongside all of us. We are committed to peaceful and non-violent change and that is important, but understanding that world change is unsettling. Still, even in the turbulence of protest and struggle is greater hope for the future, as men learn to claim and achieve what men have always sought from the rights formerly petitioned from others.

And most important of all, all the panoply of government power has been committed to the goal of equality before the law—as we are now committing ourselves to achievement of equal opportunity in fact.

We must recognize the full human equality of all the men of God before the law, and in the councils of government. We must do this, not because it is economically advantageous—although it is; not because the law demands it—it always does; no; not because people in other lands wish it so. We must do it for the single and fundamental reason that it is the right thing to do.

We recognize that there are problems and obstacles before the fulfillment of these ideals in the United States as we recognize that other nations, in Latin America and in Asia and in Africa have their own political, economic, and social problems, their unique barriers to the realization of human freedom.

In some, there is concern that change will undermine the rights of a minority, particularly where that minority is of a different race than that of the majority. We in the United States believe in the protection of minorities; we recognize the contributions that they can make and the leadership they can provide; and we do not believe that any people—whether majority or minority, or individual human beings—are “expendable” in the cause of theory or policy. We recognize also that the struggle and the sacrifice of those who are imperfect, and that humanity sometimes progresses very slowly indeed.

All struggle in the same manner and at the same pace. Nations, like men, often march to the beat of different drummers, and the precise solutions of the United States can neither be dictated nor transplanted to others, and that is not our intention. What is important however is that all nations must march toward increasing freedom; toward justice. It is a great social struggle, a struggle flexible enough to meet the demands of all of its people, whatever their race, and the demands of a world of immense and dizzying change and challenge.

In a few hours, the plane that brought me to this country crossed over oceans and countries which have been a crucible of progress and their stability on the chance that we will meet our responsibilities to them, to help them overcome their poverty. In the West Africa, like to India, South Africa could play an outstanding role, and a nation the leadership in that effort. This country is without question a preeminent repository of the world’s knowledge and the skill of the continent. Here are the greater part of Africa’s research scientists and steel production, most of its reservoirs of coal and petroleum, and 10 nations have made major contributions to African technical development and world science; the names of some are known whatever men seek to eliminate diseases, such as malaria, and of pestilence. In your faculties and counsels, here in this very audience, are hundreds and thousands of men and women who could transform the lives of millions for all time to come.

But the help and leadership of South Africa or of the United States cannot be accepted if we—within our own countries or in our relationships with others—deny individual human dignity and the commons humanity of man. If we would lead outside our own borders; if we would help those who need our assistance; if we would meet our responsibilities to mankind, all of us, demolish the borders which history has erected between men within our own nations—barriers of race and religion, social classes and a time.

Our answer is the world’s hope; it is to rely on youth. The cruelties and the obstacles of this swiftly changing planet will not yield to the demands and the outward slogans. It cannot be moved by those who cling to a present which is already dying, who prefer the illusion of security to the excitement and danger which comes with even the most peaceful progress. This world demands the qualities of youth: not a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigour of conscience and indignation, a shared determination to wipe away the unnecessary sufferings of our fellow human beings at home and around the world.

It is these qualities which make our youth the nation’s most national community. More than this I think that we could agree on what kind of a world we want to build. It would be a world of independent nations, moving toward international community, each of which protected and respected the basic human freedoms. It would be a world which demanded of each government that it accept its responsibility to insure social justice. It would be a world of constantly accelerating economic progress—no material welfare as an end in itself. It would be a world of the universality of human compassion, the defection of our sensibility toward the sufferings of our fellows; they mark the limit of our ability to use our knowledge and they demand the help of fellow human beings throughout the world. And therefore they call upon common qualities of conscience and indignation, a shared determination to wipe away the unnecessary sufferings of our fellow human beings at home and around the world.

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Just to the North of here are lands of challenge and of opportunity—rich in natural resources, land and minerals and people. Yet they are also lands confronted by the greatest odds—overwhelming ignorance, internal tensions and strife, and great obstacles of climate and geography. Many of these nations, as colonies, were oppressed and were exploited. Yet they have not estranged themselves from the broad traditions of the West; they are still hoping and they are gambling their lives that this swiftly changing planet will not yield to the demands and the outward slogans. It cannot be moved by those who cling to a present which is already dying, who prefer the illusion of security to the excitement and danger which comes with even the most peaceful progress. This world demands the qualities of youth: not a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigour of conscience and indignation, a shared determination to wipe away the unnecessary sufferings of our fellow human beings at home and around the world. And therefore they call upon common qualities of conscience and indignation, a shared determination to wipe away the unnecessary sufferings of our fellow human beings at home and around the world.

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“At this,” said an Italian philosopher, “nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain of success than to introduce a new order of things.” Yet this is the measure of the task of your generation and the road is strewn with many dangers.

First is the danger of futility; the belief there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world’s ills—against misery, against ignorance, or injustice and violence. Yet many of the world’s great movements, of thought and action, have flowed from the work of a single man who was refuse. The modern world is a rich one, rich in the illusion of security to the excitement and danger which comes with even the most peaceful progress. This world demands the qualities of youth: not a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigour of conscience and indignation, a shared determination to wipe away the unnecessary sufferings of our fellow human beings at home and around the world. And therefore they call upon common qualities of conscience and indignation, a shared determination to wipe away the unnecessary sufferings of our fellow human beings at home and around the world.

