

hearing, Mr. Bush said that his, “personal views are irrelevant to the position for which [he has] been nominated.” I do not believe that hundreds of crude, insensitive, and hateful posts, widely shared on the internet, are irrelevant in analyzing a candidate’s suitability for a Federal judgeship. Mr. Bush’s writings and statements make me question if he could apply the law evenly and without bias.

Every judge takes the oath of justice and swears to “administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich,” and to “faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent” upon them. Based on Mr. Bush’s own statements, I am not confident that he will uphold that oath.

TRIBUTE TO LES AND EVA AIGNER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to recognize Les and Eva Aigner, two brave Oregonians who lived through the horrors of the Holocaust. I want to honor Les and Eva in the Senate today and share how they survived Nazi atrocities and went on to live in Portland, OR, where they have taught countless young men and women about the dangers of intolerance and hate.

Eva Aigner, nee Speigel, was born in 1937 in Košice, Czechoslovakia, where she lived with her sister, mother, and father. Two years after her birth, Eva’s father lost his business license due to growing anti-Semitism, prompting the family to move to Budapest. There they hoped they would be safe from Nazi extremism, but even in Hungary, as a Jew, Eva’s father struggled to find work.

As time went on, new laws forced Eva and her family to wear the yellow star, and Eva and her sister were soon unable to attend school due to growing intolerance. Soon after, Eva’s father was taken to a forced labor camp where he was killed. Eva and her remaining family members were then taken to the Budapest ghetto where the Nazis selected Eva’s mother for deportation to a concentration camp.

The remaining children, including Eva and her sister, as well as the sick and the old who were unable to work for the Nazi war machine, were taken to the Danube in the middle of the night to be shot. Eva and her sister only managed to survive because their mother escaped from the deportation train and bribed a guard to spare their lives. From there, they were taken back into the Budapest ghetto where they hid, without food or running water, until the Russian soldiers liberated the ghetto on January 18, 1945. The rest of Eva’s extended family, who remained in Czechoslovakia, with the exception of one cousin, did not survive the Holocaust.

Like Eva, Leslie “Les” Aigner was born in Czechoslovakia. In his case, the small town of Nove Zamky, on June 3, 1929. He had two sisters—one older, one

younger. The Aigners moved to Hungary in the early 1940s to escape the growing Nazi threat, settling in Csepel, on the outskirts of Budapest. Since Jewish children were not allowed access to higher education, Les went to a trade school to become a machinist. Eventually, it became unsafe for Les to even walk to school, and his devoutly religious family stopped attending synagogue for fear of attack. Les’s father was soon taken to a labor camp, and his 16-year-old sister was taken to a paper mill to do forced labor. Les, his mother and his 8-year-old sister were then forced into the Budapest ghetto before being taken to Auschwitz. Upon arrival, the Nazis selected Les’s mother and sister for the gas chambers and took Les to the camp.

Les spent 4 months in Auschwitz. He worked in the kitchen and survived by stealing food. During his imprisonment in the concentration camp, Les was injured after a guard threw a pitchfork through his foot. While Les was in the hospital with an infection from this injury, a Dr. Epstein warned Les that the Nazis planned to execute prisoners who were no longer able to walk. At Dr. Epstein’s urging, Les limped out of the hospital in the middle of the night to avoid being taken to the gas chamber. Dr. Epstein, a prisoner himself, saved Les’s life that night.

Les then exchanged his clothing with another prisoner who wanted to stay with his father in Auschwitz and was transferred to Landsberg, a sub-camp of Dachau. He performed hard labor for several months and was then transferred again to Kaufering Camp, where he contracted typhus before being sent to Dachau on the so-called Death Train.

By the time he arrived, Les weighed only 75 pounds. He was finally freed by American soldiers on April 29, 1945. It took over a month of treatment before Les was able to walk on his own. When Les finally regained his health, he made his way back to Budapest, where he reunited with his father and older sister. Most of their other family members had been killed.

After the war, both Eva and Les began to rebuild their lives in Budapest. They finished school and joined the workforce, Les as a machinist and Eva as an office worker at a collective fur company. In 1956, Les and Eva were introduced to one another by Eva’s colleague, who happened to be a distant relative of Les. Les and Eva quickly became engaged and were married only 59 days later. When the Hungarian Revolution began against the communist regime, Les and Eva, along with Les’s father and stepmother, fled to Austria and then the U.S., eventually settling in Portland, OR.

