

2020 COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, in Nashville, we have a saying: It all begins with a song. That is the truth, but that is not where the story ends. It is where it begins.

Every record that makes it out into the world is backed by a team of hard-working and creative individuals whose job is to bring the music to the masses: the songwriters, who find a way to express feelings that we mere mortals could never hope to put down on paper; the studio musicians, whose refined techniques satisfy even the most sensitive microphones; the producers, whose vision and intuition can turn a song into a hit cut; and the label heads, whose job it is to take a chance on new artists in hopes of discovering the next country music superstar.

Each year the music industry's movers and shakers come together to decide who among them is worthy of a place in the industry's most sought-after circle: the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The Country Music Association inducted their first Hall of Fame class in 1961. Since then, the CMA has welcomed some of the most well-known and beloved members of Nashville's entertainment community into the Hall's ranks. This year's inductees have made their mark on both sides of the studio glass.

Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn—known as Brooks & Dunn—started out as solo singer-songwriters, but rocketed to stardom as a duo.

Their first album produced four No. 1 singles and sold almost 3 million copies, all in the pre-smartphone, pre-streaming era. Since then, Kix and Ronnie's over 40 top 10 hits, 20 No. 1 singles, and 12 platinum-plus albums have earned them the distinction of being one of the most successful country duos of all time. They have done it all while writing their own songs, designing their own shows, and supporting the art of up-and-coming performers.

This dedication to the future of country is why Brooks & Dunn will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in the "Modern Era Artist" category.

Ray Stevens—when we think about country music, many times, we are thinking about steel guitars and broken hearts, but this year's second Hall of Fame inductee really just wants to make you smile.

Ray Stevens is one of the most successful comedy recording artists of all time, but he made his mark in Nashville as a songwriter, studio musician, producer, and gospel singer, in addition to being a star comic and country entertainer.

If you look at his catalog, there really is something for everyone. His work spoke to fans in need of a laugh or sometimes spiritual guidance or a song to sing along to after a hard day's work.

Ray's wonderful sense of humor, open heart, and commitment to entertain-

ment as an art form made him a Music City standout and the perfect choice to earn the distinction of "Veterans Era Artist" in the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Jerry Bradley—this year's third and final inductee—may not have invented country music, but no one on Music Row would deny the impact his work has had on the success of generations of country stars. Jerry Bradley began his career in music as Nashville was on the brink of transformation. He understood that fans and artists alike were looking to explore a new sound, and he gave them exactly what they were looking for. He gave them the Nashville sound. He signed bands no other label would take a chance on, he mixed records no other producer could match, and he embraced the importance of the crossover artist as the ambassador of this new Nashville sound. His tendency to ignore conventional wisdom more than paid off. He achieved commercial success and earned the attention of Nashville's tastemakers before becoming one of them himself. This year, the Country Music Association will induct Jerry into the Hall of Fame as a non-performer but also as one of the most influential people in the history of the entertainment industry.

Today, I encourage all of my colleagues to take a moment to think about their favorite song—whether it is a country song, a pop song, a classic rock hit, it is the soundtrack of our lives—and to remember how it made them feel the very first time they heard it and how many times they have enjoyed singing it when a memory pops into their heads. This year's Country Music Hall of Fame inductees—Kix Brooks, Ronnie Dunn, Ray Stevens, and Jerry Bradley—are responsible for making millions of people feel that exact same way about their very own favorite song. The body of work these men represent is more than just a series of accomplishments; it is a gift to all of us who enjoy the music they have made.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:18 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION

BRUCE POLIQUIN, OF MAINE, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2021, VICE SHARON Y. BOWEN, TERM EXPIRED.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

PETER J. CONIGLIO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, EXPORT-IMPORT BANK, VICE OSVALDO LUIS GRATACOS MUNET, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

JOHN BOBBITT, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE SUZANNE ISRAEL TUPTS, RESIGNED.
BRIAN D. MONTGOMERY, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE PAMELA HUGHES PATENAUE, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

JAMES P. DANLY, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2023, VICE KEVIN J. MCINTYRE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

KATHARINE MACGREGOR, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE DAVID BERHARDT, RESIGNED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SEAN O'DONNELL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE ARTHUR ALLEN ELKINS, JR., RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

KIPP KRANBUHL, OF OHIO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE MATTHEW S. RUTHERFORD, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WILLIAM ELLISON GRAYSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA.

JOHN HENNESSEY-NILAND, OF ILLINOIS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

LEORA ROSENBERG LEVY, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE.

BARBERA HALE THORNHILL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE.

DONALD WRIGHT, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

PETER GAYNOR, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE BROCK LONG, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

PAUL J. RAY, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE NEOMI RAO, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

PATRICK J. BUMATAY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE CARLOS T. BEA, RETIRING.

SYLVIA CARRENO-COLL, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO, VICE JAY A. GARCIA-GREGORY, RETIRED.

JOHN M. GALLAGHER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE JOEL H. SLOMSKY, RETIRED.

BARBARA BAILEY JONGBLOED, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, VICE ALVIN W. THOMPSON, RETIRED.

BARBARA LAGOA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE STANLEY MARCUS, RETIRING.

ROBERT J. LUCK, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE GERALD B. TJOFPLAT, RETIRING.

SHERRI A. LYDON, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, VICE A. MARVIN QUATTLEBAUM, JR., ELEVATED.

SCOTT H. RASH, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA, VICE CINDY K. JORGENSEN, RETIRED.

LAWRENCE VANDYKE, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE JAY S. BYBEE, RETIRING.

CORY T. WILSON, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI, VICE LOUIS GUIROLA, JR., RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. KARL KONZELMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601: