

to know whether nominees would respect the Constitutional power of Congress to enact environmental protections or if nominees are so opposed to such protections that they would bend or distort the law to strike them down.

The American people deserve to know whether nominees would roll back civil rights laws or uphold the rights of the disabled, the elderly, and minorities. The American people are entitled to know if a nominee respects women's rights to equal treatment in our society and to privacy in making reproductive decisions.

This does not mean every nominee should promise to rule a particular way in each of the cases on the Supreme Court's docket for the next term. It doesn't mean that nominees must state how they would rule in any specific case. But it does mean that the Senate should expect the nominee to answer questions about important legal principles—such as the constitutional power of Congress to protect Americans against corporate abuses, the right to equal treatment, Americans' right to privacy in making personal decisions about medical care, the principle of non-discrimination, and the right to be free from unwarranted government intrusion.

The American people deserve to know the answers to those questions, and the Senate's review is the only way that they can get those answers. The nominee will need to say more than "trust me" in response to these important questions, because so much hangs in the balance.

The importance of judicial philosophy in deciding whether to confirm a Supreme Court justice is nothing new. During the first 100 years after ratification of the Constitution, 21 of 81 Supreme Court nominations—one out of four—were rejected, withdrawn, or not acted on.

Since 1968, a third of all Supreme Court nominations have failed. During these confirmation debates, ideology often mattered. John Rutledge, nominated by George Washington, failed to win confirmation as Chief Justice in 1795, when Alexander Hamilton and other Federalists opposed him because of his position on the Jay Treaty.

In 1811, James Madison's nominee, Alexander Wolcott, was defeated because of his enforcement of the embargo and other trade laws opposed by Federalists in the Senate.

A nominee of President Polk was rejected because of his anti-immigration position. A nominee of President Hoover was not confirmed because of his anti-labor view. The Senate failed to elevate Justice Abe Fortas to Chief Justice in 1968, when Senate Republicans filibustered his nomination because they objected to his decisions on free speech and defendants' rights.

Chief Justice Rehnquist himself has stated that it is appropriate for the Senate to ask about a Supreme Court nominee's judicial philosophy, stating that this "has always seemed . . . en-

tirely consistent with our [C]onstitution and serves as a way of reconciling judicial independence with majority rule."

As our colleague from Mississippi, Senator TRENT LOTT, stated in 1996, "[w]e should look not only at their education, background, and qualifications, but also . . . what is their philosophy with regard to the judiciary and how they may be ruling." In Senator LOTT's words, "if we do not ask questions, then we will be shirking our responsibilities."

Earlier this month, the Senator from Texas, Senator CORNYN, stated that while nominees should not be asked to promise how they will vote in a specific case, "it's an appropriate question to ask what their views are on cases that have been decided and judicial opinions that have been written."

We should all agree that it's appropriate for the Senate to ask nominees about the issues most important to Americans. The American people expect and deserve to learn about a nominee's legal philosophy during the hearings on any Supreme Court nominee. We should do all we can to see that the process provides clear answers, so that the American people will have full confidence in the outcome.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ERIC PAUL WOODS

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor PFC Eric Paul Woods of Omaha, NE.

Private First Class Woods served his country with the utmost bravery. A graduate of Urbandale High School in Urbandale, IA, Woods moved to Omaha 5 years ago, joining the Army in April 2004 as a medic with the G Troop, 2nd Squadron of the 3rd Army Cavalry. He was based out of Fort Carson, CO. Seven years earlier, Private First Class Woods met his wife Jamie, also of the Des Moines area. The two were wed a year later on their first anniversary as a couple. On March 8, 2005, Private First Class Woods was deployed for his first tour in Iraq.

On July 9, 2005, Private First Class Woods was killed in action while serving courageously in Iraq. While bravely attempting to save the life of a wounded soldier near Tal Afar, Iraq, he sustained fatal wounds as an improvised explosive device detonated near the side of the road. His courage should be an example to all, as days before he turned down an offer to be moved away from the front lines. His dedication to both his fellow soldiers and his country clearly display both his valor and resolve.

