

CONFIRMATION OF MARVIN
KAPLAN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I voted in opposition to the nomination of Marvin Kaplan to the National Labor Relations Board, NLRB. The NLRB has an important responsibility to resolve labor disputes, protect worker rights, and ensure fair access to collective bargaining. Mr. Kaplan does not have experience arguing the law before the NLRB; rather, he has a history of working to erode its authority to protect the workforce.

As a staffer on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Mr. Kaplan has worked on legislation to overturn key NLRB decisions and delay and distort the union election process. He has provided no assurance that he would recuse himself from issues pertaining to his prior work that might lead to bias. Throughout his career, he has pursued policies that would undermine worker protections. He should not be appointed to a board that is charged with safeguarding them.

President Trump has repeatedly promised to put the American worker first. The NLRB has a key role to ensure a fair deal for workers. It is unfortunate that the President's nominees for the Board have not demonstrated a commitment to that mission.

227TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, on August 4, the U.S. Coast Guard will celebrate its 227th anniversary. On this special occasion, I want to commend the men and women of the Coast Guard for their valiant service on, under, and over our Nation's high seas and waters.

They have a proud history.

Most Americans know the Coast Guard for its orange and white helicopters, fast small boats, cutters, and rescue swimmers, but they probably don't know that the Coast Guard is one of our country's oldest institutions of the U.S. Government.

On August 4, 1790, President George Washington signed the Tariff Act, authorizing construction of the first 10 cutters of what would eventually become the Coast Guard. They were known as the revenue cutters, and their original mission was to enforce tariffs and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. For more than a hundred years, the cutters and their crew operated under the names Revenue Marine Service and the Revenue Cutter Service. Not until 1915, when Congress merged the Revenue Cutter Service and the U.S. Life-Saving Service, did the Coast Guard get its name.

Over time, the Coast Guard has become synonymous with saving those in peril on the sea. Their wide red bar and narrow blue bar, canted at 64 degrees, will always be a sign of assistance to mariners in danger.

Today, in times of peace, the Coast Guard operates as a part of the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security, performing its 11 critical, statutory missions.

Right now, there are courageous young men and women aboard buoy tenders and icebreakers, ensuring our waterways remain open for commerce. Fast response cutters patrol the seas, enforcing the law and conducting search-and-rescue missions. Small boat stations enforce our laws while educating the public on safe-boating practices. As a ready and capable partner to a multitude of Federal, State, and local agencies, the Coast Guard does so much more, from responding to oil spills to combating drug trafficking.

In times of war or at the direction of the President, the Coast Guard valiantly serves as part of the Navy Department.

As you can see, the Coast Guard is a small but mighty organization. As ranking member of the Commerce Committee, I have had the privilege to meet many of the men and women of our Coast Guard and see their valuable work firsthand.

Through all the passing decades, some things about the Coast Guard have always been the same: the service's proud tradition and the skill and professionalism of its men and women whose sacrifices contribute to protecting our national security. The Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty are evident in everything it does. As the Coast Guard motto says, *Semper Paratus*, it is always ready for the call.

I want to congratulate and express our sincere gratitude to the men and women of the Coast Guard on 227 outstanding years of exemplary service to our Nation.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 88TH
REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 100th anniversary of the 88th Regional Support Command. I am humbled to recognize the men and women who are bravely fighting for our country's freedom.

The 88th Regional Support Command, RSC, began as the 88th Infantry Division, ID. Organized in August 1917 at Camp Dodge, IA, the members of the "Cloverleaf Division" fought among the Allied Forces in the Alsace Campaign. They returned home following the war, and the Army demobilized the unit in June 1919.

Three years later, the 88th reformed within the Organized Reserve, with headquarters in Minneapolis and subordinate units elsewhere in Minnesota, Iowa, and North Dakota. The 88th ID mobilized in 1942 to serve the United States in World War II. It was one of the first units comprised solely of drafted soldiers. Despite a lack of experience, the 88th quickly gained a reputation as an effective unit of well-trained soldiers, which the Germans referred to as the "Blue Devils."

