

attention with her clear and thoughtful arguments—we hear the echoes of Mel's plainspoken sensibility.

One year after that cruel October morning, JEAN CARNAHAN has become the great Senator that Mel Carnahan would have been had he been given the chance. That is one blessing that makes his loss more bearable.

The poet Longfellow wrote:

When a great man dies,
for years beyond our ken,
the light he leaves behind him lies
upon the paths of men.

During his life, Mel Carnahan cast a bright and shining light on his state and our nation. His death did not extinguish that light.

That light continues to shine in the remarkable work and the indomitable spirit of his partner and our colleague, Senator JEAN CARNAHAN.

Today, especially today we thank her for her courage and for our inspiration.

JUDICIAL CONFIRMATIONS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concern over the slow pace of judicial confirmations in the Senate.

The Bush administration deserves to be treated as fairly by the Democrat majority as the Republican majority treated the Clinton administration. Thus far, the facts show that the pace of confirmations is extremely slow and the number of vacancies is extremely high.

The Senate has confirmed only 8 judges so far this year, compared to 60 who have been nominated. During the Clinton administration, the Senate confirmed an average of 47 judges per year. In the first year of the Clinton administration, the Senate confirmed 28 judges, which is about average when compared to the first year for Reagan and Bush I. In the final year of the Clinton administration, we confirmed 39.

Given these numbers, it should not be surprising that the number of vacancies is much higher today than at the end of the Clinton administration. As of today, there are 109 vacancies for a vacancy rate of 12.7 percent, while at the end of the Clinton administration last year, there were only 67 vacancies for a 7.9 percent vacancy rate.

The Senate confirmed almost the same number of judges for President Clinton as for President Reagan, 377 compared to 384. This is true even though Republicans controlled the Senate for six years of Clinton and six years of Reagan. In fact, while I was Chairman for the first six years of the Reagan administration, I made confirmations arguably my top priority. Yet, the numbers are comparable.

The Democrat majority often notes that it has confirmed more circuit judges this year than the Senate did for the first year of the Clinton admin-

istration. While this is true, President Clinton nominated only five circuit judges in his first year in office, compared to 21 for President Bush so far this year. Also, in the first year of Clinton, the Democrats were in charge at the time. Last year, while Republicans were in control and it was an election year, the Senate still confirmed 8 circuit judges, double the number we have confirmed so far this year.

Under any reasonable evaluation, the numbers show that we are far behind this year. However, there is still time to act this session, and make the numbers fair with former Presidents.

In the first year of each of the past three administrations, all judges nominated before the end of the August recess were confirmed that year. The only exception is one judge during the first year of the Clinton administration who received a negative American Bar Association rating, and even he was confirmed the next year. President Bush nominated 44 judges before the end of August, and to be consistent we should confirm these judges before we adjourn this year.

One pending circuit court nominee is Judge Dennis Shedd, who was among President Bush's first set of nominees sent to the Senate on May 9. He has been a very able district court judge for the past decade and was formerly the chief counsel and staff director of the Judiciary Committee. He has bipartisan support. Also, the position for which he has been nominated has been declared a judicial emergency by the Administrative Office of the Courts. In addition, the committee held a hearing in August on the nomination of Terry Wooten for the District Court in South Carolina. I sincerely hope both of these fine judicial candidates can be confirmed this year.

In summary, I hope the Senate can act this year on many pending judicial nominees, and greatly reduce the extremely high vacancy rate that currently faces our Federal courts.

COMMENDING MR. ISAAC HOOPII FOR HIS ACTIONS AT THE PENTAGON

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, on September 11, 2001, out of the rubble of destruction, countless Americans rose and demonstrated great courage and selflessness. One such American was Mr. Isaac Hoopii, a Native Hawaiian who resides in McLean, VA, and is a Pentagon police officer and member of a bomb-sniffing canine police unit.

Minutes after a hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon, Mr. Hoopii raced into the burning building and carried out eight people.

His calm resolve in the face of danger equaled his physical prowess. Unable to see the terrified victims, but knowing that they were amid the debris, smoke,

and darkness, Mr. Hoopii repeatedly called out: "Head toward my voice."

Several people followed his voice and crawled to safety. At least one man who was led by Mr. Hoopii's voice called it the "voice of an angel," and credits it for saving his life.

I have had the opportunity to hear Mr. Hoopii's voice. He is a musician with the "Aloha Boys," a Hawaiian musical group that has performed on Capitol Hill. His singing is melodious and resonant, but I believe Mr. Hoopii's voice had never before sounded more beautiful than it did on that September morning. Mr. Hoopii carries with him the true aloha spirit, and I thank and commend him for sharing with the world the aloha of the Hawaiian people, whom I have been privileged to serve.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred June 21, 2001 in Cortez, CO. The body of an openly gay, half-Navajo teen, Fred Martinez Jr., 16, was found south of Cortez 5 days after he left home to go to a carnival. Police have arrested another teen, Shaun Murphy, in the murder and are investigating whether the homicide was a hate crime based on sexual orientation or race. The perpetrator allegedly bragged that he "beat up a fag." Martinez often curled his hair, plucked his eyebrows, wore make-up and toted a purse to school. His mother told the press that she firmly believes her son's slaying was a hate crime based on his gender identity or because he was transgender.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HONORING TODD BEAMER

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man whose undaunted and determined spirit showed this world the best of humanity. On September 11, Todd Beamer took action against the hijackers on United Flight 93 for the noblest cause, so that others might live.

Todd's spirit proved stronger than the evil that boarded Flight 93 on that infamous day. His spirit of kindness and generosity, of selflessness and bravery never faltered.