

Anyone who knows Matt can attest to the crucial role service to our Nation plays in his life. A recent retiree from the National Guard and a veteran, Matt served a 1-year tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007. And I certainly gained an even greater sense of what it was like to experience the gratification and honor—as well as trepidation—that service members feel when we saw Master Sergeant Walker deploy. I was so touched when Matt had an American flag fly over Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan for me, and when he sent it to me, I had it framed and displayed in my front office.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention Matt's boundless energy, personable demeanor, and infectious sense of humor. Over the years, I have been truly fortunate to benefit from Matt's indispensable wisdom and thoughtful guidance. I will miss his strong work ethic and cheerful demeanor, which have been nearly constant in my office for so long. Matt's strengths and attributes will serve him well as he moves off the Hill. I wish Matt, his wife Rhonda, and their beautiful children, Riley and Logan, all the best as they begin an exciting new chapter.

#### NOMINATION OF JOHN DOWDELL

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I rise to speak of the confirmation of John Dowdell of Tulsa, OK, to a seat on the District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Mr. Dowdell is a native of Tulsa and a graduate of Bishop Kelly High School. Mr. Dowdell received his B.A. from Wake Forest University in 1978 and his J.D. from the University of Tulsa College of Law in 1981. Following law school, he served for two years as a law clerk to the Honorable William J. Holloway of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. He then joined the firm of Norman & Wohlgemuth as an associate. In 1987, he was promoted to partner and the firm became Norman Wohlgemuth Chandler & Dowdell. Mr. Dowdell's practice areas include complex litigation and appellate work. He has been involved with six cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and has litigated before the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals on numerous occasions.

In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Dowdell serves as an Adjunct Settlement Judge in the Northern District of Oklahoma. In this capacity he has conducted over 50 mediations on a pro bono basis. He has also performed extensive pro bono work for several criminal appellate cases and his alma mater, Bishop Kelley High School. Additionally, Mr. Dowdell is a member of the Editorial Board of the Oklahoma Bar Association, a former president of the Bishop Kelley High School Board of Directors, and was appointed by the mayor to serve on Tulsa's Public Facilities Board.

Mr. Dowdell has received numerous honors for his legal practice, including being rated as one of Oklahoma's

"Super Lawyers" from 2006 through 2011 and being named a Top Commercial Litigation Lawyer by American Litigation Magazine. He also was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the American Inns of Court in 1993 and the Jack R. Givens Award for Professionalism and Service in 1998. The Oklahoma Bar Association Board of Governors has endorsed Mr. Dowdell's nomination to this judicial position and passed a resolution praising his demeanor, intelligence, and legal skills.

I firmly believe the rule of law is the foundation of our great Nation. By confirming judges of high character and integrity such as Mr. Dowdell, who are committed to the principles established by our Founders, we will ensure our Federal court system continues to dispense fair and predictable justice to all. I thank my colleagues for joining me in supporting John Dowdell's confirmation to the District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO REBEKAH FORMAN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Rebekah Forman for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Rebekah is a native of Sheridan, WY and a graduate of Sheridan High School. She currently attends Laramie County Community College. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Rebekah for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is wonderful to have her as part of our team. I am pleased she will be continuing her internship with my office through next semester.●

##### TRIBUTE TO MARY FREEMAN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Mary Freeman for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Mary is a native of Cheyenne, WY and a graduate of Cheyenne East High School. She currently attends the University of Wyoming College of Law. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Mary for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know

she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO RONALD PALMER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Ronald Palmer for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Ronald is a native of Rawlins, WY and a graduate of Rawlins High School. He currently attends Casper College where he is majoring in theatre performance. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Ronald for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO MARY FRANCES ROONEY

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Franci Rooney for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Franci is a native of Dallas, TX. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor of arts in philosophy and Spanish. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Franci for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO ABRAHAM SCHREIER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Abe Schreier for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Abe is a native of Fort Wayne, IN. He graduated from Indiana University with a bachelor of arts in political science and history. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Abe for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CYRUS WESTERN

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Cyrus Western for his hard work as an intern in the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Cyrus is a native of Sheridan, WY. He graduated from Washington and Jefferson College with a bachelor of arts in environmental science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Cyrus for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3187. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.

H.R. 6582. An act to allow for innovations and alternative technologies that meet or exceed desired efficiency goals, and to make technical corrections to existing Federal energy efficiency laws to allow American manufacturers to remain competitive.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mrs. GILLIBRAND).

At 5:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 829. Resolution to respectfully return to the Senate the bill (H. R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

#### 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-8547. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Buprofezin Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Correction" (FRL No. 9371-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8548. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Zeta Cypermethrin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9371-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8549. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spirodiclofen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9371-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8550. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fenpyroximate; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9360-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8551. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2012-0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8552. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Specifications and Management Measures" (RIN0648-BC57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8553. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Crescent City Fourth of July Fireworks Event, Crescent City, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0141)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8554. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Regulations; Areas of the National Park System, Yellowstone National Park - Winter Use" (RIN1024-AE10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8555. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for a report entitled "Revised Guidance of Treatment of Tenants under CERCLA'S BFPP Provision"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8556. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; The 2002 Base Year Emissions Inventory for the Parkersburg-Marietta, WV-OH Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9760-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8557. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; The 2002 Base Year Emissions Inventory for the Charleston Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9759-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8558. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; The 2002 Base Year Inventory for the Baltimore, Maryland Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9759-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8559. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; The 2002 Base Year Emissions Inventory for the Washington County, Maryland Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9760-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8560. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Modifications to Renewable Fuel Standard and Diesel Sulfur Programs" (FRL No. 9758-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8561. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; The 2002 Base Year Emissions Inventory for the Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9759-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8562. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance for Performing the Integrated Assessment for External Flooding" (JLD-ISG-2012-05) received in the Office of the President of