

You can forge anything these days. We are living in a fake news era.

In the Philippines, President Rodrigo Duterte has complained of being “demonized” by “fake news.” Last year, according to a news report, with our President “laughing by his side,” Duterte called reporters “spies.”

In July 2017, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro complained to the Russian propaganda outlet that the world media had “spread lots of false versions, lots of lies” about his country, adding: “This is what we call ‘fake news’ today, isn’t it?” And on and on. This feedback loop is appalling.

We are in an era where the authoritarian impulse is reasserting itself to challenge free people and free societies everywhere. We cannot give convenient language to authoritarians, language that is used against their own people.

Now, with the apparent brutal murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, some of the real enemies of the people and enemies of freedom seem to have taken license to eliminate a man their regime viewed as a threat.

We need to know exactly what happened in that Saudi consulate in Turkey earlier this month. Put bluntly, we cannot do business with the Saudi Government if they directed or were complicit in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. We in this body had best be very careful about who the enemies of the people are and who they are not.

The free press is the guardian of democracy and the enemy of tyrants, and the man or woman who speaks from behind the Presidential Seal needs to remind the country and the world of this truism again and again, as long as the world will listen.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

#### RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS BLACK HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame Class of 2019 inductees and celebrate their contributions to our State, country, and literally the world.

Founded in 1992 by Charles Stewart and Patricia Goodwin to recognize the gifts of African Americans with Arkansas roots, the first induction ceremony in 1993 honored six individuals, including acclaimed poet, author, and activist Maya Angelou and civil rights advocate and Little Rock Nine mentor Daisy Bates.

We are probably all familiar with Arkansas’ role in the movement for public integration. The African-American students who were threatened and intimidated by fellow classmates and community members as they tried to enter Little Rock Central High School quickly became icons of the civil rights movement because of their courage in the face of overwhelming adversity.

These nine students, known as the Little Rock Nine, were inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2007. They, along with other individ-

uals who are members of the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, represent diverse areas of advocacy, interest, and expertise. More than 150 people are part of this select group because of their contributions to American culture and Arkansas history.

This year, six individuals will join this distinguished group when they are inducted on Saturday, October 27, 2018. I want to take a moment to recognize the inductees and their accomplishments.

Kevin Cole is a renowned mixed-media visual artist from Pine Bluff, AR. He graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff with a degree in art education and continued his education, earning advanced degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Northern Illinois University.

His artwork often reflects the history of racial violence and social issues. When he was 18 years old, after Cole expressed his reluctance to vote, his grandfather told him the story of African Americans who were lynched by their neckties on their way to vote. That knowledge has inspired his artwork. He is well known for his abstract “necktie” pieces that reflect on the painful past while also, very importantly, looking toward a hopeful future.

Cole is an award-winning artist whose work has been displayed in galleries literally all over the world, including the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Brent Jennings is a native of Little Rock. He is an accomplished actor and educator. In the sixth grade, he was encouraged by a teacher who was directing his school’s annual vaudeville-style review to become an actor.

He took acting classes at the Arkansas Art Center, where he was the first African-American actor to land the lead role in a children’s theater production. He pursued an acting career that took him to New York and Boston before moving to Los Angeles.

While a student at Emerson College, he was recognized for his acting and directing, earning the Carol Burnett Award and the New England Theater Award.

He has acted alongside Academy Award-winning actors and those who have claimed the spotlight of Hollywood. You may have seen him most recently in AMC’s “Lodge 49.” In addition, he shared his passion for acting as an adjunct faculty member at the American Academy of Dramatics.

LTG Aundre Piggee is a native of Stamps, AR. He graduated from the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff. As a student, he served in ROTC and chose to pursue a career in the military. He says he mentors his soldiers as his UAPB instructors mentored him.

He has proudly served in uniform for 37 years. His military career has taken him literally all over the world, where he has commanded thousands of sol-

diers, as well as worked to equip missions in Syria and Afghanistan.

Today he serves at the Pentagon as the Deputy Chief of Staff in the U.S. Army, overseeing logistics. He is an individual I have really enjoyed getting to know and working with, and he is certainly somebody we can be very, very proud of.

Darrell Walker’s name is synonymous with Arkansas basketball. He played at the University of Arkansas—Fort Smith before transferring to play for the Razorbacks for three seasons. He helped the team reach the Sweet 16 in 1981 and 1983. He ranks 18th all-time on the Razorback’s scoring list.

Following a successful collegiate career, he was drafted 12th overall by the New York Knicks and was named to the 1984 NBA All-Rookie Team. He played in the NBA for 10 years, including winning a championship with the Chicago Bulls in 1993.

Walker has continued his involvement in basketball as a coach for college teams and in the NBA. Earlier this year, he became head coach of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock men’s basketball team.

