

investigating agency that the complaint not be made public, it has not been. I wish it were. It is not substantial or even substantially about Todd Jones. It is certainly not reason to oppose the confirmation.

The ranking member requested that the long-delayed June 4 confirmation hearing on the nomination to head ATF be postponed further, and I postponed it another week. During that postponement, over that last weekend, the ranking member threatened to use Senate rules for the minority to call an outside witness to testify at the hearing. There is no precedent for outside witnesses at a Judiciary Committee hearing for a subcabinet executive level position. I nonetheless sought to accommodate his last-minute demand by agreeing to his calling a witness.

The hearing proceeded on Tuesday and should have cleared the air. For instance, those opposing this nomination were unaware that Todd Jones had terminated a supervisor of the Fast and Furious operation.

The Judiciary Committee had for decades followed a tradition and practice of examining allegations against nominees in a bipartisan manner from the outset. That has not been the practice Republicans have followed during the last several years. They have, instead, not brought matters to the bipartisan staff but chosen to proceed on their own.

Sometimes we do delay committee consideration of nominations to allow a complaint to be resolved. Sometimes we proceed despite lawsuits involving nominees, such as the way we proceeded last year with the nomination of Judge Stephanie Rose of Iowa to the United States District Court for the District of Iowa even though there was a lawsuit pending in which there were allegations against her actions as the U.S. attorney for Iowa. Earlier this year, when defense counsel filed a motion against the U.S. attorney for the District of New Mexico making allegations, we independently examined the matter. The committee proceeded with that nomination rather than delay it.

I have reached out to the ranking member staff about getting back to our tradition of conducting bipartisan inquiries into allegations made against nominees. I hope that practice will be restored. With respect to the nomination of Todd Jones, we are further examining the matter, but I believe him qualified and at this time know of no good reason the Senate should not confirm his nomination to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

RECOGNIZING THE WAYSIDE RESTAURANT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I would like to pay tribute to the Wayside Restaurant—a trusted and venerated Vermont fixture and a staple of the community surrounding Montpelier, our State capital. The Wayside is

a local business that has remained true to the values of its humble beginnings. For nearly a century, the Wayside Restaurant has been a place where Vermonters can count on quality service, reasonable prices, and a quality meal that is sure to satisfy both the stomach and the heart. I am honored to join Vermonters in celebrating the Wayside Restaurant's 95th anniversary.

In 1918, when Effie Ballou first opened the Wayside's doors, many of the restaurant's offerings were prepared in the kitchen of her home and carried down to her roadside eatery. Never did she imagine that her small eating house would become the bustling spot that it is today, drawing both locals and out-of-State travelers and serving nearly 1000 customers daily. Every day, diners—from families to office workers pile into the Wayside Restaurant. Its warm environment, familiar staff and signature Vermont cooking make the restaurant a home away from home for locals and visitors alike.

The owners and staff of the Wayside Restaurant are devoted to providing extraordinary service to the crowds of loyal customers who stop in to pile their plates high with Wayside's fine fare. Regular customers of the Wayside Restaurant can order their meals to-go or can dine in while enjoying friendly conversation and classic Wayside dishes like the salt pork and gravy, honeycomb beef tripe, or maple cream pie.

Current owners Karen and Brian Zecchinelli have remained true to the restaurant's early virtues—preparation of quality, old-time favorites as well as modern cuisine, and a focus on family and community values. As a member of the Vermont Business Environmental Partnership, the Wayside Restaurant has implemented earth-friendly initiatives that are kind to our natural environment. In 2012, the Wayside Restaurant was recognized as the first and only "green" restaurant in Montpelier and was praised for its support of small business by buying locally produced products, a tradition they have kept throughout the years.

Today the Wayside Restaurant continues as a symbol of both longstanding tradition and effective progress. From Effie Ballou's humble beginnings to the eatery's current, booming success, the Wayside Restaurant holds a special place in Vermonters' hearts. Marcelle and I are always delighted to join them for a meal and visit with other patrons. I want to join the many others congratulating the Wayside on 95 successful years of enriching its community and supporting Vermont's local economy.

