

and is currently the immediate past president. In 1994, she became the first woman to serve as an officer in the Louisiana State Bar association when she was elected treasurer. The same year she received the President's Award for outstanding service.

Beth is truly a respected civic leader throughout Louisiana. In addition to her contributions to the legal field, she has demonstrated her commitment to justice and equality through a number of nonprofits and government initiatives. Her prestigious awards and honors include: the 2004 Alexandria Human Relations Commission Award for her efforts in promoting better understanding and quality of life in her community, the 2004 Louisiana Heroine Award presented by the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Associations, the 2000 Central Louisiana Woman of the Century Award, and the 1996 Central Louisiana Women Business Owners' "Business Owner Woman of Excellence" Award.

Finally, Beth's impressive academic credentials have prepared her to serve Louisiana's Western District. She received a bachelor of arts from Louisiana State University in 1974, a master's of arts from Duke University in 1975, and a J.D. from Louisiana State University Law School in 1978. She has also been an adjunct professor at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU, teaching courses in appellate advocacy.

I believe Beth's principled commitment to the field of law, her impressive 30-year career as an attorney, her extensive Federal litigation experience, and her esteemed statewide reputation make her an excellent nominee for judge for Louisiana's Western District.

The time to confirm these two non-controversial nominees is far overdue. I urge my colleagues to confirm these nominees without further delay so that they may begin the important work the people of Louisiana need them to do.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the first nominee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Tanya Walton Pratt, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana?

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. LEMIEUX) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

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

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 185 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Akaka	Ensign	Menendez
Alexander	Enzi	Merkley
Barrasso	Feingold	Mikulski
Baucus	Feinstein	Murkowski
Bayh	Franken	Murray
Begich	Gillibrand	Nelson (NE)
Bennet	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Grassley	Pryor
Bingaman	Gregg	Reed
Bond	Hagan	Reid
Brown (MA)	Harkin	Risch
Brown (OH)	Hatch	Rockefeller
Brownback	Hutchison	Sanders
Bunning	Inhofe	Schumer
Burr	Inouye	Sessions
Burris	Isakson	Shaheen
Cantwell	Johanns	Shelby
Cardin	Johnson	Snowe
Carper	Kaufman	Specter
Casey	Kerry	Stabenow
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Tester
Coburn	Kohl	Thune
Cochran	Kyl	Udall (CO)
Collins	Landrieu	Udall (NM)
Conrad	Lautenberg	Vitter
Corker	Leahy	Voinovich
Cornyn	Levin	Warner
Crapo	Lieberman	Webb
DeMint	Lincoln	Whitehouse
Dodd	Lugar	Wicker
Dorgan	McCain	Wyden
Durbin	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—5

Boxer	LeMieux	Roberts
Byrd	McCaskill	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada, the majority leader, is recognized.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR DAN INOUE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are not many lists on which Senator DAN INOUE ranks second. He was Hawaii's first Congressman, and he now is the longest serving Senator from that great State. He is the first Japanese American to serve in the House and first Japanese American to serve in the Senate. He was the first chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. He has cast more votes than any other Senator west of the Mississippi. We have all heard the stories about his bravery, both legislatively and on the fields of war where, because of his gallantry, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

But there is one place where he comes in No. 2, though it is a remarkable accomplishment nonetheless. This past Friday, Senator INOUE became the second longest serving U.S. Senator in this Nation's history, passing

Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina. Every day since Hawaii has been a State, Senator INOUE has proudly represented its citizens in Congress. Every day since January 3, 1963, 46½ years ago, Hawaiians have been proud to call DAN INOUE their Senator. Every day I have had the privilege of knowing him and serving with him, I have been proud to call DAN INOUE my friend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last October, the Senate had an opportunity to call attention to one of our colleagues who so rarely calls attention to himself when Senator DANIEL INOUE became the third longest-serving Senator in U.S. history. This past Friday, Senator INOUE reached an even loftier milestone when he surpassed Strom Thurmond to become the second-longest serving Senator in history. So we honor him for this remarkable feat of longevity.

Senator INOUE's dedication to the people of Hawaii is legendary, and so is his story. He was only 17 when he heard the sirens over Honolulu and saw the gray planes overhead. But he was old enough to know that life would never be the same.

Sure enough, a few years later, he would be lying in a hospital bed at Percy Jones Army hospital recovering from wounds sustained in a grenade attack in the mountains of northern Italy. It was there that he first met his future colleague, Bob Dole, who evidently mentioned that after the war he planned to go to Congress.

As it turned out, Senator INOUE beat him by a few years, and he has survived him here in the Senate by many more.

For his heroic actions in World War II, Senator INOUE received our Nation's most prestigious award for military valor, and he has earned the admiration of all Americans. DAN INOUE became a member of one of the most decorated U.S. military units in American history and one of its longest-serving, and finest, Senators. So, Senator, thank you for your service, and congratulations on another remarkable achievement.

(Applause. Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate our senior Senator, my good friend and longtime colleague, Senator DAN INOUE, on his impressive milestone.

On Friday, Senator INOUE became the second-longest-serving Senator in the history of this storied institution.

DAN was sworn into the Senate in 1963, just a few years after Hawaii became a State. At the time, he was the first and only Japanese American to step foot in this room as a Member of this prestigious body. Today, he is the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. DAN INOUE did not just break barriers, he shattered them.