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were purchased by valiant men, and by men who learned their duty. “That is the source of all greatness in all societies, and it is the key to progress in our own time.”

The value of that of expediency: of those who say that hopes and beliefs must bend before immediate necessities. Of course if we are to live, we must do what the world as it is. We must get things done. But if there was one thing that President Kennedy stood for that touched the most profound young people of his day, it was the belief that idealism, high aspiration and deep convictions are not incompatible with the most practical and efficient action. There is no consistent conflict between ideals and realistic possibilities—no separation between the deepest desires of heart and mind, and the rational application of our effort to human problems. It is not realistic or hard-headed to solve problems and take action unguided by ultimate moral aims and values, although we all know some who claim that it is so. In my judgement, it is thoughtless folly. For it ignores the realities of human life and of faith and of belief; forces ultimately more power over the calculations of our economists or of our generals. Of course to adhere to standards, to idealism, to vision in the face of immediate dangers takes great courage and much self-confidence. But we also know that only those who dare to fail greatly, can ever achieve greatly.

It is in these times, I believe, the common heritage of a generation which has learned that while efficiency can lead to the camps at Auschwitz, or the streets of Budapest, only the ideals of humanity and love can climb the hills of the Acropolis.

A third danger is timidity. Few men are willing to make approval of their followings, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change the world which yields most painfully to change. Aristotle tells us “At the Olympic games it is not the finest or the strongest among men who are crowned, but those who enter the lists...so too in the life of the honorable and the good it is they who act rightly who win.” I believe that in our generation those with the courage to take the conflict will find themselves with companions in every corner of the world.

For behind all these dangers amongst us, the fourth danger is comfort; the temptation to follow the easy and familiar path of personal ambition and of financial success so grandly spread before those who have the privilege of an education. But that is not the road history has marked out for us. There is a Chinese curse which says “May he live in interesting times.” Like it or not, we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty. They are times of opportunity—so too in the life of the honor-lists. In the life of the honor-lists . . . so too in the life of the honor-man, the rank and file of men who lead and whose policies are the very stuff of history.”

And, he added, “With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth and lead the locked and lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God’s work must truly be our own.”

I thank you.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SWARTOUT

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to commend a great public servant, John Hickenlooper, for his tireless service to the citizens of Colorado. After more than three decades of tireless service in the public policy arena, I congratulate John on the occasion of his retirement.

John worked to form coalitions and partnerships with the citizens of Colorado. After more than three decades of tireless service in the public policy arena, I congratulate John on the occasion of his retirement.

John served as executive director of Colorado Counties, Inc.—CCI—a nonprofit organization that provides advocacy and education for county governments around the State. Under John’s leadership, CCI negotiated an opioid settlement with various pharmaceutical companies that provided millions of dollars for local addiction counseling and treatment. He also successfully steered CCI through the COVID-19 pandemic. CCI was integral to helping teams of county commissioners provide frontline health services and invest millions of dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act and CARES Act in community programs, business retention, and infrastructure improvements.

John served as the campaign manager for my opponent in my first race for the U.S. Senate. In Colorado, we believe in working together despite different political beliefs, and I came to know and respect his ability to speak patiently to his audience, and work to work in a pragmatic fashion with everyone. John became a dependable ally and friend as we worked together to advance the interests of Colorado.

Throughout his career, John embodied the notion that was articulated by Wallace Stegner, that the American West is still “the native home of hope.” Our great State is better for his vision, his compassion, and his service, and I wish him well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JOSHUA K. LEONARD

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize CMSgt Joshua K. Leonard for his dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force and the Senate as a legislative defense fellow. Josh has served as a vital part of my team since January 2023. He has been a trusted adviser on issues relating to the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security.

Josh enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in June 2005. His continued service is a reminder of the dedication and sacrifice of every servicemember who protects our Nation and defends our freedoms. His effort and passion distinguished him as a valuable member of my legislative team. I am proud to have someone like Josh on my staff, who understands the significance of maintaining American air superiority and caring for our service members and their families.

During his tenure in my office, he led the charge in introducing the Gerald’s Law Act. This critical initiative would expand the Department of Veterans Affairs burial benefits eligibility to terminally ill veterans who pass away at a non-VA facility while receiving hospice care. As he is soon to be promoted to the rank of chief master sergeant, John’s character and consistent display of selflessness, compassion, and action that he demonstrates deserve to be recognized and rewarded.

I am confident he will continue to serve our country honorably.
I am incredibly grateful for his support on behalf of the people of Arkansas. Both in the Nation’s Capital and while visiting the Natural State, he spoke with and listened to the concerns of Arkansas’s veterans and their families. While stationed at the Little Rock Air Force Base, he worked tirelessly to ensure the concerns of our veterans and military community were heard and their issues were resolved. We have been very fortunate to have Josh serve Arkansans as a legislative defense fellow. Josh, thank you for bringing your wife, Shauntai Leonard and his beloved children Josiah, Lincy, and Kayla for their support during his time in uniform. Growing up in a military family, I understand that service in the Armed Forces is a family affair and impossible without their sacrifice and unconditional support. 

Josh, thank you for your continued service to the U.S. Air Force and all your heartfelt, committed work as a member of my staff. Having you on my team has been a privilege, and you will always be welcomed here. I know that you will remain an asset to our military and veterans in addition to any other endeavors you pursue; I wish you and your family the best and congratulate you on this well-deserved promotion.

