

Mr. Kurt Engelhardt to be a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and I can't think of a nominee who is more deserving and more qualified for this job.

Judge Engelhardt is the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. He has been on the Federal district court bench for 17 years. If you add up all of the cases he has actually tried to verdict or to judgment, I think it is somewhere in the neighborhood of 75 to 100. That is on top of hundreds—undoubtedly, thousands—of motions that he has heard. He is eminently qualified. Yet, rather than recite his resume, I wish to share a personal experience that I had in Judge Engelhardt's court.

A number of years ago, the city of New Orleans sued a major Wall Street investment bank in a dispute over a \$171 million bond issue. The bonds are called pension obligation bonds, and it is an extraordinarily complex transaction. I was called as a witness because, at that point in my life, I was the State treasurer of Louisiana and the chairman of the State bond commission, and we had jurisdiction over the bonds when they were issued.

I was not exactly sure whether I was a fact witness or an expert witness, and the lawyers fought over that for a while. My point is that I was on the stand for, maybe, 5 hours, 6 hours, and I got to observe a little bit about the case and about Judge Engelhardt.

The plaintiffs' counsel, who represented the city of New Orleans and the firefighters' pension system, were a handful of the finest lawyers in the State of Louisiana—indeed, I would say, in the country. A partner and number of associates from a major Wall Street law firm represented the Wall Street investment bank. In addition to their lawyers, there were dozens of clerks and associates and paralegals, who made it look like Bourbon Street on Saturday night because there were so many people. I remember thinking how many thousands and thousands and thousands of hours these lawyers and paralegals and clerks had spent in understanding this case. One could tell very quickly that both sides—both sets of lawyers—knew this case backward and forward and had almost memorized the depositions.

As a lawyer, it was fun for me to watch as they were going at it hammer and tongs. I mean, they could recite chapter and verse from the legal briefs, from the law books, from the depositions. Yet there was one person in that courtroom, among all of these accomplished professionals, who knew more about the case than anybody else. He was the presiding judge—Kurt Engelhardt. He had total command of the subject matter. That was not easy, as this was a very complex municipal securities offering. He had total command of the courtroom.

With both sets of lawyers being aggressive, accomplished litigators, they tested him quite often. That is what

good lawyers do. They will push the envelope. He maintained firm control without ever raising his voice, and I got to watch him in operation for 5 or 6 hours. I had never been in his courtroom before, but after watching Judge Engelhardt in operation, I understood why just about every lawyer in Louisiana who files a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana hopes that he or she will get Judge Engelhardt for the judge, because he is that good. The only group of lawyers I know who hopes it doesn't get Judge Engelhardt for a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana is made up of those who are unprepared or who don't know their cases, because he is not going to tolerate the court's time being wasted.

For that reason, I am proud to stand here today, along with my colleague, the senior Senator from Louisiana, BILL CASSIDY, and recommend categorically and unequivocally—unconditionally—to my colleagues the nomination of Judge Kurt Engelhardt to be a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He will serve us proudly and well.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Jerry Moran, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, John Kennedy, Johnny Isakson, Chuck Grassley, Cory Gardner, James E. Risch, Thom Tillis, Pat Roberts, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Richard Burr, John Thune, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 64, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 86 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Alexander	Flake	Murphy
Barrasso	Gardner	Nelson
Bennet	Grassley	Paul
Blunt	Hatch	Perdue
Boozman	Heitkamp	Portman
Burr	Heller	Risch
Capito	Hoeven	Roberts
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Inhofe	Rubio
Collins	Johnson	Sasse
Coons	Jones	Scott
Corker	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cotton	Klobuchar	Tester
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Leahy	Tillis
Daines	Lee	Toomey
Donnelly	Manchin	Warner
Enzi	McCaskill	Wicker
Ernst	McConnell	Young
Feinstein	Moran	
Fischer	Murkowski	

NAYS—31

Baldwin	Hassan	Schumer
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Shaheen
Booker	Hirono	Smith
Brown	Kaine	Stabenow
Cantwell	Markey	Udall
Cardin	Menendez	Van Hollen
Casey	Murray	Warren
Cortez Masto	Peters	Whitehouse
Durbin	Reed	Wyden
Gillibrand	Sanders	
Harris	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—5

Duckworth	Isakson	Merkley
Graham	McCain	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 64, the nays are 31.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING SAM GRANATO

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a remarkable man who was a giant in our community and who had an immeasurable impact on the lives of many, many people. Sadly, Sam Granato passed away peacefully at his home after a 2-year battle with cancer. He fought his personal medical battle the same way he approached life: with grit, determination, and perseverance.

Sam spent most of his life as a resident of Millcreek, UT, where he learned from his father, Frank, the value of

hard work. Frank taught his son the elements of the food industry, imparting to Sam invaluable lessons that he would later implement as he established and operated several Italian delis and distributed food to Utah stores and restaurants. Lunch at Granato's was a mainstay for people from all walks of life. Some of the most interesting political discussions, for people on both sides of the aisle, have taken place in the "boardrooms" of Sam's beloved restaurant.

To Sam, everyone was his best friend. Sam enthusiastically greeted every person who walked in the door of Granato's, whether he had known you for decades or had just met you. His mantra was always, "How can I help you?" Time after time, I watched Sam put his arm around someone, lean in, and offer a word of encouragement or help.

