

they were controlled by different parties. The Senate Republicans followed the Biden rule then, which is that the Senate does not confirm an election year vacancy in which the White House and the Senate are controlled by different parties. Despite the Democrats' insistence on confirming President Obama's nominee, Senate Republicans followed precedent.

The reality is that, in the modern era, the Senate has not confirmed a Supreme Court nominee under a divided government. It just hasn't happened. The last time the Senate confirmed a nominee under these circumstances was in 1888. Today, we have a united government. The same party that has the Senate has the Presidency. The voters elected President Trump in 2016. The Senate Republicans grew their majority in 2018. In nearly every instance in history in which there has been a Supreme Court vacancy under a united government, we have voted to confirm. In fact, the only time in history that the Senate did not confirm a nominee under a united government was in 1968, wherein there was bipartisan opposition on ethical grounds. They all agreed that the nominee should be withdrawn, and he was withdrawn.

It is simply false to state that Senate Republicans are going against precedent. As a matter of political convenience, the Democrats have flip-flopped from what they said in 2016 and are adamantly opposed to a vote during an election year. It is not surprising that the media has ignored their about-face.

I am proud of the efforts by Leader MCCONNELL and our Republican majority, who have confirmed dozens of President Trump's exemplary judicial nominations. I think the number right now is somewhere around 212, and that may be a record, but those are a lot of nominations.

Senate Republicans and President Trump have followed through on our promise to remake the judiciary with more judges who interpret the law as written, not legislate from the bench. We all know what we are talking about there. With Judge Barrett, we have the opportunity to confirm the President's third Supreme Court nominee to the bench.

Everyone knows Judge Barrett is hard-working, principled, and committed to serving her fellow Americans. In a 2017 letter, a bipartisan group of law professors called her work "rigorous, fair-minded, respectful, and constructive." I couldn't agree more. I know she will serve our highest Court with honor and distinction, and I look forward to voting to confirm the nomination soon. She is, I really think, the most gifted, talented jurist to be found in America today.

My wife and I have been married for 60 years. We have 20 kids and grandkids. They are the ones who are going to be the beneficiaries of the service of Judge Barrett. She is going to be confirmed as an Associate Justice on our High Court in a matter of hours,

and this is going to be a great thing for America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

HONORING DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT KEVIN COLLINS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, it is such an honor and such a pleasure to be with my fellow Senator from Arkansas, Mr. COTTON, as we rise to honor Pine Bluff Detective Kevin Collins, who died while in the line of duty, on Monday, October 5, as a result of injuries he sustained.

Detective Collins was a passionate person about law enforcement and serving the citizens of Pine Bluff. He served his community not only as an officer of the law but also as a mentor and a leader.

It was reported that he had wanted to be a police officer since he had been 3 years old. In an interview with the Pine Bluff Commercial in 2018, he said: "Ever since I was little, I saw law enforcement as a service and something I could be proud of." He worked his entire life to achieve that dream, and it came true 5 years ago when he was hired by the Pine Bluff Police Department on June 8, 2015.

He was first assigned to the patrol division, and he worked his way up to the violent crimes unit. Detective Collins loved being a police officer, and he enjoyed building relationships with the men and women he worked alongside as well as with the citizens whom he served.

His colleagues appreciated his enthusiasm, his hard work, and dedication, which he demonstrated each and every day both in and out of uniform.

Detective Collins was passionate about making a difference in the lives of others. As a mentor to at-risk boys during the department's 2-week Youth Empowerment Camp, he was a role model for teens—encouraging good behavior and reinforcing the importance of making good decisions.

In his short time with the Pine Bluff Police Department, he had a long list of successes that include taking a large number of guns off the streets and earning the department's Officer of the Year for 2017 for his actions in saving a 95-year-old resident while responding to an apartment fire.

Detective Collins lived a faithful life devoted to Christ as a member of New Life Church Pine Bluff.

Pastor Matt Mosler says Detective Collins had a great heart for service. He took that heart for service and put his faith into action, taking the initiative to make his community better.

We rely on law enforcement officers like Detective Collins to keep communities safe, to keep us safe. His death is a tragic reminder of the risk law enforcement officers face each day when they put on their uniform and leave the comforts of their homes and their loved ones to serve and to protect.

Detective Collins was a true hero. Our hearts break for his family, his

colleagues at the Pine Bluff Police Department, and community members. I pray they will find comfort from the outpouring of support for this beloved brother in blue.

