

lower court decisions. Obama has nominated 27 excellent individuals and must quickly suggest candidates for the 41 vacancies without nominees. For its part, the Senate must swiftly confirm nominees.

The vacancies in 83 judgeships resulting from GOP obstruction have, like Dr. Frankenstein, created monstrous dockets that jeopardize expeditious, inexpensive and fair case resolution. Thus, President Obama must promptly nominate, and senators rapidly confirm, numerous superb judges, so the courts can deliver justice. Boo!

TRIBUTE TO LLOYD GOODROW

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am proud to call to the Senate's attention the record of accomplishment of a military officer who has retired after 33 years of outstanding service to the Vermont Air and Army National Guard.

LTC Lloyd Goodrow served five Adjutant Generals. He distinguished himself in the position of State Public Affairs Officer. Through diligence, honesty, and integrity he forged a strong and straightforward relationship with the media and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

In the years after the attacks of September 11, 2001, Lieutenant Colonel Goodrow provided strong, meaningful support to deployed troops and their families. He helped Vermonters to make a human connection to the Guard during this difficult time. His empathy and deep understanding of the tragedy and suffering of Gold Star families not only aided those families in the healing process but left a lasting impression on Lloyd.

Lloyd is an outstanding family man. Marcelle and I are fortunate to count as friends Lloyd, his wife Margo, and their son Daniel. Daniel has been recognized at the State and national level for his swimming in the Special Olympics. Like his parents, he has been a strong advocate for people with special needs.

In recognition of Lieutenant Colonel Goodrow's service to our country and to our State of Vermont, I ask that an article, "Spokesman for Vt. National Guard retires," written by Matt Ryan in the November 1, 2012, edition of the Burlington Free Press, be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[The Burlington Free Press, Nov. 1, 2012]

GOODROW REFLECTS ON 33-YEAR CAREER
(By Matt Ryan)

Lt. Col. Lloyd Goodrow said during his tenure as spokesman for the Vermont National Guard, he has considered reporters and soldiers alike his colleagues.

"It's easier if you have a relationship with the media, and you understand where each other came from," Goodrow said. "Have we always agreed? No. Have we agreed to disagree? Yes."

Goodrow, 58, of Essex Junction retired at midnight Wednesday, ending a 33-year career with the Vermont National Guard. He said his next order of business is to find a new job.

"Today's bittersweet," he said earlier on Halloween. "I walk out of here tonight at midnight. The joke is I'm turning into a pumpkin."

The University of Vermont graduate worked much of his career with the Guard in public affairs. He typed his first news release in 1987, about a man who built a cheap device that could detect infrared light for the U.S. military. The story circulated nationally for two years, he said.

Goodrow has since spoken on behalf of soldiers who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and returned home to rebuild Vermont in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene.

"The hardest thing was dealing with the deaths of soldiers," he said. "The first time I looked into the eyes of a gold star mother, it changed my life forever."

That was the mother of Vermont Army Guard Spec. Scott McLaughlin, a 29-year-old husband and father of two from Hardwick who was shot and killed by a sniper in Iraq in 2005.

Goodrow said he helped the family gather photos of McLaughlin for the media and later convinced them to allow reporters in the church for the funeral services.

"The media is there to represent the community, and to help the community as well," he said. "I reminded them that you help the community mourn."

Goodrow said he leaves media relations in the good hands of Capt. Chris Gookin. Gookin stood to lead the Guard's public affairs office upon Goodrow's retirement.

"It's important that the public knows who we are, what we represent and what we can do for them," Goodrow said. "Because we belong to the people. We belong to the public."

Goodrow's retirement party is scheduled for noon Thursday at the American Legion in Colchester. His formal retirement ceremony is slated for 2 p.m. Sunday at the Green Mountain Armory at Camp Johnson.

"I really have been blessed," he said. "I've been part of a group that's been second to none."

RECOGNIZING ETHAN ALLEN FURNITURE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of Vermont's premier businesses is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. Ethan Allen Furniture has come to represent the very highest standards and quality that Vermont has to offer.

In 1932, two brothers-in-law from New York City established a wholesale company that sold small housewares. Four years later, they purchased a bankrupt furniture factory in Beecher Falls, VT, and began manufacturing early American furniture branded as the Ethan Allen line. They eventually renamed the company after Ethan Allen, a Revolutionary War hero who played an integral role in America's fight for independence and Vermont's admission to the Union as the 14th State.

Over the years, Ethan Allen Furniture has grown into one of the world's most prominent furniture makers and interior design specialists, with over 300 stores worldwide and manufacturing centers around the globe.

This world-renowned company has remained close to its Vermont roots and continues to employ many Vermonters because of their unique talent and experience in finely crafted furniture. It was great to see that the

company's president, CEO, and chairman, Farooq Kathwari, recently visited with employees at the Orleans, VT, facility to celebrate the company's anniversary and its return to profitability.

I congratulate Ethan Allen Furniture on this monumental anniversary, and I wish them much success in the future.

I ask unanimous consent that the September 26, 2012, Caledonian Record article entitled "Ethan Allen Celebrates 80 Years" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Caledonian Record, Sept. 26, 2012]

ETHAN ALLEN CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

(By Robin Smith)

Ethan Allen CEO, President and Chairman Farooq Kathwari praised his employees in Vermont Tuesday afternoon and announced performance raises as part of the company's 80th anniversary.

Ethan Allen plants in Orleans and Beecher Falls are profitable now for the first time since the Great Recession, Kathwari told employees who gathered in a plant storage facility at the Orleans facility to eat cake and celebrate.

The company wanted to begin the big anniversary celebration in Vermont where it began 80 years ago in Beecher Falls.

This morning, Kathwari and Ethan Allen officials will ring the bell to open the New York Stock Exchange. And in the next several weeks, the company will unveil a new line of American furniture and launch a marketing campaign, Kathwari said.

The company converted its operation in Orleans and elsewhere from mass production to custom-manufacturing over a year and a half, he said. The profitability and efficiency in Orleans is up 30 to 40 percent in the last two years, he added.

And now, instead of buying products from China, Kathwari said Ethan Allen is selling its furniture to China.

Ethan Allen received a fairly large order from China last year and has retail stores there.

"You folks will make orders for China. Think of that," he said.

"If someone had said . . . we would make lamps for China, we would have said 'That's crazy.'"

Kathwari invited a select group of company retailers, marketers, designers, board members and initial investors, plus local legislators, to a tour of the Orleans plant before he spoke to employees. Kathwari recognized long-time employees at the plant, one of whom had been at the plant for 53 years and introduced company leaders who had longevity with the company.

That's how Ethan Allen has survived 80 years and grown, he said, because experience and longevity allows nimble adaptability. "To be around for 80 years, you have to be plan or by accident reinvent it," he said.

Ethan Allen survived the Great Depression, he said, and now the Great Recession.

The company kept 70 percent of its manufacturing in the U.S., Kathwari said, "which is remarkable."

The company is committed to the Orleans plant, where 320 employees make tables, chairs and other furniture that has the name of the customer on the bar code label. Each piece being manufactured in Orleans is already sold "and our people know it," Kathwari said.

The Orleans staff have tremendous experience and knowledge, the Orleans and Beecher