

returned to the Pikeville area and worked in the mines, graduated from Pikeville college in 1966. He was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1969 and served in the U.S. Army from 1969–1971.

A life-transforming event happened to him in the spring of 1973 when he heard the Rev. Ben Sheldon, who was then a Presbyterian pastor in Washington, D.C., preach in Pikeville.

“He started preaching the gospel of God’s love,” Baird says of Sheldon, who later became a pastor in Pikeville. “I felt a personal love that He died for me. It was God’s timing.”

Baird went on to practice law in Pikeville, joking that “in Hatfield and McCoy country, folks can be litigious here.” He now describes his role as a “sometime” attorney, not full-time nor part-time, who does pro bono work and helps fill in for other attorneys at court appearances. “Some people say I’m the only retired person they know who comes in to the office every day,” he says.

He followed up on his short “athletic” career at Duke by coaching softball at Pikeville High School from 1986–2004 and at the university from 1994–2004. Today one of the family’s scholarships is dedicated to athletics, and Bill Baird himself is a member of the university’s Athletic Hall of Fame.

Much of the family’s UPIKE support is described by Bill Baird as meeting the needs of first-time college students who come from the community. He says he hopes the scholarships will address larger gaps as well.

To meet additional need in his region, Bill Baird has been actively involved in several faith-based groups and community support programs. He has supported the Fellowship of Christian Athletes program, provided devotional Bibles to coaches and is Board Chairman of WestCare of Kentucky, Inc., which is involved in treatment of substance abuse.

Today, the Baird Family Circle is one of the granite inlays of Benefactor’s Plaza on campus. Acknowledging the recent service award and scholarship fund honoring him at UPIKE, Bill Baird says, “Christ made the difference in my life. He gave me an opportunity to serve in this way.”

He praises this year’s fellow recipients of the Baird Family Service award, UPIKE Trustee Gregory Pauley and his wife, Kathryn, characterizing them as “wonderful, caring people,” whose mobile home park neighborhood ministry is just the kind of generosity and service embodied by the Baird legacy.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. SINEMA. Madam President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 34, the motion to invoke cloture on Allison Jones Rushing, of North Carolina, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Fourth Circuit.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 35, the confirmation of Allison Jones Rushing, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 36, the motion to invoke cloture on Chad A. Readler, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.●

TRIBUTE TO LINDSAY NOTHERN

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I honor my communications director Lindsay Nothern for his dedication of more than 20 years to Senate service.

Lindsay has been a valued member of my staff since we both started Senate service in 1999. When I was sworn in as a U.S. Senator, my communications director refused to hire a press secretary immediately because she wanted to bring Lindsay onto the staff, and he was not available for a few months, so she did double duty until he was able to join my staff, and I have always been grateful for her insistence that we wait for him. His instincts and media savvy have been spot-on so many times over the two decades he has been with me.

Lindsay’s strategic view of how activities and policy initiatives are presented has been instrumental. From press secretary, he moved to serving as communications director in 2011. While Lindsay may not be an Idahoan by birth, he has certainly earned his Gem State stripes through his depth and breadth of knowledge about the State. His experience as a journalist has served him well, first in reporting and managing the news from the journalist side and then from the other side as a press secretary and media representative. His prior work includes serving as press secretary for former Idaho Governor Phil Batt, who initially dubbed Lindsay as “Scoop,” and campaign press secretary for Congressman MIKE SIMPSON in Congressman SIMPSON’s first House campaign.

Lindsay is unfailingly one of the most pleasant people I have ever encountered. He can be counted on to be a great sounding board and listener, regardless of his personal opinions. I trust him to represent me to Idahoans throughout the State and know that he will always leave a meeting with a handful of new friends. That includes those who show up angry and unannounced in my office, demanding a meeting. Lindsay has demonstrated patience, commitment, and empathy in meeting for hundreds of hours with those who have taken issue with some aspect of government, the administration, or me. He is also a great encourager among staff, helping them to know their good work is valued and appreciated.

Several issues have become close to Lindsay’s heart—among them, domestic violence prevention and awareness. Somewhere in my office archives, there is a photo of Lindsay in women’s heels as he took part in a “walk a mile in her shoes” event, representing the office. That was not a comfortable experience for his feet, but he has been a strong advocate in helping me find ways to illuminate and bring awareness to domestic violence matters.

Thank you, Lindsay, for your 20 years of dedicated service to our Nation and the people of Idaho, and thank you for your continual assistance and friendship over the years. Congratula-

tions on this milestone of public service for the betterment of Idaho and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE BROOKER

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, today I would like to recognize Julie Brooker, my central Nebraska director of constituent services who retired at the end of February.

