

The Senate must restore its tradition of regularly considering qualified, non-controversial nominees to fill vacancies on the Federal bench without needless and harmful delays. This is a tradition followed with Republican Presidents and Democratic Presidents.

I congratulate Judge Honeywell and her family on her confirmation today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Charlene Edwards Honeywell, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida?

Mr. CONRAD. 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 assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN: I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted: "yea."

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

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 343 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Akaka	Feinstein	Mikulski
Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murray
Baucus	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Bayh	Grassley	Pryor
Begich	Hagan	Reed
Bennet	Harkin	Reid
Bennett	Hatch	Roberts
Bingaman	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Boxer	Inouye	Sanders
Brown	Johanns	Schumer
Brownback	Johnson	Sessions
Bunning	Kaufman	Shaheen
Burris	Kirk	Shelby
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Snowe
Cardin	Kohl	Specter
Carper	Kyl	Stabenow
Casey	Landrieu	Tester
Coburn	Lautenberg	Thune
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Collins	LeMieux	Udall (NM)
Conrad	Levin	Vitter
Corker	Lieberman	Voinovich
Crapo	Lincoln	Warner
DeMint	Lugar	Webb
Dodd	McCain	Whitehouse
Durbin	McCaskey	Wicker
Ensign	McConnell	Wyden
Enzi	Menendez	
Feingold	Merkley	

NOT VOTING—12

Bond	Cornyn	Isakson
Burr	Dorgan	Kerry
Byrd	Gregg	Nelson (FL)
Chambliss	Hutchison	Risch

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I was necessarily absent for the vote on the confirmation of Charlene Edwards Honeywell to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. If I were able to attend today's session, I would have voted for her confirmation.●

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2010—Continued

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, it was my intention to ask unanimous consent to lay the pending amendment aside for consideration of amendment No. 2758. However, I will not make that request right now. It is my understanding, however, and I ask unanimous consent, that I be recognized for up to 7 minutes as in morning business.

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

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, it is my intention to go ahead in the morning and get this amendment in the queue. This amendment, No. 2758, is a simple, one-page amendment, and I will read the amendment because there has been a lot of confusion as to what is happening down at Guantanamo Bay. Amendments have been introduced to withhold funds from construction, to withhold the opportunities for people to come to the United States, but this is a simple, one-page amendment which states the following:

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this act or any prior act may be used to construct or modify a facility or facilities in the United States or its territories to permanently or temporarily hold any individual who was detained as of October 1, 2009, at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Some may ask: Why are we adding another Gitmo amendment? Hasn't everything been covered by previous amendments? The answer is clearly no. In 2007, the Senate voted 94 to 3 on a resolution declaring:

Detainees housed at Guantanamo should not be released into American society, nor should they be transferred stateside into fa-

cilities in American communities and neighborhoods.

Then, on May 20, 2009, the Senate passed my bipartisan amendment with Senator INOUE to the war supplemental bill prohibiting the transfer, release or incarceration of Gitmo detainees in the United States or its territories. It passed 90 to 6.

Senator INOUE stated:

We have not provided funding for the closure of Guantanamo because the administration has yet to produce a credible plan.

Unfortunately, the supplemental conference deleted that language, allowing detainees to be transferred or transported to the United States for trial.

Then, in October of 2009, the Senate voted 97 to 3 to pass the fiscal year 2010 Senate Defense appropriations bill that included language that prevents funding for any transfers, releases or incarcerations of Gitmo detainees to the United States through fiscal year 2010. The bill is in conference now, and we don't know what is going to be happening to it.

On October 28, 2009, the fiscal year Defense authorization and Homeland Security bills were signed into law that would allow transfer of detainees 45 days after the President provides a plan.

That is kind of where we are right now. This amendment will put the MILCON-VA bill into sync with previous authorizations and appropriations of the bill. So I will be trying to get this in and trying to get it passed. I will not go into any of the details.

I could probably talk for 3 hours on this floor, explaining why it is we should not give up this valuable asset called Gitmo. There is no place else to send these people, and I cannot imagine why there are some people, including the President, who seem to be bent on bringing those detainees into the United States. They have tried Fort Leavenworth, they have tried Fort Sill in Oklahoma, and some 31 States have now passed legislation saying they are not going to be in any of their facilities. So I don't think it is going to happen, but we need to get language in there that is consistent to make sure we keep that resource open.

By the way, this is one of the rarer resources that is very worthwhile. We have had this since 1907, and there is no place else in the world that is set up to both incarcerate and try detainees in a military court.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1963

Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 190, S. 1963, at a time to be determined by the majority leader following consultation with the Republican leader, and that when the bill is considered, it be under the following limitations: that general debate on the bill be limited to 60 minutes equally divided and controlled between the chair

and the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee or their designees; that the only amendments in order be six first-degree germane amendments, three each for the majority manager or his designee, and Senator COBURN; that debate on each amendment be limited to 40 minutes, equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that upon disposition of all amendments and the use or yielding back of all time, the bill as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate then proceed to vote on passage of the bill with no further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. INHOFE. Reserving the right to object, first of all, let me tell my good friend from Hawaii that I personally have no objection to the bill; however, I have been informed there are Members on our side who want to work out something. They feel very confident they will be able to work it out with the Senator, but for the purpose of today, to this unanimous-consent request, I have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we go into a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

TRIBUTE TO CLAIR EARL

Mr. REID. Madam President, I wish today to honor Clair Earl for his service to the people of Nevada. Very few people enjoy the privilege of servicing their community in both their professional and personal pursuits. Yet Mr. Earl has labored diligently for over 40 years as a dentist and as an ecclesiastical leader in Reno.

