

For instance, the Senate has confirmed only 124 of President Obama's Federal circuit and district court nominees, compared to 168 Federal circuit and district court judges confirmed at this point in the Presidency of George W. Bush and 183 Federal circuit and district court judges confirmed at this point in President Clinton's administration.

To give you an even better breakdown, there are 20 judicial nominations reported favorable by the Judiciary Committee, 15 of which have been pending since last year, 18 of which have strong bipartisan support. So why is there a delay in confirming these nominees? Senate Republicans have failed to offer an answer.

Nominees such as Ronnie Abrams deserve better by receiving a swift up-or-down vote. The American people deserve better by having representation in their district and circuit courts. We need to give these nominees, most of whom have strong bipartisan support, a full up-or-down vote by the Senate. If we continue down this road of rejecting nominees simply because their nomination originates across the aisle, we are establishing an impossible standard that no nominee will ever meet. We ought to have the same respect for the judicial system that we have for the legislative system in which we ourselves work. I urge my colleagues to help move these nominees forward.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH NIALL DALEY

• Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize LTC Joseph Niall Daley, who is retiring after over 20 years of dedicated service in the U.S. Air Force and Massachusetts Air National Guard.

Lieutenant Colonel Daley was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in 1990 and served on Active Duty for 10 years as an aviator, at which time he joined the Massachusetts Air National Guard. He flew combat missions in Bosnia, 1997, and Iraq, 1998 and 2003.

Lieutenant Colonel Daley has had a distinguished military career, becoming an O/A-10A aircraft commander where he maintained a mission-ready status in support of worldwide deployment requirements. As an aviator he acquired an in-depth knowledge of U.S., allied, and enemy tactical and electronic warfare capabilities. He led and instructed formations of multiple O/A-10A aircraft in many diverse missions in both the day and nighttime environments. These missions included close air support, air interdiction, combat search and rescue, airlift escort, and joint air attack team tactics.

While serving in the Massachusetts Air National Guard as an expert O/A-10A pilot with the 131st Fighter Squadron, Lieutenant Colonel Daley directly

contributed to the success of the unit by providing sound leadership and experience. Assigned to the 131st Fighter Squadron as the Assistant Charlie Flight Commander, and one of the Squadron's top instructor pilots, he ensured his flight members were prepared to employ the aircraft at its optimal performance when called to deployment in 2003. Lieutenant Colonel Daley was instrumental to the wing as one of the primary trainers to implement the Litening II Pod during its initial test phases. His oversight and dynamic vision were critical during both peacetime and war-time missions. Following the 2005 base realignment and closure, Lieutenant Colonel Daley accepted a key role in the wing staff, serving as the base historian. His efforts ensured the activities of the unit were documented and preserved, allowing the wing the opportunity to be recognized by the National Guard, Air Force, and the Department of Defense. Lieutenant Colonel Daley's accomplishments culminate a distinguished career in the service of his State and country and reflect great credit upon himself, the Massachusetts Air National Guard, and the U.S. Air Force.

I would like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Daley for his tremendous service to our Nation. I know that his wife, U.S. Senator KELLY AYOTTE, their children, Katherine and Jacob, as well as the people of New Hampshire and Massachusetts are extremely proud of his selfless service.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. HEATH MORRISON

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Dr. Heath Morrison, who has been recognized as the 2012 American Association of School Administrators—AASA—National Superintendent of the Year. My home State of Nevada is proud and privileged to acknowledge such an extraordinary educator and leader.

Since 2009, Dr. Morrison has served as superintendent for the Washoe County School District where he has proven to be an innovator in education. During his tenure, the Washoe County School District has achieved higher test scores and has seen their graduation rate rise to 70 percent. Outside the classroom, Dr. Morrison continues to encourage and develop student performance by creating personal connections with the local community.

Engaging with Washoe County residents has allowed Dr. Morrison to foster relationships with parents, volunteers, and local businesses in order to create and enhance scholastic opportunities for students. I commend Dr. Morrison for his strong leadership and positive influence on Nevada's youth.

I admire and recognize the desire of our educators to uphold high education standards for our nation. Their guidance and encouragement provide students with the ability to become lifelong learners with a thirst for knowl-

edge. Now more than ever, it is of paramount importance to prepare our children and grandchildren to compete in the 21st century.

Nevada is fortunate to have such great educational leadership serving the students across our great State. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Morrison and celebrating the achievements of our Nation's teachers, administrators, and staff who help to guide our students to educational excellence.●

RECOGNIZING SOUTH ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

• Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to honor the 125th birthday of South St. Paul, MN. First, I feel the need to clarify for this body that South St. Paul isn't exactly directly south of Saint Paul. West St. Paul is. And I know that's confusing. South St. Paul is closer to Southeast. And West St. Paul is South. And Minneapolis is, of course, West. I'm sure there's a very good reason for the confusing names, but I have no idea what that would be.

