

I had a brother already in the Marine Corps.”

Wood joined the 4th Defense Battalion as a radio and radar operator, traveling to Cuba, Panama, and along the west coast of the United States. The day after his 21st birthday, aboard the U.S.S. *Henderson*, Wood left San Diego and arrived at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 1, 1941.

“We were there a week when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and Hickam Field,” he said.

PEARL HARBOR

Wood was stationed two miles from the entrance of Pearl Harbor at an unfinished Marine base. The battalion's rifles were still crated up when Imperial planes began to fire.

“We were still close enough to Pearl Harbor to see when the Japanese planes began to attack,” he said. “In Hickam Field we could see all the anti-aircraft fire being fired at the planes down in the harbor area. All the smoke and anti-aircraft fire burst around the planes.”

There were murmurs among the men about military maneuvers or exercises that quickly evaporated when the first plane burst into a fireball, streaking down, he said.

“We got the call from the harbor that we were under attack,” Wood said. “They tore the crates open, without any regard if you got your own rifle. They gave us a bandolier and told us to fire on anything that came into range. We got our rifles but we weren't sure where we were going.”

Only one Japanese plane, possibly taking pictures, Wood said, came near his group.

“There was one Japanese plane that circled our camp area, and he wasn't in range to be firing on,” he said. “But some of the boys were firing rifles at it, and we did get a machine gun, .50-caliber, and began firing at it, but the plane was still too far away. It circled and went back in the direction of Honolulu.”

There were no casualties or injuries in the 4th battalion, but more than 2,000 Americans lost their lives and another 1,000 were injured. Shots were fired over their heads, Wood said, and they were forced into a nearby mess hall—a military cafeteria—to avoid the gunfire.

“It wasn't the Japanese,” he said. “It was our own shells from some of our guns. We didn't know where it was coming from . . . but I was lying there as close to the ground as I could get and there was another boy lying eight or 10 inches from my head. We both had our hands over our heads, and finally they did quit firing and we just laid there for a few seconds. We finally got the nerve to look up, and we raised our heads at the same time. I looked at him, and he looked at me. Neither of us spoke, but I noticed his face was white as a sheet. I just wondered to myself if my face was as white as his. That was my most uneasy moment of it all.”

The next day, Wood listened to the declaration of war from President Franklin Roosevelt and preparations began for his 15-month tour at Midway as part of the 6th Defense.

In 1943, he arrived home in Lee County sometime between 1 or 2 p.m., and said simply his parents were glad to see him.

“I was kinda glad to get back home, too,” Wood said.

He left the military in April 1947, moved to Kentucky and worked at a radio station for more than 40 years. He married the late Glindoln and had three children.

Wood comes back to Central Carolina almost every summer for a family reunion, he said.

This Veterans Day, Wood said he'll be attending a ceremony and meeting with the

Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

“I do think being at both of those two places, well, they are important events in the military history of our country,” Wood said. “I do feel a little bit of pride for being at both of those events.”

NOMINATIONS

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to offer my strong support for Ms. Nina Pillard to be a U.S. district court judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Nina Pillard is an exemplary nominee who is more than qualified to serve on the Federal bench.

She has been a tenured professor of constitutional law at Georgetown University Law Center for 15 years and is a highly accomplished litigator who has practiced law at every level of the court system, including the Supreme Court.

Nina Pillard's impressive professional background makes her superbly qualified to serve on the DC Circuit. Her sheer talent, legal prowess, and vast and varied professional career is a testament to her brilliance.

She has argued nine cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and briefed dozens of others on significant constitutional questions such as gender equality, the Family Medical Leave Act, the right to a jury trial, and free speech.

Over the course of her 25-year legal career, Ms. Pillard has argued and/or briefed landmark Supreme Court cases, including *United States v. Virginia*, where she successfully opened the doors of the Virginia Military Institute to female cadets.

Nina attended Harvard Law School, where she was editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. She began her career as a clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the Honorable Louis H. Pollak and served as assistant counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. She then joined the office of the Solicitor General of the United States, where she briefed and argued cases on behalf of the Federal Government before the Supreme Court. In 1998, she was named Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel.

