

For instance, the Senate has confirmed only 124 of President Obama's Federal circuit and district court nominees, compared to 168 Federal circuit and district court judges confirmed at this point in the Presidency of George W. Bush and 183 Federal circuit and district court judges confirmed at this point in President Clinton's administration.

To give you an even better breakdown, there are 20 judicial nominations reported favorable by the Judiciary Committee, 15 of which have been pending since last year, 18 of which have strong bipartisan support. So why is there a delay in confirming these nominees? Senate Republicans have failed to offer an answer.

Nominees such as Ronnie Abrams deserve better by receiving a swift up-or-down vote. The American people deserve better by having representation in their district and circuit courts. We need to give these nominees, most of whom have strong bipartisan support, a full up-or-down vote by the Senate. If we continue down this road of rejecting nominees simply because their nomination originates across the aisle, we are establishing an impossible standard that no nominee will ever meet. We ought to have the same respect for the judicial system that we have for the legislative system in which we ourselves work. I urge my colleagues to help move these nominees forward.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH NIALL DALEY

• Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize LTC Joseph Niall Daley, who is retiring after over 20 years of dedicated service in the U.S. Air Force and Massachusetts Air National Guard.

Lieutenant Colonel Daley was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in 1990 and served on Active Duty for 10 years as an aviator, at which time he joined the Massachusetts Air National Guard. He flew combat missions in Bosnia, 1997, and Iraq, 1998 and 2003.

Lieutenant Colonel Daley has had a distinguished military career, becoming an O/A-10A aircraft commander where he maintained a mission-ready status in support of worldwide deployment requirements. As an aviator he acquired an in-depth knowledge of U.S., allied, and enemy tactical and electronic warfare capabilities. He led and instructed formations of multiple O/A-10A aircraft in many diverse missions in both the day and nighttime environments. These missions included close air support, air interdiction, combat search and rescue, airlift escort, and joint air attack team tactics.

While serving in the Massachusetts Air National Guard as an expert O/A-10A pilot with the 131st Fighter Squadron, Lieutenant Colonel Daley directly

contributed to the success of the unit by providing sound leadership and experience. Assigned to the 131st Fighter Squadron as the Assistant Charlie Flight Commander, and one of the Squadron's top instructor pilots, he ensured his flight members were prepared to employ the aircraft at its optimal performance when called to deployment in 2003. Lieutenant Colonel Daley was instrumental to the wing as one of the primary trainers to implement the Litening II Pod during its initial test phases. His oversight and dynamic vision were critical during both peacetime and war-time missions. Following the 2005 base realignment and closure, Lieutenant Colonel Daley accepted a key role in the wing staff, serving as the base historian. His efforts ensured the activities of the unit were documented and preserved, allowing the wing the opportunity to be recognized by the National Guard, Air Force, and the Department of Defense. Lieutenant Colonel Daley's accomplishments culminate a distinguished career in the service of his State and country and reflect great credit upon himself, the Massachusetts Air National Guard, and the U.S. Air Force.

I would like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Daley for his tremendous service to our Nation. I know that his wife, U.S. Senator KELLY AYOTTE, their children, Katherine and Jacob, as well as the people of New Hampshire and Massachusetts are extremely proud of his selfless service.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. HEATH MORRISON

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Dr. Heath Morrison, who has been recognized as the 2012 American Association of School Administrators—AASA—National Superintendent of the Year. My home State of Nevada is proud and privileged to acknowledge such an extraordinary educator and leader.

Since 2009, Dr. Morrison has served as superintendent for the Washoe County School District where he has proven to be an innovator in education. During his tenure, the Washoe County School District has achieved higher test scores and has seen their graduation rate rise to 70 percent. Outside the classroom, Dr. Morrison continues to encourage and develop student performance by creating personal connections with the local community.

Engaging with Washoe County residents has allowed Dr. Morrison to foster relationships with parents, volunteers, and local businesses in order to create and enhance scholastic opportunities for students. I commend Dr. Morrison for his strong leadership and positive influence on Nevada's youth.

I admire and recognize the desire of our educators to uphold high education standards for our nation. Their guidance and encouragement provide students with the ability to become lifelong learners with a thirst for knowl-

edge. Now more than ever, it is of paramount importance to prepare our children and grandchildren to compete in the 21st century.

Nevada is fortunate to have such great educational leadership serving the students across our great State. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Morrison and celebrating the achievements of our Nation's teachers, administrators, and staff who help to guide our students to educational excellence.●

RECOGNIZING SOUTH ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

• Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to honor the 125th birthday of South St. Paul, MN. First, I feel the need to clarify for this body that South St. Paul isn't exactly directly south of Saint Paul. West St. Paul is. And I know that's confusing. South St. Paul is closer to Southeast. And West St. Paul is South. And Minneapolis is, of course, West. I'm sure there's a very good reason for the confusing names, but I have no idea what that would be.

South St. Paul is the perfect example of the kind of hard-working, Midwestern industrial town that has been the anchor of America. The South St. Paul Stockyards opened in 1886 and eventually grew to be one of the leading livestock centers in the world, with millions of livestock being sold from its pens. A shifting marketplace finally forced the stockyards to close in 2008, but like much of America, South St. Paul has adapted along with the changing world.

The stockyards, which had existed since South St. Paul's founding, left an indelible mark on the city even after they closed. The people of South St. Paul are instilled with a hardy work ethic, which will serve the city well in its next 125 years.

As a part of the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area where I grew up, I know the sky is the limit for the people of South St. Paul. It is my distinct pleasure to represent them in the United States Senate. Congratulations to the residents of South St. Paul.●

RECOGNIZING ROY CITY DIAMOND JUBILEE

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Roy City, UT for reaching the 75th anniversary of its original incorporation in 1937.

Roy City was first settled in 1873 by William Evans Baker. At the time, the area was seen as dry and desert-like, not a likely place for a town. Baker convinced three brothers-in-law to join him, eventually forming what would come to be affectionately known as "Cousin Street" because all of the residents along the road were cousins. The settlers came up with an industrious way to bring much-needed clean water to the area, digging a canal from nearby mountains. With water came a sense of permanence for the town.