

While we can all be proud of what Coy Short has accomplished as Chairman of the Georgia Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, his commitment to helping the military is not limited to his service to that body. He also serves as President of the B-29 Superfortress Association, which has restored and put on display at Dobbins Air Reserve Base one of those classic World War II era bombers, named "The Sweet Eloise", and is working on restoring the tenth C-130 Hercules to have been produced in Georgia, which will also be displayed at that facility. Additionally, Coy serves on the Executive Committee of the USO Council of Georgia, as Ambassador for the U.S. Army Reserve, and is a member of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce's Greater Atlanta Military Affairs Council Executive Committee. In the past, he has served as the President of the Atlanta Chapter of the Association of the United States Army and as the Chairman of Peach Bowl's Community Events Committee. Not surprisingly, Coy's efforts have won him deservedly high praise and recognition in many forms including winning the prestigious Sam Nunn Award for Outstanding Support of the National Guard; the Oglethorpe Distinguished Service Medal for Outstanding Support of the Georgia Guard; the National Distinguished Service Award from the Association of the United States Army; the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Award for Outstanding Public Service; the Army Commendation Medal, awarded for public service on behalf of Army Forces Command; the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce Phoenix Award; the Dobbins Air Reserve Base Man of the Year Award; the Eli White Award of the Old Guard of the Gate City Guard; and, twice winning the National Guard Association's Patrick Henry Award.

I am pleased and proud to be able to have this opportunity to commend my good friend, Coy Short, on his many years of public service and the invaluable support he has given to our armed forces, particularly those who serve in the Guard and Reserve. It is my hope that others will be inspired to follow the lead that Coy has set for public service. The qualities of patriotism, selflessness, and duty were obviously instilled in him at an early age, and we have all benefitted from his devotion to service. Certainly Coy's mother, Eloise Strom, as well as Coy's wife Judy, deserve special recognition for the role they played in Coy's success.

Coy, we appreciate all your good work and know you will continue to find ways to make a difference in the lives of those who live in Georgia, Atlanta, and all those who serve in the armed forces of the United States.

THE DEPARTURE OF STEVEN APICELLA, LEGISLATIVE FELLOW

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize my

Legislative Fellow, Steven Apicella, who will be leaving the LOTT staff, my team, at the end of this session.

I must admit, when Steven first joined us, I was not sure who he was or why he was lurking in my meetings. However, I quickly learned that thanks to the wisdom of my Chief of staff and then Legislative Director, the Department of Energy had lent me and Mississippi one of their best.

Over the past twenty months, Steven has become an indispensable part of my legislative shop. He has worked hard on a broad range of issues—each time jumping in feet first, soaking up knowledge, and moving legislation forward in this often complicated process.

Steven began his Capitol Hill experience during the lengthy and grueling TEA-21 negotiations. He quickly realized my transportation priorities for my home state of Mississippi, and was helpful in making sure these issues were not ignored. During these long hours spent hammering out the details of TEA-21, Steven earned the respect of staff, as well as mine.

Steven advised me on a variety of high-tech issues, and was an active participant of the team which formulated a focus for the Republican Technology Task Force. He worked with the staffs of several of my colleagues to reach a consensus—often not an easy task.

Steven has also been very diligent in advancing a meaningful and updated encryption policy—one that balances national security, law enforcement and trade interests. He continually made sure that all parties realized that these are not mutually exclusive priorities. Steven detected this significant issue and was responsible for bringing it to my attention and guiding me as the bill worked its way through the Commerce committee.

Digital signatures is another issue Steven has aggressively pursued. He played an active role in getting the government portion of the legislation enacted into law last Congress, and worked extensively toward today's Senate passage of this needed opportunity for the private sector.

An important service on behalf of the State of Mississippi has been Steven's diligence on national parks legislation. This year Steven was very helpful in preparing two bills that I introduced in this area—one to add the battlefield at Corinth as part of the Shiloh National Park, and another to begin the planning for the designation of the Vicksburg Campaign Trail. On each of these bills, Steven worked effectively with the Senate committee of jurisdiction and was responsible for getting the funds authorized before introduction. I am happy to say that today those bills passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

Finally, with Steven's help I again fought the uphill battle of Title Branding. Steven worked with and strengthened a large, bipartisan effort to draft and support legislation to brand the titles of severely damaged salvaged vehi-

cles, so consumers will be able to identify potentially dangerous used cars before they are purchased. Steven searched for a compromise, and constantly pushed the envelope of consensus. Steven tirelessly championed this pro-consumer bill and his efforts brought it to the threshold of Senate passage.

Although Steven was assigned areas which were outside the realm of his "parent" employer, Department of Energy—he has been an excellent ambassador. He has helped the staff understand the intricacies of the agency and appreciate its problems. As Steven returns to his duties at DOE, I hope his experiences and the skills and contacts he has developed while serving as a part of my staff will serve him well.

Over the past several years, I have been privileged to have the services of legislative fellows, to provide stellar support for my efforts. Steven has been fantastic. I thank Steven for his dedication and determination, and I thank DOE for their patience—I'm sure they are ready to have him back, working his magic there. I wish Steven, and his son Jarrett, Godspeed in their future endeavors.

REMARKS ON THE DEPARTURE OF IVAN SCHLAGER

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today with both pride and sadness as we say goodbye to a long time member of my staff, Ivan Schlager. I have known Ivan for nearly 20 years. One cold afternoon at Northwestern University in 1983, Ivan approached a woman, he thought to be a staffer on the Hollings for President Campaign and offered to volunteer on that effort.

That "staffer" turned out to my wife, Peatsy Hollings, and before Ivan knew what had happened, he was driving and wading through the snow of New Hampshire in support of my effort.

After finishing at Northwestern and law school at Georgetown, Ivan joined the Commerce Committee staff in 1989 and began to assist both Senator ROCKEFELLER and myself at the Subcommittee on Tourism and Foreign Commerce. In this job, he played an important role on many of the international trade agreements concluded over the past decade, including most notably the Uruguay Round agreement which created the WTO and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

I truly believe that Ivan is one of the most knowledgeable and substantive individuals with regard to international trade. He was instrumental in insuring that all voices were heard during these important debates.

More than 3 years ago, Ivan became the Commerce Committee's staff director and he has overseen its operations since that time. He has provided the committee Democrats with a thoughtful and pragmatic approach to a remarkable variety of issues. Moreover, he has developed a fine working relationship with Chairman MCCAIN, his

staff and the remainder of the Republicans on the committee.

On many occasions, these relationships have assisted in forging a bipartisan consensus on a variety of issues that have helped advance good public policy in areas such as telecommunications and broadcast policy, aviation, trucking and rail issues, technology development and environmental and oceans concerns.

One particular issue stands out, last year's tobacco debate. Under difficult personal circumstances, Ivan worked closely with both Republicans and Democrats to help craft a compromise that was reported out of the committee by a 19-1 vote.

On other occasions, such as product liability or international trade we have been unable to reach bipartisan consensus and have been forced to hash out our differences on the Senate floor. In those instances, I have been blessed to have Ivan's energy, quick thinking, political intuition and wise counsel during the debate.

As, I mentioned earlier, I first met Ivan when he was in his early twenties. Both Peatsy and I have seen him grow from a college student to a dedicated and accomplished public servant. We rejoiced when he met and married his lovely wife, Martha Verrill. We celebrated when they had a baby boy, Ethan, and then a second, William. We grieved with him when his father passed away last year. And today we wish him well as he moves onto his next step in joining the internationally recognized law firm of Skadden, Arps.

Ivan, thank you for all that you have done for Peatsy and me, the Commerce Committee, and for our country. We will miss you.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 106TH CONGRESS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as the Senate concludes this first session of the 106th Congress, I want to take a moment to thank Senator LOTT, the majority leader, and Senator HATCH, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for working with us to confirm some of the judges desperately needed around the country.

Senator HATCH has pressed forward with three confirmation hearings since October 5, in the last five weeks of this session to bring the total number of hearings to seven for the year. Those hearings allowed for 12 additional judicial nominees to be reported to the Senate calendar and another two being ready for action by the committee. Senator HATCH supported all but one of the nominees voted upon by the Senate this year and worked hard to clear judicial nominees reported by the committee for action by the Senate.

