

ago, and her nomination was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote more than 5 months ago. Ms. Hall is an outstanding African-American attorney who will fill a judicial emergency vacancy. There is no reason Senate Republicans should have delayed her confirmation for this long.

The Senate this week should also vote on the next nominee on the calendar, who was nominated on the same day over a year ago as Ms. Hall. Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo will be the first ever Hispanic judge from Pennsylvania on the third circuit. Judge Restrepo has strong bipartisan support from his home State Senators, Senator Toomey and Senator Casey, and there is an urgent need to fill the emergency vacancy on the third circuit to which he has been nominated. I have heard no objection to his nomination, and Senator Toomey has said he not only strongly supports Judge Restrepo's confirmation, but he also recommended him to the President. I hope the majority leader will finally schedule his vote this week.

In the 11 months that the Senate has been under Republican control this year, the Senate has only voted to confirm nine judges. This obstruction has resulted in needless delays for hard-working Americans who seek justice in our Federal courts. Currently pending on the Senate floor are nominees who would fill judicial emergency vacancies in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Minnesota, New Jersey, Iowa, New York, and California. Senate Republicans have refused to alleviate the urgent needs in those States. It does not have to be this way. When Senate Democrats were in the majority during the last 2 years of the Bush Presidency, we had already confirmed 36 judges by this same time. We made sure that we fulfilled our constitutional duty to provide advice and consent to ensure that the American people had a fully functioning Federal judiciary.

Senate Republicans' obstruction has caused judicial vacancies to pile up across the country. Since Senate Republicans took over the majority at the beginning of the year, judicial vacancies have increased by more than 50 percent. The number of "judicial emergency" vacancies since Senate Republicans took the majority has risen by a stunning 158 percent. The American people deserve better.

We should follow well-established Senate precedent by confirming all consensus nominees before the end of the year. Each of the judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar was reported out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote. And each has the backing of their home State Senators, including Republican Senators. In fact, the next nominee after Ms. Hall and Judge Restrepo is Travis McDonough who has been nominated to fill a judicial vacancy on the Eastern District of Tennessee. Next week will mark the 1-year anniversary

since Mr. McDonough was nominated, but it appears there is no relief in sight as his nomination continues to be held up by Senate Republicans, despite the strong support he has from his home State Senators, Senator Alexander and Senator Corker. I see no reason why he and the rest of the nominees pending should not be confirmed before we recess at the end of the year. As the New York Times put it in an editorial last Friday urging confirmation votes on all pending judicial nominees, "With each day that passes without a vote on Judge Restrepo and other nominees, Republicans undermine the justice system, and the biggest victims are ordinary Americans who cannot count on fully functioning courts." I ask unanimous consent that this editorial be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

Shortly we will begin voting on LaShann Hall to fill a judicial emergency vacancy in the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of New York. She is currently a partner at the law firm of Morrison & Foerster, LLP, in New York, where she has practiced since 2010. She was previously in private practice at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP and at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. She has the support of her two home State Senators, Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand. She was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote on June 4, 2015. I urge my fellow Senators to support her confirmation.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Nov. 13, 2015]
CONFIRM PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JUDGES
(By the Editorial Board)

On Nov. 12, 2014, President Obama nominated Luis Felipe Restrepo to a judgeship on the federal Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge Restrepo, who already sits on the United States District Court in Philadelphia, seemed to secure the support of both Pennsylvania senators—Bob Casey, a Democrat, and Pat Toomey, a Republican.

But that does not mean that Judge Restrepo, whom Mr. Toomey called "a very well-qualified candidate" who would "make a superb addition" to the appeals court, will actually get through the confirmation road-block led by Senate Republicans. Mr. Toomey, despite his professed support, is responsible for a big part of it, refusing for six months to sign off on the nomination by exploiting a pointless tradition that allows home-state senators to block a nomination with no explanation needed. He claimed that he was waiting for a background check, even though Judge Restrepo passed a check two years ago for his current job. The Senate Judiciary Committee approved Judge Restrepo for the appeals court seat in July. There has been no explanation for the holdup since then.

