

committee is going to invite members of the Commission to brief it as well.

It is my hope that the recommendations of this bipartisan Commission will be followed by the Congress and by the President and the Secretary of Defense because I think they represent some very strong conclusions about what is necessary to enhance our national security.

A third thing Senator McCain wanted to do as chairman of the Armed Services Committee was to hold a series of hearings or briefings before the committee that focused on the advances in technology that were having and can have an important impact on our national security—in many cases, on the kinds of things that we acquire in support of our military superiority, things like hypersonics and artificial intelligence, super-advanced computing, cyber technology, and the like.

After speaking with the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee now, Senator INHOFE, it is my understanding that he, in fact, has a plan to carry out this legacy of Senator McCain and hold a series of briefings early next year on all of these technological issues so that our Members will be better able to evaluate the kinds of things that will help our military have superiority in the future. I am happy to have had some small part to play in advancing that.

There were a couple of other more specific things that Senator McCain didn't work on but which bear his name that I wanted to mention.

One, I cosponsored and helped secure passage of S. 2827, which was a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation at the University of Arizona. This was something that Senator McCain helped to create and to foster throughout his career. But I am also pleased to announce that this legislation names the foundation's environmental conflict resolution center after the late Senator John McCain. I am pleased to make that announcement here.

There is one other item that we are continuing to try to accomplish in Senator McCain's name. We are not across the finish line yet, but we hope to get there. That is something called the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act, S. 1403. This bill carries the name of Senator McCain, and it was one of his favorite projects. It expands volunteerism in our national parks and public lands.

I can tell you that while John McCain came to Arizona having lived in many other places of the world and in the United States, primarily as a result of his service in the Navy, he acquired a love for the State of Arizona which is unequalled among all of us who have been there for a very long time. He loved the beauty of the State, the ruggedness of it, the incredible variety in the flora and fauna. When I would visit John and Cindy's home in the Sedona area, I could always count on being taken on a hike around the

perimeter of the property to show me all of the interesting things he had discovered over the last several months, including where the hawks live and where the owls live and where they found the rattlesnakes and all of the other things that pleased him to be a part of that environment.

So we are hopeful that we can get this Service Corps Act passed, if not in the latter part of this session, at least perhaps early next year.

I want my colleagues to know that although Senator McCain passed away in the early part of his Senate term, he was working on a lot of things that his staff and I wanted to continue to move forward, and I am just pleased we have been able to move these items forward and wanted my colleagues to appreciate that, as well as his friends and constituents in the State of Arizona.

I thank my colleagues here who helped to make some of these things possible and urge that they continue to focus on the one item of unfinished business that can perhaps be accomplished next year.

I conclude by thanking the Governor of the State of Arizona for appointing me to serve for part of the remainder of Senator McCain's term. It has been a great honor and privilege for me to again serve the people of the State of Arizona, particularly to succeed my friend and colleague John McCain.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am going to be here on another matter in a moment, but I wanted to add my thanks to the great work that Senator KYL has done.

I remember coming here as a freshman Senator in early 2009, and JON KYL was one of the people who was kind enough to take me in. We didn't always agree. I still remember a very famous battle over slots at National Airport. But JON KYL has always been someone I have enormous respect for. I think Senators on both sides of the aisle have respect for him, and we very much appreciate his willingness to come back into service, fulfilling part of the tenure of his dear friend, Senator McCain.

I know enough about JON KYL to know that, shall I say, his livelihood prior to coming back into the Senate was quite good, and his willingness to give that up to serve Arizona and the country is a real tribute to the individual and the patriot he is. We will all miss him, and I wish him all the best going forward.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I want to add my thanks to my colleague from Arizona. I came to speak on something else, and I will say this: If there is one individual I have tried to emulate since the day I came to the U.S. Senate, it has been JON KYL. He represented Arizona well, but, more importantly, he represented the Kyl name well. JON, I am grateful that you would come back

for this short period. Godspeed as you leave.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM R. EVANINA

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today—and it was my intent to ask unanimous consent with my colleague, the vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee—for the Senate to confirm Bill Evanina as Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

Bill has served our Nation for over 23 years, including service as a supervisory special agent and assistant section chief with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Prior to joining the NCSC, Bill served as the chief of counterespionage at the CIA.

