



# BILL FRIST

U.S. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER • TENNESSEE

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**Senate Judiciary Committee  
Nomination Hearing of Ronnie Greer to the  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee  
Statement by U.S. Majority Leader Bill Frist, M.D.**

Mr. Chairman, I am fortunate today to have the opportunity to address you in support of J. Ronnie Greer's nomination as a United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. And I thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member and all the members of the Committee for allowing me to do so.

People who hail from the mountains of northeast Tennessee are known for their loyalty, their steadfastness, and their can-do spirit, and Ronnie Greer personifies that tradition.

For the last 19 years, Judge Thomas Huff has served as District Judge in Tennessee's Eastern District, and his distinguished career will long be remembered. While Judge Huff leaves big shoes to fill, I am confident Ronnie Greer is up to the task.

Ronnie is a highly accomplished public servant who has served as an attorney in Tennessee's judicial system with great distinction for more than 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.

Since starting his own law office in Greeneville, Ronnie has represented numerous clients on a wide range of issues, and he has considerable experience before the federal courts. Recognizing the need to help his fellow man, he has not hesitated to accept the appointments of indigent clients, representing them in both the District Court and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ronnie has also 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 nine years, ably serving the people of District One. There he served on both the Judiciary Committee and as Chairman of the Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee.

Ronnie also served as a Special Assistant in Governor Lamar Alexander's first term, forming a friendship and a bond that continues to this day. I know our colleague will further attest to Ronnie's talents and commitment to public service.

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I tell you, Mr. Chairman, you can't demand respect from the people of northeast Tennessee, you have to earn it, and Ronnie has done so without any question. He is known for his sense of fair play and his compassion for others. With his easy-going, thoughtful manner, yet quick mind and keen legal ability, he has the temperament and judgment required for the federal bench.

Mr. Chairman, Ronnie Greer's dedication to the citizens of our state, his 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 unqualified support, and I thank your Committee for scheduling Mr. Greer's hearing so promptly.