

the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Thomas M. Durkin, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON NOMINATION OF FERNANDO M. OLGUIN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Fernando M. Olguin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous, the Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of International Human Rights Day. Sixty-four years ago this past Monday, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This declaration enunciates a doctrine that serves as a foundation for human rights initiatives internationally and as an enduring guide for human rights advocates around the globe.

On this annual celebration of International Human Rights Day, human rights defenders, champions of democracy, promoters of civil rights, and advocates of free speech across the globe can also be encouraged by Congress's recent passage of landmark human rights legislation. Last week, the Senate passed the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, which the House passed in September in conjunction with approving permanent normal trade relations for Russia.

The Magnitsky Act was inspired by the tragic case of Sergei Magnitsky, a 37-year-old Russian lawyer who uncovered massive corruption in Russia and then was arrested for his whistleblowing. Magnitsky died in 2009 after suffering torturous conditions in pre-trial detention. Those implicated in the corruption Magnitsky exposed and those responsible for his torture and death have not been brought to justice, and some have even been decorated and

promoted. The Magnitsky Act goes beyond the specific violators in this case to prohibit all gross violators of human rights in Russia from traveling to the United States and from using our financial system.

President Obama is now poised to reaffirm our Nation's commitment to universal human rights by signing the Magnitsky Act into law. With the stroke of a pen, the President will set a new global standard that other nations are sure to follow. The act sets a precedent that can be applied to human rights abusers around the world, and I am committed to working with my colleagues in the next Congress to apply the Magnitsky sanctions globally. Human rights violators from Kinshasa to Beijing are now on notice that the United States stands in solidarity with those whose rights are trampled and will deny the legitimizing privileges of travelling to our country and accessing our financial system to those who violate fundamental freedoms.

The United States remains the global leader in promoting and protecting human rights, but we need to do more. We need to ensure that women across the world have the liberty to determine the course and scope of their own lives and futures and that they have the tools to achieve their full potential. The horrific and cowardly attempt by assassins to silence the brave leadership of 15-year-old Malala Yousufzai must not be left unchallenged. We must take up her cause—the education of girls and women—and support both that goal and its advocates, and we must redouble our efforts to protect the rights of ethnic, linguistic, and religious minorities, from the Christians in Egypt to the Roma population in Europe.

As the legendary Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel has said, “Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must—at that moment—become the center of the universe.” This International Human Rights Day, the U.S. Congress sends a strong message to human rights defenders around the world that we stand in solidarity with them as they dare to stand up to injustice and oppression.

RECOGNIZING CHOBANI YOGURT

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, my colleague, Senator MIKE CRAPO, joins me in recognizing the opening this month of the Chobani Yogurt production facility in Twin Falls, ID.

This facility, Chobani's first in Idaho, will be capable of producing 4.2 million cases of yogurt per week at full capacity. All of the milk used to produce the yogurt will come from Idaho dairy farms and at the peak of production will use millions of pounds of milk a day.

The 950,000-square-foot production facility was constructed by more than 1,000 workers and will employ between 400 and 500 people next year. More than

300 new jobs have already been created in Twin Falls. It was built at a cost of \$450 million and is now the largest yogurt plant in the world.

From its founding in 2005, the Chobani company started with 5 employees and now has more than 1,800 employees worldwide, with more than 1,600 in the United States. Their founder and CEO, Hamdi Ulukaya, is an American success story, having immigrated to the United States from Turkey in 1994.

Like many businesses in Idaho, Chobani will be involved in local charitable work. Chobani's biggest impact, however, will be in providing well-paying jobs and economic growth through manufacturing a delicious and healthy product available throughout the country.

Chobani recognized the many benefits to locating in Idaho—among them the quality milk produced by our Idaho dairy families, a commonsense regulatory environment and hard-working Idahoans who will make the facility a great success.

Senator CRAPO and I also recognize the many entities that worked with Chobani to make their opening a reality. Elected officials from Twin Falls County and the City of Twin Falls worked tirelessly on the project, as did the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization. The Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce and the Twin Falls Urban Renewal District also played a major role in the effort. The State of Idaho and its Department of Commerce helped in the process, and the end result is not only the direct jobs at Chobani, but also a multiplier effect of more than 3,000 additional jobs in the State.

Today, we congratulate Chobani on the opening of their new plant and salute all of the partners and community leaders on a job well done. We welcome Chobani to the great State of Idaho.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING CARMEN WARSCHAW

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Carmen Harvey Warschaw, the great California philanthropist and political leader who died at age 95 on election day, a week after she had made sure to vote by mail. Carmen was a trusted mentor, adviser, and dear friend to me, and I will miss her.

Carmen Harvey was born in Los Angeles in 1917. Her parents had immigrated to America from Lithuania, and her father founded the Harvey Aluminum Company. Carmen grew up in La Cañada, graduated from the University of Southern California, and married Louis Warschaw, her high school sweetheart.

From an early age, both Carmen and Lou were active in the California Democratic Party. Throughout the

years, Carmen worked tirelessly to elect Democrats at the local, State, and national level. She attended every Democratic National Convention from 1948 to 2008, many as a delegate. In the mid sixties she served as the party's Southern California chairwoman, was a member of the Democratic National Committee, the first woman to chair the California Fair Employment Practices Commission, and a board member of California's coastal and fair housing commissions.

Carmen's passion for politics was equaled by her compassion and philanthropy. She was an active member of many organizations, including the Los Angeles Music Center, the Truman Library Institute, the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, and the Women's Guild and Helping Hand of Los Angeles.