TRIBUTE TO BILL LAW

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of Goshen County Fire Warden Bill Law. Bill is retiring after six decades of service to Torrington, Goshen County, and the State of Wyoming.

Wyoming adopted its official ethics code, known proudly as the Code of the West, in 2010. One of the principle tenets is “talk less and say more.” Bill Law, a humble and devoted public servant, fully embodies this value in everything he does. He invested time, experience, and effort in each of his careers, to the benefit of others. Bill demonstrated his capacity for leadership while serving a greater cause at a young age. While in high school, he enlisted in the Wyoming National Guard. Following his graduation in 1955, he proudly enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a radio technician. He served 3 years and was honorably discharged in 1958.

Following his military service, Bill found other ways to invest in his community. He moved to Torrington, WY, in 1962 after serving 4 years as the Yoder Fire Chief. This was the first of a long line of roles in fire management.

During this time, Bill met and married the love of his life, Mary Kerhonen Law. Bill and Betty raised two children, Alicia and Trevor. This year, Bill and Betty are celebrating their 60th anniversary. Theirs is a remarkable partnership that has endured all of life’s challenges.

Bill began as a firefighter with the Torrington Volunteer Fire Department in 1962. Though he enjoyed other successful careers, he remained a committed TVFD member. He often put his life on hold to respond to emergencies in surrounding communities. His dedication to fire safety is unmatched. From 1969 to 1988, Bill worked for Torrington radio legend Kerm Kath, owner and operator of the local KGOS and KERM radio stations. He worked in sales and station management following Kerm’s death in 1982. In 1991, Bill became the State provider relations representative for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming. He worked to secure agreements with hospitals, clinics, and medical offices around the State. I want to work with him during my time as an orthopedic surgeon in Casper and as a member of the Wyoming State Senate. Bill retired from Blue Cross in 2004 after a rewarding 16-year career. Shortly after retirement, the Goshen County Commission appointed him as the county fire warden. From 2004 to 2012, he served dual roles as the fire warden and the City of Torrington’s emergency management coordinator. Bill organized the county’s fire suppression and prevention efforts, including communicating with the county’s 11 fire districts and 9 fire departments.

A natural leader, Bill served two terms on the Torrington City Council, from 2012 to 2020. His civic engagement also includes serving as a board member for both Eastern Wyoming College and the county chamber of commerce. Bill is a devoted member of Our Savior Lutheran Church, where he held numerous leadership positions. Bill is a remarkable advocate for rural fire districts and firefighters. He spent many years lobbying on behalf of local and State organizations and agencies. In January 2022, the Wyoming Legislature recognized Bill’s years of advocacy. Given an opportunity to comment, Bill quipped, “I look at when I first put the uniform on; the first 40 (years) seemed to drag—I got to tell you, the last 20 (years) go in a hurry.”

After an outstanding career in public service, I hope Bill will enjoy a well-earned retirement with his family. In addition to Betty, his legacy is celebrated by his son Trevor Law of Laramie, his daughter Alicia and Jeff Ayres of Lehi, UT, his granddaughter Emily Ayres, and great-grandchildren Mia Ayres and Drixton Ayres.

Honest and humble, Bill is a man of great integrity. He dedicated his life to serving others, making his community and state better in the process. Though his experience and wisdom will be missed, I know he will continue serving as a mentor, advocate, and trusted advisor. Bill’s nephew Chuck Kenyon, Torrington’s emergency management coordinator, said of Bill, “He is the foundation that makes every-thing work.”

Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations to Bill for his outstanding legacy of service.

TRIBUTE TO ANI KINCAID

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Ani for her hard work as an intern in my office in Casper, WY. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Ani is a native of Lander. She is a freshman at Casper College, where she studies political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Ani for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RICH HILLMAN

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Arkansas Farm Bureau State President, Mr. Rich Hillman, and the integral role he has had in serving the State of Arkansas and her agricultural pursuits and to celebrate his years of fervent dedication and leadership as his tenure at the helm of the organization comes to a close.

For the past 4 years, Rich has served faithfully as the Arkansas Farm Bureau State President, preceded by 11 years as vice president, and prior involvement on the Arkansas Farm Bureau board of directors dating back to 2001. His influence on the industry is further proven through his service in a number of leadership positions on the national and State levels and especially in his local community.

For more than 20 years, farm families and rural communities across the Natural State have welcomed Rich’s leadership with gratitude and depended on him to be a true advocate of their needs. They have relied on him to ensure that policies developed in Washington will benefit farmers and ranchers and the communities that surround them.

Rich’s leadership has been marked by wisdom gained through experience. To lead by example is a trait worthy of admiration and one that Rich has undoubtedly exemplified. He is a proud sixth-generation farmer in Lonoke County, where he and his wife Tina rear their four girls, Nia, Bria, Lila, and Caroline; their grandchildren; and generations to come.

It is because of people like Rich that I remain hopeful for the future of agriculture. His pragmatic advice has long been paramount in informing our work on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry Committee and been instrumen-
tial in crafting important legislation to support Arkansas agriculture. I cherish the friend-
ship and counsel I have found in Rich and wish to thank him again for his unwavering dedica-
tion to Arkansas’s agricultural producers. Though he is stepping down from his role as Arkansas Farm Bureau State president, I know that he will continue to be a fierce advocate for the needs of the industry.

