

the effort to bring fairness for the victims of poisonous drywall that was imported from China. Drywall sourced from China was found to emit dangerous chemicals that make people sick and damage metal components of air conditioning and other electronics, among other effects. In Louisiana, the defective drywall came at a particularly troubling time. Just as we were starting to rebuild after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the defective Chinese drywall was imported in large quantities. Many homeowners returned after their houses were rebuilt only to soon find them to be inhabitable yet again. We are still fighting today almost 9 years after the storm to bring justice to the affected families.

Some other companies, specifically German-owned entities, that supplied defected drywall from China have participated in the legal process and made settlements that have been helpful to homeowners. However, the Chinese company Taishan, a state-owned entity, refuses to take responsibility for its harmful products and continues to disregard U.S. law and our court system. If the homeowners' contractors got drywall from Taishan, they have thus far been out of luck in seeking fair compensation as Taishan continues to ignore our court system.

In February 2014, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld a \$2.7 million default judgment requiring Taishan to cover the cost of removing its defective drywall. Even after losing the appeal, Taishan let the deadline pass for an appeal to the Supreme Court, meaning the case was back in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and Judge Eldon Fallon. Earlier this month, Taishan disregarded our legal system and refused to appear in court proceedings in this case. Judge Fallon ruled that Taishan was in contempt of court for failing to appear to address the default judgment entered against the company. He ordered Taishan to pay \$15,000 in attorney's fees of the plaintiffs and \$40,000 in penalties. Most importantly, his ruling banned Taishan and any of its affiliates or subsidiaries from doing business in the United States unless and until it participates in the court's process on this ongoing case. To help ensure enforcement of the order, the court sent notice of its ruling to the Federal Government.

I applaud the court's effort to protect the integrity of our legal system in taking action to force the Chinese company to comply with the law and the court's orders. If state-owned Chinese companies such as Taishan want to do business in the United States, they must follow the law and must honor our legal system. If they will not honor commitments and work to resolve claims, how can we expect any Americans to trust any business relations with or products from Chinese government controlled companies? Our government must insist that Taishan return to the table and participate in the legal process.

To help stop this situation from happening again, I worked to pass into law bipartisan legislation to stop unsafe drywall from entering U.S. markets by ensuring that the Consumer Product Safety Commission follows a voluntary consensus health and safety standard. Enacted in 2013, this law also ensures that unsafe drywall will not be reused by requiring that it be labeled and that its manufacturers are identified. I specifically offered an amendment to focus the emphasis of the legislation on high sulfur content, the main damaging element emitted from the defective drywall, and to make the origin of the drywall traceable to the manufacturer. This law protects homeowners going forward, but it cannot help the homeowners still looking for justice now. We know that the harmful drywall came from China, and the remedy for these homeowners is for Taishan to follow the court's order, come to the table, and reach a fair settlement.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, due to family commitments in Florida, I was unable to vote on the confirmation of Pamela Harris to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Had I been present, I would have voted against Ms. Harris's confirmation.

The Senate has few responsibilities more important than providing advice and consent on the President's judicial nominations. These are lifetime appointments with great power, whose decisions directly impact the life, liberty, and property of the parties who come before them.

Americans deserve a judiciary staffed by lawyers who are not just highly capable but who are also men and women of a particular character. We rightfully expect judges to understand their important but properly limited role to say what the law is, without bias, without agenda. As passionately as a judge may feel about a particular issue, when he or she puts on that black robe, all personal views must be set aside.

No one can deny Ms. Harris has a first rate mind or that she has built an impressive career. Unfortunately, many of her statements during that career suggest that her mind is better suited to academia, or elective office, than it is to the bench. She has identified herself as "profoundly liberal" and said she views the Constitution as "profoundly progressive." These types of statements, along with troubling interpretations of the First Amendment among other issues, paint a picture of a nominee more likely to become a liberal activist judge than one who neutrally applies the law.

For those reasons, I would not have supported granting Ms. Harris the profound power that comes with lifetime tenure on the Federal bench.

TRIBUTE TO BRYSON BACHMAN

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Bryson Bachman, who has served as a critical member of my staff for nearly 3 years, and as my chief counsel for the past year.

Bryson Bachman is an extraordinary judicial talent. His legal pedigree began at Harvard Law School and continued in his clerkship with the Honorable Thomas B. Griffith on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit and later as an associate at Sidley Austin. Bryson's talent and contribution do not come solely from his impressive background and experience but from his personal commitment to making a difference and adding value in everything he does.

I have valued and benefited greatly from his deep understanding of the law and his ability to approach each issue in a thoughtful, respectful and insightful way. Above all I have come to admire and trust him as a person of unmatched integrity. As a member of the judiciary committee Bryson's assistance and guidance have been invaluable. When he briefs an issue I know he has done the often unseen and unrecognized work of truly understanding the issue from all angles. His willingness to do the heavy mental lifting on a wide range of issues always provided me great confidence going into important judiciary hearings or voting on difficult legislation.

The test of a great leader and a great lawyer is not found simply by what they do in a given role, but more importantly, how they do it. Some walk into a room and people recognize them as the smartest person in the room. True leaders, such as Bryson Bachman, walk into that same room, as the smartest person in the room, but leave everyone in the room feeling smarter and better as a result of how the dialogue and discussion were fostered. Creating space for every member of the team to participate in and contribute to a discussion, while still driving the most salient points to consider and evaluating an array of scenarios, is the hallmark of Bryson's time as a member of my staff.

