

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 New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 450 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Lujan	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Graham	Murray	Whitehouse
Grassley	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeben	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Cramer	Lummis	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	Young
Daines	Moran	
Ernst	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Gillibrand	Rubio
Rounds	Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The majority leader.

JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in 1 minute, I will be filing cloture on the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act, but I am going to give a short, brief remark before I do that.

Now, tonight, I am filing cloture on a motion to proceed on the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. That means that the Senate is going to take a first vote on whether or not we even debate this voting rights bill—even debate it—on Wednesday.

Our democracy relies on the guarantee of free and fair elections. Across the country, we are witnessing a coordinated assault on the integrity of our electoral process. We must advance critical reforms to protect the freedom to vote, fulfilling the life and the legacy of our late colleague John Lewis.

If there is any issue that deserves debate in this Chamber, it is protecting voting rights. I know that both parties have differences on this important issue, but Republicans shouldn't be afraid to debate the bill.

If the Senate votes to open debate to this bill, I am prepared to offer an open and honest and full-fledged process here on the Senate floor, where Republican amendments will be made in order and allowed and debated.

If Republican Senators have different ideas on how to achieve a stronger democracy, they owe it to the American people to come forward and debate their ideas. Simply standing silent with their arms crossed, refusing to allow the Senate to function, is unacceptable.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2021—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 143, S. 4.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 143, S. 4, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 143, S. 4, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Thomas R. Carper, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Raphael G. Warnock, Gary C. Peters, Patty Murray, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Jacky Rosen, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, November 1, be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TIGRAY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the situation in Tigray continues to deteriorate. Recent bombings by the Ethiopian Government of Tigray's densely populated capital city, Mekele, has reportedly killed civilians, including children. Millions of people have been displaced, and many in Tigray are facing famine. Combatants on both sides of the conflict have committed atrocities.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported recently that only 14 percent of trucks with relief aid were getting through to the people of Tigray, due to roadblocks and lack of fuel. Lifesaving medications have been blocked from getting into Tigray, which cripples the ability of the UN and their NGO partners to respond to urgent health needs. If the government does not permit deliveries of humanitarian aid, more and more people will needlessly starve to death.

The United States has imposed sanctions against the government in Addis Ababa. The Congress has also acted. The Fiscal Year 2022 Department of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill was introduced in the Senate on October 26, and it would prohibit U.S. military aid to Ethiopia. It would also require the Department of the Treasury to oppose international bank loans to the Ethiopian Government, except to meet basic human needs, until the government ceases offensive military operation, takes credible and sustained steps toward a genuine political dialogue to end the conflict, implements measures to protect human rights, allows unimpeded humanitarian access, and cooperates with independent investigations of violations of human rights.

Ethiopia is a country facing every imaginable problem, increasingly exacerbated by climate change. There is no military solution to the ethnic rivalries that have divided the country for generations. Any sustainable solution will only be achieved through negotiation and compromise. The international community, including the United States, can help support such a dialogue, but it is the Ethiopian Government's responsibility to create the conditions for that to occur. Rather than squander the country's scarce resources on a fruitless, brutal campaign to dominate Tigray by force, Prime Minister Abiy would be well advised to listen to the international community

and support a diplomatic solution. The alternative is famine, displacement, and unending misery for the people of Tigray, and for this Nobel Peace Prize winner to be held accountable for crimes against humanity.

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

MISSED VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, due to unforeseen travel disruptions, I will miss today's votes. •

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 412, Rahul Gupta, of West Virginia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN'S VETERANS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today to honor all of the brave Michigan veterans who have served in our Nation's military.

When the scourge of slavery threatened to tear our Nation in two, Michiganders selflessly marched to war. When fascism rose in Europe, Michiganders built an Arsenal of Democracy and kept freedom alive. And when terrorists attacked our own country 20 years ago, Michiganders stood up and signed up. Over and over again, Michigan men and women have served our country to protect our freedoms.

These veterans all fought different battles and had different missions. But all of them were patriots. All of them—and their families—made incredible sacrifices. And all of them were willing to lay down their own lives to protect their fellow Americans and this Nation we love.

Perhaps there's no better Michigan example of this than Charles S. Kettles. Charles was born in Ypsilanti in 1930 and fell in love with flying while attending Edison Institute High School in Dearborn. Aviation was in his blood; his dad was a military pilot.