I wish Rich and the Hillman family the best as they enter into this new chapter of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL KAREN A. BERRY

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise, along with Senator Tom CARPER of Delaware and Representative LISA BLUNT ROSTEHER of Delaware, to honor BG Karen A. Berry. A Delawarean who has provided exemplary service to the National Guard.

With more than three decades of distinguished military career service dedicated to the National Guard, BG Karen Berry has held a variety of leadership capacities, including company command of the HHC 280th Signal Battalion and Officer Candidate School, 193rd Regional Institute, and the 221st Tactical Theater Signal Brigade. She completed a yearlong deployment serving as the deputy commander of the 353rd Signal Command in Afghanistan, acting as the senior communications officer and providing essential guidance for the communications network theater. Moreover, in 2019, she transferred to the Connecticut National Guard, serving in two key leadership positions: assistant to the Adjutant General Army and the Director of the Joint Staff. There, she oversaw the training and deployments of the Connecticut National Army National Guard and ensured mission readiness and support to State and Partnership Programs between Connecticut and its partner Uruguay, a role critical to the success of countless overseas missions.

Brigadier General Berry has built on her extensive experience to lead with practical knowledge. Her educational background includes a bachelor of science in agricultural engineering and technology from the University of Delaware and her degree in education from Salisbury University, and a master’s degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. Her promotions and list of major awards over the years are extensive and include National Defense Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, and Delaware National Guard Medals for Military Merit, just to name a few.

Brigadier General Berry is also the first female Army guardsman to hold a brigade command in the Delaware Army National Guard, as well as the first female in the Delaware Army National Guard promoted to the general office rank of brigadier general. Brigadier General Berry has opened the door for countless others to follow, serving as an example of strong leadership, phenomenal work ethic, and service before self.

Brigadier General Berry has provided invaluable and experienced counsel while serving as chair of my Military Service Academy Board since my arrival in the Senate. A hallmark of Brigadier General Berry’s leadership has been her high regard for the servicemembers she leads and their families. Brigadier Berry has also been instrumental in forging enduring relationships with local community members and organizations. These bonds will serve the Delaware National Guard and Delaware communities well for years to come.

The values of hard work and serving others are second nature to the Berry family. Karen, her husband MG Michael Berry, and the entire family are known throughout the State of Delaware for their dedication to education and local community initiatives, sowing seeds of success for the future. We are truly grateful for all they have done to inspire the next generation of military leaders in Delaware and beyond.

We wholeheartedly congratulate BG Karen Berry on over three decades of service in the National Guard. Your strong dedication and leadership serve as a phenomenal example for many others. We wish you and your family the very best. Thank you.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the recipient of the 1 millionth Child Development Associate—CDA—credential, Jada Vargas is an Arizonan who is dedicated to serving her community as an early childhood educator, and I am very pleased to recognize her achievement.

Jada lives in Whiteriver, AZ, and is a member of White Mountain Apache Tribe. She also serves on the White Mountain Apache Youth Council. A recent high school graduate, Jada said she realized she wanted to become an early childhood educator after a career and technical education course that allowed her to work in a childcare center at her high school. Now, she is headed to college to study education—and, with her CDA, already has a leg up.

Early exposure to the early childhood landscape was clearly critical for Jada as she thought about her next steps after high school. And it couldn’t have come at a more needed time. The childcare industry, which already standing on unsteady legs, took a heavy hit from the COVID-19 pandemic. We asked early childhood educators to be heroes as so many worked to keep their doors open so parents could do essential work. Early in my time in the Senate, I voted to pass the American Rescue Plan, which provided $3 billion in support for childcare.

I hear from Arizonans that this funding was transformative, that childcare assistance was critical to keeping their children’s doors open and lights on to serve families. Today, the time that financial assistance through childcare stabilization grants has expired, yet challenges remain in finding and retaining early childhood educators. The market is still broken. Too many children remain stuck on waiting lists without the essential early education that we know makes a long-term difference.

Research tells us that if a student can’t read well by the time they are in the third grade, they are much less likely to do well in school. That has an impact on our productivity, our economy, and on our military. Early childhood educators like Jada are often the

TRIBUTE TO JADA VARGAS

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Connor Nicol of Hampton as November’s Granite Stater of the Month. For the last 3 years, 15-year-old Connor has helped to ensure that servicemembers who died overseas are remembered. Connor creates dog tags for people to carry, or place somewhere prominent, so that servicemembers’ names and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Connor was inspired to create the military identification tags, commonly called “dog tags,” while watching a movie about World War II, and he was struck by how young the servicemembers were. Knowing that many servicemembers who died overseas of service are remembered, Connor creates dog tags for people to carry, or place somewhere prominent, so that servicemembers’ names and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Connor’s goal is to create and distribute dog tags for those who died in additional overseas conflicts, including World War II, the Vietnam war, and the Global War on Terror. If you would like to request a tag, you can do so through his website, www.wewillremember.us. Connor’s passion and commitment to respecting and commemorating military service is a strong reflection of the Granite State spirit of patriotism. In New Hampshire, we honor those who keep our country safe, secure, and free. I thank Connor for his work to make sure that those who died in service to our country will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO CONNOR NICOL

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Connor Nicol of Hampton as November’s Granite Stater of the Month. For the last 3 years, 15-year-old Connor has helped to ensure that servicemembers who died overseas are remembered. Connor creates dog tags for people to carry, or place somewhere prominent, so that servicemembers’ names and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

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Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, a great privilege of my job as a U.S. Senator is having the opportunity to meet young people who are eager to serve. Talented young leaders like those featured in the Summer 2023 edition of "Public Service Review: Inspire me," and I am hopeful their stories will inspire others. This edition features insightful reflections from aspiring public servants with diverse backgrounds and interests who are passionate about serving their communities, their country, and the world.

