

basic constitutional obligation. This is one of those things that is written in the Constitution, and there is no one else assigned the duty of doing it other than the Senate. The House has no responsibility.

Some people here have said let the people decide. As I said earlier, the best way of letting the people decide is by having an open debate in the Senate. But the Constitution doesn't actually say let the people decide, it sets up what we ought to be doing.

I fear that if we start here, where will it end? If a President can't have his nominee considered over 300 days from an election, why not 2 years or 4 years from an election? Why not routinely hobble the Supreme Court until you get your way, until you have your President and your majority? Until then, we will not do the American people's business.

Even if the Constitution does not in fact oblige us to consider President Obama's nominee, it is, nevertheless, it seems to me, our duty as responsible public servants to do so and the American people's obligation to hold elected officials accountable and demand a full, functioning judiciary.

Believe me, I know it has become fashionable for Washington to tear down rather than work to improve the democratic institutions generations of Americans have built, but as I said, to impair so cavalierly the judicial branch of our government is unacceptable. It doesn't meet the standard of a great nation or a great parliamentary body. Comity and cooperation will not be restored overnight or with a single decision in this Senate. It has taken far too long for us to travel down this destructive road to deadlock, ideological rigidity, and bitter partisanship. Even with all of that, the least we could do is follow centuries of tradition and practice, preserve the judiciary from the partisanship that has paralyzed much of the other two branches, and act as conservatives by fulfilling one of our most fundamental duties as elected representatives.

It is long past time for the Senate to do its job, as every Senate before us since its founding has done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:44 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### THE JUDICIARY

JULIE REBECCA BRESLOW, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE RHONDA REID WINSTON, RETIRED.

DEBORAH J. ISRAEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE MELVIN R. WRIGHT, RETIRED.

CARMEN GUERRICAGOITIA MCLEAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE STUART GORDON NASH, RETIRED.

##### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. PAUL A. STADER