

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

and will be big to fill. I am confident, absolutely confident, that Ronnie Greer will do so.

Ronnie has been a personal friend for the past 6 years. He is an accomplished public servant. He has served as an attorney in Tennessee's judicial system with great distinction for the past 20 years. His academic career speaks for itself—he graduated at the top of his class at the University of Tennessee Law School and was invited to be on Law Review.

He has had a distinguished career in politics and public service outside of his law practice. He was a State Senator in Tennessee's General Assembly for 9 years, ably serving the people of his district, District One. There, he served on both the Judiciary Committee and as Chairman of the Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee.

Ronnie also served, as you will shortly hear, as special assistant in Governor Lamar Alexander's first term, forming a bond and a friendship that continues to this day.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I tell you that you cannot demand respect from the people of northeast Tennessee—you earn it. And Ronnie has done so without any question. He is known for his sense of fair play and his compassion. With his easy-going, thoughtful manner yet quick mind and keen legal ability, he has the temperament and mature judgment that is necessary and required for the Federal bench.

Mr. Chairman, Ronnie Greer's dedication to the citizens of our State, his true love of the law, and his desire to serve his country make him an ideal choice to serve as a U.S. District Judge. He has my highest recommendation and my unqualified support, and I thank your Committee for scheduling this hearing for his presentation today.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Thank you very much for being with us. Senator Alexander?

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

Senator ALEXANDER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am glad I got elected to the Senate in time to join Senator Frist in recommending to the President Ronnie Greer to be the judge in the Eastern District of Tennessee at Greeneville. Let me not be redundant about what Bill said, but let me see if I can add to it a little bit.

Arthur T. Vanderbilt, who was the dean of the New York University Law School, used to encourage his students to practice law "in the grand manner," and by that, he meant that they be superb litigators, wise counselors, and that they understand the people whom they served and that they were respectful of those persons. He also meant that they be involved during their time in public service. It has gotten harder to do all those things as a lawyer these days because the practice is so specialized, but Ronnie Greer has been able to do that throughout his career.

He is all of those things that the Majority Leader has said, and the point that I would like to emphasize is the breadth of his