

WAYNE ALLARD

Senator ALLARD had a long career in public service before coming to the Senate. He managed to serve the State of Colorado while never giving up his credentials as an expert veterinarian in that State, reaffirming the long-held belief that he and all of us have had that a legislative body should be composed of individuals with training other than that which they acquire here in the Halls of Congress. His straightforward approach has been a hallmark of his work here.

Living a principle that he espouses, he is fulfilling his often-stated intention to limit himself to two terms. He and his wife Joan will certainly be missed here in the Senate.

CHUCK HAGEL

CHUCK HAGEL of Nebraska forged a very successful career in business and broadcasting, civic organizations and government, but first he served our country as a sergeant in Vietnam. It was an honor to work with him on the Vietnam Memorial visitors center legislation. He has championed that cause, knowing firsthand how much it means to have lived through the experience of that war. He has a wide knowledge of the world, and he has informed his thoughtful and well-considered positions on foreign policy and arms control and national security issues with that knowledge.

He can always be counted on for a straightforward approach and an honest statement of his views.

LARRY CRAIG

My longtime colleague on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator CRAIG, has been a valuable voice for Idaho for decades. He served in his State's legislature for 6 years before coming to the House of Representatives 28 years ago, where he served for 10 years.

In 1990, he was elected to the Senate. We worked very closely on issues important to energy and natural resources throughout the West. He has been a leader in many national policy areas, including aging and opening trade to Cuba.

I have appreciated his contributions, particularly in our Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where his opinions have always been clearly expressed and his best efforts are made to represent his State and the Nation.

JOHN WARNER

With the exception of Harry Byrd, JOHN WARNER has represented Virginia in the Senate longer than any other Senator in its history. He has done so with great enthusiasm, skill, hard work, and style. To many people, JOHN WARNER embodies what a Senator should be. He knows the world, he knows this country, and he knows, of course, his beloved State. He is an outstanding citizen of each of those.

He is a patriot in the old-fashioned and in the deep-hearted sense of that word. He has demonstrated his love of country through years of service both

in uniform and out of uniform. The miles he has traveled to all corners of the world to see our forces in action and the hours—innumerable hours—he spent hearing committee testimony, he has absorbed. That has equipped him to really be an expert in this body on military issues. His leadership will be missed on those issues and other issues as well here.

PETE DOMENICI

The most senior Senator retiring this year, of course, is my colleague and friend Senator PETE DOMENICI. He is not only the most senior Senator retiring this year from the Senate, he is also the most senior Senator New Mexico has ever had. When PETE leaves the Senate this year, it will be after 36 years of unstinting work doing his best for his country and for our State of New Mexico.

He will be the first to say that his success and longevity here could not have been possible without two important elements: his family and his staff. The love and support of his wife Nancy have been invaluable. Also, from the first, he has had a fine staff. It was true when he came to Washington and it is certainly true today, here and in New Mexico. They are skilled individuals who make it their business to be helpful to the people of our State.

Senator DOMENICI's contributions are well known to all of us. His work on the Budget Committee and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Appropriations Committee over the years has made a lasting impact on national policy. As a member of the Budget Committee, from the day he was sworn in, he was either the chairman or ranking member of that committee for 12 years of his 36 years on the committee.

One of the things in which he takes great pride is helping to get us to a balanced Federal budget twice. We can all appreciate how difficult that kind of undertaking is.

Senator DOMENICI and I, of course, served on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee together. The Senate Historian has told us that as far as his office can tell, it is the only instance in the history of the Senate where Senators from the same State served as chairman and ranking member of the same committee at the same time. Obviously, I will miss that arrangement.

New Mexicans, including me, have great affection and respect for PETE DOMENICI. "People for Pete" is the motto PETE has used in each of his campaigns for many years. It is not just a famous campaign phrase in our State—although it is seen on bumper stickers all over our State whenever a campaign is underway involving PETE—but it is a bit of a twist on what his career has been all about; that is: PETE for the people of New Mexico. That has been his commitment. He has carried through in great form.

