

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 BREAUX. 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 BreauX. 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 BREAUX. 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 BreauX. I have known Maury Hicks

since Maury was a freshman in law school at LSU and have watched him practice law in my home town of Shreveport for a number of years. And I can tell you without reservation that Maury Hicks is a very well respected member of the bar in Shreveport. He has extensive experience at the bar in court. He is an accomplished litigator. He has with him today his family: his wife Glynda, his children Christy and Tyler. He also has with him some friends from the Shreveport area, and just to show you how well respected Maury is in the bar in Shreveport, he brought with him both defense attorneys and plaintiffs' attorneys, and they are all for him. So I think that will tell you how well respected Maury Hicks is.

Maury is smart. He is honest. He is a hard worker. He is everything I think we want in a Federal district judge. He will be welcomed by the bar in the Western District because I know that Maury will be the kind of judge that lawyers in any part of our country would appreciate. He will work hard. He will get the job done. He will be fair.

And so I recommend without hesitation Maury Hicks as the next Federal judge from the Western District of Louisiana.

Chairman HATCH. Well, thank you, Congressman. We appreciate that. Mr. Hicks certainly has to be very pleased to have both of you come and testify for him. Thank you for being here. We appreciate it.

Representative MCCRERY. Thank you.
Senator BREAU. Thank you.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ORRIN G. HATCH, A U.S.
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF UTAH**

Chairman HATCH. We will make our statements now. Let me say a few words about our first nominee, John Roberts, who has quite a history as a judicial nominee. He was originally nominated for a seat on the D.C. Circuit more than 11 years ago by the first President Bush, but was never given a hearing and was never confirmed. He was renominated by the current President Bush on May 9, 2001, but he did not receive a hearing in the 107th Congress. He was then renominated for the third time this past January, and all told, he has been nominated by two different Presidents on three separate occasions for the Federal appellate bench over the last 12 years.

The Committee finally held a hearing on Mr. Roberts' nomination on January 29th of this year, and during that marathon hearing, which started at 9:30 a.m. and did not end until approximately 9:30 that night, he answered every question that he was asked in a precise and informative manner. He also answered a myriad written questions submitted to him after the hearing—more than 70, to be precise. The Committee favorably reported his nomination for consideration by the full Senate with bipartisan support. All ten Republican Members of the Committee voted for Mr. Roberts, along with four Democratic Members. However, pursuant to an agreement between the Republican and Democratic Senate leadership, I have asked Mr. Roberts to return for this hearing with the clear understanding that his nomination will move to the Senate floor for an up or down vote without undue delay. In fact, our agreement