I thank the majority leader for working with me and Senator DASCHLE, our Democratic leader, to find a way to consider each of the judicial nominations reported to the Senate by the Ju-

diary Committee. In early October he committed to working with us and last week he announced that he would press forward for votes on the nominations of Judge Richard Paez and Marsha Berzon by March 15 and on the other nominations left pending on the Senate Executive Calendar, as well. With his assurance, Senator BOXER was willing to proceed immediately to consider a nomination important to the Senator from Mississippi. I want to commend Senator BOXER and Senator FEINSTEIN for their efforts on behalf of both Judge Paez and Ms. Berzon. With their support these nominees are each now headed toward final confirmation votes.

For the year, the senate confirmed 33 federal judges to the District Courts and Courts of Appeals around the country and to the Court of International Trade. The Senate has voted to fill only 33 of the 90 vacancies that have existed throughout the year, however, and there remain 36 judicial nominees still pending before the Senate. Most regrettably, the Senate rejected the nomination of Justice Ronnie White on an unprecedented part-line vote. Senator HATCH is fond of saying that the Senate could do better. I agree with him and hope that we will continue to do much better next year.

I began this year challenging the Senate to maintain that pace it established last year when the Senate confirmed 66 judges. I urged the Senate to move away from "the destructive politics of [1996 and 1997] in which the Republican Senate confirmed only 17 and 36 judges." We did not achieve much movement in the first 10 months of this year. It is my hope that developments over the last week signal that the Senate is finally moving toward recognition of our constitutional duty regarding judicial nominations and that we will consider them more promptly and fairly in the coming months.

I note that during the last two years of the Bush Administration, a Democratic Senate confirmed 106 federal judges. To reach that total this Congress, the Senate next year will need to confirm 73 additional judges. That will take commitment and work, but we can achieve it. In 1994, with a Democratic majority in the Senate, we confirmed 101 judges, and in 1992, the last year of the Bush Administration, a Democratic Senate confirmed 64 federal judges.

Meanwhile we end this year with more judicial vacancies than existed when we adjourned at the end of last year. We have again lost ground in our efforts to fill longstanding judicial vacancies that are plaguing the federal courts. In 1983 vacancies numbered only 16. Even after the creation of 85 new judgeships in 1984, the number of vacancies had been reduced to only 33 by the end of the 99th Congress in 1986. At the end of the 100th Congress in 1988, which had a Democratic majority and a Republican President, judicial vacancies numbered only 23. In 1999 the

Republican Senate adjourns leaving 57 current vacancies with 10 on the horizon.

Moreover, the Republican Congress has refused to consider the authorization of the additional judges needed by the federal judiciary to deal with their ever-increasing workload. In 1984 and in 1990, Congress did respond to requests for needed judicial resources by the Judicial Conference. Indeed, in 1990, a Democratic majority in the Congress created judgeships during a Republican presidential administration. Two years ago the Judicial Conference of the United States requested that an additional 53 judgeships be authorized around the country. This year the Judicial Conference renewed its request but increased it to 72 judgeships needing to be authorized around the country. If Congress had passed the Federal Judgeship Act of 1999, S. 1145, as it should have, the federal judiciary would have 130 vacancies today. That is the more accurate measure of the needs of the federal judiciary that have been ignored by the Congress over the past several years.

More and more of the vacancies are judicial emergencies that have been left vacant for longer periods of time. The President has sent the Senate qualified nominees for 15 of the current judicial emergency vacancies, which nominations remain pending as the Senate adjourns for the year.

Most troubling is the circuit emergency that had to be declared three months ago by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. That is a situation that we should have confronted by expediting consideration of the nominations of Alston Johnson and Enrique Moreno this year. I hope that the Senate will consider them both promptly in the early part of next year. In the meantime, I regret that the Senate is adjourning and leaving the Fifth Circuit to deal with the crisis in the federal administration of justice in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi as best it can but without the resources that it desperately needs.

COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, due to the illness of a family member, I was unable to participate in much of the debate on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. I voted in favor of ratification of the treaty, and, now that there is ample time, I want to express my views on the treaty and the debate prior to the Senate's vote against ratification.

In my view, that vote was a sad day for the United States Senate, for our nation and for the world. During the debate, my colleague, Senator CLELAND spoke eloquently of the pride he felt as a young man sitting in this chamber 36 years ago when the Senate voted to ratify the first nuclear test ban treaty which prohibited atmospheric nuclear tests. I doubt that many people can express a similar sense of pride over the