We will miss his service to the State of New Mexico here in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

SENATE JUDICIAL CONFIRMATIONS IN COLORADO

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee for working with Senator SALAZAR and myself in getting two individuals finally confirmed by the Senate; that is, Phillip Brimmer and Christine Arguello to the District Court of Colorado. I know it was not an easy task that the chairman of the Judiciary Committee had before him. I know he had to buck some of the persistent rules of his committee, he had to buck a very tight timeline at the end and had to deal with some misunderstandings that further delayed their confirmation.

I respect him highly for his good work as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. I respect him for the fact that he was able to keep his commitment to both myself and Senator SALAZAR on these two individuals. Senator SALAZAR and I worked hard to work out an agreement where we could fill at least two of the vacancies of the three existing vacancies on the District Court of Colorado.

I also compliment my good friend and colleague Senator SALAZAR for being willing to work with me to meet the needs of this district court. When you have three vacancies on a district court, they are reaching the status of what we call emergency status. That means there is considerable more workload there because of the vacancies, and as a result of that it begins to impede their ability to deal with the cases that might come before that district court.

I also state for the record that this is a court that deals with a very heavy workload and probably should have an additional seat on the bench there in this district court because of the heavy workload we have in the Colorado District Court.

PHILIP BRIMMER

I would like to take a moment to talk about the two fine individuals on whom Senator SALAZAR and I ended up agreeing—first of all, in regard to Mr. Brimmer.

Mr. Brimmer is an outstanding lawyer. He is a graduate of Harvard and Yale Law School, institutions that provided him with tremendous analytical tools and an arsenal of knowledge which have served him well in his career.

Upon graduation from law school, Mr. Brimmer spent 2 years clerking for the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Thereafter, he joined a Denver law firm, where he spent 7 years in private practice before making a decision to devote his career to public service. This decision led Mr. Brimmer to the Denver District Attorney's Office, serving first as a deputy district

attorney and later promoted to chief deputy district attorney.

Former District Attorney and current Governor of Colorado Bill Ritter wrote, "throughout Mr. Brimmer's service at the Denver District Attorney's Office, he upheld the highest standards of integrity, fairness, honesty, hard work—and a dedication to public service." Governor Ritter felt he could trust Phil Brimmer with the most challenging cases that came through the office; Phil Brimmer did not disappoint.

Current Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey recently wrote of his former colleague in a similar fashion. "[Phil Brimmer] never failed to impress me both with his work ethic and his knowledge of the law . . . He was one of our most valued attorneys." The sentiments of Governor Ritter and District Attorney Morrissey are reflected in numerous other letters sent to my office from people who worked with Mr. Brimmer throughout the years.

Similar to his experience as deputy district attorney, Mr. Brimmer has been exceptionally successful as Federal prosecutor. Almost 7 years ago, he joined the U.S. Attorney's Office as an assistant U.S. attorney and has worked on an assortment of criminal cases as chief of the major crimes section and now as chief of special prosecutions section.

As chief of special prosecutions in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Brimmer handled very challenging and procedurally complex case, dealing with an assortment of crimes, including child exploitation, cyber crimes, capital crimes, and prison crimes. Attorney general of Colorado John Suthers hired Phil Brimmer in the fall of 2001, recognizing his "excellent work ethic" and his "tremendous intellectual capability". It seems Mr. Brimmer continues to impress everyone he works beside as he continues to serve Colorado's legal community with great distinction.

Anyone familiar with Philip Brimmer's professional credentials can attest to his intelligence and his talent. Anyone familiar with Philip Brimmer, as an individual, would certainly observe that he is respectful, loyal, and good-humored. His integrity, honesty and professional dedication to public service also contribute to making Philip Brimmer a "rare find."

From my conversations with Mr. Brimmer, it is clear that he recognizes the proper role of the judiciary. His personal qualities and character, coupled with his professional experience, an ABA rating of "well qualified", and outstanding bipartisan recommendations from within Colorado's legal community make Philip Brimmer ideally suited to service on the federal district court.

CHRISTINE ARGUELLO

I would also like to welcome Ms. Christine Arguello to the U.S. Senate.

