



John Roberts and President Bush

Lined Up for Chief Justice Bush nominee opposed by NAACP

(AP) - Appeals court judge John Roberts may be next in line for Chief of the Supreme Court, if his latest nomination by President Bush Monday goes through. Roberts had been named to succeed retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, but Bush promoted him to the chief justice nominee after Chief Justice William Rehnquist died Saturday after a battle with cancer.

Roberts, 50, served the court as a clerk for the conservative Rehnquist in 1980-81.

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund opposes Roberts, citing "consistent and active advocacy" for weakening federal enforcement of voting rights, affirmative action, school desegregation and fair housing. The NAACP found that Roberts has a strong record of regressive positions on civil rights in the past, and stated that they've found no evidence of change in the nominee.

Robert's history includes being special assistant to the late William French Smith, attorney general in the Reagan administration; associate counsel under Fred Fielding, White House counsel to Reagan; and principal deputy to former Solicitor General Kenneth Starr.

Although Roberts has had extensive experience in preparing cases for the Supreme Court, he has limited experience as a judge - serving on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit since May 2003.

New Orleans Sees Slow Progress

Broken levee plugged, high death toll feared

(AP) - With a major levee break finally plugged, engineers struggled to pump out the flooded city Tuesday as authorities braced for the horrors the receding water is certain to reveal. "It's going to be awful and it's going to wake the nation up again," the mayor warned.

Mayor Ray Nagin said after an aerial tour that about 60 percent of the city was under water, down from 80 percent during the darkest hours last week.

"We are starting to see some significant progress. I'm starting to see rays of light," he said.

Nagin said it would take three weeks to remove the water and another few weeks to clear the debris. It could also take up to eight weeks to get the electricity back on.

Still, he warned that what awaits authorities below the toxic muck would be gruesome. A day earlier, he said the death toll in New Orleans could reach 10,000.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, began sending paratroopers from the Army's storied 82nd Airborne Division to New Orleans to use small boats, including inflatable Zodiac craft, to launch a new search-and-rescue effort in flooded sections of the city.

Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, division commander, said about 5,000 paratroopers would be in place this week.

The Army Corps of Engineers began pumping the water out after closing a major gap in a key levee that burst during Hurricane Katrina and swamped 80 percent of the bowl-shaped, below-

Russell Knox Jr., 4, looks up at his father, Russell Knox Sr., while being transported aboard a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter from the civic center the airport Saturday in New Orleans, La. (AP Photo)



Two victims of Hurricane Katrina trudge through neighborhood floodwaters. (AP Photo)

sea-level city.

Efforts to evacuate holdouts were stepped up, with boat rescue crews and a caravan of law enforcement vehicles from around the country searching for people to rescue.

Nagin warned: "We have to convince them to leave. It's not safe here. There is toxic waste in the water and dead bodies and mosquitoes and gas. We are pumping about a million dollars' worth a gas a day in the air. Fires

have been started and we don't have running water."

Effort to get the evacuees back on their feet continued on several fronts.

Patrick Rhode, deputy director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said evacuees would receive debit cards so that they could begin buying necessary personal items. He said the agency was going from shelter to shelter to make sure that evacuees received cards quickly and that the paperwork usually required would be reduced or eliminated.

The Air Force late Monday concluded its huge airlift of elderly and serious ill patients from New Orleans' major airport. A total of 9,788 patients and other evacuees were evacuated by air from the New Orleans area.

Local officials bitterly expressed frustration with the federal government's sluggish response as the tragedy unfolded.

In addition to help from other Louisiana and Alabama departments, a Canadian task force of firefighters and police arrived four days after the storm. St. Bernard Fire Chief Thomas Stone said.

"If you can get a Canadian team here in four days, U.S. teams should be here faster than that," Stone said. Pointing to two large oil refineries, "When they're paying \$5 to \$6 a gallon for gas, they're going to realize what this place means to America."

The frustrations were also felt along the Mississippi coast, where people who have chosen to stay or are stuck in demolished neighborhoods scavenge for necessities.

Some say they will stay to rebuild their communities. Others say they would leave if they could get a ride or a few gallons of gasoline. But all agree that - with no water or power available, probably for months - they need more help from the government just to survive.

On NE ALBERTA ST Street



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Madison Ragland, owner of Lagniappe Restaurant on Northeast Alberta Street and waitress Adrienna Ogil take orders and donations for the relief effort to victims of Hurricane Katrina. The Southern food restaurant will donate \$1 to the Red Cross for every diner served.

Donating Through Dining

His brother is among the many who've lost everything in New Orleans. Madison Ragland, owner of Lagniappe Restaurant on Northeast 19th and Alberta Streets, wants to help ease the pain of the Gulf Coast's hurricane and flood victims like his brother and many others.

Ragland's brother, a chef in New Orleans, was stuck in the city's Convention Center with thousands of other refugees Friday waiting for relief

of some kind, whether it be through transportation, food and water or financial contribution.

For the next month, Ragland's restaurant, along with other select local establishments, will donate \$1 to the Red Cross for every person who dines there. Ragland's been able to raise \$150 in the first couple of days alone.

To donate to Red Cross, call 1-800-HELP-NOW or visit www.redcross.org.

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