

DECEMBER 8, 2014.

Mr. RALPH E. RODGERS,
Executive Vice President & General Counsel,
Designated Agency Ethics Official, Ten-
nessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, Ten-
nessee.

DEAR MR. RODGERS: This supplements my July 3, 2014, letter to you describing steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest, consistent with 5 C.F.R. §2635.502, in the event I am confirmed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

While I have neither made nor been asked to make any commitments on any projects involving TVA, during the pendency of my nomination I have had contact and discussions with Franklin Haney, with whom I am acquainted, and persons associated with him. I have become aware that Mr. Haney has had business dealings with TVA in the past and has made significant business proposals to TVA that may extend into the future. In order to avoid any appearance of a lack of impartiality, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which Mr. Haney or any person on his behalf is a party or represents a party, or in which Mr. Haney, or his family, would have a direct or indirect financial interest.

Sincerely,

RONALD A. WALTER.

TRIBUTE TO MAX MAXFIELD

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, in his Inaugural Address to the Nation in 2001, President George W. Bush said:

We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests, and teach us what it means to be citizens. Every child must be taught these principles. Every citizen must uphold them.

In Wyoming, we have a quality leader who has embraced these ideals and is committed to sharing them with future generations. It is a distinct honor to recognize my friend, Secretary of State Max Maxfield, for his lifetime of service as a dedicated public servant. I invite my colleagues to celebrate his contributions as he steps down after sharing over 47 years of experience with the people of Wyoming.

In America, we demand a great deal from our leaders. We expect that they will be wise, altruistic, and that they will carry the hearts of the people with them in all they do. Max has done all of this—and more. He has dedicated his career to helping others and furthering his vision for the success of Wyoming. In doing so, our State has thrived.

Max's career as a public servant is long and distinguished. Max worked for 23 years as the executive director of the YMCA in Casper. He also served as the head of the Wyoming Make-A-Wish Foundation. He then led the Wyoming Recreation Commission and 2 years later the Wyoming Department of Commerce. In 1998 Max was elected as the State auditor for the two terms and then in 2006 as the Wyoming secretary of state for two additional terms. With his passion for excellence and his pride in Wyoming, Max took great responsibility in his commitment to promoting growth and prosperity for all.

It is sometimes thought that talented leaders must sacrifice their own

private pursuits for the good of the cause. Max has successfully demonstrated that it is possible to be a strong leader and still remain true to one's passions. Max and his wife Gayla have been lifelong advocates of giving back. Max has served on the boards of numerous charitable organizations. Among them, he is particularly passionate about helping children and animals. He currently serves as a board member of the Cheyenne Animal Shelter and in the past has worked with the Wyoming Congressional Award Program, Special Olympics, the Wyoming Children's Society, and Laramie County United Way. Max and Gayla have touched the lives of and positively impacted every person they have met.

Max Maxfield has long been a trustee for Wyoming, and his leadership has shaped the direction of our State. Indeed, Max and Gayla's contributions have benefited not only the governance of Wyoming but every community they have visited, every nonprofit organization they have supported, every friend and stranger they have met, and certainly every pet for which they have found a home. I trust that in his retirement Max will continue to remain active in the public sphere. While continuing to support causes that are near and dear to their hearts, Max and Gayla will enjoy quality time with their children, grandchildren, and beloved golden retrievers.

My wife, Bobbi, and I are honored to thank him for his service to the great State of Wyoming. Even more, we are blessed to call him our friend. Please join me in thanking Max Maxfield for his decades of service and wishing him the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA HASLAM

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a remarkable Vermonter, Rebecca Haslam, who is the recipient of Vermont's 2015 Teacher of the Year Award.

This award is a testament to Rebecca's dedication to her students' academic success and her work to promote the ideals of tolerance and diversity throughout the Burlington School District. Rebecca's leadership in education has helped encourage intellectual and personal growth in so many students. She has earned the respect of the community through her diligence in the classroom and for her innovative approach to learning.

Ms. Haslam's commitment to her students is unwavering, "They have such a love of learning and they are joyful when they come to school," she explained recently. Rebecca provides a welcoming environment for students to learn, fostering their social, academic, and emotional development.

Ms. Haslam sets high expectations and provides the guidance needed in

the classroom to ensure the success of all her students. Rebecca is committed to providing both a rigorous curriculum and a nurturing environment. Her academic expectations inspire students of all backgrounds and learning abilities to thrive.

Over the last few decades, Burlington's schools have welcomed students from all over the world, and for such a small city, the district's classrooms are among the most diverse in the country. Rebecca has drawn from her own childhood experiences in an effort to build bridges of understanding between students, faculty, and community members from different backgrounds. Rebecca serves as the Burlington School District's social studies and equity coach and works with teachers from around the district to incorporate the values of cultural competency in their lesson plans. These professional development sessions have served as valuable tools in capturing the interests of students and preparing them to be engaged citizens who prize equality in our increasingly diverse society.

Rebecca is a role model for all Vermonter. She uses her experiences to forge goals and serve as motivation for her students. The work that Rebecca does to create an atmosphere that is conducive to learning is commendable, and I would like to offer her warm congratulations on her award.●

TRIBUTE TO SIMON "CY" VINCENT AVARA

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the Beatles' song "Penny Lane" opens with lyrics about "a barber showing photographs/Of every head he's had the pleasure to know/And all the people that come and go/Stop and say hello." They could have been describing my barber for over 30 years, Simon Vincent Avara, or "Cy," as he was known to everyone. Cy passed away this Saturday at the age of 81. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a good friend and amazing man.

One might say that Cy Avara was born to be a barber. His parents Vincent and Mary were working class Italian-Americans. His father was a barber but was killed in a car accident when Cy was just 14. That did not deter Cy from following in his father's footsteps, however. He found an opportunity apprenticing for another West Baltimore barber and by the time he was just 16, he passed the examination to receive his master license. He was one of the youngest barbers in Maryland. While he was still 16, with just one year of high school under his belt, he opened his own barbershop with used equipment in a former funeral parlor. He charged 60 cents for a man's haircut and 40 cents for children.

A short time later, in 1953, Cy was drafted into the U.S. Army and honorably served our Nation in the Korean War. When he returned to civilian life, he attended cosmetology school—the