Nina is a board member for the American Arbitration Association and is an active reader for the American Bar Association Reading Committee, which evaluated the writings of Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito for the Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary. She also is a member of the Georgetown Law Supreme Court Institute and serves on the Board of Academic Advisors for the Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law. Previously, she served as a member of the American Constitution Society and the Center for Transnational Legal Studies.

However, some of my colleagues are once again blocking another highly qualified and immensely talented

woman. The filibuster of Caitlin Halligan, Patricia Millett, and the threatened filibuster of Nina Pillard is history repeating itself.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have argued that the three remaining vacancies on the DC Circuit should be eliminated because the court's caseload is too low.

What they have failed to mention is that the DC Circuit Court currently has 8 active judges and 6 senior judges with an astonishing caseload total of 1,479. This outrageous argument was made just over 7 months ago, when another highly qualified female nominee to the DC Circuit, and New Yorker, Caitlin Halligan, was filibustered.

It should also be noted that in the last 19 years, the Senate has confirmed only one woman to this important court. Furthermore, the DC Circuit has only had five female judges during its entire 120-year history. In a country where women make up over half of the population, that is a disgraceful statistic and one this body can take steps to eliminate immediately.

It is absolutely necessary that the Senate confirm supremely qualified individuals such as Nina Pillard to serve on the Federal judiciary. Her experience is unmatched and her passion for the law is unquestioned. With a caseload as high as that of the DC Circuit, it is our responsibility in the Senate to act swiftly in confirming the President's nominees. We cannot continue nor can we afford to toss out highly experienced individuals, particularly such accomplished women to serve in our Federal Judiciary because of political gamesmanship. The time to act is now.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES “BOB” CURRIEO

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the service and contributions to the State of Arizona and the Nation of James “Bob” Currieo. Bob spent his life serving our country as a soldier; a leader in the veterans community; and, for the last 17 years in my office, a valued advocate for constituents and veterans. Bob, 79 years young, retires this month.

Serving the residents of Arizona is one of the great pleasures of my office. When my constituents request assistance in matters dealing with the government, I try, as all my colleagues do, to move quickly to provide a fair and effective path for them to seek redress. And, in this regard, I have been lucky to have had a constituent-advocate of Bob's experience and caliber.

The experience that Bob brought to his working with me was informed by 22 years of service in the U.S. Army, retiring with the rank of sergeant major. Following decorated service in the Korean war, a fortunate assignment to the U.S. Army Combat Surveillance School at Fort Huachuca brought Bob to Sierra Vista and introduced him to a State that he would

quickly come to love and consider home.

I first met him in 1982 while he was serving as the newly elected National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was then, and remains today, a quiet but powerful force—a man whose soft-spoken words resonate among those around him. Despite his humble, modest demeanor, his talent for leadership and dedication to our Nation's veterans is immediately evident.

In 1984, Bob was invited by the State Department to join a U.S. delegation as an observer of El Salvador's first election in 50 years. I was also on that trip, and remember a long discussion we had about veterans and politics, two of Bob's interests. In 1986, I asked him to join my Arizona staff. Ever in demand, he departed for a period to serve as an executive in the VFW in Washington, DC, where I kept tabs on him. In 1996, Bob was ready to return to Arizona and I leapt at the chance to have him back on my staff.

From that time until just recently, he devoted himself to helping me work on behalf of veterans. On my many trips back home, as I checked in with Fort Huachuca, Davis Monthan, and our veterans communities, I always heard the same message, "You are lucky to have a man like Bob Currie on your team." I wholeheartedly agree.

In the nearly 20 years that Bob served in my office, he opened more than 8,000 cases. That is 8,000 service-members, veterans, military spouses and families who called out for help—calls that I am proud were answered on my behalf by a man as capable and caring as Bob. I thank him for his contributions to my team, his wise counsel, and his unwavering friendship.

As the late Coach Abe Lemons once said, "The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off." I know that my friend Bob won't face that dilemma—that he will remain active with the VFW and in his community as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his life. I wish Bob and his wife Cecilia a long and happy retirement—filled with many joyful days and beautiful Tucson sunsets together.

RESTORING THE 10TH AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, today I wish to express my support for the Restoring the 10th Amendment Act—S. 1643. This legislation, which I have introduced with nine of my colleagues, represents an effort to ensure that States' rights are protected against further Federal encroachment.

