

led the effort to turn what most of us once referred to as an animal ghetto—our zoo in Audubon Park. It was. It was an animal ghetto but what today we call both an animal haven and an animal heaven. That man's name is Ron Forman—Ron Forman.

Ron joined the Audubon Park and Zoo in 1972. That seems like yesterday to me, but to our pages here in the front row, it is a long time ago. Ron started when he was young. He started as a liaison to city hall in New Orleans.

At the time, the zoo in Audubon Park was a disaster. It was just a disaster. The enclosures for the animals were small. They were dirty. They were really filthy. They were prison-like. Ron was asked to describe them one time.

He said:

They are prison-like.

This is unacceptable. The condition in which we placed our animals was an embarrassment to the city. It was an embarrassment to the people of Louisiana, and the people knew it. Ron Forman sensed that. He had the vision to be able to say: You know, I can lead an effort. I am not just going to go to government and ask for a bunch of money. I can lead an effort, Ron said, in the community to build support for the zoo, and he did.

He not only improved the zoo—we have an aquarium. We have an insectarium. We have an R&D—a research and development—park. We have a conservation park. Ron Forman delivered. He delivered for the human species, and he delivered for our animal friends.

By 1977, Ron had climbed the ranks, and he became director of the Audubon Zoo. Then he took off and so did our zoo and our animal havens. He led the effort to transform Audubon Park, which you know is right across from Tulane University, into the Audubon Nature Institute, which, as I said, is the nonprofit conservation and zoological system we know today.

Ron helped—and he had a lot of help. I mean, there are thousands of people who contributed, but Ron led the charge. He helped transform a cramped and dirty zoo into a state-of-the-art conservation network, including a zoo, an aquarium, an insectarium, gardens, research institutions, and conservation efforts. And the Audubon Nature Institute has thrived. It hasn't been easy, but it has thrived in large part, in substantial part because of Ron Forman.

Now, we got hit by Hurricane Katrina, and it was bad. When we did, the Audubon Zoo and the insectarium and the aquarium and Audubon Park were terribly damaged. Ron didn't get discouraged. He saw the zoo, for example, as a beacon of hope—not as an object of depression but as a beacon of hope.

First of all, because of the precautions that he and his team took, we only lost three animals in the storm at the zoo. And if you have been to the zoo, there are trees everywhere. It is just a small miracle. God smiled on us

in that respect. The aquarium, unfortunately, down on the river, suffered substantial, substantial losses.

It wasn't easy to rebuild all of those facilities. It was very, very hard, but Ron Forman understood. He understood instinctively that we needed to get these institutions back up on their feet because families needed a place to go to forget their hardships.

Hurricane Katrina hit in late August. Ron Forman stood up. I thought he had lost his mind. He stood up, and he said: I am going to have Audubon Zoo reopened by Thanksgiving weekend.

We were hitting August. Forman stands up in front of God, country, and Louisiana and says: I am going to have the zoo open by November.

I thought Ron had been day drinking. I said: It can't be done.

I didn't say that publicly. I thought, if anybody can do it, Ron Forman can. He did.

This is what he said. He said: We are a city without kids and families, and a city without kids and families right now—because so many of our families and kids have left—is a city without soul. It is a city without heart. So we just thought it was critical to get the thing open for Thanksgiving weekend.

And he did. The zoo opened on Thanksgiving weekend. We were able to give thousands of parents and children a sense of normalcy and optimism during the holiday season at a very difficult time for my State and for my city.

Now, Ron also led us through the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many businesses and many institutions, the Audubon Zoo and Aquarium and Gardens had to close or restrict attendance to try to help stop the spread of the virus. Attendance at the zoo dropped 50 percent—50 percent. We had almost no cashflow. Under different leadership, we wouldn't have made it. We wouldn't have made it, but we had a secret weapon. We had Ron Forman, because Ron had the passion, and he had the business sense, and he had the support of the community and the support of government to guide the nonprofit through the pandemic.

Now, for the first time in 50 years, Louisiana is looking for a new leader for the Audubon Nature Institute because Ron is stepping down.

I am sad to see him go. I am happy for him. He is still going to stay on as president emeritus, and we are still going to be able to access his big heart and tap his big brain, but we are going to have a new leader. But thank God Ron is going to stick around for a while to continue his advocacy while we look for a new CEO.

Ron Forman made the Audubon Zoo—he made New Orleans home to one of the country's—one of the world's best zoos. He made New Orleans home to one of the world's best aquariums and best insectariums and best research and development centers and best conservation efforts. He didn't do it alone, but he led us, and that is why

I wanted to rise today. I just wanted to thank Ron. I wanted to thank Ron Forman for his vision. I wanted to thank Ron Forman for his guts. Some of the things Ron did were not always popular. They were right. But it took courage. I want to thank Ron Forman for his dedication. I want to thank Ron Forman for his love of animals, and I want to thank Ron Forman for his love of people. He brought us all together in New Orleans. I just will never forget him for what he did for us.