The 10 authors featured in the Summer 2023 edition are Jamya Davis of Xavier University of Louisiana, Lydia Sigman of George Mason University, Rohini Achal of the University of Washington, Christopher Robinson of Mississippi State University, Mateus Voltolini of the University of Southern Maine, Samina Patel of Georgia Institute of Technology, Tatuya Mayo of Howard University, Julia Comino of American University, Brina Ratangue of Vanderbilt University, and Tony Ruan of Yale University, whom I had the pleasure of having in my office as an intern and speaking with for his article.

The "Public Service Review" is produced by the Stennis Center for Public Service, and the Summer 2023 edition is available at www.stennis.gov. I encourage all to read it.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, Idaho small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the lifeblood of our communities, but rising costs and inflation have brought increased challenges to Main Street establishments across our State. This holiday season, I am proud to relaunch Support Local Gems initiative, which encourages Idahoans to do their holiday shopping at the small businesses that make the Gem State special. As a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am pleased to honor Seven Ridges Ag Service LLC as one of Idaho’s Local Gems.

Tad and Kayce Brown, of Kendrick, opened Seven Ridges Ag Services in 2019. After working as a service technician for a John Deere dealer for more than 10 years, Tad explore his own off-road equipment repair service for the local agricultural, construction, and forestry industries. Seven Ridges originally operated out of a single truck and garage. Each year of operation, demand grew. The Browns continue to find new facilities to accommodate their customers’ demand. Most recently, Tad and Kayce joined Jimmie and Cindy Breckenridge to purchase a local parts and repair shop—Kendrick Ag & Supply—where Seven Ridges Ag Services can grow and expand.

Aside from Seven Ridges’ service repairs, Tad and Kayce actively support Kendrick’s youth through the JK Baseball Association and the Kendrick Ford FFA. The Browns proudly support the annual Juliaetta Blackberry Festival Car Show and the University of Idaho Vandal Cheer Team.

Congratulations to Tad and Kayce Brown at Seven Ridges Ag Service LLC. You are an outstanding example of what it means to be one of Idaho’s Local Gems.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, Idaho small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the lifeblood of our communities, but rising costs and inflation have brought increased challenges to Main Street establishments across our State. This holiday season, I am proud to relaunch Support Local Gems program, which provides additional seating, live music, and a space for private events. 2nd South Market hosts six locally owned food vendors and full bar, which together employ more than 50 people. The food hall features 14,700 square feet of outdoor space, known as the Yard, which provides additional seating, live music, and a space for private events. 2nd South Market is a space where the Magic Valley can gather, work, socialize, and eat—a place where the Magic Valley can build community.

The Buddeckes embraced the history of the former blacksmith, boilermaker, welding, hardware, and most recently, thrift store building, to create a vibrant epicenter for the Magic Valley. During the restoration of the building, original wood and metal paneling, doors, windows, signage, and old whiskey bottles dating back to Prohibition were recovered. A wall at the entrance of the food hall highlights many of the historic materials and shares the building’s unique story since 1907.

Congratulations to Dave and Lisa Buddecke and the vendors at 2nd South Market. You are an outstanding example of what it means to be one of Idaho’s Local Gems. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.

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RECOGNIZING ROYAL THEATERS
- Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, Idaho small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the lifeblood of our communities, but rising costs and inflation have brought increased challenges to Main Street establishments across our state. This holiday season, I am proud to relaunch Support Local Gems All Season Long, a holiday revival of the statewide Support Local Gems initiative, which encourages Idahoans to do their holiday shopping at the small businesses that make the Gem State special. As a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am pleased to honor Royal Theaters as one of Idaho’s Local Gems.

With two locations in Idaho Falls and one in Blackfoot, Royal Theaters is beloved by southeast Idaho’s moviegoers. Kent and Ingrid Lott purchased the Centre Theater, originally a 1913 Vaudeville Theater, in 1993. Once a single-screen theater, the Lotts turned the balcony into a second theater 3 years after its opening. Royal Theaters’ second Idaho Falls location boasts four screens, while the Lotts’ Blackfoot location houses seven.

The Lotts’ passion for the movie business is evident in their renovation projects throughout the years. In 2013, Royal Theaters upgraded the 35mm film projectors to digital projectors. In their latest project, the Lotts remodeled both Idaho Falls locations with stadium seating and VIP seats. For more than 30 years, Royal Theaters has offered a special moviegoing experience for southeast Idaho.

Congratulations to the Lott family and the employees at Royal Theaters. You are an outstanding example of what it means to be one of Idaho’s Local Gems. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.

