

New York, and Vermont. Our region caps carbon emissions and sells permits to emit greenhouses gases to powerplants. This has created economic incentives for both the States and our utilities to invest in energy efficiency and in renewable energy development. And consumers have reaped the benefit of lower prices. In 2012, regional emissions were 45 percent below the annual cap, so just last week the State announced an agreement to cap future emissions at the 2012 rate.

I am proud of the work done in my State, and I know the Presiding Officer's home State of Connecticut is working equally hard on this issue. We are working to both slow climate change and to prepare for what are now its inevitable effects. But sadly, when it comes to this particular threat to our national security and our prosperity, Congress is asleep. It is time for us to wake up. The health and safety of Americans and of people all over the world is at risk. We must awaken to what is happening in the world around us and to the fact that the carbon pollution we are emitting is causing it. This is our responsibility. This is our generation's responsibility. It is, indeed, our duty. It is time for us to wake up.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations, Calendar Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. William H. Etter

##### IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade

indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Kenneth E. Tovo

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Nurse Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

##### To be brigadier general

Col. Barbara R. Holcomb

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Medical Service Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

##### To be brigadier general

Col. Patrick D. Sargent

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army Medical Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

##### To be major general

Brig. Gen. Brian C. Lein

Brig. Gen. Nadja Y. West

##### NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

PN70 AIR FORCE nomination of Kory D. Bingham, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN71 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning MICHAEL A. COOPER, and ending SUSAN MICHELLE MILLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN72 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning VICTOR DOUGLAS BROWN, and ending RODNEY M. WAITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN73 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning WALTER S. ADAMS, and ending CARL E. SUPPLEE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN74 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning JOHN J. BARTRUM, and ending GEORGE L. VALENTINE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN75 AIR FORCE nominations (8) beginning KIMBERLY L. BARBER, and ending JANET L. SETNOR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN76 AIR FORCE nominations (11) beginning DINA L. BERNSTEIN, and ending WILLIAM R. YOUNGBLOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN77 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning TIMOTHY LEE BRININGER, and ending CHRISTOPHER J. RYAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN78 AIR FORCE nominations (198) beginning FRANCIS XAVIER ALTIERI, and ending KEVIN M. ZELLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

##### IN THE ARMY

PN79 ARMY nomination of Jonathan A. Foskey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN80 ARMY nomination of Marion J. Parks, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN81 ARMY nomination of Karen A. Pike, which was received by the Senate and ap-

peared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN82 ARMY nominations (2) beginning Derek S. Reynolds, and ending Brian D. Vogt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN83 ARMY nominations (2) beginning Edward A. Figueroa, and ending Michael C. Vanhoven, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN84 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JACK C. MASON, and ending TODD B. WAYTASHEK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN85 ARMY nominations (79) beginning RUTH E. APONTE, and ending MICHAEL J. ZINNO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN86 ARMY nominations (88) beginning LESLIE E. AKINS, and ending MARC W. ZELNICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN87 ARMY nominations (217) beginning TIMOTHY G. ABRELL, and ending JOHN A. ZULFER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN88 ARMY nominations (225) beginning RAFAEL E. ABREU, and ending R010075, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN91 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jackie W. Morgan, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN92 MARINE CORPS nomination of Dana R. Fike, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN93 MARINE CORPS nomination of Samuel W. Spencer, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN94 MARINE CORPS nomination of Larry Miyamoto, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN97 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning GEORGE L. ROBERTS, and ending PAUL A. SHIRLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN98 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning RICHARD D. KOHLER, and ending GARY J. SPINELLI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN100 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning ERIC T. CLINE, and ending ROBERT S. SCHMIDT, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN101 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning JOSE L. SADA, and ending BRIAN J. SPOONER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN102 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning FREDERICK L. HUNT, and ending CHAD E. TIDWELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN103 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning TODD E. LOTSPEICH, and ending DONALD E. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN104 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning JASON B. DAVIS, and ending JOHN F. REYNOLDS, JR., which nominations were

received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN105 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning TRAVIS M. FULTON, and ending GARY S. LIDDELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN106 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning BRYAN DELGADO, and ending RODOLFO D. QUISPE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN107 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning DAVID B. BLANN, and ending ALLEN L. LEWIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN108 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning MICHAEL GASPERINI, and ending TIMOTHY W. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN109 MARINE CORPS nominations (6) beginning STEPHEN R. BYRNES, and ending JAMES N. TIMMER, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN110 MARINE CORPS nominations (7) beginning PETER K. BASABE, JR., and ending MICHAEL A. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

#### IN THE NAVY

PN115 NAVY nomination of Harry E. Hayes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN116 NAVY nomination of Shemeya L. Grant, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN117 NAVY nominations (2) beginning CHRISTOPHER J. KANE, and ending LUKE C. SUBER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN118 NAVY nominations (29) beginning JEANINE F. BENJAMIN, and ending BENJAMIN F. VISGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate resumes legislative session.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. 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.

