

faith that he will complete his mission and come home.

There are thousands of similar stories stemming from this mission, so ably carried out by our men and women in uniform. It is uniquely American and typical of our warriors of freedom. It distinguishes and sets the American military apart from any other nation in the history of man's constant struggle for freedom and human dignity.

We see the pictures every day, not of the ugliness of war but of the men and women who carry out the humanitarian acts as war is carried on. We will succeed in our mission. And we look forward to the day when they all come home.

Also, I take great pride to stand here today on the Senate floor to recognize and say thank you to the men and women from Montana and all who serve across this land.

We have support organizations popping up in just about every State, organizations formed to give comfort to families and provide various programs such as the one I just mentioned. It is happening everywhere, and there are far too many to mention today.

I commend the efforts of one program especially because I met with this group in Livingston, MT. They call themselves MOST—the Military Overseas Support Team—made up of people who have family members serving in that area, and they act as a support system for each person.

Then there is another one called Operation Clean Socks. It has been set up to collect and send socks to our military men and women in the Middle East. That sounds strange, but to those of us who have worn the uniform of this great country, socks become a big item, especially to us old marines who traveled on our feet.

Folks all over this country are rallying their communities to get support for our troops. I am pleased to see so many of them supportive in Montana.

Here in Washington we see the images on television. We are thinking about the troops every day. We know how hard it is fighting for the freedoms of those who are oppressed, and we thank you. We thank you for what you are doing and want you to know that our thoughts and prayers are not only with you but also with your families.

You are the best and the greatest ambassadors of the American dream. You will succeed in the efforts to disarm Saddam Hussein and free the Iraqi people. I am confident in our military. I know this effort will be accomplished as soon as possible so they all can come home to the welcoming arms of their families, so that every Charles Donovan, Jr., can see his first child enter the world with the same freedoms with which he was born. We think about them every day.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AL-EXANDER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF THERESA LAZAR SPRINGMANN, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into executive session and proceed to consideration of Executive Calendar No. 77, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Theresa Lazar Springmann, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am pleased today to rise in support of Judge Theresa Lazar Springmann, who has been nominated to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

Judge Springmann has served on both sides of the bench with distinction. Upon graduation from the University of Notre Dame Law School, Judge Springmann clerked for the Honorable James T. Moody of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana—the very court she will join upon her confirmation. She then entered private practice as an associate with Spangler, Jennings & Dougherty, P.C., and later became the first woman partner there. During her tenure in private practice, she specialized in insurance defense litigation, automobile liability, contract disputes, unfair competition and trade infringement. She also participated in her firm's pro bono program, accepting at least three cases a year from Legal Services of Northwest Indiana, Inc., in Gary IN.

Judge Springmann has made a broad range of contributions to the bar. She was a founding member of the Lake County Bar Association and has served in various leadership roles with this organization. Judge Springmann is also a member of the Federal Bar Association and the Women Lawyers Association.

Since 1995, Judge Springmann has served as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Indiana. From 2000 to 2002, she served as the Federal Magistrate Judges Association Seventh Circuit Director, where she represented all magistrate judges in the Seventh Circuit in forming pol-

icy positions and recommendations to the Administrative Office and Federal Judicial Council on issues concerning magistrate judges.

I am confident that Judge Springmann will serve on the bench with integrity, intelligence and fairness.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we again demonstrate how cooperative the Senate and, in particular, Democratic Senators are being to an administration that continues to refuse to work with us to select consensus court judges who could be confirmed relatively quickly by the Senate and fill the remaining Federal court vacancies.

In the prior 17 months I chaired the Judiciary Committee, we were able to confirm 100 judges and vastly reduce the judicial vacancies that Republicans had stored up by refusing to allow nominees of President Clinton to be considered. We were able to do so despite the hostility of the White House. The judicial nominees of this President are conservatives, many of them quite to the right of the mainstream. Many of these nominees have been active in conservative political causes or groups. Democrats moved fairly and expeditiously on as many as we could consistent with our obligations to evaluate carefully and thoroughly these nominees to lifetime seats in the federal courts.

Last year alone, in an election year, the Democratic-led Senate confirmed 72 judicial nominees, more than in any of the prior six years of Republican control. Not once did the Republican-controlled Committee consider that many of President Clinton's district and circuit court nominees.

While Republicans point to the 377 judges confirmed under President Clinton, but they fail to mention that only 245 of them were confirmed during the 6½ years Republicans controlled the Senate. That amounts to only 38 confirmations per year when the Republicans last held a majority and there was a Democrat in the White House. In 1999, the Republican majority did not hold a hearing on any judicial nominee until June. Tomorrow, the Republican majority will hold its seventh hearing including a 32nd judicial nominee in the last 2 months. The Senate Judiciary Committee is acting like a runaway train, operating at breakneck speed and breaking longstanding rules and practices of the committee.

This year we have had a rocky beginning with a hearing for three controversial circuit court nominees that has caused a great many problems we might have avoided. The chairman's insistence on terminating debate on the Cook and Roberts nominations is another serious problem. Of course, the administration's unwillingness to work with the Senate so that we may be provided the documents and information needed to proceed with a final vote on the Estrada nomination has already proved to be a significant problem. The opposition to the Sutton nomination is