

Most important to my support, I have known Justice Hurwitz for literally four decades, so I am exceptionally familiar with his professional and personal background and am certain that he will be an outstanding addition to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

I first met him at Yale Law School, where we worked together on the Yale Law Journal. He attended Yale after graduating from Princeton University in 1968. Our lives intersected again when I followed him as a law clerk to Judge Jon O. Newman and then as a law clerk on the U.S. Supreme Court, although in different years and for different Justices. At every step of his career as a litigator and judge, as well as student and law clerk, he has been a paragon of intellect and integrity.

Justice Hurwitz has built a distinguished record while serving on the Arizona Supreme Court. Time and again, he has demonstrated an extraordinary capacity for analysis, thoughtfulness, and insight when facing the most complex and challenging questions of law. He has the qualifications, both professionally and personally, to be a great Federal judge. His reasoning is often of such a caliber that even on highly contested or controversial issues he has been able to build consensus on the court. Indeed, many of his most significant opinions were joined by all members of the Arizona Supreme Court.

Before his appointment to the Arizona Supreme Court, Justice Hurwitz spent 25 years in private practice in Arizona, where he represented a wide range of interests—from AT&T and the American Broadcasting Company to the city of Phoenix and the Arizona State Compensation Fund. He also developed a specialty in Native American law, representing, among others, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the Hopi Tribe. Much of the work he did during his years of practice involved complex appellate litigation, including numerous arguments before the Ninth Circuit and two before the U.S. Supreme Court. This experience gives Justice Hurwitz familiarity with a broad swath of Federal law.

Equally impressive is Justice Hurwitz's commitment to pro bono work and public service. While in private practice, Justice Hurwitz argued and won a groundbreaking death penalty Supreme Court case, *Ring v. Arizona*, to vindicate the rights of death row inmates sentenced by judges rather than juries. He also took time out of his successful practice to work in Arizona government. Among other projects, Justice Hurwitz was responsible for creating the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, a program designed to rein in State Medicaid costs. He also worked with the Reagan administration to implement greater control over transportation and education for State agencies. He served from 1988 until 1996 on the Arizona Board of Regents, including as board president. During his tenure, he

led an effort to require annual reports from universities certifying they had reached mandated educational goals. His commitment to public service work shows a dedication to the legal system that I believe should be shared by all members of the Federal bench.

Throughout the 40 years I have known him, Justice Hurwitz has always been open about his passion for the law. From private practice to government to serving on the Arizona Supreme Court, he has shown unparalleled legal acumen and a devotion to public service. I have no doubt that his adherence to precedent, coupled with his passion and his wisdom, will serve this Nation well. President Obama has made a truly excellent nomination that will benefit the cause of justice in our Nation for many years to come.

ETHIOPIAN FREE PRESS ASSAULT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, later this month, I and other Members of Congress will be watching what happens in a courtroom 7,000 miles from Washington, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

That is where a journalist named Eskinder Nega stands accused of supporting terrorism simply for refusing to remain silent about the Ethiopian government's increasingly authoritarian drift. The trial is finished, and a verdict is expected on June 21.

Mr. Eskinder is not alone. Since 2011, the Ethiopian government has charged 10 other journalists with terrorism or threatening national security for questioning government actions and policies—activities that you and I and people around the world would recognize as fundamental to any free press. Ironically, by trying to silence those who do not toe the official line, the government is only helping to underscore the concerns that many inside and outside of Ethiopia share about the deterioration of democracy and human rights in that country.

Ethiopia is an important partner for the United States in at least two key areas: containing the real threat of terrorism in the region, and making gains against the region's recurring famines and fostering the kind of development that can bring the cycle of poverty and hunger to an end. The United States has provided large amounts of assistance in furtherance of both goals, because a stable, democratic Ethiopia could exert a positive influence throughout the Horn of Africa and help point the way to a more peaceful and prosperous future.

That is why President Obama invited Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to last month's G-8 Summit at Camp David. The subject was food security, and Prime Minister Meles and the leaders of several other African countries helped inaugurate a new public-private alliance for nutrition that aims to increase agricultural production and lift 50 million people out of poverty in the next 10 years. I can think of nothing that will do more to further peace and

prosperity of the region than this kind of targeted, practical, and cooperative initiative.

