

United States trading partner and has the 11th largest economy in the world. The Chamber of Commerce in Korea expects that demand for travel to the United States by Koreans may increase. This should be encouraged, rather than discouraged, especially when other countries are offering Korean travelers visa-free travel.

I encourage my colleagues to look into the merits of this legislation and support its ultimate passage.●

COMMANDER JOHN J. JASKOT

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself and Senator BREAUX to say thank you to a dedicated public servant whose career serves to remind us that it is honest hard work and devotion to duty that makes this Government work.

Comdr. John J. Jaskot, United States Coast Guard, has served on Capitol Hill since 1992, first as a Coast Guard Congressional Fellow to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and most recently as the Coast Guard's Liaison Officer to the U.S. Senate. During his tenure on Capitol Hill, Commander Jaskot has proven his unquestionable integrity and steadfast loyalty while demonstrating the tireless commitment to putting forth the effort required to make a difference.

Mr. President, Senator BREAUX and I, and our staffs, have worked extensively with Commander Jaskot in achieving our shared objectives. In cases where those objectives were not mutually shared, it has been Commander Jaskot who has helped bridge the gap between the Senate and the Coast Guard. His untiring work ethic and creativity have helped find solutions to some challenging problems which would otherwise have tarnished the already embattled reputation of the Federal Government.

On issues specific to Louisiana, Commander Jaskot has ensured that a proper dialog has been maintained on tough issues such as the enforcement of the use of the contentious Turtle Excluder Devices [TEDs] by the Gulf Coast shrimp fleet, the placement of aides to navigation on the newly opened Red River Waterway, and the replacement of the dangerous Florida Avenue Bridge. He has made similar efforts on issues of national and international scope such as the implementation of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the Haitian and Cuban refugee crises, and maintaining funding to help keep our waterways operating safely.

More importantly, Mr. President, through his hard work, ingenuity, integrity, and genuine good nature, Commander Jaskot has proven that it is people who really make the difference between a government that works for its people and one that fails. We can all learn from his example, that on local, as well as national issues, an individual can make a difference. Commander Jaskot certainly has.

Commander Jaskot is retiring after 20 years of highly decorated public service in the United States Coast

Guard. Senator BREAUX and I thank him for his dedication to our country and wish he and his family "fair winds and following seas" in their future endeavors.

SYCAMORES HAVE BEEN FELLED; WE WILL GROW CEDARS INSTEAD

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, the Members of the Senate are familiar with Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz's historic contribution both to the field of Jewish scholarship and to the resurgence of Jewish life in the former Soviet Union. In 1989, Rabbi Steinsaltz founded the Judaic Studies Center and synagogue in the Kunseva section of Moscow, the first such new school in the Soviet Union since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. I am privileged to serve on the center's board of advisors and to have hosted Rabbi Steinsaltz on his all-too-infrequent trips to Washington, DC.

It is my unpleasant duty to share with the Senate the disturbing news that a fire of undetermined nature broke out last Friday night, July 12, in Rabbi Steinsaltz's Judaic Studies Center. All 50 students and worshipers in the building at the time were safely evacuated. Except for the Torah scrolls which were saved from the raging flames, the entire building was destroyed, including thousands of books and other equipment.

The center had been a focal point of Russian Jewish life since its establishment. It was the key spiritual center for thousands and the first Jewish institution of learning officially permitted to function during the Glasnost period. During its years of operation, more than 1,000 Russian Jews were enrolled in intensive Judaic studies courses and many thousands more attended seminars and workshops. On Jewish holidays hundreds of Jews flocked there for communal celebrations.

When the fire broke out, the center was hosting a seminar for Jewish communal workers from cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Cities such as Chellabinsk, Siberia, Berdichev, Ukraine, and Vitebsk, Belarus, had sent one representative each for an intensive 3-month course in Jewish and communal service studies. Graduates of this program are expected to return to their native cities—far from the major Jewish centers—and apply what they have learned.

Rabbi Steinsaltz, who is best known for his monumental modern commentary on the Talmud, was recently given the title of Duchovny Ravin—an historic title connoting the spiritual leader of Russian Jewry.

In Jerusalem, Rabbi Steinsaltz responded to the news by quoting Isaiah 9:9. "Bricks have fallen—we will rebuild with dressed stone. Sycamores have been felled—we will grow cedars instead."

I know I speak for the entire Senate and for all Americans who cherish reli-

gious freedom and scholarship when I add my words of consolation and encouragement to Rabbi Steinsaltz on this occasion.●

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK—S. 1965

Mr. STEVENS. On behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1965, introduced earlier today by Senator HATCH, be held at the desk and printed in the RECORD.

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

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be immediately discharged from further consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 64 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 64) to recognize and honor the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to the concurrent resolution appear in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 64) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 64

Whereas the Commonwealth of the Philippines was strategically located and thus vital to the defense of the United States during World War II;

Whereas the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines were called into the United States Armed Forces during World War II by Executive order and were put under the command of General Douglas MacArthur;

Whereas the participation of the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines in the battles of Bataan and Corregidor and in other smaller skirmishes delayed and disrupted the initial Japanese effort to conquer the Western Pacific;

Whereas that delay and disruption allowed the United States the vital time to prepare the forces which were needed to drive the Japanese from the Western Pacific and to defeat Japan;

Whereas after the recovery of the Philippine Islands from Japan, the United States

was able to use the strategically located Commonwealth of the Philippines as a base from which to launch the final efforts to defeat Japan;

Whereas every American deserves to know the important contribution that the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines made to the outcome of World War II; and

Whereas the Filipino World War II veterans deserve recognition and honor for their important contribution to the outcome of World War II: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the President should issue a proclamation which recognizes and honors the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: No. 575 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk.