Private First Class Woods is survived by his wife Jamie and his 3-year old son Eric Scott, among numerous other friends, family, and countrymen who proudly honor and remember his sacrifice. I would like to offer my sincere thoughts and prayers to Private First Class Woods' family. His selfless com-

mitment to his country will not be forgotten. Private First Class Woods will be remembered as a man who honored, served, and died for the liberties and freedoms of all Americans and Nebraskans.

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS DANNY P. DIETZ

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate an outstanding Coloradan who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us: Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Danny Philip Dietz, Jr.

Petty Officer Dietz was a native of Littleton, CO, and was a member of the Navy's elite fighting force, the SEALs. He was killed in Afghanistan after an unsuccessful rescue attempt. He was just 25 years old about to embark on his fifth year of service to our Nation.

Petty Officer Dietz, D.J. to his friends and family, joined the Navy in 1999 after graduating Heritage High School where he played football. Serving his country as a Navy SEAL was Petty Officer Dietz's dream. He spent his spare time in high school swimming and building his strength to make him a better candidate for this elite program. He spent years in training to become part of a specialized SEAL reconnaissance team.

In doing so, Danny Dietz took his first step toward becoming a hero for America.

When Petty Officer Dietz left for his most recent deployment in April out of Virginia Beach, just a few hours from where we are tonight, he told his wife that he was going to do something special for his Nation. He did for all of us, including one of his fellow soldiers who was rescued from those Afghan mountains, where Petty Officer Dietz was lost to us.

Matthew 5:9 teaches us, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." Petty Officer Dietz brave actions overseas are the kind of heroism of which you should be extraordinarily proud and to which all aspire. Petty Officer Dietz's service to the people of the United States is a gift for which we are all profoundly grateful and will never forget.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Danny Philip Dietz, Jr. served this Nation with extraordinary courage, honor and distinction in fighting for our freedom and liberties. To his wife Maria and his entire family, I can only offer my deepest condolences at your loss. The thoughts and prayers of an entire Nation are with you.

MR. GENE MAY, A BUILDER OF HOMES

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, it is commonly said that a man is known by his work. For half of a century, Mr. Gene May of McLean, VA, was known by the fine homes he built in the Washington area.

Mr. May, who died recently of lung cancer, was a builder and a developer, who made an important and lasting impact on this busy, ever-growing, and highly transient region. He was a good

man, who touched people with his hard work, his dedication to his profession, and the extra care that he put into the structures that he built.

Gene May did not merely build houses; he built homes, and he built more than a thousand of them starting with his first, in 1947. He put a part of himself into each of his endeavors, into each of the homes he built; and as a result, the homes he built reflect his values. Years after he retired, according to the Washington Post, people were still writing to him, praising him for the sturdiness of the homes he had built for them, and thanking him for his superb work.

Yet, according to his daughter, his work was not the most important thing in his life. It wasn't even second. His daughter explained that "the most important thing in his life was his family, followed by his church. And he viewed his work as a way to serve both."

What a wonderful way to regard one's work. What a contribution all of us could make to our families, our society, and ourselves with such an outlook on life, that our work is a way to serve our family and our Creator.

Gene May's philosophy served as an underpinning for a rewarding life. He put family first, and what a wonderful family he had. He was married to his loving wife, Barbara May, for 58 years. They had two children and five grandchildren.

Gene May faithfully served his church. I knew Gene May. He built the house in which I now live. He was a charter member, treasurer, and one of the first deacons of the Church of Christ of Falls church. He supervised the building of two of the church's facilities, and actively participated in the church's mission. In addition, he helped to establish, then served as president of, a christian youth summer camp in Virginia's blue ridge mountains.

Gene May's community involvement extended well beyond his church activities. For example, he was a member of the school board, a board member of the Arlington Trust Bank, and a founder of the Northeastern Junior College in Villanova, PA.

When Mr. May learned that he had terminal cancer a little more than a year ago, he reacted to the news with the calmness and level-headedness that had characterized his life.

He taught his wife how to handle the family finances, even budgeting the money for his funeral expenses. He then signed up for hospice care, so that he would not be a burden to his family; and, he began to prepare himself for the afterlife. How about that? He began to prepare himself for the afterlife. Gene May succumbed to the dreaded disease on May 4 of this year.