Julie Brooker’s service in the U.S. Senate began in 1997 and has spanned three U.S. Senators from Nebraska: former Senator Chuck Hagel, former Senator Mike Johanns, and myself.

Before her longtime work as a Senate staffer, Julie was a committed and hardworking volunteer on a number of political campaigns.

She was well known as someone willing to haul yard signs all over Nebraska’s huge third district.

You see, a commitment to helping and serving others ran in Julie’s family.

Julie’s dad, Gordon, served faithfully as a local volunteer firefighter, and her mom, Doralene, served on both the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors and the Nebraska Public Power District Board.

Their example instilled in her lessons in treating people with kindness, listening to others’ concerns, and lending a helping hand.

If you were planning a run for office in Nebraska, Julie Brooker was someone you needed to go see.

When I decided to run for U.S. Senate, Julie was one of the first people I visited with, and she was so very generous with her time and her advice.

During her Senate career, Julie sacrificed many days, nights, and weekends to serve the people of Nebraska well.

She was renowned for driving whichever U.S. Senator she was serving at the time all over the third district.

In every county, Julie had many friends. Her genuine interest in others and friendly, approachable demeanor were always on display.

Over the years Julie worked in my office, I was always completely confident that she was representing me well and that my constituents in Kearney and throughout the central region of the State were in the very best of hands.

Whether it was through her tenacity in helping resolve casework, her willingness to meet with any Nebraskan who crossed her path, or her ability to provide tough news in compassionate ways, Julie has always had a servant’s heart.

Serving Nebraskans wasn’t a job for Julie, it was a calling. She loves Nebraska, and she loves Nebraskans.

I want to thank Julie’s husband, Jim, for loaning Julie to the people of central Nebraska for so many years.

I am also so very grateful to Julie’s kids and grandkids for sacrificing time with her so that she could put the time and energy she had into this service to the people of Nebraska.

The city of Kearney, the State of Nebraska, and the U.S. Senate are better because of Julie's wonderful work throughout the years.

She is a dedicated, committed person who focused on making life better for Nebraskans.

She is truly one of a kind.

I congratulate Julie on her remarkable career in public service. I thank her for her many years of service to our State and to our people, and I wish her a retirement full of joy and fulfillment.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ANN MITCHELL

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Ann Mitchell for her 20 years of outstanding dedication and visionary leadership as president and CEO of Montgomery Hospice. I am grateful to Ann for her tireless efforts to provide quality and compassionate end-of-life care and services to residents of Montgomery County, MD.

Ann understands that the experience of people who are dying is extremely personal and that each of us has a cultural identity that is part of our character. When people are in their final weeks of life, Ann believes that it is paramount that each of us is cared for with a deep respect for our cultural identity.

Ann considers herself a global citizen, as she grew up in seven countries around the world. She celebrates diversity and recognizes the value that a multicultural team brings to end-of-life care. Ann has worked diligently to make Montgomery Hospice diverse at all levels, including in senior management, and firmly supports inclusion and equity initiatives.

Montgomery Hospice is well-known for its inpatient hospice, "Casey House"; its comprehensive "Hospice at Home" service; and its compassionate "Bereavement Care" service. All Montgomery Hospice services support its mission "To Gentle the Journey" for the dying residents of Montgomery County, MD.

A trustee of Smith College, Ann graduated with a major in economics from Smith. She earned a master's in public health at Yale University. For the past 20 years, Ann has led Montgomery Hospice strategically in service to its patients, employees, and volunteers.

I have known Ann for over 20 years, and I can personally attest to the dedication and compassion she has brought to her job. It has been an honor to support her efforts as she enlisted many in our community in her important work. She has been totally committed to her mission of ensuring that every individual in her care is treated with the utmost respect and dignity, and our community is stronger and better because of her work.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing all that Ann Mitchell has done to make a difference in the lives of others.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13692 OF MARCH 8, 2015, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA—PM 4

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela, is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2019.

The situation in Venezuela continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to the situation in Venezuela.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 5, 2019.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1112. An act to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee.

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-474. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Eligibility, Certification, and Employment and Training Provisions of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008" (RIN0584-AE54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-475. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-476. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-477. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was originally declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-478. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Uniform Mortgage-Backed Security" (RIN2590-AA94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-479. 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; Minnesota; Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units and Other Solid Waste Incineration Units Negative Declarations for Designated Facilities and Pollutants" (FRL No. 9990-45-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-480. 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; Ohio; Ohio Permit Rules Revisions" (FRL No. 9990-44-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-481. 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; Tennessee; NO_x