

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 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that her questionnaire is not complete, that we have yet to receive all her documentation, memos, speeches and unpublished opinions, that we still don't have her ABA review and FBI background report.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

District is managing one of the largest base realignment and closure and "Grow the Army" initiatives in the Nation.

For more than 75 years, the men and women of the Omaha District have served their country by harnessing the mighty Missouri River basin, building state-of-the-art facilities to serve our military, and recovering the earth from hazardous toxic and radioactive waste.

It is only fitting that we in the Senate recognize the impressive achievements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Omaha District during its 75th year.●

2009 NEW HAMPSHIRE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the recipients of the 2009 New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards. The New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards, or "ED"ies, honor the best and the brightest among New Hampshire's educators and schools.

For the past 16 years, the "ED"ies have been presented to teachers, administrators, schools, and school boards who demonstrate the highest level of excellence in education. Outstanding individuals have been compared against criteria set by others in their discipline through their sponsoring organization. Experienced educators and community leaders select outstanding elementary, middle, and secondary schools based upon guidelines established by the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Board of Directors.

It is critical that all of our children receive a high quality education so that they can succeed in today's global economy. I am proud to recognize this year's recipients who will receive this prestigious award on June 13, 2009 for the positive examples they set for their peers and the lasting impact they have made on our children and communities.

I ask that the names of the 2009 New Hampshire Excellence in Education Award winners be printed in the RECORD.

2009 NEW HAMPSHIRE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Diane Beaman, Nora L. Beaton, Doug Brown, Michelle Carvalho, Cathy Chase, Mary K. Coltin, Anne Delaney, Arthur R. Deleault, Irene M. Derosier, Kenneth Dugal, Denise Dunlap, Katherine J. Engstrom, Deborah A. Fogg, Venera Gatttonini, Doris Grady, Nathan S. Greenberg, Gerri Harvey, Cathy Higgins.

Kathleen Collins McCabe, Eric "Chip" McGee, Dorothy M. Morin, Jackie Moulton, Sean P. Moynihan, Dorothy A. Peters, Marge Polak, Patricia Popieniek, Richard Provencher, Meagan Reed, Roberto Rodriguez, Fern Seiden, John J. Stone, Lionel B. Tracy, Jacqueline R. Verville, Sheila A. Ward, Suzette Wilson, Otis E. Wirth, Joseph L. Wright.

Bicentennial Elementary School, Boynton Middle School, Inter-Lakes Elementary School, Kennett High School, Matthew Thornton Elementary School, Monadnock

Community Connections School, Newfound Regional High School, Northwood School, Raymond School Board, Virtual Learning Center.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL RELATIVE TO THE "STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO ACT OF 2009," OR "PAYGO," TOGETHER WITH A SECTIONAL ANALYSIS—PM 22

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

Today I am pleased to submit to the Congress the enclosed legislative proposal, the "Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2009," or "PAYGO," together with a sectional analysis.

The deficits that my Administration inherited reflect not only a severe economic downturn but also years of failing to pay for new policies—including large tax cuts that disproportionately benefited the affluent. This failure of fiscal discipline contributed to transforming surpluses projected at the beginning of this decade into trillions of dollars in deficits. I am committed to returning our Government to a path of fiscal discipline, and PAYGO represents a key step back to the path of shared responsibility.

PAYGO would hold us to a simple but important principle: we should pay for new tax or entitlement legislation. Creating a new non-emergency tax cut or entitlement expansion would require offsetting revenue increases or spending reductions.

In the 1990s, statutory PAYGO encouraged the tough choices that helped to move the Government from large deficits to surpluses, and I believe it can do the same today. Both houses of Congress have already taken an important step toward righting our fiscal course by adopting congressional rules incorporating the PAYGO principle. But we can strengthen enforcement and redouble our commitment by enacting PAYGO into law.

Both the Budget I have proposed and the Budget Resolution approved by the

Congress would cut the deficit in half by the end of my first term, while laying a new foundation for sustained and widely shared economic growth through key investments in health, education, and clean energy. Enacting statutory PAYGO would complement these efforts and represent an important step toward strengthening our budget process, cutting deficits, and reducing national debt. Ultimately, however, we will have to do even more to restore fiscal sustainability.

I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 9, 2009.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. R. 466. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain rights and benefits for persons who are absent from positions of employment to receive medical treatment for service-connected disabilities.

H. R. 1709. An act to establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education activities and programs of all Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

H. R. 1736. An act to provide for the establishment of a committee to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 466. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination and acts of reprisal against persons who receive treatment for illnesses, injuries, and disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in the uniformed services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1709. An act to establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education activities and programs of all Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1736. An act to provide for the establishment of a committee to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 31. An act to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes.