

alike, sent a public letter praising Judge Garland. The list of people who signed this letter includes prominent Republicans and Democrats: Ken Starr, Drew Days, Walter Dellinger, Ted Olson, and Paul Clement. We know the Solicitor General serves as the Federal Government's chief advocate before the U.S. Supreme Court. They know the Supreme Court as well as anyone, and they know a good judge when they see one. Here is what they said about Judge Garland:

As a group, we have argued hundreds of cases before the United States Supreme Court and the Federal Courts of Appeals. Each of us has served as the United States Government's top representative before the Supreme Court. And while we have served in different administrations, we are unified in our belief that Judge Garland is superbly qualified to serve on the Supreme Court if he were confirmed. We are confident that Judge Garland would bring his brilliance, work ethic, and broad experience to the cases that come before him.

That is very high praise, isn't it? Clearly, President Obama selected a nominee highly regarded by advocates who know the Supreme Court better than most. Yet my Republican colleagues will not even give this superbly qualified nominee the dignity of a public hearing. They would rather keep a Supreme Court seat vacant for more than a year and allow the Court to deadlock for a year with 4-to-4 votes on key cases and wait in hopes they can roll the dice with President Donald Trump and his Supreme Court nominee. It is hard to fathom how this strategy is respectful of the constitution or in the best interest of our Nation.

Not only are Senate Republicans failing to do their job in considering Judge Garland's nomination, they are obstructing 20 other well-qualified judicial nominees who are currently pending on the Senate floor.

The Senate Republicans, as I have said, have held votes on only 17 judicial nominees this Congress. That is the lowest total in decades, far fewer than the 68 judges the Democratic-controlled Senate confirmed in the last 2 years of George W. Bush's administration. Republicans are apparently content to leave vacancies on courts across the United States and even on the Supreme Court of the United States. Is that why they were elected, to leave vacancies on these courts? They cannot hide from the fact that there is a need in this country for competent jurists to guide us in these Federal courts.

I hope a few more of my Republican colleagues will come to their senses. Rather than saving judicial seats for Donald Trump to fill, they should do their job and give President Obama's well-qualified nominees a hearing and a vote, and they should start with Merrick Garland.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter from these Solicitors General.

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

MAY 5, 2016.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. HARRY REID,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER REID, CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY, AND RANKING MEMBER LEAHY: Each of us headed the Office of the Solicitor General. Our service took place under both Republican and Democratic Presidents. We write collectively in support of Judge Merrick Garland's qualifications to serve as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. We believe that Judge Garland has demonstrated the temperament, intellect, and experience to serve in this capacity.

Merrick Garland has a history of excellence in the Law. He served in high ranking Justice Department posts, as a partner at a major law firm, an Assistant United States Attorney, a law clerk on the United States Supreme Court, a law clerk on the Second Circuit for the legendary Judge Henry Friendly, and, of course, for nearly the last two decades, as a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He presently serves as the Chief Judge of that Circuit, where he is known for his collegiality and is widely respected by his colleagues and litigants who have come before him.

As a group, we have argued hundreds of cases before the United States Supreme Court and the federal Courts of Appeals. Each of us has served as the United States Government's top representative before the Supreme Court. And while we have served in different Administrations, we are unified in our belief that Judge Garland is superbly qualified to serve on the Supreme Court if he were confirmed.

We are confident that Judge Garland would bring his brilliance, work ethic, and broad experience to the cases that come before him. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal K. Katyal (Acting Solicitor General, 2010-2011), Gregory G. Garre (Solicitor General, 2008-2009), Paul D. Clement (Solicitor General, 2005-2008), Theodore B. Olson (Solicitor General, 2001-2004), Barbara D. Underwood (Acting Solicitor General, 2001), Seth P. Waxman (Solicitor General, 1997-2001), Walter E. Dellinger III (Acting Solicitor General, 1996-1997), Drew S. Days III (Solicitor General, 1993-1996), Kenneth W. Starr (Solicitor General, 1989-1993).

