

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I was unable to return to Washington, DC, and was therefore unable to cast a vote for rollcall vote No. 62, the nomination of Kevin Hunter Sharp, of Tennessee, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee. Had I been present, I would have voted yea to confirm the nominee.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT JAMES A. JUSTICE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, it is with a solemn heart that I must honor the life and service of a soldier from my home State today, SSG James A. Justice of Grimes, IA. He was killed by enemy small arms fire in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan, at the age of 32. Staff Sergeant Justice died trying to rescue the crew of a downed helicopter that made a hard landing in Alah Say District, Kapisa Province, Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Justice has served in the U.S. Armed Forces since September of 1998. He was assigned to Troop A, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry, Camp Dodge, Johnston, IA. He was deployed to Kuwait as part of Operation Desert Spring in 2001, the Multinational Force Observer peacekeeping mission in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt in 2003–2004, and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005–2006. He volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan in November of 2010. In Afghanistan, he was one of approximately 2,800 members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division.

Staff Sergeant Justice is survived by his wife Amanda Jo and daughter Caydence Lillian; his father and mother Larry and Lillian Justice; a brother and two sisters; as well as many other family and friends.

Sergeant Justice's family remembers him as a caring individual who was proud of the work he was doing for his country. He wanted nothing more than to serve side by side with his brothers and sisters in arms. His fellow soldiers remember him as a charismatic, natural leader and an integral part of his unit's community. The loss of Sergeant Justice is one that will be felt not only by his family and loved ones but by the entire Iowa Army National Guard and all those that were privileged enough to have known him.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Justice family in this incredibly trying time. While words cannot express the debt that we as a Nation owe to Sergeant Justice and his family, I would like to take this time to remember the sacrifice that he made so that we can enjoy the freedoms that this Nation provides.

TRIBUTE TO JOE RICHARDSON

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, when most people think of how our government works, they tend to think of the elected officials, the President, Senators, House Members, and of the

institutions in which they serve. However, in order for elected officials to fulfill their constitutional duties, Members of Congress rely on many individuals and institutions whose work is vital to the basic functions of government. These are individuals who often work in relative obscurity, but whose contributions are often no less important than those of the more visible actors and institutions who stand before the public.

I rise today to recognize one such individual who, over his decades-long career of service at the Congressional Research Service, the nonpartisan research branch of the U.S. Congress, has had provided a profound and lasting contribution to the U.S. Congress. That individual, Joe Richardson, the food and nutrition policy analyst of CRS, will soon be leaving CRS and I, for one, feel that it is not only important, but vital, for Joe to be recognized for his decades of public service to the U.S. Congress and to the American public.

As a long-time member of the Agriculture Committee, on which I served as both the chair and ranking Democrat on several occasions, my staff and I relied heavily on Joe Richardson on numerous occasions. He provided technical assistance and professional judgment in the formulation of the nutrition title of the 2002 and 2007 farm bills, and also played a key role in the committee's successful enactment of the 2004 and 2010 child nutrition reauthorization. In each of these cases, Joe went above and beyond the call of duty—in many cases enduring, like the rest of us, long, late night conference committee meetings that would carry on for weeks, even months. As a result of his efforts, I can say with confidence that, absent Joe's efforts, the legislation that we produced would not have been nearly as sound. More importantly, because of Joe's help, each of these pieces of legislation succeeded in its core mission—helping to ensure that millions of Americans are able to obtain a sufficient and nutritious diet.

Each of us, in one way or another, takes for granted the work of others as we do our own jobs. This is not because their efforts are not noticeable, but rather, because the efforts are so consistent and steadfast, carried out with humility and without any expectation of praise or recognition. This is exactly how Joe has carried out his duties over the years. But I would be remiss in not taking the opportunity to stand up and thank Joe for his truly remarkable service to the Congressional Research Service, to Congress, and to the country. I have no doubt, after such long service, that moving on to new opportunities and challenges is not without its bittersweet moments for Joe. But I know that Joe can move on to these challenges secure in his knowledge that he has discharged his duties with the utmost professionalism and competence. He has been a pillar of the food and nutrition assistance policy

community for years. For his service, I am grateful.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I am pleased to recognize and commend Joe Richardson for his dedicated service as a Specialist in Social Policy at the Congressional Research Service.

