

[Rollcall Vote No. 380 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Alexander Ernst Paul
Barrasso Fischer Perdue
Blackburn Gardner Portman
Blunt Graham Reed
Boozman Grassley Risch
Braun Hassan Roberts
Brown Hawley Romney
Burr Hoeven Rubio
Capito Hyde-Smith Sasse
Carper Inhofe Scott (FL)
Casey Isakson Scott (SC)
Cassidy Jones Shelby
Collins Kennedy Sinema
Coons King Sullivan
Cornyn Lankford Thune
Cotton Leahy Tillis
Cramer Lee Toomey
Crapo Manchin Whitehouse
Cruz McConnell Wicker
Daines McSally Young
Durbin Moran
Enzi Murphy

NAYS—29

Baldwin Hirono Schumer
Bennet Kaine Shaheen
Blumenthal Klobuchar Smith
Cantwell Markey Stabenow
Cardin Menendez Tester
Cortez Masto Merkley Udall
Duckworth Murray Van Hollen
Feinstein Peters Warner
Gillibrand Rosen Wyden
Heinrich Schatz

NOT VOTING—7

Booker Murkowski Warren
Harris Rounds
Johnson Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

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

Mr. TILLIS. 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 381 Ex.]

YEAS—89

Alexander Feinstein Portman
Baldwin Fischer Reed
Barrasso Gardner Risch
Bennet Graham Roberts
Blackburn Grassley Romney
Blumenthal Hassan Rosen
Blunt Hawley Rubio
Boozman Heinrich Sasse
Braun Hirono Schatz
Brown Hoeven Schumer
Burr Hyde-Smith Scott (FL)
Cantwell Inhofe Scott (SC)
Capito Isakson Shaheen
Cardin Jones Shelby
Carper Kaine Sinema
Casey Casey Kennedy Smith
Cassidy King Stabenow
Collins Lankford Sullivan
Coons Leahy Tester
Cornyn Lee Thune
Cortez Masto Manchin Tillis
Cotton McConnell Toomey
Cramer McSally Udall
Crapo Menendez Van Hollen
Cruz Moran Warner
Daines Murphy Whitehouse
Durbin Murray Wicker
Enzi Paul Wicker
Perdue Wyden
Peters Young

NAYS—4

Gillibrand Markey
Klobuchar Merkley

NOT VOTING—7

Booker Murkowski Warren
Harris Rounds
Johnson Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David B. Barlow, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

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

Mr. LANKFORD. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 382 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Alexander Feinstein Portman
Baldwin Fischer Reed
Barrasso Gardner Risch
Bennet Graham Roberts
Blackburn Grassley Romney
Blumenthal Hassan Rosen
Blunt Hawley Rubio
Boozman Heinrich Sasse
Braun Hirono Schatz
Brown Hoeven Schumer
Burr Hyde-Smith Scott (FL)
Cantwell Inhofe Scott (SC)
Capito Isakson Shaheen
Cardin Jones Shelby
Carper Kaine Sinema
Casey Casey Kennedy Smith
Cassidy King Stabenow
Collins Lankford Sullivan
Coons Leahy Tester
Cornyn Lee Thune
Cortez Masto Manchin Tillis
Cotton McConnell Toomey
Cramer McSally Udall
Crapo Menendez Van Hollen
Cruz Moran Warner
Daines Murphy Whitehouse
Duckworth Murray Wicker
Durbin Paul Wicker
Enzi Perdue Wyden
Ernst Peters Young

NAYS—4

Gillibrand Markey
Klobuchar Merkley

NOT VOTING—8

Booker Murkowski Tillis
Harris Rounds Warren
Johnson Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. 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.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today having just spent Thanksgiving Day with our troops serving in Afghanistan. It was an incredible honor to join President Trump in a surprise visit to the soldiers stationed at Bagram Air Force Base. We served Thanksgiving dinner to our dedicated servicemembers. Those are the individuals who serve us every day. Our troops were absolutely thrilled to receive the thanks of our grateful Nation directly delivered from the Commander in Chief. They know President Trump has their back.

The photo shows a number of members of the Wyoming National Guard, the 2-300th, the Cowboy Calvary. My

father-in-law, Bob Brown from Thermopolis, WY, was a member of this group when he served in Korea.

It was such a privilege to introduce the President to some of my home State's Wyoming National Guard members. He actually had two of them up on the stage with him. They are doing a tremendous job on behalf of Wyoming's largest deployment overseas right now in about a decade. We told all of our servicemembers how grateful the Nation is for their service and their sacrifice and their dedication.

Meanwhile, here in Washington, the Democrats continue to block the bills that we need to have passed to keep our Nation secure. Incredibly, they are blocking both the Defense authorization and the Defense funding bills. The whole funding of our national defense expires in 2 weeks, but still the Democrats continue to waste time—precious legislative time—on their partisan, obsessive approach to impeachment.

Their holiday season impeachment is hurting the American people, and especially, it is hurting our military. The defense funding measure includes a well-earned and well-deserved pay raise for the troops. The President told the troops about that on Thanksgiving evening after serving dinner and after eating with them. It makes you wonder why on Earth Democrats would block the pay raise right before Christmas. It is amazing. They seem to be blocking all of the things that need to be done for our country to move ahead. The truth is, they are so focused on giftwrapping an impeachment process for the far left that they have left the rest of us in this country out in the cold.

