

rights is highly relevant to his nomination. The Fifth Circuit is a majority-minority circuit; 55 percent of those who live in the circuit are people of color. The Senate should not confirm a nominee who would work to further restrict the right to vote from the bench.

Second, Judge Wilson has been a staunch opponent of the Affordable Care Act. He referred to the ACA's passage as "perverse" and "illegitimate." He called upon the Supreme Court to strike down the law, writing: "For the sake of the Constitution, I hope the Court strikes down the law and reinvigorates some semblance of the limited government the Founders intended."

As of June 22, more than 120,000 Americans have died from COVID-19, and nearly 2.3 million have been infected. Now is not the time to advance a judicial nominee whose opposition to the ACA would strip tens of millions of Americans of healthcare, including those with preexisting conditions.

Third, Judge Wilson has made extreme partisan comments that call into question his ability to rule fairly and impartially. In op-eds in a Mississippi newspaper, he likened President Obama to "a fit-throwing teenager" and called him "King Barack" and "President Make-Believe." In tweets that he has kept public even while serving as a State court judge, Judge Wilson called Hillary Clinton "Crooked Clinton" and said she was "criminal and clueless." He also called Congresswoman ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ a "claptrap." The Senate should not confirm a nominee who cannot be trusted to put aside extreme partisanship to rule in an unbiased and impartial manner.

Fourth, Judge Wilson has sought to undermine the rights of LGBT Americans. In 2016, while serving in the Mississippi legislature, Judge Wilson supported HB 1523, a bill providing legal cover for businesses to deny services to individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation. In a 2012 op-ed, Judge Wilson argued that "gay marriage is a pander to liberal interest groups and an attempt to cast Republicans as intolerant, uncaring and even bigoted." Judge Wilson's past support for anti-LGBT legislation and his comments demeaning the fight for marriage equality raise questions about his ability to rule objectively on any case implicating LGBT rights.

Finally, Judge Wilson has been an ardent opponent of women's reproductive rights, making it abundantly clear that he supports "the complete and immediate reversal of the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions."

Judge Wilson will be the 200th Article III judge appointed by this President and confirmed by this Senate. Unfortunately, Judge Wilson's record of hostility to voting rights, the ACA, the rights of LGBT Americans, and women's reproductive rights is not unique to him. In fact, it is clear that so many of this administration's judicial nominees have been selected precisely because of those viewpoints. This is not

something to celebrate. After all, those who have gained healthcare because of the ACA deserve the security of knowing their coverage is not at risk from the Federal judiciary.

And those who seek to vindicate their rights—to vote, to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions, and to be free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity—deserve a judiciary that will rule fairly and impartially.

I will vote against Judge Wilson's nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ED PINEGAR

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I want to spend a few moments talking about a man who has been one of my closest friends for a long time. Springfieldian Ed Pinegar passed away on May 23, 2020, at the age of 74. He was the kind of person that many people will remember as one of their best friends.

Ed loved his family, his church, and his community. He grew up in Willard, attended Missouri State University, and became one of the most successful auto and truck dealers in the middle of our country. Never forgetting his rural roots, he eventually established Pinegar Land and Cattle and became the leading breeder of Limousin Cattle in North America. As with everything he did, this was an extremely successful business.

Ed never forgot where he was from. For the last several years, one of my favorite things was to go to Ed's farm with him early in the morning to see what his plans were for the farm and catch up on what was happening with the business and his family and friends. I will miss those visits, but I am so glad to have shared those times with Ed.

Ed's life of service is too long to list, as are the recognitions he received along the way. He served on the Missouri State University board of governors and their board of trustees, was inducted into the Missouri Limousin Breeders Association Hall of Fame, honored by the Ozark Empire Fair Ground Gold Buckle Gala for his dedication to youth, and with his wife Carol received the outstanding Willard Alumni Award. He recently received the 2019 AFP Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year Award.

Ed was dedicated to his family, his community, athletics, and his faith. He was a loyal friend with a great sense of humor and an even better perspective on life. He was a devoted Christian, active in his church, and used the blessings of his work to invest in the places and people he loved. He was generous in his giving and generous in spirit. The Pinegar Arena is an indoor horse center and classroom that is part of Missouri State's agricultural center. This is one of many examples of how Ed gave of his time and resources investing in people and things to help others.

Much too soon, Ed suffered a stroke, which took a serious toll on his health and quality of life. Abby and I were encouraged by his early recovery from those challenges and inspired by his family's dedication to him as each of them, with Carol in the lead, loved and cared for him. Much of his legacy will continue to live on through Carol and their children Angela, Tad, Amy, and Abigail. Ed also leaves behind nine grandchildren, who were lucky enough to spend time with their grandfather who, despite his busy schedule, prioritized games, events, and school performances.

I am grateful to have known Ed Pinegar and thankful for his impact on my own life and that of those who knew him.●

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-205. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to fully fund the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and its programs in fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 54

Whereas, the President's 2021 federal budget proposal eliminates 99% of the funding to the Corporation for National and Community Service which would remove funding for Louisiana's LaVetCorps program and similar programs across the states of Washington and Rhode Island, in addition to, all other AmeriCorps programs across this state, including Teach for America, VISTA, City Year, and Foster Grandparents; and

Whereas, the LDVA, in partnership with the Office of Governor, Louisiana Board of Regents, Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), University of Louisiana System, LSU System, and Southern University System operates thirty LaVetCorps program veteran resource centers on campuses across the state, encompassing all four Louisiana public college systems and Xavier University of Louisiana; and

Whereas, the mission of the LaVetCorps is to empower veterans, families, and campus communities to help veterans returning from active duty military service to successfully transition home to college and their local community; and

Whereas, the centers assisted more than eight thousand student veterans in successfully transitioning from active duty to complete their college curriculum and return home; and

Whereas, at each LaVetCorps veteran resource center, an LDVA-trained LaVetCorps navigator, who is also an AmeriCorps service member, serves as a peer mentor/counselor to student veterans in transition, works to increase student veterans' access to their earned federal and state benefits, works to build a vibrant on-campus veteran community, provides training and support to college faculty, staff, and administration to increase awareness of student veterans' needs and veteran culture, and organize community service projects benefitting both on- and off-campus veterans; and