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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 VIETNAM VETERANS

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to say welcome home and thank you to our Vietnam veterans, our true American heroes, as our community honors their courage and allegiance today in Moncks Corner, SC. Their celebration, which took place on May 6, 2016, is one small way we can take the time to show gratitude and appreciation for the men and women who fought for our Nation.

With one brother in the military and one recently retired after 30 years, I know firsthand the sacrifices our veterans and their families have made in order to protect and serve our amazing country.

We should celebrate these heroes every day. It is our responsibility to say thank you in tangible ways, such as this party. The Vietnam war era was one of the most challenging in our Nation's history, and it is truly my honor to recognize the service of our brave veterans who sacrificed for our freedom. Their dedication will never be forgotten.

You all put your lives on the line for our country, and because of people like you, I am proud to be an American. Thank you for your service. You deserve praise, recognition, and respect. God Bless America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION CONCERT CHOIR

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the University of Mount Union Concert Choir as it continues its spring tour, which began Sunday, May 8, at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

Mount Union's concert choir prides itself as one of the oldest collegiate choirs in the United States and has been part of the school's history since 1896. Arts at the collegiate level can enrich the student experience, giving music students and nonmusic students the opportunity to practice their vocal or instrumental skills and share their talents with both the campus and the local community. The group, comprised of individuals from almost every academic department, is a testament to the school's strong liberal arts mission.

The group is led by Dr. Grant Cook III, the director of choral activities and an associate professor of music at Mount Union, an accomplished musician and conductor. His commitment

to the arts gives these vocalist the opportunity to do what they love and be part of a strong team of singers.

I am thrilled these young musicians have the opportunity to travel from Ohio to our Nation's Capital to kick off a tour that will take them from the National Cathedral to Virginia to Pennsylvania to New Jersey. This is an opportunity to see new parts of the country and show others what their university and our State have to offer.

I wish all the students the best for a safe tour, including Tim Anderson, Alexandria Augustine, Angelica Bartholomew, Erin Bell, Anthony Bucci, Ali Caldwell, George Carr, Ian Donaldson, Sarah Donkin, Collin Edwards, Nick Embrogno, Caelyn Eppler, Abbie Fox, Connor Funk, Elizabeth Galloway-Purcell, Bradley Geist, Victoria Ginty, Matt Gorman, Jennifer Gotschall, Ben Hayes, Zach Henkels, Kyle Herman, Sarah Hohenadel, Kenan Irish, Rachel Irwin, Zak Jaeb, Jacqueline Jepsen, Abigail Lantz, David Lenahan, Jason Lopez, Patrick McKittrick, Paige Morris, Marcus Morrison, Hunter Munroe, Megan Ostrofsky, Rebecca Passer, Jesse Reed, Natalie Ricciutti, Abbigail Robertson, Jacob Rogers, Emily Siedel, Clinton Simmons III, Mary Anne Snyder, Chris Tucker, Abigail Van Auken, Alex Waitinas, Haley Walls, Tony Walsh, Jenna Waterman, Tommy Wines, Sarah Yannie, Martin Zapata, and Megan Zwart.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SINCLAIR OIL CORPORATION

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of Sinclair Oil Corporation.

Spanning a remarkable century of operation, Sinclair Oil has been resolute amid good and hard times in our Nation and helped shape our growing country. Built by the ingenuity and drive of Harry Ford Sinclair, Sinclair Oil employs more than 1,200 people nationwide. Harry F. Sinclair, who founded the company in 1916; Earl Holding, who purchased Sinclair Oil in 1976 and led the company for more than three decades; and Ross B. Mathews, who currently serves as chief executive officer of Sinclair, must be recognized for their innovation and determination in building Sinclair into an American pioneer. Their commitment and the support of their families and exceptional employees have enabled Sinclair to stand and succeed through the test of 100 years.

Sinclair Oil Corporation is immensely diversified. Twenty-four States are home to 1,300 Sinclair stations. The company is engaged in the exploration, refining, and distribution of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, asphalt, and petrochemical feedstock. It also owns and operates cattle ranches and several renowned hotels and resorts, including Sun Valley Resort, The Grand America Hotel, and the Little

America hotels and travel centers. The resourcefulness, skill, and initiative of the company's leadership and staff drive it forward into a new century of opportunity. I commend them all for the strong legacy they have built.

