

than the nominees of prior presidents, including those who worked closely with a Senate majority of the same political party.

At this important time in our Nation's history we can all appreciate the need for a sound judiciary. Under the Democratic majority, we will continue to review nominees' files expeditiously and grant hearings regularly to candidates with complete paperwork and home State consent. Our record breaking efforts in the past 14½ months have left us with few remaining nominees who are ready to appear before the Committee. Of the circuit court nominees who have not yet received a hearing, half of them, 6, are without home State consent. Only 3 remain from the initial 11 circuit court nominees who have not had a hearing and have home State Senator support. Of the 17 district court nominees who have not yet received a hearing, more than half of them 9 have incomplete paperwork, including six of them without home State consent. Moreover, 9 out of 17 district court nominees are without ABA ratings.

Despite the partisan din about blockades and obstructionism, Democrats are actually achieving almost twice as much as our Republican counterparts did to staff the Federal courts. The Democratic Senate has shown its resolve to work in a bipartisan way to fill judicial vacancies. That is what the confirmation of 80 judges in less than 15 months demonstrates.

But let me be clear. Our judiciary would be in even better shape if so many judicial nominees of the prior administration had not been purposely blocked and defeated, if we received more timely reviews from the ABA, and even a little cooperation from this administration by nominating more moderate, mainstream judicial nominees. I, again, invite the President and all Republicans to join with us and work with us to fill the remaining judicial vacancies as quickly as possible with qualified, consensus nominees chosen from the mainstream and not for their ideological orientation, nominees who will be fair and impartial judges and will ensure that an independent judiciary is the people's bulwark against a loss of their freedoms and rights.

**SENATOR STROM THURMOND:
STATESMAN, PATRIOT, LEADER**

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, last week, several Senators spoke during morning business one day about our distinguished colleague from South Carolina, Senator THURMOND. Long before I came to the Senate, I myself spoke many times on television editorials commending Senator THURMOND.

He was then, and is today, even more of a genuine American patriot than when I was in Raleigh never dreaming that I would one day be a colleague to Senator THURMOND in the Senate.

Trying to capture the essence of STROM THURMOND in a relatively few words of tribute is impossible. Who can adequately describe his firm handshake, his unmistakable South Carolina cadence, or his almost superhuman capacity for work? How to convey the explosive energy STROM THURMOND has carried anytime he walks into a room?

The sheer breadth of experience STROM THURMOND brings to the Senate boggles the mind: Born in 1902, he served South Carolina as State Senator, as a Circuit Judge, as Governor and as U.S. Senator.

He voted for Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932, and more than fifty years later, voted for Ronald Reagan in 1984. He ran for President against Harry Truman in 1948 and actively participated in Bill Clinton's impeachment trial in 1999.

When the Army told him he was too old to fight in World War II, he managed to obtain an age waiver, an age waiver, to participate in the fighting. Then, in typical STROM THURMOND fashion, he landed with the 82nd Airborne Division in Normandy on D-Day. Small wonder that Fort Bragg recently honored him by christening its newest building the Major General Strom Thurmond Strategic Deployment Facility.

My simple references to STROM THURMOND's accomplishments fail to convey the historic legacy he will leave in the Senate. In 1997, STROM became the longest serving Senator in the history of the institution, but he was the quintessential Senator long before he officially assumed that honor.

Senator THURMOND had great influence on my decision in 1972 to become a candidate for the Senate from North Carolina. He came to Raleigh many times urging me to run, and countless others to support me.

Every time he came, he told me again that if I would just run for the Senate, he would come to North Carolina frequently to campaign for me.

I decided to run because thanks to Senator THURMOND, there were many urging me to do it. And, sure enough, there he came, down from Washington to Raleigh, to help me. Again and again he came.

He was a fellow Southerner, and like me, he was a Democrat who had converted to the Republican Party. In those days, there were not a lot of Republicans in North and South Carolina, but STROM was determined to change that. And I might add, parenthetically, that no single individual, with the possible exception of Ronald Reagan, has done more to build the Republican Party in the South than STROM THURMOND.

Senator THURMOND knows how much I admire and respect him. He knows how grateful I am for his enormously helpful trips to North Carolina where we stood together, day after day, night after night, urging the people of North Carolina to send Helms to Washington to help STROM THURMOND.

I am proud to say, that STROM THURMOND became one of the best friends I have ever had, and one of the finest men I have ever known. He tutored me in the intricacies of the Senate and its traditions, the personal dedication the job requires, and the genuine commitment Senators owe to their constituents.

Some years ago, STROM paid me the ultimate honor of asking me to serve as godfather to his newborn daughter. Today, Julie Thurmond Whitmer is a beautiful young woman, and the pride I take in her is exceeded only by her father.

One final note, I owe Senator THURMOND my eternal gratitude for a favor he did for me.

When I arrived in the Senate, I was searching for young people to help me with my Senate responsibilities. Senator THURMOND referred a wonderfully smart, principled, and competent young lady for my staff.

After 30 years of working with, and for, the irreplaceable Mrs. Pat Devine, I can genuinely say that her presence among the "Helms Senate Family" is the finest helping hand STROM THURMOND could possibly extend to me.

Senator THURMOND watched over her protectively, and he often jokingly needed me about how I had "stolen away his red-head".

The Senate simply will never be the same without Senator THURMOND sitting tall and straight at his desk, serving the people of South Carolina and the country he loves.

He is a true friend, a great statesman, and a blessing to all who cherish the strength of statesmen like J. STROM THURMOND. He is a great patriot. He is my friend and I am his. This is a stronger and greater country because of his service and his dedication to the principles that made America great from the beginning.

WHEN MEN MURDER WOMEN: AN ANALYSIS OF 2000 HOMICIDE DATA

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, earlier this week the Violence Policy Center released its annual review examining the role of firearms in murders involving one female victim and one male offender. The analysis found that in 2000, the most recent data available, a majority of women who were murdered were killed with firearms. Seventy-six percent of all firearm homicides of women were committed with handguns. The report is sobering in demonstrating how easily a domestic violence dispute can turn into domestic homicide.

According to the VPC's review, in 2000, there were 1,805 women murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents reported to the FBI. Of the more 1,800 women murdered, 963 of the victims were wives or intimate acquaintances of their killers and 331 were murdered during the course of an argument. In my home State of Michigan, 82 women were murdered. For