As a Hispanic and a former public defender, Judge Restrepo would bring a needed measure of ethnic and professional diversity to the court. But he is just one of many judicial nominees awaiting action. Thirteen have not received a hearing by the Judiciary Committee, and 16 others, including Judge Restrepo, have been approved by the committee, all unanimously, but are still waiting for a full vote on the Senate floor.

Since Republicans took over in January, the Senate has confirmed only nine of President Obama's nominees, the slowest pace in more than half a century. Meanwhile, the seat Judge Restrepo would fill is one of 30 long-vacant federal judgeships the court system deems "judicial emergencies," meaning they have a backlog of hundreds of cases.

Republicans say that Mr. Obama has seen more of his judicial nominees confirmed than President George W. Bush had by this time in his tenure in 2007. But that is mainly because Senate Democrats in 2013 stopped Republicans from repeatedly using the filibuster to block qualified nominees. After that, the Democratic-led Senate confirmed 96 of Mr. Obama's picks. The more relevant fact is there are 67 judicial vacancies today, far more than the number of vacancies Mr. Bush faced in 2007.

The larger problem here, of course, is that Republicans are blocking votes on highly qualified and noncontroversial nominees to vent their anger with the president, who infuriated them with his now-stalled immigration action, among other things.

Judges are not the only casualties of this interbranch crossfire. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, another unquestionably qualified candidate, waited almost six months before finally getting a vote.

Senate Democrats should make these inexcusable delays a national issue. Mr. Obama, meanwhile, could start selecting judges himself in states like Texas, Alabama, Wisconsin and Indiana, where senators refuse to give him any names at all.

With each day that passes without a vote on Judge Restrepo and other nominees, Republicans undermine the justice system, and the biggest victims are ordinary Americans who cannot count on fully functioning courts.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL REVIEW

MR. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to honor and congratulate National Review for 60 years of valuable contributions to American political discourse.

When a 29-year-old William F. Buckley, Jr., published National Review's first edition on November 19, 1955, it marked not just the birth of a magazine, but also the birth of the modern conservative movement. Under 45 years of Mr. Buckley's leadership, National Review served as the standard bearer of conservative thought in America, where readers could expect to find leading thinkers such as Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and Milton Friedman to name a few. It influenced generations of conservatives, including this conservative, with its frequently humorous and always intelligent writing, and it consistently published valuable commentaries on public events and figures, foreign and domestic affairs, culture, politics, and the economy.

During Mr. Buckley's tenure, National Review did more than just observe and comment on the course of human events; it helped shape them. It played a central role in the "Reagan Revolution." Its steadfast defense of liberty, free markets, and personal responsibility provided much of the intellectual underpinnings of America's triumph over communist tyranny in Europe and around the world.

Mr. Buckley's successors have ably carried on this proud tradition at National Review. It remains tremendously influential. With over 150,000 subscribers, it is the most read opinion magazine in America. Millions more visit National Review Online every month.

More importantly, Mr. Buckley's successors have carried on as champions of the conservative movement. Every 2 weeks National Review arrives on my desk and serves as a reminder that conservative thought is alive and well in America.

Over the past 60 years, National Review has lived up to its founding statement so eloquently expressed by Mr. Buckley. To paraphrase, National Review continues to stand athwart history, yelling "stop," when no other is inclined to do so, or to have much patience with those who so urge it.

Congratulations to all those who have made National Review a success over these last 60 years. Your contributions to American political discourse will serve as an inspiration and as a challenge to future generations of conservative thinkers.

DISCHARGE PETITION—S.J. RES. 23

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 23, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units," and further, that the resolution be placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Jim Inhofe, Roy Blunt, Ron Johnson, Lamar Alexander, Michael B. Enzi, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Lee, Orrin Hatch, Deb Fischer, Joe Manchin, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Pat Roberts, Dan Coats, John Barrasso, Richard Burr, John Thune, Lisa Murkowski, Tom Cotton, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Rob Portman, David Perdue, Pat Toomey, Jeff Sessions, Jerry Moran, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Richard Shelby, John Hoeven.

