

important, and Judge Souter is an aggressive questioner and I know he will do so, if he is approved by the Senate, which he should be, for service on the U.S. Supreme Court.

I am very proud to have known him and to work with him and I certainly can say nothing but that I know the hearing that he has been through would not have been dramatically different, if you had gaveled it in the morning after he was nominated. It is the same Dave Souter and the questions and the answers would have been handled the same way.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. Broderick.

#### STATEMENT OF JOHN BRODERICK

Mr. BRODERICK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

My name is John Broderick and, as the chairman said, I am the current president of the New Hampshire Bar Association. On behalf of its members, acting through its Board of Governors, I am genuinely privileged to appear before this distinguished committee today to report the enthusiastic support of the New Hampshire Bar Association for Judge Souter's nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The bar's 21-member Board of Governors recently passed, by unanimous vote, a resolution urging this committee to act favorably on Judge Souter's nomination and requesting confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

The board whose resolution I carry to this committee today has a diverse membership of men and women representing all geographic areas of the State of New Hampshire. The board also reflects the breadth and scope of the practice of law in New Hampshire.

Judge Souter has been a highly valued member of our bar association for almost 25 years. He has served with true distinction and vigor for the last 12 years on the Superior and Supreme Courts of New Hampshire. His service as attorney general of our State was exceptional and admired by those who worked with him and by the public which benefited from the professional leadership he provided.

Earlier this year, we were pleased to support his nomination and confirmation to the First Circuit Court of Appeals and were honored, as Judge Souter was, with the unanimous vote of the U.S. Senate, and we are not surprised that he has been nominated by the President of the United States for service on the Supreme Court.

Let me tell you a little something about my State. New Hampshire is a small State, with a bar of 3,400 lawyers and judges. We tend to know one another in New Hampshire, and because of our size and constant interaction, we are uniquely positioned to recognize quality.

Our bar is politically diverse and reflective of the demographics of our State. The quality of our membership is high and our practical approach to the practice of law is well respected. The people of my State are fiercely independent and we revere our individual lib-

erties. However, we fully understand that our strength derives from our diversity and sensitivity to the rights of others. Judge Souter exemplifies that tradition.

My colleagues are sensitive to the critical importance of constitutional stability and the compelling need to entrust the interpretation of individual freedoms and liberties only to those who have demonstrated the highest standards of intellect, fairness and personal integrity. Judge Souter is such a person.

Those of us who have witnessed Judge Souter's judicial performance first-hand can, in good conscience, report to this committee that he possesses, as I think you have seen, a first-rate legal mind, a flexible and curious appetite for the law, an unbiased ear for argument, an uncommon civility and, I think it is fair to say, a quiet compassion. He also, from our observation, understands the world in which he lives and the need for a judge to protect our system of justice from the whims of transient public opinion.

Judge Souter has never practiced or pursued any political or ideological agenda while serving on the bench in New Hampshire, and we would not expect any change in his commitment to the integrity and predictability of the law and our system of justice, if confirmed by this Senate to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the final analysis, it is the considered and respectful opinion of the New Hampshire Bar Association that Judge Souter is an outstanding nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court. Those of us in New Hampshire know him, we like him, we respect him, and, more importantly, we trust him to fairly and consistently interpret the Constitution of the United States for the protection of the rights and liberties of the American people.

In closing, and on a personal note, on my behalf and on behalf of two members of our bar, Terry Shumaker and Bill Glahn, who have sat with me in the public gallery throughout this hearing, I would like to compliment this committee and the nominee on an extraordinary hearing. As a trial lawyer who has practiced law for 18 years and as a practitioner of constitutional rights, it has been a genuine honor to be present before this hearing.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to leave with this committee the resolution passed unanimously by my Board of Governors on August 16, 1990, and have it made a part of the official record of this proceeding.

The CHAIRMAN. It will be entered in the record.

Mr. BRODERICK. Thank you very much.

[The resolution referred to follows:]