This is not my first endorsement of Ms. Arguello. In 1999, I made a rec-

ommendation to then President Clinton to nominate Ms. Arguello for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. This past January, I again offered her name to President Bush and urged he consider nominating Christine Arguello to fill a vacant judgeship on Colorado's Federal district court.

I speak before the Senate today in support of the nomination of this fine lawyer for service on the Federal bench. In her more than 25 years of legal experience, she has worn many different hats. She has experience as a trial lawyer, in-house counsel, law professor, and public servant.

She is a skilled attorney with impressive credentials and a diverse professional background.

Ms. Arguello earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado and her law degree from Harvard. She began her distinguished professional career working as an associate for a law firm. She moved to a public service career after 19 years of private practice when she joined the Colorado Attorney General's Office, where she served as the chief deputy attorney general under the former attorney general, and now my currently Senate colleague, KEN SALAZAR.

In 2003, she returned to private practice as a civilian litigation attorney, and in 2006 she assumed her current job as managing senior associate counsel for the University of Colorado at Boulder.

She has been described by many as a trailblazer. Ms. Arguello and the wide-ranging experiences and accomplishments she brings with her would make her a great asset to the Federal bench. In addition to being the first Hispanic from Colorado to be admitted to Harvard Law School and the first Hispanic to be promoted to partner at one of the "big four" law firms in Colorado, Ms. Arguello has added law professor to a long list of accomplishments.

She became a tenured professor at the University of Kansas Law School and joined the faculty at the University of Colorado School of Law and the University of Denver College of Law as an adjunct professor and visiting professor, respectively.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I am able to see to conclusion the confirmation of Phil Brimmer and Christine Arguello to the District Court of Colorado.

Again, I cannot say how thankful I am I have a good friend and colleague such as Senator KEN SALAZAR who is willing to work with me on issues that are facing the Colorado District Court and many other issues that are facing the State of Colorado.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

THE ECONOMY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I seek recognition under morning business

and wish to speak about the economic crisis facing the Nation. I will be brief because I think we need less deeds and more action.

Mr. President, we do have an economic crisis. We do have a credit crisis. We need to be able to protect our economy, we need to act to protect the taxpayer, and we need to act to protect the distressed homeowner.

I am frustrated and deeply troubled. I am deeply troubled by where we find ourselves when I observe that House Republicans are defying their own President. Our economy is in trouble.

Yesterday, leadership on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the dome went to the White House at the President's request to try to deal with this issue. To my surprise, House Republicans poked their own President in the eye and derailed a plan that we were developing. Now we need action. And I say to President Bush, we need Presidential leadership. We need a situation room. We need a situation room not at CNN, we need an economic situation room at the White House.

I ask the President, while all of this hubbub is going on on Capitol Hill, to be the commander in chief of the economy. We need a commander in chief of the economy. I ask him to do what he has done as Commander in Chief, to listen to his generals. He has Paulson, he has Bernanke, and he also needs to get his Republican troops in line.

Yesterday we had a method and we had momentum for working on this problem. I salute my Senate colleagues, Senator DODD, the chairman of the Banking Committee, and his Democrats. But I also salute the Republicans in the Senate, on a bipartisan basis. They were working methodically, they were working steadily, and they were acting responsibly. We had a plan.

What happened is the Republican House became afraid of voters. I know we need to listen to voters. I am getting the same kind of e-mails they are. In the last 72 hours, I have received close to 8,000 e-mails and only 30 were for this plan.

I have received over 1,300 phone calls and almost all were against the bailout and why they are against the bailout. They wonder who is on their side, who is looking out for them; who is going to bail them out of their stagnant wages; who is going to bail them out of their rising, escalating health care; who is going to bail them out when they are trying to pay their utility and put gas in their car and buy groceries. Seniors are wondering who is going to bail them out as they try to make sure they do not outlive their income. We listened to them loudly and clearly. Yet what we need to be able to do is not only respond to them, we need to be able to respond to this credit crisis.

Make no mistake, if we do not act we could lose jobs that could affect small business and ordinary homeowners. It could cause massive or significant temporary layoffs.

Now, I am for reform. I absolutely do want reform. I believe we were working