

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

comedian and chef who entertained America with his delightful sense of humor, recently passed away. I would like to take a few moments to recognize Dom DeLuise's many accomplishments and the tremendous impact he made on our lives.

Born in New York City, DeLuise entered acting at an early age. Although discouraged at first, he persisted in finding his way in the field of entertainment and into the hearts of his fans. His hard work and dedication earned him many entertaining and prestigious acting roles in film, television, and theater. Many films which feature Dom DeLuise, such as "The Cannonball Run," "Blazing Saddles," "History of the World Part 1," and "Spaceballs" have become classics in their own right and will ensure that future generations will enjoy and appreciate his talent.

Later in life, DeLuise worked toward furthering his love for the culinary arts and establishing himself as a chef. His efforts resulted in the publishing of two successful cookbooks: "Eat This It Will Make You Feel Better!" and "Eat This Too! It'll Also Make You Feel Good."

I invite all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Dominick "Dom" DeLuise for his work, which touched the lives of generations of Americans. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Carol Arthur, and his three sons, Peter, David and Michael.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADRIAN DOMINICAN SISTERS

● Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, service to your community and to those most in need is one of the most important legacies we can leave as individuals or as institutions. It is with this in mind that I am honored to congratulate the Adrian Dominican Sisters, the Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary as they celebrate their 125th anniversary today. Guided by the humble yet inspiring mission to seek truth, make peace, and reverence life, this congregation has made a profound and enduring impact on many lives.

The Adrian Dominicans trace their history back to the establishment of the Holy Cross convent in 1233. A presence in the United States was established in 1853 with the arrival in New York of three sisters from this convent. Since the establishment of a hospital for injured railroad workers in 1884 to meet a pressing need in the Adrian community, the sisters of this congregation have devoted their energy, talent, and efforts in pursuit of meeting the spiritual, educational, and practical needs of those within the Adrian community and those far beyond its borders. Mother Camilla Madden was the first mother provincial, and she became the first mother general when the province became an independent congregation in 1923.

Adrian has grown steadily since its founding and has not only maintained

a presence in Adrian, but has branched out into communities far beyond through ministries in 31 States, the District Of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Italy, and Swaziland. The Adrian Dominican Sisters currently number more than 900 and are involved in ministries primarily in areas of education, health care, and social work. The congregation currently sponsors two universities, including Siena Heights University; two hospital systems; a long-term health care facility; three congregation-owned schools; and two retreat centers.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters have impacted many throughout its rich history, and I am truly delighted to recognize this impressive milestone, as well as their many important contributions over the years. Their influence and service to the community are apparent and appreciated by the many who have benefitted from their many spiritual and outreach efforts. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Adrian Dominican Sisters on 125 years of dedicated service, and I wish them continued success as they build upon their legacy of accomplishment and excellence.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DE- CLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13047 OF MAY 20, 1997, WITH RE- SPECT TO BURMA, AS RECEIVED DURING AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MAY 15, 2009— PM 19

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a

notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue for 1 year beyond May 20, 2009.

The crisis between the United States and Burma arising from the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its engaging in large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma that led to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997, as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13310 of July 28, 2003, Executive Order 13448 of October 18, 2007, and Executive Order 13464 of April 30, 2008, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 14, 2009.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 347. An act to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

H.R. 1209. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the Medal of Honor in 1861, America's highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States, to honor the American military men and women who have been recipients of the Medal of Honor, and to promote awareness of what the Medal of Honor represents and how ordinary Americans, through courage, sacrifice, selfless service and patriotism, can challenge fate and change the course of history.

H.R. 2187. An act to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 347. An act to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.