RECOGNIZING VICKERS WESTERN STORE
- Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, Idaho small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the lifeblood of our communities, but rising costs and inflation have brought increased challenges to Main Street establishments across our state. This holiday season, I am proud to relaunch Support Local Gems All Season Long, a holiday revival of the statewide Support Local Gems initiative, to encourage Idahoans to do their holiday shopping at the small businesses that make the Gem State special. As a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am pleased to honor Royal Theaters as one of Idaho’s Local Gems.

In 1922, White Cross Pharmacy opened its first location in Pocatello River. In its 101-year history, only five owners have operated the store, which shows their strong commitment to helping keep our communities happy, healthy, and well-informed. Since 1922, the pharmacy has grown to serve Sandpoint, Othello, and Spirit Lake. Today, Gary de Blaquiere, Rich de Blaquiere, and Shannon McClashington own and operate the pharmacy, which truly stands out by providing student work positions under hard-working pharmacy staff, who diligently serve the community.

Due to its rural Idaho location, White Cross Pharmacy, like many rural pharmacies, plays a vital role in providing healthcare for residents, including the elderly. Rural pharmacies are often the only healthcare facility for miles around. In these towns, the pharmacy employees treat customers like family, and in turn, customers trust pharmacists with critical healthcare services. This is the niche filled by White Cross Pharmacy in Oldtown, Priest River, Spirit Lake, and Sandpoint.

White Cross Pharmacy offers patient services ranging from treatment protocols for minor and self-limiting ailments to providing advice on over-the-counter remedies to guidance on prescription medication. But the pharmacy is not stopping there because it is looking to add new services to better serve the community. It works to help those in need by donating money to assist those who cannot afford their medications and actively participating in community events and donating to local food banks.

Congratulations to de Blaquiere Enterprises, Inc., and all of the employees at White Cross Pharmacy. You are an outstanding example of what it means to be one of Idaho’s Local Gems. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.

RECOGNIZING WHITE CROSS PHARMACY AND COMPOUNDING
- Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, Idaho small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the lifeblood of our communities, but rising costs and inflation have brought increased challenges to Main Street establishments across our state. This holiday season, I am proud to relaunch Support Local Gems All Season Long, a holiday revival of the statewide Support Local Gems initiative, to encourage Idahoans to do their holiday shopping at the small businesses that make the Gem State special. As a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am pleased to honor White Cross Pharmacy and Compounding as one of Idaho’s Local Gems.

White Cross Pharmacy and Compounding, Inc., and all of the employees at White Cross Pharmacy offer patient services to the residents of Oldtown, Priest River, Spirit Lake, and Sandpoint.

White Cross Pharmacy offers patient services ranging from treatment protocols for minor and self-limiting ailments to providing advice on over-the-counter remedies to guidance on prescription medication. But the pharmacy is not stopping there because it is looking to add new services to better serve the community. It works to help those in need by donating money to assist those who cannot afford their medications and actively participating in community events and donating to local food banks.

Congratulations to de Blaquiere Enterprises, Inc., and all of the employees at White Cross Pharmacy. You are an outstanding example of what it means to be one of Idaho’s Local Gems. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS
The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers and documents, and were referred as indicated:

- EC-2833. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Congressional Mandate: Part B Payment Amounts for Two Drugs Included Noncovered Self-Administered Versions in 2022”; to the Committee on Finance.

- EC-2834. A communication from the President of the United States to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, pursuant to the Senate resolution, a report relative to United States forces conducted discrete strikes against facilities in Iraq used by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and IRGC-affiliated groups; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

- EC-2835. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license to the Secretary, including technical data, and defense services to Sweden in the amount of $200,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

- EC-2836. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles and services, including technical data, and defense services to Sweden in the amount of $200,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

- EC-2837. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting,
pursuant to law, the Department’s Semi-
annual Report of the Inspector General for the
period from April 1, 2023 through Sep-
tember 30, 2023; to the Committee on Home-
land Security and Governmental Affairs.
EC–2338. A communication from the Chair-
man of the United States International Trade
Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the
Commission’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
fairs.
EC–2339. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Board, Farm Credit System In-
surance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s Performance and Accountability Re-
port for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
fairs.
EC–2340. A communication from the Asso-
ciate Director for Economic Policy, Office of
Management and Budget, Executive Office of
the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Issuance of Revised OMB Circular No. A–94, Guidelines and Discount Rates for Benefit-Cost Analysis of Federal Programs” (Docket No. OMB–2023–0011) received during in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
EC–2341. A communication from the Ad-
ministrator of Information and Regulatory Af-
fairs, Office of Management and Budget, Ex-
ecutive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Issuance of Revised OMB Circular No. A–14, Regulatory Analysis” (Docket No. OMB–2022–0014) received during in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
EC–2342. A communication from the Presi-
dent and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Founda-
tion’s Annual Management Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
EC–2343. A communication from the Direc-
tor, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
EC–2344. A communication from the Board
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
EC–2345. A communication from the Direc-
tor, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
EC–2346. A communication from the Chair-
manship and Chief Executive and Administra-
tive Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
EC–2347. A communication from the Chair-
manship of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s Performance and Accountability Re-
port for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
EC–2348. A communication from the Direc-
tor, Office of Personnel Management, trans-
mitting, pursuant to law, the Office’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
EC–2349. A communication from the Direc-
tor, Office of Personnel Management, trans-
mitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
EC–2350. A communication from the Archi-
vist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
The following reports of committees were submitted:

S. 90. A bill to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices (Rept. No. 118–114).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE
The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN for the Committee on Fi-
nance.

