

*Administration of Barack H. Obama, 2009*

**Statement on the Death of Senator Edward M. Kennedy**

*August 26, 2009*

Michelle and I were heartbroken to learn this morning of the death of our dear friend Senator Ted Kennedy.

For five decades, virtually every major piece of legislation to advance the civil rights, health, and economic well-being of the American people bore his name and resulted from his efforts.

I valued his wise counsel in the Senate, where, regardless of the swirl of events, he always had time for a new colleague. I cherished his confidence and momentous support in my race for the Presidency. And even as he waged a valiant struggle with a mortal illness, I've profited as President from his encouragement and wisdom.

An important chapter in our history has come to an end. Our country has lost a great leader, who picked up the torch of his fallen brothers and became the greatest United States Senator of our time. And the Kennedy family has lost their patriarch, a tower of strength and support through good times and bad. Our hearts and prayers go out to them today, to his wonderful wife, Vicki, his children, Ted Jr., Patrick, and Kara, his grandchildren, and his extended family.

*Categories:* Statements by the President : Deaths :: Kennedy, Sen. Edward M.

*Names:* Allen, Kara Kennedy; Kennedy, Edward M.; Kennedy, Edward M., Jr.; Kennedy, Patrick J., II; Kennedy, Victoria R.; Obama, Michelle.

*Subjects:* Deaths : Kennedy, Sen. Edward M.; Massachusetts : U.S. Senator, death.

*DCPD Number:* DCPD200900665.