

director of the U.S. Marine Band, will retire after nearly 30 years with this history-rich and venerated organization.

We like the Marine Band, of course. My son is a Marine. But it is especially nice because Colonel Colburn is a native Vermonter, and his appreciation for the band, known worldwide as “The President’s Own,” began decades ago when the then-12-year-old euphonium-playing St. Albans native met a principal in the band while at summer band camp in Vermont.

In 1987, Colonel Colburn joined “The President’s Own” as a euphonium player and ultimately became the band’s director, a post he has held for the last decade. His tenure has taken him around the world and back again. He has played for Presidents and foreign dignitaries, at state dinners and inaugurations and regular performances that thousands have witnessed in Washington at the Marine Barracks during the weekly parades.

I have represented the Green Mountain State of Vermont in this Chamber longer than anyone in the history of our State. So you can imagine my enthusiasm when I see a Vermonter here in Washington and all the more so when I have the opportunity of capturing an image such as this, of Colonel Colburn conducting “The President’s Own” during the January 2013 inauguration of President Obama. I was standing up on the stand when the President was being inaugurated and took that picture of Colonel Colburn. Of course, the whole world was watching the Colonel and watching the President.

I join with the proud citizens of Vermont and the people of a grateful nation in thanking Colonel Colburn for his service and his many, many memorable performances conducting “The President’s Own,” following in the footsteps of John Philip Sousa and making his own giant footsteps for others to follow. I wish him the very best as he begins the next chapter of his career as the director of bands at the University of Indianapolis.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an interview with Colonel Colburn published in the Marine Corps Times in February.

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

[From the Marine Corps Times, Feb. 2, 2014]  
 ‘PRESIDENT’S OWN’ LEADER LOOKS BACK ON  
 TIME WITH ELITE MARINE BAND  
 (By Gina Harkins)

When Col. Michael Colburn was a 12-year-old euphonium player at a summer band camp in Vermont, he was in awe of one of the instructors there, Lucas Spiros, a principal in the United States Marine Band.

Colburn said the Marine, a fellow euphonium player, left a lasting impression.

“It was really the first time I thought, ‘Hey, I could do that for a living,’” Colburn said. “From that moment on, I pursued my musical studies more diligently.”

When Colburn himself joined “The President’s Own” as a euphonium player in 1987,

he had no idea his career path would lead to becoming director of the prestigious band. Now 27 years later, he’s just months shy of his final performance with the band. He’ll retire from the Marine Corps in July, and take over as the next director of bands at Butler University in Indianapolis.

Colburn said he wants young musicians to know that if they work hard and use their creativity, they can still pursue a career doing what they love. After all, his perseverance led him through seven presidential inaugurations, to the former Soviet Union and to the stage of the “Late Show with David Letterman.”

Q. Tell us what has surprised you during your time with “The President’s Own.”

A. In my early days as a conductor [while a member of the band], I had an interesting experience at the White House. I was leading our orchestra and was tapped on the elbow. I turned around and it was President Bill Clinton. He was very interested in the piece of music we were playing and had many questions that I tried to answer while I was conducting the orchestra. I realized that even though we were providing background music for a social event, you never know who’s listening very carefully—it could be your commander in chief.

Q. What’s one of the most rewarding things you’ve done with the band as a Marine?

A. Back when I was a player in the band, we toured the former Soviet Union for three weeks. That was really a memorable experience because it was in the 1990s, when the Soviet Union was really starting to come apart at the seams. To spend three weeks traveling the country and getting to know the people who lived behind the Iron Curtain—who we really didn’t know on a personal level at all—to hear their stories and learn how much we had in common is something I’ll never forget.

Q. After all these years with the band, is there any one song that you tend to feel strongly about when you guys play it?

A. People often ask whether I’m sick of playing “The Stars and Stripes Forever.” But even after these thousands of performances, we never get tired of it. And there’s one reason for that, and it’s the audience’s response to it, especially if they don’t know it’s coming. The “oohs and aahs” and the cheering make you feel like you’re playing it for the first time.

Q. Most troops do their job without much interaction with the public. What’s it like to carry out your job on a stage?

A. We really do understand that so much of our military indeed works behind the scenes. They don’t have the privilege of being on a stage and receiving applause. It’s especially during our tour concerts when we play the “Armed Forces Medley,” which includes all the service songs, that we remember all the men and women serving in uniform who are in difficult and trying circumstances where no one is offering applause. In those moments, we feel we are representing all those troops when performing for the American public.

Q. As you move into academia, what are some of the things you’re going to miss the most about the Marine Corps?

A. A lot of people assume my favorite part of the job is making music at the White House or meeting politicians and celebrities. That is thrilling, and I’ve loved it. But really the best part has to do with the quality of the people I’ve had the chance to work with in “The President’s Own.” They’re some of the finest people I’ve met. I’m really excited about the opportunity to make music with students, and I hope I can bring the very high standards that I have hopefully developed during my Marine Corps career.

## JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the judges that fill the two Federal district court seats in my home State have an extraordinary impact on the lives of Vermonters. So when I learned that one of my dearest friends, Judge William Sessions, was to take senior status after 18 years of distinguished service on the Vermont district court, I took seriously my responsibility to act swiftly to identify a candidate to recommend to President Obama for nomination. I worked with Senator SANDERS, Representative WELCH, and the Vermont Bar Association to convene a nonpartisan merit commission to find highly qualified candidates.

So I again thank the nine members of the nonpartisan Vermont Judicial Selection Commission, under the leadership of Peter Van Oot, for the time, effort, and insight they invested in the screening process. We are fortunate in our small State of Vermont to have so many highly qualified lawyers in the field of applicants willing to serve in such a demanding post. There were a number of highly qualified people. After being vetted and recommended to me by the commission, I recommended Justice Geoffrey Crawford to President Obama. I told the President I was not surprised that after the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary finished its vetting, they gave him their highest rating of unanimously well qualified.

Justice Crawford has significant criminal and civil experience. He was a Vermont trial court judge for 11 years and recently became an Associate Justice on the Vermont Supreme Court. He formerly was a partner in a Burlington law firm. Justice Crawford earned his B.A., cum laude, from Yale University and his J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School. Following law school he served as a law clerk to Judge Albert Coffrin of the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont.

I did not know Justice Crawford personally before this process, but when I did meet him I was struck by his brilliance, compassion, and humility. Justice Crawford earned a stellar reputation in Vermont’s legal community, and also from those who had appeared before him, as a careful jurist who understands the effects that legal rulings have on people’s lives. I have no doubt that once confirmed he will bring that same understanding and impartiality to the Federal bench.

The Judiciary Committee favorably reported Justice Crawford’s nomination unanimously by voice vote to the full Senate. Justice Crawford, like the three other nominees we will vote on today, has been nominated to fill an emergency vacancy. He is a qualified uncontroversial nominee with the full support of his home state Senators. He and the three other nominees deserve to be confirmed without delay.

I thank the majority leader for bringing these nominations up for a vote and urge Senators to vote to defeat

these filibusters and get these nominees working for the American people in courthouses around the Nation. Justice Geoffrey Crawford will serve Vermont well as a Federal district judge, and I look forward to his confirmation.

Madam President, I don't see anyone else at the moment, so I would suggest 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. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL BRANDON GARABRANT

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of LCpl Brandon Garabrant, a proud marine from Greenfield, NH, who was tragically killed in action in Afghanistan last week.

Lance Corporal Garabrant was an extraordinary young man who cared deeply about his country. Before he even graduated from ConVal Regional High School last year, he had already graduated from marine boot camp at Parris Island. Brandon was eager to serve and he followed in the footsteps of his great-grandfather and his grandfather in joining the military to serve our country.

Long before he joined the Marines, Brandon had already earned a reputation as someone who was passionate about serving others. Volunteering with the Temple Volunteer Fire Department starting at age 17, he became a full-time member of that fire department when he turned 18. The fire chief at Temple, George Clark, was quoted as saying Brandon "was all about helping people," adding that "no matter what needed doing, he was always the first guy there." Chief Clark said even when Brandon was home on leave he would get in touch and he would ask how could he help, a true reflection on Brandon's commitment to serving others as reflected in his service to our country.

Lance Corporal Garabrant was proud to be a marine and enjoyed the important work he was doing. He was a big-hearted young man with a bright future ahead of him, and he represented the very best of New Hampshire and the very best of our great Nation.

Brandon was taken from us far too soon. As we mourn his tragic loss, we commit ourselves to forever honor and cherish his memory and to carry on the proud legacy of service he leaves behind. Brandon was a true American hero for the sacrifice he made for our country, for our freedom. At this very sad time we also support and comfort his family who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

In the difficult days and weeks ahead, my thoughts and prayers will remain with his mother Jessie, his father John, as well as his brother Jacob and his sister Mykala. May God forever bless LCpl Brandon Garabrant. May we honor his selfless sacrifice for our country. If it weren't for people such as Brandon, we would not enjoy the freedoms we have in this great country. If it were not for marines such as Lance Corporal Garabrant, who stepped up to serve his country and volunteered on behalf of our great Nation, we would not have the free speech rights we enjoy or any of the other rights we enjoy.

My thoughts and prayers will remain with his family. My thoughts and prayers will remain with all of his fellow soldiers who have lost a friend, and my thoughts and prayers will remain with all of those in the Greenfield community, with the fire station, with Chief Clark, and all of those who have lost a great American hero.

Thank you, Madam President.

I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the cloture vote on the Byron nomination.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Paul G. Byron, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine,

Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Menendez, Barbara A. Mikulski, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Paul G. Byron, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 202 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—30

Alexander	Corker	Hoeben
Ayotte	Crapo	Inhofe
Barrasso	Enzi	Isakson
Blunt	Fischer	Lee
Boozman	Flake	McCain
Burr	Graham	McConnell
Chambliss	Grassley	Moran
Coats	Hatch	Paul