

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 Wattertown, 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