Senator COTTON, I yield to you.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, the men and women of law enforcement in Arkansas could have no greater champion in the U.S. Senate than JOHN BOOZMAN. It is always an honor to join him on the floor, but today is a sad and solemn honor to be here to commemorate the life of Detective Kevin Collins.

Detective Collins of Pine Bluff had known since he was the young age of 3 that he wanted to be a police officer. His step-dad worked for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. His mom was a teacher. So from an early age, the role models in Kevin's life inspired him to serve others, and serve he did, above and beyond the call of duty.

For a time he worked as an emergency services dispatcher. Then he worked for the Arkansas Department of Corrections. Five years ago, he realized his childhood dream by joining his hometown police department to serve the community he knew and loved.

Detective Collins was part of the violent crimes unit, which means he worked on some of Arkansas' most dangerous cases. He had a special passion for taking illegal guns off the streets and mentoring young people in the community.

His hard work was noticed and rewarded. Just 2 years after joining the force, Detective Collins was named Officer of the Year after rushing into a burning apartment building and rescuing a 95-year-old woman trapped inside.

When he received that award, Detective Collins reflected on his lifelong dream of becoming a police officer, which he described as a "service" and something "I could be proud of."

You could say that Kevin Collins was destined to be a police officer. Tragically, he was also destined to die as one, much too soon.

Earlier this month, Detective Collins was tracking a suspected murderer who was holed up in a hotel. A gun battle broke out. Detective Collins and his fellow officer, Lieutenant Ralph Isaac, were hit during this exchange and rushed to the hospital. Lieutenant Isaac has begun to recover, but, sadly, Detective Collins did not. He went home to be with the Lord at the age of 35, leaving his family, his community, and our State heartbroken over the loss.

Detective Collins' death is a tragedy and a stark warning and reminder of the dangers police officers face every day.

Detective Collins joins 231 of his fellow officers who have died in the line of duty in America just this year, but it would be a mistake only to mark Detective Collins' death. We ought also to learn from his example in life.

Kevin Collins was a guardian of Pine Bluff, whether in his capacity as an officer or off duty as a security guard at his local church.

When he received the Officer of the Year Award in 2017, Detective Collins said that being a police officer was about extending a “life line to save others.” We will never know how many lives Kevin Collins saved, but we do know that his hometown is now safer and more peaceful because of his years of service.

Pine Bluff was blessed to have a guardian the likes of Kevin Collins. Now his watch on Earth is over. He is looking down on us from above. May he rest in peace.

NOMINATION OF AMY CONEY BARRETT

Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will confirm Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, filling the seat vacated by the late Justice Ginsburg with a very worthy successor.

When President Trump nominated Judge Barrett last month, some Americans questioned whether the Senate should confirm any nominee to the Supreme Court. But today, just weeks later, a clear majority of Americans support confirmation, including a majority of Independents.

What happened? It is very simple. Americans met Judge Barrett; they loved what they saw; and they decided she is the right woman for this job.

Consider her achievements. She graduated No. 1 in her class from Notre Dame Law School, where she also edited the law review and later clerked for two giants of our judiciary—Judge Silberman of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals and the late, great Justice Scalia.

Years later, Judge Barrett returned to her alma mater as a professor, where she won the esteem of her students and colleagues as a gifted teacher and an “absolutely brilliant legal scholar,” to quote the dean of Notre Dame Law.

Then, in 2017, the Senate confirmed Professor Barrett to be Judge Barrett on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. In the 3 years since then, she has established herself as one of America’s finest judges—unwaveringly committed to the rule of law and equality before the law.

A Scalia protege, beloved professor, respected jurist—those titles alone warrant Amy Coney Barrett’s confirmation to the Supreme Court, but they are not her only achievements or even the most important ones.

In addition to those things, she has a big and beautiful family, with a devoted husband and seven kids, including two adopted from Haiti. They are a family knitted together by love and faith.

Any parent knows how difficult it must be for Judge Barrett to juggle the demands of her work with her duties as a parent and a wife. But like millions of working moms, she manages to do both with incredible skill, grace, and poise.