Clair was born in Overton, NV, and raised on a farm in Moapa Valley. Clair graduated from the University of Nevada—Reno, where he was the student body president his senior year, and did graduate studies at Brigham Young University. Mr. Earl also has degrees from Portland State University and the University of Oregon Dental School.

Professionally Clair Earl has practiced as a dentist in Reno since 1964. Over his 45 years of work he has gained a reputation as not only an excellent businessman, but also as a caring health professional to his community. He has spent these many years providing his patients with a high degree of service which has not gone unnoticed.

Clair Earl has a strong love for his family. His wife is the former Mildred Meyer, and they were married in

Logan, UT. They have 11 children and 50 grandchildren. All seven sons are Eagle Scouts. Eight of the children and seven of the spouses have served missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Earl should be proud of the job that he did as a parent raising these future leaders of the country.

Earl's values as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are the solid foundation for his life and family. Clair has been a force for much good among the LDS community in northern Nevada. He has served as a bishop, a counselor in the Reno Nevada Stake, and also as the church director of public affairs for northern Nevada. Currently, Clair Earl is serving as the president of the Reno Nevada Stake. This is a calling of great magnitude, considering that President Earl leads over 4,000 members of the church and does so without any pay or reimbursement for time. This great act of service is a tribute to the man that President Earl is and the strength of his convictions to bless the lives of others. Clair Earl is to be released from this calling on November 15, 2009, after serving 9 years in this capacity.

Brigham Young, prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and former Governor of Utah, once said, "We want men to rule the nation who care more for and love better the nation's welfare than gold and silver, fame or popularity." I feel confident that Clair Earl fits Young's definition of men who truly service this great Nation. I wish him all the best as he continues his service to the people of northern Nevada.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT LARSEN BRAY

Mr. REID. Madam President, today I wish before the Senate to honor Robert Larsen Bray. Although he is not a resident of my home State of Nevada, his lifetime of service has been exemplary and is worthy of our attention. On October 30, 2009, Bob officially retired from his position as chief information officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. This retirement marks the end of a career in public service that has been nothing short of monumental.

Bob was blessed to come from a wonderful family. Like me, Bob was born the son of a hard-working man who went to great lengths to provide for his family. Vern Bray, Bob's father, worked as a blast furnace operator, a gold miner, and also as a builder on the Hoover Dam, which is one of Nevada's prized possessions. Bob's mother, Myrl, instilled in her children a desire to learn and gain education. Three of her children went on to become outstanding educators, two of which did so in Nevada. My friend and Bob's oldest brother, Lawrence, was a longtime teacher in Las Vegas.

Together with his wife and best friend, Maryann, Bob has raised a great

family of his own. Over their 43 years of marriage they have raised nine children five girls and four boys. Their seven married children have provided the Brays with 20 grandchildren. Although it was difficult at times to provide and care for such a large family, the Brays fostered in their children an ardent work ethic and firm resolve to help their fellow man. I have witnessed firsthand the good they have bestowed upon their children, as my legislative correspondence manager, Vaughn Bray, is their eighth child.

Much like his father, Bob has worked hard his whole life. At a young age he learned to keep working until the job was finished, an unpleasant notion when faced with the task of picking beets or cleaning irrigation ditches. As a man, Bob worked full-time at night for the defense contractor Hercules in order to pay for his education at the University of Utah. Later, Bob would attain a master's in public administration at Texas Tech University in much the same way.

In order to provide for his family, Bob's work took him from Utah to Texas to New York to New Mexico and, finally, back to Texas. He has worked in some form of government for over 25 years. Most notably, he served as the director of planning at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX, and more recently as chief information officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Huntsville, TX.

Throughout his life Bob has been a dedicated member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As a 19-year-old, he served as a missionary in Canada under the direction of the current president of the LDS Church, Thomas S. Monson. He has gone on to serve in the church as a branch president, bishop, Stake president, and mission president in Nashville, TN. In these years of retirement that are soon to follow, Bob and Maryann are eager to continue to serve in any capacity possible. Bob has stated that if he has his way, the Brays will serve 10 more missions.

Although Bob had many duties at the home, office, and church, he still found time to serve his community. He and his wife labored as PTA presidents while their children were in elementary school. Bob has worked as a leader in the Boy Scouts, as a board member of the Lubbock, TX, Civic Center, and as a volunteer during Hurricane Rita. Politically, he has been involved on the local level of the Democratic Party, and even worked on the campaign of former Texas Congressman Kent Hance, the only politician ever to defeat former President George W. Bush in an election.

As his career comes to an end, it is safe to say that Robert Bray will not resign himself to a life of golf and afternoon naps. Old habits cannot be broken, and Bob Bray is a worker. I have no doubt that he will continue to labor diligently to improve his community and to make life a little better for