

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

COMMENDING THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 315, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 315) commending the St. Louis Cardinals on their hard-fought World Series victory.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any related statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 315) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 315

Whereas, on October 28, 2011, the St. Louis Cardinals won the 2011 World Series with a 6-2 victory over the Texas Rangers in Game 7 of the series at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri;

Whereas the Cardinals earned a postseason berth by clinching the National League Wild Card on the last day of the regular season;

Whereas the Cardinals defeated the heavily favored Philadelphia Phillies and Milwaukee Brewers to advance to the World Series;

Whereas the Cardinals celebrated an incredible come-from-behind victory in Game 6 of the World Series, which will long be remembered as one of the most dramatic games in the history of the World Series;

Whereas Cardinals All-Star Albert Pujols put on a historic hitting display in Game 3 of the World Series, with 5 hits, 3 home runs, and 6 runs batted in;

Whereas Cardinals star pitcher Chris Carpenter started 3 games in the World Series, allowing only 2 runs in Game 7 after only 3 days of rest and earning the win in the decisive game;

Whereas David Freese, a native of St. Louis, won the World Series Most Valuable Player Award;

Whereas Manager Tony LaRussa won his second World Series title with the Cardinals, his third overall, and remains one of only 2 managers to win World Series titles as the manager of a National League and an American League team;

Whereas the Cardinals won the 11th World Series championship in the 129-year history of the team;

Whereas the Cardinals have won more World Series championships than any other team in the National League;

Whereas the Cardinals once again proved to be an organization of great character, dedication, and heart, a reflection of the city of St. Louis and the State of Missouri; and

Whereas the St. Louis Cardinals are the 2011 World Series champions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the St. Louis Cardinals on their 2011 World Series title and outstanding performance during the 2011 Major League Baseball season;

(2) recognizes the achievement of the players, coaches, management, and support staff, whose dedication and resiliency made victory possible;

(3) congratulates the city of St. Louis, Missouri, and St. Louis Cardinals fans everywhere; and

(4) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Honorable Francis Slay, Mayor of the city of St. Louis, Missouri;

(B) Mr. William Dewitt, President, St. Louis Cardinals; and

(C) Mr. Tony LaRussa, Manager, St. Louis Cardinals.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, in St. Louis this fall, we had much that was special and different. We had the rally squirrel that ran through one of the playoff games. We had the saying “happy flight,” and “happy flight” became synonymous with a team that was chocking up improbable victories night after night, day after day.

I am going to term this speech a “happy speech.” I have had to give a number of speeches on the floor of the Senate since I have been blessed enough to be given this opportunity to serve my State. Sometimes I come to the floor angry. Sometimes I come to the floor frustrated or upset. Sometimes I come with a passion for a piece of policy that I think is essential in terms of our government operating the way we would want it to operate. Today, I just come happy. I just come happy with the notion that our team provided the kinds of thrills that baseball yearns for in this country—especially at these moments when many families are faced with long days and tough decisions as they try to right the ship as we travel through a very difficult economy.

The 2011 World Series was an unlikely one for our Cardinals. It wasn't supposed to happen. Bookies made a lot of money off the World Series this year because the Cardinals weren't supposed to be in it. The Cardinals were 10½ games out with 30 days to go. In fact, the Cardinals secured their wild card berth on the last day of the season at the eleventh hour. As a wild card team, they weren't supposed to do well. They weren't supposed to defeat Philadelphia. That just wasn't going to happen. Philadelphia has one of the top three payrolls in baseball, right? That wasn't going to happen.

Well, it did. We won against Philadelphia and then took on the mighty Brewers, the winner of our division, and, of course, we won that also. Then it was on to the Texas Rangers, who were supposed to win this year because they had won last year, and we weren't

supposed to be able to compete with the depth and breadth of the Texas lineup. Well, as everyone now knows, that is not how the story ended.

This was a special World Series. It was a unique World Series. It was competitive. It was fun. And I was lucky enough to be at some of the games. In fact, I was at game 3 when Albert Pujols put on a show for the world. He showed everyone why he is the best player in baseball—three towering home runs in one World Series game. All of a sudden his name was being used in the same sentence as Lou Gehrig.

It was a special night to watch the Cardinals pound the Rangers in Arlington, TX, but the Rangers came back the next night to win and the next night after that. So the Cardinals returned to St. Louis once again with their backs against the wall. Once again, everyone assumed it was over because all the Rangers had to do was win one game. And that is when game 6 occurred. I was fortunate enough to be at game 6, and I am saving my ticket stub for generations to come. People in St. Louis are going to claim they were at game 6, so I am going to save the proof. None of us will ever forget game 6.

At our eleventh hour, trying to win our 11th world championship, in the year 2011, our hometown guy—right from St. Louis, graduated from Lafayette High School—walked to the plate in the 11th inning, after the Cardinals twice, with two outs and two strikes, saved the game by getting a hit—twice; not once but twice—so there we were in the bottom of the 11th with the score tied, and our hometown guy, at the eleventh hour, in the 11th inning, in the year 2011, cracked the bat, and that ball sailed out for a home run, and suddenly we had secured the most improbable and exciting victory in World Series history. Now, maybe that is hyperbole, but, honestly, I don't think so. Find someone who watched that game who knows baseball, and they will tell you that was among one of the very best World Series games in the history of American baseball. And what a history that is. With that one crack of the bat, Cardinal Nation became Cardinal World, and all of the world stood in amazement as we cheered like crazy for our Cardinals.

