

During his 4-year chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Grassley led the effort to report out of committee 61 bills. The Senate passed 45, and 29 became law. Regardless of what you think about the particulars of any one of these laws, very few in Washington have this record of legislative success. As always, Grassley works. And Grassley delivers. Like he has done for his 38 years in the Senate.

I am particularly pleased to join you today to discuss one of Senator Grassley's most significant legislative achievements of his nearly 60-year career in public office. As Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Grassley led the historic and record-shattering effort to confirm President Trump's lifetime-appointed judicial nominees.

Over the last two years, Senator Grassley has led the effort in confirming 85 new federal judges. This includes Justice Gorsuch, Justice Kavanaugh, an all-time record 30 circuit judges, and 53 district judges.

At 85 judges appointed under President Trump, Senator Grassley has led the effort to confirm nearly twice as many judges as the 43 judges that President Obama appointed in his first two years in office.

Moreover, in 2017, Senator Grassley led the effort in setting the all-time record for federal circuit judges confirmed during a president's first year in office, at 12 circuit judges confirmed.

And earlier this year, Senator Grassley led the effort in setting the all-time record for federal circuit judges confirmed during a president's first two years in office. The previous record was 22; Senator Grassley helped smash this record, by leading the effort to confirm 30 federal circuit judges in less than 2 years.

And Senator Grassley has readied the field for 2019, when Senator Graham takes over as the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senator Grassley and the Senate Judiciary Committee have already held hearings for 50 more federal judicial nominees, including 6 more federal circuit nominees, who will have confirmation votes in early 2019. Senator Grassley has put the ball on the tee for his successor.

While Senator Grassley has made this look easy, it certainly was not. Senator Grassley and his team thoroughly vet each of these nominees, carefully examining their backgrounds and qualifications, understanding their judicial philosophy, and carefully assessing their character and fitness to serve. Senator Grassley held 20 nominations hearings this year alone, generally every other Wednesday that the Senate was in session. And Senator Grassley generally held committee meetings for debates and votes on nominees almost every Thursday that the Senate was in session. And Senator Grassley worked both behind the scenes and in public, to build support for these judicial nominees.

This took a significant amount of Senator Grassley's time. But Senator Grassley understands the critical importance of appointing judges who find and apply the law as the public understood the law at the time of its writing. And Senator Grassley also understands the dangers to liberty—in fact, the tyranny—when judges think it is their job to substitute their policy preferences for those of the American people and their elected representatives in Congress.

Fortunately, we are winning. The President is fulfilling his promise to the American people to nominate and appoint judges who are constitutionalists, originalists, and textualists.

Senator Grassley had to overcome historic obstruction by Senate Democrats. The Senate Democrats forced time-wasting and unprecedented cloture votes on 48 of the judi-

cial nominees brought to the Senate floor. How rare are cloture votes for judicial nominees? Only 2 of President Obama's nominees in the first two years faced cloture votes. Only 3 of President George W. Bush's nominees from the first two years faced cloture votes. Only 1 for Clinton; 0 for H.W. Bush; 0 for Reagan.

And the Senate Democrats' obstruction tactics were on full display during the confirmation process for Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who the Senate confirmed on October 7, 2018. Senator Grassley oversaw the most comprehensive and transparent confirmation process in history, including fully investigating a number of allegations against Justice Kavanaugh that turned out to be completely meritless.

Senator Grassley and his team reviewed the most documentation in Supreme Court nomination history—including more than 500,000 pages of Justice Kavanaugh's records from his prior government legal service.

Additionally, Senator Grassley and his team also reviewed more than 300 written opinions—more than 10,000 pages—that Justice Kavanaugh wrote or joined in his more than 12 years of service on the D.C. Circuit, the most important federal circuit court in America. We also reviewed more than 17,000 pages of Justice Kavanaugh's academic writings, speeches, and other materials provided to the Senate Judiciary Committee in response to its most expansive questionnaire ever submitted to a nominee.

Even after the 4-day hearing, in which Justice Kavanaugh testified for more than 32 hours, Senate Democrats submitted 1,287 written questions for the record—more than the total number submitted to all prior Supreme Court nominees in our history, combined.

