

Senator DURBIN. Mr. Chairman, if I could interrupt for a moment? Could I have leave to enter into the record a statement by the ranking Democratic leader, Senator Leahy?

Senator GRAHAM. Without objection.

Senator DURBIN. Thank you.

Senator GRAHAM. Who is the most senior of you all?

Representative NETHERCUTT. You mean by age, chronologically or?

Representative HASTINGS. I am more mature.

Senator GRAHAM. Well, how about Doc Hastings? Congressman Hastings, thank you for coming.

**PRESENTATION OF LONNY R. SUKO, NOMINEE TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, BY HON. DOC HASTINGS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

Representative HASTINGS. Senator Graham and I sometimes have a hard time saying that.

Senator GRAHAM. You are not the only one.

[Laughter.]

Representative HASTINGS. Thank you very much, and Senator Edwards, thank you very much for the courtesy you are showing to me and my colleague from Washington, George Nethercutt, on this issue.

We are pleased to be here to introduce to you, or second if that is the proper protocol, what Senator Murray did in introducing to you Lonny Suko as appointment to the Federal Judge.

He is a constituent of mine. Indeed his office, when he served as a Federal Magistrate, was right across the street from my district office in Yakima, and we had several conversations over the time on different issues. And I was always impressed by how he approached whatever issue we were talking about.

Senator Murray, I think, laid out very well his background, his judicial temperament. The one thing I want to dwell on just a bit here is his most previous role prior to getting this nomination, and that as a Federal Magistrate. As you know, sometimes the job of a magistrate is one that is under the radar, and that work is done pretty much under the radar. But there are two very high-profile cases that he provided over in which there was a settlement, and I think is worth noting today.

One of them involved the Gypsy Church of the Northwest against Spokane City County. It involved more than a million dollars and various activities. The reason I mention that is Spokane is George's hometown. I am about 150 miles from Spokane, but this case raised a very high profile because it went on for some time. While I am not an attorney, I remember that being settled. I have a cousin that is an attorney in Spokane that I think worked on that a little bit, and to have settled that I think was a tremendous accomplishment that probably demonstrated the temperament that Judge Suko brings to this job.

And the other one was one that Senator Murray mentioned regarding the mass shooting at Fairchild Air Force Base, and that involved a settlement of some \$17 million, a numerous number of people.

So I just bring this to your attention to demonstrate the temperament that I think Judge Suko had that impressed a bipartisan group of attorneys that George and I were involved with along with our two Senators to make recommendations to the White House.

I am pleased to say that this bipartisan group of attorneys that looked at these nominees, unanimously recommended Judge Suko for the Federal Bench. So I am pleased to be here to introduce him to you. Hopefully, the confirmation process will be very quick and unanimous like our recommendation was.

Again, thank you very much for the courtesy you have shown us here.

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you, Congressman Hastings.  
Congressman NETHERCUTT.

**PRESENTATION OF LONNY R. SUKO, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, BY HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

Representative NETHERCUTT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

I am delighted to be here in support of Lonny Suko and his nomination by the President to be U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, a jurisdiction that Congressman Hastings and I share. It represents about two-thirds or a half, thereabouts, of the geographical area of our State of Washington. So it is a very large district and it is a very diverse district.

I want to also comment on Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell, and thank them for their cooperation in this whole effort and their recommendation of Magistrate Suko to be a U.S. District Court Judge. I believe he has the judicial temperament, the intellectual capacity, the experience in private practice, and certainly the experience as a U.S. Magistrate to make him eminently qualified for the position of U.S. District Court Judge.

He is a loving father, a devoted husband, and is highly respected in his community. The bar association, without exception, finds him to be a gentleman and a high-quality individual. He blends kindness with decisiveness, and I think that is a great quality for a U.S. District Court Judge.

I thank you for holding the hearing. I thank you for welcoming him. I have a statement for the record. I would ask that it be included, and I thank Judge Suko, Honorable Magistrate Suko, for presenting himself for this new challenge.

My colleague reminds me, if we may introduce him and his wife. They are here today and we would ask them to stand.

Senator GRAHAM. Please stand. Thank you very much for coming. Welcome.

Representative NETHERCUTT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Representative Nethercutt appears as a submission for the record.]

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you both. It is a pleasure to see you both. Thank you for coming over. Thank you very much.

At this time I think we will hear from Ms. Duncan, Panel II, if she will come forward. Judge Duncan, please have a seat. Make