

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Nomination: Central Intelligence Agency. John Owen Brennan, of Virginia, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion having been presented under rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John Owen Brennan, of Virginia, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Harry Reid, Dianne Feinstein, John D. Rockefeller IV, Debbie Stabenow, Sherrod Brown, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Thomas R. Carper, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Mark L. Pryor, Bill Nelson, Mark Begich, Barbara A. Mikulski, Patty Murray, Carl Levin, Joe Manchin III

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES

Mr. DURBIN. Grant Schaffer is a Marine veteran. He attended the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, a for-profit college owned by Education Management Corporation. Grant saw an advertisement for the school and thought the program he enrolled in would give him the skills he needed to succeed in the workforce after he left the Marines. After enrolling at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Grant became concerned about the quality of the school. He started doing his own research about the school, the program, and how many of the graduates actually got a job. What he realized was the program wasn't going to provide him with the skills that were promised. In fact, the jobs that his program would have prepared him to do didn't even require a college degree.

Grant decided the program at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh was not worth his time or the Government's money—he was on the GI bill—so he decided to transfer to a community college. The problem was none of his credits from

the Art Institute of Pittsburgh would transfer to any school, not even to a community college. Although he received GI bill benefits, those benefits did not cover the costs, all the costs of the inflated tuition of this Art Institute of Pittsburgh. After 1 year in the program—1 year—Grant had borrowed \$32,000 over and above his GI bill benefits. Now Grant is in debt with worthless college credits from a for-profit school, the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. He is now attending a community college, learning the skills he needs to succeed. He still is going to have to struggle to pay off \$32,000 in debt to a for-profit school that was a worthless experience. He says one-quarter of his paycheck goes to his loans and he is living paycheck to paycheck. He says he cannot save for anything and all his money goes for student loans. He would save for retirement if he could.

Grant was lucky, in some ways. Many of his peers stay at for-profit colleges and take on \$70,000 or \$80,000 or more in student loans, only later to find out the education at these for-profit schools was virtually worthless. Students also discover their credits will not transfer. That ought to be the first question any student asks: If I go to your for-profit school, will any other school recognize my credits? In this case the Art Institute of Pittsburgh would have had to answer no, and that might have given Grant some pause.

These students such as Grant are stuck with mortgage-sized debts and end up with no home to show for it and worthless college credits. Grant Schaffer's credits would not transfer because his school had a different accreditation than even the community college he now attends.

It is a little known fact these for-profit schools do not reveal to students: The credits will not transfer anywhere because the school is not accredited.

Our current accreditation system favors schools, not students. That is upside-down. Schools pay accreditors to accredit them, creating a cozy relationship that does not foster any real accountability. Once a school is accredited, the Government dollars just flow in, but an accreditation is not always the guarantee of academic quality that most students believe it is and not all accreditations are equal.

The University of Phoenix, the largest university in the United States, was recently told by its accrediting agency that the school would be put on notice. The regional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission, announced it had some real problems with the way the University of Phoenix is running its business and treating its students. More accreditors, both regional and national, should take a closer look at the schools they accredit and the standards used to accredit them.

How many more people have to go through the experience of Grant Schaffer? Essentially, this former Marine

wasted his GI bill benefits and got into more debt than he can realistically manage and has nothing to show for it from a for-profit school. We need to look at the current system of accreditation, consider how for-profit schools are aggressively recruiting our military, as well as using up the DOD tuition assistance benefits and veterans' GI bill benefits for low-income students. We need to commit to reforming our current system to protect our students and not to protect those who are in charge of the for-profit schools. We need to direct taxpayers' dollars to affordable, meaningful education that will literally help our men and women in uniform and students across America.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO LYMAN HUBBARD, SR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last year, we lost a great American from my hometown of Springfield, IL, and I rise today to pay tribute to him and his legacy.

Lyman Hubbard, Sr., grew up on a small farm near Springfield that had been in his family for 165 years—long enough that at one point the family's lawyer for the land was a local attorney named Abraham Lincoln.

In high school, Mr. Hubbard was a member of the National Honor Society, ran track, and played basketball and football. I have heard someone who knew him at the time say that he was "the best athlete in Springfield." And he was an Eagle Scout.

During World War II, before he had even graduated from high school, he signed up to serve his country in the Air Force.

When he graduated from pilot training, he became the only person from Springfield to join the Tuskegee Army the first African-American military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces. From there, he fought for both our Nation and for racial equality. He logged more than 7,000 hours of flight time in the course of his multi-tour career, flying planes from the B-25 bomber to the EC-121 Super Constellation. He flew them well and became a leader among his peers, ultimately earning a Bronze Star, an Air Medal with oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and a Vietnamese Honor Medal. Lyman Hubbard accomplished all of this despite the well-documented discrimination that the Tuskegee Army men faced.

The people of Springfield, and all of us, owe a great deal to Lyman Hubbard, Sr., not just for his exceptional valor in combat but also for his devotion to preserving the history of the city of Springfield.

When the Lincoln Colored Home, one of the first African-American orphanages in the United States and a historic property, was at risk of being destroyed, Mr. Hubbard purchased the home outright to save it and planned to turn it into a community center.

While we may have lost Lyman Hubbard, Sr., his legacy lives on.

Just last week, it was announced that his sons will donate a collection of their father's medals, badges, and photographs so that we can all have a chance to see them.

They will be displayed at the Abraham Lincoln Capitol Airport in Springfield, and I hope that those of us who can will take the time to see them and reflect on the life and heroism of Lyman Hubbard, Sr.

I know I will.

TRIBUTE TO BILL ROBERTSON

Mr. DURBIN. I rise today to say a few words in honor of Bill Robertson, an extraordinary man from Rockford, IL, whom we recently lost to illness.

