

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Matthew.

TIMETABLE FOR SOTOMAYOR HEARING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, earlier today, Chairman LEAHY announced July 13 as the start date for the Judiciary Committee hearings on Supreme Court Justice nominee Sonia Sotomayor. I am extremely disappointed with this unilateral decision on the part of my Democratic colleagues. In the past, the decision of when to start these Supreme Court hearings has been a bipartisan one. With the Roberts and Alito nominations, Republicans worked with our colleagues to accommodate Democrat concerns about the timing of the hearings for the highest court in the land. Senators LEAHY and SPECTER held joint press conferences announcing the Roberts and Alito hearings.

I would have hoped that Ranking Member SESSIONS and Judiciary Committee Republicans would have gotten the same courtesy for President Obama's nominee. Yet I understand that Ranking Member SESSIONS had no idea that Chairman LEAHY was going to the floor to make this July 13 announcement, and that he was not consulted about this decision. Clearly the July 13 date is not a bipartisan decision.

Moreover, July 13 is just not enough time to prepare for a thorough and careful review of Judge Sotomayor's record and qualifications to be a Supreme Court Justice. First, July 13 is a mere 48 days from the nomination announcement to the hearing, which is shorter than the timeframe for Justices Roberts and Alito. Moreover, Justice Roberts had just a few hundred decisions for the Judiciary Committee to analyze. Judge Sotomayor has over 3,000 cases over a 17-year period on the Federal bench for us to study. The Alito confirmation hearing timeframe is probably a better comparison since Justice Alito had a similar large number of decisions.

With respect to concerns that criticisms have been lodged against the nominee, we don't control what outside groups say, but I do I know that Senate Republican members have treated Judge Sotomayor fairly and have not engaged in personal attacks. So the idea that Judge Sotomayor needs a hearing scheduled as soon as possible to respond to criticisms by outside groups just doesn't hold water.

In addition, the Judiciary Committee has yet to receive everything we need from Judge Sotomayor. I understand that her questionnaire is not complete, that we have yet to receive all her documentation, memos, speeches and unpublished opinions, that we still don't have her ABA review and FBI background report. It seems like the rushed nature of the process has contributed

to the deficiencies in the questionnaire and the number of documents that are still missing. We need all this stuff in order to fully vet the nominee.

Judge Sotomayor has an extensive record, and the July 13 timetable that Chairman LEAHY wants to impose will force us to consider a Supreme Court nominee with one of the lengthiest records in recent history in the shortest time in recent history. Republican members got no serious consideration to address concerns about timing, and no consultation or bipartisanship on setting the start date as has been done in the past.

I and my Republican colleagues are committed to give Judge Sotomayor a fair hearing, but we need to thoroughly review her extensive legal record and that takes time. It is important that we do the job right because this is a lifetime appointment and we are talking about the highest court of the land. As my Democrat colleagues have said before, the Senate cannot be a rubberstamp. We have a constitutional responsibility to carefully vet Judge Sotomayor and not rush the process. We owe this to the American people.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RONALD TAKAKI

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor the life of Professor Ronald Takaki, a pioneer and leader in the field of ethnic studies. Professor Takaki passed away on May 26, 2009, at the age of 70.

Ronald Takaki, the grandson of Japanese immigrants, was born and raised in Hawaii. In his youth he was an avid surfer, earning the nickname "Ten Toes Takaki" because of his ability to perform one of the most impressive and iconic stunts a surfer can do on a surfboard. Though uninterested in school when he was younger, Takaki applied to and was accepted at the College of Wooster in Ohio; he was the first in his family to attend college. After earning a bachelor's degree in history, he attended UC Berkeley, where he received a master's and doctorate in history. It was at UC Berkeley, doing a dissertation on the history of American slavery, that Takaki found his passion.

In 1967, Takaki was hired by UCLA, where he taught the University of California's first Black history course following the tumultuous Watts riots. Though an unlikely candidate to teach the course, students quickly came to respect and admire him, and he and his class became one of the most popular on campus. In 1971, Professor Takaki returned to UC Berkeley, where he served as the first full-time teacher in the Department of Ethnic Studies.

In addition to teaching Black history, Professor Takaki also established UC Berkeley's PhD program in ethnic studies, the first of its kind in the Nation. During the 30 years he taught at UC Berkeley, Professor Takaki suc-

ceeded in his desire to make the school's curriculum more multicultural and diverse. He inspired and engaged thousands of students with his thought-provoking and insightful perspectives on race and ethnicity in the United States.

Professor Takaki was also a distinguished and prolific writer. Among his most well-known books were *Iron Cages: Race and Culture in 19th-Century America*; *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*, which won the American Book Award, and *Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Professor Takaki is survived by his wife Carol; his children Troy, Todd, and Dana; his brother Michael; his sister Janet; and his seven grandchildren. I extend my deepest sympathies to his entire family.

Professor Takaki was widely considered to be the father of multiculturalism. His trailblazing spirit and love of life was evident in everything that he did, and his many years of service as an educator, writer, and activist will not be forgotten. We take comfort in knowing that future generations will benefit from his tireless efforts to make America a better place to live. ●

COMMENDING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS—OMAHA DISTRICT

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 75th anniversary year of the establishment of the Omaha District as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Established on January 2, 1934, the immediate mission of the Omaha District was the creation of Fort Peck Dam in Montana, which was the first of six multipurpose main stem dams operating as part of a flood control system on the upper Missouri River. After completing the Fort Peck Dam, the Corps, operating under the Pick-Sloan Plan, went on to build the other five main stem structures on the Upper Missouri River. The Plan called for a coordinated effort with the Bureau of Reclamation for irrigation projects, flood control, navigation, and recreation facilities.

In the early 1940s, the Omaha District added military construction to its mission. Its first task was construction of Lowry Field in Colorado. Since then, the Omaha District has been involved in the construction of several historic projects, such as the Northern Area Defense Command in Cheyenne Mountain, Colorado; various missile control and launch facilities throughout the Midwest; and facilities for Space Command.

As the Cold War ended in the 1980s, the national focus switched to a stronger set of environmental principles. The Omaha District readily adopted a "green" program, providing outstanding leadership in environmental remediation. Today, the Omaha