

that on Monday, December 8, 2014, following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, the time until 5:30 p.m. be in morning business, for debate only, equally divided in the usual form; and that at 5:30 p.m. all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that following those votes, the Senate be in a period of morning business, for debate only; further, that on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, the Senate be in a period of morning business, for debate only, with the time equally divided in the usual form; that at 10:30 a.m. the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Calendar Nos. 1080 and 1081; further, that if cloture is invoked, the time until 6 p.m. be in morning business, for debate only, equally divided in the usual form; that at 6 p.m. all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on the nominations in the order listed; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO SAM HEMINGWAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of Vermont's longest-serving journalists, Sam Hemingway, recently retired after a distinguished 37-year career with the Burlington Free Press. His career at the paper spans a period of our State's history filled with interesting stories, and Sam covered so many of them.

During the course of those many years Sam captured the pulse of Vermont, whether through his personalized columns or his probing reports. Sam's institutional memory was a rich and vital resource for the newspaper and for his readers. His writing talents,

his reporting skills and his ability to make personal connections will be sorely missed.

Marcelle and I join all Vermonters in extending all best wishes to Sam and his family as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

I ask that this Burlington Free Press article sketching Sam's tenure and retirement plans be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Oct. 7, 2014]

HEMINGWAY TO RETIRE AFTER 37 YEARS
(By Adam Silverman, Free Press Staff Writer)

Sam Hemingway, a reporter, editor and columnist who is among Vermont's most well-known journalists, will retire from the Burlington Free Press after a career of more than 37 years.

"You don't know how much this place means to me," he told the staff in announcing his departure Tuesday afternoon, "and I will miss you, and I will miss this work, so much."

A self-described "generalist," Hemingway's award-winning coverage stretched from the rejection of a controversial shopping mall development in Williston in 1977, through the illegal shipping of arms from a Vermont business to South Africa in violation of the apartheid-era embargo, to a weeks-long trip to embed with the Vermont National Guard in Afghanistan in 2010, among numerous examples across portions of five decades.

"There's a great thrill, if you're into journalism, if it's in your blood, to be present in moments of great importance and to write stories that actually make a difference," Hemingway said Tuesday in an interview before addressing his colleagues.

"When you work for a paper like this, in a state like Vermont, if you do a story and do it well, with the idea that this is going to turn the rock over and show something that people need to know about, there will be results," he continued. "You can help make something happen. That's a great feeling."

Free Press Executive Editor Michael Townsend praised Hemingway as a colleague and a journalist.

"With his breadth of experience, Sam knew where to find the information," Townsend said. "He had a great eye for a hard news story. He was dependable, productive and engaged. We will miss his unique style."

Hemingway, 66, wanted to be a newspaper reporter since boyhood in New Haven, Conn. With the help of a ditto machine, he produced a newspaper for his neighborhood. Coverage included missing dogs, families' vacations plans and who might have been suffering from the measles.

He edited his high-school newspaper and then studied journalism at Syracuse University in New York before moving to Vermont in 1971. He helped start the Lamoille County Weekly in Johnson, spent a year teaching journalism at Johnson State College, and then began freelancing for the Burlington Free Press.

He joined the staff in 1977, when he was assigned to provide full-time coverage of the debate over the Pyramid Mall proposal percolating in Williston. Hemingway attended 54 night meetings regarding the Act 250 development-control law over two years before the project was rejected.

Then came the story Space Research Corp., a North Troy weapons manufacturer that

was breaking an international embargo to sell millions of dollars of artillery and shells to South Africa—possibly with the backing of the CIA. Hemingway recalled sneaking onto the military base at Camp Lejune, N.C., with a colleague and knocking on the door of a suspected CIA agent said to be involved—and then departing in a hurry when the agent called base security. Eventually, two company officials were convicted of related crimes.

As with his more recent coverage, including of teen girls from the Burlington area lured into working as prostitutes in New York, of the priest sex abuse claims against the Roman Catholic Church, of the heroin epidemic sweeping Vermont, Hemingway's reporting exposed a rarely seen underbelly of Vermont.

"If you didn't shine a light on it, the cases might or might not have reached a point where people went to jail," Hemingway said. "But there's more assurance that justice is going to be meted out."

Hemingway is perhaps best known for his column, which he wrote from 1989 to 2005 (with a yearlong hiatus to cover the presidential campaign of former Gov. Howard Dean).

"It was wonderful to have a voice," Hemingway said. "The great thing about that column was it wasn't just a political column, it wasn't just a crime column, it wasn't a slice of life, it wasn't a feature—it was all of those things. And it would change. Sometimes it was first-person. Sometimes it was personal. Sometimes it was investigative. I broke stories in the column. And it was very well-read."

The column aimed to give a voice to the powerless, Hemingway said.

"It was average folks," he said, "and that was the whole point of the column: to be an outlet for people who weren't newsmakers who maybe had trouble with government or a problem or a personal issue, somebody who lost a kid in a traffic accident."

Hemingway's work earned him 11 Best of Gannett awards from the Burlington Free Press' parent company, along with citations for excellence from the New England Newspaper and Press Association, the Vermont Press Association and others.

The time is right to step away, Hemingway said. He has been thinking of stepping away for some time, and he's ready for a change. He plans to write, travel and spend time with family: his wife, Lee, his four adult children and his two grandchildren—and a third on the way.

His announcement came as the Burlington Free Press shared plans for a newsroom reorganization, a process other Gannett properties also are undergoing. Hemingway said his departure is unrelated.

"It's very hard to walk away from this," Hemingway said. "I need to go. It's time for me to go."

He has yet to decide on the timing of his last day.

"I'll miss my colleagues in the newsroom," he said. "I'll miss the camaraderie of the journalism community at large in Vermont, which, even though we sometimes compete, we all for the most part respect each other."

Hemingway ended with advice for his colleagues:

"Don't just do the stories that you have to do. Try to keep looking for the stories that need to be done. . . . You have to push the limits, go after stories that are out there but aren't waiting to be written, that you've got to go and dig out."

"That's what I've tried to do."