

Camie is a remarkable person and athlete whose warmth and dedication to the sport of water-skiing has endeared her to the Charleston community. She serves as a powerful example to persons with disabilities of what they can achieve in the realm of competition. South Carolina is lucky to have Camie Ogren and her limitless energy in advancing her sport and its athletes.●

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BERNT BALCHEN

● Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, Col. Bernt Balchen, A Norwegian-born pilot, became one of America's great Arctic experts of the 20th Century. A patriotic American, he was also a great friend of the State of Alaska.

Born in Norway on October 23, 1899. Colonel Balchen served in the French Foreign Legion, and both the Finnish and Norwegian Armies in World War I; and became a pilot in the Norwegian Naval Air Corps in 1921.

Throughout the 1920's and 1930's Colonel Balchen participated in numerous trans-Atlantic and Arctic expeditions. During 1928-1930, Balchen was chief pilot on Admiral Byrd's Atlantic expedition and on November 29, 1929, he piloted the first airplane, a Ford trimotor "Floyd Bennett" across the South Pole. Congress conferred United States citizenship of Colonel Balchen in 1931.

When World War II started in 1939, Colonel Balchen began ferrying airplanes to England and Singapore for the British. In 1941, he joined the United States Army Air Corps at the request of General "Hap" Arnold, and was assigned to Greenland to Supervise the Construction of, and later command, our famous airbase known as "Bluie West 8". His command is credited with numerous rescue missions saving many pilots whose planes had gone down on the icecap.

In 1943, Balchen became chief of allied transportation command for Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and the Soviet Union, operating out of a secret base in Scotland. During that period, his command regularly flew across enemy-occupied territory to rescue downed allied airmen and insert commandos and intelligence agents behind enemy lines. He also led highly secret missions into Norway to resupply underground resistance forces for their operations against the German army of occupation.

After the war, Balchen was recalled to active duty with the United States Air Force in 1948 and assigned to command the 10th rescue squadron at Elemendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. The techniques of Arctic Rescue that Colonel Balchen developed during this assignment continue to save the lives of civilian and military personnel to this day. In May 1949, he flew a Douglas C-54 from Fairbanks, Alaska over the North Pole to Oslo, Sweden, becoming the first pilot to fly over both Poles.

Colonel Balchen was transferred to headquarters, United States Air Force in 1951 to participate in developing the Ballistic missile early warning system (BMEWS). Also, he was instrumental in the establishment of Thule Air Force base in Greenland and blazed airborne trails to assist both commercial and military aviation in the Arctic region. After retiring from the Air Force in 1956, Balchen continued to serve on special assignment and as a consultant to the military.

Col. Bernt Balchen died on October 23, 1973, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His lifetime achievements influenced the course of Aviation, arctic, and military history. His legacy to this country and to my State of Alaska is a strong northern defense, an established transpolar aviation system, a better understanding of the world's polar regions, and, of course, the lives of those rescued by Colonel Balchen and the men and women who continue his work with the United States Air Force Rescue Service.●

#### MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 73, the continuing resolution, which is at the desk. I further ask consent the joint resolution be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 73) was read the third time and passed.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar:

No. 98, Cheryl Shavers, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology; No. 99, Kelly Carnes, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy; No. 133, Lawrence Harrington, to serve on the Inter-American Development Bank; Nos. 244, 245, and 246, three Mississippi River Commissioners; No. 253, Thomas Leary, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner; No. 254, Stephen Van Beek, to be Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation; No. 255, Michael Frazier, for the position of Assistant Secretary of Transportation; No. 256, Gregory Rohde, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications; No. 270, Florence-Marie Cooper, to be a U.S. district judge in the Central District of California; No. 274, Barbara Lynn, to be a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Texas; No. 277, Gerald Poje, to serve on the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board; No. 278, Skila Harris, to be on the TVA

Board of Directors; No. 279, Glenn McCullough, to be on the TVA Board of Directors; No. 238, Dorian Vanessa Weaver, for the Export-Import Bank; and No. 239, Dan Renberg, to be on the Export-Import Bank; and then Nos. 281 through 290, ten sentencing commissioners; and No. 293, Paul Seave, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRAHAM. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM. I have a question of the leader. Will the majority leader agree to delete No. 279 from the list of nominations?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I inquire of the Senator, is that Glenn McCullough of Mississippi, my home State, to be a member of the Tennessee Valley Authority board of directors?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes.

Mr. LOTT. No, I will not agree to that. I should point out there are some 27 nominations—25 nominations plus 2 more on which I was going to ask for agreement on a time limit and a vote, the nomination of Linda Morgan to be a member of the Surface Transportation Board—her nomination has been held up quite sometime, but I have agreement now to proceed to a recorded vote on that one, and also No. 271, the nomination of Ronald Gould of Washington to be a U.S. judge for the Ninth Circuit. We need to request 1 hour of debate and a recorded vote. There are a total of 27 nominations here, including 2 that will have to have a recorded vote. It is a package. They all go or none go.

Mr. GRAHAM. In light of that, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I can be heard briefly on that. I want to emphasize this is a very large package of 27 nominations. Most of them are people who are supported by Democrats, I guess 23, 24, 25 of those. There are two or three that are Republican positions. One of them is for the Tennessee Valley Authority, which I presume is being objected to for an unrelated reason because, clearly, there is no problem with this nominee.

I will be back early next week with additional nominations that will run this package up to, I presume, between 34 and 40 nominations. All I can do is get them cleared and then offer them to the Democrats. If they object, then that is their problem.

I should also note that included in this group was not one, not two, but three judges, two of them women. One of the women is from California and one of them is from Texas. So for one 6-year appointment—I believe it is a 6-year term—to the Tennessee Valley Authority where there is a need for these two directors, they are willing to hold up 27 nominations, including two