Ratified and signed into law on December 15, 1791, the 10th Amendment is integral to the system of checks and balances that our Founding Fathers conceived. The Founders were right to be concerned that the Federal Government would seek to usurp powers belonging to the States. They understood that limitless Federal power was a threat to the future of our democracy.

In *The Federalist* No. 45, James Madison notes the difference between Federal and State power. He describes the powers that the Constitution grants to the Federal government as "few and defined." He calls the powers left to the States as "numerous and indefinite."

Today, we can plainly see how wise our Founders were. As we enter into the second term of the Obama administration, Federal regulatory overreach has become an intrusive part of everyday life in the United States. From the President's sweeping health-care law to the extreme rulemaking of the Environmental Protection Agency, there is virtually no aspect of Americans' lives that escapes the creeping reach of Federal regulators.

The Restoring the 10th Amendment Act seeks to reverse this trend and to level the playing field by giving States a new tool to challenge Federal overreach. Specifically, it provides special standing in court for State government officials to dispute inordinately sweeping regulations issued by Federal agencies. Any rule proposed by a Federal agency would be subject to constitutional challenges if certain State officials determine that the rule infringes powers reserved to the States under the 10th Amendment. In this way, the bill would reinforce the safeguards in our existing system of constitutional checks and balances.

Americans have the right to expect the members they elect to Congress to uphold the Constitution's founding principles. It is our responsibility to ensure that the executive branch is held accountable for any overreach of its constitutionally defined powers.

This bill recognizes that the 10th Amendment is as important today as it was on the date of its ratification. It would keep the executive branch accountable and preserve the integrity of our constitutional system of checks and balances. Senators COCHRAN, GRASSLEY, ISAKSON, SESSIONS, ROBERTS, THUNE, INHOFE, CRAPO, RISCH, ENZI, and CORNYN have joined me as co-sponsors.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the prompt passage of the Restoring the 10th Amendment Act.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LEW W. CRAMER

• Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a dedicated business man, public servant and friend for his exemplary service in my home State of Utah. Lew Cramer will retire after a distinguished career building international trade in Utah and supporting exports for the United States.

Mr. Cramer began his career earning a bachelor's and law degree from Brigham Young University in Provo, UT. It was many years later that he returned to co-found World Trade Center Utah, an organization which has been

instrumental in Utah's economic success. Through the World Trade Center, Mr. Cramer connects Utah firms with new business opportunities around the world. It is thanks to the efforts of hardworking men like Mr. Cramer that, in this time of economic hardship, Utah is the only State in the Nation showing positive export growth year over year for the past decade. With the pioneering spirit of a true Utahn, Mr. Cramer has helped our companies take advantage of export opportunities creating quality, stable jobs in Utah.

Before his time in Utah, Mr. Cramer spent many years in public service. He served as Director General of the U.S. Commercial Service during President George H.W. Bush's administration, directing the activities of 1,400 commercial officers at more than 150 embassies worldwide, as well as in 65 offices throughout the United States. During the Reagan administration, he served as a White House fellow, a Deputy Assistant Commerce Secretary and as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

Mr. Cramer has worked extensively in the global telecommunications and broadband sectors, including serving as vice president for MediaOne International and US WEST, where he was responsible for their international government and multilateral financial institution relations and public policy for numerous wireless and broadband investments in more than 30 countries. Mr. Cramer shares his vast experience through education. He has taught international business at Georgetown University and the University of Southern California.

I would like to wish my friend the very best in his retirement and to profoundly thank him for his exemplary record of service to Utah and to our Nation.●

RECOGNITION OF PROFESSORS OF THE YEAR

• Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the four national winners of the U.S. Professors of the Year Award. Since 1981 this program has recognized outstanding undergraduate instructors throughout the country. In addition to the national winners, a State Professor of the Year was also recognized in 36 States. This year, I am very proud to say that Colorado has the exceptional distinction of being home to two of the four national winners: Ann Williams at the Metropolitan State University of Denver and Steven Pollock at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

While the prestigious Professor of the Year Awards recognizes professors from diverse institutions and fields of study, this year's honorees all share a strong commitment to the art of teaching and to their students. Recipients are proven innovators who drive their fields and their colleagues forward, through both their energy and their enthusiasm. These educators are shaping