

a more streamlined process so nominees could be confirmed more efficiently.

Again, President Obama had just been inaugurated for the second time days earlier. You better believe Republicans were disappointed we had lost, but we did not throw a systematic tantrum. Instead, a sizable number of us came over and joined the Democrats to help the Senate process noncontroversial nominations, as it had for the vast bulk of the history of the Senate. I was a Republican leader in the minority, and I still supported it. We judged if it was the right thing to do, and we did it. The standing order passed 78 to 16.

So, today, I am filing cloture on a resolution that takes that bipartisan effort as its blueprint. This resolution from Senator BLUNT and Senator LANKFORD would implement very similar steps and make them a permanent part of the Senate going forward.

The Supreme Court, circuit courts, Cabinet-level executive positions, and certain independent boards and commissions would not change, but for most other nominations—for literally the hundreds of lower level nominations that every new President makes—postcloture debate time would be reduced from 30 hours to 2 hours.

This would keep the floor moving. It would facilitate more efficient consent agreements, and, most importantly, it would allow the administration—finally, 2 years into its tenure—to staff numerous important positions that remain unfilled with nominees who have been languishing.

This resolution has come up through the regular order, through the Rules Committee, and next week we will vote on it. It deserves the same kind of bipartisan vote that Senator SCHUMER and Senator Reid's proposal received back during the Obama administration.

I understand that many of my Democratic colleagues have indicated they would be all for this reform as long as it doesn't go into effect until 2021, when they obviously hope someone else might be in the White House, but they are reluctant to support it now. Give me a break. That is unfair on its face.

My Democratic colleagues were more than happy to support a similar proposal back in 2013 under President Obama. They whisper in our ears privately that they would support it now if it took effect in 2021, oh, but they can't support it now, especially under these unprecedented circumstances, simply because we have a Republican President.

Fair is fair. Members of this body should only support reforms that they would be as ready to support in the minority as they are in the majority.

Put another way, if my side is in the minority 2 years from now, I don't think this will be unfair, and it will not disadvantage us in the wake of a new Democratic President. This is a change the institution needs—a change the institution made already, basically, with a 2-year experiment when

President Obama was in office. This is reform that every Member should embrace when their party controls the White House and when it does not control the White House.

I urge every one of my colleagues: Let's get the Senate back to a normal historical pattern for handling Presidential nominations. Let's give President Trump, as well as all future Presidents, a functional process for building their administrations. Let's give the American people the government they actually elected, and let's seize this chance to do so through the bipartisan regular order that we are pursuing here, both in committee and now on the floor.

The status quo is unsustainable for the Senate and for the country. It is unfair to this President and to future Presidents of either party. It cannot stand, and it will not stand.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, will the minority leader yield for a question?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I still have the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader has the floor.

Mr. MERKLEY. Will the majority leader yield for a question?

IMPROVING PROCEDURES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATIONS IN THE SENATE—Motion to Proceed

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 24, S. Res. 50.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. Res. 50, a resolution improving procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 24, S. Res. 50, a resolution improving procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, Richard C. Shelby, Johnny Isakson, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, John Thune, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, David Perdue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 130 through 156 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MERKLEY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

Mr. MERKLEY. The majority leader has said he is going to put a rule change on the floor, and we are going to return to historical norm. The historical norm has been that when such issues are on the floor, amendments will be allowed.

Does the majority leader intend to allow amendments?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand the Senator from Oregon is propounding a question. If he would repeat it, I would appreciate it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Referring to historical norms, it has been a historical norm to allow amendments on the floor of this Chamber so that they could be debated, and I recall very well listening to you complain a great deal about Harry Reid's blocking of amendments, blocking the tree, and he did, in fact, do that as the majority leader.

Then he would negotiate with that whole set of amendments on both sides. It took some time, but there were amendments.

We have had a historic lull in amendments, and now we are proposing a rule change on how this Chamber operates. So isn't it the right thing to do, before returning to historical norm or trying to restore that sense of making this a functioning Chamber—

Mr. MCCONNELL. Is the Senator asking me a question?

Mr. MERKLEY. Yes.—to allow amendments when this comes to the floor? I am asking if he would allow such amendments.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me say that we have had a number of bills that were brought to the floor open for amendment. One of the things we devolved into here, another unfortunate precedent, is Members objecting to time agreements on amendments from either side. So even if the majority leader calls up a bill and has it open for amendment, unless Members of the Senate in both parties will allow there to be time agreements so that we can actually have votes on amendments, it gets bogged down.