Mary Louise Williams is an education advocate and political activist. She spent 42 years as an educator, 30 of those years as an administrator and music teacher in the Little Rock School District. She has spent her life actively involved in the community as a volunteer on numerous boards and commissions and as an elected official, sometimes as the only woman or only African American.

She was the first African-American chairperson of the Pulaski County Election Commission, the first African-American chairperson of the Pulaski County Democratic Committee, and the first African-American woman from Arkansas to serve on the National Association of County Officials Board.

She has mentored numerous Arkansans through her civic involvement and earned many awards for her commitment to the community. She was recently recognized by the Women’s Foundation of Arkansas as the recipient of the 2018 Brownie Ledbetter Civic Engagement Award for her service and her activism. At 90 years of age, she continues to be active in the community.

Florence Price will be posthumously inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame. She grew up in Little Rock, where she learned to love music at a young age. Her mother taught her piano, and she became an accomplished musician as a youth. By the time she graduated high school, Price was a published composer. She pursued her passion for music as a student at the New England Conservatory of Music.

In 1932, she won the Wanamaker Prize for her “Symphony in E minor.” The next year, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performed that piece, making Price the first African-American woman to have a composition played by a major orchestra.

In 1940, Price was inducted into the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. She had composed more than 300 works by the time of her death in 1953.

We can be very, very proud of these men and women. Their lives and legacies are important to the history of our country and the fight for equality. The honor being bestowed upon them later this month is just one more tribute to their significant contributions to Arkansas and America.

I congratulate each and every one of them on being inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame and extend my sincere thanks for the impact they have had on the State that we all love and want to make better.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF ERIC DREIBAND

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to oppose the nomination of Eric Dreiband to be the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department.

Mr. Dreiband has no experience working on many of the most important duties of the Civil Rights Division, such as protecting voting rights, combating hate crimes, and ensuring that police departments respect the Constitution and civil rights laws.

Instead, he has extensive experience representing corporations who have been accused of employment discrimination and advocating against legislation to protect civil rights.

In his personal capacity, he has testified against the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act and against legislation to protect older workers from discrimination.

We need a head of the Civil Rights Division who will demonstrate independence and a willingness to preserve the right to vote and civil rights laws in the face of this administration's regressive agenda.

I am not confident that Mr. Dreiband will be the independent leader that the Civil Rights Division needs. I cannot support his nomination.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to oppose the nomination of Eric Dreiband to serve as Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division. His nomination is an affront to the mission of the Civil Rights Division, the career attorneys, and to everyone in our country dedicated to advancing civil rights.

Created in 1957, the mission of the Civil Rights Division is to "enforce[e] federal statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, religion, familial status and national origin." The Civil Rights Division

has been indispensable in helping our country combat housing discrimination, voting rights abuses, and hate crimes. It has also intervened in cases of police misconduct in certain situations.

Mr. Dreiband is the wrong person to lead the Civil Rights Division. He has spent his entire career advocating for weaker antidiscrimination laws. He has testified in Congress against the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act, and ban-the-box regulations.

Looking at this record, Mr. Dreiband will do more to undermine than to protect efforts to prevent discrimination. How can someone devoted to fighting against antidiscriminatory laws now be charged with leading an agency that enforces antidiscrimination laws? It is almost as if the Trump administration is "trolling" the agency itself with Mr. Dreiband's nomination.

Unfortunately, under Attorney General Sessions, the Department of Justice has already rolled back Obama-era guidance that terminated the Federal Government's use of private prisons, helped protect vulnerable transgender students, and the Cole memo which allowed prosecutorial discretion in sentencing for drug cases. Mr. Dreiband's record suggests he will continue these attacks on civil rights.

The Assistant Attorney General of Civil Rights Division should be someone that will vigorously protect minority rights and aggressively expand civil rights for all Americans. Mr. Dreiband has shown that he is not that person.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Eric S. Dreiband, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General?

Mr. CASSIDY. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 230 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

Alexander	Boozman	Cassidy
Barrasso	Burr	Collins
Blunt	Capito	Corker

Cornyn	Hoeven	Portman
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Crapo	Inhofe	Roberts
Cruz	Isakson	Rounds
Daines	Johnson	Sasse
Enzi	Kennedy	Scott
Ernst	Kyl	Shelby
Fischer	Lankford	Sullivan
Flake	Lee	Thune
Gardner	McConnell	Tillis
Graham	Moran	Toomey
Grassley	Murkowski	Wicker
Hatch	Paul	Young
Heller	Perdue	

#### NAYS—47

Baldwin	Harris	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall
Cortez Masto	Markley	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Duckworth	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Heitkamp	Nelson	Rubio
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion for the Stewart nomination be withdrawn and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Stewart nomination and, 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. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James N. Stewart, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Stewart nomination.

The nomination was agreed to.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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