But initiatives like this depend for their success on broad national consultation, transparency and accountability. Consultation to integrate ideas from diverse perspectives, transparency to maintain partner confidence that their investment is reaching its targets, and accountability to ensure it produces the desired results. And transparency and accountability depend, in no small part, on a free press.

In Ethiopia, that means enabling journalists like Eskinder Nega to do their work of reporting and peaceful political participation.

But seven times in Prime Minister Meles's 20-year rule, Mr. Eskinder has been detained for his reporting. In 2005, he and his journalist wife Serkalem Fasil were imprisoned for reporting on protests following that year's disputed national elections. They spent 17 months in prison, their newspapers were shut down, and Mr. Eskinder has been denied a license to practice journalism ever since. Yet he carried on, publishing articles online that highlight the government's denial of human rights and calling for an end to political repression and corruption.

In some of those articles, Mr. Eskinder specifically criticized the Meles government for misusing a vaguely-worded 2009 antiterrorism law to jail journalists and political opponents. Now he stands accused of terrorism. At his trial, which opened in Addis Ababa on March 6, the government reportedly offered as evidence against him a video of a town hall meeting in which Mr. Eskinder discusses the Arab spring and speculates on whether similar protests were possible in Ethiopia. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.

The trial of Eskinder Nega, the imprisonment of several of his colleagues on similar spurious charges, and the fact that Ethiopia has driven so many journalists into exile over the last decade has eroded confidence in Prime Minister Meles' commitment to press freedom and to other individual liberties that are guaranteed by the Ethiopian constitution and fundamental to any democracy.

The United States and Ethiopia share important interests, and the administration's fiscal year 2013 budget requests \$350 million in assistance for Ethiopia. However, to the extent that any of that assistance is intended for the Ethiopian government, the importance of respecting freedom of the press cannot be overstated. What happens to Mr. Eskinder and other journalists there will resonate loudly not only in Ethiopia, but also in the United States Congress.

FLAG DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 96th anniversary of Flag Day in the United

States and to draw attention to its heightened significance in this year, the 200th anniversary of the United States' 'Second War of Independence,' the War of 1812. Since its adoption by the Second Continental Congress in 1777, our flag, with its thirteen stripes and fifty stars, has proudly stood as a beacon of liberty and justice throughout the world.

For more than 200 years our flag has stood as a tangible expression of our Nation and the lofty ideals it was created to protect. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson sought to formally recognize the significant cultural and historical legacy that our flag embodies, proclaiming that the fourteenth of June should be known as Flag Day as a means of commemorating the Flag Resolution of 1777. While Flag Day was celebrated in many communities across the country in the years following Wilson's proclamation, it was not until 1949 that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day and the week on which it falls as National Flag Week.

My State of Maryland plays a prominent role in the rich and storied history of our national flag. Shortly after the British sack of Washington, D.C., the Royal Navy turned its gaze north, moving in force towards the strategic port city of Baltimore, MD. Despite the lack of formally trained, commissioned soldiers, the citizens of Baltimore diligently prepared the city's defenses and steadfastly stood their ground against the better equipped and trained forces of the British military. Despite their manifold disadvantages, the volunteer militia fought valiantly during the Battle of North Point, holding off the British infantry long enough for reinforcements to arrive. With their ground forces stymied, the British Navy commenced its intense, 25-hour bombardment of Fort McHenry. However, the bombardment was to no avail, as the stalwart American defenders refused to yield and the British were forced to depart.

During the bombardment, American lawyer Francis Scott Key, who was being held aboard an American flag-of-truce vessel in Baltimore Harbor, beheld by the dawn's early light the American flag still fluttering in the breeze atop Fort McHenry. At that moment, Key realized the Americans had survived the assault and stopped the enemy advance. Deeply moved by the sight of the American flag after the devastating assault, he immortalized the event in a poem entitled "The Defense of Fort McHenry," which was later set to music and renamed "The Star Spangled Banner." On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a Congressional resolution, formally making the "Star Spangled Banner" the national anthem of the United States.