I think the complaint of my friend from Oregon is legitimate. I have been very frustrated by the fact that when I

call up a bill and open it up for amendments, I have Members on both sides preventing each other's amendments from getting a vote. I share the frustration of my colleague from Oregon, but I assure him that when I call up a bill and say that it is open for amendment, it is open for amendment. It is just that it requires Senatorial bipartisan cooperation to set time agreements to actually have such votes.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent—I think I have a UC agreement, a UC pending.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request with respect to the—

Mr. MERKLEY. Reserving the right to object, I didn't actually get clarity on whether he will open the floor for amendments when he will bring this rule change to the floor—whether it will be open in the sense that when one amendment is completed, a Senator can ask for another to be considered or only the amendments he approves will be allowed to be considered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to guarantee a particular amendment would get a vote without consent, we would have to be able to get 60 votes and vote cloture to advance the amendment.

I will just reiterate to my friend from Oregon that his complaint is legitimate, but it does require, no matter what the majority leader says with regard to openness of the bill, some level of bipartisan cooperation in order to process amendments. We have tried that on numerous occasions, and Members on both sides have sort of hunkered down and objected to each other's amendments, thereby making the amendment process, in an open fashion, simply impossible.

I do have a consent agreement pending. I don't know whether the Senator from Oregon wants to continue to object to all of these—

Mr. MERKLEY. Reserving the right to object.

Mr. MCCONNELL.—nominations, which would include people from the Marine Corps, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Army. I was seeking the military promotions of these people who are serving our country in the Armed Forces.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MERKLEY. Reserving the right to object, I will, in fact, make this the last time I reserve the right to object, simply to make the point that there are many ideas for improving this Chamber that have not had due consideration.

My colleague has expressed a lot of frustration over executive nominations. I put forward an amendment in the minority establishing a 100-day clock for amendments to be voted before this floor once the paperwork is complete. Others have other ideas, including the ability to have a time at the start of every 2 years to be able to have an open debate on amendments—

on how we work. Others have other ideas for improving this Chamber.

I think such a debate is way overdue, but if it is the majority leader's intent to allow just the one issue that he is bringing forward, then that is not turning the clock back to historical norm.

I was here in this Chamber in 1976 and during the eighties, seeing this body debate issues. I would ask, if my colleague brings this to the floor as he is planning to do, that he open it up for amendments. Get a time agreement. I will certainly encourage my side to agree to such a thing.

I take your point about it not just being a delay. I think there are serious possibilities for improving how we work that should be debated. I hope my colleague will open the floor for amendments.

I withdraw my objection.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Leonard F. Anderson, IV
Col. William E. Souza, III

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) Peter G. Stamatopoulos

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) Gayle D. Shaffer

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) Kelly A. Aeschbach
Rear Adm. (1h) Frank D. Whitworth

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Rear Adm. (1h) Blake L. Converse
Rear Adm. (1h) Charles B. Cooper, II
Rear Adm. (1h) Donald D. Gabrielson
Rear Adm. (1h) Gregory N. Harris
Rear Adm. (1h) Jeffrey T. Jablon
Rear Adm. (1h) Yancy B. Lindsey
Rear Adm. (1h) John F. Meier
Rear Adm. (1h) James E. Pitts
Rear Adm. (1h) John B. Skillman
Rear Adm. (1h) Karl O. Thomas
Rear Adm. (1h) John F. Wade
Rear Adm. (1h) Michael A. Wettlaufer

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Dean A. Vanderley

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Kenneth W. Epps

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Timothy H. Weber

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. James L. Hancock

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Nicholas M. Homan

Capt. Michael J. Vernazza

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Charles W. Brown

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Naval Personnel and appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 5141:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. John B. Nowell, Jr.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Steven L. Basham

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Steven J. Butow

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Karen H. Gibson

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) James P. Downey
Rear Adm. (1h) Shane G. Gahagan
Rear Adm. (1h) Francis D. Morley

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Ronald A. Boxall

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Chaplains, United States Army, and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to that position under title 10, U.S.C., sections 7036 and 7073:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Solhjem

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Telita Crosland

Brig. Gen. Dennis P. LeMaster

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment as the Director, Army National Guard, and for appointment to the grade indicated in the Reserve of the Army under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10506:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Leon N. Thurgood

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Walter E. Piatt

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. James C. Slife

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Paul E. Funk, II

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Dee L. Mewbourne

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Jon A. Hill

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Stuart B. Munsch

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S
DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN288 AIR FORCE nominations (55) beginning DANIEL M. ANDERSON, and ending DENISE M. ZONA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN425 AIR FORCE nomination of Thomas D. Crimmins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.

