

International Operations and Marketing at United Technologies from 1998 to 2000.

She served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs from 1993 to 1998, overseeing all matters pertaining to the National Guard and Reserve Forces. She has significant experience working with Congress, as a former professional staff member on the House Armed Services Committee from 1983 to 1993. She has a bachelor's degree in comparative studies from Duke University and a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University.

I believe she is very qualified and ready to start her new role. I look forward to working with Secretary James in her new role and strongly congratulate her.

However, I would like to point out that these nominations are not without controversy which may be why the Democratic majority would rather ignore the minority and change the Senate for the first time in over 200 years.

For example, Ms. Patricia Wald who the Administration nominated to serve on the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board has written that those accused of terrorism should be given access to the civilian trial court system and be afforded the protections of simple criminal defendants. These views ignore the devastating effects of terrorism and ignore our actual war against terrorism around the world. These acts are not simply criminal acts, they threaten our entire country. This should be the subject of debate in the Senate, not simply brushed aside for quick confirmations.

Earlier the Senate voted on the nominations of two district court judges for Montana. These are lifetime appointments. The Senate confirmed these judges by a wide margin, but the Senate should not simply group a number of nominations together to pass for lifetime appointments for circuit and district judicial vacancies simply because the majority does not even want to work with the minority. This session will end with continued confirmation votes. It is to the detriment of both parties if the prerogatives, priorities, and concerns of the minority are not considered in the Senate, but it will not be easily overlooked.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I join my friend Senator MANCHIN from West Virginia in introducing legislation authorizing a Congressional Gold Medal for United States Air Force Fighter Aces.

This bill specifically honors those American pilots who have shot down five or more enemy aircraft in aerial combat during a war or conflict in which American armed forces have participated.

Since the First World War, there have been 60,000 American fighter pilots who have taken to the air in harm's way, but only 1,444 have become fighter aces. Our bill authorizes the U.S. Mint to strike—at no cost to the

taxpayer—a medal of appropriate design to American fighter aces in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom, which as spanned the history of aviation warfare.

American Fighter Aces hail from every State in the Union are one of the most decorated military groups in American history. Twenty-two fighter aces have achieved the rank of admiral, and 79 have achieved the rank of general in the Army, Air Force, and Marines. And there are 19 Medal of Honor recipients.

One of those aces hailed from my home State of Oklahoma.

BG Robinson "Robbie" Risner was from Tulsa, OK, my hometown, and a fellow graduate of Tulsa Central High School in 1942. Risner then enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force as an aviation cadet and began his career as one of America's most celebrated Fighter Aces.

After being stationed in Panama during World War II, he returned home to serve in the Oklahoma Air National Guard until he was called to fight in the Korean war. There, he flew 108 missions in his sweptwing F-86 Sabre and became an ace by shooting down eight enemy MiG-15s. He also received one of two Silver Stars in his valiant attempt to save a fellow pilot.

During the Vietnam war, General Risner flew 55 missions and led the first flight of air strikes over North Vietnam in Operation Rolling Thunder, earning him the Air Force Cross.

While flying in another raid in his F-105 Thunderchief on September 16, 1965, he took fire and was forced to bail out. He was captured and was a prisoner of war for 7 years 4 months and 27 days, serving most of his time in the infamous Hanoi Hilton. He was kept shackled for weeks at a time and spent more than 3 years in a darkened, solitary cell. In his 1973 memoir, "The Passing of the Night: Seven Years as a Prisoner of the North Vietnamese," he wrote, "I did not ask God to take me out of it. I prayed he would give me strength to endure it."

After his release in 1973, General Risner returned to the air in the F-4 Phantom II in the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing at MacDill Air Force Base, FL. He was later transferred to Cannon Air Force Base, NM, in February 1974 to command the 832d Air Division, in which he flew the F-111 Aardvark. He was promoted to brigadier general in May 1974, became vice commander of the USAF Tactical Fighter Weapons Center at Nellis Air Force Base, NV, in 1975 and retired in 1976. He spent his retirement years involved in community service projects and spoke often before gatherings of veterans and other pilots.

He was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1974 and passed away in his sleep on October 22, 2013, at the age of 88.

