

Recreation Department; or as a member of the Armed Forces stationed at Fort Ord, CA.

His community service is known to all of us. His legal service is also known as well. I have tried to read all of the many articles that I have seen in print about Stephen Breyer, and what I see is a man deeply dedicated to the pursuit of the law, a man prepared to struggle to do what is right by the Constitution, but a man that also understands what is important to the people and streets of this Nation.

I believe that something that he said when he was introduced by the President deserves repeating here,

The Constitution and the law must be more than mere words, they must work as a practical reality. And I will certainly try to make the law work for people, because that is its defining purpose in a government of the people.

In a sense, I believe that says all there is to say, well and with heartfelt sense, about Stephen Breyer. So it is with a great deal of personal pride and pleasure, as a Senator and a Californian, that I am able to join with my respected colleagues in presenting to you the very distinguished nomination of Stephen Breyer to become Associate Justice to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator Feinstein.

Now, last but not least, a Senator who has for some time taken a keen interest in the activities of this committee, whether or not she was on the House side or as a Senator on this side of the aisle, on this side of the Capitol, I should say, welcome, Senator Boxer.

STATEMENT OF HON. BARBARA BOXER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Senator BOXER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Senator Hatch.

This is such an honor for us, and today, Massachusetts and California share the honor of introducing a very, very famous American, and I would say we are very proud, and I think all America will be proud, as these hearings proceed on you, Judge Breyer.

Certainly, you know that we are delighted to say that in those early formative years, Stephen Breyer was born and raised in San Francisco, his family put a high value on education, public service, and the important combination of the two.

I do not know whether you know, Mr. Chairman, that Judge Breyer's grandfather Samuel served with distinction on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, where my colleague Dianne Feinstein served, and I served across the Golden Gate Bridge on the Board of Supervisors of Marin.

His mother Ann was active in the League of Women Voters and in local Democratic politics. And for more than 40 years, as you heard, his father Irving Breyer was legal counsel to the San Francisco Board of Education.

So, from the very beginning, Stephen Breyer seemed destined to carry on his family's tradition of scholarship and public service. His senior class at San Francisco's Lowell High School named him most likely to succeed. They were right. And his aunt Shirley Black explained, "He started speaking in sentences, we knew he would be something great," spoken by an aunt. But she was right, too.

Stephen Breyer comes to us today with a remarkable diversity of experiences and skills. I will not go into all of those. They have been so carefully explained by my colleagues. But perhaps what you do not know is that Stephen Breyer is not only a husband and father of three, he is a gourmet cook, he is a bird watcher and avid reader, a student of philosophy and a speed typist. I really respect that, because my mother taught me, when I was a kid growing up in the fifties, you had to learn to type, and I only thought that they said that to girls. He rides his bicycle to work and, as we know, he has taught himself Spanish. This is a well-rounded individual.

I think it is important to listen to what those who know Stephen Breyer best have said about him. Stu Pollack, a municipal judge in San Francisco, said, "Ours was the age of Kennedy. Government was there as a tool to bring about change. I don't think Steve ever had his faith in public institutions shaken." He further explained, "Steve's father spent his professional career as an attorney for the board of education. I think Steve absorbed the ethic that things of value lay in work that had some sort of public impact."

Richard Cudahy, a judge on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, said, "Everyone knows he's an intelligent guy, but he also understands the human side of the law and, most important, he has got a great sense of humor."

Judge Bruce Selya, an appeals court colleague, said, "The most unusual thing about him is that he makes everyone feel at ease, despite his absolutely stunning intellect."

The San Francisco Chronicle praises this nomination, and they do not praise a lot of things. [Laughter.]

Once again, I want to say congratulations to Judge Breyer on his nomination, and to thank the Chair and the ranking Senator on the committee for allowing us to share this honor of introducing him to you this morning.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator.

I would like the record to show that when the phrase "great sense of humor" and the phrase "well-rounded" were used, that all of his children laughed hysterically, which shows that they are a typical American family. [Laughter.]

I think the people we really should hear from, to know about Stephen Breyer, is not his wife, not his brother—by the way, sir, you could be his publicist. I watched you on television. You are incredible. If you ever decide to leave the practice of law, there is a future for you, if you could ever say the things about others you say about your brother. I will tell you what, this guy is good, Judge. You should keep him around and keep him close.

But the people we really should hear from are your children. So we are going to do something very unusual and swear in your children now and find out what the real story is here. [Laughter.]

Judge speaking of swearing in, this is the moment. As you well know, I would like you to stand to be sworn.

Judge do you swear that the testimony that you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Judge BREYER. Yes, I do.