Bill Robertson was a public servant in the best sense of the term. For the last few years, he was considered the voice of reason on the Rockford, IL, City Council, but his service started well before his election to the City Council.

After college, he served in the Marines before signing up for the Rockford Fire Department. To put this another way, after serving in a job where he would have been under fire, he decided to take a job running into fires. It made sense to him, and he loved it.

He spent 36 years of his life in that fire department, rising to command the department's training academy. He will be remembered for always knowing cadets by name and frequently checking in to see how recruits were doing.

He did so well that in 1991 he was asked to be the ninth chief in the Rockford Fire Department's 133-year history. He held that job for 17 years, until he retired in 2008.

Retirement turned out to be short-lived for Bill Robertson. In 2009, he was elected to the Rockford City Council, and he quickly became a leader there too.

His council colleagues recall that, even in a time of bitter and occasionally over-the-top politics, Robertson always strove for common ground and acted as a voice of reason. Perhaps that is one of the reasons one of the many reasons so many people from the Rockford community came to pay tribute and celebrate his life when he passed away. I am told there were hundreds of well-wishers in attendance, and I am sorry Loretta and I were not able to be there to pay our respects to this generous leader.

Each and every one of them were touched by the good work he did throughout his life. He will not be forgotten, but he will be missed.

REMEMBERING DR. STEPHEN B. THACKER

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor and memory of Stephen B. Thacker, MD, MSc, RADM/ASG, retired, USPHS, who passed away on Friday, February 15, 2013.

Dr. Thacker was a true public health hero whose long and distinguished career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began as an Epidemic Intelligence Service, EIS officer in 1976. On his first day, he was sent out on an investigation of an unknown illness, which turned out to be the first recognized Legionnaire's epidemic. Throughout his 37 years at CDC, Dr. Thacker was a leader of public health science and the professionals who practice that science. Programs under his leadership introduced thousands of professionals to careers in public health and brought epidemiology directly into middle school and high school classrooms. He was instrumental in launching the field epidemiology training programs in more than 35 countries.

In all of the many position he held, Dr. Thacker was a steadfast champion of epidemiology, public health surveillance, and the development of a global public health workforce. Programs developed or expanded under his leadership have introduced thousands of professionals to careers in public health. Given all this, it is no surprise that Dr. Thacker's accomplishments were recognized through more than 40 major awards and commendations throughout his career, including the Surgeon General's Medallion, which he received just 2 weeks before his death.

Dr. Thacker's accomplishments were only exceeded by his treatment of all persons with dignity, honesty, and respect. His career has embodied the best of CDC's commitment to science and, most importantly, to service.

I offer my deep condolences to Dr. Thacker's family. Mr. President and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Dr. Steve Thacker. I believe there is no question that his important influence on public health will continue well into the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WOODS EASTLAND

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Woods E. Eastland of Indianola, MS, as the recipient of the 2012 Harry S. Baker Distinguished Service Award. The officers of the National Cotton Council of America recently selected Mr. Eastland to be the 27th recipient of this award, which is given annually to the individual who has contributed most significantly to the advancement of the U.S. cotton industry.

In bestowing this honor on Woods E. Eastland, the National Cotton Council cited his extraordinary leadership during his year as the council's chairman and his continued service to the U.S. cotton industry. The Harry S. Baker Distinguished Service Award was started in honor of former council president Harry S. Baker, and it is the industry's most prestigious award.

Woods E. Eastland is the chairman of the board of Staple Cotton Cooperative

Association and the Staple Cotton Discount Corporation, which are headquartered in Greenwood, MS. He served as their president and CEO from 1986 until 2010. A native of Doddsville, MS, Mr. Eastland earned a B.A. degree from Vanderbilt University and a J.D. degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law. He practiced law and was a faculty member of the Jackson School of Law from 1972 until 1974. In 1974, Woods married Lynn Ganier Wood and became a cotton, soybean and rice grower in Sunflower County, MS. He and Lynn have two children and three grandchildren.

Woods E. Eastland, in addition to being a farmer, has built a remarkable record of service to the cotton industry, his State and our Nation. He is a past chairman of the National Cotton Council, past president and chairman of Cotton Council International, and a past director of the Memphis Branch Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. He was a member of the board of managers of the New York Board of Trade when it was formed from the merger of the Cotton and Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchanges. He served 1 year as the vice chairman of the board of governors of the New York Board of Trade.

In 2005, during Mr. Eastland's term as the council's chairman, international trade in cotton and textiles dominated the U.S. cotton industry's policy concerns. In addition, the World Trade Organization's, WTO, Doha Round of negotiations was a primary focus of the cotton industry during Mr. Eastland's tenure as council chairman.

Under Mr. Eastland's leadership, the council worked as part of a fiber/textile/labor initiative that successfully convinced the United States to self-initiate WTO-sanctioned textile safeguards to impose a measure of discipline on the shipment of Chinese textiles into our country. U.S. officials were also persuaded to make changes in provisions of the Dominican Republic—Central America Free Trade Agreement that led to the U.S. cotton industry's support for congressional approval of that pact.

Mr. Eastland traveled to Geneva and Washington, D.C., to confer with key trade officials on trade developments and to convey the U.S. cotton industry's message that cotton should not be singled out for different treatment from the rest of agriculture in the WTO Doha negotiations.

Beyond his year of service as the Council chairman, Mr. Eastland has remained active in Council leadership. He was named chairman of the council's Trade Promotion Authority task force in 2007 to guide the industry on trade promotion policy. He is an advisor to the Council's board of directors and an active member of its Operations Committee.

I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Eastland on receiving this prestigious award, and to commend him for his contributions to the cotton industry, American agriculture and fair trade. •