Starting over in a new country was challenging, but the Aigners carried on and made a life in Portland, finding work and starting a family. Les continued to work as a machinist, and Eva worked as a cosmetologist, eventually opening her own salon. Eva’s mother

came to live with them in Portland as well. Les and Eva are the proud parents of their daughter Sue, and their son Rob, who blessed them with four wonderful grandsons. They are waiting to welcome their first great-grandchild.

Les and Eva rebuilt their lives, but they never forgot the horrors they had endured. As Holocaust deniers became increasingly vocal in the 1980s, the Aigners began telling their stories publicly and speaking out against discrimination and intolerance. They have worked with the Holocaust Memorial Coalition since its inception in 1994. Eva was even the vice chair of the project to build the Oregon Holocaust Memorial, which she said was the proudest achievement in her life besides giving birth to her children.

Many of my colleagues in the Senate have heard me speak about my own family’s experience fleeing the Nazi regime during the Holocaust. We lost family and loved ones on Kristallnacht and at Theresienstadt. Tolerance, inclusiveness, and compassion are issues my family takes very seriously. That is why I am so deeply honored to be able to recognize the Aigners today and to pay tribute to the invaluable work that they do.

At a time when hate and intolerance seem increasingly pervasive in our social and political discourse, it is now more important than ever that we remember the horrors that so many people endured at the hands of the Nazi regime, the death and pain they suffered in the name of hate, discrimination, and fear. In Eva Aigner’s own words, “Discrimination can start with little things. It can start with as much as racial jokes or religious jokes. It can start with just small hatred which can grow. . . . The way to fight is to educate the young people. To let them know what discrimination can do. And how innocent people can get killed and go through such terrors . . . and have their family pulled apart.”

We must not forget; we must educate. We must educate ourselves and each other so that nothing like the horrors of the Nazi regime will ever happen again. Les and Eva Aigner have dedicated their lives to exactly that, and that is why I am so incredibly grateful to honor them today, for their strength, their compassion, their generosity, and their willingness to educate and make Oregon, our country, and our world a more tolerant, safer, and better place.

For that reason, I offer both Les and Eva Aigner my deepest affection and warmest thanks for using their voices to teach generations to come to never, ever forget.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH T. “TIM” ARCANO

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to commend Dr. Joseph T. “Tim” Arcano, technical director for Naval Surface Warfare Center, NSWC, Carderock Division, who is retiring after a lifetime

of service to the U.S. Navy, our Federal Government, and the scientific community.

Tim Arcano has dedicated his professional life to serving our country, first in the military and later as a civil servant. His knowledge of ships and the oceans they sail and nuclear safety and capabilities has been developed through his education and in his myriad positions throughout the Navy and our Federal Government. Two of Dr. Arcano's academic degrees were earned in my us, home State, where he attended the U.S. Naval Academy, and later earned his Ph.D. at the University of Maryland. In addition, he holds an Ocean Engineer degree and a masters in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT.

Dr. Arcano's first career was in our military, where he served for 30 years in both Active and Reserve service. As technical director and ship design manager for the Virginia-Class Submarine Program, as technical authority for advanced submarines at Naval Sea System Command, NAVSEA, and as a program manager at the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Dr. Arcano developed an understanding and expertise that few can match. Those skills were further utilized in five Reserve commands.

Dr. Arcano's dedication to our country continued after his transition from Active service to the Reserves in 1992 and his later retirement from the Navy as captain in June of 2008. He served as deputy chief of Nuclear Safety at the United States Department of Energy and as the director of the Office of Ocean Exploration and Research at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. During that time, he returned to the Naval Academy to hold the Corbin A. McNeill Endowed Chair in Naval Engineering, where he created a course on engineering of submersible systems.

Dr. Arcano came to NSWC Carderock in May of 2013, bringing his wealth of experience as he took the helm of a campus of over 3,000 employees. His impact has been magnified by his commitment to STEM education and developing the next generation of scientific leaders. Under Dr. Arcano's leadership, employees at NSWC Carderock have mentored countless high school and college interns, even reaching to our youngest developing scientists by leading elementary students in FIRST Robotics clubs. Dr. Arcano "walks the walk" himself, giving greatly of his own time by taking interns under his wing to offer advice and helping them chart their path, wherever that might lead.

