

say that, although we are happy for Joan upon her retirement and we wish her nothing but the best with her new post-Senate endeavors, we are saddened by her departure and we will miss her dearly.

We will miss her dedication to the people of the State of Ohio. We will miss her optimism and her cheerful nature. We certainly will miss her terrific sense of humor. Most of all, we will just miss Joan.

She is one great lady. My wife Fran and I wish her all the best in the world.

In conclusion, I thank Joan for her dedication to the people of the State of Ohio, for her friendship, and for the work she has done for our country.

TRIBUTE TO JENNY OGLE

Mr. DeWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to good friend and member of my staff, Jenny Ogle, for all the great work she has done for the people of Ohio. Jenny, who runs the joint casework office we have with Senator VOINOVICH, is retiring today. We are going to miss her dearly.

When I started thinking about her retirement, my mind was flooded with fond memories and so many laughs and good stories. There is no one else like Jenny. Before coming to work for our joint casework office, she ran my Senate casework office worked for me when I was in the House of Representatives for 8 years, and also worked for Congressmen Bud Brown and DAVE HOBSON.

She is a true professional—someone who has been really a stabilizing force in our whole casework operation. The casework operation, of course, is what reaches out to people. It is where people of the State of Ohio go when they have a problem. They do not come to us, and they do not come to Jenny unless they are already frustrated with the Federal bureaucracy or the State bureaucracy or something else. When they come in, they already have plenty of problems. Jenny has been the one who worked out those problems.

It takes a good deal of patience to handle the kinds of things Jenny has seen over the years in that casework office. She has seen just about everything.

That is why I have always been amazed by her steadiness—her unbelievable ability to deal with the kinds of cases and the kinds of problems that are seen on a daily basis. What really impresses me is that she is always still smiling and laughing at the end of the day. She always has done her job with great professionalism and great compassion.

Jenny also has been a real leader in our office. For example, she pioneered the military academy nomination process, a very complex process. She essentially wrote the book on it. What she has developed is today being used around the country in congressional office after congressional office. She wrote the bible on how Congressmen

should handle their academy nominations. I thank her for that.

I have known Jenny for a long time—since those days when she was working for Congressman Bud Brown, and when she came to work for me at our Springfield office. I remember how her Aunt Tilly used to come in the office and do her filing. I also fondly remember the doughnuts Jenny would bring in from her brother's doughnut shop. Those are great memories.

Jenny is also a rare person—a person with great compassion and empathy for people and their concerns.

Let me thank her from the bottom of my heart for the great job she has done to assist countless thousands and thousands and thousands of Ohioans over the last 20 years.

I am truly privileged to have had the extraordinary opportunity to work with Jenny and to call her my friend.

We wish her and her family all the best in the world.

In conclusion, let me thank Jenny for her dedication to the people of the State of Ohio—for her friendship, and for the work she has done for our country.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, over the last few weeks, many conservatives have launched an extensive public relations campaign to assail Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and particularly Chairman PAT LEAHY. They have been critical of the pace of judicial nominations. This campaign is wholly unwarranted. Coming during a war when Democrats are committed to working with the President to shore up our Nation's defenses, it is particularly ill timed.

The Washington Times has compared Democrats to terrorists, referring to the pending nominations as a "hostage crisis." Another conservative publication, Human Events, labeled my colleague, Chairman LEAHY, as "Osama's Enabler."

Sadly, these outrageous charges are not limited to right-wing media outlets. Many colleagues in the Senate from the other side have leveled the following accusations: One Senator said the Democrats are guilty of racial profiling. Another Senator said the Democrats on the Judiciary Committee are actively hindering the war effort. Another Republican Senator said we are drawing out a session to deny the President a chance to make recess appointments.

In truth, Senator LEAHY has done an excellent job of moving the President's nominees along—far better than the Republicans ever did over the previous 6½ years. We have already confirmed 27 judges since July of this year. When all is said and done, we may well end up confirming more than 30. That is more

judicial nominees than were confirmed during the entire first year of President Clinton's term in office, when the Senate was controlled by the same party. It is double the number of nominees confirmed during the entire first year of the first Bush administration.

Chairman LEAHY has had to contend with Senate reorganization, terrorists attacks, a massive antiterrorism bill, and anthrax contamination that shut down his personal and committee offices. We all recall the news reports about the anthrax letter being sent to Chairman LEAHY. He has had ample occasions to delay hearings. Yet he has not. He easily could have used any of these obstacles as an excuse to cancel hearings, and he did not.

In little more than 5 months, Chairman PAT LEAHY has held more judicial nomination hearings than Republicans held in all of 1996, 1997, 1999, and the year 2000.

The Democrats, under his leadership, have eliminated the anonymous holds that crippled the judicial confirmation process for the last 6 years.

If you are not here in the Senate, anonymous holds may be a term you don't understand. Let me explain it. Under Republican leadership, any Senator could block a nominee for any reason, without even identifying him or herself to the rest of the Senate. A nominee would come before the Senate Judiciary Committee and sit there week after week, month after month, and in some cases year after year without any Senator standing up and saying: I am the person who is holding this judicial nominee. It was totally unfair.

On some of the nominees, I used to go around the Chamber begging Republican Senators to tell me: Do you have a problem with the nominee? I want to talk about it.

They wouldn't say. It was anonymous. That is over. Under Senator LEAHY's leadership, the anonymous holds that have crippled this process for the last 6 years has been eliminated. We have made public a Senator's support or opposition to judicial nominees from their home State. We have moved nominees approved by the committee swiftly to the floor. I presided personally over two or three of these hearings. And those nominees went straight from the committee to the floor in a matter of days. We have voted unanimously to confirm nominees vetted by the committee. The only vote against all of President Bush's nominees coming out of committee was cast by minority leader TRENT LOTT.

Quite frankly, it is a bit ironic to hear many of our Republican colleagues complain about unfair delays in judicial nominations. It is no secret that many of our colleagues systematically blocked Democratic appointments, regardless of qualifications, to the Federal courts of appeal. In 1996, for example, the Republicans failed to confirm one single appellate court nominee—not one.