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I congratulate Syracuse University, the Maxwell School, Chancellor Kent Syverud, Maxwell Dean David Van Slyke, and the school's faculty, students, staff, and alumni for everything they do to leave the world better than they found it.

NOMINATION OF JOHN BRADFORD WIEGMANN

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am announcing my intent to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to the nomination of John Bradford Wiegmann to be the General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), subject to the Department of Justice fulfilling its commitment to me to provide a list of certain legal opinions.

Opinions of the Department's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) carry enormous weight, guiding government agencies and providing legal bases for entire programs. They have precedential value, continuing in force from administration to administration. Yet Congress and the public have limited insight into these opinions. The potential risks of this secret law are most apparent in the world of intelligence, where the OLC wrote opinions green-lighting warrantless surveillance and torture without the oversight or awareness of the congressional intelligence communities.

In December 2023, I made a modest request of the Justice Department. Christopher Fonzzone, then ODNI General Counsel, had been nominated to be Assistant Attorney General in charge of OLC. I asked him for a list of OLC opinions directed to an element of the intelligence community and any other opinions related to surveillance authorities. The Department of Justice then committed to responding to my request "as expeditiously and thoroughly as possible." Nine months later, I have not received the list.

It is my intent to lift the hold on Mr. Wiegmann as soon as the Department abides by its commitment and provides me with the list I requested.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NILS JOHNSON

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my Idaho congressional delegation colleagues Senator Jim Risch and Representatives Mike Simpson and Russ Fulcher, we honor and thank Nils Johnson for his years of service to Idaho. We know that we are joined by all those who served in the Idaho con-

gressional delegation from 1991 until now, particularly Senator Larry Craig, who was Nils' boss during his tenure in the U.S. Senate. Those former Members of Congress include: Senators Dirk Kempthorne, the late Steve Symms, and the late James McClure; and former Representatives Raul Labrador, Bill Sali, the late Helen Chenoweth, C.L. "Butch" Otter, Walt Minnick, Richard Stallings, and Larry LaRocco.

Originally from New Hampshire, Nils has dedicated much of his professional career to working on behalf of Idahoans, and we are profoundly grateful. Although he left working for Congress more than 20 years ago, he continued to serve Idaho through other positions, including his current position as director of legislative and regulatory affairs at Holland & Hart for the past 17 years, where his focus has been on issues of particular importance to Idaho among Western States. This includes public land and natural resource management, Western water quality and quantity, nuclear waste, Federal and State mining, Federal energy, and Federal appropriations issues. Previously, he served as a senior consultant at MGN, Inc., and he was principal and partner at McClure, Gerard and Neuenschwander, Inc.

Throughout, he has utilized and built on his significant experience in both Houses of Congress and natural resources to advance needed improvements to Federal policy. Nils had a more than 15-year career as a hydrologist for the U.S. Forest Service before coming to the Hill. This knowledge base undoubtedly shaped his approach to his work in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served as Republican staff director of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Mining, Energy, Interior, and Insular Affairs and his later more than a decade of service as director of natural resources, environment and energy and senior legislative assistant to U.S. Senator for Idaho Larry E. Craig. Working on natural resources issues for Idaho requires tackling some of the most pressing challenges in our great State, where the productivity and beauty of our public and private lands also carry competing interests requiring his practical and thoughtful problem solving. He established himself as a mentor for younger, newer staffers throughout the delegation and provided insight and leadership as our State has navigated some difficult natural resources and energy issues.

Upon leaving the Senate in 2000, we have also greatly benefited from Nils' steadfast management of a regular breakfast on Capitol Hill for the past 20 or so years. These breakfasts, called the Idaho Industries Breakfasts, have been held regularly in Washington, DC, when Congress is in session. They bring together representatives of Idaho's businesses and producers with the Idaho congressional delegation and staff for valuable, informal personal gatherings. The breakfasts have been

instrumental in broadening friendships and advancing the many common interests in our vast but still deeply connected State. It is impossible to quantify the relationships that have been strengthened and the progress Nils has had a hand in shaping through his unwavering commitment to organizing these forums all these years.

