

Washington Roundtable; Representative David Upthegrove, Washington House of Representatives; Representative Dave Quall, Washington House of Representatives; Dr. Robert Butts, Assistant Superintendent, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

West Virginia: Mrs. Priscilla Haden, State Facilitator, Member, State Board of Education; Delegate Tom Campbell, West Virginia House of Delegates; Mr. Ben Beakes, Chief of Staff, West Virginia Secretary of State; Mr. Bill Thomas, West Virginia Legislative Reference and Information Center; Ms. Regina Scotchie, Social Studies Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Education.

Wisconsin: Ms. Dee Runaas, State Facilitator; Dr. Diana Hess, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin; Honorable Elizabeth A. Burmaster, State Superintendent; Senator Luther Olsen, Wisconsin State Senate; Dr. Richard Grobshmidt, Assistant State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction; Lindsey Draper, Milwaukee County Children's Court; Senator Robert Jauch, Wisconsin State Senate; Ms. Beth Ratway, Social Studies Consultant, Department of Public Instruction.

Wyoming: Mr. Matt Strannigan, State Facilitator; Ms. Wendy Madsen, Legislative Information Officer, Wyoming Legislature; Senator Mike Massie, Wyoming State Senate; Mr. Geoff O'Gara, Member, Member, Wyoming State Board of Education; Representative Rosie Berger, Wyoming House of Representatives; Ms. Kristi Wallin, Coordinator, Wyoming Partnership for Civic Education.

SAMOYEDS STRUT STUFF IN OWENSBORO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it was President Harry Truman who observed, half a century ago, that "if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog." That is perhaps a little harsh. Nevertheless, I note that many of my colleagues in the Congress are dog fanciers, and the Senate is a strikingly dog-friendly workplace. So it is fitting that we pay tribute to a renowned people-friendly breed of dog: the Samoyed. Legendary for their beauty, friendly spirit and heroic and historic treks to the North and South Poles, Samoyeds pulled the adventurers of yesteryear to new frontiers.

Several hundred Samoyeds and their humans will be pulling into Owensboro, KY, in October for the Samoyed Club of America's "Simply Southern" National Specialty. While I am pleased that these noble dogs and their guardians will be visiting the Commonwealth, it is, sadly, because of Hurricane Katrina's devastation in Biloxi, MS, where the event was originally scheduled to be held. So the SCA Specialty this year is a hurricane evacuee, but in addition to contributing over \$10,000 from show proceeds to animal rescue in the devastated region, the organizers look forward to going back to a rebuilt and newly vibrant gulf coast in the future.

Samoyed dogs were named for the semi nomadic tribe which developed the breed. Living along the shores of the Arctic Ocean, north of Russia and Siberia, they were one of the earliest tribes of Central Asia. They depended upon their dogs to herd reindeer, pro-

tect against wolves, hunt bears, and even keep the children warm as they slept. Their endurance and intelligence made the Samoyed dogs prized members of early European expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic. Borchgrevink, Amundsen, and Shackleton in the Antarctic, and Nansen and Abruzzi in the Arctic, counted on Samoyeds to explore the extreme and then uncharted ends of the Earth. The American explorers Fiala and Baldwin also used Samoyed sled teams. Most of the Samoyeds in England and the United States today are related to sled dogs from those expeditions.

Among them was Rex of White Way, who was renown as the lead dog on the U.S. Mail sled team that used to run the 64-mile mail delivery route from Ashton, ID, to West Yellowstone, over the 7000-foot Targhee Pass. Rex was a superb canine athlete and hero. He even learned to parachute on rescue missions that retrieved survivors of airplane crashes and a snowbound train in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Although Samoyeds are a medium-sized dog ranging in weight from 35-65 pounds, they are very strong. Rex of White Way broke the world weight-pull record in 1953 by pulling 1,870 pounds.

Samoyeds have been described as "by nature . . . not a quarrelsome dog though he will stand his ground for what he feels are his rights. Each Samoyed is an individual, even from one litter. One will be very attentive and obedient while another may be more headstrong and less demanding of affection as long as he knows the house is his castle when he wants it and he owns you."

One may detect in that description some symmetry with Senators.

The description goes on: He has a keen sense of knowing when you are happy, sad, who really loves him, just tolerates him, dislikes him and he will return his love accordingly. He is a 'talky' dog and with encouragement will voice his pleasures and his dislikes. Some enjoy jokes and ham it up when laughed at while others resent it. He will speak with his paw or nose.