I suspect I must confess that if Judge Barrett had been nominated by a President without an “R” behind his name, the media would laud her as a pioneer, an inspiration to young women all across the country. Today’s newspapers

would contain front page stories of gushing profiles, studded with words like “iconic” and “pathbreaking.” The media would practically carry her from the Judiciary Committee to this floor so we could vote to confirm her, and then they would carry her across the street to her Supreme Court chambers.

But, curiously, I have noticed that is not what the media is doing—not in the least. Instead, the liberal media has published lurid insinuations and exposés about everything from Judge Barrett’s character to her Christian faith and even her adopted children. It is the Brett Kavanaugh playbook all over again.

But, thankfully, the American people see through it, just as they did the last time. For the most part, Democrats on the Judiciary Committee avoided these kinds of low, personal attacks. Perhaps they have seen the polling so they know they are playing a very weak hand.

Instead, they focused on the supposed threat that Judge Barrett will overturn ObamaCare and take away your healthcare. In fact, they focused on ObamaCare so much during Judge Barrett’s confirmation hearing, when I turned on the TV, I thought I had I tuned in to the Health Committee, not the Judiciary Committee.

But Democrats’ attacks on this policy fall just as flat as the media’s shameful stories on Judge Barrett’s character for the simple reason that Judge Barrett, as a judge, does not make policy. She is not a Senator. She is not standing for elective office. I suspect she wouldn’t want to.

Her role as a judge is to interpret and apply the law fairly and faithfully, without regard to her own beliefs and convictions.

Now, that may be a novel concept for our Democratic friends who view the judiciary as simply another means to advance their leftwing agenda, irrespective of the law and facts, but it is central to Judge Barrett’s record on the court of appeals and her judicial philosophy. Her opinions bear that out, and she has applied the law consistently without fear or favor on the Federal Bench, and, I suspect, reached a few outcomes on a personal level that she would have preferred not to, which was always Justice Scalia’s gold standard for an impartial and fair judge.

That leaves the Democrats with one final argument—nothing more than a process argument.

They say that the Republicans are moving too quickly; that we are somehow ramming Judge Barrett through the Senate, possibly, to prevent an adequate examination of her record. But, of course, this argument fails too. It fails badly.

Judge Barrett’s nomination has proceeded at a pace in line with other recent nominations.

Exactly 30 days ago she was nominated, and tomorrow she will be confirmed. That is 11 more days than the Senate deliberated on the nomination

of Justice John Paul Stevens, who was confirmed after just 19 days. It is only 12 fewer days than the Senate deliberated on the nomination of Justice Ginsburg herself. And I would note that we went through this with Judge Barrett barely 3 years ago. It had been 5 years for then-Judge Stevens. It had been 13 years for then-Judge Ginsburg.

There is not a lot of material for this Senate to have reviewed; less than 3 years of activities by Judge Barrett, fewer than 100 opinions—even a Senator can probably get through those in a couple days.

Yet the Democrats have repeatedly asked for delay after delay, though they haven’t identified any area in which they lacked adequate time to review her nomination. They haven’t identified any bit of information that they don’t already have. In fact, some of my Democratic colleagues announced their opposition to her nomination—or any nominee, for that matter—before she was even announced as the nominee.

So what do they want more time for, exactly, except to stall?

Indeed, far from being rushed, Judge Barrett’s nomination doesn’t come close to setting the record for speed. That distinction belongs to Justice James Byrnes, who was nominated to the Supreme Court in 1941 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and confirmed later that day. I guess we could have taken a page from the Democrats’ playbook by confirming Judge Barrett last month on the day she was nominated, but instead we took the same careful, consistent, deliberative approach that we took with Justice Kavanaugh and Justice Gorsuch—no shortcuts, no corners cut, no steps skipped.

So, finally, here we are on the cusp of Judge Barrett’s confirmation. As a result, the Democrats are threatening to pack the Court, but they were already threatening to pack the Court.

The Democrats are threatening, should we confirm Judge Barrett to the Supreme Court, to riot in the streets. Democrats have been rioting in the streets for months. But as the sun sets tomorrow, the Senate will gather, and all of that bluster will once again prove ineffective because Judge Barrett has earned the trust and confidence of the American people and the U.S. Senate. For that reason, Judge Barrett will be confirmed tomorrow night.

I congratulate Judge Barrett on this high honor, and I thank her family—her beloved husband Jesse and her seven beautiful children—for sharing her with America. For those seven kids especially: I know that she will always be mom to you, but I trust you won’t object if we know her as Justice.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.