

Fairness Act. I had intended to vote “no” on roll call vote 194, against the Motion to Recommit.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE HONORABLE RUTH BADER GINSBURG, THE ‘NOTORIOUS RBG,’ ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, FEMINIST ICON AND TRAILBLAZER, INSPIRATION TO MILLIONS, TIRELESS CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE AND FIERCE DEFENDER OF THE CONSTITUTION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary, as a direct beneficiary of her advancement of women's rights, and as a longtime admirer of her vigorous defense of the constitution, I am honored but heartbroken to pay tribute to an American hero, a feminist icon, and role model to millions, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died last Friday, September 18, 2020 at the age of 87 years old.

Today, tomorrow, and forever, the American people mourn the loss of a true titan, an American legend, and an inspiration.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ruth's family, friends, and loved ones.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg dedicated her life to defending the Constitution and protecting the sanctity of America's democratic ideals, and we will forever be indebted to her service to this country.

Joan Ruth Bader, fondly nicknamed Kiki, was born on March 15, 1933 to an immigrant family and grew up in Brooklyn's Flatbush neighborhood.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg often spoke of her mother's large ambitions for her, and how the devastating loss of her mother's death at an early age instilled in her the determination to live a life that her mother would have been proud of.

And so, she did.

Ruth Bader attended Cornell University where she met Martin D. Ginsburg, her future husband and love of her life to whom she was married for 54 years.

In 1954, at the age of 21, Ruth Bader graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Cornell with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government on June 23, 1954 and was the highest-ranking female student in her graduating class.

A month after graduating from Cornell, Ruth and Martin were married and moved to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where Martin was stationed as a Reserve Officers' Training Corps officer in the U.S. Army Reserve after his call-up to active duty.

To help support the family, Ruth Bader Ginsburg worked for the Social Security Administration office in Oklahoma, where she was demoted after becoming pregnant with her first child, Jane, who was born in 1955.

In the fall of 1956, Ruth Bader Ginsburg enrolled at Harvard Law School, where she was one of only 9 women in a class of about 500 men.

Harvard Law Dean Erwin Griswold reportedly invited all the female law students to din-

ner at his family home and asked the female law students, including Ginsburg, “Why are you at Harvard Law School, taking the place of a man?”

When her husband took a job in New York City, Ruth Bader Ginsburg transferred to Columbia Law School and became the first woman to be on two major law reviews: Harvard Law Review and Columbia Law Review.

In 1959, she earned her law degree at Columbia and tied for first in her class but despite these enviable credentials and distinguished record of excellence, no law firm in New York City would hire a lawyer because she was a woman.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg became a crusader for women's rights and an unstoppable force who transformed the law and defied social convention.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, later affectionately known as the ‘Notorious RBG,’ was as instrumental and historically significant to the cause of women's rights as was Thurgood Marshall to the cause of civil rights for African Americans.

As a young lawyer and Director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, Ruth Bader Ginsburg litigated six landmark cases before the Supreme Court, winning five out of the six cases.

Like Justice Marshall, Ruth Bader Ginsburg's uncanny strategic instincts and careful selection of cases were vital in her persuasion of the all-male Supreme Court to start dismantling the legal institution of sex discrimination one case at a time.

In 1975, Ruth Bader Ginsburg litigated and won *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld*, which would become a landmark case in antidiscrimination jurisprudence.

In this case, the widower had been denied survivor benefits, which would allow him to stay at home and raise his son, based on a Social Security provision that assumed only women were secondary providers with unimportant incomes.

While some questioned Ginsburg's choice to challenge instances of sex discrimination by representing a male plaintiff, Ruth Bader Ginsburg saw it as an opportunity to show the court that childcare was not a sex-determined role to be performed only by women.

As with many of her cases, her goal was to free both sexes, men as well as women, from the roles that society had assigned them and to harness the Constitution to break down the structures by which the state maintained and enforced those separate spheres.

As Ruth Bader Ginsburg continued to challenge the stereotypical assumptions of what was considered to be women's work and men's work, she was able to persuade the Court and the nation that discriminating on the basis of sex was not only wrong but violative of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees equal protection to all citizens under the law.

As the courts began to recognize the changing roles of men and women, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was able to advance gender equality with the understanding that women are capable of being heads of households or sole providers for their family.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court, making her the second woman to fill this position.