As part of his encouragement of STEM education, Dr. Arcano and NSWC Carderock have continued to host the International Human Powered Submarine Races. Teams from not just corporations and research centers, but from universities and even high schools come from around the world to race

their independently built one- or two-person submarines through a course at the historic David Taylor Model Basin at Carderock. For 2 years, these competitors learn about hydrodynamic design, propulsion, underwater life support, materials science, and other scientific principles in creating their own designs for these vehicles. The lessons learned, both in science and engineering and in collaborating on a team project, help to fuel their enthusiasm for careers in science and technology.

Dr. Arcano's career reflects his selflessness, his unparalleled leadership capabilities, and his devotion to our country. He commands the respect and admiration of all who have had the privilege to know and work with him. His leadership will be greatly missed, but he has left a legacy of scientific leadership that will continue to develop through the principles and practice that he exercised every day. We are deeply grateful for his devotion to our national security, to naval science, and to America's future generations.

I offer the thanks of a grateful nation to Dr. Arcano and, by extension, to his family—his wife, Brenda, their daughter, Heather, and sons, Greg, Joseph, and Tyler—for as we all know, the support of family is critical. I am honored and pleased to recognize Dr. Tim Arcano for his outstanding career in public service and wish him all the best in his future pursuits.

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA K. DOHNER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the distinguished public service career of Cynthia K. Dohner. Cindy served the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with distinction and honor for more than 24 years and will leave the Service on August 30, 2017.

Cindy's passion for the outdoors began at an early age while fishing and hunting with her father. These experiences encouraged her to pursue an education to ensure the outdoor way of life she enjoyed would continue to be available for future generations.

She earned a bachelor's degree in marine biology, a master's degree in fisheries and aquaculture, and led a long career protecting fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Cindy worked for a private environmental consulting firm and held positions in several State and Federal agencies before joining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1993. Prior to her time in the Southeast Region, Cindy worked with the Service's Division of Fish Hatcheries and as the branch chief for Recovery and Consultation in Washington, DC. She moved to Atlanta in 1999 to serve as the assistant regional director for Ecological Services and later served as deputy regional director.

For the last 7 years, Cindy led the Southeast Region in its mission to make a difference for fish, wildlife, plants, and the people who live and work in communities across the region.

As regional director, she has provided vision and leadership to more than 1,300 employees in 10 southeastern States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and has positively influenced conservation successes and solutions nationally.

In Arkansas and throughout the Southeast, Cindy is recognized as an honest partner and innovative leader. She has worked alongside Arkansas' fish farmers, cattlemen, and local elected officials, including the Association of Arkansas Counties, to solve complex conservation challenges in a way that keeps working lands working, reduces regulatory burden, and helps local economies to thrive. Her responsiveness to private-sector concerns and willingness to find creative ways to conserve fish and wildlife resources has made a difference to wildlife and people alike.

Under her leadership, the Southeast Region has joined forces with States, private landowners, the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies, and several sectors of industry and business including energy, timber and finance among others to find creative ways to conserve fish and wildlife resources. This collaboration resulted in notable conservation successes including removing Arkansas Magazine Mountain shagreen snail and the Louisiana black bear from the endangered species list and precluding the need to list more than 100 fish, wildlife, and plants petitioned for Federal protection in the past several years. She and her team worked closely with many partners to restore more than 1 million acres of bottomland hardwood habitat in the South that is critical for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife in decline. Cindy was remarkably effective in large part because she recognized and emphasized the little things while building relationships that often had big implications and made conservation successes possible on larger scales.

I applaud Cindy for her dedication to public service and the lasting difference that she has made at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I am hopeful FWS will continue to build on her cooperative conservation legacy. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our sincere appreciation and gratitude for her public service and wishing Cindy success and happiness in her future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KEITH GEIS

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, Wyoming has a longstanding tradition of recognizing individuals who make invaluable contributions to agriculture and communities across our State. Each year, Senator Enzi and I have the pleasure of introducing these honorees as they are inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. This year, Keith Geis will be honored as one of