The normal hearing process confirmed for Senator Grassley that Justice Kavanaugh was one of the most qualified, if not the most qualified, Supreme Court nominee in our history. The Senate Democrats and their liberal allies landed no punches. Justice Kavanaugh had gone through 6 prior FBI full-field background investigations, going back to 1993. He had served in the highest positions in the White House and on the second most important court in the land for more than a dozen years. It was very clear that Justice Kavanaugh unquestionably had the character and fitness to serve.

The Senate Democrats and their liberal allies ensured that what should have been a "normal" confirmation hearing was anything but normal. From the opening moments, Senate Democrats conducted themselves more like petulant children than United States senators. They interrupted the Chairman with inappropriate motions and wild yelling. Indeed, throughout the hearing, we experienced a senator—who proclaimed to become Spartacus—willfully leaking confidential records, another senator asking misleading innuendo-laced questions with no basis, and other senators doing other outrageous things.

Leftwing allies followed the disgraceful lead of these senators. With Justice Kavanaugh's two young daughters in the room, paid protestors shouted vile things, disrupting the hearing and dragging the process on for hours longer than necessary. This mob-like behavior was apparent throughout the process, as angry paid protestors harassed senators, their families, and their staffs.

When the hearing days were over and it was clear that Justice Kavanaugh was a good man with impeccable credentials, Senate Democrats and their leftwing allies went back to their playbook from the Justice Thomas confirmation. But this time, Senate Democrats and their leftwing allies went

even farther, accusing Justice Kavanaugh of being a serial gang-rapist who drugged women at parties in his teenage years and even through his 20s. While the FBI found no evidence of this in any of its previous 6 full-field background investigations conducted during Justice Kavanaugh's 25 years of public service, Senator Grassley nonetheless took the allegations seriously.

More than 20 staff members of Senator Grassley's Oversight & Investigations Unit and Nominations Unit immediately began investigating these claims. They worked around the clock. Their work was thorough and comprehensive. Senator Grassley was satisfied it contained all the answers he needed, but some senators demanded a supplemental FBI investigation. All senators were able to review that supplemental report, and most were satisfied that it confirmed what we already knew and what Justice Kavanaugh had been saying from the beginning: Justice Kavanaugh was innocent of the outrageous allegations made against him.

After Justice Kavanaugh's confirmation, Senator Grassley's staff produced a report of more than 400 pages, which catalogues the tireless work his staff did in investigating these allegations. This report made clear that some of the people who made the wild accusations against Justice Kavanaugh deserved to be criminally referred to the Justice Department. And Senator Grassley made those criminal referrals.

Senator Grassley felt strongly about making this report public, because it demonstrates his commitment to process—something many Senate Democrats wanted none of. To them, due process is inconvenient when it stands in the way of achieving their political ends. Senator Grassley, however, knows that upholding the constitutional cornerstone of due process, of innocence until proven guilty, was worth fighting for. And Senator Grassley helped deliver justice; Justice Kavanaugh prevailed.

The American people clearly felt the same way. Indeed, in an election that showed big gains for Democrats across the country, Republicans actually gained 2 seats in the Senate. Voters booted out of office Trump-state Senate Democrats who voted against Justice Kavanaugh—like Claire McCaskill from Missouri, Joe Donnelly from Indiana, Heidi Heitkamp from North Dakota, and Bill Nelson from Florida. The one Senate Democrat who actually voted the way his constituents wanted him—Joe Manchin from West Virginia—won reelection.

These legislative victories are just more in the long line of wins that the country has seen during Senator Grassley's time chairing the Senate Judiciary Committee. Again, Senator Grassley works; Senator Grassley delivers.

Thank you for your continued support of Senator Grassley. And thank you for your continued efforts in helping to find, credential, and appoint judges who share our judicial philosophy. We can never get tired of winning. The stakes are too high.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!
I am happy to answer your questions.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING OTTO DELIKAT

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today, with a heavy heart, I wish to pay tribute to Otto Delikat, a remarkable role model, survivor, and family man. Mr. Delikat passed away on December 23, 2018 at the age of 96.