South St. Paul is the perfect example of the kind of hard-working, Midwestern industrial town that has been the anchor of America. The South St. Paul Stockyards opened in 1886 and eventually grew to be one of the leading livestock centers in the world, with millions of livestock being sold from its pens. A shifting marketplace finally forced the stockyards to close in 2008, but like much of America, South St. Paul has adapted along with the changing world.

The stockyards, which had existed since South St. Paul's founding, left an indelible mark on the city even after they closed. The people of South St. Paul are instilled with a hardy work ethic, which will serve the city well in its next 125 years.

As a part of the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area where I grew up, I know the sky is the limit for the people of South St. Paul. It is my distinct pleasure to represent them in the United States Senate. Congratulations to the residents of South St. Paul.●

RECOGNIZING ROY CITY DIAMOND JUBILEE

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Roy City, UT for reaching the 75th anniversary of its original incorporation in 1937.

Roy City was first settled in 1873 by William Evans Baker. At the time, the area was seen as dry and desert-like, not a likely place for a town. Baker convinced three brothers-in-law to join him, eventually forming what would come to be affectionately known as "Cousin Street" because all of the residents along the road were cousins. The settlers came up with an industrious way to bring much-needed clean water to the area, digging a canal from nearby mountains. With water came a sense of permanence for the town.

Twenty-one years after the first settlement, the area's residents agreed to establish a post office, which required that the town be given an official name. It had been called many things, from Central City to Sandridge to Lakeview. The decision was to be made in the wake of a tragic death, that of Roy Peebles, the young son of Reverend David Peebles. Locals decided that the town should be named after Roy, and on May 24, 1894, Roy had a name and a post office.

Roy remained a quiet, sparsely populated area until the 1940s, when Hill Field was established nearby. Roy City suddenly grew rapidly, forcing an equally rapid expansion of services. For a brief period, overflowing classes for schoolchildren were held in the halls. A semi-permanent solution was found in busing students across Ogden to other solutions, and a permanent solution was finally completed in 1965 in the form of Roy High School. It became the largest high school in Weber County, and has been ranked as one of the top ten high schools in the country.

Thanks to spending by members of the military working at Hill Air Force Base, the Navy Supply Depot, and the Defense Supply Depot, businesses in Roy City expanded quickly during and after WWII. In 1953, the city was granted a charter to establish Utah's first branch bank, paving the way for branch banks to spread throughout Utah.

In recent years, Roy City has been called "Weber County's Fastest Growing City," boasting over 35,000 residents. It has also been regularly lauded as one of Utah's most fiscally well-managed cities. Roy City now offers its citizens a host of modern businesses, conveniences, and services, from biking trails to an aquatic center.

To mark this year's special anniversary, Mayor Joe Ritchie will be presiding over the burial of a time capsule that is to be opened in 25 years, exactly one century after the city's incorporation. May the last quarter of that journey be as productive and successful as the first three.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1837. An act to address certain water-related concerns on the San Joaquin River, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3902. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to revise the timing of special elections for local office in the District of Columbia.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1134. An act to authorize the St. Croix River Crossing Project with appropriate mitigation measures to promote river values.

The message further announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a) clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy: Mr. HINCHEY of New York, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 703 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903) and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, and upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader, the Speaker reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Social Security Advisory Board for a term of 6 years: Ms. Barbara Kennelly of Hartford, Connecticut.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3902. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to revise the timing of special elections for local office in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5154. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5155. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5156. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice of Final Priorities—Safe and Healthy Students Discretionary Grants Programs" (CFDA Nos. 84.184A, 84.215M, 84.184J, 84.184L, 84.215H, and 84.215E) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 21, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5157. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment, Maintenance, and Availability of Records: Amendment to Record Availability Requirements" (RIN0910-AG73) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on February 27, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5158. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Summary of Benefits and Coverage and Uniform Glossary" (RIN1210-AB52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 14, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5159. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "YouthBuild Program" (RIN1205-AB49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5160. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Non-Agricultural Employment of H-2B Aliens in the United States" (RIN1205-AB58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5161. A communication from the Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2012-2016 and the Annual Performance Plan for fiscal year 2012 (revised) and fiscal year 2013 (proposed); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5162. A communication from the Secretary of the Board of Governors, U.S. Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5163. A communication from the Counsel for Regulatory and External Affairs, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures of the Panel; Impasses Arising Pursuant to Agency Determinations Not to Establish or to Terminate Flexible or Compressed Work Schedules" (5 CFR Parts 2471 and 2472) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 14, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5164. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change of Address and Electronic Submission of FOIA Requests" (5 CFR Parts 1630, 1631, and 1632) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 23, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5165. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; Acquisition-Related Thresholds" (RIN3090-AJ24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5166. A communication from the Chief Acquisition Officer, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2011-030, New Designated