PN427 AIR FORCE nominations (16) beginning SHAWN C. BISHOP, and ending CHRISTIAN L. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.

PN428 AIR FORCE nominations (14) beginning MICHELL A. ARCHEBELLE, and end-

ing SHELLEY A. SHELTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.

PN429 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning PETER N. FISCHER, and ending JONATHAN H. WADE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.

PN430 AIR FORCE nominations (425) beginning BRIAN M. ALEXANDER, and ending JASON C. ZUMWALT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.

PN472 AIR FORCE nomination of Latoya D. Smith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN473 AIR FORCE nomination of Lisa Marie Ahaesy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN500 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning JULIE HUYGEN, and ending TOM POSCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2019.

IN THE ARMY

PN305 ARMY nomination of Matthew D. Colsia, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN306 ARMY nomination of Deven R. Gaston, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN380 ARMY nominations (949) beginning ADRIAN ACEVEDO, and ending G010477, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2019.

PN381 ARMY nominations (556) beginning BENJAMIN T. ABEL, and ending G010598, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2019.

PN382 ARMY nominations (555) beginning KWANSAH E. ACKAH, and ending D014862, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2019.

PN383 ARMY nominations (51) beginning ALAN ADAME, and ending D013619, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2019.

PN384 ARMY nomination of Elizabeth A. Fields, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2019.

PN433 ARMY nomination of P. J. Fox, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.

PN434 ARMY nomination of Nathan M. Clayton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.

PN435 ARMY nomination of Adam P. James, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.

PN436 ARMY nominations (33) beginning JASON S. BAKER, and ending RICHARD J. ZEIGLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.

PN437 ARMY nomination of Shelia R. Day, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.

PN438 ARMY nomination of Robert D. Cope, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.

PN439 ARMY nomination of William C. Mitchell, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2019.

PN474 ARMY nomination of Rubirosa B. Bago, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN475 ARMY nomination of Meghan C. Gerrity, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN476 ARMY nomination of Daniel M. Janzen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN477 ARMY nomination of Randolph Powell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN478 ARMY nomination of Michael J. Prokos, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN481 ARMY nomination of Anthony Bellofigueroa, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN482 ARMY nomination of Sean R. Richardson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN483 ARMY nomination of Kahtonna C. Allen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN484 ARMY nomination of Angelo N. Catalano, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN485 ARMY nomination of Charles J. Calais, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN486 ARMY nomination of Robert T. Evans, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN501 ARMY nominations (2) beginning PAULA I. SCHASBERGER, and ending JAN E. ALDYKIEWICZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2019.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN319 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning STEVEN M. ANGELINE, and ending Curtis E. Borjas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN326 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning DAVID F. HUNLEY, and ending JAMES P. STOCKWELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN328 MARINE CORPS nomination of John C. Jarvis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN337 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning NATHANEAL J. HART, JR., and ending DUSTIN R. HEFFEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN340 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning MATTHEW J. ANDERSON, and ending ISAAC K. TIBAYAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

IN THE NAVY

PN487 NAVY nomination of Edward M. Prendergast, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN489 NAVY nomination of Thomas L. Hinnant, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN490 NAVY nomination of Sanjay Sharma, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2019.

PN502 NAVY nomination of Angela Tang, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2019.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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 ANDREW MARSHALL

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, thank you for the opportunity to recognize a titan of defense thinking, Andrew Marshall, who passed away at the age of 97 on March 26, 2019.

Mr. Marshall was the founding father of the Department of Defense's Office of Net Assessment. From its creation, he served as its director for over four decades, leaving an indelible mark on our defense institutions. He finally retired in 2015, at the age of 93.

In his role, he piloted rigorous analysis of critical national security issues, rooted in his unparalleled institutional knowledge. This is why he was often called the 'Yoda' of the Pentagon.

His groundbreaking work shaped how the Department of Defense responds to long-term challenges and paved the way for a nimbler, more modern force.

Despite its relatively small budget, the Office of Net Assessment has had an outsized impact on military thinking. In particular, he foresaw the threats posed by the then-Soviet Union and, more recently, China.

