

lower court decisions. Obama has nominated 27 excellent individuals and must quickly suggest candidates for the 41 vacancies without nominees. For its part, the Senate must swiftly confirm nominees.

The vacancies in 83 judgeships resulting from GOP obstruction have, like Dr. Frankenstein, created monstrous dockets that jeopardize expeditious, inexpensive and fair case resolution. Thus, President Obama must promptly nominate, and senators rapidly confirm, numerous superb judges, so the courts can deliver justice. Boo!

TRIBUTE TO LLOYD GOODROW

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am proud to call to the Senate's attention the record of accomplishment of a military officer who has retired after 33 years of outstanding service to the Vermont Air and Army National Guard.

LTC Lloyd Goodrow served five Adjutant Generals. He distinguished himself in the position of State Public Affairs Officer. Through diligence, honesty, and integrity he forged a strong and straightforward relationship with the media and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

In the years after the attacks of September 11, 2001, Lieutenant Colonel Goodrow provided strong, meaningful support to deployed troops and their families. He helped Vermonters to make a human connection to the Guard during this difficult time. His empathy and deep understanding of the tragedy and suffering of Gold Star families not only aided those families in the healing process but left a lasting impression on Lloyd.

Lloyd is an outstanding family man. Marcelle and I are fortunate to count as friends Lloyd, his wife Margo, and their son Daniel. Daniel has been recognized at the State and national level for his swimming in the Special Olympics. Like his parents, he has been a strong advocate for people with special needs.

In recognition of Lieutenant Colonel Goodrow's service to our country and to our State of Vermont, I ask that an article, "Spokesman for Vt. National Guard retires," written by Matt Ryan in the November 1, 2012, edition of the Burlington Free Press, be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[The Burlington Free Press, Nov. 1, 2012]

GOODROW REFLECTS ON 33-YEAR CAREER

(By Matt Ryan)

Lt. Col. Lloyd Goodrow said during his tenure as spokesman for the Vermont National Guard, he has considered reporters and soldiers alike his colleagues.

"It's easier if you have a relationship with the media, and you understand where each other came from," Goodrow said. "Have we always agreed? No. Have we agreed to disagree? Yes."

Goodrow, 58, of Essex Junction retired at midnight Wednesday, ending a 33-year career with the Vermont National Guard. He said his next order of business is to find a new job.

"Today's bittersweet," he said earlier on Halloween. "I walk out of here tonight at midnight. The joke is I'm turning into a pumpkin."

The University of Vermont graduate worked much of his career with the Guard in public affairs. He typed his first news release in 1987, about a man who built a cheap device that could detect infrared light for the U.S. military. The story circulated nationally for two years, he said.

Goodrow has since spoken on behalf of soldiers who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and returned home to rebuild Vermont in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene.

"The hardest thing was dealing with the deaths of soldiers," he said. "The first time I looked into the eyes of a gold star mother, it changed my life forever."

That was the mother of Vermont Army Guard Spec. Scott McLaughlin, a 29-year-old husband and father of two from Hardwick who was shot and killed by a sniper in Iraq in 2005.

Goodrow said he helped the family gather photos of McLaughlin for the media and later convinced them to allow reporters in the church for the funeral services.

"The media is there to represent the community, and to help the community as well," he said. "I reminded them that you help the community mourn."

Goodrow said he leaves media relations in the good hands of Capt. Chris Gookin. Gookin stood to lead the Guard's public affairs office upon Goodrow's retirement.

"It's important that the public knows who we are, what we represent and what we can do for them," Goodrow said. "Because we belong to the people. We belong to the public."

Goodrow's retirement party is scheduled for noon Thursday at the American Legion in Colchester. His formal retirement ceremony is slated for 2 p.m. Sunday at the Green Mountain Armory at Camp Johnson.

"I really have been blessed," he said. "I've been part of a group that's been second to none."

RECOGNIZING ETHAN ALLEN FURNITURE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of Vermont's premier businesses is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. Ethan Allen Furniture has come to represent the very highest standards and quality that Vermont has to offer.

In 1932, two brothers-in-law from New York City established a wholesale company that sold small housewares. Four years later, they purchased a bankrupt furniture factory in Beecher Falls, VT, and began manufacturing early American furniture branded as the Ethan Allen line. They eventually renamed the company after Ethan Allen, a Revolutionary War hero who played an integral role in America's fight for independence and Vermont's admission to the Union as the 14th State.

Over the years, Ethan Allen Furniture has grown into one of the world's most prominent furniture makers and interior design specialists, with over 300 stores worldwide and manufacturing centers around the globe.

This world-renowned company has remained close to its Vermont roots and continues to employ many Vermonters because of their unique talent and experience in finely crafted furniture. It was great to see that the

company's president, CEO, and chairman, Farooq Kathwari, recently visited with employees at the Orleans, VT, facility to celebrate the company's anniversary and its return to profitability.

