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What's in a name? Big Dig in Boston causing a big problem

By Steve LeBlanc THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — Massachusetts has the Tobin Bridge (named after a former governor), the Sumner Tunnel (for the son of a late governor) and the Saltonstall office building (a former senator AND governor).

So maybe it's not surprising that a plan to name part of Interstate 93 the Liberty Tunnel is running into opposition from critics who prefer "Tip" — as in late House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill — and find it insulting that the venerable Democrat might be honored with another, smaller tunnel.

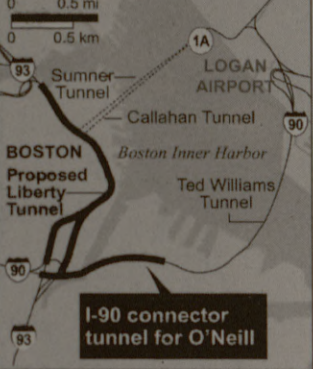
Republican Gov. Mitt Romney first suggested the Liberty Tunnel name, and he says he's baffled by the uproar. He doesn't see anything wrong with naming a smaller tunnel connecting Interstate 90 to Logan Airport after O'Neill, who once observed "all politics is local."

"The name Liberty Tunnel is great," Romney said. "It respects the individuals who fought and in many cases died to protect the liberty of our land, and I think it's fitting for Tip O'Neill to have his name on the I-90 connector tunnel."

O'Neill loyalists say the centerpiece of the \$14.6 billion Big Dig should be named after O'Neill, who was widely credited with securing the federal

Big Dig causing name headache

Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney plans to call part of Interstate 93 the Liberty Tunnel with a smaller tunnel named after late House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill. But O'Neill loyalists disagree.



SOURCES: Associated Press, ESRI; BIGDIG.COM

funds needed for the massive highway project.

"Without Tip O'Neill, there's no (Big Dig)," said state Sen. Robert Havern, a Democrat. "He never had constituents — he had friends."

The brouhaha is typical of Boston, where all politics is personal and history is written large on the city's infrastructure.

For years, drivers heading from the western suburbs to the airport have taken Storrow Drive up onto the John F. Fitzgerald Expressway and into the Callahan Tunnel.

Storrow Drive is named after James Jackson Storrow, who

lost the tight 1910 mayoral race to John F. "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, the grandfather of President Kennedy and Sen. Edward Kennedy. The Callahan Tunnel is named for Lt. William F. Callahan Jr., who was killed in World War II and whose father was the first chairman of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority.

Sometimes, residents come up with their own monikers.

The bridge that carries commuters over the Charles River is named after poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. But many Bostonians call it "the Salt-and-Pepper Bridge," after the towering stone supports that resemble salt and pepper shakers.

The Fitzgerald Expressway is largely known as the "Central Artery." It will torn down when the Big Dig is finished, but the Kennedy legacy will remain: City planners hope to name open space above the underground highway the Rose Kennedy Greenway, honoring Fitzgerald's daughter.

As for the Big Dig, former Gov. Paul Cellucci wanted to name the crown jewel of the project — a striking new bridge over the Charles — after local civil rights activist Leonard Zakim. Some residents complained the bridge should acknowledge the area's history, which includes the Battle of Bunker Hill.

O'Connor says diverse court helps public perception of fairness

By Anne Gearan THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The first woman named to the Supreme Court said Monday that having women and minorities on the court helps the public accept its rulings.

Should diversity on the court be a goal? "It's not for me to say," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But I think it's been desirable from the standpoint of public perceptions of fairness to see a court that includes women and minorities."

O'Connor is widely expected to be the deciding vote when the court rules later this year on the constitutionality of affirmative action in college admissions, but her remarks were not made in the context of any specific case.

The high court currently has six white men, one black man and two white women.

O'Connor, 73, has served on the court for 22 years. She is one of the oldest and longest-serving justices, and has been the subject of speculation that she may be ready to step down this year.

"I have no current plans" to retire, O'Connor said.

The court has heard numerous cases over the past two years exploring the way the death penalty is carried out, but O'Connor said people should not conclude that the court is systematically working toward some broader reckoning with capital punishment.

