

Anyone who knows Matt can attest to the crucial role service to our Nation plays in his life. A recent retiree from the National Guard and a veteran, Matt served a 1-year tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007. And I certainly gained an even greater sense of what it was like to experience the gratification and honor—as well as trepidation—that service members feel when we saw Master Sergeant Walker deploy. I was so touched when Matt had an American flag fly over Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan for me, and when he sent it to me, I had it framed and displayed in my front office.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention Matt's boundless energy, personable demeanor, and infectious sense of humor. Over the years, I have been truly fortunate to benefit from Matt's indispensable wisdom and thoughtful guidance. I will miss his strong work ethic and cheerful demeanor, which have been nearly constant in my office for so long. Matt's strengths and attributes will serve him well as he moves off the Hill. I wish Matt, his wife Rhonda, and their beautiful children, Riley and Logan, all the best as they begin an exciting new chapter.

NOMINATION OF JOHN DOWDELL

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I rise to speak of the confirmation of John Dowdell of Tulsa, OK, to a seat on the District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Mr. Dowdell is a native of Tulsa and a graduate of Bishop Kelly High School. Mr. Dowdell received his B.A. from Wake Forest University in 1978 and his J.D. from the University of Tulsa College of Law in 1981. Following law school, he served for two years as a law clerk to the Honorable William J. Holloway of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. He then joined the firm of Norman & Wohlgenuth as an associate. In 1987, he was promoted to partner and the firm became Norman Wohlgenuth Chandler & Dowdell. Mr. Dowdell's practice areas include complex litigation and appellate work. He has been involved with six cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and has litigated before the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals on numerous occasions.

In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Dowdell serves as an Adjunct Settlement Judge in the Northern District of Oklahoma. In this capacity he has conducted over 50 mediations on a pro bono basis. He has also performed extensive pro bono work for several criminal appellate cases and his alma mater, Bishop Kelley High School. Additionally, Mr. Dowdell is a member of the Editorial Board of the Oklahoma Bar Association, a former president of the Bishop Kelley High School Board of Directors, and was appointed by the mayor to serve on Tulsa's Public Facilities Board.

Mr. Dowdell has received numerous honors for his legal practice, including being rated as one of Oklahoma's

"Super Lawyers" from 2006 through 2011 and being named a Top Commercial Litigation Lawyer by American Litigation Magazine. He also was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the American Inns of Court in 1993 and the Jack R. Givens Award for Professionalism and Service in 1998. The Oklahoma Bar Association Board of Governors has endorsed Mr. Dowdell's nomination to this judicial position and passed a resolution praising his demeanor, intelligence, and legal skills.

I firmly believe the rule of law is the foundation of our great Nation. By confirming judges of high character and integrity such as Mr. Dowdell, who are committed to the principles established by our Founders, we will ensure our Federal court system continues to dispense fair and predictable justice to all. I thank my colleagues for joining me in supporting John Dowdell's confirmation to the District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO REBEKAH FORMAN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Rebekah Forman for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Rebekah is a native of Sheridan, WY and a graduate of Sheridan High School. She currently attends Laramie County Community College. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Rebekah for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is wonderful to have her as part of our team. I am pleased she will be continuing her internship with my office through next semester.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY FREEMAN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Mary Freeman for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Mary is a native of Cheyenne, WY and a graduate of Cheyenne East High School. She currently attends the University of Wyoming College of Law. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Mary for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know

she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO RONALD PALMER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Ronald Palmer for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Ronald is a native of Rawlins, WY and a graduate of Rawlins High School. He currently attends Casper College where he is majoring in theatre performance. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Ronald for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY FRANCES ROONEY

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Franci Rooney for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Franci is a native of Dallas, TX. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor of arts in philosophy and Spanish. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Franci for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO ABRAHAM SCHREIER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Abe Schreier for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Abe is a native of Fort Wayne, IN. He graduated from Indiana University with a bachelor of arts in political science and history. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.