I salute Gen Robbie Risner and all other American fighter aces who have served our country so courageously and

selflessly. It is my honor to be associated with the introduction of this legislation today which authorizes a Congressional Gold Medal for U.S. Air Force fighter aces.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN LILLEY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, any Senator will acknowledge that each of us is only as effective as the staff who support us. For nearly as long as I have been a Member of this body, I have enjoyed the benefit of the considerable abilities and expertise of Stephen Lilley. Stephen's tenure on my staff has drawn to a close, and the U.S. Senate loses a gifted lawyer and a dedicated public servant.

Stephen joined my team in 2008 as a Heyman Federal Public Service fellow and quickly demonstrated a keen understanding of the workings of the Senate and of the Judiciary Committee. Unwilling to part with either his sharp legal analysis or his good humor, we brought him on board full time as a counsel after his fellowship ended. After more outstanding work, he was soon promoted to chief counsel on the Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts and later the Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism.

Stephen has ably staffed hundreds of committee hearings and markups and advised me on every issue under the wide-ranging jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. In particular, he played a key role in the investigation of the Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts into the use of so-called enhanced interrogation techniques in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; he helped me during the confirmation of two Justices to the Supreme Court; he worked with me to promote and defend the role of the civil jury; and he has emerged as one of the Senate's leading experts on cybersecurity and intellectual property, facilitating immensely complex negotiations that brought us to the brink of comprehensive cyber legislation.

In addition to producing great work, Stephen elevated the work of those around him. His diligence, his ability to work well with other offices, his passion for doing right, and—not least—his sharp and dry wit, all made him a pleasure to work with. I particularly wish to thank his wife Jaynie and his daughter Mary Win for supporting Stephen and for sharing him with us.

Stephen's hard work brought him success before his arrival at the Senate, whether at Princeton University, where he graduated summa cum laude; at Yale University, where he earned his law degree; or as a clerk to Judge Thomas Ambro on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and Judge Jeremy Fogel on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. I have no doubt he will find continued success in all of his future endeavors.

Theodore Roosevelt reminded us of the credit due to the man who spends

himself in a worthy cause. I gratefully credit Stephen Lilley for his exceptional service to the Senate, the people of Rhode Island, and the United States of America.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3770. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Efficiency and Conservation Loan Program" (RIN0572-AC19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3771. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Importation of Bovines and Bovine Products" (RIN0579-AC68) (Docket No. APHIS-2008-0010) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3772. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Funding and Fiscal Affairs; Farmer Mac Capital Planning" (RIN3052-AC80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3773. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program" (RIN0575-AC18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3774. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Richard C. Harding, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3775. A communication from the Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Terry A. Wolff, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3776. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Allen G. Myers, IV, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3777. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Government of Panama requesting the U.S. Government to destroy eight U.S.-origin munitions remaining from testing by the United States on San Jose Island off the coast of Panama; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3778. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Unallowable Fringe Benefit Costs" (RIN0750-AH76) (DFARS Case 2012-D038) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3779. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Preparation of Letter of Offer and Acceptance" (RIN0750-AH84) (DFARS Case 2012-D048) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3780. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3781. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3782. A communication from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the 2013 Mortgage Rules Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B), Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (Regulation X), and the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z)" (RIN3170-AA37) (Docket No. CFPB-2013-0018) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3783. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definitions of Transmittal of Funds and Funds Transfer" (RIN1506-AB20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3784. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report relative to the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was originally declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3785. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List; Amendment of Entity List Entries; and Removal of One Person from the Entity List Based on a Removal Request" (RIN0694-AF96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the

Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3786. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2013-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3787. A communication from the Acting Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Annual Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3788. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Regulations; Areas of the National Park System; New River Gorge National River, Bicycling" (RIN1024-AD95) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3789. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Regulations; Areas of the National Park System; Curecanti National Recreation Area, Snowmobiles and Off-Road Motor Vehicles" (RIN1024-AD76) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3790. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transmission Planning Reliability Standards" (Docket Nos. RM12-1-000 and RM13-9-000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3791. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Communication of Operational Information between Natural Gas Pipelines and Electric Transmission Operators" (RIN1902-AE72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3792. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Version 5 Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards" (Docket No. RM13-5-000) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3793. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the updated Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana, hurricane and storm damage risk reduction project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3794. A communication from the Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's annual financial audit and