I ask further unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

Mr. STEVENS. Reserving the right to object, I might add this confirms the nomination of Charles Clevert, Jr., of Wisconsin, and the nominations placed on the Secretary's desk are in the Public Health Service area.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

THE JUDICIARY

Charles N. Clevert, Jr., of Wisconsin, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin vice Terence T. Evans, elevated.

IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Service nominations beginning Michael M. Gottesman, and ending Willard E. Dause, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of May 1, 1996.

Public Health Service nominations beginning John M. Balintona, and ending Kimberly S. Stolz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of June 10, 1996.

NOMINATION OF CHARLES N. CLEVERT, JR., TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to lend my strong support to the nomination of Charles N. Clevert to be United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

I am pleased that the full Senate has joined with me, Senator KOHL and my colleagues on Judiciary Committee in recognizing Charles Clevert's qualifications for the Federal bench. I attended Judge Clevert's confirmation hearing before the Judiciary Committee and the fact that he will be a worthy jurist was clearly evident at that time. His is

a career of dedicated and unwavering service, not only to the legal community, but to the people of Wisconsin as well.

Throughout his legal career, Charles Clevert has worked on behalf of the people of Wisconsin in a number of important ways. He has served as a prosecutor both in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office as well as in the United States Attorney's Office. His career has taken him to courtrooms in both Federal and State courts throughout Wisconsin and he has practiced in both the criminal and civil arenas. For the past nineteen years he has been a United States Bankruptcy Judge. In 1986, Judge Clevert became the Chief Bankruptcy Judge for Wisconsin's Eastern District. Clearly Mr. President, these experiences will serve him well on the Federal bench.

However Mr. President, these accomplishments do not fully recognize the contribution of Charles Clevert to his profession and his community. In addition to being active in various Wisconsin Bar Associations and lecturing at the University of Wisconsin Law School, Judge Clevert has been active in working with young people in my state of Wisconsin for over 20 years.

Judge Clevert takes the time to meet and talk with school children in and around Milwaukee about the importance of education and the role of the courts in our society. He stresses the need to emphasize education, not drugs and alcohol. His simple message of hard work and respect for the law is a positive and important one for the young people of Wisconsin. I was pleased to hear Judge Clevert indicate that it is his intention to continue his activities throughout Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin following his confirmation to the federal bench.

Mr. President, Charles Clevert's nomination was recommended to President Clinton by a nominating committee that my colleague, Senator KOHL and I have established to help ensure that the citizens of our State receive quality judicial representation. I am pleased that the full Senate has joined with that advisory committee, the President and the Judiciary Committee in recognizing Charles Clevert's qualifications and confirming his nomination to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. I want to wish Judge Clevert, and his family, well in this new and important phase of his career. Although the responsibility that awaits him is great, it is a responsibility that Charles Clevert will no doubt handle with the competence and professionalism that has to date marked his distinguished career.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, Charles Clevert has accomplished a number of "firsts" in his life. He was the first member of his family to go to college. He was the first African-American assistant U.S. Attorney in Wisconsin. When he was appointed in 1977, he was the youngest bankruptcy judge in the country.

Today, as he is confirmed by the Senate, he becomes the first African-

American Federal district court judge in Wisconsin history. In my opinion, it is critical that our Federal judiciary try to reflect the diversity that is America. But while we are gratified that Judge Clevert will add diversity to our Federal bench, he was nominated for one simple reason: he was the most qualified.

Let me tell you why President Clinton could not have made a better choice to fill the vacancy created when Terry Evans—himself an outstanding judge—was elevated to the Seventh Circuit.

First, Charles Clevert is a jurist of extraordinary intelligence and unquestioned skill. Practicing lawyers consistently rank him among the finest judges in Wisconsin. Attorneys who appear before Judge Clevert repeatedly praise him for his integrity, fairness and demeanor. He received similar high marks from members of the non-partisan nominating commission—which Senator FEINGOLD and I established with the State bar—who made Judge Clevert one of the finalists for the Eastern District vacancy. The ABA gave him a "well-qualified" rating, the highest grade possible for any nominee.

And don't take my word for it, ask the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel: it called Judge Clevert's selection a "wise choice" and a "milestone."

Second, Judge Clevert is a person of extraordinary achievement and generosity. He grew up working class in Richmond, where he attended a segregated high school. He went to a small college in West Virginia, and then graduated from Georgetown Law School. He has spent more than 20 years in Wisconsin as a prosecutor and a bankruptcy judge—he is now the Chief Bankruptcy Judge of the Eastern District. Judge Clevert's reputation is exceptional even among his colleagues: several years ago they honored him by appointing him President of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

Let me also mention that Judge Clevert and his wife Leslie have two lovely children, Chip and Melanie, both of whom are in high school. What little free time Judge Clevert has away from his job and his family he spends working with his church and with charities. For example, he sits on the board of the Anvil Housing Corporation, which provides subsidized housing for senior and handicapped citizens. And he is involved with a group called Men of Tomorrow, an organization that mentors young men between the ages of 11 and 18.

Mr. President, no one can read the story of Judge Clevert's life and not be impressed. It is eloquent testimony to our country's ability to create opportunity for all from a social compact some claim was written for a few.

From any perspective—prosecutor or defense lawyer, corporate litigator or consumer advocate, debtor or creditor—Charles N. Clevert is already a