O’Malley, of Maryland, to be Com-
misisoner of Social Security for the remain-
der of the term expiring January 19, 2025.

NOMINATION

S. 3353. A bill to accelerate the identifica-
tion of solutions to the challenges of the Joint Force by assigning to specific compo-
nents of the Department of Defense certain responsibilities for the delivery of essential integrated joint warfighting capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS
The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred or acted upon, as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LUIJAN, and Mr. WHITHOUSE):

S. Res. 476. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Move Over Law Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HYDE–SMITH (for herself, Mr. SHAHNI, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 477. A resolution commending the University of Mississippi for 175 years of service to the State of Mississippi and the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. BARRASO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. Res. 478. A resolution designating No-
vember 2023 as ‘National Hospice and Pallia-
tive Care Month’; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 25

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKWATER) was added as a cos- sponsor of S. 26, a bill to amend the In-
ternal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 234

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Ar-
izona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cospon- sors of S. 91, a bill to award a Con- gressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and hero- ism during the Holocaust.

S. 234

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S.
234, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to exclude a basic allowance for housing from income for purposes of eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

At the request of Mr. Casey, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1030, a bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Braun, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Budd) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1105, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify the Trump administration rule on reporting requirements of exempt organizations, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Toomey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct civilization and identity, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1267, a bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on source of income, veteran status, or military status.

At the request of Mr. King, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1756, a bill to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to support the commercial fishing industry.

At the request of Mr. Moran, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Cassidy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2158, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for disciplinary procedures for supervisors and managers at the Department of Veterans Affairs and to modify the procedures of personnel actions against employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Kennedy, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Rickertts) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2230, a bill to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring that personally identifiable information be collected under consolidated audit trail reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Bennet, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2258, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to permit supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be used to purchase additional types of food items.

At the request of Mr. Young, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Hickenlooper) were added as cosponsors of S. 2330, a bill to authorize the Small Business Administration to provide business loans to finance business software or cloud computing services, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Schmitt, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2397, a bill to amend section 495 of the Public Service Act to require inspections of foreign laboratories conducting biomedical and behavioral research to ensure compliance with applicable animal welfare requirements, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Gillibrand, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono) were added as cosponsors of S. 2861, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

At the request of Ms. Murkowski, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Tillis) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3013, a bill to permanently authorize the exemption of aliens working as fish processors from the numerical limitation on H-2B non-immigrant visas.

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Whitehouse, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Merkley) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3193, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow for the use of telehealth in substance use disorder treatment, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Kelly, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Budd) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3228, a bill to prohibit certain members and former members of the Armed Forces from accepting employment with government entities of the People’s Republic of China or the Russian Federation.

At the request of Mr. Tillis, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Cassidy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3237, a bill to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to ensure claimants are adequately informed regarding filing a Federal cause of action.

At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3276, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow certain alien veterans to be paroled into the United States to receive health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

At the request of Mr. Duckworth, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) were added as cosponsors of S. 3278, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to identify each alien who is serving in the armed forces and to provide a list of such aliens to the United States on the application of any such alien for an immigration benefit or the placement of any such alien in an immigration enforcement proceeding, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) were added as cosponsors of S. 3290, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mrs. Cassidy) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. Hyde-Smith) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 49, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status".

At the request of Mr. Tillis, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Scott) and the Senator from
North Carolina (Mr. BUD) were added as cosponsors of S. J. Res. 50, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under section 5 of United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to ‘Cybersecurity Risk Governance, Strategy, and Incident Disclosure.

S. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 231, a resolution calling for the immediate release of Evan Gershkovich, a United States citizen and journalist, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in March 2023.

S. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 463, a resolution recognizing Operation Green Light for Veterans for supporting veterans and raising awareness about the need for county resources available to help veterans transition to civilian life.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 476—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL MOVE OVER LAW DAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LUJAN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas move over laws generally require motorists to move at least 1 lane over when there is an emergency or rescue activity taking place on the shoulder or side of the roadway, or, if unable to do so, slow down and pass the scene with caution;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office report entitled “Emergency Responder Safety: DOT Are Implementing Actions to Reduce Roadside Crashes” (GAO–21–166) noted that State officials cite raising public awareness as the most prevalent challenge to move over laws; and

Whereas providing traffic incident management responders with an enhanced opportunity to inform the motoring public about move over laws to the public safety: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a National Move Over Law Day; and

(2) urges national, State, and regional incident management organizations—

(A) to spread awareness and promote the existence of, and adherence to, State move over laws; and

(B) to educate the public further on the dangers and loss of life that occur if State move over laws are not faithfully observed.

