

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 435, Walter Counts.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Walter David Counts III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 nomination of Walter David Counts III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Deb Fischer, John Barasso, John Thune, Roger F. Wicker, James M. Inhofe, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Michael B. Enzi, James Lankford, Lindsey Graham, Pat Roberts, Todd Young.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls be waived and that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session of the Senate ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 8.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, due to family commitments, I missed today's vote. Senate leadership was aware of my absence, which would not impact today's confirmation vote.●

TRIBUTE TO MATT MARTIN

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Matt Martin and congratulate him on his investiture as the U.S. attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Matt earned his law degree and undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, both with the highest honors. Listed as one of North Carolina's "Super Lawyers," Matt has extensive legal experience. Matt was an associate at Covington & Burling here in DC before moving back to Raleigh, NC, where he became partner at Smith Anderson. Most recently, Matt worked as the associate general counsel for Duke Energy.

In addition to a sterling career in private practice, Matt exemplifies what it means to be a community servant. He has served on the board of directors for a number of philanthropic organizations, including the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, Meals on Wheels of Wake County, the Youth Life Foundation of the Triangle, and the Marbles Kids Museum. Additionally, he served as chairman of the Wake County Planning Board in Wake County, NC.

Finally, Matt is actively engaged in leading the next generation of attorneys. As a member of the North Carolina Bar Association's professionalism committee, Matt works on legal education programs and coaches law students and junior attorneys through internship programs and formal and informal mentoring.

It was an honor to join Senator BURR in recommending Matt Martin to President Trump. He is a dedicated professional who has extensive legal knowledge and expertise. In addition, he is widely respected in the legal profession and the North Carolina community at large. I know that Matt will excel in leading the U.S. attorney's office.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING MARY ANN RITTER ARNOLD

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, today I wish to remember the life and service of Mayor Mary Ann Ritter Arnold who served as mayor of Marked Tree, AR, in Poinsett County. Mayor Ritter passed away Thursday, December 21, at the age of 90.

Mary Ann was devoted to the town of Marked Tree and loved it as much as anybody. Her family has been a part of the town from its inception, and she would fondly remark about how she loved "this little ol' town" any chance she got.

Earlier in life, she studied at the University of Missouri, where she graduated in 1948 with a degree in home economics and fashion design. She married her husband, Sidney, and later, they moved back to Mary Ann's hometown of Marked Tree. In 1976, Mary

Ann became president of E. Ritter & Company, one of the most successful family owned businesses in Arkansas.

A trailblazer in many respects, Mary Ann was the first woman elected mayor of Marked Tree when she won the job in 2013. She gave back to the community in so many ways, both through the business she helped lead, as well as through her own personal engagement and involvement with her neighbors and fellow citizens.

Among her many notable accomplishments and activities, she was president of the Arkansas Telephone Association, president of the Arkansas Agricultural Council, was a longtime member and former president of the Marked Tree Rotary Club, served as a justice of the peace, and was on the Poinsett County Quorum Court for 22 years. She also served on the St. Francis Levee Board and with the Crowley's Ridge Girl Scout Council. In 2015, she was inducted into the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame.

A devoted wife and mother, an astute and successful businesswoman, and a dedicated public servant, Mayor Ritter is truly missed and admired. Her legacy lives on through her family and by way of the tremendous impact she had on so many in Marked Tree. I send my condolences to her loved ones and the community and join them in celebrating her remarkable life.●

TRIBUTE TO LINDA CLOUTIER-NAMDAR

• Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, today I would like to recognize and honor a remarkable Vermonter, Linda Cloutier-Namdar, who is the recipient of Vermont's 2018 Teacher of the Year Award.

Linda Cloutier-Namdar has taught ninth grade core at Essex High School since its inception, helping set a supportive tone during the critical transition period into high school. She is also a class adviser, serves on a number of school committees, partakes in school literacy initiatives, and is a member of the districtwide English Language Arts Vertical Team.

Linda's love of teaching extends outside of the classroom as well, through her work with the Flynn Theater for the Performing Arts as a teacher leader, the Essex Westford Education Association, and the Vermont Writing Collaborative.

The 2018 Teacher of the Year Award is a fitting testament to Linda's efforts in and out of the classroom and to her dedication to her students' academic success. She has had an enormously positive impact on countless young people in our State and has earned the respect of her colleagues, students, and community through her unwavering commitment to students' personal and intellectual growth.

I would like to offer Linda Cloutier-Namdar my warmest congratulations on this well-deserved award. Vermont is honored to have Linda represent our

State in the National Teacher of the Year competition.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 22, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON) had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1393. An act to streamline the process by which active duty military, reservists, and veterans receive commercial driver's licenses.

S. 1532. An act to disqualify from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life an individual who uses a commercial motor vehicle in committing a felony involving human trafficking.

S. 1766. An act to reauthorize the SAFER Act of 2013, and for other purposes.

H.R. 267. An act to redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 381. An act to designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as "Sky Point".

H.R. 518. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to exclude power supply circuits, drivers, and devices designed to be connected to, and power, light-emitting diodes or organic light-emitting diodes providing illumination from energy conservation standards for external power supplies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 560. An act to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 699. An act to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon.

H.R. 863. An act to facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 954. An act to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1242. An act to establish the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1306. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1927. An act to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2142. An act to improve the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to interdict fentanyl, other synthetic opioids, and other narcotics and psychoactive substances that are illegally imported into the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2228. An act to provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2331. An act to require a new or updated Federal website that is intended for use by the public to be mobile friendly, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2611. An act to modify the boundary of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4661. An act to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. STRANGE) announced that on December 23, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, he had signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON):

S. 1393. An act to streamline the process by which active duty military, reservists, and veterans receive commercial driver's licenses.

S. 1532. An act to disqualify from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life an individual who uses a commercial motor vehicle in committing a felony involving human trafficking.

S. 1766. An act to reauthorize the SAFER Act of 2013, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 27, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House had passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2273. An act to extend the period during which vessels that are shorter than 79 feet in length and fishing vessels are not required to have a permit for discharges incidental to the normal operation of the vessel.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. COTTON) announced that on December 27, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, he had signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 267. An act to redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 560. An act to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1242. An act to establish the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1306. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1927. An act to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. TILLIS) announced that on December 29, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, he had signed the following enrolled

bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 381. An act to designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as "Sky Point".

H.R. 699. An act to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon.

H.R. 863. An act to facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2142. An act to improve the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to interdict fentanyl, other synthetic opioids, and other narcotics and psychoactive substances that are illegally imported into the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2228. An act to provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2331. An act to require a new or updated Federal website that is intended for use by the public to be mobile friendly, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on January 2, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, he had signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 518. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to exclude power supply circuits, drivers, and devices designed to be connected to, and power, light-emitting diodes or organic light-emitting diodes providing illumination from energy conservation standards for external power supplies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 954. An act to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2611. An act to modify the boundary of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4661. An act to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 3, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK) had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2273. An act to extend the period during which vessels that are shorter than 79 feet in length and fishing vessels are not required to have a permit for discharges incidental to the normal operation of the vessel.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled bill was signed on January 3, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).