

Transportation after nearly 9 years of service in that position. In those 9 years of service, Mr. Mead and his staff conducted countless investigations in an independent, impartial, and professional manner regarding numerous issues affecting the Department.

Mr. Mead appeared before the committee as a witness on several occasions throughout his tenure, and the committee always found that he provided independent, thorough, and relevant commentary and recommendations concerning a wide range of Federal transportation policies and programs. His contributions to transportation safety are greatly appreciated by the current and former members of the committee.

On behalf of the Commerce Committee, I ask that the Senate recognize and commend Kenneth M. Mead for his more than 8 years of exemplary service to the Nation as the inspector general of the Department of Transportation, and we express our deep appreciation and gratitude for his long and outstanding service.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 382) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 382

Whereas Kenneth M. Mead has announced his retirement as the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation after nearly 9 years of service in that position;

Whereas, Kenneth M. Mead and his staff conducted investigations independently, impartially, and with rigorous professionalism into myriad issues affecting transportation and transportation policy;

Whereas, Kenneth M. Mead and his staff provided independent, thorough, and relevant commentary and recommendations on a wide-range of Federal transportation policies and programs, including aviation operations and safety, highway, auto and truck operations and safety, transportation security, rail operations and safety, and pipeline and hazardous materials transportation safety;

Whereas, during Kenneth M. Mead's tenure as Inspector General, the events of September 11, 2001, had a dramatic impact on the Federal government's relationship with the aviation industry and posed significant challenges for ensuring the safety and security of public transportation in general and the United States aviation industry in particular;

Whereas Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta recognized Kenneth M. Mead's contributions by describing him as "a tireless advocate for setting the highest possible standards of integrity, accountability, and performance" in the Department's efforts to make the Nation's transportation system as safe and efficient as possible: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the United States Senate commends Kenneth M. Mead for his more than 8 years of faithful and exemplary service to the Nation as the Inspector General of

the Department of Transportation, and expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude for his long and outstanding service.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Kenneth M. Mead.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 286, 294, 521, 522, 524, 526, 527, 528, 544, 545, and 546.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Naval Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (1h) Craig O. McDonald, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Naval Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Raymond P. English, 0000

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Carol E. Dinkins, of Texas, to be Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

Alan Charles Raul, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

Stephen C. King, of New York, to be a Member of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for the term expiring September 30, 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Preston M. Geren, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of the Army.

James I. Finley, of Minnesota, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Thomas P. D'Agostino, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration.

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Randall S. Kroszner, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 1994.

Kevin M. Warsh, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2004.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Edward P. Lazear, of California, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

NOMINATION OF CAROL DINKINS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of

Carol Dinkins of Houston, TX, to be the chair of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

Congress recently created this important position based on the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board is designed to monitor and uphold our nation's commitment to defend civil liberties. Part of the board's responsibilities will be to provide honest, responsible, and fair review of the development and implementation of laws, regulations, and executive branch policies—specifically with respect to our Federal Government's commitment to protect America from the ongoing threat of terrorism.

The board will play an important role in ensuring that privacy and civil liberty concerns are appropriately considered. Such oversight is important because, as a Nation, we proudly revere our civil liberties. We must remain committed to vigorously defend them, in order to ensure that we remain a beacon of freedom to the rest of the world.

Congress strives to strike a careful and wise balance between national security and civil liberties. While this is not always easy, I believe we do so with the best interests of our Nation in mind—and do so in an honest and good faith manner.

Ms. Dinkins is the right person for this important position, as she has proven throughout her distinguished career to share these values. Her vast public service and private-sector experience will allow Carol Dinkins to offer unique perspectives to the privacy board. As Deputy Attorney General under President Reagan—the second-highest ranking position in the Department of Justice—Ms. Dinkins was responsible for the day-to-day management of the Justice Department's more than 60,000 employees. Moreover, she played a significant role in the development of the Reagan administration's criminal justice and anti-terrorism policies.

Ms. Dinkins has also been a long-time partner in the distinguished Texas law firm of Vinson & Elkins. She has devoted a substantial amount of her time to a variety of public service initiatives, including service on the American Bar Association, and has also donated significant time to activities designed to promote conservation and protect the environment.

I am proud to support Carol Dinkins for this position and am confident that she will serve the Nation with honor and distinction.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

Mr. WARNER. Will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. FRIST. Yes.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the majority leader for working with the minority