

him for 2 or 3 hours, probably total, over his time there. I assume I will get to know him better as we talk on these issues. But he was in the Bush administration as the crisis built and built, when the economy was about to implode. He said things were rosy. We are trusting him. He is the Vice Chair for Supervision. We are entrusting him and others at the Fed to say that it is OK to give leeway to bankers to comment on the tests before they are administered. It is like helping students write the exam. We wouldn't do it anywhere else, but we do it with banks who risk our economy with their instability.

They are even considering dropping the qualitative portion of the stress test altogether. That is the part of the test that examines banks' risk management processes, data systems, and the fitness of its very well-paid board of directors. I am not sure of the precise number, but boards of directors in the seven largest banks, I believe, all make at least \$200,000 a year. I know they average significantly more than that—for part-time jobs. They are important jobs. They also have other jobs—most of them—but jobs where they so often seem to turn their heads at all of these problems.

Banks such as Deutsche Bank, Santander, HSBC, RBS—all foreign-owned banks—and Citigroup, an American bank, have all failed on qualitative grounds before. But rather than taking that as evidence that these banks need to shape up, they are considering scrapping this critical part of the exam. The Dodd-Frank rollback bill that this Congress just passed will also make things worse next year.

Right now the Fed is considering how to replace existing stress tests for banks with between \$100 billion and \$250 billion in assets to make them easier on the banks and less frequent—easier on the banks and less frequent. Rather than having annual company-run stress tests for the largest banks—those with more than \$250 billion in assets—the tests now, because of the new law that bank lobbyists and President Trump wanted, will only be required to be periodic. They used to be annual. Now we are saying periodic. Who interprets “periodic”? A bunch of Fed regulators that have already shown to be too close to bank interests.

All of this test curving comes alongside the weakening of other financial protections: dismantling the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, undermining the Volcker rule, weakening the Community Reinvestment Act—as if there is no discrimination in this country anymore—and loosening rules around bank capital.

Imagine if the people in this town listened as much to workers as they did to Wall Street bankers. But money talks in this town. Lobbyists talk, representing money. Wall Street talks, representing money. Executives talk, representing money.

We have very profitable banks—banks that taxpayers bailed out. Con-

gress in the last year gave these banks huge tax cuts. Congress passed a deregulation bill that these banks demanded. We saw an article in the paper recently that Wall Street is retooling its whole lobbyist network in Washington because they didn't get quite enough on the banking deregulation bill. They thought it did a lot for community banks and midsized banks but not enough for the big guys. So they are retooling. I am not making this up. They are retooling their operations so they can do better. You have a Vice Chair for Supervision who clearly favors Wall Street in the rules that he has already suggested.

Boy, it is good to be a bank. It is great to be a banker in America. It is great to be a banker in 2018. It is great to be a banker in Trump's America.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to express my opposition to the nomination of Mark Bennett to be a circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Bennett has had a long legal career and has served as the attorney general of Hawaii. My concerns lie not in his resume, but in his public history of opposing constitutionally protected freedoms essential to our way of life.

I have been and always will be a defender of the right of people to keep and bear arms. Wyoming is a State full of law-abiding gun owners who grow up learning to respect firearms and how to use them responsibly. Folks use them for a variety of purposes, everything from self-defense to hunting to work.

As Hawaii's attorney general, Mr. Bennet joined four other State attorneys general in an amicus curiae brief on behalf of the District of Columbia in the Supreme Court case *District of Columbia v. Heller*. The brief argued that the Second Amendment protects no individual right to bear arms. This position worries me that he would not uphold Supreme Court precedent on the Second Amendment.

At a time when so many critical issues are being litigated in our courts, I cannot vote to confirm a nominee with a background of opposing fundamental constitutional rights. Therefore, I must oppose the nomination of Mr. Bennett.

Thank you. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, all postcloture time on the Bennett nomination be considered expired at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow and the Senate immediately vote on the nomination; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. TILLIS. 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.

### TRIBUTE TO BARBARA PROFFITT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I am proud to recognize a remarkable woman who has been a constant presence in Hardin County for many years. Barbara Proffitt has meant so much to this community, and as she begins her long-awaited retirement, I would like to thank her for her decades of care and support.