I congratulate Ethan Allen Furniture on this monumental anniversary, and I wish them much success in the future.

I ask unanimous consent that the September 26, 2012, Caledonian Record article entitled "Ethan Allen Celebrates 80 Years" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Caledonian Record, Sept. 26, 2012]

ETHAN ALLEN CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

(By Robin Smith)

Ethan Allen CEO, President and Chairman Farooq Kathwari praised his employees in Vermont Tuesday afternoon and announced performance raises as part of the company's 80th anniversary.

Ethan Allen plants in Orleans and Beecher Falls are profitable now for the first time since the Great Recession, Kathwari told employees who gathered in a plant storage facility at the Orleans facility to eat cake and celebrate.

The company wanted to begin the big anniversary celebration in Vermont where it began 80 years ago in Beecher Falls.

This morning, Kathwari and Ethan Allen officials will ring the bell to open the New York Stock Exchange. And in the next several weeks, the company will unveil a new line of American furniture and launch a marketing campaign, Kathwari said.

The company converted its operation in Orleans and elsewhere from mass production to custom-manufacturing over a year and a half, he said. The profitability and efficiency in Orleans is up 30 to 40 percent in the last two years, he added.

And now, instead of buying products from China, Kathwari said Ethan Allen is selling its furniture to China.

Ethan Allen received a fairly large order from China last year and has retail stores there.

"You folks will make orders for China. Think of that," he said.

"If someone had said . . . we would make lamps for China, we would have said 'That's crazy.'"

Kathwari invited a select group of company retailers, marketers, designers, board members and initial investors, plus local legislators, to a tour of the Orleans plant before he spoke to employees. Kathwari recognized long-time employees at the plant, one of whom had been at the plant for 53 years and introduced company leaders who had longevity with the company.

That's how Ethan Allen has survived 80 years and grown, he said, because experience and longevity allows nimble adaptability. "To be around for 80 years, you have to by plan or by accident reinvent it," he said.

Ethan Allen survived the Great Depression, he said, and now the Great Recession.

The company kept 70 percent of its manufacturing in the U.S., Kathwari said, "which is remarkable."

The company is committed to the Orleans plant, where 320 employees make tables, chairs and other furniture that has the name of the customer on the bar code label. Each piece being manufactured in Orleans is already sold "and our people know it," Kathwari said.

The Orleans staff have tremendous experience and knowledge, the Orleans and Beecher

Falls plants have technological improvements from ongoing investments over the years and the area has the best sustainable hardwood resources in the world, he said.

Because of these things and the productivity and quality in Orleans, Kathwari announced the reintroduction of performance raises this year.

"Those who have done a good job will get an increase," he said.

He said the new plant in Honduras, like the Mexican plant, turns raw resources into materials for the upholstery manufacturing plant in North Carolina, he said.

Without that Mexican plant, Ethan Allen would not have been profitable during the recession, he said.

The company's vertical integration, from bringing in raw wood at Beecher Falls, to wood work in Orleans to the company's own stores and interior designers, means it was able to survive and change in reaction to globalization and mass market changes.

The company is public but is fortunate in being able to think long term, Kathwari said, noting that he has served as CEO for 40 years.

Challenges remain for the company in Vermont, including the high price of electricity, at two times that in North Carolina and three to four times that of overseas where the price is kept down by government, he said.

Also the increasing cost of health care is a concern, he said.

The founders bought the Beecher Falls wood plant and renamed it Ethan Allen, a mark of the colonial American furniture the company made.

Kathwari said the company will unveil five new American lifestyle lines of furniture, from modern to classic—reflecting the global style of America today. Sneak peeks were available from the classic-lined wood chairs and tables and headboards, in Fiesta Ware type colors, and other beautiful pieces in various stages of construction at the plant Tuesday.

He hopes to see sales continue to increase, as they have for the past two years, he said by about 15 percent each year.

TRIBUTE TO RITA MARKLEY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, homelessness is not something found only in large urban areas or that is isolated to city limits; it is just as easily found in small towns and rural areas. Vermont, like the rest of the Nation, struggles each day with homelessness. It is estimated that in any given year, there are 4,000 homeless Vermonters, and on any given night, children, as well as adults, find refuge in a shelter.

The Committee on Temporary Shelter, known in Vermont as COTS, has been serving the homeless in Chittenden County since 1982. While COTS relies on the talents of more than 60 dedicated staff members, it is the tireless leadership of their executive director, Rita Markley, that is the heartbeat of this critically important organization.

I have been so proud of the work of Rita and COTS in their service to the people of Chittenden County. During her time with COTS, Rita has worked tirelessly to provide emergency shelter to those in need, while advocating for long-term solutions to end homelessness. Beyond providing emergency

shelter for those in need, COTS' prevention program extends a crucial safety net for those on the brink of losing their homes.