This good man, this good neighbor, this good citizen will be missed by his family, his community, and his legion of friends. But through the homes he built for more than a thousand people, the memories of his life and work will

live for years and years to come. He was a builder.

Gene May was a builder in the best and truest meaning of the word.

I saw them tearing a building down,

A group of men in a busy town.

With a "ho, heave, ho" and a lusty yell

They swung a beam and the sidewall fell.

I said to the foreman, "Are these men skilled?"

The type you would hire if you had to build?"

He laughed, and then he said, "no indeed,

Just common labor is all I need;

I can easily wreck in a day or two,

That which takes builders years to do.

I said to myself as I walked away,

"Which of these roles am I trying to play?"

Am I a builder who works with care,

Building my life by the rule and square?"

Am I shaping my deeds by a well-laid plan,

Patiently building the best I can?"

Or am I a fellow who walks the town,

Content with the labor of tearing down?"

My wife Erma, and I extend our deepest condolences to Mr. May's wife, Barbara, and their children, and grandchildren.

May his ashes rest in peace.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate, again, acted in a unified bipartisan manner when it voted 95 to 0 to add an additional \$1.5 billion to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Although a family medical emergency unfortunately prevented me from being able to vote on the Murray amendment, I fully support the measure and would have gladly voted in favor of it. Even though the VA could provide some health care to veterans until fiscal year 2006, it would have to do so by taking funds from other accounts and slashing other projects. This is simply unacceptable.

I am proud the Senate chose to emphasize our position that the VA needs an additional \$1.5 billion to properly carry out its mission of caring for America's veterans.

Thank you Mr. President.

TERRORIST BOMBING IN LONDON

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, my wife Julianne and I express our deepest sympathies to those who lost loved ones and those injured in the terrorist attacks in London last Thursday. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

The terrorists who claim allegiance to al-Qaida undertook these atrocious acts in response to the United Kingdom's unflinching, courageous support for the global war on terrorism. Prime Minister Tony Blair and the British people have stood along side the United States and the other members of the coalition in the war on terrorism.

This is a reminder that we must always be vigilant against those who wish to attack our freedom and our way of life. We must not waiver in our resolve to pursue and bring to justice those who commit these heinous crimes

I add my support to Monday's passing of S. Res. 193, which expressed "sympathy for the people of the United Kingdom in the aftermath of the deadly terrorist attacks." At the time of the vote, I was delayed in returning to Washington because of Hurricane Dennis. Had I been in present for that vote, I would have voted in favor of the resolution.

LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION IN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the foreign language needs of the country, a problem that is receiving renewed public attention because of the ongoing war in Iraq and the impact the lack of language expertise is having on our foreign policy. As John Limbert, president of the American Foreign Service Association, was quoted in the Federal Times last month, the shortage of linguists "makes our mission of representing the American people that much harder."

Frankly, I agree with Mr. Limbert. The stability and economic vitality of the United States and our national security depend on American citizens who are knowledgeable about the world. We need civil servants, area experts, diplomats, business people, educators, and other public officials with the ability to communicate at an advanced level in the languages and understand the cultures of the people with whom they interact. An ongoing commitment to maintaining these relationships and language expertise helps prevent a crisis from occurring and provides diplomatic and language resources when needed.

My own State of Hawaii is a leader in promoting language education and cultural sensitivity. As a gateway to Asian and Pacific nations, we in Hawaii understand the importance of knowing other languages and cultures, which help to develop strong relationships with other people. For example, according to the 2000 Census, more than 300,000 people in Hawaii, or about 27 percent of those 5 years and older, spoke a language other than English at home. This is compared to about 18 percent nationwide. In addition, the University of Hawaii is a leader in teaching Korean and is the host of one of two National Korean Flagship Programs established by the National Security Education Program. Hawaii is also host to the internationally recognized East-West Center, an education and research organization established in Hawaii by Congress in 1960, which is a leader in promoting and strengthening relations between the United States and the countries of the Asia Pacific region.

In 2000 the Senate Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services, then chaired by Senator COCHRAN, held a hearing on the foreign language needs of the Federal Government. At that hearing Ellen Laipson,