For 30 years, Barbara represented Hardin Memorial Hospital as its community/guest relations coordinator. In her own description, she helps “get the word out about the hospital,” but for someone like Barbara, that meant a lot more than sitting behind a desk sending emails. Throughout Elizabethtown and the surrounding area, Barbara seemed to be everywhere, attending community meetings, special functions, and even driving the health group's car during parades.

Beyond her work at the hospital, Barbara supported her community and her neighbors in so many ways. Although she hasn't had a child attending North Hardin High School since the late 1970s, Barbara proudly continues to be the “team mom” of the boys' basketball team. Usually carrying bags of candy to share, she rarely misses a game and always seems to have a hug ready for every player, manager, and coach.

The close proximity between Barbara's home in Vine Grove to the U.S. Army installation at Fort Knox inspired another form of community work. Crediting her father's service in World War I and the service of her brother and husband in Korea, Barbara has made it her personal mission to support our Nation's men and women in uniform stationed at Fort Knox. She packs boxes of food for soldiers deployed overseas who are serving in Fort Knox's 1st Theater Sustainment Command. Barbara also bakes pecan pies for those at the installation, earning her the nickname she treasures: “Pie Lady.” Having tasted one of her pies myself, I can confirm just how delicious they are. Because of her long-standing generosity to those at the installation, Fort Knox awarded Barbara and her family with its Gold Neighbor Award. In her retirement, she has chosen to join a new mission called “No Vet Dies Alone,” providing comfort to our Nation's heroes in their final hours.

Barbara has also passed on her love of community service to her children,

Rhonda and Blake. As the current mayor of Vine Grove, Blake credits his mom's passion for others as what helped inspire his decision to enter public service.

After her last day at Hardin Memorial Hospital, Barbara began a well-deserved vacation. When she returns, however, no one expects her to slow down too much. As a local columnist wrote when he heard about her retirement, "For Barbara the word retire is a word, that's it. I am certain we still will see her around, everywhere we seem to go." I certainly hope we will. Today I am proud to join with the people of Hardin County in thanking Barbara Proffitt for taking care of so many in her community throughout the years. I ask my Senate colleagues to help me wish her a wonderful retirement.

Mr. President, the News-Enterprise in Elizabethtown recently published an article on Barbara's legacy of service to her community. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of 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 News-Enterprise, May 6, 2018]

BARBARA PROFFITT: ONE OF HARDIN COUNTY'S TRUE GEMS

(By Jeff D'Alessio)

The first time I saw Barbara Proffitt I was standing in a hallway outside of the boys' basketball coaches office at North Hardin High School after a game in 1988.

I stood there, probably with a notebook and pen in hand. She stood there with candy bags in her hands—Tootsie Roll Pops and gum.

She saw me and scooted closer and said, "Are you the new guy?" I told her I was and best I can recall, now 30 years later, she told me to be nice to her boys and to Ronnie—the now legendary coach Ron Bevars.

And then she asked me if I wanted a Tootsie Pop and some gum.

Then I would see her at road games and tournaments, candy bags in tow, without fail, as was a hug for each player—star player or bench warmer—plus the managers and coaches.

I wondered what the deal was with this woman showing up at all these games with candy. The deal was this: That's who she is—kind to the core.

She would cheer, and boo occasionally, at games and she also was there to encourage and comfort. That's one of my Barbara Proffitt stories.

Here's another one or two. Those who know her, have many.

If she likes a column I write, she calls me. If she disagrees, she calls, I think she has once.

When our third granddaughter was born on New Year's Day 2017, she sat in the waiting room with my wife and me for a few minutes wanting to know how everything was going.

She parted with a hug, as she so often does.

The next day, she was there with gifts when McKenna was the first baby born for the year. Again, more hugs.

You see Barbara everywhere—dinners and parades, meetings and announcements.

She has plenty of energy for someone of any age, and for someone who gives and is on the go so much.

She has lived life at a quick pace and now it's time for her to slow down as she "re-

tires" from Hardin Memorial Hospital after 30 years. For Barbara the word retire is a word, that's it. I am certain we still will see her around, everywhere we seem to go.

It is who she is. She's a doer, not someone who stands on the sideline waiting for others to pitch in. I don't think she could stand to be sitting there watching others do what she is capable of doing.

When you talk about community gems in the people that make Hardin County what it is, Barbara is near the top of the list.

I remember Bevars telling me once she was as much apart of his highly successful program as anyone he could think of. She was there for her genuine love and concern for kids and coaches.

