



AP photo

**Memorial service:** Garrison Keillor sings 'The Whiffenpoof Song' during the funeral ceremony Tuesday for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun in Washington.

## Justice lauded for judicial vision

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun was eulogized Tuesday as a man with a "conscientious, humane judicial vision" who sought to understand the people whose lives the court's rulings would affect.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Attorney General Janet Reno and humorist Garrison Keillor joined Blackmun's family, friends and Supreme Court colleagues at a memorial service for the justice who died last Thursday at age 90.

Justice Stephen G. Breyer, who succeeded Blackmun on the nation's highest court in 1994, said he "made a direct, conscious effort to reach out and understand those whose life experience was different from his own."

His accomplishments during 24 years on the court "reveal a vision, a conscientious, humane judicial vision, which he applied in one area of the law after another," including equal protection of the sexes and races, Breyer said.

Blackmun got tens of thousands of letters after he authored the 1973 Roe vs. Wade opinion that legalized abortion nationwide.

One very long letter urged Blackmun to resign, Breyer said, and the justice's reply was succinct: "Dear Sir, No. Sincerely, Harry A. Black-

mun."  
Harold Koh, a former Blackmun law clerk and now assistant secretary of state, called him "the people's justice" who "through quiet courage and sheer hard work became the conscience of our court in the late 20th century."

Former law clerk Pamela Karlan told of the time Blackmun, a Methodist, came to her Passover seder wearing a yarmulke and having studied up on the Jewish rituals. "He was amazingly open to new experiences," she said.

His daughter, Nancy Blackmun, said his long hours at work limited his time with his family.

Fellow Minnesotan Garrison Keillor led the congregation in the Yale University "Whiffenpoof Song," a song about lost lambs that Ms. Blackmun said her father often sang to his children when they were small, even though he earned his undergraduate and law degrees at Harvard University.

The Rev. William A. Holmes of the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church said Blackmun brought to religion and the law "a creative fidelity marked by humility, and always with a twinkle in his eye."