

NOMINATION OF GALE NORTON

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of Gale Norton as this country's next Interior Secretary.

While I have some disagreements with some of Ms. Norton's positions, I believe that she represented herself well in the nomination hearings that we held in the Energy Committee.

I indicated during those hearings that if I felt she were another James Watt I could never vote for her "in a million years." I say that because, two decades ago, James Watt came to town as a newly appointed Interior Secretary and very quickly began to take both positions and actions that were, in my opinion, destructive to the interests that I value with respect to the stewardship of public lands in our country. Because Gale Norton was a protege of James Watt, and because she has spoken and written extensively on a range of issues, we questioned her very closely during her confirmation hearing on a wide range of important issues that will confront the new Secretary of the Interior.

Her responses to some tough inquiries during the hearings demonstrated to me that she is qualified to be Interior Secretary and that the views she holds, while in some cases controversial, are well within the norm of the political discussions we're having in Washington about a wide range of these issues.

I want Gale Norton to do an excellent job as Interior Secretary and pledge my cooperation to help make that happen. At the same time, I want her to know that those of us on the Energy Committee take very seriously the representations she made during the confirmation hearings on a wide range of matters. She will find those of us on the Committee who have now voted for her confirmation to be helpful in her job of meeting the stewardship responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior. But she should understand that she will find us to be severe critics if the representations she made to us during the Committee hearings turn out to be not in keeping with the way she conducts herself as Interior Secretary.

I will be particularly interested in working with Ms. Norton on several issues important to North Dakota and the Nation. For example, I will work to ensure that Ms. Norton provides protection for our National Parks, public lands and environmentally-sensitive areas.

Native Americans are particularly important to me. During the hearing, Ms. Norton said she respects tribal sovereignty. She should adopt a cooperative approach to include the relevant tribal stakeholders in policy and regulatory decision making. She also committed to work with us to make progress in meeting the critical funding needs for tribal schools and colleges.

I will count on Ms. Norton to adopt a sound scientific basis for her policy decisions on actions pertaining to endangered species, the global climate, energy issues and more.

Again, I wish her well and pledge my cooperation as she begins her duties following her confirmation today. She clearly has the skill and capability to do well as Interior Secretary if she pursues a balanced set of policies that conform to the positions she took when she appeared before our Committee.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY BRAGG

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a brave and hard-working Ohioan by the name of Terry Bragg. Terry has been a life-long resident of McConnelsville, where he has spent the last 39 years as a member of the Malta-McConnelsville Fire Department. During nearly 40 years of tireless dedication to his community, Terry has served as a firefighter, Assistant Fire Chief, and for the last 32 years, as the department's Fire Chief.

I recognize Terry today for his commitment to protecting his community from devastating fires. People like Terry Bragg, who risk their lives daily on our behalf, command great respect and deserve our deep and sincere thanks.

I cannot overstate just how important Terry's job of fire fighting and prevention education is to our families and communities. Overall, fire is responsible for killing more Americans than all natural disasters combined. Every 18 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States. In 1998, there were 4,035 civilian fire deaths—that's one death every 130 minutes. And sadly, many of those who die each year in fires are children.

To help support Terry and every firefighter in Ohio and across America as they work to protect our families and children, I sponsored the Firefighter Investment Act, which provides a vital federal investment to the courageous men and women who make up our local fire departments. I am please do report that we successfully included my bill as a provision in the recently-passed Fiscal Year 2001 Department of Defense Appropriations bill. The funding that will be made available as a result will help local fire departments and firefighters, just like Terry Bragg and the Malta-McConnelsville Fire Department, to continue carrying out their life-saving missions.

Over the years, Terry Bragg has received many, many awards and special recognitions. He has received three medals for bravery, and in 1997, the Ohio Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars named him "Ohio Firefighter of the Year." He received the Bob and Delores Hope "Good Samaritan Award," the "M&M Firefighter of

the Year Award," and the Ohio Masonic Grand Master's "Community Service Award."

Not only is Terry a dedicated Fire Chief, he is a strong community leader; volunteer; businessman; and loving husband, father, and grandfather. Indeed, Terry Bragg is a role model for whom we all can be proud.

I thank him for his past, present, and future service to his community, to Ohio, and to our nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND COMMUNITIES INVOLVED IN THE APPREHENSION OF THE TEXAS SEVEN

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I want to take a few minutes to recognize the efforts of everyone involved in the capture of the Texas fugitives that ended one of the largest manhunts this national has ever seen. As you know, the last two of the seven Texas inmates that escaped from a maximum security prison in Kenedy, Texas on December 13th surrendered on January 24th in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This can be attributed to the exemplary work done by the local and federal law enforcement agencies involved as well as the communities of Woodland Park and Colorado Springs. This was a cooperative effort that saw the pooling of all the resources available and resulted in a peaceful conclusion.

There cannot be enough said about the work that was done by the law enforcement agencies involved. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, The Colorado Springs office of the Bureau of Alcohol and Firearms, the U.S. Marshals office, the Texas authorities, the Teller County Sheriffs office, the El Paso County Sheriffs office, the Colorado Springs Police Department, the Woodland Park Police Department and the Colorado State Patrol did a tremendous job of working together to apprehend the seven fugitives.

The effort and support of the residents of Woodland Park and Colorado Springs can't be overlooked. We need to commend people like Wade Holder and Eric Singer. Mr. Holder resides in Woodland Park and is the owner of the RV park where the fugitives were hiding out. He called in a tip to the local authorities after seeing pictures of the fugitives on the America's Most Wanted Web Site. KKTU's Colorado Springs news anchor Eric Singer helped negotiators by conducting a telephone interview with the last two fugitives in order to assure a peaceful surrender. These are just a couple of examples of how the two communities contributed to the successful manhunt.

In all of this we should not forget that two law enforcement agents lost