

public and the institutions she has served. I am certain she will bring judicial temperance, integrity, and character to the Federal bench.

For these individuals and for so many other qualified men and women, being nominated to serve on the Federal bench by the President of the United States marks the pinnacle of a long and remarkable legal career. For those who are confirmed, it represents an opportunity to use their wisdom and legal training to uphold our Constitution and protect the rights and freedoms upon which our Nation was founded.

As I campaigned for the Senate, I told the people of North Carolina that I believe each and every judicial nominee deserves a hearing and a vote by the full Senate. I believe in the capability, independence, and prudence of the Members of this institution. If a person has concerns about an issue or a nominee, then I believe he or she should make a persuasive case to the other members of this body in a forthright, open, and honest debate. This process is established in our Constitution, and it is what our representative democracy is all about.

We are here today because the process is working for these two North Carolina nominees. I am confident that both of these highly qualified women will meet their duties with professionalism, impartiality, and competence, and I hope that other well-qualified candidates who have been sent forth, such as Judge Terrence Boyle, might soon join them.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Judge Louise Wood Flanagan to be a U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Judge Flanagan currently serves as a Federal magistrate judge.

After earning her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1988, she served as law clerk for Judge Malcolm Howard on the very court to which she has been nominated. In 1990, she joined the North Carolina law firm of Ward and Smith, where she handled complex commercial litigation and litigated approximately 300 cases in state, federal, and bankruptcy court. Throughout her career, Judge Flanagan, has consistently demonstrated the strong legal intellect, integrity, and judicial temperament required of a U.S. District Court Judge.

In 1995, Judge Flanagan was appointed to be a Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. In this position she handles both criminal and civil matters and has earned a reputation of fairness, honesty, and keen intellect. She will make an excellent addition to the Federal bench.

I commend President Bush for nominating her and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and

consent to the nomination of Louise W. Flanagan, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. STEVENS. I move to reconsider the votes and to lay those motions on the table.

The motions to lay on the table were agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER, will be recognized for up to 10 minutes.

The Senator from New York.

AMENDMENT NO. 1315

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I believe the amendment is already part of the managers' package, so it does not have to be read.

In the interest of time, Mr. President, of the 10 minutes allotted to me, I will yield back 4, take 3 for myself, and yield 3 to the senior Senator from Washington.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MURRAY be added as a cosponsor of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this amendment is very simple. We have all heard the reports, which bother us, tear at our hearts, that our soldiers are going to have to stay a longer period of time because of the fighting, the chaos, the problems in Iraq.

One of the quickest ways to get them home is that we set up an indigenous police force. After all, our Army, the greatest Army in the world, that has done such a great job in Iraq, has not really been trained to be a police force to stop looting and to create civil order, et cetera.

We are in the process of training Iraqis to take over this job, and I am sure most Americans wish it could be done as quickly as possible. This amendment is a reminder of that and an importuning of the administration to do just that, by requiring that every 180 days there be a report from the administration to Congress and the American people that talks about the progress of setting up such a police force, the cost of such a police force, and how it might affect the timetable and speed up the timetable, more particularly, of our soldiers coming home.

We know we have to restore rule of law in Iraq. We know it should best be

done by an indigenous Iraqi police force. This amendment simply says, let's get that done quickly, and let the administration report to us on how that progress is going. It is important to the soldiers. It is important to law and order in Iraq, and it is important to the American people.

Nothing would make us all happier than to bring so many of our brave soldiers home, and home quickly. This amendment is both a reminder and an importuning addressed to that fact.

With that, I yield back the rest of my 3 minutes, and yield the remaining time to the Senator from Washington, the cosponsor of this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized for 3 minutes.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to support the Schumer amendment to the Defense bill regarding the development of an Iraqi police force. This is an urgent amendment—one of the most important Iraq-related amendments we have considered on the defense bill.

The Schumer amendment will focus the administration's attention on the domestic security issue in Iraq that threatens American servicemen and women, other Americans and foreigners now in Iraq, and the Iraqi people.

One of the reasons we went to war in Iraq was to liberate the Iraqi people. The military campaign was named, "Operation Iraqi Freedom." Again and again, from the President on down, we have been told that we acted on behalf of the Iraqi people.

We all witnessed the scenes of jubilation at the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime. Time and again, the administration has told us that we have restored freedom to the Iraqi people.

We all hope this is ultimately true. But the truth today is very different for women in Iraq and particularly in Baghdad.

Yesterday, Human Rights Watch released a report detailing reports of rape, assault, and kidnapping of women and girls in Baghdad. The report cites 25 credible allegations of rape and abduction since the fall of Saddam Hussein. It is believed that the number of rapes and sexual assaults in Baghdad is far higher. Women are discouraged from reporting the crime and face social isolation and even "honor killings" by other family members for being violently victimized.

Yesterday's New York Times contains a disturbing article about the dangers confronting women in Baghdad. I ask unanimous consent to have the article, "Rape (And the Silence About It) Haunts Baghdad," printed in the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, July 16, 2003]

RAPE (AND SILENCE ABOUT IT) HAUNTS BAGHDAD

(By Neela Banerjee)

BAGHDAD, IRAQ, July 15.—In her loose black dress, gold hairband and purple flip-flops, Sanariya hops from seat to seat in her living