

of us, as attorneys, do in a lifetime. His exceptional qualifications and youthful energy will invigorate the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice as it investigates and prosecutes some of the Nation's most important cases, including cases related to terrorism.

We are truly fortunate to have someone as qualified as Mr. Wray to serve as the assistant attorney general for the Criminal Division. Former Attorney General Griffin Bell, former Senator Sam Nunn, Attorney General John Ashcroft, and Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson all unconditionally support this nominee.

Mr. Wray's decision to serve his country required that he move his wife and two young children to Washington from Atlanta and forego regularly attending Braves games, drinking sweet tea and enjoying all things Southern.

[Laughter.]

Senator CHAMBLISS. For his commitment to public service, I am very grateful. I welcome him here today. I urge the Committee to support his nomination, and I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator GRAHAM. He has given up a lot.

Thank you.

Senator Miller?

PRESENTATION OF CHRISTOPHER A. WRAY, NOMINEE TO BE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BY HON. ZELL MILLER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Senator MILLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am very honored and pleased to join with my colleague, Senator Chambliss, and appear before this Committee to add my presentation of Christopher Wray, who has, you have been told, been nominated to be assistant attorney general for the Criminal Division of the Justice Department.

Once again, President Bush has made what I think is an outstanding choice. This is a young man who is wise and mature beyond his 36 years. His remarkable resume reads like one that should belong to someone much, much older. This is a young man who has the law in his blood. His father, his uncle, his grandfather, and his grandmother were all lawyers. This is a young man whose peers speak of him in glowing terms, unbelievably hardworking, straight shooter, very even keeled are the phrases they use.

This is a young man who has earned the trust and confidence of 2 of the best lawyers the State of Georgia has ever produced.

The first is Griffin Bell, who was appointed to a Federal judgeship by President John Kennedy, and who was our Nation's former Attorney General under Jimmy Carter. As Senator Chambliss has told you, Griffin Bell has watched this young man for a long time. He first spotted him while he was still a student at Yale and recruited him to the prestigious law firm of King and Spalding.

At King and Spalding, Chris was immediately handed the plum assignment of working on Griffin Bell's Special Matters Government Investigations practice. It is an assignment that goes only to the best of the best in that firm.

Judge Bell said recently of Chris, "From day one he was born to be a good lawyer."

As you have been told, Chris also has another big fan, Larry Thompson. Two years ago I had the honor and the pleasure of coming before this Committee to present Larry Thompson for his nomination hearing as deputy attorney general. He has done an outstanding job for this Nation, as I knew he would. Larry Thompson also holds Chris Wray in very high regard. Larry was Chris' mentor early in his career, and they served together on that elite Special Matters practice at King and Spalding.

Larry is also the godfather of Chris' 6-year-old son, Trip, and his wife Helen and his daughter Caroline are also here with us today.

As an assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of Georgia, Chris was assigned to the hardest cases, and he helped send to prison drug traffickers, counterfeiters, church arsonists, kidnapers, armed bank robbers and gun traffickers.

One of Chris' final cases was a very high-profile public corruption case, in which the City of Atlanta had lost millions of dollars in a bribery scheme. It was a complicated case that was made more so by the fact that the opposing counsel was Chris' friend and mentor, Larry Thompson.

After a hard-fought 3-week trial, Chris won a guilty verdict, and Larry's client was sentenced to prison. At that point, Larry was probably wishing that he had not trained Chris quite so well. But several months later, when Larry became deputy attorney general, he did what any sensible person would do who had been beaten by one of the best. He brought Chris to Washington as his top assistant.

At the Justice Department, Chris has approached his duties with that same dedication, the same common sense, the same keen legal skills that made Griffin Bell and Larry Thompson take notice of them more than a decade ago. At a time when our Nation faces a threat from terrorism like any we have ever faced, we need the hardest worker, we need the brightest man as our top criminal prosecutor. And I submit to this distinguished Committee that is what we have in Chris Wray.

So it is my honor to present Christopher Wray to this Committee. I want to join Griffin Bell, and Larry Thompson, and Senator Sam Nunn, Senator Saxby Chambliss in giving him my strongest recommendation for confirmation as assistant attorney general for the Criminal Division.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator GRAHAM. Thanks, Senator.

Thank you both. Very impressive young man.

Senator Murray?

PRESENTATION OF LONNY SUKO, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, BY HON. PATTY MURRAY, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Senator MURRAY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Senator Edwards, members of the Committee, along with my colleague, Senator Cantwell and members of our House delegation who are both here, Congressman George Nethercutt and Congressman Doc Hastings, it is my pleasure to introduce Lonny Suko, a distinguished lawyer and U.S. magistrate judge from Washington State.