

Camie is a remarkable person and athlete whose warmth and dedication to the sport of water-skiing has endeared her to the Charleston community. She serves as a powerful example to persons with disabilities of what they can achieve in the realm of competition. South Carolina is lucky to have Camie Ogren and her limitless energy in advancing her sport and its athletes.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BERNT BALCHEN

● Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, Col. Bernt Balchen, A Norwegian-born pilot, became one of America's great Arctic experts of the 20th Century. A patriotic American, he was also a great friend of the State of Alaska.

Born in Norway on October 23, 1899, Colonel Balchen served in the French Foreign Legion, and both the Finnish and Norwegian Armies in World War I; and became a pilot in the Norwegian Naval Air Corps in 1921.

Throughout the 1920's and 1930's Colonel Balchen participated in numerous trans-Atlantic and Arctic expeditions. During 1928-1930, Balchen was chief pilot on Admiral Byrd's Atlantic expedition and on November 29, 1929, he piloted the first airplane, a Ford trimotor "Floyd Bennett" across the South Pole. Congress conferred United States citizenship of Colonel Balchen in 1931.

When World War II started in 1939, Colonel Balchen began ferrying airplanes to England and Singapore for the British. In 1941, he joined the United States Army Air Corps at the request of General "Hap" Arnold, and was assigned to Greenland to Supervise the Construction of, and later command, our famous airbase known as "Blue West 8". His command is credited with numerous rescue missions saving many pilots whose planes had gone down on the icecap.

In 1943, Balchen became chief of allied transportation command for Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and the Soviet Union, operating out of a secret base in Scotland. During that period, his command regularly flew across enemy-occupied territory to rescue downed allied airmen and insert commandos and intelligence agents behind enemy lines. He also led highly secret missions into Norway to resupply underground resistance forces for their operations against the German army of occupation.

After the war, Balchen was recalled to active duty with the United States Air Force in 1948 and assigned to command the 10th rescue squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. The techniques of Arctic Rescue that Colonel Balchen developed during this assignment continue to save the lives of civilian and military personnel to this day. In May 1949, he flew a Douglas C-54 from Fairbanks, Alaska over the North Pole to Oslo, Sweden, becoming the first pilot to fly over both Poles.

Colonel Balchen was transferred to headquarters, United States Air Force in 1951 to participate in developing the Ballistic missile early warning system (BMEWS). Also, he was instrumental in the establishment of Thule Air Force base in Greenland and blazed airborne trails to assist both commercial and military aviation in the Arctic region. After retiring from the Air Force in 1956, Balchen continued to serve on special assignment and as a consultant to the military.

Col. Bernt Balchen died on October 23, 1973, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His lifetime achievements influenced the course of Aviation, arctic, and military history. His legacy to this country and to my State of Alaska is a strong northern defense, an established transpolar aviation system, a better understanding of the world's polar regions, and, of course, the lives of those rescued by Colonel Balchen and the men and women who continue his work with the United States Air Force Rescue Service.●

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 73, the continuing resolution, which is at the desk. I further ask consent the joint resolution be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 73) was read the third time and passed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar:

No. 98, Cheryl Shavers, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology; No. 99, Kelly Carnes, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy; No. 133, Lawrence Harrington, to serve on the Inter-American Development Bank; Nos. 244, 245, and 246, three Mississippi River Commissioners; No. 253, Thomas Leary, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner; No. 254, Stephen Van Beek, to be Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation; No. 255, Michael Frazier, for the position of Assistant Secretary of Transportation; No. 256, Gregory Rohde, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications; No. 270, Florence-Marie Cooper, to be a U.S. district judge in the Central District of California; No. 274, Barbara Lynn, to be a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Texas; No. 277, Gerald Poje, to serve on the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board; No. 278, Skila Harris, to be on the TVA

Board of Directors; No. 279, Glenn McCullough, to be on the TVA Board of Directors; No. 238, Dorian Vanessa Weaver, for the Export-Import Bank; and No. 239, Dan Renberg, to be on the Export-Import Bank; and then Nos. 281 through 290, ten sentencing commissioners; and No. 293, Paul Seave, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRAHAM. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM. I have a question of the leader. Will the majority leader agree to delete No. 279 from the list of nominations?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I inquire of the Senator, is that Glenn McCullough of Mississippi, my home State, to be a member of the Tennessee Valley Authority board of directors?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes.

Mr. LOTT. No, I will not agree to that. I should point out there are some 27 nominations—25 nominations plus 2 more on which I was going to ask for agreement on a time limit and a vote, the nomination of Linda Morgan to be a member of the Surface Transportation Board—her nomination has been held up quite sometime, but I have agreement now to proceed to a recorded vote on that one, and also No. 271, the nomination of Ronald Gould of Washington to be a U.S. judge for the Ninth Circuit. We need to request 1 hour of debate and a recorded vote. There are a total of 27 nominations here, including 2 that will have to have a recorded vote. It is a package. They all go or none go.

Mr. GRAHAM. In light of that, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I can be heard briefly on that. I want to emphasize this is a very large package of 27 nominations. Most of them are people who are supported by Democrats, I guess 23, 24, 25 of those. There are two or three that are Republican positions. One of them is for the Tennessee Valley Authority, which I presume is being objected to for an unrelated reason because, clearly, there is no problem with this nominee.

I will be back early next week with additional nominations that will run this package up to, I presume, between 34 and 40 nominations. All I can do is get them cleared and then offer them to the Democrats. If they object, then that is their problem.

I should also note that included in this group was not one, not two, but three judges, two of them women. One of the women is from California and one of them is from Texas. So for one 6-year appointment—I believe it is a 6-year term—to the Tennessee Valley Authority where there is a need for these two directors, they are willing to hold up 27 nominations, including two

women nominated to U.S. district courts.

