

of the district court nominees who have been languishing on the Senate floor were recommended to President Obama by their two Republican home State Senators.

Judge Alfred Bennett, whom we are voting to confirm today, is currently the presiding judge on the 61st Civil District Court in Houston, TX. From 2010 to 2011, he served as the administrative judge of the Harris County Civil District Courts. Judge Bennett has presided over 8,400 cases, 640 jury trials, and 550 bench trials. Prior to becoming a judge, he was in private practice for a decade and litigated a range of civil matters. Judge Bennett has the support of both his Republican home State senators, Senator CORNYN and Senator CRUZ. He was voted out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously by voice vote on February 26. He has strong qualifications and should be confirmed.

I urge the Republican majority to schedule votes to confirm the remaining judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar. None of the nominees are controversial. We should do our jobs and vote on their nominations so that they can start doing their jobs working for the American people.

#### TRIBUTE TO KIM KRUEGER

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor Kim Short Krueger, a dedicated public servant for the U.S. Congress and the people of the State of Montana for over 39 years.

On behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say "thank you" to Kim for her service to our State and Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Kim's public service and commitment to her country.

Kim grew up in the small railroad town of Three Forks, MT. Kim was only 21 when she packed her bags and moved to Washington, DC. She began her congressional career as a receptionist for Montana Congressman Dick Shoup, back when Montana still had two congressional districts.

Always proud of her small town roots, Kim went to work for Nevada's only Congressman, Jim Santini, in the mid 1970s. Kim wore many hats, serving as both the personal secretary and the scheduler, and eventually became office manager.

Ever dedicated to putting Montana constituents first, Kim once gave a young Montana law student her personal ticket to Nelson Rockefeller's swearing-in as Vice-President of the United States. As fate would have it, Kim later married this same young law student and he became a district court judge in Butte, MT.

In 1983 it was time for Kim to head home to Montana. Kim went to work for Senator Max Baucus as field director of the Butte District office for southwestern Montana.

Along the way, Kim built up an impressive record of accomplishments while always meeting the day-to-day

demands of serving constituents. Kim consistently demonstrated her skill and grace in handling the needs of Butte and southwest Montana's constituents. She worked on all sorts of issues—from the Butte superfund, housing, banking, taxation, natural resources, immigration and military academy appointments.

In 2010, Kim was appointed State casework director.

Kim had a strong hand in boosting Montana's economic ties. Kim ran three Montana economic development summits hosted by Senator Baucus in Butte. The summits brought in folks from all around the world, like investors, ambassadors, and top business leaders. Almost 3,400 folks attended the final summit in 2013. Thanks to Kim's tireless work on the summits, new businesses have moved to Montana.

Kim also worked on superfund issues, the Beaver Dam Park, the Old Work Golf Course, and the Maiden Rock Bridge on the Big Hole River.

Senator Baucus depended on Kim to run his Butte office smoothly and to represent him at local events. She often worked nights and weekends, going above and beyond her duties to meet the needs of the people of southwest Montana.

In February 2014, Senator Baucus was confirmed as the U.S. Ambassador to China and Governor Steve Bullock appointed John Walsh to serve out the rest of his Senate term. Senator John Walsh asked Kim to continue as field director of his Butte office and as the State casework director.

While I could go on and on about Kim's incredible congressional achievements, I know she is most proud of her amazing family. Kim and her husband Kurt have two terrific children, Krista and Derrick. A true Montana native, she is very proud that her children were born and raised in the historic city of Butte, MT.

Kim recently retired from my Butte District field office where she was working on special projects.

During her years of service, Kim always went beyond the call of duty to ensure the Montana congressional offices met the needs and requests of the constituents of our fine State. Her professionalism and dedication to her jobs and Montana constituents are outstanding examples of how government should work. Kim's positive attitude, indispensable knowledge and talent for serving constituents were invaluable to the citizens of southwest Montana.

Everyone who knows Kim is touched by her energy, kindness, dedication and positive attitude.

I am honored to know Kim and grateful that she was able to serve on my Senate staff. I know her family and friends join me in thanking her for her commitment to others. I wish her best of luck in all of her endeavors and many years of success to come.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING CANTOR IVAN E. PERLMAN

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to remember and honor the late Ivan E. Perlman, who served as the president of the Cantors Assembly of America from 1983 to 1985. Cantor Perlman was devoted to his faith, his family, his community, and his country. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and received the Bronze Star for his heroism at Iwo Jima. He stood next to Lt. Roland B. Gittelsohn, the Marine Corps' first Jewish chaplain, at the dedication of the 5th Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo Jima in March 1945. He chanted a version of "El Malei Rachamim," which is only sung for fallen U.S. soldiers. The division chaplain had asked Chaplain Gittelsohn to deliver the sermon at a joint service for all those who were killed in the epic battle, but some Catholic and Protestant chaplains objected, so three separate services were held. But three of the Protestant chaplains boycotted their own service to join Chaplain Gittelsohn. They sent copies of his sermon, "The Purest Democracy", extolling the cause of democracy and freedom and equality to the entire regiment. It was widely circulated, appearing in newspapers and magazines nationwide, and was read on the radio and into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

After the war ended, Cantor Perlman, who was born in Flushing, NY, married Muriel Herman in 1947 and completed his cantorial studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1950. Cantor Perlman served congregations in Lyndhurst and Fairlawn, NJ; Tulsa, OK; Des Moines, IA; Providence, RI; Stockholm, Sweden; and Sarasota, Boca Raton, and Tamarac, FL. Along the way, he and his wife had four sons: Eli, Emanuel "Manny", Richard "Rick", and Josh. He trained all four of his sons in the cantorial arts, and they have carried on the family tradition is an exemplary way.

Cantor Perlman was cantor emeritus at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, RI, where he served for 23 years. After he retired from Temple Emanu-El, at the age of 76, Cantor Perlman became the cantor at Temple Beth Kodesh in Boynton Beach, FL. Two years later, he was elected the congregation's Ritual Leader. Cantor Perlman conducted his last service there in 2005 and then he and his wife returned to Rhode Island, where he was a founder of the Friends of the Rhode Island School for the Deaf. Cantor Perlman was a life member of the Marine Corps League, the Jewish War Veterans, JWV, and the Knights of Pythias. He served as the JWV post commander in New York City, and the department chaplain in Iowa, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Florida. He was the JWV's first national cantor.

I mentioned that all four of Ivan Perlman's sons also became cantors.