

President Obama's circuit nominees has received a vote so quickly. In fact, the median wait time for President Obama's circuit nominees is more than seven times that for President Bush's circuit nominees.

This continued obstruction is one of the reasons we remain so far behind the pace set during President Bush's time in office. By February of President Bush's fifth year, the Senate had confirmed 205 of his circuit and district nominees, and judicial vacancies stood at 40. In contrast, just 173 of President Obama's circuit and district nominees have been confirmed, and the vacancy rate has risen again to 90, or more than 10 percent of the Federal bench. Judicial vacancies are nearly back at historically high levels.

Perpetuating these vacancies on the Tenth and Federal Circuits, and preventing Judge Bacharach and Richard Taranto from getting to work on behalf of the American people, does not benefit anyone. The Judiciary Committee has again done its work to vet, consider, and vote on these nominations. It is time for the Senate to act to confirm them.

I will speak more on nominations as we go along, but I do want to congratulate not only the senior Senator from Maine but also Senator KING and the people of Maine, and the people of the First Circuit. The circuit needs to have its vacancies filled, and I am glad we have such a good person.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield back all time on both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

All time having been yielded back, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of William J. Kayatta, Jr., of Maine, to be U.S. circuit judge for the First Circuit?

Mr. LEAHY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 20 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Alexander	Burr	Corker
Ayotte	Cantwell	Cornyn
Baldwin	Cardin	Cowan
Barrasso	Carper	Crapo
Baucus	Casey	Cruz
Begich	Chambliss	Donnelly
Bennet	Coats	Durbin
Blumenthal	Cochran	Enzi
Boxer	Collins	Feinstein
Brown	Coons	Fischer

Flake	Klobuchar	Reid
Franken	Landrieu	Roberts
Gillibrand	Lautenberg	Rockefeller
Graham	Leahy	Sanders
Grassley	Lee	Schatz
Hagan	Levin	Schumer
Harkin	Manchin	Shaheen
Hatch	McCain	Stabenow
Heinrich	McCaskill	Tester
Heitkamp	Menendez	Thune
Heller	Merkley	Toomey
Hirono	Mikulski	Udall (CO)
Hoeben	Moran	Udall (NM)
Isakson	Murkowski	Warner
Johanns	Murphy	Warren
Johnson (SD)	Murray	Whitehouse
Johnson (WI)	Nelson	Wicker
Kaine	Portman	Wyden
King	Pryor	
Kirk	Reed	

NAYS—12

Blunt	McConnell	Scott
Boozman	Paul	Sessions
Coburn	Risch	Shelby
Inhofe	Rubio	Vitter

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session. The Senator from Washington.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL CHUCK YEAGER

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, few Americans have helped this great country reach for the stars more than Gen. Chuck Yeager. Long before there were astronauts there was Chuck Yeager, a fearless test pilot, a true aviation pioneer paving the way for America's exploration of the galaxy. But Chuck Yeager's military career involved so much more than just testing cutting-edge aircraft and, as almost everyone knows, becoming the first man to fly faster than the speed of sound. Few Americans have been as unwavering or as relentless as Chuck Yeager in defense of this great country, in war and in peace, from World War II to Vietnam.

He was part of the "greatest generation" of Americans, the generation

that fought and won World War II and then came home and made America the world's greatest superpower. Among the greatest in that generation was Chuck Yeager.

Today is Chuck's 90th birthday, and I invite the entire Senate to join me in congratulating him. I am so proud of this man. Not only is he a native son of West Virginia but he is also a dear friend of mine. Chuck lives in California now, with his wife Victoria, but he still comes to West Virginia to hunt with me and roam the hills where he grew up.

He also visits the State from time to time to promote the foundation which bears his name, and which supports a scholarship program at Marshall University.

When I was Governor, Chuck and Victoria would sometimes visit Gayle and me at the Governor's Mansion. Some of you know I am a pilot, and during one of his visits to West Virginia I got him to join me on a flight. We were trying out a new airplane for the State. It was a real honor, but it was a little bit daunting, if you will, that I am flying left seat and Chuck is right behind me, evaluating the entire flight. Looking over my shoulder, having the greatest pilot who ever lived sitting there, was something I will never forget.

Some of the story of Chuck's life you probably know and some of it you may not. Chuck grew up in the small town of Hamlin. That is in Lincoln County, WV, so deep in an Appalachian holler that folks there used to say you had to pump in the sunshine. His father Albert Hal worked as a driller in the gasfields. His mother Susie Mae took care of Chuck, his two brothers, and two sisters.

Chuck and his father went hunting and fishing together. Chuck also worked with his father in the oilfields. He was fascinated by the drilling equipment. He liked cars—real fast cars. He especially liked his old man's Chevy truck. He not only drove it, he studied all of its mechanical details. He could basically take it apart and rebuild it.

Looking back, it is not surprising that in the middle of World War II, a patriotic kid from West Virginia who was good with rifles, mechanical equipment, and fast cars enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as an airplane mechanic—his first step toward becoming the single greatest pilot who has ever lived.

A new "flying sergeants" program eventually gave him his first chance to fly. Up until that time it was officers only. His first couple training flights didn't go so well. Some people might not know this, but he had to overcome airsickness. Can you believe that Chuck Yeager got airsick? Before long he found a new home in the sky in the cockpit of an airplane.

During World War II, Chuck flew numerous combat missions over Europe and shot down 13 enemy aircraft—5 in 1 mission. He was shot down over German-occupied France in 1944 but escaped capture to fly another day. But

before he could do that, he had to argue his case against being sent home under a no more combat rule. The rule was basically if a pilot was shot down, they could not let them go back, because if they were captured, they could basically tell who the people who saved them were. He pushed his way all the way up the chain of command to Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Ike ultimately granted Chuck's request to stay with his men.

