

States. Director Comey continued in that hearing saying, “There is risk associated with bringing anybody in from the outside, but especially from a conflict zone like that.”

Director Comey has also previously acknowledged that despite a large pool of data on Iraqi refugees, our past program for admitting refugees from Iraq inadvertently allowed into our country “a number of people who were of serious concern, including two that were charged when we found their fingerprints on improvised explosive devices from Iraq.”

Our ability to screen individuals from war-torn Syria is extremely limited by comparison. Several States’ Governors have recognized this difficulty and have accordingly moved to suspend cooperation with the administration in settling Syrian refugees in their States until those security concerns are addressed. I share such concerns for protecting our country against terrorists who have clearly infiltrated the Syrian refugee population. I recently wrote a letter to the leaders of the Senate Appropriations Committee. In that letter I asked that taxpayers’ funds be used effectively to properly and securely screen refugees entering the United States. I also requested in the letter that as part of the appropriations legislation before the committee, it require a comprehensive plan on how security will be achieved. I requested this be a condition for any funding for refugee resettlement for Syrian refugees. I said then and I emphasize now that not one dollar should be expended until stringent parameters for vetting these refugees are established.

I would also suggest to President Obama that he reconsider his plan to admit Syrian refugees until the dust settles and we get to the bottom of the Paris attacks. We need to analyze what happened. We need to figure out how we can better screen these refugees and ensure that terrorists among them are not evading proper screenings. We need a timeout before we press forward.

I stress that the United States remains an extremely generous country when it comes to refugees. This year alone we will allow 75,000 refugees fleeing persecution around the world to enter our country, but we have to set our own citizens’ security as a top priority. I call on Congress to act to ensure that this administration certifies that the most stringent security standards are in place before allowing any more of the Syrian refugees into our country. It is our responsibility to do everything we can to prevent Friday’s attacks from happening here.

I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues to vote to confirm this qualified judge, LaShann DeArcy Hall, to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Ms. Hall is an outstanding choice to fill this position. After decades of serv-

ice in both the public sector and the private sector, Ms. Hall’s breadth of knowledge and depth of experience will guide her for any case that happens to come before her. In her current role at a major international law firm, Ms. Hall specializes in high-stakes, complex commercial litigation. During her years of public service, including her time serving as a commissioner with the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, Ms. Hall has worked tirelessly to help make her community a more fair and just place.

Ms. Hall’s credentials are absolutely worthy of this position on the Federal bench, and we will be a stronger nation with more women like Ms. Hall serving as judges in our Federal court system.

Ms. Hall is a graduate of Howard University School of Law and she served in the U.S. Air Force. She is a highly accomplished lawyer, and she has devoted her entire career to various forms of public service. She is dedicated to her community, and she cares deeply about this country. LaShann DeArcy Hall would make an excellent Federal judge and would add much needed diversity to the Federal bench.

Mr. President, I urge all my colleagues to vote to confirm her.

I yield the floor.
I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time remaining on this nomination be yielded back.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hall nomination?

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.
The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 305 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Baldwin	Bennet
Ayotte	Barrasso	Blumenthal

Booker	Grassley	Nelson
Boozman	Hatch	Paul
Boxer	Heinrich	Peters
Brown	Heitkamp	Portman
Burr	Heller	Reed
Cantwell	Hirono	Reid
Capito	Hoeven	Risch
Cardin	Inhofe	Roberts
Carper	Isakson	Rounds
Casey	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Kaine	Sasse
Coats	King	Schatz
Cochran	Kirk	Schumer
Collins	Klobuchar	Scott
Coons	Lankford	Sessions
Corker	Leahy	Shaheen
Cornyn	Lee	Shelby
Crapo	Manchin	Stabenow
Daines	Markey	Sullivan
Donnelly	McCain	Tester
Durbin	McCaskill	Thune
Enzi	McConnell	Tillis
Ernst	Menendez	Toomey
Feinstein	Merkley	Udall
Fischer	Mikulski	Warner
Flake	Moran	Warren
Franken	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gardner	Murphy	Wicker
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—1

Perdue
NOT VOTING—6

Blunt	Graham
Cotton	Sanders
Cruz	Vitter

The nomination was confirmed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.
The Senator from Oklahoma.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. INHOFE. 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.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MASTER SERGEANT JOSHUA L. WHEELER

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, the Presiding Officer, Senator LANKFORD, and I want to recognize and pay tribute to Army MSG Joshua Wheeler. Joshua was born in Roland, OK. He was deployed to Kirkuk Province, Iraq, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. I didn’t remember him at the time, but I was there during that time. He was deployed to Kirkuk to support Operation Inherent Resolve. That was his 14th deployment in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Joshua’s unit, along with Iraqi and Kurdish forces, raided a compound near the city of Kirkuk, freeing 70 prisoners from captivity. Josh died of injuries sustained in that firefight. He would have turned 40 this month.

Josh attended and graduated from Muldrow High School in 1994, and a