DISCHARGE PETITION—S.J. RES. 24

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units," and further, that the resolution be placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Shelley Moore Capito, Joni K. Ernst, Roger Wicker, John Barrasso, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer,

James Lankford, John Thune, Heidi Heitkamp, Joe Manchin, James Inhofe, Tim Scott, Dan Sullivan, Mike Rounds, Mitch McConnell, Jeff Flake, Orrin Hatch, Mike Lee, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, Jeff Sessions, Roy Blunt, Pat Toomey, Steve Daines, Jerry Moran, Richard Shelby, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO IVAN BELL WOODFORD

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Ivan Bell Woodford on being selected to serve as grand marshal for the city of Reno's Veterans Day Parade. As Nevada's oldest living World War II veteran, there is no doubt Mr. Woodford deserves this honor. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his years of service to both the United States of America and our great State.

Mr. Woodford grew up at Lake Elsinore, working on the family ranch. He later enlisted in the United States Navy in 1942 as a Seabee. Throughout World War II, he served at Pearl Harbor and Midway Island, operating heavy equipment and cranes to clear debris from the destruction of the war. His unit was later stationed in the Philippines.

In 1946, Mr. Woodford established his residency in Reno, working for local excavating companies as a heavy machinery operator. He worked for more than 30 years in this industry, helping complete various projects throughout Reno and Lake Tahoe. He aided in laying the foundation of housing pads across Reno, leveling the ground for construction projects near Lake Tahoe, dredging what is now Virginia Lake, and cleaning irrigation ditches to develop Spanish Springs Valley. He also worked heavy machinery during the development of Interstate 80 and many other roads throughout Washoe Valley, leaving his mark in northern Nevada for generations to come. No doubt, he witnessed and contributed to some of the largest growth and expansion throughout the area.

His many contributions to making our State the best it can be, as well as his service to this country, demonstrates his generous character. His actions represent only the greatest of Nevada's values and place him among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our nation. Our State is fortunate to have someone like Mr. Woodford to serve as a role model.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor the brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for veterans, like Mr. Woodford, in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

Mr. Woodford has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the United States Navy. His work throughout Nevada is invaluable. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Woodford for all of his accomplishments, as well as his participation in the city of Reno's Veterans Day Parade. •

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN BURTON

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Brian Burton, president and chief executive officer of Three Square, for his tireless efforts in enhancing the lives of many across southern Nevada. Mr. Burton brings more than 20 years of nonprofit experience to Three Square, helping feed thousands of southern Nevadans who would otherwise go hungry. Mr. Burton has contributed greatly to his community by working to make Three Square the best it can be.

Largely due to Mr. Burton's many years of hard work, Three Square is able to offer a variety of programs to help those who would normally go without a wholesome meal. The organization works to source food, raise money, and grow its volunteer base to provide food to outside partners that distribute meals directly to those in need. Three Square services Clark, Nye, Lincoln, and Esmeralda Counties, feeding over 300,000 Nevadans. Our State is fortunate to have someone such as Mr. Burton running this organization, which is critical to many across southern Nevada.

Previously, Mr. Burton served as executive director for Wilkinson Center in Dallas, TX, a nonprofit organization serving low-income families with food assistance, education, and case management. In his current position, Mr. Burton works to further develop and grow the organization, increase program sustainability and community engagement, diversify and increase fundraising, and offer public policy work. His contributions to this incredible organization are immense, and his efforts have not gone unnoticed.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Burton for his noble contributions to communities across southern Nevada and to the many individuals who have benefited from his work. He is a shining example of someone who strives for the betterment of his community and displays true selflessness in his work. I am thankful to have Mr. Burton serving as an ally to Nevadans in need.

Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Mr. Burton and his work for Three Square, a program whose mission is both honorable and necessary. I wish Mr. Burton the best of luck in all of his future endeavors. •