

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 4830 to the instructions of the motion to refer H.R. 2965.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

“and that the study should focus attention on the dependent’s children”.

Mr. REID. 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 yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4831 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4830

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment to my instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 4831 to amendment No. 4830.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

“include any data which might impact local communities”.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorums required under rule XXII be waived with respect to the cloture motions filed.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that we proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

I would say, Mr. President, that we have made contact with the Republicans, and they tonight do not wish to have more debate on the START treaty. So that is why we are moving to morning business. People can talk about whatever they want for the rest of the evening. Tomorrow, I am going to move back to executive session to do the START treaty. I hope we can make progress on that tomorrow.

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

THANKING OUR SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the members of America’s Armed Forces who are deployed during this Christmas season. The sacrifices of our military and those of their families are always great, but especially so during wartime and the holidays. As most Americans celebrate this time of joy and good cheer it is important that we take a moment to honor and remember the brave men and women in uniform who are defending our well being overseas and to thank their families as well.

Kentucky’s military installations have been in the thick of the fight in the war on terror. The 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, for exam-

ple, is once again overseas. The unit is fully deployed and is executing a critical mission in Afghanistan.

The Army’s 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division is currently deploying from Fort Knox to Afghanistan. The Duke Brigade, as it is known, is the first unit of its kind at Fort Knox since the 1990s.

And the Kentucky National Guard continues to deploy to theater. Just last week, members of the 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron left for Southwest Asia.

I am profoundly grateful for the sacrifice of our servicemembers and military families. And, as a Kentuckian, I swell with pride at the contributions made by units from the Commonwealth’s military installations and by Kentucky servicemembers. During this holiday season our prayers are with them.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BELSKI

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Louisville, Kentucky’s, longtime meteorologist John Belski, whom a large swath of Kentuckians have relied on for accurate weather forecasts for over 23 years. After a long and successful career, John has retired. This September 8 he presented his final weather broadcast.

John began at WAVE-3 TV in Louisville in July 1987 and has been welcomed into Kentuckians’ homes ever since. A typical morning for residents of the greater Louisville area began by tuning in to John for important details about the day’s forecast.

Before joining WAVE-3, John worked in Louisville at WLKY-TV and also at stations in St. Louis and Columbia, MO. John’s professionalism has earned him several awards, including 15 different Best of Louisville Magazine honors, the Best of Kentucky award by Kentucky Monthly magazine and the LEO Readers’ Choice Award, just to name a few.

John was at the center of the hard-hitting winter storm in 1994, when Kentucky was blanketed with a record snowfall of more than 15 inches. In August 2009 he stood watch when a massive rainstorm produced large hail and flash flooding that caused major damage to some of Kentucky’s most well known attractions, including Churchill Downs. And who could forget this time last year, when one of the most severe ice storms in Kentucky’s history crippled the area, leaving 760,000 residents without power and causing 36 deaths across the State. Throughout it all, John’s was a calm and steady voice, providing viewers with critical information.

Now that he has retired, I hope John will have more time to spend with his wife Lynn and his two daughters. John is not just known for his abilities as a meteorologist in Louisville. Whether it be partaking in one of the many county fairs or being present at the Kentucky Derby, John was always there,

reporting. He is going to be missed enormously, and I would ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him on behalf of all Kentuckians for his service.

Mr. President, WAVE-3 TV recently published a story on the retirement of their friend, John Belski, and I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From WAVE3.com, Aug. 18, 2010]

METEOROLOGIST JOHN BELSKI RETIRES FROM WAVE 3 TV

LOUISVILLE, KY (WAVE).—WAVE 3 Meteorologist John Belski will retire from WAVE 3 TV on September 8, 2010, it was announced by Regional Vice-President & General Manager Steve Langford.

“Retirement for a deserving friend should always be looked upon with happiness,” said Langford. “While I regret to see John leave the airwaves, I respect his decision and wish him and his family much happiness.”

“This is an opportunity for me to explore some new possibilities outside of the TV business,” Belski said. “After all these years at WAVE 3 it’s time for Kevin Harned to take the reins and lead the weather team.”

Kevin Harned and John Belski first met when Kevin was in high school. Harned wrote to Belski asking him to speak to his 4-H Club in Nelson County. That meeting left an indelible mark on Harned who persistently pursued his new career goal to become a television meteorologist. “John has been a great mentor and a great friend,” said Harned. “We’ve covered a lot of severe weather together and hopefully have helped to keep our community safe from harm.”

John Belski first joined the WAVE 3 weather team in July 1987. Prior to that, he worked at WLKY-TV in Louisville and also at stations in St. Louis and Columbia, Missouri. In addition to his television forecasts John makes multiple daily postings to his blog, Twitter and Face book sites. Over the years John has been on the air on 18 different radio stations and currently on 84 WHAS-AM and WMPI 105.3 FM. His weather book “Backyard Weather Folklore” sold thousands of copies.

“For the past 23 years John Belski has been the calming voice in the storm while protecting our viewers during severe weather,” said Langford. “His folksy, friendly style of forecasting has made him a favorite in our community.”

John Belski has received numerous awards from community organizations and publications including 15 different Best of Louisville Magazine honors, the Best of Kentucky by Kentucky Monthly magazine and the LEO’s Readers’ Choice Award. He has anchored Emmy Award winning coverage of severe weather and received the Special Service Award from the National Weather Service and the Mark Trail Award for public awareness of NOAA weather radios.

John Belski will present his last weather broadcast during WAVE 3 News at 6:00 p.m. on September 8, 2010.

WAVE-TV is owned by Raycom Media, Inc., an employee-owned company which is now one of the nation’s largest broadcasters. Currently the company owns and/or operates 42 television stations in 18 states. Raycom Media stations cover more than 10.6 percent of the U.S. television households and employ 3,500 individuals in full- and part-time positions. Through Raycom Sports, the company owns and operates the Continental Tire Bowl in Charlotte and two LPGA golf tournaments, as well as produces pre-season NFL football games for non-owned stations.