Under Rita's leadership more than 100 families found shelter through COTS in 2011, including 115 parents and 122 children. Since 2008, COTS' prevention program has helped 1,264 people to stay in their apartments and has stopped 55 foreclosures.

Rita is known throughout Vermont for her overwhelming generosity, tireless determination, and sharp sense of humor. She truly embodies the Vermont spirit, dedicating herself to helping her neighbors and reminding us that we are all in this together. Vermont is truly lucky to call Rita Markley one of our own.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of an article from September 20, 2012, entitled, "Innovation, and passion, in the nonprofit world," from The Burlington Free Press, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Sept. 20, 2012]

INNOVATION, AND PASSION, IN THE NONPROFIT WORLD—RITA MARKLEY OF COTS TALKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS IN A WORLD OF GREAT NEED, LIMITED FUNDS
(By Lynn Monty)

Work is missed when children get sick. Gas for trips to the doctor's office is costly. Rent payments become late, and medical bills loom. Homelessness strikes after a long list of setbacks in a person's life . . . a family's life.

Unforeseen expenditures happen to everyone, but when they come about on a fixed income it can cause a domino effect of devastation. Financial insecurity has plagued households nationwide since the economic downturn, and Burlington is no exception.

Rita Markley, 53, of Burlington knows all too well what our community has had to endure. She is executive director of the Committee on Temporary Shelter, where she's tasked daily with providing distressed people with emergency shelter and services, but her ultimate goal is to find long-term solutions to end homelessness altogether.

More than a hundred families stayed in COTS shelters in 2011. This included 115 parents and 122 children. An average of 53 people a day used the COTS Daystation, the only drop-in center for homeless adults in Chittenden County, before a storm flooded the Daystation in July.

Among her myriad responsibilities, and scrambling to find a new home for the much needed community resource before snow flies, surprisingly, Markley finds time to laugh.

Humor is part of the fuel she needs to forge ahead, to build community partnerships, and to get through tough times. "You might as well have fun while you are doing what you do," she said. "Laughter is a way to connect, and you feel better when you laugh. It makes you feel alive."

We spoke to Markley about these philosophies, her life and her innovations at the nonprofit in an interview at her North Avenue office on Sept. 5. A fuller version of this interview is available online at BurlingtonFreePress.com.

Burlington Free Press: What does an average day look like for you at COTS?

Markley: Very few days look the same. That's what I love about this job. Some days it's meetings with community partners, other days is brainstorming with staff, writing reports, looking at our numbers. I stay in touch with the people we serve. I advocate to fix problems that put ridiculous burdens on struggling families.

In the past five weeks, I've been running to every last corner of Burlington looking for a new Daystation.

Our whole approach isn't about how we help the homeless, that is the wrong premise, it's about how we can end homelessness. What can we do so that 20 years from now people don't need shelters in the first place?

BFP: What fuels your passion?

Markley: It's an underlying belief that everybody has infinite promise, and potential, and that they deserve a chance to try to reach that.

I spent the first five years of my life in an orphanage. I know I would be a very different person today without the volunteers who would come and rock the babies and read to us. They came three or four times a week to make us feel loved and special. I think I would have been one of those kids who could have otherwise fallen through the cracks, or given up, before I had even stepped out the door.

I was very lucky to be adopted by the Markleys. It was a privileged household, but I remember well what holidays are like when you don't have a home, like the home you read about in storybooks. Or when you feel embarrassed because of the fact you are an orphan.

When I think of the kids there, I still remember their names. I remember who we were and how much useful creativity, imagination and joy every single one of us had. We were encouraged when we could have been shut down. The volunteers and staff there really cared about what they were doing, and launched us into lives that became meaningful.

I know when you don't get the opportunities for college and travel and exposure that I was given by the Markleys, you can start out with that bright shining light, and it gets darker and darker as each year passes by, and you stop believing that there are better things that are possible for you. This underlies everything that I am.

I have never been a woe-is-me kind of person. I believe in joy, touching that joy, and touching what is most wonderful in humans who have the capacity to care about each other when we don't have to. There is no reason that most of the volunteers need to come to a place like COTS every day, but they do because they can't bear the idea that somebody is going to sleep in a car, or not have a chance without their support.

BFP: How would Burlington be different without COTS?

Markley: I believe in working toward a world where everybody gets a chance. A lot of the work and the way we do things at COTS is driven from the principles of finding that strength, that spark, to help people believe again that more is possible for them than simply a shelter bed and hoping they will have enough food day to day. To help them see that you cannot only survive, but have a rich life.

Without the work we do every day, Burlington would be a place with shelter upon shelter upon shelter with people never getting out in front of it. It takes so long to save for a security deposit, especially when you are only bringing in \$400 a week or less. We help people with this.

In 2008, COTS launched an innovative new prevention program with \$250,000 that we had been fundraising since 2005. We got tired of