

## QUORUM REPORT ...

April 29, 2009

### SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR URGES ACTION ON ALZHEIMER'S

**The former U.S. Supreme Court Justice was honored in the Texas Senate for her career of service.**

Speaking to the Texas Senate this morning, former **U.S. Supreme Court** Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor** urged states and the federal government to devote the same attention to defeating Alzheimer's disease as was brought to bear in the battles against polio and tuberculosis in decades past.

"We need a national focus on this disease," the first female Supreme Court Justice told the Senators. "And we need the cooperation here at the state level."

O'Connor, 79, stepped down from the high court after 25 years of service in 2006 to care for her husband who suffers from the memory-robbing disease. She said that the number of cases in the United States will likely rise by 50 percent in the next two decades.

"We're living a little bit longer than we used to, and it's taking a terrible toll," she said.

The visit brought action in the Senate to a standstill as members and staff posed for photos with O'Connor. Sen. **Eliot Shapleigh** (D-El Paso) pointed out that although O'Connor lived much of her life in Arizona, she is a native Texan who grew up in El Paso.

Sen. **Judith Zaffirini** (D-Laredo) sponsored a resolution honoring O'Connor and praised the former justice as a national treasure.