The flag that flew over Fort McHenry during that fateful night is now a national treasure that remains on display

at the Smithsonian Institution as a stirring inspiration to all Americans. Each year the National Flag Day Foundation of Baltimore sponsors a moving ceremony at the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historical Shrine which brings our community together in celebration and remembrance of our illustrious history.

America's flag graces classrooms, statehouses, courtrooms, and churches, serving as a daily reminder of this Nation's past accomplishments and ongoing dedication to safeguarding individual rights and political freedom. Whether it is being carried into battle by the brave members of our armed forces as they fulfill their missions in defense of democracy and peace or flying over the public buildings, the flag is a badge of honor for all to see—a sign of our citizens' common purpose.

This week and throughout the year let us do all we can to teach younger generations the significance of our flag and to respect the men and women who have fallen to protect it. In red, white, and blue, we see the spirit of a Nation, the resilience of our Union, and the promise of a future forged in common purpose and dedication to the principles that have always kept America strong. As we reflect on our heritage, let us remember that our destiny is stitched together like those 50 stars and 13 stripes, united as one, with liberty and justice for all.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELO ROPPOLO

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Angelo Roppolo and extending my appreciation for his extraordinary accomplishments and dedication to the city of Shreveport and the State of Louisiana.

Mr. Roppolo is a modest man who seldom takes credit for his achievements and is known throughout his community as someone who avoids the spotlight. He has an unwavering loyalty to his family and friends and has never been known to abandon his core beliefs and principles.

Mr. Roppolo stands for righteousness and justice, and he has never hesitated to support a candidate who has challenged the norm. Mr. Roppolo has played integral roles in many landmark political events in Louisiana. He was involved in organizing and planning the campaigns of the first African American judge to be elected in Shreveport and in Caddo Parish, along with the campaigns of the first female judge in Caddo Parish and the first female judge on the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Roppolo also served as the north Louisiana campaign chairman for Governor Kathleen Blanco, who was the first female to be elected as Governor of Louisiana.

Along with his love for the political process, Mr. Roppolo is also a strong supporter of entrepreneurs in Shreveport. He was a founder of the South Shreveport Business Association, an

organization dedicated to the success of businesses within the rapidly growing area of his community. He has also helped many individuals gain financing for their endeavors and has seen many of these ventures grow and prosper into successful businesses.

Mr. Roppolo is a kind and caring man who has always given praise and gratitude to the men and women in the armed services who serve and protect this country. Mr. Roppolo is a source of inspiration for all who know him. He is beloved throughout his community and the city of Shreveport, where his family and friends alike respect and admire all he has done for those around him.

It is with a special measure of sincerity and heartfelt commendation for the mark he has left of the State of Louisiana that I ask my colleagues to join me along with Mr. Roppolo's family in honoring and celebrating the life of this most extraordinary person.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING ST. PIUS VEREIN

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor St. Pius Verein, a social and fraternal organization in North Dakota that will soon celebrate its 100th anniversary. On June 23 and 24 of this year, the community of Scheffeld will host a celebration to recognize St. Pius Verein's history and founding.

The town of Scheffeld started with the establishment of the St. Pius Catholic Church, which was built in 1910. The town's name is said to be derived from "schoenfeld," the German word for beautiful field. In 1912, St. Pius Verein was founded by German settlers from Russia. The organization was first started as a way to unite the community. Members especially enjoyed singing and playing instruments together. Today, St. Pius Verein has 440 members. All members pay dues and contribute to a survivor benefit program that pays a benefit to families that experience a loss. St. Pius Verein holds monthly meetings, in addition to an annual picnic held on St. Pius Day. Scheffeld takes great pride in the history of St. Pius Verein, and the community is expecting an enjoyable gathering.

To celebrate the 100-year anniversary of St. Pius Verein, Scheffeld residents and visitors will participate in many fun-filled activities. Over the span of 2 days, the celebrants will enjoy children's games, a town dance, a citywide mass at St. Pius Verein Hall, a parade, an antique tractor pull, and an old-time jam session. DVDs will also be sold that describe the proud history of the town. Although many St. Pius Verein members no longer live in Scheffeld, the town is expecting big numbers for the celebration.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating St. Pius