

Department of Justice, he has shown his commitment to the rule of law and the legal process.

At no time could such commitment be more vital. Our rule of law is under siege from multiple fronts, including from members of this administration and the President himself.

Rod Rosenstein and Robert Mueller have so far been able to oversee an independent investigation, but the threat of interference still remains. Both of these respected public servants have been the target of vicious and unfounded partisan attacks with no purpose but to discredit and delegitimize the Russia investigation. These attacks are not only shameful; they are undemocratic.

We cannot successfully counter foreign threats to our democracy without holding up our own institutions from within. A fundamental principle of our democracy—equal justice under law—has been tested by this President and his advisers since he entered the White House. We, too, are being tested. As Members of Congress, will we step up as a coequal branch of government and ensure that there are consequences when our principles are breached? As Americans, will we hold our public officials accountable when they work to undermine the democratic values that define us as a nation?

That is why I call on Leader McCONNELL to bring the bipartisan Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act to the floor for a vote. It is why I want to emphasize that any interference with this investigation, whether it is with Mr. Mueller, Mr. Rosenstein, FBI Director Wray, or any other official at the Department of Justice, is a line in the sand that must not be crossed. No one—even and especially the President of the United States—is above the law.

#### REMEMBERING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS RESTITUTO OYOLA-ALVAREZ

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to SFC, Retired, Restituto "Tuto" Oyola-Alvarez, a courageous member of our military and devoted family man. Sadly, Sergeant First Class Oyola-Alvarez passed away on July 22, 2018, at the age of 101. He will be remembered for his tireless, dedicated service to our nation.

Sergeant First Class Oyola-Alvarez was born in Arecibo, PR, and he enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort Buchanan on January 22, 1941. He went on to serve in Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment during the Korean war. The regiment was referred to as the Borinqueneers, and Sergeant First Class Oyola-Alvarez and the rest of his Latino-segregated unit played a valuable role in helping American war efforts.

Unfortunately, despite their remarkable dedication, the Borinqueneers' contributions went largely overlooked

once the war ended. After 20 years of Active service and many more decades during which it went unrecognized, Sergeant First Class Oyola-Alvarez was at last granted the awards his unfailing support of our Nation deserved. On Veterans Day in 2012, I was honored to present him a number of hard-earned medals at his home in Hartford, CT. Four years later, I was proud to present him and his fellow Borinqueneers with the Congressional Gold Medal at the Connecticut State Capitol. At the ceremony, Sergeant First Class Oyola-Alvarez also received more medals acknowledging his efforts on behalf of America, including the World War II Victory Medal and Korean Service Medal, among others.

Honorably discharged in 1961, he gained proper recognition for his service when he reached his mid-90s. Citations and certificates from his home State of Connecticut were given by the Connecticut General Assembly, the secretary of the State of Connecticut, and the mayor of Hartford. In 2014, Sergeant First Class Oyola-Alvarez's tenacious defense of our democracy earned him the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Latino Puerto Rican Affairs Commission in Connecticut.

His sincere devotion to his birth island of Puerto Rico, the United States, and the U.S. Armed Forces carried into his family life as well. Sergeant First Class Oyola-Alvarez cherished his wife of 70 years, the late Sarah Rivera, as well as his only daughter, Sara Victoria, his son-in-law, Merrill, and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His years of outstanding leadership, loyalty, and commitment are a model for all of us and have left a lasting positive impact upon the country.

My wife, Cynthia, and I extend our deepest sympathies to Restituto's family during this difficult time. May their many wonderful memories of him provide them solace and comfort in the days ahead.

#### HONORING EUGENE EARLEY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of a brave American, Eugene Joseph Earley.

Eugene's story begins in 1884 in Waukegan, MN, where he was born to Bernard and Cordelia Earley. He was one of 16 children. He grew up on his parents' farm, learning independence, grit, and an ability to fend for himself.

From his parents' farm, he left to homestead and log the nearby forests in the Black River Country of Northern Koochiching County, MN. There, his determination was tested by the hot summers and long, brutal winters. Through the many challenges he faced, Eugene persevered.

After the United States entered World War I, Eugene enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division. It wasn't long before he was deployed to France as a part of the American Expeditionary Forces led by General John Pershing.

Under Pershing's command, Eugene prepared for battle. On September 12, 1918, in Saint-Mihiel, France, Eugene and his comrades contributed to a major turning point. The American offensive caught the Germans unaware and in the process of retreating. The courage and determination of the American forces solidified the stature of U.S. military might in the eyes of our European allies and enemies.

During the second day of fighting, Eugene endured a shrapnel wound that would prove fatal. He died on the field of combat in northeast France, less than 2 months before the end of the war. Eugene was just 24 years old. He is buried in the Saint-Mihiel American Cemetery in Thiaucourt, France, alongside 4,153 of his fellow fallen comrades.

Back in Minnesota, Eugene's family honored his memory and mourned his death for the rest of their lives. In the years after his death, Eugene's mother established a local American Legion Post in his name. Watertown American Legion Post 121 still honors the memory and the name of Eugene Earley today.

Earlier this year, Eugene's grandnephew Jim Bruggeman and his daughters Megan and Molly traveled to France to visit his grave. Through their hard work, Eugene was awarded with the Purple Heart Medal in the centennial year of his death. His life and brave service will live on through this honor and the memory that his loved ones hold dear.

To Eugene Joseph Earley, on behalf of myself, Montana, and a grateful nation, I extend our deepest thanks for Eugene's service, sacrifice, and valor.

#### REMEMBERING MARYON PITTMAN ALLEN

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to remember and honor Maryon Pittman Allen, a former Member of this body, who passed away on July 23, 2018. Maryon Allen was one of only two women ever to represent the State of Alabama in the U.S. Senate.

Born in Meridian, MS, in 1925, Maryon Pittman and her family moved to Alabama in 1926 in order for her father to open a Caterpillar tractor franchise. She grew up in Birmingham, attending Avondale School and Ramsay High School, before matriculating at the University of Alabama, where she planned to major in journalism. While in college, she met and married her first husband, attorney Joshua Mullins, and they had three children. After the marriage ended in divorce in 1959, Maryon entered the workforce, first as a secretary, then in insurance sales, and eventually putting her journalism training to use writing for the "Shades Valley Sun" as society editor.

In the 1960s, Maryon joined the Birmingham News as women's editor. Two weeks into her new job, she drove to Montgomery to interview then-Lieutenant Governor James B. Allen in

connection with a speech he had delivered to the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs. She and Allen, a widower with two children, were instantly attracted to each other and married in August 1964, after a whirlwind, 4-month courtship.

When Alabama Senator Lister Hill chose not to seek reelection to the U.S. Senate in 1968, Jim Allen sought and won election to his seat. In January of 1969, Maryon and Jim moved to Washington, D.C., as Jim began his term in the 91st Congress. From Washington, Maryon began writing a new column called *Reflections of a News Hen*, which was regionally syndicated in several southeastern newspapers and won Alabama Press Association awards for "best original column." She also served as chair of the Blair House Fine Arts Commission in 1974, appointed to the position by President Gerald Ford.

Jim Allen died suddenly, of a heart attack, on June 1, 1978. One week later, Alabama Governor George Wallace appointed Maryon to fill her husband's seat until the special election, which was scheduled to take place in November. Mrs. Allen pledged to "continue to espouse the great principles of government to which Senator Allen dedicated his life. When I cast a vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate, it will reflect the philosophy he expressed so eloquently and strongly during his almost 10 years of service."

Mrs. Allen served 5 months in the Senate. She was the first woman to serve on the Judiciary Committee, and she presided over the Senate on several occasions, but even as a Senator, she stayed true to her roots and continued writing her "Reflections" newspaper column.

Shortly after Mrs. Allen left the Senate in 1978, Washington Post editor-in-chief Ben Bradlee invited her to write a weekly social column about life and events inside the Beltway. Until 1981, Allen remained in Washington, writing "Maryon Allen's Washington" and entertaining Post readers with her trademark wit and style. Eventually, however, Maryon returned to Birmingham to be near her family and friends. Back home, she began yet another career as one of America's finest restorers of antique wedding dresses, christening gowns, and other heirloom textiles, using skills she had learned from her grandmother. Allen and her extraordinary artistry were featured in several national magazines.

My wife, Louise, and I wish to extend our gratitude for Mrs. Allen's service, as well as our condolences for her loss to her children Joshua Sanford Mullins, III, and his wife Eugenia; John Pittman Mullins and his wife, Alison; and Maryon Allen Allen, widow of the late Stephen Allen; to her stepson James Browning Allen, Jr., and to her six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Maryon Allen was independent, intelligent, and charismatic, with a self-described "penchant for being irrev-

erent." She faced life's challenges fearlessly, refusing to be defeated by adversity. She can now rest in peace after a life well-lived.

#### REMEMBERING LAURA EFURD

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the life and public service of Laura Efurd who passed away on July 2, 2018.

Losing someone as hard-working, level-headed, and good humored as Laura is not easy. I was proud that Laura was willing to return to public service as my State administrative manager. She provided a steady, experienced hand, and balanced it with her kindness and genial nature. Her regular, day-to-day presence helped me and my staff a great deal. We miss her.

Laura had a life well-lived. She was born in Kona, HI and raised in Mililani.

Laura left Hawaii for college at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, and earned a master's degree from American University in Washington, DC. She established herself professionally on Capitol Hill working first for Congressman Robinson from Arkansas, then as legislative director for almost 9 years to my friend, Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink of Hawaii.

Patsy was well known for standing up for underserved communities, including women and minorities, and a tireless fighter for social justice and expanding access to quality health care and education. While Patsy was a force of nature, we all know what an important role that staff plays in a congressional office to support and execute the work of their Members. As legislative director, Laura was instrumental in working with Patsy. She helped spearhead the establishment of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, CAPAC, founded by Representative Mink and Norm Mineta, D-CA, in 1994. Laura served as the caucus's primary staffer during Representative Mink's term as chair. CAPAC's creation helped to initiate and provide a much needed voice for the AAPI community in Congress. At its start, CAPAC was made up of two Senators and five AAPI House Members representing Hawaii, California, American Samoa, and Guam. Since then, the caucus has grown to 22 members, with 3 Senators and 19 House Members representing 10 States and territories.

Laura was also a founding member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Staff Association, CAPASA, and helped to support the internships that CAPASA sponsors through the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies.

Through her commitment to public service—particularly in the Asian American and Pacific Islanders, AAPI, community—a greater number of individuals have had the opportunity to realize their dream of service to our Nation.

After nearly a decade serving on the Hill, Laura moved to the executive

branch, where she served in the U.S. Department of Labor before working in the Clinton White House. There, as Deputy Director of the Office of Public Liaison, she worked to build bridges for the AAPI community across the country into the highest levels of our Nation's government. She helped to identify and confirm key AAPI appointments and was instrumental in the creation of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, another institution to expand opportunity to the AAPI community that is still in existence today.

After her service in the White House, Laura headed to San Francisco and worked for ZeroDivide, a nonprofit focused on helping underserved communities understand and unlock technology as a means of expanding economic opportunity, civic engagement, and healthy outcomes.

In recognition of her work building enduring institutions that expand opportunity within the AAPI community, Laura was awarded this year's Jose M. Montano, Jr. Award from the Congressional Asian Pacific American Staff Association. This award recognizes a Capitol Hill alum who has gone above and beyond to sustain a pipeline of AAPI staffers and leaders on the Hill.

Over the years, she has found other ways to serve and promote opportunity. She served as a member of the Federal Communications Commission Consumer Advisory Committee, with the Center for Women's Policy Studies, and as, chair of the Governor of California's Task Force on Broadband, Community Development, and Public/Private Partnerships. In these roles, Laura's work was always about giving a voice to people who had all too often been overlooked or forgotten.

All along, Laura touched many people with her care and compassion, generosity of spirit, and gracious tenacity. She poured all of her energy into whatever she was working on. In one instance, I recall that for our staff retreat, she worked at great length to create games that brought staff with diverse backgrounds together for a common purpose, to share the uniqueness of Hawaii, and to reinforce the reason why those of us in public service do what we do.

It is difficult when we lose someone who was so full of life and still had much potential. We remember Laura as a giving individual who shared so much with so many. Laura made a positive impact during her life, one that extends from coast to coast, and took her from Hawaii to the highest levels of our government. As her brother Steve wrote on the day she passed:

Her impact on people was never more evident than during the outpouring of support she had during the past year and especially during the past few weeks. The impact she had will be felt way beyond the end of her time on earth. Her time here with us is pau. But Laura will live on in our hearts, our memories, our actions, our stories, as well as in programs she helped guide, in legislation she helped to craft, and in her crafts, and in