Sam contributed to so many areas of Utah life. He was a successful businessowner, an effective Salt Lake councilman, an advocate for the needy, and a loving husband and father. He often brought people together—Mormon and Catholic, Republican and Democrat—and would bridge the gaps that confronted us. He represented a better era in politics in which we focused more on where we agree than where we disagree.

With Sam's passing, Utah has lost an important member of its community. Sam was a man whose small stature belied his huge impact. Elaine and I extend our deepest sympathy and love to his wife, Ann, and to their four children. May our Heavenly Father's loving arms encircle them as they mourn his loss and celebrate his life. I will miss my friend and his kindness and support, but I know that the contributions he made will continue to bless our State for generations to come.

HONORING OFFICER PHILLIP MEACHAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to honor the service and sacrifice of Officer Phillip Meacham, of the Hopkinsville Police Department, who lost his life in faithful service to his community.

Like all members of law enforcement, Officer Meacham put his safety at risk each and every day for those he was sworn to protect. However, on March 29, 2018, tragedy struck in a targeted act of violence when an individual impersonating a police officer fatally shot him.

For a small community like Hopkinsville, KY, Officer Meacham's killing appalled everyone to their core. This type of senseless violence had no place in their or any community, and Officer Meacham's loss sent shockwaves throughout western Kentucky. During his funeral procession, hundreds of people—both friends and total strangers—lined the streets to honor him.

Officer Meacham joined the Hopkinsville Police Department last May after

more than a decade at the Christian County Sheriff's Department. His honorable service to this community will be remembered for years to come by the men and women who served with him in uniform and by the wife and young daughter he left behind.

As the community mourns Officer Meacham, we are all reminded of the ever-present danger that the brave members of law enforcement face. Officer Meacham's courage and heroism were hallmarks of his service, and his community is safer because of him.

I would like to express my deepest condolences to Officer Meacham's family, to the Hopkinsville Police Department, and to all those who knew him. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring this Kentucky hero.

TRIBUTE TO KAY ADKINS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Kay Adkins, the president and CEO of Ashland Community and Technical College, ACTC, on her upcoming retirement after more than 5 years of leadership to this Kentucky institution. A western Kentucky native, Dr. Adkins knew this would be her last post before a well-deserved retirement that will begin at the end of June.

After earning her doctorate in educational administration from Illinois State University, Dr. Adkins held leadership positions at community colleges around the country. Just before coming back to the Commonwealth, she served as the president of Yuba College in Marysville, CA, where she found success in diversity, strategic planning, and the establishment of the Yuba College Foundation.

During her time at ACTC, Dr. Adkins helped the organization fulfill its mission to provide accessible, affordable, and quality education to its students. A member of the school's board of directors said, "She's the total package." A former chairman of the board credits her leadership with making ACTC a leader of Kentucky's community colleges.

One of her many accomplishments in Ashland was the establishment of the Holy Family Community Collegiate High School, which helps students earn 2-year degrees while they pursue a high school diploma. Dr. Adkins also strengthened the relationship between ACTC and many of Kentucky's colleges and universities, so students could transfer their credits to a 4-year program. In the face of economic hardships in the region, she helped develop second-career retraining programs to help displaced or out-of-work Kentuckians.

Dr. Adkins' efforts have already shown impressive results. Under her guidance, ACTC awarded a record number of credentials to its graduates each of the last 3 years. She has also built close ties with the employer community in an effort to increase the num-

ber of scholarships available to students and help them begin meaningful careers after graduation. Her leadership has benefited students and the community.

Now, she plans to spend retirement in her native western Kentucky with her husband, playing golf and traveling. I would like to congratulate Dr. Adkins on her successful career and thank her for years of dedication to Kentucky's students, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT HALE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today it is my privilege to congratulate Albert Hale, of Laurel County, KY, on his recent retirement after more than four decades of public service to his community. Hale left his position as emergency management director for the county earlier this year, and I would like to take this opportunity to join with the men and women of Laurel County in thanking him for his diligent service.

After graduating from high school, Hale began working for the Kentucky Department of Transportation as a heavy equipment operator. Then in 1994, he added second career working on a part-time basis for the county's sheriff's department. Since he took on that new responsibility more than 20 years ago, Hale had been ready to answer any call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Almost a decade later, Hale retired from the transportation department and began working full time for the sheriff's department. In that role, Hale coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service to assist in its efforts to patrol the area surrounding the Laurel Lake. In 2008, Hale left the sheriff's department for a position in the Laurel County jail's work-release program where he worked with inmates to help them find employment opportunities.

Two years later, Hale heard about a vacancy at the Laurel County Emergency Management Department. He applied and joined the department in 2010 as its director. In this role, Hale leads the support organization to help his community prepare for, respond to, and recover from a wide range of emergency situations. In this position, Hale had the opportunity to collaborate with emergency management professionals from across Kentucky.

As director, Hale remembered one particular event with great satisfaction. After a powerful tornado in Laurel County, a number of organizations and individuals came together to protect the community and to help it rebuild. In the face of a disaster, the citizens of Laurel County worked collaboratively to help their neighbors in need.

Throughout his long career, Hale has dedicated himself time and again to the service of his community. As he fondly looks back on his career, he also remembers the many family holidays