As we thank Nils for the years of hard work he has devoted to Idaho and our country, we wish him well as he retires from DC life to spend more time between Maryland and South Carolina with his family, particularly his six grandchildren. We hope the years ahead afford him the fulfillment of more time spent enjoying the natural resources he worked to sustain through his decades of sound and pragmatic work. Nils, we congratulate you and wish you all the best.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES FAUTH

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing James Fauth of Phillips County for his record-breaking chinook salmon he caught while boating on Fort Peck Lake.

Fauth, a retired power company lineman from Malta, took his 25-year-old pontoon boat out for a leisure day of fishing alongside his wife Nancy and friends Tony and Emily Simonsen. After several hours of patience and perseverance, Fauth noticed his spinning rod come to life off a downrigger and jumped into action. He figured it was a salmon because he had been tracking them deep on his sonar and the fish was putting up a fight. The rod's original 20-pound line had never been replaced, so Fauth was hopeful it wouldn't break. After approximately 5 minutes of back-and-forth battling with the fish on the other end, Fauth was overjoyed when his \$29 Wal-Mart rod and reel proved to get the job done as he landed the chinook in the boat.

The enormous salmon, weighing an astounding 32.62 pounds and measuring 38 inches long with a 28-inch girth, broke the previously held State record set by Greg Haug in 2020 with a 32.05 pound salmon, also taken from Fort Peck Lake. The area is no stranger to impressive catches, but Fauth's recent trophy stands out for obvious reasons. The story of Fauth's historic catch will live on in history, and residents of River's Bend Assisted Living in Malta will soon get a special up-close look at the record breaking salmon, as Fauth has chosen to donate it to the facility so residents can enjoy it. What makes this story all the more special is that the assisted living facility is owned by Tony and Emily Simonsen, who got to bear witness to the historic catch on the Fauth family pontoon.

It is my distinct honor to recognize James Fauth for his once-in-a-lifetime catch that earned him the title as Montana's new State record salmon angler. This historic catch is a celebration of the Treasure State's natural resources

and a nod to our shared Montana way of life rooted in our passion for the great outdoors. Way to go, James; your story will forever be tied to one of the greatest catches ever made on Fort Peck Lake. You make Montana proud.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL MIKE MINIHAN

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to General Mike Minihan, U.S. Air Force. After 34 distinguished years of exceptional service to our Nation, General Minihan will soon retire from his position as commander, Air Mobility Command (AMC), Scott Air Force Base, IL.

As commander, Air Mobility Command, General Mike Minihan led U.S. Transportation Command's air component, executing the air mobility mission in support of the joint force, allies, and partners with a fleet of nearly 1,100 aircraft. The command encompasses Eighteenth Air Force, the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, the 618th Air Operations Center, 17 wings, and two groups, which provide rapid global mobility from more than 100 locations worldwide. Nearly 104,000 Active-Duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve airmen, and civilians comprise the air mobility Total Force, providing command and control of inter-theater and intra-theater airlift, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, global air mobility support, and Presidential and senior leader air transport in support of national interests.

General Minihan entered the Air Force in April 1990 after receiving his commission through the ROTC program at Auburn University. He completed undergraduate pilot training in 1991 and has served as an aircraft commander, instructor pilot, and evaluator pilot in the C-130 Hercules. He has commanded in garrison, crisis, and combat and at the squadron, wing, and task force levels. He also held numerous joint, combined and Air Force staff assignments. Prior to his current position, General Minihan served as deputy commander for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

As commander, Air Mobility Command, General Minihan radically redesigned and shifted the culture of the command from a force focused on moving cargo, personnel, and fuel to the preeminent mechanism for Joint Force Maneuver. General Minihan re-envisioned Exercise Mobility Guardian in 2023, transitioning the exercise from a service-specific test of air mobility and logistics training executed over the continental United States to a joint and combined large-scale exercise in the Pacific. This exercise displayed unrivaled mobility air power, showcasing America's unique ability to provide rapid global mobility and put the world on notice that AMC can explode into theater to meet any combatant commander's requirements. In addition, General Minihan oversaw the rapid deployment of assistance to

Ukraine and, later, to Israel and Gaza, taking appropriate proactive measures to sense and seize the environment to allow the combatant commander to project and sustain forces and demonstrate U.S. resolve and will.