This historic appointment further symbolized the principle that women were equal to men in

every respect, that they could have successful careers and also could, if they chose, be devoted wives or mothers, thereby breaking barriers for generations of women to follow in her footsteps.

In fact, many of Ginsburg's opinions helped solidify the constitutional protections she had fought so hard to establish decades earlier.

While we commemorate Justice Ginsburg's work for advancing the women's movement both as a Justice and as a lawyer, all are in her debt who cherish the progress made in the areas of LGBTQ+ equality, immigration reform, environmental justice, voting rights, protections for people with disabilities, and so much more.

Throughout her life, Ruth Bader Ginsburg worked to make the law work so that America would be more just, equitable, fairer, and better for all.

Whether it be in her legendary dissenting opinions or as leader when in the majority, Justice Ginsburg continued to advocate for the marginalized and most vulnerable.

In recent years, she may not have been able to control the outcome of the rulings, but she grew bolder in her dissents, often stating what should have been the outcome.

Throughout her tenure on the bench, Ruth Bader Ginsburg displayed her rigorous and incisive legal mind and employed her formidable skills as a consensus builder, but she could be tough and forceful when the moment demanded.

Nothing illustrates this better than her famous dissent in *Shelby County v. Holder*, in which the 5-to-4 majority negated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by invalidating section 4 of the law, which neutralized section 5, the provision of the act that required jurisdictions with a history of racial and ethnic discrimination in voting to obtain preclearance from the federal government before any changes in voting procedures, from polling stations to voter photo IDs could go into effect.

It was in her scathing dissent Justice Ginsburg stated, “Hubris is a fit word for today's demolition of the VRA” and that the majority's logic was akin to “throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet.”

Unlike the others, Justice Ginsburg was able to see the ramifications of the ruling and its allowances for reinvigorated efforts of voter suppression.

Today, I join millions of individuals who are mourning the loss of this legal giant, feminist, and trailblazer.

Justice Ginsburg loved this country, so much so that she served the nation while enduring illnesses and undergoing treatments that would have incapacitated lesser mortals.

She inspired generations of women then and now to shatter glass ceilings, and her legacy will inspire new generations of women in the years to come.

As the news of her passing continues to reverberate across the country and around the world, it is important that we remember and honor what she stood for and continue fighting to realize the goal of equal justice under law.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence to honor the memory of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the ‘Notorious RBG,’ one of the greatest jurists in our nation's history, a tireless and unyielding champion for equal justice, and a fierce defender of the Constitution.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 23

TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 4393, to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and S. 4511, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to education, burial benefits, and other matters.

TBA

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the need for federal data privacy legislation.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2020, focusing on modernizing the Endangered Species Act.

SD-106

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine COVID-19, focusing on an update on the federal response.

SD-G50

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Chad F. Wolf, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SR-325

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense cyber operations in support of efforts to protect the integrity of U.S. national elections from malign actors.

SVC-217

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the Congressional Budget Office's updated budget outlook.

SD-608

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 3126, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a special behavioral health program for Indians, S. 3264, to expedite and streamline the deployment of affordable broadband service on Tribal land, S. 3937, to amend section 330C of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize special programs for Indians for providing services for the prevention and treatment of diabetes, S. 4079, to authorize the Seminole Tribe of Florida to lease or transfer certain land, and S. 4556, to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Indian Health Service, to acquire private land to facilitate access to the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center in Hemet, California.

SD-628

SEPTEMBER 24

9 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United States policy in a changing Middle East.

SD-G50

9:30 a.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SVC-217

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine women and retirement, focusing on unique challenges and opportunities to pave a brighter future.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the quarterly CARES Act report to Congress.

SD-106

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet

To hold hearings to examine an evaluation of FirstNet's progress.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine threats to the homeland.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 4632, to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to modify the scope of protection from civil liability for "good Samaritan" blocking and screening of offensive material, and the nominations of Benjamin Joel Beaton, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, Kristi Haskins Johnson, and Taylor B. McNeel, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, Kathryn Kimball Mizelle, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, and Thompson Michael Dietz, of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SR-325

OCTOBER 1

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine supply chain integrity.

SD-G50

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 23

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine Navy and Marine Corps readiness.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine threats to American intellectual property, focusing on cyber attacks and counterfeits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SD-226