

matter “directly affects a matter otherwise within the jurisdiction of that committee,” S. Res. 400. As I understand it, the information at issue here falls into that category.

Thus, unfortunately, I must object to any consideration of this nomination. My objection is not intended to question the credentials of Mr. Evanina in any way. This objection falls squarely on the administration’s continued failure to uphold their end of the agreement. The executive branch must recognize that it has an ongoing obligation to respond to congressional inquiries in a timely and reasonable manner.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BAIRD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this year, the University of Pikeville in my home State will mark its 130th year of service to students in the mountains of central Appalachia. For more than half of that time, a member of the Baird family has served the school, its community, and most importantly, its students. After three decades of service, Bill Baird recently retired from the UPIKE board of trustees. In recognition of his legacy of leadership, mentorship, and accomplishment, UPIKE President Burton J. Webb awarded my friend with the inaugural Baird Family Service Award. So, I would like to take a moment today to pay tribute to Bill Baird and his family for their steadfast contributions to eastern Kentucky.

Bill’s family is deeply rooted in this region with history going back nearly a century. His father, William J. Baird II, grew up on a farm in the Bluegrass State before attending Berea College. In 1947, William hung a shingle, founding Baird & Baird law firm. Outside of his professional success, William dedicated much of his life to philanthropy and leadership, serving on the board of trustees of Pikeville Community College for nearly three decades. In gratitude for his service to the Pikeville community and the central Appalachian region, William received an honorary doctor of humanities degree in 1977 from Pikeville College, UPIKE’s name until 2011. Bill’s mother, Florane, attended the Pikeville Collegiate Institute, a high school that later became part of the modern UPIKE. Through her care and compassion for the community, Florane also received an honorary doctorate from Pikeville College. Bill lovingly remembered them both as service-oriented people, and their influence, paired with a deep faith, inspired his work for the Pikeville community and the school.

Working in the mines while studying at Pikeville College, Bill graduated in 1966. He later earned admission to the bar and served our country in the U.S. Army. Reentering private life, Bill worked at the family law firm and was eventually joined by his brothers, Charles and John, and members of the family’s next generation.

Even as he worked full time at Baird & Baird, Bill seemed to find extra

hours in the day for his community. With leadership roles at UPIKE, in his church, and at Westcare of Kentucky—a substance abuse treatment facility—Bill constantly gave of himself to others. He coached the local high school’s softball team for nearly two decades and the UPIKE team from 1994–2004, even receiving admission into the university’s athletic hall of fame. After he retired from the practice, Bill hardly slowed down. He did so much pro bono work that he quipped, “Some people say I’m the only retired person they know who comes in to the office every day.”

When asked about his impact on the school, the chairman of UPIKE’s board said Bill gave “of his time, talent, and treasure to the university at a level few have ever given, and he has done so with an unmatched sense of love and care.” A great deal of Bill’s support focused on first-time college students from the local community to foster the potential of Pikeville families. In addition to creating the award named in the Baird family’s honor, the board of trustees also unanimously voted to establish the Bill Baird Family Scholarship to improve student retention and to help provide for students who may struggle to afford their education.

Bill’s not the only impressive member of his household. Kaye, his wife, spent much of her career contributing to the community, helping lead organizations like the chamber of commerce, the school board, and the Christian Appalachian Project. Excelling as an educator, she touched the lives of numerous eastern Kentucky children and earned her place in the inaugural class of UPIKE’s Distinguished Educators Hall of Fame.

Bill and Kaye have done so much for their community, with compassion, philanthropy, and leadership. I am so proud to pay tribute to the Baird family. They have earned our thanks and have made a lasting impact on this region. I am glad the Baird family name has rightfully earned a place of honor at UPIKE, and I ask each of my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Bill and Kaye for a lifetime of dedicated service to Kentucky.

The UPIKE Magazine published a profile on Bill’s contributions to the school. 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 UPIKE Magazine, Fall 2018]

THE BAIRD FAMILY LEGACY: BILL BAIRD
HONORED FOR EMBODIMENT OF SERVICE

(By Mark Baggett)

“Our dad was a great teacher in treating people right,” says Bill Baird about his father, William J. Baird II, and about the heart of the Baird family’s long legacy of support for UPIKE students.

Among the many stories of the family’s support, a remarkable statistic stands out: A Baird has been serving at UPIKE for over half of the 129 years of its existence. During the 2018 opening convocation ceremony, President Burton J. Webb, Ph.D., honored

UPIKE Trustee Emeritus Bill Baird with the inaugural Baird Family Service Award, in recognition of his remarkable impact on the lives of others through steadfast service to the university, to the Appalachian region and to all humanity.