That is not real smart. I do not quite understand it, and I hope the leadership and the President will speak to those who object in this way because I have heard all kinds of rhetoric today about how it is difficult if you are a woman or minority to get your nomination approved. In fact, I believe the record will show over the last 3 years this Congress and the previous Congress has confirmed a higher percentage of women and minorities than any Congress in history.

I do note it is pretty hard to go back and look at all the nominations and determine exactly how many minorities were approved because there is no record. We do not check whether you are a minority—African American or Hispanic or Asian. You are a person. All we can tell by your name is if you are a man or woman. Based on just the gender statistic, in fact, since I have been majority leader, I believe the record will show we have approved a lot more women than George Mitchell did when he was majority leader.

These accusations that were made today ring hollow. I hate to see the Senate stoop to that level. I met with White House officials today and told them we were going to try to clear these 27 nominations, and we will keep trying to move them all. I do not think it is reasonable to try to hold up one 6-year-term nominee to try to get two lifetime nominees to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, a circuit that already has too many activist judges in it, a circuit that is the most liberal in this country, a circuit that is overruled more than any other circuit in the country by the Supreme Court, a circuit basically that is out of control. The nominees for these two positions have given rise to a great deal of controversy, to serious questions about whether they would be activists on the court, and to grave concerns about their records.

I understand the objection, and hopefully we can clear it up early tomorrow or next week. I yield the floor.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

IN HONOR OF JOHN CHAFEE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I was in New York on Monday to hold a hearing of the Y2K Committee when Senator MOYNIHAN, a member of that committee, joined me. I greeted him with the normal good humor that we greet one of our colleagues, but he did not respond in good humor. Instead, he said to me: I have very sad news. I was a little surprised at that and asked him what was so significant as to cause him to be so downcast. He said: John Chafee died. That was very sad news, indeed.

I was stunned, along with my colleague from New York, and had to reflect on how recently I had seen John

Chafee, spoken with him, found him in good spirits, if not in good health. Indeed, I thought he was in good health.

On Friday of last week, I was addressing a group of students from the State of Utah answering their questions about the Senate and Senate procedure and Senate life and was interested when I got a question that I often get from people outside of the political arena. It was: Tell us about life as a Senator. And specifically this question was: Tell us about the Senators. Then the questioner said: Tell us who your friends are.

That is always an interesting question. You want to be careful about the answer because you do not want to offend anyone by leaving them out. But I said to that group on Friday: I have many friends in the Senate, but one of my closest friends is John Chafee.

I put those two incidents over the weekend together. On Friday, I am citing the name of John Chafee as one of my closest friends, and on Monday, one of my other friends in this body tells me of John's passing.

I have waited until now to take the floor to pay tribute to John Chafee, partly because of the press of business and partly because I was afraid I could not keep my composure. Those who know me well know my emotions sometimes run very close to the surface. I get dewy-eyed at the dedication of a parking lot. For that reason, an occasion such as this one can be a difficult one. At the same time, however, I want to look at the death of John Chafee from a slightly different perspective.

We mourn his passing. We become emotional at the thought of his loss. But we should recognize in many ways this is a time for rejoicing.

I have had the experience, along with many others, of dealing with aging parents. My father was 95, my mother 96, when they passed away—neither one of them in good health.

My mother dealt with an aging parent in her lifetime, a father who had a stroke and then lingered for a number of years thereafter. Mother used to say to us: If I'm killed in an automobile accident, rejoice. I don't look forward to going through old age.

When people retire, very often they go downhill rapidly. John showed no signs of that, but his health was failing. He had been in the hospital for a back problem. He was not an old man by my standards. Seventy-seven seems increasingly younger as I get closer to it myself. But I think of the possibility of John Chafee running downhill in old age. I think we might rejoice that he was spared that.

John Chafee left at the top of his game, at the top of his form. He was a Senator's Senator. He was involved in everything. We did not vote together very often, but when we did, he was always grateful; and when we did not, he was always understanding. I never had an occasion where John Chafee was disapproving.

We stood together on one issue where we were two of four Republicans—one of the occasions where we crossed the line; John did that more often than I—to join with a group of Democrats. That was the flag amendment. John and I both had great reverence for the flag of the United States, but we felt our reverence for the Constitution outweighed that and that the Constitution should not be amended to deal with a nonexistent problem because flag burning is no longer going on in the United States, except by those who want to goad us into attempting to amend the Constitution. At least that is the way I saw it and that is the way John saw it. He was always friendly and supportive when we had those kinds of problems.

The thing I will remember the most about John Chafee, as a Senator's Senator, was the way he would go after problems and not people, the way he would tackle challenges and not the challengers, the way he would maintain a constant good humor, even in the face of difficulties within his own party or difficulties from across the aisle.

It is a time for rejoicing, rejoicing because we had the privilege of dealing with this man, right up to the end of his life, and then seeing him spared the long good-bye that we are seeing in others—Ronald Reagan, for example. I think if John Chafee were given the choice, he would take the choice the Good Lord has given him rather than lingering on in some crippled fashion. He had a weak heart, weaker than any of us knew. The possibility of that kind of situation was perhaps there, but I am following the advice of my mother, who, looking at the possibility of an old age, said: If I'm taken suddenly, don't mourn. Rejoice.

There is very little I think we can add to the accomplishments of John Chafee's life. We can rejoice that we knew him, served with him, and we were with him right up to the moment where he left, as I say, at the top of his game.

I extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to his family. I have met both his wife and his son. I know what fine people they are. I know how desperately they feel this loss.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1999

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Friday, October 29. I further ask consent that on Friday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin 30 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders on H.R. 434, the African trade bill. I further ask consent that the cloture vote occur at 10 a.m. on Friday.