SENATE RESOLUTION 477—COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOR 175 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas the University of Mississippi began its first session on November 6, 1848, with a 4-member faculty offering a liberal arts curriculum to 80 students; and

Whereas the University of Mississippi established one of the first State-supported law schools in the United States in 1854, and it was the first university in Mississippi to establish a school of engineering in 1900; and

Whereas, in 1862, the University of Mississippi became one of the first universities in the South to admit women, and in 1885, was the first and only academic center in Mississippi to hire a female faculty member; and

Whereas, in 1903, the University of Mississippi began providing medical education on the Oxford campus; and

Whereas the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi—

(1) was established by the Mississippi Legislature in 1905; and

(2) became the first and only academic medical center in Mississippi when it opened in 1965; and

(3) was the site of the first lung and heart transplants into a human in the world, in 1963 and 1964, respectively; and

Whereas, in 1962, the University of Mississippi broke a racial barrier by admitting its first African-American student, James Meredith, who remains a source of inspiration today; and

Whereas, from its first class of 80 students, the University of Mississippi has grown to more than 23,000 students participating in 120 programs of study across 7 campuses, including 9 medical specialties; and

Whereas students of all races, creeds, backgrounds, and beliefs receive world-class education at the University of Mississippi; and

Whereas the University of Mississippi advances academic excellence through the ac-

tivity of the faculty and staff in departments and more than 75 academic, research, and community service centers; and

Whereas, in 2016, the University of Miss-

issippi received a classification of “Very High Research Activity” in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, an honor bestowed on the top 5% of research universities in the United States; and

Whereas the University of Mississippi has produced 50 Fulbright Scholars, 27 Rhodes Scholars, 44 Boren Scholars, 24 Goldwater Scholars, 8 Portz Scholars, and 11 National Science Founda-

tion Graduate Fellows; and

Whereas the University of Mississippi has played a significant role in producing future public service leaders; and

Whereas, in 2008, the University of Miss-

issippi hosted the first presidential debate between Senators John McCain and Barack Obama, which was the first presidential debate held in Mississippi; and

Whereas, for 14 years, the University of Mississippi has been recognized as a “Great College to Work For”, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education, in addition to earning honors in all 10 categories of recognition; and

Whereas the University of Mississippi is dedicated to supporting the academic success of student-athletes while striving for on-field success; and

Whereas the Ole Miss Rebels are composed of 18 men’s and women’s intercollegiate athletic varsity teams that represent the University of Mississippi; and

Whereas the University of Mississippi, a charter member of the Southeastern Conference, claims 5 collegiate team national championships, and Ole Miss Rebel student-athletes have captured 25 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I individual titles; and

Whereas the University of Mississippi has produced notable alumni in the fields of government, public policy, research, medicine, business, education, literature, the arts, journalism, athletics, and more; Now, there- fore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Mississippi for its 175 years of service to the State of Mississippi and the United States;

(2) recognizes the University of Mississippi for its academic, research, cultural, and athletic excellence; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Chancellor of the University of Mississippi, Dr. Glenn F. Boyce;

(B) the Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics of the University of Mississippi, Mr. Keith Carter; and

(C) the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Dr. LouAnn Woodward.

SENATE RESOLUTION 478—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL HOSPICE AND PALLIA-

TIVE CARE MONTH”

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas palliative care and hospice services—

(1) can empower individuals to live as fully as possible, surrounded and supported by family and loved ones, despite serious ill-

nesses or injuries; and
(2) are critical parts of the continuum of supports and services that individuals with serious illness and their families need;

Whereas ensuring access to palliative care and hospice for all individuals in the United States who are in need, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, is important;

Whereas palliative care and hospice aims to bring patients and family caregivers high-quality care delivered by an interdisciplinary team of skilled health care professionals, including—

(1) physicians;
(2) nurses;
(3) social workers;
(4) therapists;
(5) counselors;
(6) health aides;
(7) spiritual care providers; and
(8) other health care professionals;

Whereas there is a need to increase training opportunities for health care professionals to receive interdisciplinary team-based training in palliative care and hospice;

Whereas hospice focuses on quality of life through pain management and symptom control, caregiver assistance, and emotional and spiritual support, with the goal of allowing patients to live fully until the end of life, surrounded and supported by loved ones, friends, and caregivers;

Whereas trained palliative care and hospice professionals, during a time of trauma and loss, can provide grief and bereavement support services to individuals with a serious illness or injury, the family members of those individuals, and others;

Whereas palliative care is a patient and family-centered approach to care that—

(1) provides relief from symptoms and stress;
(2) can be complementary to curative treatments; and
(3) improves the quality of life of patients and their families;

Whereas, in 2021, more than 1,700,000 individuals in the United States living with a serious illness or injury, and the families of those individuals, received care and support from more than 5,350 hospice providers in communities across the United States;

Whereas volunteers continue to play a vital role in supporting hospice care and operations; and

Whereas palliative care and hospice providers encourage all patients to learn more about their options for care and to share their preferences with family, loved ones, and health care professionals. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2023 as “National Hospice and Palliative Care Month”; and
(2) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to increase their understanding and awareness of—

(i) care for hospice patients with a serious illness or injury;
(ii) the benefits of integrating palliative care early into the treatment plans for patients with a serious illness or injury; and
(iii) the importance of grief support for caregivers and loved ones during hospice care and after death;

(B) to recognize the care and dedication of—

(i) millions of family caregivers; and
(ii) tens of thousands of palliative care and hospice staff and volunteers; and

(C) to observe “National Hospice and Palliative Care Month” with appropriate activities and programs.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 476, S. Res. 477, and S. Res. 478.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to. (The resolutions, with their preambles, were printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 29; 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 Smith nomination: further, that the cloture motions filed during yesterday’s session ripen at 11:30 a.m.; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Smith nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:30 p.m. and that if cloture is invoked on the Semper nomination, all time be considered expired at 5:45 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday’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, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:36 p.m., stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 29, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 28, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

MARGARET M. CARNERTY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

JEFFREY M. BRYAN, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA.