

Americans who have a stake in a fair, effective judicial system, we thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, AFL-CIO, Alliance for Justice, American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, American Federation of Teachers, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Americans for Democratic Action, Asian Americans Advancing Justice AAJC, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA), Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, The Center for Asian Pacific American Women, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Constitutional Accountability Center, CREDO, Defenders of Wildlife, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund, Earthjustice, Human Rights Campaign, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, League of Conservation Voters, NAACP.

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., National Association of Human Rights Workers, National Association of Social Workers, National Black Justice Coalition, National Center on Time and Learning, National Community Reinvestment Coalition, National Congress of American Indians, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), National Council of Jewish Women, National Education Association, National Employment Lawyers Association, National Fair Housing Alliance, National Hispanic Media Coalition, National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Women's Law Center, People For the American Way, Pride at Work, South Asian Americans Leading, Together (SAALT) United Auto Workers (UAW), The Workmen's Circle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

AMENDMENT NO. 3524

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, while we are waiting for members of the Judiciary Committee to come and speak to the judicial nomination we will vote on shortly, I want to take the opportunity to talk about a pending amendment which is being offered by Senator BENNET of Colorado and which I would recommend to the Senate that they favorably consider. It is dealing with families traveling on airlines.

As you know, things get very specific about seats and how much they charge for the seats. You pay extra for some baggage and other services, and then you get into seats that are getting increasingly smaller. It is even worse for a woman who is pregnant or is traveling with small children.

Senator BENNET's amendment is a family-friendly amendment. If a parent has a minor child who is going on the plane by themselves, it would require TSA to allow the parent to accompany the child throughout the screening process. To a small child, that can be quite intimidating.

Secondly, it would require the airlines to provide pregnant women with the opportunity to preboard the flight. How many times have we seen everybody queueing up to get on the flight? The special advantage passengers get on, the first class passengers get on, the members of the frequent flyer program get on, and here is a lady who is quite along in her pregnancy still

standing. That is just common sense. That is being gentlemanly about the rules of airlines.

Thirdly, the amendment tries to keep families together because it would require the airlines to make sure that at least one adult of the family who is traveling together can sit next to the child on the plane without the airlines saying the parent will have to pay an extra fee in order to guarantee having a seat next to their minor child. This is common sense, and it is encouraging family travel.

I certainly urge my colleagues to support this amendment as we will be taking up the FAA bill after this judicial nomination confirmation vote.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield back any remaining time.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Crenshaw nomination?

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 44 Ex.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Coons	Heller
Ayotte	Corker	Hirono
Baldwin	Cornyn	Hoeben
Barrasso	Cotton	Inhofe
Bennet	Crapo	Isakson
Blumenthal	Daines	Kaine
Blunt	Donnelly	King
Booker	Durbin	Kirk
Boozman	Enzi	Klobuchar
Boxer	Ernst	Lankford
Brown	Feinstein	Leahy
Burr	Fischer	Lee
Cantwell	Flake	Manchin
Cardin	Franken	Markey
Carper	Gardner	McCain
Casey	Gillibrand	McCaskill
Cassidy	Grassley	McConnell
Coats	Hatch	Menendez
Cochran	Heinrich	Merkley
Collins	Heitkamp	Mikulski

Moran	Rounds	Tester
Murphy	Rubio	Thune
Murray	Sasse	Tillis
Nelson	Schatz	Toomey
Perdue	Schumer	Udall
Peters	Scott	Warner
Portman	Sessions	Warren
Reed	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Reid	Shelby	Wicker
Risch	Stabenow	Wyden
Roberts	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—8

Capito	Johnson	Sanders
Cruz	Murkowski	Vitter
Graham	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority whip.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VIEQUES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, we are all concerned about the plight right now of Puerto Rico and what is happening over there financially. And later on this week I will revisit the issue of the 4-year battle of Vieques that took place from 1999 to 2003. I am very much concerned that we might have an opportunity here to rectify something that was done that should not have been done back in 2002.

The island off of Puerto Rico called Vieques had been an integrated training center for many years—about 60 years—up until 2002. For purely political reasons at that time, it became quite an issue. First of all, joint training took place on the island of Vieques. Joint training means you have different branches of the military trying to accomplish something together that they couldn't do individually. In the case of Vieques, it was the Marines, the Navy, and the Air Force. We were able to do the type of training we couldn't do anywhere else.

It sounds kind of ridiculous, but when they were talking about doing away with using Vieques for a military center—what they had been doing for 60 years—it was all around an establishment called Roosevelt Roads. Roosevelt Roads was a major naval station. We had about 7,000 sailors there. They added something like \$600 million a year to the economy of Puerto Rico.

Anyway, we found out there was a great effort by a lot of people who I will always suspect wanted to ultimately develop that island for private purposes and to financially gain from that. Consequently, with no regard for the contribution it made to our defense, they started a major problem. One person was killed in 60 years on that island, and because that happened to have taken place, they used it as a reason to try to shut that down. It became quite a political football at that time. I know Al Gore was very much involved in that, and there were some great benefits, I am sure.

From World War II through the operation in Kosovo, our military has been ready to execute combat operations due to the training they were able to get on the island of Vieques. In fact, during Kosovo they used those individuals to conduct successful operations. They were all trained at no place other than Vieques. The reason for that is if they were going into Kosovo, as our Air Force was going in, they would have to be able to draw coordinates from a high enough elevation that the surface-to-air missiles would not be able to reach them, for their safety. And if we hadn't had all those guys over there who were trained at Vieques, it was speculated that they would not have been successful.

Secretary Richard Danzig, who was then the Secretary of the Navy, said that "only by providing this preparation can we fairly ask our servicemembers to put their lives at risk." Admiral Johnson, then Chief of Naval Operations, and General Jones, then Commandant of the Marine Corps, said that Vieques provides integrated live-fire training "critical to our readiness" and that the failure to provide for adequate live-fire training for our naval forces before deployment will place those forces at an unacceptably high risk during deployment. Those are quotes from those two individuals.

Admiral Ellis, then director of operations, plans, and policies on the staff of the commander in chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, said during his confirmation hearing—and I was there at that time—to be commander of Strategic Command, "Those types of facilities, particularly those in which we can bring together all of the naval, and that means both Navy and Marine Corps, combat power for integrated and joint training, are particularly useful elements of the overall warfighting preparation."

At the time we felt there was a problem, I personally went around the world to every place that might have

been a substitute for Vieques. I went to Cape Wrath—I always remember that—which I think is in northern Scotland, and I went to Southern Sardinia in Italy, and none of those places were adequate and none could provide the same type of support.

Admiral Fallon, then commander of the Navy's Second Fleet, and General Pace—remember Peter Pace—the commander of all Marine Forces in the Atlantic, testified that the United States needs Vieques as a training ground to prepare our young men and women for the challenges of deployed military operations.

GEN Wes Clark, the Supreme Allied Commander at that time, said: "The live fire training that our forces were exposed to at training ranges such as Vieques helped ensure that the forces assigned to this theater"—and he was talking about Kosovo. That is when we had to be ready on arrival to fight and win and survive, which we did.

CAPT James Stark, then the commanding officer of Roosevelt Roads Naval Station—there were about 7,000 of our sailors there—said:

When you steam off to battle you're either ready or you're not. If you're not, that means casualties. That means more POWs. That means less precision and longer campaigns. You pay a price for all this in war, and that price is blood.

Admiral Murphy, then commander of the Sixth Fleet of the Navy, said the loss of training on Vieques would "cost American lives." And it has cost American lives, and that has been since 2002. We are talking about American lives unnecessarily put at risk if they are not fully trained for combat operations.

I remember one person back at that time talking about the analogous situation of a football team where you have all the quarterbacks training over here, all the backs over here, and all the defensive people training over here, but never training together, and then they go and lose. You have to have integrated training. We don't even have that today. We have tried to find and to replicate that effort, and it isn't there.

This week, I understand—and the reason I came down quite unprepared is because I didn't know this was coming up—the House Natural Resources Committee is going to consider legislation that provides bankruptcy powers to Puerto Rico while subjecting it to the authority of a Federal oversight board. This is something that is going to become very controversial. There will be a lot of people around saying: Why are we doing this? And once you provide these benefits to Puerto Rico, there is no reason why others won't line up and want the same thing.

I really am concerned that Puerto Rico, apparently—and I don't know if this is true, but they are saying it—owes some \$73 billion in government debt. In January, Puerto Rico started defaulting on part of that debt.

Section 411 of this legislation—we are talking about the legislation that will

be discussed tomorrow over in the House—would turn over approximately 3,000 acres of Department of Interior conservation zones that were formerly part of Vieques.

What happened in 2002 was that the land that had been used for the training range was turned over to this department. Now they are talking about taking it out, I suppose, for people to develop.

I remember so well the time when we were talking about closing Vieques. I was the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Readiness Subcommittee. Puerto Rico's Governor Rossello came. He is not in office anymore. But he made all kinds of threats: It is just a bluff that it would be closing.

I made the statement that if we are denied the opportunity to use the island of Vieques for joint training, then we were going to lose Roosevelt Roads.

Governor Rossello sat there and said: INHOFE is not telling the truth. We are not going to lose that.

Of course, they did lose it. So in 2003 the total impact from the Navy was estimated to be \$600 million a year. The departure of the Navy also impacted business and contracts, as we know.

I was visiting with Miriam Ramirez just today. At the time, she was in the State Senate in Puerto Rico and was talking about the disastrous economic effects if they closed Vieques. She is still concerned about that, and many of the people who were the strongest opponents of my efforts at that time to keep Vieques operating are now saying we should have left it open.

So I think any kind of a deal that is made has to include consideration that the training is still available. There is still no range like Vieques anywhere in the Western Hemisphere. What can be done in Vieques cannot be done in one location by a joint force. I understand firsthand both the importance and the significance of having a range in your home State.

I remember a popular TV show at that time called "Crossfire." I was on the show in May of 2000. Juan Figueroa was the president of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, and we were debating this on live TV.

He said: Well, how would you, INHOFE, like to have a live range in your State of Oklahoma?

I said: Let me tell you about Fort Sill. They train 360 days out of the year, 24 hours a day, and they make all kinds of noise. It is within 1 mile of a population of 100,000 people—at that time, Vieques was within 9.5 miles of 9,000 people—and there are all these people who hear this noise down there. They were in town last week. They said: When we hear that noise, it is the sound of freedom.

Here is something interesting. They opened up what is considered to be the most modern, most progressive elementary school. They call it Freedom Elementary School. They named it after that phrase: It is the sound of freedom.

So this is what is happening. I am very much concerned that we are going to stumble and pass up an opportunity that might still be there. We have an opportunity to actually go back and use that for some of our joint training.

So later this week I am going to go back and relive the history on the 4-year battle of Vieques. Hopefully, this might be an opportunity for us to save American lives and to have integrated training, which we still don't have today and which we had back in that time.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT HAWKES GRAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to an extraordinary Vermonter, Robert Hawkes Gray. Bob, as he is known to family and friends, grew up in Putney where his parents worked at the Putney School. His father, Edward, was in charge of buildings and grounds, and his mother, Mabel, ran the kitchen. Ed's ability to fix anything and Mabel's cooking and way of keeping order are remembered vividly and fondly to this day by thousands of Putney graduates.

Bob attended Putney where he learned to ski cross-country thanks to Olympian skier John Caldwell, the father of cross-country skiing in America who taught at the school. Bob went on to run the outdoor work program at Putney and coached cross-country skiing and running. He became an Olympian himself, competing in the 1968 and 1972 winter games, and was inducted into Vermont's Ski and Snowboard Museum Hall of Fame.

After skiing, Bob's lifetime passion has been farming. He and his wife, Kim, own and manage Four Corners Farm, one of the most successful vegetable and dairy farms in Vermont. Located on a beautiful hillside that levels off along the Connecticut River in South Newbury, the sprawling acreage of the farm is a model of order and astonishing productivity. Just about anything that will grow in Vermont, either in fields or in greenhouses heated by wood stoves, can be found there in abundance.

Everyone knows that farm work is hard by any standard. It means rising before sunrise and long hours of strenuous physical labor that continues into the night. Anyone who visits Four Corners Farm can't help but wonder how they do it all. It is a testament to the benefits of regular physical exercise, as Bob, now 76, looks closer to 60 and has the strength of someone half his age. It

wasn't all due to farming though. It is said that, when Jack Dempsey was the world heavyweight champion, Ed Gray's biceps measured the same diameter. Of course, Ed was an accomplished gardener himself.

I could go on about Bob's talents as a farmer. A teacher by instinct, anyone who visits the farm may find themselves treated to a lesson in pruning tomato plants, planting and mulching strawberry seedlings, or the peculiar habits of honey bees. Kim, a former alpine ski racer herself, is also a gifted farmer whose stamp on the business can be seen everywhere. Neither could have made Four Corners Farm what it is today without the other.

Bob never stopped skiing for fun, but he didn't take up racing again until the 1990s. This past winter he showed that, if you love something enough and give it everything you have got, just about anything is possible.

At the World Masters cross-country ski races in Vuokatti, Finland, and at the National Masters at Royal Gorge, CA, Bob won a gold medal, two silvers, and a bronze. Some might think that, by the time you get to be 76, you are probably skiing pretty slowly and there isn't that much competition in your age group anyway. Let's just say that at the Masters no one skis slowly—no one skis anything remotely like slowly. These are the best skiers in the world, and to the rest of us mere mortals, there isn't that much difference between them and today's Olympians.

A March 31, 2016, article in the Valley News, entitled "Septuagenarian Gray Skiing His Way to Wins" tells the story. I congratulate Bob Gray. He exemplifies the very best of Vermont for his inspiring work ethic, his ski racing accomplishments, and the example he has set for future generations of Vermont skiers and farmers. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Valley News, Mar. 31, 2016]

SEPTUAGENARIAN GRAY SKIING HIS WAY TO WINS

(By Jared Pendak, Valley News Staff Writer)

NEWBURY, VT.—Bob Gray returned to cross country skiing several years ago, primarily as a way to keep his heart pumping. As it turned out, he's more than capable of breaking the hearts of opponents.

Gray, 76, recently swept a pair of races at the National Masters Championships in Soda Springs, Calif., winning the Masters 5B (ages 75-79) 10K classic race on March 19 in 33 minutes, 58.6 seconds, more than nine minutes faster than runner up Hans Muehleger, of Idaho, and good for 20th overall in a field of 53.

The next day, Gray placed fifth overall while winning his 70-79 age group in the season-ending U.S. Marathon National Championship, finishing the 14K bronze race in 48:12.1—again more than nine minutes ahead of Muehleger.

A two-time Olympian who competed on the U.S. Nordic Ski Team from 1960-74, Gray had also swept both events in the 2015 National Masters Championships, held closer to home at the Craftsbury (Vt.) Nordic Center.

"There isn't much competition for my age group in that event," said Gray, who co-owns the Four Corners produce and dairy farm in Newbury, Vt. "I'd like to think part of it is that I'm in pretty good shape."

Gray's competition was stiffer last month at the Masters World Cup in Vuokatti, Finland, where he left with two silver medals and a bronze. On Feb. 6, he bettered 75-year-old Frenchman Daniel Chopard by two seconds for second place in the 10K skate in 33:40, then beat Chopard by 35 seconds with a time of 47:34.1 in the 15K skate Feb. 12.

Norwegian Finn Magnar Hagen decidedly won both skate races, finishing the 10K a good 2:40 ahead of Gray and besting him in the 15K by nearly four minutes.

"There was just no catching Finn; he was just gone," said Gray. "On the other hand, me and Chopard had a great time going back and forth. We'd pass each other and say, 'All right, I'll see you up ahead on the hill.'"

Neither Hagen nor Chopard competed in the 5K classic on Feb. 8, a race in which the top four were separated by just 17 seconds. Russia's Gennady Ushakov won in 18:10.9, followed by Austrian Josef Schniagl, Gray (18:19.7) and Finland's Taplo Wallenkus (18:27.9).

"I think I had a chance to win that race, but my skis just weren't up to par with some of the skis these other guys had," Gray said. "I made one tactical error, started kicking too lightly and it got me off-track. I was still able to make up most of the places I lost and close the gap. It was a close race, a fun race."

Gray, a Vermont Ski & Snowboard Museum Hall of Fame inductee whose wife, Kim, is a former U.S. Alpine skier, competed in the 1968 and '72 Olympic Games. His best finish was 12th place in the 4x10K relay in the '68 Games in Grenoble, France, complementing three combined top-50s in individual events at Grenoble and the '72 Games in Sapporo, Japan.

The Putney, Vt., native also skied four seasons in the FIS Cup (now known as the FIS World Cup), winning national titles in the 15K and 50K and earning the top U.S. ranking in 1973.

The Grays opened the Green Mountain Touring Center in Randolph in 1977 while running their first farm in Hartland Four Corners, inspiring the moniker they kept even after moving operations to their plot in Newbury.

Bob Gray later had about a 12-year hiatus from the sport while devoted to raising the couple's three children and farming, not strapping on skis again until the early 1990s.

He competed off and on in various national and international competitions, capturing bronze at an event in Quebec City in 2001 and two silvers and a bronze five years later in British Columbia. He began refocusing on training and competing in earnest several years ago, motivated equally by the desire to keep his heart rate up as much as keeping his competitive juices going.

"When you get older, if you don't keep moving, you get sick and die," Gray said plainly. "So much of your health is about staying active and exercising. I get some of that on the farm, but I'm much more of a manager type now than I used to be. So (returning to skiing) is a way to keep my heart beating."

Like any snow sports athlete based in the area, Gray faced challenges finding suitable surfaces to train on this winter. He ventured to Craftsbury Nordic Center at times to practice on their manmade trails, but most often settled for dry-land exercises.

"I'd go up (North Haverhill's) Black Mountain, Mount Moosilauke, sometimes Mount Ascutney, always with ski poles to help practice balance," Gray said. "I'd go uphill on