

investigating agency that the complaint not be made public, it has not been. I wish it were. It is not substantial or even substantially about Todd Jones. It is certainly not reason to oppose the confirmation.

The ranking member requested that the long-delayed June 4 confirmation hearing on the nomination to head ATF be postponed further, and I postponed it another week. During that postponement, over that last weekend, the ranking member threatened to use Senate rules for the minority to call an outside witness to testify at the hearing. There is no precedent for outside witnesses at a Judiciary Committee hearing for a subcabinet executive level position. I nonetheless sought to accommodate his last-minute demand by agreeing to his calling a witness.

The hearing proceeded on Tuesday and should have cleared the air. For instance, those opposing this nomination were unaware that Todd Jones had terminated a supervisor of the Fast and Furious operation.

The Judiciary Committee had for decades followed a tradition and practice of examining allegations against nominees in a bipartisan manner from the outset. That has not been the practice Republicans have followed during the last several years. They have, instead, not brought matters to the bipartisan staff but chosen to proceed on their own.

Sometimes we do delay committee consideration of nominations to allow a complaint to be resolved. Sometimes we proceed despite lawsuits involving nominees, such as the way we proceeded last year with the nomination of Judge Stephanie Rose of Iowa to the United States District Court for the District of Iowa even though there was a lawsuit pending in which there were allegations against her actions as the U.S. attorney for Iowa. Earlier this year, when defense counsel filed a motion against the U.S. attorney for the District of New Mexico making allegations, we independently examined the matter. The committee proceeded with that nomination rather than delay it.

I have reached out to the ranking member staff about getting back to our tradition of conducting bipartisan inquiries into allegations made against nominees. I hope that practice will be restored. With respect to the nomination of Todd Jones, we are further examining the matter, but I believe him qualified and at this time know of no good reason the Senate should not confirm his nomination to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

RECOGNIZING THE WAYSIDE RESTAURANT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I would like to pay tribute to the Wayside Restaurant—a trusted and venerated Vermont fixture and a staple of the community surrounding Montpelier, our State capital. The Wayside is

a local business that has remained true to the values of its humble beginnings. For nearly a century, the Wayside Restaurant has been a place where Vermonters can count on quality service, reasonable prices, and a quality meal that is sure to satisfy both the stomach and the heart. I am honored to join Vermonters in celebrating the Wayside Restaurant's 95th anniversary.

In 1918, when Effie Ballou first opened the Wayside's doors, many of the restaurant's offerings were prepared in the kitchen of her home and carried down to her roadside eatery. Never did she imagine that her small eating house would become the bustling spot that it is today, drawing both locals and out-of-State travelers and serving nearly 1000 customers daily. Every day, diners—from families to office workers pile into the Wayside Restaurant. Its warm environment, familiar staff and signature Vermont cooking make the restaurant a home away from home for locals and visitors alike.

The owners and staff of the Wayside Restaurant are devoted to providing extraordinary service to the crowds of loyal customers who stop in to pile their plates high with Wayside's fine fare. Regular customers of the Wayside Restaurant can order their meals to-go or can dine in while enjoying friendly conversation and classic Wayside dishes like the salt pork and gravy, honeycomb beef tripe, or maple cream pie.

Current owners Karen and Brian Zecchinelli have remained true to the restaurant's early virtues—preparation of quality, old-time favorites as well as modern cuisine, and a focus on family and community values. As a member of the Vermont Business Environmental Partnership, the Wayside Restaurant has implemented earth-friendly initiatives that are kind to our natural environment. In 2012, the Wayside Restaurant was recognized as the first and only "green" restaurant in Montpelier and was praised for its support of small business by buying locally produced products, a tradition they have kept throughout the years.

Today the Wayside Restaurant continues as a symbol of both longstanding tradition and effective progress. From Effie Ballou's humble beginnings to the eatery's current, booming success, the Wayside Restaurant holds a special place in Vermonters' hearts. Marcelle and I are always delighted to join them for a meal and visit with other patrons. I want to join the many others congratulating the Wayside on 95 successful years of enriching its community and supporting Vermont's local economy.

Every time I go there to eat I remember going with my parents, brother, and sister when I was a child. It was great then and still is.

TRIBUTE TO NORM BROWNSTEIN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to wish a happy, if slightly

belated, 70th birthday to Norm Brownstein—a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, and a talented and effective advocate for the alliance between the United States and Israel.

Norm's story is a classic American tale of a young man rising from humble beginnings to achieve big things. Born to an immigrant family, Norm was orphaned at an early age and faced a number of hardships. But he did not let that stop him from working hard or realizing his dreams—even if they differed from his original goal of becoming a dentist. In fact, Norm became the first member of his family to graduate from college and received both undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Colorado-Boulder.

He then opened a law firm with two fellow UC-Boulder law graduates in the 1960s. In the ensuing decades, that firm would transform into an agency with hundreds of employees and offices in all corners of the country.

And, as a board member of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee, Norm would also establish himself as a well-regarded supporter of the State of Israel and the relationship between our two countries. Clearly passionate on the issue, Norm has made his case effectively to numerous policymakers over the years—Republicans and Democrats alike.

As he looks back over his 70 years, though, I think Norm will be most proud of his role as a father of three, a grandfather of four, and as a husband.

So, today, please allow me to wish Norm a happy birthday, and to also wish him good health in the years to come.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, on June 10, 2013, I was regretfully absent during the vote on the Leahy amendment No. 998 because of travel delays due to inclement weather. Had I been able to attend the vote, I would have supported passage of this amendment, which establishes a pilot program to invest in gigabit networks in rural areas. This program has the potential to greatly improve Internet access in underserved communities, which can lead to significant improvements in commerce, education, health care and other areas. I applaud the Senate's passage of this amendment.

MICHIGAN'S GOOD NEWS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, much of what we read today in newspapers or on the Internet, much of what we hear on TV, much of what dominates our national conversation and our conversation here in the Senate is bad news. And it's understandable in a way that we're focused on righting wrongs and debating the solutions to problems. But too often we lose sight of the remarkable accomplishments and uplifting stories that are every bit as much a feature of the human condition as conflict and tragedy.