

States Circuit Court of Appeals, the very circuit to which this nominee has been appointed by the President of the United States.

I have a strong knowledge of this circuit, having started my career there 48 years ago, and I feel that this candidate will measure up in every respect to the distinguished members of the circuit that have served in the past and who are serving today. And I urge in the strongest of terms that he be given fair consideration by this Committee and that he will be voted out favorably.

Mr. Chairman and Senator Leahy, we start with he graduated from Harvard College summa cum laude in 1976. Three years later, he graduated from Harvard Law School magna cum laude, where he served as managing editor of the Harvard Law Review. He served as law clerk to Judge Friendly on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and worked as law clerk to the current Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Hon. Judge Rehnquist.

Also, he has practiced law for over 20 years. He served as associate counsel to President Ronald Reagan, worked as the Principal Deputy Solicitor General of the United States, and has worked as a civil litigator in the firm of Hogan and Hartson, which, I must say, I also served in following my clerkship with Judge Prettyman.

So I do urge upon this Committee, Mr. Chairman, and all members, that the fair consideration that is the duty of the United States Senate under the Constitution under the advise and consent provisions be exercised on behalf of this distinguished nominee.

I thank you for the attention of the Committee, and I wish you well.

Chairman HATCH. Thank you so much, Senator Warner. We appreciate those very strong recommendations.

Senator LEAHY. I was impressed, the 50th reunion, so you graduated at the age of 10?

Senator WARNER. I beg your pardon?

Senator LEAHY. You graduated at the age of 10? I was very impressed, your 50th reunion.

Senator WARNER. No, I was not a child prodigy.

[Laughter.]

Senator WARNER. Nor am I a senior prodigy. I am just one of your fellow Senators.

Senator LEAHY. And a good friend and highly respected on both sides of the aisle, I might add.

Senator WARNER. I thank you.

Chairman HATCH. We are grateful to have you here, Senator Warner. We appreciate that.

Senator BreauX? We will turn to you, Senator BreauX.

PRESENTATION OF S. MAURICE HICKS, JR., NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, BY HON. JOHN BREAUX, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

Senator BREAUX. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senator Leahy and Senator Durbin. A tough act to follow our colleague from Virginia.

I am here on behalf of and to speak for Maury Hicks, our friend from Shreveport, Louisiana, who has been nominated to be the dis-

trict judge for the Western District of Louisiana, which is the Shreveport area and the area south of that area. I am joined in spirit by my colleague Senator Mary Landrieu, who will have a statement of support on behalf of Maury Hicks as well.

He is the type of person that I think we can recommend without hesitation. I have always felt that at the district level I would personally rather see a person who is not an author or a scholar or a professor of law in some university but, rather, someone who comes from the day-to-day activities of being a trial lawyer in the area, in the district in which we are nominating them to become a Federal district judge. And that is what we have in Maury Hicks, a person who knows the people as well as knowing the law.

He graduated from Texas Christian university but he later redeemed himself from that mistake by graduating from the LSU Law School, and I think that will overcome any Texas problems that he might have experienced.

[Laughter.]

Senator BREAU. But he has been engaged in the practice of law, like I said, dealing with all types of problems—local problems that go before both the State courts and the Federal courts—since 1977. That is the type of people I think do good jobs on the Federal district bench. They know the law, but they also know the people, and I think he brings that talent.

You might have noted that on the list as one of his organizations is the Mystic Crew of Louisiana. I would just point out to Senator Durbin and to others that might wonder if that is some subterranean terrorist organization from the State of Louisiana, it indeed is not. It is the organization that runs the Mardi Gras celebrations here in Washington for the last 50 years. I happen to serve as captain of the crew, which means Maury Hicks is part of our organization that runs the Mardi Gras. It is a wonderful organization that does great things and has a lot of fun doing it.

He is joined here by his wife, Glynda, and their children, who I am sure he will be introducing later. He is a good choice. I hope that you can vote him out as quickly as we possibly can.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman HATCH. Thank you, Senator Breau. We appreciate your comments, and we really appreciate you taking time to come. I think it is an honor to the people that you have recommended. Thank you.

We will be happy to let you go. We know you have—

Senator BREAU. I want to hear if he is for him, too.

Chairman HATCH. Well, Congressman McCrery, we are honored to have you here. We look forward to taking your testimony.

PRESENTATION OF S. MAURICE HICKS, JR., NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, BY HON. JIM MCCRERY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

Representative MCCRERY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Leahy, my old friend from the House Senator Durbin. It is nice to be here with you today.

I certainly want to second the comments of my friend and colleague from Louisiana, Senator Breau. I have known Maury Hicks