The Congressional Research Service, CRS, was formed in 1914 as a Federal agency within the legislative branch to provide Congress with a nonpartisan source of information. For nearly a century, CRS has supplied valuable policy analysis to committees and Members of both the House and Senate, and it continues to play a vital role in all stages of the legislative process.

Joe Richardson has been with CRS for nearly 40 years and has proven himself to be an expert agricultural policy analyst, particularly with regard to our domestic food assistance programs. These programs address many needs of America's poor, youth, and elderly, and continue to be very important in assisting our rural and underserved communities. Joe's contributions throughout his tenure have been invaluable in this effort, and his insightful input will undoubtedly be missed.

As a member and former chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I have greatly benefitted from Joe's knowledge and experience. His expertise has helped the committee formulate and pass a number of important pieces of legislation, such as the past several farm bills which authorize a wide range of agricultural and food assistance programs. His timely reports and analyses have allowed Congress to better monitor, update, and improve nutrition programs as economic conditions change and the need for efficiency grows.

We are forever grateful for Joe's service and commitment to agriculture policy and the U.S. Congress, and I wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, from 1987 until 2002, I served as either the chairman or ranking minority member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. The jurisdiction of the committee is quite broad. One important portion of that jurisdiction is food and nutrition programs.

During my years of service on the Agriculture Committee, the committee has considered several significant changes in the food and nutrition programs. However, one constant presence throughout all those changes was Joe Richardson of the Congressional Research Service. Now, after 40 years at the Congressional Research Service, Joe has decided to retire.

Joe's thorough knowledge of the history and programmatic details of nutrition programs was vitally important in those deliberations. Moreover, his cogent, thoughtful, and nonpartisan analysis was respected on, and sought after by, both sides of the aisle, both chambers of Congress, and within the administrations of both parties. During

deliberations on important legislation, Joe's willingness to be available to committee staff on evenings, weekends and holidays was much appreciated.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in thanking Joe Richardson for his 40 years of service and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I rise to congratulate Joe Richardson on his pending retirement. Joe exemplifies the meaning of public servant. I have served as chairman and ranking member of the House Committee on Agriculture, and today I serve as the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. All along the way, Joe has served the Congressional Research Service and thereby the Congress with excellence and distinction over the course of 40 years. His focus has included the nutrition assistance programs, almost from their inception. From programs ranging from SNAP, WIC, school meals, and faith-based initiatives, Joe is a recognized expert, a prolific writer, and unparalleled in his field.

A nonpartisan professional, Joe has been an invaluable resource for Members and staff and has regularly been relied upon to navigate the complexities of statutes, rules, and regulations, and the myriad of forms public assistance has taken over the last several decades. From farm bills to child nutrition reauthorizations and related legislation in-between, he has been a compendium of information on the ideas generated, efforts attempted, reforms enacted, and the effects and changes to society our laws have made. He is a tribute to his profession, and our Nation is a better place to live for all Americans as a direct result of his efforts.

I and my staff have greatly appreciated Joe's counsel. Whenever called upon, Joe would answer, be it during regular business hours, late into the night, or early the next morning, always helpful, and always forthright. I appreciate the dedication demonstrated by public servant Joe Richardson. Thank you Joe, you will be missed.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, as the chairwoman of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, I know we will sorely miss the expertise and dedication of Joe Richardson as we work this year to write the next farm bill. Since 1971, Joe has shared his expertise on a wide range of issues with Members of the House and Senate. He has an incredible understanding of social policy programs, and knows their history inside and out. He seems to know everything about everything. His expertise has been absolutely invaluable to my staff over the years.