His life was similar to many of the Jewish faith during that era, an ordinary man with extraordinary spirit and indefatigable will to survive. He will be remembered for his outstanding commitment to his communities and readiness to share his experiences in order to promote freedom and democracy.

Mr. Delikat was born in Vienna, Austria, where he grew up with his father, stepmother, brother, and two sisters. As a young man, he worked on a farm in Germany, where his family's religion was not known. When World War II began, he returned to Vienna. With his father already in a labor camp, a 17-year-old Mr. Delikat volunteered to go to the same camp. He and about a dozen others from the labor camp were sent to work in a brick factory.

One of the men working with him in the labor camp escaped, which resulted in the rest of their group getting locked up in prison for a year. When the prison sentence ended, Mr. Delikat and the other Jewish prisoners were handed over to the Gestapo and sent to concentration camps.

Mr. Delikat spent just under a year in the Flossenbürg concentration camp. Then, in October 1942, he and the other 16 people left with him were transported to Auschwitz. He was imprisoned there for around a year, working some of this time as part of a labor squad tasked with going through the luggage people took with them when they arrived on transports. After the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto, he and about 3,000 other prisoners went to clean up the wreckage. Despite falling ill from the typhoid epidemic that killed over half of the inmates during their first winter in Warsaw, Mr. Delikat survived.

Eventually, the SS evacuated the prisoners in 1944, not even half of whom survived the several days' long march when their attempts to run toward water led to machinegun fire. Those who made it to the cattle cars, including Mr. Delikat, then went to Dachau. Mr. Delikat was soon relocated to another concentration camp in southern Germany, where he met a civilian who helped him pass letters to and from Vienna. Thanks to the kindness of this civilian, he learned his father was still alive.

After liberation, Mr. Delikat spent several months working for the American counterintelligence corps tracking down members of the SS in hiding in order to bring them to justice. During his time in the displaced persons camp, he met and married his wife, and they had their first child. The family moved to America, thanks to support from his wife's aunt, where Mr. Delikat quickly found work and they welcomed their second child.

When asked about how he survived, Mr. Delikat emphasized he "always looked for tomorrow." He did not think about the days that would follow, but instead focused on the hope he would make it through the current day and wake up the next. He also said his ex-

periences throughout the Holocaust led him to become active in Jewish communities, including 50 years at the Oceanside Jewish Center. He served as chairman of the temple's House committee, was named their man of the year in 1994, joined the men's club, and served on the Holocaust committee.

Mr. Delikat considered it of the utmost importance to share his experiences with others. He recognized his story and the stories of fellow survivors would be lost if not told. He liked to talk about what he went through at every available opportunity, emphasizing the positive ideals of our Nation by underlining the importance of living in a free and equal society.

My wife Cynthia and I extend our deepest sympathies to Otto's family during this difficult time, particularly to his two children, Janet and Michael, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. May their many wonderful memories of Otto provide them solace and comfort in the days ahead.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills and joint resolutions were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 28. A bill to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and for other purposes.

H.R. 21. An act making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 1. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 47. A bill to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1. A communication from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Transfer of Surplus Firearms to Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of selected reserve units, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on College Credit Cards; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fair Credit Reporting Act Disclosures" (RIN3170-AA94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold" (RIN3170-AA93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold" (RIN3170-AA92) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; EL Dorado County Air Quality Management District; Reasonably Available Control Technology Demonstration" (FRL No. 9988-52-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake River Basins Flood Risk Management project, Village of Mamaroneck, New York; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-9. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2019 Standard Mileage Rates" (Notice 2019-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-10. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Parking Expenses for Qualified Transportation Fringes Under Section 274(a) (4) and Section 512(a) (7) of the Internal Revenue Code" (Notice 2018-99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-11. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance on the Application of Section 83(i)" (Notice 2018-97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-12. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Medicare Shared Savings Program; Accountable Care Organizations Pathways to Success and Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Policies for Performance Year 2017" (RINs 0938-AT45 and 0938-AT51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 27, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.