In 1951, Charles was drafted into the Army. He attended Army Aviation School and served tours in Korea, Japan, and Thailand. He retired from Active Duty in 1956 and continued to serve in the Army Reserves.

During the Vietnam war, the Army was in desperate need of helicopter pilots. So in 1963, Charlie volunteered for active duty and learned to fly the UH-1D, "Huey."

Those skills would save lives on May 15, 1967. Then-Major Kettles volunteered to lead a flight of six Hueys on a rescue mission.

Charles's helicopter came under fire, but he kept on flying. After the second rescue flight, his helicopter was leaking fuel, and his gunner was severely

wounded. He found a helicopter that wasn't leaking and went back to rescue the stranded men.

On the way back to the base, he learned that eight troops had been left behind. Without a second thought, he returned to the landing zone.

His helicopter was hit by gunfire and a mortar round. Yet somehow, Charles made it back to the landing zone, picked up the stranded troops, and brought them safely back to the base. In total, he saved 44 lives that day.

Typically, the Medal of Honor must be awarded within 5 years of the heroic act. But this kind of heroism has no expiration date. In 2015, I introduced legislation with Senator GARY PETERS and Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL to allow Charles to receive the Medal of Honor. In 2016, he did.

And earlier this year, it was an incredible honor to be there when the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Ann Arbor was renamed after Charles. Lieutenant Colonel Kettles saved lives back in 1967, and the Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center is saving lives today.

"We got the 44 out," he said during his Medal of Honor ceremony in 2016. "None of those names appear on the wall in Washington. There's nothing more important than that."

Humility, a spirit of service, and the willingness to sacrifice. Michigan's veterans have done so much for us. It is our solemn duty to keep each and every promise we have made to them.

Thank you.

HONORING CHARLES "CHARLIE" E. WHITE

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of Charles "Charlie" E. White, an outstanding American and decorated Vietnam War veteran.

While Charlie is no longer with us, his legacy lives on. On behalf of my fellow Americans, I would like extend our deepest gratitude for his service to this Nation.

Charlie was born on May 21, 1944, in Kansas City, MO, to Owlen and Lucille White. His parents raised him alongside his brothers Bobby and Jerry and sister Judy in Independence, MO.

Charlie never shied away from service or sacrifice, and when the Vietnam war broke out, he quickly answered the call to duty and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served our country heroically as a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces, the Green Berets.

As a sergeant in the Green Berets, he engaged in many perilous combat missions in Vietnam, including one where he was wounded by an enemy soldier's bayonet. He donned a scar across his face for the rest of his life from this encounter and was awarded for his exemplary valor with multiple service medals.

After the war, Charlie returned to Kansas and settled into his life as a loving husband and devoted father.

Known by many for his hard work ethic and determination, he led a long career working for BNFS Railway and provided a great life for his family.

He is survived by his wife Diane, sons Jack and Steve, daughter Tambra, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandson. His memory lives on through each of them and through his enduring legacy.

I now have the profound honor of recognizing Charlie White with the following honors for his bravery in the line of duty: Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, and Silver Star Medal.

These medals represent a small token of our country's appreciation for Charlie's incredible service and sacrifice.

He is an American hero who has made our country proud, and we owe him a great debt of gratitude.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING FLORENCE'S EXQUISITE CHOCOLATES

• Mr. RISCH. Madam President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Florence's Exquisite Chocolates in Rexburg as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for November 2021.

As the namesake and founder of the business, Florence Manwaring had a long-standing passion for making chocolate. To pay her way through college, Florence began working in a chocolate factory where she learned the art of chocolatiering. Florence combined her work experience, passion, and giving spirit to make candies for her friends and family. Her chocolates became popular with her friends, and with their encouragement, Florence and her husband Var considered launching a business so she could pursue her passion. As the economy hit a downturn in the 70s, Var switched his focus from construction to helping his wife open a small business, and in 1981, Florence's dream became a reality.

Despite initial struggles, the shop quickly gained the attention of the Rexburg community and grew so rapidly that Florence's family became involved as well. A true family-owned business, the Manwarings have the distinction of employing every single family member, each of whom has been critical to the company's success.

Some of Florence's iconic chocolates include turtles, haystacks, toffees, caramels, and mints. The business has received widespread recognition, garnering positive reception from leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and then-President Ronald Reagan. Florence's shop has not only found success selling locally, but has also distributed its candies throughout the region.