#### TRIBUTE TO SPENCER STOKES

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a special class of people who are critical to the success of any U.S. Senator.

During the recent Super Bowl game, one advertisement stood out among all the others. It was an advertisement based on a tribute taken from the great American Paul Harvey. It was entitled "So God Made a Farmer." While I respect and admire farmers greatly, especially those I know from Utah, I am

also certain that my colleagues in this Chamber will agree that when it comes to this institution, we can rightly change that statement ever so slightly to say, "So God Made a Chief of Staff."

My first chief of staff Spencer Stokes is returning to Utah. He is also returning to his family and to private life after 2 extraordinary years serving me in my office. I offer this in tribute to him and to all great chiefs of staff who labor here on Capitol Hill.

When God looked down on the Senate, He realized that Senators alone could never keep things running and He said, I need a caretaker. So God made a chief of staff. He needed someone whose first thought in the morning and last thought at night would be about helping and serving a Senator; who would rise before dawn and organize the day, set the strategy, deal with the thick and thin of things, and steer the Senator away from bad meetings, bad policy, and bad people; someone who would work all day in and out of the office, would skip holidays, birthdays, and parties in pursuit of their service, who would stay past midnight waiting for a vote, and then be willing to get up at the crack of dawn the next morning to do it all again. So God made a chief of staff.

He needed someone with thick skin, strong will, and at the same time a soft touch; strong enough to herd cats, yet gentle enough to comfort a grieving constituent or staff member; someone to call BS, tame the cantankerous bureaucracy of government, creatively solve problems big and small, and patiently listen to a hostile constituent with an axe to grind, and then tell that same constituent to come back again real soon—and mean it. So God made a chief of staff.

God said, I need someone who can shape a staff, shine shoes, horse trade for furniture and office space, navigate a litany of ethics and rules requirements, and play the role of cruise director for countless constituent tours of Washington, DC; someone who will put in a full 40 hours by Tuesday at noon, and then put in another 72 hours on top of that by the end of the week. So God made a chief of staff.

He had to have someone willing to sprint at double speed to stay ahead of a news story, and yet stop on a dime and pivot to help the real people of this country, no matter the consequences, no matter the circumstances, and regardless of what the press might be doing at the moment. He needed someone who, when the Senator becomes surrounded by "yes" men is willing to say humbly yet firmly and resolutely, "No, sir." So God made a chief of staff.

He said, I need somebody strong enough to catch arrows, take heat, endure withering criticism, and patiently listen to angry voices; somebody who is just fine with little prominence, praise, prestige, or perks, and who above all is fiercely loyal and forever has the Senator's back. So God made a chief of staff.

I am fairly certain that when God looked down on a newly elected Senator from Utah during the final months of 2010, He knew that any old chief of staff wouldn't do. So, in my case, he actually chose a farmer—a turkey farmer, to be specific—from Bothwell, UT, named Spencer Stokes.

Spencer has been a truly outstanding chief of staff. Doing the heavy lifting and providing the Herculean effort required to set up an office and build a staff from scratch proved to be Spencer's forte. It proved to be easy for him—or at least he made it look easy. He has an eye for detail like no other, though we occasionally need to remind him to "zoom out." Straight chairs in the conference room, straight desks, and even straight ties all set the stage for straight talk about issues and policy and serving constituents.

Spencer's love of Utah and its people is unequalled. As a first order of business, he set out to make my office something of an embassy for my State. So when you walk into our office, you are actually walking quite literally into Utah. From the art on the walls to the naming of the conference rooms, from our legendary JELL-O Wednesday to the staff reading of the smalltown Utah newspapers each week—everything leads to an experience in our office, and everything in our office is an experience of Utah.

Spencer will long be remembered and appreciated for his handwritten notes, the best night tour in DC—a true story—bringing people together, confetti cannons, Utah fry sauce, lots of laughter, and a tireless commitment to make bad things good and good things even better.

From Spencer's perspective, there are no small players in this great institution that is the Senate. He did not just preach that philosophy, he lived it every single day he was here. As a testament to that, we noted that when we asked him to provide a list of all the people he wanted invited to his farewell party, at the top of Spencer's list there were people who were not necessarily of high status. No, the top of the list was reserved for the people who really make this place go: cashiers and cooks, security personnel, guides and junior staff from nearly every corner of this building.

I salute Spencer Stokes for his service to this Nation, to this institution, and to the people of Utah. I salute Spencer for his service to me and my family. I will forever be thankful that God made a chief of staff and especially thankful for a particularly extraordinary chief of staff, Spencer Stokes.

#### TRIBUTE TO U.S. MARSHAL DAVID DEMAG

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of the great privileges in serving in the U.S. Senate is the ability to make recommendations to the President with respect to important nominations for posts in our States. I was pleased 4