What did this team do this year? We had a masterful manager whom we will miss very much. We had David Freese, our hometown guy, who rose to the occasion when we needed him. We had Albert Pujols. We had Carp, who was amazing as a pitcher. We had a bullpen that rose to the occasion when necessary, after they had been maligned through most of the season. We had Yadi, we had Craig, and we had so many of our players who did what had to be done when it had to be done to deliver a World Series championship to a city that loves them more than we love the arch and more than we love our beer.

For years now, young people will hear over and over that old cliché about refusing to quit. You can never give up. And I have to tell you the truth, it is a cliché I have used with my kids when they were moping around and grumbling: Oh my life is horrible. You say to them: You can't quit. You can't give up. Well, this team is going to allow parents in St. Louis and beyond for many years to say: See. See what happens when you don't give up. See what happens when you refuse to quit. You can win a championship if you just refuse to die. And that is exactly what our Cardinals did.

On behalf of Cardinal Nation and thousands of people around this country who were proud of what St. Louis represented—a fall classic with our classic Cardinals bringing home the victory for a city that loves them—God bless them all. And God bless the fans who understand it is okay to cheer for a sac fly, who understand baseball better than most fans around the country. They will now wait anxiously for spring training so we can begin once again our love affair with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF EVAN J. WALLACH TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest read the nomination of Evan J. Wallach, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is 15 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled between the Senator from Vermont and the Senator from Iowa, or their designees.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for pressing forward to secure a vote on another of the 25 judicial nominees ready for Senate consideration. I am disappointed that the Senate Republican leadership would only agree to vote on 1 of the 25 judicial nominees ready and waiting for final Senate action. All 25 of the nominees are qualified and have the support of their home state Senators, Republican and Democratic. Twenty-one of these judicial nominations were unanimously approved by the Judiciary Committee. Senate Democrats are prepared to have votes on all these important nominations. I know of no good reason why the Republican leadership is refusing to proceed on 24 of the 25 nominations stalled before the Senate. At a time when the vacancy rate on Federal courts throughout the country remains near 10 percent, the delay in taking up and confirming these consensus judicial nominees is inexcusable.

I know that Senator REID is especially pleased that the Senate has the opportunity for a final vote on the nomination of Judge Evan Wallach to fill a vacancy on the Federal Circuit. Judge Wallach is an experienced jurist with a distinguished record who has been serving on the U.S. Court of International Trade. He received the highest possible rating from the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, unanimously "well qualified."

I am delighted that Judge Wallach's nomination has not been delayed as long as others. This nomination was reported by the Judiciary Committee on October 6. There is no good reason why all judicial nominations are not considered within a month of being reported, especially the consensus nominees reported unanimously by the Judiciary Committee. It is my hope that this timeline can be an example and set the standard for action on other nominations, as well. When the Senate approved the nomination of Judge Zipp's of Arizona less than 1 month after it was reported by the committee, we showed that there is no need for additional delay. These needless delays perpetuate vacancies and deny the American people the judges needed in our courts to provide justice.

What is disappointing is that the Senate Republican leadership has yet to agree to votes on the long-pending nominations of Judge Chris Droney of Connecticut to fill a judicial emergency vacancy on the Second Circuit, Morgan Christen to fill one of several judicial emergency vacancies on the Ninth Circuit, or Judge Adalberto Jordan to fill a judicial emergency vacancy on the Eleventh Circuit. The Droney nomination has been stalled for 3½ months despite there being no opposition. The Christen nomination has been pending a month longer than Judge Wallach's and was also reported

unanimously. Judge Jordan's nomination is approaching 1 month on the Senate Executive Calendar despite his being a consensus nominee supported by both his Democratic and Republican home State Senators. Also pending is the nomination of Stephanie Thacker to fill a vacancy on the Fourth Circuit. All of these consensus circuit court nominations should be considered and approved without further delay. In addition, the Senate should give consideration to Caitlin Halligan's nomination. Her nomination to the DC Circuit was approved by the committee in March.

Judge Wallach is only the seventh of President Obama's circuit court nominations the Senate has considered this year, compared to 12 at this point in President Bush's third year. We are not doing nearly as well despite five additional circuit court nominations on the Senate Calendar awaiting a vote. By this point in the third year of President Bush's administration, the Senate had confirmed 29 of his circuit court nominees. By comparison, the Senate has confirmed only 22 of President Obama's circuit court nominees. By this point in the Bush administration, vacancies had been reduced to 42. By comparison, today they stand at 83. By this point in President Bush's first 3 years, the Senate had confirmed 167 of his Federal circuit and district court nominees. So far in the 3 years of the Obama administration, that total is only 115.

During President Bush's first 4 years, the Senate confirmed a total of 205 Federal circuit and district court judges. As of today, we would need another 90 confirmations over the next 12 months to match that total. That means a faster confirmation rate for the next 12 months than in any 12 months of the Obama administration to date. That would require Senate Republicans to abandon their delaying tactics. I hope they will. This is an area where the Senate must come together to address the serious judicial vacancies crisis on Federal courts around the country that has persisted for well over 2 years. We can and must do better for the millions of Americans being made to suffer by these unnecessary Senate delays.

More than half of all Americans—over 162 million—live in districts or circuits that have a judicial vacancy that could be filled today if Senate Republicans just agreed to vote on the nominations now pending on the Senate calendar. As many as 24 States are served by Federal courts with vacancies that would be filled by these nominations. Millions of Americans across the country are harmed by delays in overburdened courts. The Republican leadership should explain why they will not consent to vote on the qualified, consensus candidates nominated to fill these extended judicial vacancies.

Senator GRASSLEY and I have worked together to ensure that each of the 25 nominations on the Senate Calendar was fully considered by the Judiciary