

that he aligned himself with the Democratic Party.

Justice O'Connor's ability to see beyond partisan divides was reflected early when every member of the Senate Judiciary Committee—from Strom Thurmond to Ted Kennedy—voted to support her nomination. And it grew over her 24 years on the Court.

Their mutual commitment to principle rather than political ideologies enabled both Paul Douglas and Sandra Day O'Connor to build coalitions to advance our nation's common good. And for that, we are very grateful.

Here is another similarity: As a member of the Arizona state Senate, Sandra Day O'Connor once introduced an amendment to remove a misplaced comma from a bill.

As a college intern, I sat next to Senator Douglas many nights as he read, and edited, and signed every single letter that went out under his name. Because he couldn't use his left arm, it was my job to pull the letters off the top of the pile as he finished them. Believe me, no misplaced comma ever escaped his editing pen, either.

But the most important similarity—the reason we are all here today—is because, like Paul Douglas, Justice O'Connor used the power she was given to defend and expand our freedom. With her voice and her vote, she said—time and time again—that government has an obligation to defend the powerless from the powerful.

Justice O'Connor was always open to those who could make a strong case. She listened to the arguments and weighed the evidence.

During her last decade on the Court, 193 decisions were decided by a vote of 5-to-4. One Justice's vote made the difference. And in 148 of those 193 cases, that one vote was cast by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

She cast the fifth and deciding vote safeguarding Americans' right to privacy; requiring that courtrooms be accessible to people with disabilities; affirming the obligation of states to protect the voting rights of minorities; and preserving the rights of universities to use affirmative action programs.

Justice O'Connor cast the deciding vote preserving the right of the federal government under the McCain-Feingold law to place reasonable restrictions on campaign contributions so that special interest money can't gain overwhelm our democracy—a vote, I think, that Senator Douglas would have applauded.

She cast the deciding vote upholding state laws giving individuals the right to a second doctor's opinion if their HMO denies them treatment; preserving the authority of the federal government to protect the environment; banning the execution of children in America; and reaffirming America's time-honored tradition of separation of church and state.

Indeed, as a New York Times reporter wrote in 2001, Justice O'Connor's vote tipped the scales so often that—quote, “we are all living now in Sandra Day O'Connor's America.”

And that was before what is perhaps her most significant opinion: the landmark decision of *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, in which Justice O'Connor famously wrote: “A state of war is not a blank check for the President when it comes to the rights of the Nation's citizens.”

It strikes me as ironic that Sandra Day O'Connor could have grown up in a place called the Lazy B Ranch because lazy is about the last word you could ever use to describe her. Since leaving the Court nearly four years ago, she has written and spoken extensively. She has been especially eloquent and courageous in speaking out in defense of an independent judiciary.

In 2005, she wrote an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal about those who seek to score political points by railing against and trying

to intimidate what they call “activist federal judges.”

She warned that “using judges as punching bags presents a grave threat to the independent judiciary.” She added: “We must be more vigilant in making sure that criticism does not cross over into intimidation ... that the current mood of cynicism does not end up compromising the rule of law.”

For all she has done to advance the cause of equal justice and equal opportunity in America, and for her continued defense of our courts and our Constitution, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is a true American she-ro and a worthy recipient of the Paul Douglas Ethics in Government Award. Thank you again, Justice O'Connor, for your selfless service to our nation.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Presiding Officer for this time.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST ADAM KULIGOWSKI

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I wish to express my sympathy over the loss of Army SPC Adam Kuligowski, a 21-year-old from Derry, NH. Kuligowski died on April 6, 2009 in Bagram, Afghanistan. Specialist Kuligowski was a signals intelligence analyst assigned to the Special Troops Battalion, 101st Airborne Division.

Specialist Kuligowski grew up in Derry, NH, and attended Gilbert H. Hood Middle School and Pinkerton Academy. He had lived all over the world including South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Honduras, and Utah, before he enlisted in the military in October 2006. Specialist Kuligowski had been in Afghanistan for about a year and was scheduled to return home this summer.

Specialist Kuligowski served with honor and distinction throughout his young military career, earning the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the NATO Medal. New Hampshire is proud of Specialist Kuligowski's service to and sacrifice for our country. He, and the thousands of brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces serving today, deserve America's highest honor and recognition.

Specialist Kuligowski is survived by his parents, Michael and Tracie Kuligowski of Derry, his grandparents, Stanley and Phyllis Kuligowski, two brothers and a sister. He will be missed dearly by all those who knew him.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring U.S. Army Specialist Adam Kuligowski.

SPECIALIST CRAIG R. HAMILTON

Madam President, I wish to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army SPC Craig R. Hamilton, a 35-year-old native of Nashua, NH. Specialist Hamilton died on March 27 at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX.

Born in Nashua in 1974, Specialist Hamilton was raised and educated in nearby Milford. After graduating from Milford High School in 1992, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, rising to the

rank of corporal before being honorably discharged in 1996. Hamilton spent 11 years back home in Milford before deciding to once again serve his country by enlisting in the U.S. Army in 2007. He was assigned to Fort Sam Houston where he was recovering from a shoulder injury.

New Hampshire is proud of Specialist Hamilton's service to and sacrifice for our country. His decision to reenlist in the U.S. Army following his time in the Marine Corps demonstrates a deep commitment to duty and service for which his country will forever be grateful. He, and the thousands of brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces serving today, deserve America's highest honor and recognition.

Specialist Hamilton is survived by his wife Stacey; his father and stepmother Chuck and Kathy Hamilton; his mother Karen Hamilton; and his brothers Jon and Adam. He will be missed dearly by all those who knew him.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring U.S. Army SPC Craig Hamilton.

CELEBRATING TUNISIAN AMERICAN DAY

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Tunisian American Day on May 27. This annual celebration is in recognition of the many contributions that Tunisian Americans have made to enrich our culture and society.

The United States has maintained diplomatic relations with Tunisia for more than two centuries. On March 26, 1799, the first agreement of friendship and trade was concluded between the United States and Tunisia. The first American consulate was established in Tunis, the Tunisian capital, on January 20, 1800. On May 17, 1956, the United States was the first major power to recognize the sovereign state of Tunisia. Throughout the years, the United States and Tunisia have forged an amicable and enduring relationship that is based on a common commitment to the ideals of democracy and liberty.

Currently, there are more than 13,500 Americans of Tunisian descent residing in the United States. The Tunisian American community has made invaluable contributions to improving our cultural diversity by sharing their proud heritage and rich cultural traditions.

As Tunisian Americans gather to celebrate Tunisian American Day, I wish them a joyous and inspiring day and thank them for their contributions to cultural diversity.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DOM DeLUISE

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, California and our Nation have lost one of our most talented entertainers. Dominick “Dom” DeLuise, a wonderful