

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

knowledge and the breadth of his skills. He has tried approximately 200 cases in State and Federal courts. He has served as a county attorney. He has been in civil and criminal litigation. He has tried cases in personal injury, in criminal defense, and environmental law. He has represented defendants in criminal cases. He has represented numerous indigent clients in pro bono cases.

And in public service, he has a long and distinguished career and has been named Conservationist of the Year, chaired committees, been elected by the people he served and been Chairman of his political party's activities.

So while Arthur Vanderbilt probably did not have in mind anybody from upper East Tennessee, from the town where former Senator Andrew Johnson, President Andrew Johnson, once lived, he would have been proud of Ronnie Greer just as Senator Frist and I are proud to recommend him. He knows East Tennessee. He knows the law. I have known him since he was a student body president at East Tennessee State University. He is one of the most exceptional citizens we have in our State, and we are fortunate that the President chose to nominate him to be Federal District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Thank you.

Senator CHAMBLISS. And he certainly graduated from an outstanding law school.

We have a vote which started about 3 minutes ago, but I would like to see if we can't rush through with our colleagues who are here.

Senator SCHUMER, do you want to go first, or do you want to let them go? Normally, the senior Senator would go first, and I want to let you have as much time as you want.

PRESENTATION OF RICHARD C. WESLEY, NOMINEE TO BE CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT, BY HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Senator SCHUMER. I will be brief.

I just want to welcome my colleagues here—Senator Clinton, of course, and we have a special guest. It is rare that somebody from the House comes by, but Congressman Reynolds was really instrumental in bringing Judge Wesley to the Committee's attention. They have known each other for many years. And I see a third member of the triumvirate, former Congressman Paxon, in the back; they are a great group as well. I also want to thank his family for being here as well, including his mother, who is 86, God bless.

Mr. Chairman, I am in full support of Judge Wesley's nomination. Like most nominees we see, he has a top-flight legal mind and experience. He graduated summa cum laude from SUNY Albany and Cornell Law School, worked in private practice for several years, and served in the New York State Assembly a few years after I did, from 1983 to 1987.

Mr. Chairman, this is not a nominee who comes before us where it is well, maybe someone wants him, so we should make him a judge. He is so well-qualified; he has made an excellent judge in New York State, and he will just be a superb judge here.