PS1 for 9/25/86#THANK YOU, JUSTICE REHNQUIST##In the last hours of the media debate about Justice William Rehnquist's nomination to become Chief Justice of the United States, the (BF)Washington Post(end BF) published a long editorial pleading for Senators to vote against him. The editorial's impassioned rhetoric was exceeded only by its biased and distorted characterization of the Rehnquist record.#The (BF)Post(end BF) admitted that Rehnquist excels in intellect, education, professional experience, integrity, and moral character. But the (BF)Post(end BF) urged a ""no'' vote anyway.#The (BF)Post(BF) was very selective in savaging Rehnquist's Supreme Court opinions. The (BF)Post(end BF) conveniently omitted Rehnquist's majority opinion in (BF)Rostker v. Goldberg(end BF) on June 25, 1981, one of the most important civil liberties cases of our times. Depending on your point of view, some would say it was THE most important.#The (BF)Post(end BF) doesn't call this a civil liberties case. That's because the (BF)Post(end BF) chooses to define ""civil liberties'' in such a way as to promote the radical leftwing agenda.#(BF)Rostker(end BF) was the case that upheld the traditional civil liberty of young women to be exempt from compulsory military conscription. If you are an 18-year-old female, hardly any other civil liberty would rank higher on your scale of priorities.#The (BF)Post(end BF) accused Rehnquist of having a ""cold-blooded view of the role of government'' in regard to civil liberties. On the contrary, in (BF)Rostker(end BF), Rehnquist manifested a most humane and compassionate understanding of women's civil liberties when he refused to allow a cold-blooded government to trample on young women in order to achieve a mindless sameness of treatment with men.#The (BF)Post(end BF) accused Rehnquist of ""an unvarying refusal to look beyond the consequences'' to see the ""impact on individual Americans.'' On the contrary, Rehnquist indeed looked at the consequences of imposing a new rule to conscript 18-year-old women. He evaluated how devastating those consequences would be to individual liberties, and he didn't allow that tragedy to happen.#The (BF)Post(end BF) said that Rehnquist will not reach out to ""vindicate the

rights of individuals'' even if his decisions ""mean a continuation of second-class citizenship for some groups or an encroachment on the privacy of individuals.'' On the contrary, Rehnquist saved young women from the fate of the second-class treatment they would suffer if they were ordered to report to the combat infantry on an equal basis with men, and he saved them from the massive encroachment on their privacy that would result from conscription into the army.#The (BF)Post(end BF) accused Rehnquist of lacking ""an acceptance of the court's responsibility to protect individuals from the majority, and sometimes the majority from itself.'' On the contrary, that's exactly what Rehnquist did in (BF)Rostker(end BF). He protected the individual young woman from the majority which were then fatuously clamoring, through press and polls and pandering politicians, for ""equal treatment for men and women.''#The (BF)Post(end BF) complained that Rehnquist usually ""voted against the civil rights complainant.'' But the (BF)Post(end BF) didn't tell its readers that those whom the (BF)Post(end BF) befriends as ""civil rights complainants'' included the cold-blooded complainants who requested the Court to order the heartless conscription of young women and their assignment to the battlefield just like men.#The (BF)Post(end BF) said, ""Where the statute does not expressly vindicate the rights of individuals, neither will he.'' But Rehnquist did. He vindicated one of the most precious rights of young women.#The (BF)Post(end BF) accused Rehnquist of having a ""doctrinaire quality of understanding and application of the law.'' On the contrary, the doctrinaire orthodoxy of 1981 was to demand an irrational sameness of treatment for men and women. Led by the Carter Administration, the fad of feminism was then at its zenith.# Nevertheless, Congress retained its sanity against the propaganda push to conscript women, and Rehnquist upheld the statute in (BF)Rostker(end BF). But in doing so, he had to endure the slings and arrows of outrageous onslaughts from the American Civil Liberties Union, which called the (BF)Rostker(end BF) decision ""tragic.''# What King Canute could not do, Justice Rehnquist did -- he ordered the feminist tide to roll

back to sea, and it did. He helped to hold the feminist fighters at bay until the age of feminist follies self-destructed and fell into decline and disarray.#On behalf of the young women of 1981 and all the tomorrows, and their sweethearts and mothers and fathers, thank you, Justice Rehnquist for standing tall for women. You are the real champion of civil liberties for women.