I have been blessed to have the Holdings as friends over the years. The Holdings were always very kind and supportive to my wife, Susan, and me, and I have valued the involvement Sinclair has had in shaping our communities, State, and Nation. America's success is built on the hard work and know-how of the men and women who have overcome challenges and turned their ideas into successful businesses that boost our economy and generate jobs. Countless individuals have benefited from Sinclair Oil Corporation and the goods and services it provides. I congratulate all those involved with the company on a century of achievements and wish them all the best for continued accomplishments.●

TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF LAW PROFESSORS

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, education is a critical to ensuring a bright future for both individuals and our society at large. There is no more important or more noble profession than teaching. Many of us have had teachers who changed our lives—myself included—educators who taught us not only the facts and figures but also instilled in us a love for learning and an interest in the world beyond the city limits of our hometowns.

As a U.S. Senator representing the great State of Kansas and as an alumnus of the University of Kansas School of Law, it is my privilege to celebrate the careers of three outstanding legal academics: Mike Davis, Sandra Craig McKenzie, and Martin Dickinson.

Mike Davis began teaching at the University of Kansas School of Law in 1971, but his academic life in Kansas began years earlier. Davis earned his bachelor's degree with honors from Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS. After completing his undergraduate education, Davis attended the University of Michigan Law School, where he was an editor on the Michigan Law Review.

After earning his juris doctor and practicing law in the private sector, Davis went on to work with the Office of Economic Opportunity, culminating in becoming the associate director of planning and research for the legal services program. Davis then became a legislative assistant for Representative Louis Stokes before returning to Kansas to begin his career in teaching future lawyers.

Professor Davis joined the KU Law faculty in 1971 and has had an impactful and storied career. He earned the "Immel Award for Teaching Excellence" and the title of Centennial Teaching Professor of Law. In addition to earning teaching accolades, Davis

served as dean of KU Law School for 9 years and served as the interim dean from 2005 to 2006. Outside his teaching duties, he served as the American Bar Association standards and accreditation committees chair and was of counsel to the Kansas City firm of Stinson Morrison Hecker for 20 years.

Colleagues at the law school praised Professor Davis's dedication to promoting the university's law school program. Students were also grateful for his commitment to maintaining a challenging and rewarding learning environment. The Kansas community thanks Mike Davis for his service, dedication, and contributions to the university's law school and the State of Kansas.

Sandra Craig McKenzie arrived at KU Law in 1979 and has been a positive presence in Kansas ever since.

McKenzie's legal life did not begin in our State, but she arrived in Lawrence with high accolades. McKenzie earned a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico and then went on to the University of New Mexico's School of Law, where she graduated magna cum laude and was a member of the New Mexico Law Review.

After the receipt of her juris doctor, McKenzie went on to serve as a law clerk to the Honorable Oliver Seth of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and later spent 4 years working in tax and estate planning in Albuquerque before turning her talents to teaching.

Sandra Craig McKenzie joined the KU Law faculty in 1979 as one of the institution's first female law professors. Professor McKenzie was KU Law's Elder Law LL.M. program director and an esteemed contributor to the elder law community, as well as a sought-after voice in Kansas local government law. McKenzie served as the law school's ombudsman and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Order of the Coif.

Friends and colleagues say her tenure was marked by accessibility as a teacher, dedication to women in the law, and leadership in making KU's law community a safe and equitable space for all students. The University of Kansas was without question enriched by Sandra McKenzie's committed 36-year career at the school of law, and her many contributions are appreciated throughout the university community.

Martin B. Dickinson is the longest serving faculty member at the University of Kansas School of Law, where his distinguished 48-year tenure has earned him the highest regard from the university community. Dickinson received a bachelor of arts degree from KU in 1960 and then went on to receive a master of arts degree from Stanford University in 1961 and his juris doctor from the University of Michigan in 1964, where he was editor-in-chief of the Michigan Law Review. After finishing at Michigan, Dickinson became an associate at Holme, Roberts & Owen in Denver, where he practiced until joining KU Law.