Every time I go there to eat I remember going with my parents, brother, and sister when I was a child. It was great then and still is.

TRIBUTE TO NORM BROWNSTEIN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to wish a happy, if slightly

belated, 70th birthday to Norm Brownstein—a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, and a talented and effective advocate for the alliance between the United States and Israel.

Norm's story is a classic American tale of a young man rising from humble beginnings to achieve big things. Born to an immigrant family, Norm was orphaned at an early age and faced a number of hardships. But he did not let that stop him from working hard or realizing his dreams—even if they differed from his original goal of becoming a dentist. In fact, Norm became the first member of his family to graduate from college and received both undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Colorado-Boulder.

He then opened a law firm with two fellow UC-Boulder law graduates in the 1960s. In the ensuing decades, that firm would transform into an agency with hundreds of employees and offices in all corners of the country.

And, as a board member of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee, Norm would also establish himself as a well-regarded supporter of the State of Israel and the relationship between our two countries. Clearly passionate on the issue, Norm has made his case effectively to numerous policymakers over the years—Republicans and Democrats alike.

As he looks back over his 70 years, though, I think Norm will be most proud of his role as a father of three, a grandfather of four, and as a husband.

So, today, please allow me to wish Norm a happy birthday, and to also wish him good health in the years to come.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, on June 10, 2013, I was regretfully absent during the vote on the Leahy amendment No. 998 because of travel delays due to inclement weather. Had I been able to attend the vote, I would have supported passage of this amendment, which establishes a pilot program to invest in gigabit networks in rural areas. This program has the potential to greatly improve Internet access in underserved communities, which can lead to significant improvements in commerce, education, health care and other areas. I applaud the Senate's passage of this amendment.

MICHIGAN'S GOOD NEWS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, much of what we read today in newspapers or on the Internet, much of what we hear on TV, much of what dominates our national conversation and our conversation here in the Senate is bad news. And it's understandable in a way that we're focused on righting wrongs and debating the solutions to problems. But too often we lose sight of the remarkable accomplishments and uplifting stories that are every bit as much a feature of the human condition as conflict and tragedy.

With that in mind, I want to alert my colleagues to an extraordinarily good-news story from right in my home State of Michigan. There, experts at the University of Michigan's CS Mott Children's Hospital, recently broke important new ground in treating a rare but life-threatening condition, and made an enormous difference in the lives of one little boy and his family.

At just 3 months old, Kaiba Gionfriddo's life was in danger. The Ohio baby was threatened by an unusual weakening of the wall of his bronchus, the passage leading to his lungs. His condition caused him to stop breathing, and his physicians worried that the condition would prove fatal. But they knew that doctors and engineers at the University of Michigan were working to develop a new treatment that offered hope.

At UM, pediatrician Dr. Glenn Green and biomechanical engineering professor Scott Hollister were working on a groundbreaking procedure. Alerted to young Kaiba's condition, they went to work. Kaiba was airlifted from his Ohio hospital to Ann Arbor, and the UM team went to work.

Their ingenious idea combined several important technologies. They used high-resolution imaging to create a detailed picture of Kaiba's airway. Through computer-aided design techniques and the use of a three-dimensional printer, they created a customized tracheal splint to support the weakened walls of his bronchus and allow him to breathe. And they fashioned this device out of a bioresorbable polymer that will be absorbed by Kaiba's body by the age of four, after it has given his body time to form a stronger breathing passage.

There are many heroes in this story: Kaiba's parents, who moved heaven and earth for their son while dealing with the fear that they might lose him; the Ohio physicians who searched for solutions to a difficult case; of course, Dr. Green and Professor Hollister and their team at UM; and, not to be forgotten, the countless researchers, engineers, and developers who put remarkable technological tools such as high-resolution imaging, computer-aided design, and 3D printing in the hands of the UM experts. A year after his procedure, Kaiba's mother April says her son is doing well. "He's getting himself into trouble nowadays," she said in a newspaper interview. "He scoots across the floor and gets into everything."