So, Ron, if you are listening, thank you, my friend, for giving so much to our animal friends. Thank you, Ron Forman, for giving so much to the people of Louisiana and the people of America. Thank you, Ron Forman, for your leadership.

I yield to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

COMMENDING THE PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE MINNESOTA FOR WINNING THE INAUGURAL PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE TITLE ON MAY 29, 2024

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology be discharged of S. Res. 750 and the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 750, S. Res. 789, and S. Res. 790.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged of the relevant resolution, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that 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 resolution (S. Res. 750) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 20, 2024, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolutions (S. Res. 789 and S. Res. 790) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

NOMINATION OF DOROTHY CAMILLE SHEA

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, shortly we are going to be voting on the cloture motion for the confirmation of Dorothy Shea, the nominee for Deputy U.S. Representative to the United Nations.

I come to the floor today as the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. We have recommended to the Senate in a very strong bipartisan vote the support of Dorothy Shea to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

We need a full team in place to fight for the interests of the United States and our allies at the United Nations; to counter adversaries like China and Russia; to work with our allies to respond to conflicts, from Ukraine to Sudan; to ensure that the United States is at the table for conversations on the role of technology and AI; and to stand up against anti-Semitism on the global stage. Yet our mission to the United Nations has been without a Senate-confirmed Deputy for nearly 2 years.

This post is not only crucial to managing the safety and security of U.S. and foreign personnel during U.N. meetings of heads of State in New York in September, the Deputy plays a key role in the policy planning process.

At a time when strong U.S. leadership at the U.N. is so important, we need someone in this post who has experience tackling the complexities of the United Nations General Assembly; someone who will make sure the U.N. is positioned to take on the challenges of the future, including reforms; someone who will multiply our engagement in the Security Council and General Assembly, working alongside Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield; someone who is not afraid to stand up for American values. That is why, as the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I fully support Dorothy Shea's confirmation to this post.

Ambassador Shea has decades of experience working in the Foreign Service, at the State Department, and with the National Security Council. She is a career senior Foreign Service officer who has proudly served both Democratic and Republican administrations for 32 years, including working for colleagues across the aisle on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

While she was our chief diplomat in Lebanon, Ambassador Shea was awarded the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award for sustained extraordinary accomplishment. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated her deep commitment and ability to advance U.S. interests.

At a time of war and escalating humanitarian crises worldwide, we can count on Ambassador Shea to represent U.S. interests at the United Nations. From advancing the peace process in the Middle East and Sudan, to revitalizing the global humanitarian system, to implementing institutional reforms at the United Nations, she will work to find solutions to our global challenges.

I strongly urge support for her nomination. I urge my colleagues to support the cloture on her nomination so that we can get a confirmed Deputy Rep-

resentative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH F. SAPORITO, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Joseph Saporito to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Born in Pittston, PA, Judge Saporito received his B.A. from Villanova University and his J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law. He then entered private practice in Pittston, where he represented clients in a wide variety of matters, including criminal defense, civil litigation, and commercial transactions. He tried more than 60 cases to verdict in which he was either sole counsel or chief counsel. In addition, he served as a part-time assistant public defender in the Luzerne County Office of the Public Defender and as a part-time law clerk in the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas.

Since 2015, Judge Saporito has served as a magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania in Wilkes-Barre. He has served as the chief magistrate judge since February 2024. During his time on the bench, he has handled a wide range of civil and criminal matters at various stages of litigation, and he has presided over 16 civil trials, including 14 jury trials.

Judge Saporito has deep ties to the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He enjoys the strong support of both of his home State Senators, Mr. CASEY and Mr. FETTERMAN, and the American Bar Association unanimously rated him as "well qualified" to serve on the district court.

Judge Saporito's extensive litigation background and his courtroom experience as both an advocate and magistrate judge ensure that he will continue to be an asset to the district court. I am proud to support his nomination, and I ask my colleagues to join me.

VOTE ON SAPORITO NOMINATION

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

Mr. CARDIN. 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. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 227 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—39

Barrasso	Daines	Moran
Blackburn	Ernst	Mullin
Boozman	Fischer	Paul
Braun	Grassley	Ricketts
Britt	Hagerty	Risch
Budd	Hawley	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	Young

NOT VOTING—8

Fetterman	Menendez	Vance
Hoeven	Romney	Warner
Kelly	Scott (SC)	

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). 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. 582, Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Charles E. Schumer, Laphonza R. Butler, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Mazie Hirono, John W. Hickenlooper, Angus S. King, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Chris Van Hollen, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse.

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 Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-