Bryson will be sorely missed in our office but we wish him, his wife Destiny and son Hamilton continued success in their next season of life and work. This CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is but a small note in history of Bryson Bachman's impact on the important work done in the Senate. However, his more important work and longer lasting impact is found in the imprint he has made on the hearts and minds of those with whom he has worked. I count myself as one of those deeply influenced by Bryson. I admire him for his talent, I acknowledge him for his loyal service and thank him for his friendship.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MOOREMART

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I recognize and commend MooreMart, an outstanding charitable organization based in Nashua, NH, that is devoted to supporting America's servicemen and women. For more than 10 years, MooreMart has shipped care packages to American soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq—lifting the spirit of our brave military members serving in harm's way.

What began in February 2004 as a family project started by Paul Moore and Carole Moore Biggio to support their brother—New Hampshire Army National Guard SSG Brian Moore, who was deployed to Iraq—has developed into a major volunteer effort. Over the past decade, MooreMart has sent more than 63,000 care packages to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Their effort came to be known as “MooreMart,” because the soldiers receiving the packages remarked that the boxes “carry more supplies than WalMart.” It's a clever nickname that is now well known in the Granite State.

Once word spread about MooreMart's wartime effort, hundreds of New Hampshire citizens, and dozens of organizations and businesses, gave their support to this very special organization. At packing events held several times throughout the year at the Nashua National Guard Armory, volunteers have assembled packages containing goods that make deployments a little easier—including candy, toothpaste, dental floss, energy bars, trail mix, lip balm, playing cards, puzzles, white tube socks, crackers, and notes of encouragement. At Christmas, MooreMart has sent Christmas stockings filled with candy canes, Christmas lights, and cookies. In addition to sending these goodies to our troops, they have also treated veterans in New Hampshire and remembered our wounded warriors at Walter Reed.

MooreMart's generosity has also extended to children in Iraq and Afghanistan, sending them school supplies and toys. Through these donations, Afghan and Iraqi children have seen the warmth and generosity of the American people.

The Moore family and all the MooreMart volunteers represent the very best of New Hampshire and our Nation: patriotic Americans coming together to support our troops. This exemplary organization has touched the lives of our brave soldiers serving on faraway battlefields—making sure they know they're not forgotten during tough deployments.

As MooreMart celebrates its 10th Anniversary, I join citizens across New Hampshire and the Nation in commending Paul Moore and Carole Moore Biggio, the Moore family, and all the tremendous MooreMart volunteers for the inspiring work they have done supporting our troops.●

RECOGNIZING STEWART'S 96 RANCH

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of Stewart's 96 Ranch in Paradise Valley, NV, which serves as an example of the rich and prosperous history that makes the Silver State so unique.

This year commemorates a very special year—not only for Stewart's 96 Ranch, but also in Nevada's history—during which we celebrate 150 years of statehood. From those days of bitter conflict, Nevada forged a State dedicated to preserving liberty and bettering America. Our dramatic entrance is why our State calls itself Battle Born and why Nevadans, over the past 150 years, have been entrepreneurial, fiercely independent, and as diverse as our terrain. It is an honor to recognize Stewart's 96 Ranch in conjunction with our great State's sesquicentennial here today.

Founded in 1864 by William Stock, a German immigrant, Stewart's 96 Ranch is one of Nevada's most iconic ranching operations. Over the past 15 decades, the ranch has faced many obstacles, from aiding our country in World War II efforts to constantly maintaining and modernizing the operation to keep up with the current demands. Due to the ranch's long and fascinating history, it was chosen as the subject of a 1980 Library of Congress project called “Buckaroos in Paradise.” It is considered to be one of the most iconic cattle ranches in the West and one of the last true “old time outfits” still in original family ownership. Over the years, the ranch has grown and changed, but the original love of Paradise Valley and commitment to agriculture has never wavered.

What started as a simple homestead has grown into a thriving ranch with a new cattle herd that has grown to nearly 800 mother cows and is continuing to flourish. Today, the ranch is still owned and operated by the fourth and fifth generations of William Stock's direct descendants. Fred Stewart, with the help of his wife Kris and daughter Patrice, currently manages the ranch. Fifth generation Patrice Stewart is now a young woman who owns and manages her own small herd of top commercial beef cattle on the ranch, actively helps her parents on the ranch and is involved in all ranch decisions. She also competes in youth and high school rodeo and takes a leadership role in her local Future Farmers of America. Patrice is the future of the ranch and one day aims to manage the same Paradise Valley ranch that her great-great-grandfather William Stock founded in 1864.

Stewart's 96 Ranch truly exemplifies what it means to be a Nevadan, and I am proud to recognize it and the generations of Stewarts that have worked to ensure the survival of one of Nevada's oldest and largest family-owned ranches. Today, I ask my colleagues and residents of the Silver State to

join me in recognizing Stewart's 96 Ranch for this great achievement and honor.●

REMEMBERING WAYMAN GRAY SHERRER

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, it is proper that we note the death of an American patriot who served the U.S. government with dedication for many years. The Nation lost Wayman Gray Sherrer, 86, on March 12, 2014. He graduated from the fine Howard College, now Samford University, where he was senior class president, and the University of Alabama School of Law in the class of 1956. Before college, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Following law school, he served 6 years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after which he was elected county solicitor (district attorney) for Blount County, AL. In 1969, he was appointed U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Alabama and served ably in that position for 8 years. During that time, I served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Alabama and came to know him. We maintained contact over the years and were able to talk over those special times. He served his county and country with distinction, was active in community and civic affairs, and as a member of the Lester Memorial United Methodist Church.

Wayman loved his country and served her with fidelity. I was proud to know him.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13441 WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON—PM 52

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To The Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides