

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024

Statement on the Death of Former Senator Joseph I. Lieberman

March 28, 2024

Joe Lieberman and I served together in the U.S. Senate for 20 years. He was principled, steadfast, and unafraid to stand up for what he thought was right. He was a friend.

Joe's fierce spirit of independence is the essence of the American story. He was the grandson of immigrants; his dad ran a small business; and Joe was the first in his family to graduate from college. After law school, he quickly left a law firm job for a life of public service.

As a leader in Connecticut's legislature, as State attorney general, and as a committed Senate colleague, Joe championed the environment, gun safety, and reproductive freedom. He wrote landmark legislation repealing discriminatory restrictions on LGBTQ Americans serving in our military. He played a key role in the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in the wake of 9/11. And his historic bid for the Vice Presidency, as the first Jewish candidate on a major party ticket, took our Nation one step closer to realizing the full promise of America.

Joe believed in a shared purpose of serving something bigger than ourselves. He lived the values of his faith as he worked to repair the wounds of the world. And he did so with his beloved family by his side: his dear Hadassah, and his wonderful children and grandchildren.

Jewish liturgy says of "those who serve the needs of the community faithfully, may God grant them their reward." Our hearts today are with the Lieberman family, and with those who loved Joe across Connecticut and across our Nation, which he served faithfully for so long.

Categories: Statements by the President : Former Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, death.

Names: Lieberman, Hadassah; Lieberman, Joseph I.

Subjects: Connecticut, former U.S. Senator, death; Deaths, former Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman; Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, equality; September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

DCPD Number: DCPD202400240.