Of course, the Senate is only the most recent chapter in DAN INOUE's lifetime of service to our country, which includes his Medal of Honor service in the Army during World War II, and his service in the Hawaii Territorial Legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Hawaii may be the youngest State in this great country, but as Senator INOUE's milestone demonstrates, our contributions continue to shape the United States of America.

From President Barack Obama, who grew up not far from Senator INOUE's childhood home on the island of Oahu, to each teacher, soldier, construction worker, and farmer, we are proud of the many accomplishments of Hawaii's people. We are proud to be the 50th State, and we are proud of Senator INOUE's long career serving our Nation.

Aloha and congratulations, DAN.  
(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Brian Anthony Jackson, of Louisiana, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana?

Mr. McCONNELL. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. LEMIEUX) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

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

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 186 Ex.]

#### YEAS—96

Akaka	DeMint	Leahy
Alexander	Dodd	Levin
Barrasso	Dorgan	Lieberman
Baucus	Durbin	Lincoln
Bayh	Ensign	Lugar
Begich	Enzi	McCain
Bennet	Feingold	McConnell
Bennett	Feinstein	Menendez
Bingaman	Franken	Merkley
Bond	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Boxer	Graham	Murkowski
Brown (MA)	Grassley	Murray
Brown (OH)	Gregg	Nelson (NE)
Brownback	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Bunning	Harkin	Pryor
Burr	Hatch	Reed
Burr	Hutchison	Reid
Cantwell	Inhofe	Risch
Cardin	Inouye	Rockefeller
Carper	Isakson	Sanders
Casey	Johanns	Schumer
Chambliss	Johnson	Sessions
Coburn	Kaufman	Shaheen
Cochran	Kerry	Shelby
Collins	Klobuchar	Snowe
Conrad	Kohl	Specter
Corker	Kyl	Stabenow
Cornyn	Landrieu	Tester
Crapo	Lautenberg	Thune

Udall (CO)  
Udall (NM)  
Vitter

Voinovich  
Warner  
Webb

Whitehouse  
Wicker  
Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—4

Byrd  
LeMieux

McCaskill  
Roberts

The nomination was confirmed.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, unfortunately I was unable to make this morning's vote on the nomination of Tanya Walton Pratt to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted aye on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Elizabeth Erny Foote, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana?

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 will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

#### TAX BREAK REPEAL

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I have a pending amendment to the tax extenders bill and want to say a few words on that.

At a time when we have a record-breaking \$13 trillion national debt and an unsustainable Federal deficit, at a time when two out of every three corporations in America paid no Federal income taxes between 1998 and 2005, at a time when ExxonMobil, the most profitable corporation in the history of the world, not only paid no Federal income taxes in 2009 but actually got a \$156 million refund from the IRS, at a time when we desperately need to end our dependence on fossil fuel and transform our energy system, the amendment I am offering, along with Senator WYDEN, Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator MENENDEZ, and Senator LAUTENBERG, is simple and straightforward.

This amendment simply repeals over \$35 billion in tax breaks to the oil and gas industry, all of which were recommended for elimination in President Obama's fiscal year 2011 budget, which the Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated would raise over \$35 billion in a 10-year period.

To put this in perspective, the taxpayer dollars saved by repealing these tax breaks represents about 1 percent of the total projected revenue of the oil and gas industry over this same time period. In other words, the cost of repealing these tax breaks for the oil and gas industry is negligible.

More than \$25 billion of the money saved under this amendment would be used to reduce the deficit. I hear my friends coming down every day, appropriately, talking about our record-breaking deficit and our huge national debt. Mr. President, \$25 billion in this amendment is used for deficit reduction.

Mr. President, \$10 billion would be invested in the highly successful Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program over a 5-year period, which would go to 50 States in this country to help them move forward in terms of energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

This amendment has widespread support throughout this country from organizations representing millions of Americans, including the League of Conservation Voters, the Sierra Club, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, Friends of the Earth, the Union of Concerned Scientists, Physicians for Social Responsibility, the American Public Health Association, moveon.org, Environment America, Oceana, 1 Sky, Greenpeace, Public Citizen, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Conservation Law Foundation, and 350.org.

In addition, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funding this amendment would provide is strongly supported by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, the National Association of State Energy Officials, and the National Association of Development Organizations, and I am pleased to report that Taxpayers for Common Sense and the National Wildlife Federation strongly support repealing the oil and gas tax breaks this amendment would eliminate.

Let me briefly explain why this amendment needs to be included in this overall legislation. First, there is no debate; everybody here understands we have to address the deficit crisis and the \$13 trillion national debt we face. Well, I say to my friends: If you are serious about doing this and doing it in a way that doesn't decimate the middle class or working families, this amendment is a good step forward: \$25 billion in deficit reduction over a 10-year period is significant and it would help us address a major crisis.

Secondly, we all understand—or I hope we all understand—we have to reform the Tax Code, which is grossly unfair today. We must make the Tax Code fairer and more equitable for ordinary Americans and, in my view, that means ending the absurdity of seeing large corporations, enormously profitable corporations, not pay their fair share of taxes and, in some cases, not paying any taxes at all. Each and every year, large and profitable corporations all over this country are able to avoid paying billions of dollars in Federal income taxes through loopholes in the Tax Code and generous tax breaks. This is simply unacceptable, it is unfair especially with a record-breaking