

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 95 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 231), Morgan Christen, of Alaska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

**Pages S8625–28, S8664–65, S8691**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Michael A. Raynor, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Benin.

Jacob Waller, of Delaware, to be Ambassador to the Tunisian Republic.

Sharon Block, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2014.

Richard F. Griffin, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2016.

Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2017.

David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman and Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2012.

David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman and Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2018.

Patricia M. Wald, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2013.

11 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

A routine list in the Foreign Service. **Page S8691**

**Nomination Withdrawn:** Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Craig Becker, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2014, which was sent to the Senate on January 26, 2011. **Page S8691**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S8677**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S8677**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Pages S8677, S8691**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S8677–78**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S8679**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S8680–81**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S8681–88**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S8676–77**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Page S8689**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S8689**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S8689**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—231) **Pages S8664–65**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:03 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, December 16, 2011. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8691.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Michael T. Scuse, of Delaware, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, and to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, who was introduced by Senator Coons, and Chester John Culver, of Iowa, who was introduced by Senators Harkin and Grassley, and Bruce J. Sherrick, of Illinois, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, Farm Credit Administration, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Michael A. Sheehan, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Brad Carson, of Oklahoma, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, both of the Department of Defense, and 832 nominations in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

### GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard concluded a hearing to examine environmental risks of genetically engineered fish, after receiving testimony from Ronald L. Stotish, AquaBounty Technologies, Inc., Waltham, Massachusetts; John Epifanio, Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign; George H. Leonard, Ocean Conservancy Aquaculture Program, Santa Cruz, California; and Paul Greenberg, New York, New York.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1108, to provide local communities with tools to make solar permitting more efficient, with an amendment;

S. 1142, to promote the mapping and development of the United States geothermal resources by establishing a direct loan program for high risk geothermal exploration wells, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve geothermal energy technology and demonstrate the use of geothermal energy in large scale thermal applications, with amendments;

S. 1149, to expand geothermal production, with amendments;

S. 1160, to improve the administration of the Department of Energy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nomination of Arunava Majumdar, of California, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

#### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety concluded a hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's near-term task force recommendations for enhancing reactor safety in the 21st century, after receiving testimony from Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman, and Kristine L. Svinicki, George Apostolakis, William D. Magwood IV, and William C. Ostendorff, each a Commissioner, all of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

#### TRAFFICKING NARCOTICS IN THE CARIBBEAN

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Global Narcotics Affairs concluded a hearing to examine the United States-Caribbean shared security partnership, focusing on responding to the growth of trafficking narcotics in the Caribbean, after receiving testimony from William R. Brownfield, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; Rodney G. Benson, Assistant Administrator, Chief of Intelligence, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice; Liliana Ayalde, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, Latin America and Caribbean Bureau, United States Agency for International Development; Eduardo A. Gamarra, Florida International University, Miami; and Douglas Farah, International Assessment and Strategy Center, Alexandria, Virginia.

#### IMPROVING GOVERNANCE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on African Affairs concluded a hearing to examine improving governance in the Democratic Republic of Congo, after receiving testimony from Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs; Mark Schneider, International Crisis Group, and Mvemba Phezo Dizolele, Stanford University Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, both of Washington, D.C.; and Anthony W. Gambino, Eastern Congo Initiative (ECI), Bethesda, Maryland.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG SHORTAGES

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine prescription drug shortages, focusing on examining a public health concern and potential solutions, and if the Food and Drug Administration's ability to respond should be strengthened, after receiving testimony from Senator Klobuchar; Sherry Glied, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, and Sandra Kweder, Deputy Director, Office of New Drugs, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; Marcia Crosse, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; Murray Aitken, IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics, Parsippany, New Jersey; Ralph G. Neas, Generic Pharmaceutical Association, Washington, D.C.; and John Maris, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1821, to prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts, with an amendment;

S. 1236, to reduce the trafficking of drugs and to prevent human smuggling across the Southwest Border by deterring the construction and use of border tunnels; and

The nomination of Brian C. Wimes, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.