The 88th ID fought on the front lines during the 1944 Italian campaign. Its

arrival provided much-needed relief to the allied soldiers fighting on the Italian front. Led by Major General John E. Sloan, the 88th was the first division to enter the newly liberated Rome. After 100 straight days of activation, the Blue Devils were finally scheduled to receive a much-needed respite from the war. However, MG Sloan quickly instituted a training regimen that kept his soldiers in fighting condition, and they were ordered to head north to combat the Germans and provide support for American soldiers in Northern Italy.

For 344 days, the 88th Infantry fought to protect our American values during World War II. At the beginning of the war, MG Sloan promised, "the glory of the colors will never be sullied, as long as one man of the 88th still lives." Although many lives were lost, the 88th Infantry Division was deactivated in October 1947, having fulfilled MG Sloan's promise.

In April 1996, the 88th ID was redesignated as the 88th RSC. Headquartered in Fort McCoy, WI, the 88th RSC provides logistical and administrative support for Army Reserve soldiers. Whether they are providing training logistics, equipment maintenance or medical support, the members of the 88th RSC are making a difference for servicemen and servicewomen from Wisconsin all the way to the Pacific Coast.

Today the 88th ID lives on through the 88th Regional Support Command. Having fought in the Vietnam war, Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Bosnia, Kosovo, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the soldiers of the 88th RSC continue to support the more than 55,000 U.S. Army Reserve soldiers, families, and civilians across the United States. I am proud to recognize 100 years of their remarkable service and accomplishments.

REMEMBERING RICHARD DUDMAN

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Richard Dudman, one of our Nation's most esteemed journalists, passed away at his Maine home last night. I rise today in tribute to a great American reporter and engaged citizen.

After serving in the Merchant Marine and U.S. Navy Reserve during World War II, Mr. Dudman began his journalism career at the Denver Post in 1945 and joined the St. Louis Post-Dispatch 4 years later. In his more than three decades at the Post-Dispatch, he covered Fidel Castro's Cuban revolution, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Watergate and Iran-Contra scandals, as well as armed conflicts from the Middle East and Asia to Central and South America.

In 1970, while covering the Vietnam war, Mr. Dudman was captured by the Viet Cong and held prisoner in Cambodia, a harrowing experience he wrote about in his acclaimed book, "Forty Days With the Enemy." In 1981, on his last day as Washington bureau chief for

the Post-Dispatch, he ran up Connecticut Avenue to cover the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan. For some of the most momentous events of the second half of the 20th Century, Richard Dudman wrote the first draft of history.

After retiring and moving to Ellsworth and Little Cranberry Island in Maine, Mr. Dudman continued to contribute to the Post-Dispatch and wrote more than 1,000 editorials for the Bangor Daily News. Among his many accolades are the prestigious George Polk Career Award in Journalism and induction into the Maine Press Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Dudman combined his journalistic professionalism with a spirit of serving others. In 2014, he and his wife, Helen, were presented with the Golden Eagle Award from the Boy Scouts of America for their commitment to community service, a quality that ran through their remarkable 69 years of marriage.

In this time of sorrow, I offer my deep condolences to Helen and their family. I hope they will find comfort in Richard's inspiring legacy and in a life well-lived. It has been said that we all have a birth date and a death date, with a dash in between. It is what we do with our dash that counts. Richard Dudman's dash was extraordinarily long, and he made it count. He filled it with passion, professionalism, and dedication. May his memory inspire us all to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT "TREY" WALKER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate a tremendous airman, CMSgt Robert "Trey" Walker, on his recent promotion to the highest enlisted rank within the U.S. Air Force, effective August 1, 2017. Selection for chief master sergeant is extremely competitive, as only 1 percent of the Air Force's entire enlisted population may hold the pay grade of E-9 at any time. Chief Walker clearly epitomizes the finest qualities of a military leader, as evidenced by his distinguished career and elevation to the highest enlisted level of leadership within the Air Force.

Chief Master Sergeant Walker entered the U.S. Air Force on September 11, 1996, as a voice network systems specialist and was later selected for retraining into the field of imagery intelligence. Chief Walker's honorable service has spanned numerous overseas and stateside assignments including four European countries, two States, and the Nation's Capital. He has also completed several deployments in support of Operations Desert Fox, Northern Watch, and Enduring Freedom. Chief Walker currently serves as the deputy chief of strategic basing and force structure in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force's legislative liaison directorate.