In his four decades of service, Joe has played a key role in writing seven farm bills in 1977, 1981, 1985, 1990, 1996, 2002, and 2008. His understanding of Federal nutrition programs, which represent a

significant majority of the farm bill, has helped the committee address the issues of hunger in America and has helped keep millions of Americans out of poverty.

While Joe is leaving us to spend time closer to his family in California, his work will continue to guide and inform us as we begin work on the 2012 farm bill. He is a wonderful example of a great public servant, and I wish him well in his retirement.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, there is an old saying that "where there is a will there is a way." That was very true of the many pieces of legislation I worked on as chairman and ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. The Senate Agriculture Committee has proven time and again that Congress can work together when it wants to get a job done.

But I have to share with you that we had a secret weapon, at least when it came to the farm bill nutrition titles and the child nutrition bills. I know that we would have had a much tougher time getting that job done successfully without the assistance and technical expertise of Joe Richardson of the Congressional Research Service. Since 1971 Joe has played an important part of nutrition policy discussions and has played a key role behind the scenes working on countless pieces of legislation over these past four decades, including seven farm bills. As a member of the Agriculture Committee during most of those 40 years, including turns as chairman and ranking member of the Agriculture Committee, I have been fortunate to benefit innumerable times from Joe's institutional memory and impressive encyclopedic knowledge of our Nation's critical nutrition programs.

Very few Americans have ever heard about the Congressional Research Service, but for the men and women who served in the U.S. Senate and for all of our staff, we know the important role that this branch of the Library of Congress plays. The Congressional Service is a legislative branch agency within the Library of Congress and works exclusively and directly for Members of Congress, their committees and staff on a confidential, nonpartisan basis. The Congressional Research Service, Congress, and the American people have been well served by Joe Richardson and his impressive public career.

For the last four decades Joe Richardson has gone above and beyond to serve the Senate and House of Representatives with his objective and always helpful information and often 24 hours a day if needed. I know that Members of both sides of the aisle have the highest regard for his work, attention to detail, and dedication.

With the retirement of Joe Richardson, we are losing an important perspective and historical knowledge that I fear that no other single person will be able to fill. To say that he will be missed is a true understatement. While

I wish Joe all the best in retirement, I certainly hope that he will make sure his replacement at the Congressional Research Service and the Senate Agriculture Committee still know how to get ahold of him during development of the next farm bill.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2011

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, today, people from across the country and around the world celebrate World Press Freedom Day—a time to commemorate and honor the principles of freedom of expression. World Press Freedom Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 and provides an important opportunity for us all to remember the journalists and other members of the news media—of all nationalities—who have sacrificed their personal safety, and in some cases their lives, to ensure the free flow of information to the public.

The Nation's Founders prized and protected a free and vibrant press. Its prominence is found in the first amendment of the Constitution. Since the founding of this great Nation, American journalists have courageously documented volatile turning points in our history and the world's history. Elijah Lovejoy, the first of too many American journalists who have paid the ultimate price in service to press freedom, remains a stalwart figure in media history, even today.

The International Federation of Journalists reports that at least 94 journalists and other members of the media have been killed in the line of duty during 2010. Countless others have been detained or arrested simply for performing their professional duties.

In recent months, we have witnessed the troubling case of American and foreign journalists being detained, assaulted, and even killed in their efforts to tell the world about the democratic uprisings in the Middle East. Last month, Oscar-nominated war-film director and photojournalist Tim Hetherington and photojournalist Chris Hondros were both killed while reporting on a battle between Libyan Government forces and rebels in the city of Misrata. In February, CBS war correspondent Lara Logan was brutally attacked and sexually assaulted while reporting on the historic uprising in Egypt. The recent news that Osama bin Laden has been killed—a price paid for his crimes against the American people and the world—has focused even more attention on the unrest in the Middle East. The efforts of journalists and members of the media in that region now have even greater significance.

Preserving press freedoms and freedom of expression remains one of my highest legislative priorities as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. That is why I have once again joined with Republican Senator JOHN CORNYN to introduce the Faster FOIA Act. This bill would create a bipartisan Commission