

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 116.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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 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. 116, Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, Bernard Sanders, Christopher Murphy, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard J. Durbin, John W. Hickenlooper, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Jacky Rosen, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet, Jeff Merkley.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, October 19, be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

STANDING WITH ISRAEL AGAINST TERRORISM—Continued

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have a brief statement on this very important resolution we are about to vote on.

Mr. President, October 7, 2023, will go down as a day of infamy. As Israel faces the darkest hour of its 75-year history, the bipartisan resolution we are about to vote on proclaims that so long as there is a United States of America, the people of Israel will never stand alone. So long as there is a United States Senate, the people of Israel will never stand alone.

Today's bipartisan resolution shows exactly where the United States Senate stands. We stand firmly with Israel and her right to defend herself. Today's bipartisan resolution shows exactly where the United States Senate stands. We condemn the heinous, vicious attacks by the terrorist group Hamas. It is rare that all 100 Senators agree on anything, but every one of the 100 of us is here today, united, saying that we are behind Israel. Today's bipartisan resolution shows where we stand.

We demand Hamas stop their attacks and release all hostages, including American hostages. We urge the world to unite against Hamas and against nations like Iran that support global terrorism.

This resolution is not the end; it is the beginning. The Senate will back up this resolution with real, swift, decisive action and resources.

Let the entire world see that today Democrats and Republicans alike stand in total unity. We support Israel's absolute right to defend itself.

To the Israeli people, we say: We stand with you, we feel your pain, we ache with you, and we will act.

To any actor that seeks to take advantage of Israel, the United States Senate says with one unified voice: Don't.

The resolution also does what everyone in this country in elected office and the press should do: condemn Hamas as a heinous terrorist organization.

This resolution is momentous. The entire Senate today is unified in our support of the Israeli people and against Hamas. And again, to repeat, this resolution is just the start. We will follow it up with swift action and get Israel the help and resources she needs.

In conclusion, I want to thank Leader McConnell for joining me in this statement and championing the measure. I want to thank Chairman CARDIN of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as well as Ranking Member Risch, for helping draft this resolution. I thank every Senator, all 99 of my colleagues, for supporting this. We needed to stand united, and today, we are. In the Senate, we will not waiver in our friendship with the Israeli people.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

VOTE ON S. RES. 417

Under the previous order, the question is on adoption of S. Res. 417.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 261 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Baldwin	Hagerty	Reed
Barrasso	Hassan	Ricketts
Bennet	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Britt	Johnson	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schmitt
Budd	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Lankford	Smith
Casey	Lee	Stabenow
Cassidy	Lujan	Sullivan
Collins	Lummis	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Marshall	Tuberville
Cotton	McConnell	Van Hollen
Cramer	Menendez	Vance
Crapo	Merkley	Warner
Cruz	Moran	Warnock
Daines	Mullin	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Welch
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Graham	Paul	
Grassley	Peters	

NOT VOTING—3

Butler Durbin Scott of (SC)

The resolution (S. Res. 417) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Under the previous order, the preamble is agreed to, and motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. SCHATZ. The President pro tempore.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. 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.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO MATT SQUERI

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote: The purpose of life is . . . to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you lived and lived well. It is not the length of life, but the depth of life that matters.

In that spirit, I rise today to bid farewell to a member of my team, Matt

Squeri, who is one of the most useful, honorable, compassionate people I have ever worked with, and his public service has made a difference in the lives of so many, including the lives some of the most vulnerable people around the world.

Not only do I want to thank him for the length of his service in the Senate, I want to thank him for the depth of his service. Matt joined my team in 2019 after several years working for our former colleague Senator Heidi Heitkamp and, before that, the Department of Defense and the Center For Strategic and International Studies.

His legislative skill and his policy expertise were immediately evident. What took a little longer to emerge was his encyclopedic knowledge of college football—especially for our shared alma mater, Stanford—not to mention his love for watching boxing.

For those of you who know Matt, that might sound surprising. But if you have worked with him, it makes perfect sense because, if the cause is worthwhile, if it is for democracy, if it is for justice, if it is for human rights, then Matt loves a good fight. He doesn't crash in, like a brawler. He works methodically, like a boxer.

A great example of that was early on, when negotiations on a bill had been stuck in a stalemate with the House for months and months. We had gone round and round with the House, and then Matt went to work. He floated over conflicts, he parried the problems, and, within 2 months, he knocked it out and passed it into law.

He has taken on much bigger fights since then. After joining my team he set out to cultivate working relationships with the staff of Members on both sides of the aisle of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. His goal was simple: to turn the CECC's—Congressional-Executive Commission on China—research, advocacy, and awareness-raising into bipartisan legislation and new laws that would make a real difference for real people.

In 2019, as the Chinese Government began its brutal crackdown on Hong Kong, Matt led our successful efforts to protect Hong Kong's people by banning the export of crowd control equipment to the Hong Kong police.

Soon, he took on an even more ambitious project: tackling the problem of the genocide of the Uighur people and their forced labor in Xinjiang Province.

He helped coordinate with the CECC the release of a landmark report in March 2020. That report became the launching point for passing some of the most ambitious human rights legislation the United States has ever considered, the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act.

The premise of the bill was quite simple: The American consumers have the right to know if their products are made with forced labor in China, and they have the right to choose not to do business with those companies.

Matt officially joined the CECC staff in 2021, and he was central to the negotiations that began in committee in January and continued all the way to final passage in December.

And he didn't stop there. He pushed the Olympics and the NBA to stop using uniforms made by—or made from materials made by—forced labor in China.

China, multinational corporations, the Olympics, the NBA—you see what I mean about him not shying away from a fight. And, since then, he has helped us hold hearings, introduce legislation, and improve policies to protect the people of Hong Kong, the people of Tibet, the Uighur people, and to stand up to the Chinese Government's transnational repression.

There is a lot more I could say about Matt's work on legislation. What stands out to me though and to everyone who knows Matt is just how wonderful he is to work with. As one of my senior staff said about starting in our office, "Matt was the person I looked up to, the person I wanted to emulate."

He is fun, he is unflappable, he is morally clear, and he is legislatively masterful. And he is generous with his time, whether he is helpful to those new to our team in learning their way around or helping them understand complex human rights issues in far corners of the world. We will miss having him as part of our team.

I quoted Emerson at the start of these remarks. Later, in the same piece, Emerson wrote:

[T]o leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded.

Countless people around the world who have never met Matt Squeri have breathed easier because of his work.

So it is with gratitude that Team Merkley, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and I thank Matt Squeri for his service to this institution, his service to this Nation, and his service to human rights around the world. We wish him all the best as he moves on to his next assignment.

RECESS UNTIL 5 P.M. TODAY

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 5 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:05 p.m., recessed until 5 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. FETTERMAN).

MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Coast Guard; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE COAST GUARD

*PN978 COAST GUARD nominations (2) beginning MATTHEW A. GANS, and ending IAN W. MARKS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

KOREAN AMERICAN VIETNAM AL-LIES LONG OVERDUE FOR RELIEF ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 366 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 366) to amend title 38, United States Code, to treat certain individuals who served in Vietnam as a member of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea as a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 366) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

REQUIRING THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AT FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of