Chief Master Sergeant Walker has chosen to repeatedly lead his airmen

by example. Despite years of challenging work schedules and countless military obligations, Chief Walker elected to make his education a priority. Since 2005, he has earned two associate degrees, a bachelor's degree, two master's degrees, and a graduate-level certificate. Furthermore, Chief Walker's outstanding performance has garnered numerous accolades, including the 548th ISR Group's Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award, the Non-commissioned Officer Academy's Distinguished Graduate Award, the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy's Distinguished Graduate Award and Academic Achievement Award.

As a true testament to Chief Master Sergeant Walker's exceptional career, he was selected to represent the U.S. Air Force on Capitol Hill as its sole enlisted legislative fellow in 2016. I was fortunate to have Chief Walker spend the year in my office as an integral part of Team BOOZMAN and was pleased with his professionalism, character, and devotion to duty. His tireless efforts were critical to the passage and implementation of Public Law 144-292, the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016. Moreover, Chief Walker led a bipartisan effort to protect the Defense Department's basic allowance for housing by educating 18 Senators on the impact for military members. Finally, he played a key role in the successful execution of the Senate Air Force Caucus agenda by increasing service engagement opportunities with Members of Congress.

Chief Walker, congratulations on your well-deserved promotion and successful career thus far. I am so proud of your many accomplishments and wish the very best for you and your family in the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RICHARD "DICK" GORDON, JR.

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the life and legacy of Arkansas World War II veteran and civic activist Richard "Dick" Gordon, Jr., who recently passed away.

Dick dedicated his life to regional conservation and civic issues. He encouraged involvement in local government and leaves behind a legacy as a respected community leader.

His father, Colonel Richard Gordon, Sr., a decorated WWI and WWII veteran, set an example that his son followed. During World War II, the younger Gordon served as second lieutenant in the Army's 13th Field artillery unit, 24th Infantry Division, and earned recognition for his service to our country.

As a community leader in the Fort Smith area, Dick made a big impact on numerous agencies and projects. He championed veterans' issues and helped address public school issues with the help of the parent teacher association. He formed the public awareness com-

mittee in Fort Smith, which allowed residents to interact more with government officials.

Dick helped develop a bird sanctuary in conjunction with the Audubon Society earning him the nickname "The Bird Man."

Additionally, Dick was active in the Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department and the U.S. Forest Service. He used these platforms to help bring environmental consciousness to Arkansas.

His civic involvement and willingness to help the community made Dick a well-respected community leader, even though he never held elected office. Then-Fort Smith Mayor Bill Vines made Dick an honorary city director.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends as they mourn his loss, but I know that they are also incredibly proud of the legacy that Dick leaves behind.●

TRIBUTE TO SPENCER M. HOULDIN

• Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Spencer M. Houldin of Roxbury, CT, as he nears the end of his term as the 112th chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, also known as the Big I. Spencer was installed as chairman of the Big I in September 2016, becoming the youngest person to serve as chairman in the association's 120-year history. Throughout his term, even when he and I disagreed, Spencer was always a thoughtful and dedicated advocate for independent insurance agents.

Prior to becoming the chairman, Spencer often served as a leader in the independent agency system. He chaired the Big I national Government Affairs Committee in 2009 and served as the president of the Connecticut Big I association in 2004. In these leadership positions, Spencer consistently promoted an environment where independent agents, in both Connecticut and across the country, could both thrive in their business and represent their customers with the highest quality of care.

Spencer has consistently served his community in Connecticut. He resides in Roxbury, CT, with his wife, Carol, and two sons, Chandler and Carter. Spencer is president of Ericson Insurance Services in Washington Depot, CT, where he has 25 years of experience as a personal insurance advisor, working alongside his brother Peter. He currently sits on the board of the Western Connecticut Health Network, which is comprised of Danbury Hospital, Norwalk Hospital, and New Milford Hospital. He has been involved with the health network in various capacities over the past 20 years. He recently co-chaired a \$72 million capital campaign for Danbury and New Milford Hospitals. In July 2017, Litchfield Magazine named Spencer one of Litchfield County, Connecticut's 25 most influential people.

Today, I am pleased to join Spencer's colleagues from across Connecticut and