Bill has served honorably as the Director of the NSC since June of 2014, before the position required Senate confirmation, necessitating a vote by the U.S. Senate. Here is a guy who has served for 3½ years, and we changed the statute and said that this is a position that the Senate needs to confirm in the future, and, all of a sudden, the same guy who has been there is now being held up.

Intelligence threats facing our Nation are numerous. They are growing, and they are significant. Bill is experienced, professional, and understands the threats through real world experience. We need a Director who can ably lead our Nation's counterintelligence security activities during a period of unprecedented threats. We need someone who can actively and effectively engage and educate the private sector on the threats—something Bill has done time and again.

Director Evanina was unanimously approved by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in May, and it is time this body moved forward. We cannot continue to let politics or non-germane issues get in the way of confirming good people.

I ask this body to confirm Bill Evanina as Director of the National Counterintelligence Security Center without further delay.

I yield to my vice chairman of the Intel Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I want to join with the chairman of the committee and basically echo what he has said.

Bill Evanina is a true professional. I have had a chance to work with him for a number of years in my role on the Intelligence Committee and, more recently, as vice chair. Let me cite one example.

Outside of his lane—not a duty as required—Bill has been a consistent voice in raising concerns about the challenges and threats that are posed by China. As a matter of fact, the chairman and I were recently in Austin, and Bill came down and gave one of the most powerful briefs I have heard,

which he has done a number of times for the committee and increasingly for the business community, talking in an honest, straightforward way about the security threats, the intellectual property theft, the host of concerns that confront our country by China.

Bill Evanina is one of those rare public servants, and I don't think—as the chairman has pointed out, since he received unanimous confirmation from the Intelligence Committee—that there is any question about his service, any question about his temperament, any question about his ability to do the job—no partisan challenges to him, as the chairman has mentioned. He has served in his current position for 3½ years.

We do him and other intelligence professionals a disservice when they are arbitrarily held up for confirmation, not because of a substantive issue that this individual may have performed or not performed but because of a totally extraneous issue.

My intent today, along with the chairman, was to ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the Executive Calendar nomination, getting Bill Evanina permanently confirmed to this job. He is an individual who, if we are not careful and don't act on soon, may decide to take his extraordinary professional skills and find much higher remuneration in the private sector rather than serving our country.

I am not going to ask for that UC today in deference to one of our colleagues who has lodged an objection to the nomination. It is my hope that before the end of this session, the chairman and I will come to the floor one more time and make this request.

I implore the Member who has a challenge against Mr. Evanina, again, not based on his performance, not based on his politics, not based on any professionalism he brings to this job—my hope is that the Member will reflect and decide to remove this extraneous objection and allow this great professional to be confirmed to a position he has already served in for the last 3½ years.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to salute my colleagues who are departing the Senate at the conclusion of the 115th Congress: BOB CORKER of Tennessee, JEFF FLAKE of Arizona, ORRIN HATCH of Utah, HEIDI HEITKAMP of North Dakota, DEAN HELLER of Nevada, JOE DONNELLY of Indiana, CLAIRE McCASKILL of Missouri, BILL NELSON of Florida, and JON KYL of Arizona. All of these Members have dedicated themselves to serving their constituents, their States, and our country. The institution of the Senate and the Nation as a whole are stronger because of their service and commitment.

I have been privileged to serve with each and every one of them and want to spend a few moments thanking each of them for the wisdom and experience they brought to their work and for their friendship.

