

agriculture. She did such a good job with those issues she was honored for her efforts with a "Golden Plow" award from the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Her support for farmers across the country and her willingness to work in a bipartisan fashion to forge workable solutions to difficult problems reflect the kind of principles that have helped to guide and direct her during her service in the Senate and throughout her life. Another is the importance of family—her own—and families just like hers all over the country.

Those aren't just my observations—they are common knowledge back in Arkansas. When BLANCHE won a seat in the House of Representatives everyone was certain that the sky was the limit for her. After she had served for 2 terms; however, she decided not to run for another when she learned she would soon be giving birth to twins. She decided to return home so she could take care of her family while she waited for another opportunity to serve the people of Arkansas to present itself—which is exactly what happened.

As her twins began to grow up, she was able to return to politics. She made a run for Dale Bumpers' seat when he retired and was elected by a margin of 13 percent. Her victory made her the youngest woman ever elected to the Senate, an expression of the great confidence and trust the people of her State had in her.

For 12 years BLANCHE has worn the title of Senator with great pride not for her accomplishment, which was historic, but for the opportunity it gave her to make the world a better place for the people of Arkansas, the people of rural America, the citizens of our great Nation and, of course, for those twins of hers.

I do not know what BLANCHE has planned for the days to come but I think I can predict with safety and certainty that we haven't heard the last from her—and that is a good thing.

Keep in touch, BLANCHE. We will always be pleased to learn what you are doing and your thoughts on the latest issues before the Senate. Diana and I send our best wishes to you and all your family. God bless and keep all of you.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

DANIEL EDWARD DUEFIELD

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of a young veteran, Daniel Edward Duefield, who died at the age of 24 on November 17 at his home in Grafton, NH. A veteran of the Iraq war, Daniel served his country on two tours of duty as a member of the 10th Mountain Division in the U.S. Army.

A native of New Hampshire, Daniel was born in Franklin on December 14, 1985. He attended Mascoma Valley Regional Schools and graduated from Mascoma Valley Regional High School in June 2004. From playing video games

with his nephew, Josh, to relaxing on a fishing trip, Daniel enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

He also felt a deep and abiding love for his country, enlisting in the Army in June 2005. Daniel graduated from Army basic training in Fort Benning, GA, and joined the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, NY. He was excited to have the opportunity to protect his country and family and succeeded in doing so throughout his service until he was honorably discharged in July 2008. The American people will forever be grateful to Daniel for his willingness to serve.

Daniel was a true patriot whose service to his country and family will endure in our memories. No words can lessen the pain of losing this young hero and brave New Hampshire son. It is now up to us to honor him by continuing to improve the support we provide to our veterans and their families and ensuring America's continued security.

Daniel is survived by his parents, Harold "Duffy" E. Duefield III and Ruth E. Duefield of Grafton, NH; his fiancé, Alicia Vasquez of Grafton, NH; his grandfather, Harold E. Duefield, Jr., and extended family. This young patriot will be dearly missed.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life of Daniel Edward Duefield.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this morning, both the New York Times and the Washington Post published strong editorials condemning the delays in Senate consideration of the President's nominees. The Washington Post wrote about the extraordinary and damaging treatment of Jim Cole, who is nominated to serve as the No. 2 official at the Justice Department, a position with extensive responsibilities for national security and law enforcement. The New York Times wrote about the across-the-board objections to Senate consideration of judicial nominees, including dozens who have been reported without opposition by all Republicans and Democrats on the Judiciary Committee.

Two weeks ago, I came to the floor and asked unanimous consent that the Senate consider the long-pending nomination of Jim Cole to be the Deputy Attorney General, and that the Senate schedule for debate and a vote without further delay. Senator SESSIONS objected to my request and we continue to be prevented from acting on this critical national security nomination.

I will ask consent to have printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my statement today's editorial from the Washington Post entitled, "An Unacceptable Delay." The editorial notes:

James M. Cole appeared well on his way in July to filling the important No. 2 slot at the Justice Department after earning a favorable vote from the Senate Judiciary Committee.

But the full Senate has yet to vote on Mr. Cole's nomination to what is essentially the post of chief operating officer of the mammoth department. The five months between committee and floor vote appear to be the longest delay endured by any deputy attorney general nominee.

The slow crawl comes courtesy of some Senate Republicans who question Mr. Cole's approach to terrorism cases and his role as an independent monitor for struggling financial giant American International Group (AIG). These concerns should not derail Mr. Cole's confirmation—and they certainly should not be used to block a vote.

Mr. Cole's nomination has been pending on the Senate's Executive Calendar since it was reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee in July. Those continuing to block this nomination from debate and a vote are wrong. As the editorial observes: "There is no suggestion that Mr. Cole suffers from the kind of ethical or legal problems that would disqualify a nominee." If Senators disagree, they are free to vote against the nomination. But it is long past the time to end the stalling.

I noted 2 weeks ago that the letter from eight former Deputy Attorneys General of the United States who served in the administrations of President Reagan, President George H.W. Bush, President Clinton, President George W. Bush, as well as the current administration, correctly observed that "the Deputy is also a key member of the president's national security team, a function that has grown in importance and complexity in the years since the terror attacks of September 11." They are right. This is a dangerous game that partisans are playing in stalling this important nomination in what is really an unprecedented way.

Mr. Cole's nomination has been pending five times longer than the longest-pending Deputy Attorney General nomination in the last 20 years. All four of the Deputy Attorneys General who served under President Bush were confirmed by the Senate by voice vote an average of 21 days after they were reported by the Judiciary Committee. In fact, we confirmed President Bush's first nomination to be Deputy Attorney General the day it was reported by the committee. We treated those nominations of President Bush with the "enormous deference in executive branch appointments" that the Post editorial today states that every President deserves.

Jim Cole served as a career prosecutor at the Justice Department for a dozen years, and has a well-deserved reputation for fairness, integrity and toughness. As he demonstrated during his confirmation hearing months ago, he understands the issues of crime and national security that are at the center of the Deputy Attorney General's job. Nothing suggests that he will be anything other than a steadfast defender of America's safety and security. His critics are wrong about Jim Cole's approach to terrorism. He has testified strongly that the President should use every power and weapon and tool he possesses in this fight.