After the war, Chuck became a test pilot. On October 14, 1947, he did what no man had done before—he broke the sound barrier in the experimental X-1 plane named the "Glamorous Glennis," after his late wife. His fabled flight ushered in a new era of aviation that prepared America for its greatest leap into space and so began the legend of Chuck Yeager.

Tom Wolfe wrote in "The Right Stuff"—a movie most of us have seen. If you haven't seen it, I suggest you do. Tom Wolfe wrote:

There were . . . other pilots with enough Pilot Ego to believe that they were actually better than this drawlin' hot dog.

Chuck had a way with words, if you ever have a chance to speak with him.

But no one could contest the fact that as of that time, the 1950s, Chuck Yeager was at the top of the pyramid, number one among all the True Brothers.

Throughout his long military career, General Yeager flew more than 10,000 hours in more than 330 models of aircraft. In 1966, he flew 127 missions in South Vietnam. He received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the special peacetime Medal of Honor. He was the youngest military pilot to be inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame in 1973.

Chuck officially retired from the Air Force in 1975 but maintained his status as a test pilot for another three decades, occasionally flying for the Air Force and NASA as a consultant.

In 1997, on the 50th anniversary of his historic flight breaking the sound barrier, he again flew past Mach One in an F-15D Eagle named the "Glamorous Glennis III." It was his last official flight with the Air Force. Of course, nothing stops Chuck Yeager. So last October on the 65th anniversary of breaking the sound barrier, he did it again, in another aircraft, at the age of 89.

Whenever he is asked about all his exploits, Chuck says he was just "doing his job," and that all he is he "owes to the Air Force." He has never ever wavered from that.

In his autobiography, he wrote:

My beginnings back in West Virginia tell who I am to this day. My accomplishments as a pilot tell more about luck, happenstance, and a person's destiny. But the guy who broke the sound barrier was the kid who swam the Mud River with a swiped watermelon, or shot the head off a squirrel before school.

Tom Wolfe believed Chuck Yeager to be the "most righteous of all possessors of the right stuff." Wolfe himself struggled to explain what he meant by "the right stuff." His best explanation was that "the right stuff" is that rare, almost indefinable mix of bravery, heroism, hard work, and focus that someone brings to "a cause that means something to a people, a nation, to humanity, to God." That describes Gen. Chuck Yeager as well as anything else I know.

He is a man of extraordinary skill and legendary courage. He has an unparalleled sense of duty and service to his country. He risked his life over and over. He is a great West Virginian. He is a great American. On his 90th birthday he is still, without a doubt, a man with "the right stuff."

I wish my dear friend the happiest of birthdays, and I urge every Senator to join me in saluting Gen. Chuck Yeager for his long and courageous service to this great country.

Thank you, General Yeager.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Kansas.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise to speak in morning business for such time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate—along with my distinguished friend and colleague Senator JERRY MORAN—the 150th anniversary of Kansas State University—home of the ever-optimistic Wildcats.

Since its beginning—even before Kansas joined the union as a free State—all the way up to today, Kansas State University continues to provide a first-rate education for thousands and thousands of students.

To quote the K-State alma mater lyrics: "I know a spot that I love full well." I—along with more than 200,000 alumni—am proud to call Kansas State University my alma mater, as did my father and also my son.

The year was back in 1858, when Kansas was only a territory—not even a State—that a group of local settlers founded Bluemont Central College. Then, in 1863, only 2 years into statehood, the State legislature and Governor became some of the first to accept the terms and conditions of the Morrill Act, thus creating the land grant system of colleges and universities.

On February 16, 1863, the Kansas State Agriculture College, formally

known today as Kansas State University, received a land grant charter and became the first operational land grant institution in the United States. Over the past 150 years, Kansas State University has progressed and expanded to accommodate the students and the people living in the State of Kansas—the people it has served so well.

Today, Kansas State University is comprised of nine academic colleges ranging from liberal arts to veterinary medicine. The university expanded its campus in Manhattan to include an aviation and technology school in Salina and an innovation campus in Olathe, KS. Also, Kansas State University Research and Extension has a presence in every county in Kansas—all 105. These offices are a source of vital information to every farmer and rancher in our State. We are staying true to our land grant roots.

Back in 1863, Kansas State University's first enrollment totaled a mere 14 students. This school year Kansas State University reached a record enrollment of more than 24,000 students. These students hail from all 50 States and over 90 countries. Out of this diverse population, the university has produced industry leaders, heads of States, humanitarians, generals, gifted scientists, and a few public servants.

Kansas State University has received national recognition for the exceptional education it provides students year after year. Kansas State continues to have college programs ranked the best in the Nation. The university has been recognized as a leader among public universities in total number of Rhodes, Truman, Marshall, Udall, and Goldwater Scholars.

I cannot talk about my alma mater without mentioning Kansas State University's athletic program, especially over the recent years. Since its first football game way back in 1883, dedicated fans have been coming to the sports arenas to support our athletes and our team. This intercollegiate athletic program has complemented the education provided by the university and has been a great source of purple pride for both alumni and Kansas.

As Kansas State University looks toward the future, it sets new goals for the institution and for its students. Launched by president Kirk Schulz in 2010, K-State 2025, the university's strategic plan, strives to make Kansas State University a top 50 public research institution within 15 years. Thanks to the work that has been done throughout the past 150 years and the research that continues, I have no doubt Kansas State University is on track to achieve this very important goal.

Throughout this week and weekend, students, staff, alumni, and friends of the university will gather in Manhattan, KS—the "little apple"—to celebrate the history of Kansas State University.

On behalf of the Senate, it is my honor to congratulate Kansas State