

to balance several sometimes competitive personal dynamics. They balance broad life exposure with specific courtroom experiences, raw legal aptitude with common sense, patience with firmness, and intellectual curiosity with focused decisionmaking.

Well, John Woodcock has proven his ability to display all these vital traits, plus one more—the ability to balance work with family. I am delighted, Mr. Chairman, to tell you that his family is here today—his sons, Patrick, Chris, and Jack, who works on the Governmental Affairs Committee for Senator Collins, and of course, his great wife, Beverly.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, I am most proud to be able to come before this Committee to introduce to you a candidate with the credentials that Mr. Woodcock possesses in abundance. With his substantial and broad legal and courtroom experience as well as his keen intellect and perspective, solid character, and outstanding reputation, he has the ability to manage a challenging docket.

So I am convinced that you will leave this hearing, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, as impressed with John Woodcock as we all have been in Maine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Thank you, Senator Snowe. We look forward to hearing from Mr. Woodcock a little later.

Senator Alexander?

Senator ALEXANDER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I wonder if Senator Collins would like to go ahead, Mr. Chairman, since we were talking about the Maine judge.

Senator CHAMBLISS. That would be very gracious on your part.

Senator Collins, we will be glad to hear from you, and then probably Senator Frist, before we get back to you, Senator Alexander.

Senator SCHUMER. Are there any objections to that, Senator Alexander?

[Laughter.]

PRESENTATION OF JOHN A. WOODCOCK, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE, BY HON. SUSAN COLLINS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MAINE

Senator COLLINS. First, let me apologize to my colleague that I was not here for her statement.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, and members of this distinguished panel. It is my distinct pleasure to speak on behalf of John Woodcock's nomination to be a District Judge for the District of Maine.

I have known John and his wife Beverly for many years. In fact, John recruited me many years ago to serve on the board of Eastern Maine Medical Center which he has chaired for 23 years. This is typical of John's service to his community. He has devoted countless hours volunteering his time and energy to his alma mater, Bowdoin College, Eastern Maine Charities, the Maine State Commission on Arts and Humanities, the Good Samaritan Agency, and the Bangor Children's Home, to name just a few.

The Woodcock family has a proud tradition of public service that spans generations. In fact, two of John's sons, I am pleased to say, have worked as members of my staff. His son Jack currently serves on my Governmental Affairs Committee staff, while his son Patrick

worked for me in my Bangor office and will be returning this summer.

Their hard work and professional demeanor is proof that the apple does not fall far from the tree, and I am pleased that they are all here for this hearing today.

Let me tell you just a little more about John's qualifications to be a Federal judge. He began practicing law nearly 30 years ago and has built a distinguished career as a litigator. He has served as an assistant district attorney for the State of Maine and has worked in private practice as an associate and partner of several law firms in our State.

During his career, John has served as lead counsel in 47 separate appeals to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court on issues ranging from criminal law to trust law. John has also taken an active role in improving the standards of the legal profession, serving on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court's Advisory Committee on Professional Responsibility.

Those of us familiar with John's sterling character and stellar legal career were not surprised when the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated him as "well-qualified." Indeed, it would be difficult for Senator Snowe and I to come up with any other candidate better suited to serve as a Federal judge in the State of Maine.

John has the intelligence, temperament, and integrity to serve on the Federal bench. I have every confidence that he will be a superb Federal judge; he will faithfully follow the laws interpreted by higher courts and bring justice to the parties before him.

I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support John Woodcock's nomination, and I hope that this distinguished Committee will unanimously approve him.

Thank you very much for the opportunity, and to my colleagues for their courtesy.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Thank you very much, Senator Collins for being here.

Next, the Majority Leader, Senator Frist.

PRESENTATION OF J. RONNIE GREER, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, BY HON. BILL FRIST, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Senator FRIST. Mr. Chairman, thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to be here for a few minutes to introduce and express my strong personal and professional support for J. Ronnie Greer's nomination as a United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

I thank the Chairman, the Ranking Member, and members of the Committee, for this opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, people who hail from the mountains of northeast Tennessee are known for their loyalty, for their integrity, for their steadfastness, for their can-do spirit, and indeed, Ronnie Greer personifies that rich tradition.

For the past 19 years, Judge Thomas Hull has served as District Judge in Tennessee's Eastern District, and his distinguished career will long be remembered, and indeed, Judge Hull's shoes are large