Samoyeds today are still pulling sleds. They are also skijoring, pulling scooters, herding, excelling in agility and obedience trials and otherwise exemplify the "Working" class of dogs. As therapy dogs, they bring joy and comfort to people in nursing homes and hospitals. Indeed, at least one Samoyed therapy dog that I know of, Gidget (Salish's Potomac Fervour), recently visited Hurricane Katrina evacuees from Gulfport, MS, who are currently residing at the Armed Forces Retirement Home here in Washington. She teams up with another Samoyed, Samantha, in regular visits with children at Inova Fairfax Hospital in northern Virginia. So these are not just beautiful dogs, they are hard-working dogs, doing great work for many people around the country.

On October 24, hundreds of Samoyeds, with their humans in tow, lit-

erally as they are prone to pull, will arrive in Owensboro. For some it will have been a harrowing journey since Hurricane Katrina roared ashore. Sheila and Walter Herrmann, co-chairs of the event and residents of Covington, LA, described their hurricane experience: Walter and I were hunkered down for the storm watching tree after tree fall and a tornado touch down and make a disaster of our kennels (the dogs, our own as well as the boarders were safely crated in the safest portion of our house) talking about the national is what helped us get through it.

Others involved in beating the odds and making this event happen include: Pam Barbe, Karen Brooks, Diane Dotson, Peggy Green, and Laurie Stone. I would also like to thank Jim and Celinda Cheskawich for all their good work.

Mr. President, Kentucky and I extend a warm welcome to the Samoyed Club of America's 2005 "Simply Southern" National Specialty.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On January 16, 2005, a man was attacked with broken glass bottles by two men outside his home in Manhattan, NY. The apparent motivation for the attack was the man's sexual orientation.

I believe that the 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 is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

NOMINATION OF JOHN ROBERTS

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, with the Judiciary Committee's confirmation hearings all but complete, I rise today to announce my vote on the nomination of Judge John Roberts to serve as the 17th Chief Justice and the 116th Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

I have come to my decision not in haste, but with great care and consideration. Over the history of our Nation, relatively few Senators have had the opportunity to consider the nomination of a Chief Justice and I recognize the honor that accompanies this great responsibility.

Judge Roberts is an extremely well qualified nominee. Some have said he

may be the best nominee ever to the Supreme Court. I am not one that regularly calls on such hyperbole on most issues, but I can say today that from what I have seen, I expect Judge Roberts to serve with distinction and honor as Chief Justice. I think the Court will be enhanced despite the obvious and measurable impact of the loss to the Court of Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

My record on judicial nominations speaks for itself. I have supported 213 of the 214 district and circuit court judges confirmed by the Senate. I voted against filibustering judicial nominees twenty-four times. I understand the executive branch's power to appoint judges—as Nebraska's Governor I appointed the entire State Supreme Court and Court of Appeals and more than half the State's sitting judges.

As a Senator who pledged to put aside the partisan games to get things done in Washington, I was very concerned last year about how a potential Senate shutdown due to a stalemate over judicial nominations would impact legislation important to the Nation, and especially my home State of Nebraska.

We needed a national energy policy—including the renewable fuels standard that would boost ethanol production, a very strong Nebraska industry. We needed to complete the Highway bill—with \$1.3 billion in road construction funds that will create jobs and boost the economy in Nebraska. We needed to avoid the now annual “omnibus” spending bill that made it nearly impossible to monitor and control Washington spending. Social Security and Medicare need to be addressed. At the time I was concerned about the ongoing drought—“Drought David” as I called it to bring attention to it—that is ravaging our agricultural sector in Nebraska and across the Nation. We had no idea the wrath and destruction that Hurricane season would bring to bear on the Nation, but after Katrina we can see how important it is to have a functioning Congress.

Senator ALEXANDER, during a floor speech regarding the judicial stalemate offered a suggestion, a call really, that many of us heard and decided to heed. Surely, a bipartisan group of Senators could develop an agreement that would resolve the stalled judicial nominations and diffuse the nuclear option—and ultimately, ease some of the partisan tension that had crippled the Senate and threatened to shut it down completely.

I am very proud of my role in the so-called “gang of fourteen,” the bipartisan group that navigated the path to confirmation for many of the President's judicial nominees and preserved the precedents and traditions of the Senate. I am also very proud that the gang's “memorandum of understanding” paved the way to complete many of the legislative priorities I mentioned earlier—including the energy bill and the highway bill.

The “memorandum of understanding” included an important section asking the President to improve communications with the Senate on judicial nominees. We asked that he spend more time on the advice part of the “advice and consent” clause in the Constitution.

When Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor announced her planned retirement in June, the White House heeded our recommendation and consulted with a vast majority of Senators before nominating Judge Roberts to the Court. That consultation with the Senate certainly diffused some of the more extreme partisanship when the Roberts nomination was announced. Not all of it, of course, but some of it.

Before the Judiciary Committee began its process, I met personally with Judge Roberts. In that meeting he impressed me. We talked at length about judicial activism and the threat it poses to the Nation. We talked about settled law. His knowledge of the history of law was impressive. His belief in and dedication to the rule of law was apparent and admirable.

At the outset of the Roberts confirmation process, I said that I hoped the gang of fourteen had no role in the process because that would mean the process was working. And it did work.

The Roberts confirmation hearings were dignified, the questions were tough but appropriate, and the answers Judge Roberts provided were as most expected. The hearings were no place to overturn law or discuss case specifics. The hearings did not produce any disqualifying revelations, nor did I expect that to happen.

Only time will tell where Judge Roberts will come down on the prevailing legal matters that come before the Roberts Court. I can only take him at his word that he will approach his role on the Court without a predetermined agenda, without activism, and with only the intention to balance the scales of justice for all Americans.

What came though to me as I watched his confirmation hearings was a man with great poise, a deep and thorough knowledge of the law, a love for this country and unmatched integrity. John Roberts is a man deserving of the nomination and deserving of confirmation.

I will vote to confirm Judge John Roberts as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

DEDICATION OF THE STATUE OF PO'PAY

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, this is a special day for New Mexicans. Earlier today, Congress accepted the statue of Po'pay, a man from San Juan Pueblo who played an important role in New Mexico's colonial history. The acceptance of this work marks the 100th contribution to the Statuary Hall Collection. On behalf of my home State, I give special recognition to sculptor Cliff Fragua, from Jemez Pueblo, for a

job well done. He should be proud of his work. Cliff is the first American Indian artist to sculpt a statue for the Statuary Hall Collection. I also thank the New Mexico Statuary Hall Commission and Foundation for all their dedication and tireless effort in making this endeavor a terrific success.

New Mexico's first statue in the collection is that of the late Senator Dennis Chavez. Unlike Senator Chavez, Po'pay was a leader of a different era. Po'pay was a leader among the Pueblo people during the latter part of the 17th century. He united the Pueblos and led the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. This revolt made apparent the Pueblo Indians' desire to maintain their dignity and culture—both socially and spiritually. The Po'pay-led insurrection against the Spanish conquerors was at its core a basic human and American need to challenge oppressors. Yes, there have been incidences of intolerance in our State's more than 400-year history. Those early days were hard and oftentimes brutal. Wrongs were done, and the Pueblo Revolt—represented with this statue—was the Native peoples' response to those hardships.

In the end, the Pueblo Revolt served as an important lesson for the Spaniards, who returned to New Mexico a dozen years later. The Pueblo Revolt forever shaped the history of the State of New Mexico and the American Southwest. The result of that uprising is still evident today as the Pueblo Indians continue to live a distinct lifestyle. The Pueblo culture of New Mexico draws visitors from around the world. The American people should take the time to visit and enjoy these ancient cultures that are alive today. Their lives give our State its name: “The Land of Enchantment.”

My own life has been made richer by my many Indian friends. My lifelong friend, Herman Agoyo, and his beautiful family are with us today. As well noted in the history of this event, Herman's leadership has been inspiring and tireless. Herman leads the Turtle Dance at San Juan Pueblo on December 26 of each year. This year, Herman and San Juan Pueblo Governor Garcia will have a special reason to celebrate this beautiful event. This is the year of Po'pay—from San Juan Pueblo—who is now honored here in our Nation's Capitol.

Today's Indian Pueblos are a cultural haven from ancient times. However, for all New Mexicans who came after, the revolt taught us an enduring lesson of tolerance and acceptance. It is this lesson that has resulted in New Mexico having one of the best and richest multicultural societies in the United States. As my friend Benny Atencio, of Santo Domingo Pueblo, observed:

I strongly feel that the selection of Po'pay to be placed in the nation's Statuary Hall along with that of the late Senator Dennis Chavez, who was my personal friend, would serve as a unique reminder to the world that two unique cultures can coexist without destruction of their traditional cultural values and beliefs.