Carmen long served as a member of the board of directors at Cedars-Sinai, where she endowed medical and research chairs and founded the PROs, which funds the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center. Two years ago, at age 93, Carmen joined me on a tour of the Cedars-Sinai Emergency Room and Operating Room; I remember joking that she was the only person I knew who could get me to put on scrubs.

Carmen was also very generous to her alma mater, USC, where she and Lou helped to establish the Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life and the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at USC. In 2003, Carmen endowed a chair in practical politics at the Unruh Institute so that students could learn about the nuts and bolts of politics as part of their political science education.

This world and Carmen's beloved State of California are much better places thanks to her passion, compassion, and commitment. On behalf of the people of California, I send my deepest gratitude and condolences to her daughters, Hope and Susan; her sons-in-law, John Law and Carl Robertson; her grandchildren, Jack Law-Warschaw, Cara Robertson, and Chip Robertson; and her great-grandchildren and many friends. We will all miss this dynamic force of nature and extraordinary woman.●

REMEMBERING PETER N. LETANG

● Mr. COONS. Madam President, I wish to honor the life and legacy of Peter N. Letang, Esq. For over 40 years, Mr. Letang was a prosecutor for the State of Delaware, a pioneer for justice who was respected and beloved by all those who had the pleasure to know him. Mr. Letang's courtroom achievements are numerous, from being instrumental in the State's first use of DNA for conviction, to handling many of the State's most highly publicized cases.

Peter was a Delaware legal powerhouse, but his courtroom achievements are only part of the man he was. He was a great friend, a tremendous storyteller and a warm and wonderful

human being. It is my privilege to honor his achievements, his spirit and the tremendous impact he had on the State of Delaware.

Peter believed in our justice system, and he devoted his life to ensuring it worked for all Delawareans. Day in and day out, he approached every case with a positive attitude and a willingness to help. He took tremendous pride in his work and earned the respect of his peers through his long career as a deputy attorney general with the Delaware Department of Justice and chief New Castle county prosecutor.

Our thoughts are with the entire Letang family, including his wife Debra, their children Nick and Samantha, his sister Lisa and his nieces and nephews Carson, Cooper and Cutter. The State of Delaware lost a great citizen in Peter Letang, but his legacy will long be remembered.●

REMEMBERING ROMEO BARRERAS

● Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to honor the life of Pvt. Romeo Barreras, a Nevadan and Filipino-American World War II veteran, whose recent passing is a devastating loss to the Silver State. As a member of the "Mighty Five," a group of veterans living in Las Vegas, Pvt. Romeo Barreras helped lead the fight to provide proper military recognition and compensation for nearly 24,000 Filipino World War II veterans. I am grateful for his service to defend democracy around the world and will continue to do everything within my power to ensure that Filipino veterans are honored for their sacrifices.

Pvt. Romeo Barreras fought bravely for our country and yet was not able to qualify for the military benefits he earned and deserved. That is why I introduced the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act, to establish a process for Filipinos who have fought alongside the U.S. military during World War II to work with military historians to determine eligibility for military benefits. We have a responsibility to ensure that individuals who served honorably alongside U.S. troops are recognized for their contributions to our Nation.

I am humbled to have known Pvt. Romeo Barreras. It was a privilege to work with him on behalf of all Filipino American World War II veterans. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family during this difficult time.

In memory of Pvt. Romeo Barreras, I will continue fighting to ensure that veterans and their families are properly thanked for their sacrifices. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of an honorable man who was dedicated to providing justice for deserving veterans.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL KEVIN K. CALLIES

● Madam JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to LTC Kevin K. Callies, upon his

retirement from the South Dakota Air National Guard. Lieutenant Colonel Callies has served as the financial manager for the 114th Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls, SD, since 2003. His career with the South Dakota Air National Guard has spanned a period of over 30 years.

Lieutenant Colonel Callies began his career in the South Dakota Air National Guard in 1977 as a traditional guardsman in personnel. In 1978, he transitioned to finance, where he would spend most of his career. In 1988, while working full time, he earned a bachelor of science in business administration from National College, now known as National American University. After almost 17 years of enlisted service, he received his commission through the Academy of Military Science in 1993.

Lieutenant Colonel Callies excelled in the field of finance, with positions in civilian pay, military pay, accounting, and budget. His superior knowledge of financial management has earned him numerous awards locally and nationally. In both 1997 and 2004, Lieutenant Colonel Callies's unit, the 114th Fighter Wing, was named Air National Guard Financial Management and Comptroller Office of the year. As one of the best financial managers in the Air National Guard, the National Guard Bureau and the Pentagon have sought out his expertise.

He served as a member of the Resource Protection Team, RPT, and held the position of commander from 1993 to 2002. While on the RPT he dealt with security issues related to the September 11 attacks, visits by the President, and forest fires. In 2002, Lieutenant Colonel Callies accepted a position as logistics manager, where he was in charge of all the activation activities, expeditionary combat support, and deployment functions of the 114th Fighter Wing during their deployment to Turkey to support Operation Northern Watch. After serving as logistics manager, he returned to finance and in 2010 was deployed to Haiti to assist with a Joint Command financial management mission with the U.S. Army.

It is an honor for me to share Lieutenant Colonel Callies's accomplishments with my colleagues and publicly commend him for his hard work and the many years of dedicated service he has given the South Dakota Air National Guard and our Nation. I wish Kevin a happy and healthy retirement with his wife Joyce and their four children.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL TARBET

● Mr. LEE. Madam President, today I wish to honor one of Utah's finest, MG Brian Tarbet, the Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard. After 12 years of leadership with the Utah National Guard and 39 years of highly decorated service in the United States Military, General Tarbet is retiring, closing a transformative chapter in Utah's history.