General Minihan retires as a command pilot with more than 3,400 flying hours and qualifications in C-130, KC-10, and C-32 aircraft. Over General Minihan's distinguished career he has earned numerous joint and Air Force decorations including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, six Air Medals, and seven Aerial Achievement Medals. He has also led his airmen through several joint and Air Force organizational awards recognizing team excellence that include Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Republic of Korea Cheonsu Medal, and the Order of Saint Maurice.

General Minihan has served his Nation for over three decades honorably and with passion and love for his airmen, and we thank him for all he has done for our great Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JACQUELINE D. VAN OVOST

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, it is with great pride and gratitude that I rise to celebrate the career of General Jacqueline D. Van Ovost, who is retiring after 36 years of honorable service in the U.S. Air Force. General Van Ovost currently serves as the commander of U.S. Transportation Command, where she is responsible for projecting and sustaining our Nation's military power globally to assure our friends, deter our adversaries, and if necessary, respond to win decisively. She has undoubtedly excelled in executing her duties.

In her time as USTRANSCOM's commander, she directed mobility operations supporting the movement of 60 Presidential Drawdown Authorities to deliver aid critical to Ukraine's defense against Russia's unprovoked invasion. Additionally, she has directed mobility forces to respond to the shifting strategic environment in western Africa, unrest in Haiti, and regional threats in the Middle East and the Red Sea, ultimately ensuring the safety of our deployed servicemembers, allies, and commercial shipping fleets from around the world.

General Van Ovost began her career at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Following her commissioning, she graduated from pilot training. Over the course of her time in service, she deployed multiple times and was one of the first women to fly in combat. She is also a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, which gave her the opportunity to fly over 30 aircraft throughout her career. She commanded two flying wings, served on joint staff and as the chief of staff for Headquarters Air Force, and commanded Air Mobility Command during the non-

combatant evacuation operation from Afghanistan, moving over 124,000 evacuees to safety.

General Van Ovost is a mobility leader and strategic thinker who expertly directed those under her command and leveraged commercial support to provide the best options possible for our senior leaders. In every position that she held, she led with unmatched grace, dedication, dignity, professionalism, and respect for all those she encountered. Her character and leadership had untold positive impacts on thousands of servicemembers and their families.

She advanced our Nation's mobility and logistics capabilities, supported our allied and partner nations, and advanced our strategic objectives to defend our citizens.

General Van Ovost is a true military leader, one whom our country is endlessly grateful for having amongst its ranks. I thank her for her over 36 years of dedicated and faithful service to the United States of America.●

REMEMBERING REBECCA WENCHI WONG

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor and commemorate the extraordinary life of Rebecca Wenchong Wong, whose journey epitomizes resilience, sacrifice, and the pursuit of a better future for her family. Rebecca Wong's story is not just a testament to her strength and determination, but also a poignant reminder of the countless sacrifices made by immigrants in search of a better life for their families here in this country.

Born in Shanghai, China, Rebecca Wenchong Wong experienced the severe hardships of famine and political turmoil. Amidst the dire conditions of Communist China, she made the heart-wrenching decision to send her 6-year-old daughter away to safety, so that she might have a chance at life free from hunger and oppression. They were separated for 21 years, enduring the pain of isolation and absence while holding fast to hope of reunion.

In 1982, Rebecca was reunited with her daughter in Shanghai, marking the end of a long and painful separation. Her daughter Chantale Yok-Min Wong, who is now the esteemed U.S. Ambassador to the Asian Development Bank, stands as a testament to the love and sacrifices of her mother.

Rebecca's life was marked by service and resilience. Before the Cultural Revolution, she worked as a surgical nurse, eventually becoming the head of the nursing staff. During the poorest periods in Communist China's history, she served as a barefoot doctor, providing essential medical care to rural communities. This selfless service took a toll on her health, but her spirit remained unbroken.

After joining her daughter in the United States in 1990 and along with her son, Rebecca and her husband