When I heard Barbara was retiring, I have to admit, I chuckled. I'm not sure how that word really applies to the most involved person I know.

Whatever it will mean to her, I hope it starts with years of good health and life fulfillment.

Aside from the Tootsie Pops, gum and hugs, there is much more to learn from Barbara: Being nice and genuinely kind-hearted are character traits that are hard to beat.

And you won't find many people, no matter where you go, nicer than Barbara.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALAN WATTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate Alan Watts, an indispensable broadcaster in western Kentucky, who will soon celebrate his 25th year with WKDZ/WHVO Radio in Cadiz. When the listeners of Caldwell, Christian, Lyon, Todd, and Trigg Counties tune in for the news, a trusted voice provides them with the information important to their lives.

Even before he graduated from high school, radio broadcasting had piqued Alan's interest. He worked part-time at WHOP in Hopkinsville through college, and he proudly remembers that his news career began when he attended a rally featuring Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

Alan's time at WKDZ began in 1993 not with a formal contract, but rather with a handwritten agreement with the owner, D.J. Everett. He started by answering phones, writing stories on an electric typewriter, and delivering the weekend news. As the station has grown and expanded during the last 25 years, Alan has taken on more responsibility and has become a well-known local figure.

On weekdays at 5 a.m., Alan goes on air for his "Morning Ag Report." The program debuted in 2008 with the mission to tell the southern Pennyrile region's agriculture story. In his own words, "Each morning I start my day at 3 with a much-needed cup of coffee and a fresh outlook on life." Bringing the latest news to farm families, Alan and his team have earned the strong support of the community, but he doesn't sign off after a single program. Alan also hosts the "WKDZ Country Club" program for 3 hours, sharing news and local events and hosting a number of guests. It is his way to help listeners throughout the region begin their day.

As if 4 hours of daily broadcast weren't enough, Alan doesn't stop there. This January, he became the host of the Kentucky Farm Bureau's "Across Kentucky" program that airs on more than 140 radio stations across the Commonwealth. He is also a frequent guest on RDF-TV, the first 24-hour TV network with programming focused on agribusiness and rural lifestyles. Winning such praise as the 2007 Kentucky Farm Bureau Communications Award and the 2018 Christian County Friend of Agriculture, Alan has clearly earned the respect of his listeners and his peers.

I have enjoyed my many opportunities to join Alan's program over the phone, in studio, and here in my office in the U.S. Capitol. Covering everything from farm bills to tax reform and the Supreme Court, we have discussed the issues that are important to western Kentucky. When I join his show, I know that my constituents in the region are listening.

I would like to thank Alan for his years of dedication to his agricultural community and, once again, to congratulate him on this milestone accomplishment. As he continues his impressive career, I send my best wishes to him, his wife, Susan, and their daughter Jennie. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me.

Mr. President, the Kentucky New Era recently published a profile on Alan's career. 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 Kentucky New Era, June 20, 2018]

ALAN WATTS: INTERVIEWS BEHIND THE CAMERA SET STAGE FOR CAREER IN BROADCASTING

(By Tonya S. Grace)

As a youngster, Alan Watts used to go to LaFayette and drop into Jimmy Landers' general store.

He recalls the seeds, which, much like the familiar penny candy sought by eager kids in past decades, were scooped up by the pound by families who bought them for planting on the farm.

"Jimmy Landers had a store (where you) dipped seeds out of a bucket," remembers Watts, a Herndon farm kid who grew up to become the news and farm director at WKDZ/WHVO Radio in Cadiz. "He had a dipper, and you would dip out however much you wanted, a pound or whatever."

Landers operated his store until 2003.

Five years later, Watts' Morning Ag Report debuted on the air, and it has gained a following of folks as nearby as Christian and Trigg counties, as far away as Stewart and Montgomery counties in Tennessee.

Now a resident of PeeDee in south Christian County, Watts has made a living apart from his life on the family farm; in almost three decades in broadcast journalism, he's seen four presidents in person, met Fox news journalist Geraldo Rivera (a tiny little guy, Watts says) and followed his fellow broadcaster and late mentor Dink Embry into the Washington, D.C.,-based National Association of Farm Broadcasting.

Only 150 or so people are members of the organization whose programs and services promote agriculture throughout the country,