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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sep. 19, 2020

Statement by Secretary Robert L. Wilkie on the passing of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Today we mourn the passing of a trailblazer and lifelong advocate for women's rights, Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Graduating at the top of her class at Columbia University law school in 1959 she became a highly successful academician, reaching tenured status at Rutgers law school in 1969. Her career as a jurist began in 1980 with an appointment by President Jimmy Carter to the U.S. Court of Appeals. In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed her to the U.S. Supreme Court, only the second woman ever appointed to the court. Her tenure was marked by a dedication to human rights and gender equality. She was well-respected by fellow jurists no matter their differing points of view. Her passing, while sad, is a reminder that a person who holds strong principles and commitment to the cause of justice in America can have a lasting impact on our great nation. Along with her family and the nation we grieve her passing, just as we celebrate a life well-lived. God bless her soul.