Besides that, they are slow-walking so many of the pro-worker and pro-farmer USMCA trade deals that are so critical for our Nation. It certainly means a lot for the breadbasket of America. It means so much for us in the Rocky Mountain West. They are preventing us from lowering drug costs.

Above all, people expect us to support our troops. One thing after another after another, the Democrats continue to obstruct. The Republicans are fighting to fully fund the military.

Democrats are in the process of waging war against the Commander in Chief. Remember, both parties came to the table, and they completed a bipartisan budget deal this past summer. The Democrats went back on their word. In doing so, they broke faith with the troops and with all Americans. Democrats—they filibuster, they impeach, and they neglect the troops.

Really, they are hurting the American people, not the President. The President is busy doing his job. This week, he attended NATO's 70th anniversary summit and is also meeting with the U.N. Security Council members. U.S. forces, meanwhile, are facing heightened threats with last year's funding levels.

While necessary, the stopgap spending resolution we have right now is

taking a toll on the military, and here is why. The short-term funding means that a \$22 billion cut has occurred from the summer's bipartisan budget deal. It is harming military readiness. It is harming the training of our troops. It has delayed and suspended weapons systems and programs. Now, that hasn't stopped the House Democrats and the Senate Democrats from blocking the full-year defense measures. They continue to obstruct.

Republicans need Democratic support to pass these bills. These need to be bipartisan bills. The National Defense Authorization Act has a long history of strong bipartisan support. Yet House Democrats continue to delay final passage.

Let's not forget, our troops in harm's way are far away from home this holiday season. They are on the frontlines. They are defending our freedoms. They sacrifice 365 days a year. They do it to protect our Nation. U.S. servicemembers never complain and never quit, and Republicans won't quit supporting them.

Democrats remain too obsessed with impeachment to finish important business. The question is, Why are Democrats fast-tracking impeachment and filibustering defense legislation? Their partisan impeachment production is choreographed down to the final curtain call. It is simply a costly, chaotic waste of time. I believe most Americans know it. That is certainly what I hear in Wyoming.

Democrats turn out to be the party of no—no positive ideas, no positive vision, no positive agenda for America. All they want to do is focus on impeachment. Some ran on it, and others didn't. Whether or not they ran on it, that is what they are doing, and they are neglecting the American people and the wishes and desires of American families for jobs; for a strong and healthy economy, a growing economy; for infrastructure, roads and bridges; for all of the things that are important; for lowering the cost of medical care and lowering the cost of drugs. They are ignoring it all, and certainly they are ignoring national security.

It is time for the Democrats to stop stonewalling. It is time to pass the Defense bills. It is time to give our troops the raise they have earned and deserve. Let's send the right message to our troops as well as to our adversaries. It is time to pass these Defense bills now.

#### U.N. CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I also come to the floor today to talk about another issue, and that is that there is a climate conference meeting right now in Europe, the United Nations climate conference. Earlier this week, House Speaker PELOSI and 14 other Democrats traveled to Europe for the conference. To me, they went there to undermine the President and to push their radical Green New Deal.

They told the international group that the United States is committed to

the Paris climate deal. That is just not true. Secretary of State Pompeo said that the Paris climate deal imposed an unfair economic burden on American workers, on American businesses, and on American taxpayers. President Trump began formally withdrawing from the Paris climate deal last month.

It may appeal to Democrats' liberal elite to talk about climate in Europe. Republicans, however, are going to stay focused on the work ahead of us at home. We have a packed year-end agenda here in Congress. Americans expect us to continue the progress we have made on jobs and on the economy—incredible success. This means passing better trade deals, funding the government, improving our roads—the things we were elected to do. The Speaker is nowhere to be found—certainly not on this continent. Rather than pass American priorities, the Speaker is sidelined in Spain.

Republican pro-growth policies have led to a worker boom. Wages are up, and unemployment is down. Wages are up to a 50-year high. Unemployment is down to a 50-year low. I mean, think about that. As a result of Republican tax cuts and regulatory relief and unleashing the American energy, right now, today, we have the lowest African-American unemployment in history. People have more take-home pay, more money in their pockets, and costs are lower because of the regulatory relief. And we have seen this with shopping over the Thanksgiving weekend in terms of people feeling that confidence in the economy and in their futures.

Democrats' message is more regulation and higher costs, which lead to fewer jobs. It is not going to work at home, and it is certainly not going to work in Wyoming. Maybe they think it will work in Europe.

But just to clear up any confusion, President Trump has gotten us out of the Paris Agreement. Republicans' pro-growth agenda has us producing and exporting more energy at home, and we are seeing millions of new jobs.

Republicans are going to stay clear-eyed and focused on the economy. We are going to continue to deliver real results, tangible results, results that people can understand and see and hold on to. We need to do that for the people who elected us, and we will continue to do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

#### CHINA

Mr. KING. Madam President, there is a wonderful guy who lives in Maine named David Mallett. He has a keen ear and an eye for the rural parts of our country, and one of his most famous songs starts out like this: "Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow. All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground."

The problem is, what we have now is rakes, hoes, a piece of fertile ground,