(d) the President pro tempore is the supervisor of the Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, the Chaplain, the Legislative Counsel, and the employees of the Office of the Legislative Counsel;
(e) the Secretary of the Senate is the supervisor of the employees of his office;
(f) the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper is the supervisor of the employees of his office;
(g) the Majority and Minority Leaders and the Majority and Minority Whips are the supervisors of the research, clerical, and other assistants assigned to their respective offices;
(h) the Majority Leader is the supervisor of the Secretary for the Majority and the Secretary for the Minority; and
(i) the Minority Leader is the supervisor of the Secretary for the Minority and the Secretary for the Minority is the supervisor of the employees of his office.

CONFIRMATION OF CHUCK HAGEL AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Mr. LUTENBERG. Mr. President, today is Chuck Hagel’s first day as our Secretary of Defense. This is a great development for our Armed Forces and the Nation they protect.

I was proud to support Chuck Hagel’s nomination to serve as Secretary of Defense, and I was proud to see his nomination confirmed with bipartisan support yesterday. Throughout his life, Chuck has displayed courage, wisdom, and leadership. And he has always served this Nation with dedication and resolve. I am confident he will be a strong and able leader of the men and women in our military, and I am confident he will do everything possible to keep our country safe.

I congratulate Secretary Hagel on his successful and well-deserved confirmation and wish him the best as he begins his leadership of our Department of Defense.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO RICK DEBOBES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, there is a document posted on the wall of the offices of the Senate Armed Services Committee with all of the staff listed in order of seniority, with the dates on which they started their service. The second name on the list is that of Rick DeBobes, the staff director of the committee, who joined the committee staff 24 years ago, on March 9, 1989. That record of service is all the more remarkable because Rick did not come to the Senate until after he had completed a distinguished 26-year career in the Navy. His last assignment on Active Duty was as legal advisor to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff William Crowe.

This week, Rick will retire for the second time, culminating an extraordinary record of 50 years of service to the Senate, the Navy, the men and women of our Armed Forces, and his country.

In the course of his service on the committee staff, Rick has played a key role in the enactment of 24 National Defense Authorization Acts. A proud graduate of Georgetown University, Rick received his law degree from Fordham University and a masters’ degree in international law from the National Law Center at George Washington University. He has gone on to have what might be a far greater influence on international law than any of his professors or mentors could have imagined. It is no exaggeration to say that Rick DeBobes has been involved in writing or improving virtually every major piece of national security legislation to come before the Congress in the last quarter century, starting with the Goldwater-Nichols legislation that he helped shape before joining the committee staff.

For the last 10 years, Rick has served as staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee—one of the toughest and most important jobs in the Senate. In this capacity, Rick has not only helped guide our annual National Defense Authorization Act to enactment each year, but also played a vital role in congressional oversight of our military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. His leadership of the committee’s subcommittee on the enactment of the Wounded Warrior Act, the Detainee Treatment Act, the Military Commissions Act of 2009, the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act, TRICARE for Life, and the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell” have been invaluable not only to me and to other members of the Armed Services Committee, but also to our military chiefs of staff, combatant commanders, and other senior military and civilian officials in the Department of Defense.

In the 16 years that I have served as chairman or ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, Rick has spent countless hours in my office, discussing national security matters of every kind. He has joined me on virtually every overseas trip I have taken, including more than a dozen trips to Iraq and Afghanistan. We have met together with Senators, Secretaries of Defense, chiefs of staff, and foreign heads of state. We have been through markups, floor debates, and conferences together. Through all of this, I have only appreciated and needed Rick’s wise counsel, I have enjoyed his company.

Rick’s hallmark as staff director has been the composure, the steadiness, and the sound judgment that he brings to the job every single day. The committee staff often line up outside Rick’s office door, bringing him one crisis after another that needs to be addressed. Whether it is early in the morning before a hearing or late at night after a "Little 4" meeting in conference, Rick always makes time for the staff. And I don’t think any of us have ever seen Rick lose his cool—except perhaps when his beloved George-town Hoyas basketball team blows a late lead.

As Rick leaves us to enjoy a well-deserved retirement with his wife Margaret, his children, and his grandchildren, I know I speak for the entire Armed Services Committee when I express to Rick my profound thanks. Thanks, Rick, for a job extraordinarily well done, and best wishes for the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING WAYNE WILSON

Mr. HELLE. Mr. President, today I recognize as my own, Wayne Wilson, for being named as a finalist for the Citizen Service Before Self Honors by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation. His efforts to assist disabled veterans have earned him this distinct honor, and I am both humbled and honored to recognize him today.

After graduating from the United States Army Sergeant Major Academy in 1976, Wayne served in the National Guard for over four decades. He served as a Traditional, Engineer Group and a combat engineer battalion. In 1984, he transferred to the Nevada National Guard and moved to Carson City. Throughout Wayne’s lifetime, he has always remained an active member of the veteran community and has dedicated his free time to looking after this community’s needs. Wayne was one of the original founders of the Veterans Guest House, is a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans, DAV, and has been named the Silver State’s Veteran of the Month.

In 2008, Wayne founded the Northern Nevada Wheelchair Program to distribute wheelchairs to disabled veterans. Providing our Nation’s greatest heroes with mobility and independence is a unique gift and one that embodies their heroic commitment to putting others first. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Wayne for his tireless efforts to better the Silver State.

REMEMBERING CLARENCE JACKSON

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the sad news that Clarence Jackson, a Tlingit elder, “walked into the forest” on January 31, 2013, at the age of 78.

Clarence Jackson was an individual who committed his life to the Native peoples of Alaska. Clarence was invaluable and irreplaceable, as he generously shared his vast knowledge of the