“In 2019, we will celebrate 130 years of service in the mountains of Central Appalachia,” says Webb. “During that span of time few families have impacted the college more than the Baird family. Bill Baird has taken the legacy of servant leadership from his mother, father, and brother even further. He has been a softball coach, a friend of the university and an ardent supporter of the university for decades.”

After more than 30 years of distinguished service Bill Baird retired from the UPIKE Board of Trustees, which was also served by Bill’s father and brother, Charles. In recognition of Bill Baird’s indelible contributions, the board voted unanimously to establish and fund the Bill Baird Family Scholarship to improve student retention by filling financial gaps for students.

“You pick up the need down here,” says Bill Baird. “There is a gap between the educated part of the community and the working class such as the retired coal miners or people on fixed incomes.”

UPIKE Board Chairman Terry L. Dotson has witnessed the fruits of Bill Baird’s selflessness for decades.

“The entire Baird family is a treasure to Eastern Kentucky and to the University of Pikeville,” Dotson says. “Bill is an exceptional person in every way. He is someone every good person strives to be. Bill cares about all things—his church, family and community. He has been a special board member who has fully given of his time, talent and treasure to the university at a level few have ever given, and he has done so with an unmatched sense of love and care. Bill is my friend and has served our board with distinction.”

Dotson’s sentiments are echoed by UPIKE Trustee Richard A. Sturgill. “Bill Baird has been an inspiration to me and many others in the UPIKE community. His unwavering positive attitude, his willingness to encourage and mentor the students and his ability to always stand up for what is right has been steadfast. I am thankful to call him my friend,” says Sturgill.

Bill Baird says the university and medical and optometry colleges are “miracles.”

“UPIKE is a light on the hill to this city, the region and even nationally. To me, what we are is the answered prayers for the many people who laid the foundation for this place by praying for years. These are people who have sacrificed and dedicated themselves to the university.”

Humbly, Bill Baird deflects the spotlight to his parents. His father, who died in 1987, was raised on a Kentucky farm and was a graduate of Berea College and Duke Law School (a classmate of Richard Nixon). He also founded in 1947 the Baird & Baird law firm in Pikeville where Bill Baird and his brothers (Charles and John) as well as children, grandchildren and in-laws also practice. Bill Baird’s mother Florane Justice Baird, who died in 2011, also had strong Pikeville roots: She attended the Training School for grades 1–8 in Pikeville (which operated in the original college building) and then the Pikeville Collegiate Institute for high school, before going to the University of Kentucky.

“My parents were very service-oriented people,” says Bill Baird. “They were giving, caring people who gave back to their community.”

Bill Baird started at Duke University as an undergraduate and says he “made an A in fraternity and an A in football,” and soon he

returned to the Pikeville area and worked in the mines, graduated from Pikeville college in 1966. He was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1969 and served in the U.S. Army from 1969–1971.

A life-transforming event happened to him in the spring of 1973 when he heard the Rev. Ben Sheldon, who was then a Presbyterian pastor in Washington, D.C., preach in Pikeville.

“He started preaching the gospel of God’s love,” Baird says of Sheldon, who later became a pastor in Pikeville. “I felt a personal love that He died for me. It was God’s timing.”

Baird went on to practice law in Pikeville, joking that “in Hatfield and McCoy country, folks can be litigious here.” He now describes his role as a “sometime” attorney, not full-time nor part-time, who does pro bono work and helps fill in for other attorneys at court appearances. “Some people say I’m the only retired person they know who comes in to the office every day,” he says.

He followed up on his short “athletic” career at Duke by coaching softball at Pikeville High School from 1986–2004 and at the university from 1994–2004. Today one of the family’s scholarships is dedicated to athletics, and Bill Baird himself is a member of the university’s Athletic Hall of Fame.

Much of the family’s UPIKE support is described by Bill Baird as meeting the needs of first-time college students who come from the community. He says he hopes the scholarships will address larger gaps as well.

To meet additional need in his region, Bill Baird has been actively involved in several faith-based groups and community support programs. He has supported the Fellowship of Christian Athletes program, provided devotional Bibles to coaches and is Board Chairman of WestCare of Kentucky, Inc., which is involved in treatment of substance abuse.

Today, the Baird Family Circle is one of the granite inlays of Benefactor’s Plaza on campus. Acknowledging the recent service award and scholarship fund honoring him at UPIKE, Bill Baird says, “Christ made the difference in my life. He gave me an opportunity to serve in this way.”