Mr. Marshall's legacy goes beyond strategic thinking. He also trained the next generation of defense analysts, including the current Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Gen. Paul Selva, ensuring his knowledge lasts into the future.

Our Nation is more secure because of Mr. Marshall's important work. We owe a great deal of debt to him, and I am thankful for the opportunity to commemorate him today.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. JONATHAN L. BINGHAM

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing Dr. Jonathan L. Bingham for his service in providing quality dermatologic surgery care to the folks in Great Falls and his military service in the Montana Air National Guard.

Dr. Bingham graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. Following the Naval Academy, he went on to medical school at Pennsylvania State University and the Air War College. Dr. Bingham then served with distinction as a flight surgeon and Mohs Surgeon-Dermatologist in the U.S. Navy.

Throughout the course of his career, he has served his country and his fellow citizens with great honor. During his time in the Navy, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a flight surgeon, and he also served as faculty dermatologist and Mohs Surgeon at the National Naval Medical Center and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to support the White House Medical Unit and the Office of the Attending Physician.

In Great Falls, Dr. Bingham is one of the leading experts on dermatologic care. Despite his successful career as a civilian and servicemember, Dr. Bingham continues his service to our country in the Air National Guard.

Dr. Bingham is an inspiration to any young Montanans seeking to live out a life in service to his or her country. I congratulate Dr. Bingham for his exemplary record of excellence, and I thank him for his continued service to the people of Montana and our country.●

TRIBUTE TO CLARE HARMON

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I would like to recognize and congratulate Clara Harmon from Helena for winning the 2019 Treasure State Spelling Bee. Clara is an exceptional young woman who attends school through the Helena Area Christian Home Educators.

Clara endured 19 rounds of tough competition which amounted to 3 1/2 hours before she was crowned the victor. Clara is a shining example of the best and the brightest Montana has to offer. This May, Clara will be traveling to National Harbor, MD, to represent Montana at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. I also want to thank Clara's parents, Charles and Dianna Harmon for raising such a talented and passionate daughter.

All of Montana will be rooting for Clara as she represents us on the national stage in May.●

TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP SOUTH

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Phillip South of Sheridan, MT, for his 100 years of determination, bravery, and service.

At 100, Philip South has lived through 18 presidents, two World Wars, the Great Depression, and was born when there were only 48 States in the United States. Mr. South served his country heroically in World War II as a rifleman and scout in the U.S. Marine Corps with the renowned First Marine Division.

In the Guadalcanal, Phillips survived sniper fire and his small regiment of ri-

fleman and scouts found themselves in the heart of the battle for Henderson Field. He held a position not too far from Medal of Honor recipient John Basilone, to hold the line against an onslaught of Japanese troops. Despite being outnumbered, his small group prevailed.

I would like to thank Mr. South for his service to our Nation. He is an inspiration to all young Montanans wishing to serve their country.●

TRIBUTE TO DELORES PIGSLEY

• Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, this month, Women's History Month, we recognize and celebrate the contributions that women have made to the betterment of our Nation. Today, I want to talk about one such remarkable woman from my home State of Oregon: Delores Pigsley.

In 1991, Delores Pigsley said, "You never quit being an Indian just because your tribe has been terminated." Delores—Dee to her friends—ought to know. As a young child, Delores witnessed the termination of her Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, in 1954, and just over two decades later, in 1977, she was the driving force behind the Siletz becoming the first Tribe in Oregon, and just the second tribe in the entire United States to have its Federal status as a sovereign government restored.

For over four decades now, Delores has never slowed down or wavered in her commitment to serving the members of the Siletz Tribe, 32 of those years as Tribal chairman.

As chief negotiator for the Siletz Tribe, Delores passed agreements with Congress, negotiated compacts, and testified here on Capitol Hill before Congress. She has worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services on behalf of her Tribal members, and thanks in no small measure to her leadership, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, which was once on the verge of ceasing to exist, now owns and manages a reservation of over 3,500 acres, with a casino, resorts, hotels, a school, and health clinics.

Delores is many things to many people: a chairman, a leader, a role model, a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. In spite of all her accomplishments, she remains humble, attributing much of her success to other Tribal council leaders and to many national Tribal leaders who have served as mentors to her.

So this Women's History Month, let's take a moment to recognize and to thank Delores Pigsley for all that she has done for the members of the Siletz Tribe, for Tribes across the country, and for the people of Oregon.

Thank you.●

TRIBUTE TO GARY YOHE

• Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Gary Yohe, a Connecticut resident