It's a remarkable story—but every day, countless Americans are engaged in similar efforts to help loved ones, neighbors, patients, even total strangers they will never know or meet. The combination of remarkable ingenuity and public spirit are defining characteristics of our Nation, and so long as they remain, there is nothing Americans cannot accomplish. As we focus on the problems we need to solve and the challenges we face and the flood of negative and discouraging news, I hope we will also keep in mind the remarkable

good news that also happens every day and take inspiration from it.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an exceptional library advocate and public servant in Rhode Island, Howard Boksenbaum, who is retiring from his position as the State's chief library officer after a long and distinguished career.

Howard graduated with a linguistics degree from Washington University in St. Louis and Waseda University in Tokyo, earned a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh, and started his career working at various library positions in Pennsylvania before moving to Rhode Island.

His service to Rhode Island libraries began nearly 34 years ago at the Island Interrelated Library System, which, at the time, was one of five regional library systems in the State. In 1988, he joined the State's Department of State Library Services, which later became the Office of Library and Information Services, OLIS. After serving in various capacities within these agencies, and as assistant director for Central Information Management Services at the Rhode Island Division of Information Technology, Howard became the state's chief library officer in 2007.

During his more than three decades working for Rhode Island libraries and the State's library agency, Howard helped improve Rhode Island's libraries in many important ways. His focus on and passion for technology brought our State's libraries further into the digital age. He worked to consolidate Rhode Island's regional library networks into a single statewide system and created Ocean State Free-Net, a public access computer network. He also played a major role in other statewide technology initiatives, including working on the state's website launch and helping to establish the statewide public safety communication network, RISCON. Howard was also part of the Rhode Island Library Association and the Coalition for Library Advocates.

His view of the importance of libraries to our citizens, to our communities, and to our Nation can be found in a quote of his soon after he became chief library officer:

A library is bigger than the web because it includes it, bigger than its users because they grow there. Unlike a school, a library is elective, unlike a store, a library belongs to its users, unlike the World Wide Web, a library is people, is history, is culture, is connection. A library is the past and the present and will be changing again to be the future.

Rhode Islanders have been fortunate to have Howard devote more than three decades of service to the state and its libraries, and especially for the past 6 years he served as chief library officer. I have also had the benefit of his knowledge and insights about libraries, and worked with him on legislative ini-

tiatives to enhance federal support for libraries.

I would also like to recognize Howard's wife Judith Stokes and his three daughters Anna, Martha, and Emily. I join many others in the State in thanking Howard for his dedication and service to our State's libraries, and I ask my colleagues to join us in commending Howard Boksenbaum on his long and accomplished career. I wish him fulfillment and continued success in his future endeavors.

COMMENDING JOHN LEWIS

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Congressman JOHN ROBERT LEWIS of Georgia, and recognize the 50th anniversary of his chairmanship of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

JOHN LEWIS grew up during the heart of segregation, born as the son of sharecroppers and attending segregated schools in Pike County, AL. At a young age, he became inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, and decided that he too, would fight for equal rights guaranteed to all by the Constitution of the United States.

JOHN attended Fisk University, where he began his civil rights activism by organizing a sit-in at segregated lunch counters in Nashville, TN. He later became one of the original 13 Freedom Riders, bravely challenging segregation at interstate bus terminals throughout the South.

In 1963, JOHN LEWIS was elected as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which we are here to recognize today. He helped found this organization, which encouraged students to get involved in the civil rights movement and played a key role in the struggle to end legalized racial discrimination and segregation.

By the age of 23, he was recognized as one of the "Big Six" leaders of the civil rights movement, planning and participating as the youngest speaker at the historic March on Washington in August 1963.

He remains the last remaining speaker from this march.

He continued his work, organizing the Mississippi Freedom Summer, a campaign to register black voters and expose students around the country to the perils and conditions in the South. Knowing what lay ahead, he risked his life to lead over 600 marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL, only to be brutally attacked by Selma police officers. This massacre became known as Bloody Sunday, during which JOHN's skull was fractured.

He still bears the scars today.

JOHN remained chairman of the SNCC until 1966, and then continued his commitment to the civil rights movement as associate director of the Field Foundation and in various voter registration programs. Even after more than 40 arrests during his peaceful protests, JOHN LEWIS never gave up on his cause.