He praises this year’s fellow recipients of the Baird Family Service award, UPIKE Trustee Gregory Pauley and his wife, Kathryn, characterizing them as “wonderful, caring people,” whose mobile home park neighborhood ministry is just the kind of generosity and service embodied by the Baird legacy.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. SINEMA. Madam President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 34, the motion to invoke cloture on Allison Jones Rushing, of North Carolina, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Fourth Circuit.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 35, the confirmation of Allison Jones Rushing, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 36, the motion to invoke cloture on Chad A. Readler, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.●

TRIBUTE TO LINDSAY NOTHERN

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I honor my communications director Lindsay Nothern for his dedication of more than 20 years to Senate service.

Lindsay has been a valued member of my staff since we both started Senate service in 1999. When I was sworn in as a U.S. Senator, my communications director refused to hire a press secretary immediately because she wanted to bring Lindsay onto the staff, and he was not available for a few months, so she did double duty until he was able to join my staff, and I have always been grateful for her insistence that we wait for him. His instincts and media savvy have been spot-on so many times over the two decades he has been with me.

Lindsay’s strategic view of how activities and policy initiatives are presented has been instrumental. From press secretary, he moved to serving as communications director in 2011. While Lindsay may not be an Idahoan by birth, he has certainly earned his Gem State stripes through his depth and breadth of knowledge about the State. His experience as a journalist has served him well, first in reporting and managing the news from the journalist side and then from the other side as a press secretary and media representative. His prior work includes serving as press secretary for former Idaho Governor Phil Batt, who initially dubbed Lindsay as “Scoop,” and campaign press secretary for Congressman MIKE SIMPSON in Congressman SIMPSON’s first House campaign.

Lindsay is unfailingly one of the most pleasant people I have ever encountered. He can be counted on to be a great sounding board and listener, regardless of his personal opinions. I trust him to represent me to Idahoans throughout the State and know that he will always leave a meeting with a handful of new friends. That includes those who show up angry and unannounced in my office, demanding a meeting. Lindsay has demonstrated patience, commitment, and empathy in meeting for hundreds of hours with those who have taken issue with some aspect of government, the administration, or me. He is also a great encourager among staff, helping them to know their good work is valued and appreciated.

Several issues have become close to Lindsay’s heart—among them, domestic violence prevention and awareness. Somewhere in my office archives, there is a photo of Lindsay in women’s heels as he took part in a “walk a mile in her shoes” event, representing the office. That was not a comfortable experience for his feet, but he has been a strong advocate in helping me find ways to illuminate and bring awareness to domestic violence matters.

Thank you, Lindsay, for your 20 years of dedicated service to our Nation and the people of Idaho, and thank you for your continual assistance and friendship over the years. Congratula-

tions on this milestone of public service for the betterment of Idaho and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE BROOKER

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, today I would like to recognize Julie Brooker, my central Nebraska director of constituent services who retired at the end of February.

Julie Brooker’s service in the U.S. Senate began in 1997 and has spanned three U.S. Senators from Nebraska: former Senator Chuck Hagel, former Senator Mike Johanns, and myself.

Before her longtime work as a Senate staffer, Julie was a committed and hardworking volunteer on a number of political campaigns.

She was well known as someone willing to haul yard signs all over Nebraska’s huge third district.

You see, a commitment to helping and serving others ran in Julie’s family.

Julie’s dad, Gordon, served faithfully as a local volunteer firefighter, and her mom, Doralene, served on both the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors and the Nebraska Public Power District Board.

Their example instilled in her lessons in treating people with kindness, listening to others’ concerns, and lending a helping hand.

If you were planning a run for office in Nebraska, Julie Brooker was someone you needed to go see.

When I decided to run for U.S. Senate, Julie was one of the first people I visited with, and she was so very generous with her time and her advice.

During her Senate career, Julie sacrificed many days, nights, and weekends to serve the people of Nebraska well.

She was renowned for driving whichever U.S. Senator she was serving at the time all over the third district.

In every county, Julie had many friends. Her genuine interest in others and friendly, approachable demeanor were always on display.

Over the years Julie worked in my office, I was always completely confident that she was representing me well and that my constituents in Kearney and throughout the central region of the State were in the very best of hands.

Whether it was through her tenacity in helping resolve casework, her willingness to meet with any Nebraskan who crossed her path, or her ability to provide tough news in compassionate ways, Julie has always had a servant’s heart.

Serving Nebraskans wasn’t a job for Julie, it was a calling. She loves Nebraska, and she loves Nebraskans.

I want to thank Julie’s husband, Jim, for loaning Julie to the people of central Nebraska for so many years.

I am also so very grateful to Julie’s kids and grandkids for sacrificing time with her so that she could put the time and energy she had into this service to the people of Nebraska.