"We aren't here trying to develop something in the sense of where the country should go with this issue. We're a reactive institution," O'Connor said. "We proceed case by case as they come to us, and not with any overarching objective that the court itself" has developed.

O'Connor's latest book, "The Majesty of the Law; Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice," is

dedicated to her law clerks, "past, present and future."

It is partly a personal account of her experiences as a woman lawyer and judge and partly a historical look at the development of U.S. law.

Published this month by Random House, the book is not a sequel to last year's best-selling account of O'Connor's girlhood on a cattle ranch along the Arizona-New Mexico border, although O'Connor said she may write such a book one day.

O'Connor was a politician and a state trial judge in Arizona before Ronald Reagan chose her for the court in 1981. She drew on her experience as a judge for a section of the book dealing with juries.

Jurors ought to be free to take notes during a trial, and even pose some written questions, O'Connor said. Only some states and courts allow such departures from custom.

O'Connor tried to instruct her juries about the law at the beginning of the case rather than at the end, she said.

"It seems to me when I listen to complicated things it helps me to know ahead of time what I'm supposed to decide," O'Connor said. "I can hear the arguments to better effect, and I think jurors can hear the facts more effectively if they know ahead of time what specifically they have to decide."

Her book contains some strong criticism of the way juries are now chosen, including the reliance on outside jury consultants that some believe "can virtually guarantee a verdict by stacking the jury with people who fit the ideal demographic profile."

Even so, O'Connor said in the interview, she does not blame defense lawyers for using whatever tools are available to them.

"Yet people who can't afford it are not going to have that benefit, and you get a little nervous about how that might play out in terms of fairness," O'Connor said.

"I think it's been desirable from the standpoint of public perceptions of fairness to see a court that includes women and minorities."

— Sandra Day O'Connor supreme court justice

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Is your organization planning its annual retreat; is your leadership tired of the same old retreat location and activities? Join us and discover how to plan the ultimate retreat. This presentation will cover all the various places available to host retreats, suggest team-building activities, aid in the development of agendas that will help your leadership development and much, much more!
January 27, 2003 at 5:00-6:30pm & 7:00-8:30pm, MSC 228
April 14, 2003 at 6:00-8:00p.m., MSC 228

How to Get Sued
During this short seminar, participants will learn about the basics of tort law, the elements of negligence, and how they can take proactive measures to help protect themselves and their organizations.
February 6, 2003 at 11:30-1:00pm, 228 MSC
April 9, 2003 at 11:30-1:00pm, 228 MSC

The Ultimate Travel Experience
Most student organizations travel each semester to organizational retreats or conferences and many are unaware of system policies and university resources. Come learn how to travel safely and learn about the resources available to you when traveling for your organization.
March 3, 2003 at 5:00-6:30pm & 7:00-8:30pm, 707 Rudder

The Ultimate Service Project
How to do meaningful service and connect your service experience to your everyday life in order to continue making a difference every day!!!
February 19, 2:00-3:00pm, 144 Koldus
February 19, 5:30-6:30p or 7:00-8:00p, 146 Koldus

Campus Resources/Renting Vehicles
Discover how to tap into the various resources available to students at Texas A&M University. This presentation provides students with a rare opportunity to learn about the significant number of resources on campus that can be utilized when planning meetings, events, philanthropies, and trips. Also, become familiar with the process of renting vehicles.
February 10, 2003 at 6:00-7:30pm, 228 MSC

The Ultimate Event
The Ultimate Event is a high-energy, interactive program focused on expanding student knowledge about planning a successful student organization event.
February 25, 11:00-1:30pm, 507 Rudder
For Advisors February 27, 6:00-8:00pm, 231 MSC, For Students

Fundraising
Does your organization have to limit its activities and membership because you simply do not have enough funds? This seminar is designed to instruct students on how to raise more money to host or attend events. This interactive session will help you expand your fundraising and collection ideas.
January 30, 2003 at 6:00-8:00pm, MSC 228

Enhance Your Organization by Assessment
Professionals from the Department of Student Life Studies will provide resources and strategies for effectively using assessment in your student organization.
April 24, 2003 at 6:00-8:00pm, 228 MSC

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