BOB CORKER and I worked on many foreign policy matters together, given my role as ranking member on the Armed Services Committee and his as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. I have appreciated BOB's willingness to reach across the aisle in an attempt to remove barriers to gaining bipartisan cooperation on bills and other policy matters. I also appreciate how much BOB was willing to speak his mind and stand up to administrations of his party and of my party over the last several years, particularly with respect to his very astute analysis of the situation with Russia and other major issues confronting the United States today.

He has long focused on international development and human rights, causes I have been glad to support alongside him, including a joint resolution, Supporting a Diplomatic Solution in Yemen and Condemning the Murder of Jamal Khashoggi; for promoting economic growth in developing countries through U.S. business investment in the recently enacted BUILD Act; and consistently fighting to end modern slavery.

We also served together on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. Here, too, he spent his time reaching across the aisle, trying to find constructive solutions, and informing our work on issues ranging from financial system reforms to housing finance.

We will miss his bipartisan spirit, and I wish BOB only the best as he leaves the Senate.

I have also had the privilege and pleasure to join with JEFF FLAKE in many moments; last week, we were at an event together honoring the late Senator John McCain. He reminisced about the times he worked with John on key policies that aimed to put our country over party politics.

He worked hard to resolve tough issues like immigration reform and protecting the special counsel investigation, and his preferred route to addressing these challenges was not to increase the heated rhetoric but to turn down the volume of the debate, so all sides could be heard and so the Senate could try to move forward in a rational and bipartisan way.

Just as with BOB CORKER, JEFF's approach will be missed in this body. I hope others on both sides of the aisle will recognize what they have done and take up their mantle.

ORRIN HATCH has long served the people of Utah with distinction as chairman of three committees: Finance, Judiciary and what was once called the Labor Committee but is now the HELP Committee. He worked across the aisle to pass landmark laws, often with his friend Senator Ted Kennedy. He was instrumental in passing critical laws,

like expanding access to healthcare for children through the CHIP program and providing help to those suffering with HIV/AIDS through the Ryan White CARE Act.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to work with him in 2005, 2010, and 2015 to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act, to build upon and improve the National Marrow Donor Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory to better treat diseases and expand access to lifesaving therapies.

Most recently, he helped enact the Music Modernization Act, which I know meant a lot to him, given his own musical interests and talents.

He ends his service here as the Senate's President pro tempore. I wish him health and happiness in his retirement. I think his retirement will be just as active as his days in the U.S. Senate, given his personality and also given his determination to serve wherever he is.

HEIDI HEITKAMP, as she put it "beat the odds" to get here. A breast cancer survivor, the lesson she learned from that experience is to use the time she has been given for "good and noble purposes." She "chose for good or for bad to come to the United States Senate" and has served a noble purpose with noble action.

We are so grateful that she did. HEIDI has been a tireless champion of North Dakota throughout her time in the Senate. She worked hard to advance opportunities for Native Americans and veterans, to boost funding for flood protection, and to secure the northern border, to name just a few.

She and I worked together on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. Most recently, I was particularly appreciative of her insight on proxy access and her support for my legislation on this matter, S. 3614, the Corporate Governance Fairness Act.

HEIDI has also been a relentless advocate for a functioning Export-Import Bank, an issue critical to many North Dakotans. Her voice and insight will be missed on this issue and so many others that come before the banking committee.

In addition, over the last 2 years, HEIDI has taken on the issue of maternal mortality rates in our country. More women in the United States die from pregnancy-related complications than in most developed nations, and the number is increasing. This has impacted so many families in North Dakota and across the country, and HEIDI has worked across the aisle to put forth solutions. In the coming days, we expect President Trump to sign into law her legislation, which I was privileged to cosponsor, to help address this issue. I salute her and wish her the best.

DEAN HELLER and I worked together with a great deal of energy and commitment when both of our States and our Nation were in deep crisis in the aftermath of the Great Recession. Nevada and Rhode Island took turns having the sad distinction of the highest