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Arizona Daily Star

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Same-sex marriage a right, high court rules

By Mark Sherman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Same-sex couples won the right to marry nationwide Friday as a divided Supreme Court handed a crowning victory to the gay-rights movement, setting off a jubilant cascade of long-delayed weddings in states where they had been forbidden.

"No longer may this liberty be denied," Justice Anthony Kennedy said.

The vote was narrow — 5-4 — but Kennedy's majority opinion was clear and firm: "The court now holds that same-sex couples may exercise the fundamental right to marry."

The ruling will put an end to same-sex marriage bans in the 14 states that still maintain them, and provides an exclamation point for breathtaking changes in the nation's social norms in recent years. As recently as last October, slightly more than one-third of the states permitted gay marriages.

MORE INSIDE
• Obama, Ducey react to historic decision. **A4**
• How ruling will be implemented in Arizona. **Page B1**

Kennedy's reading of the ruling elicited tears in the courtroom, euphoria outside and the immediate issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples in at least eight states. In Dallas, Kenneth

Denson said he and Gabriel Mendez had been legally married in 2013 in California but said, "We're Texans; we want to get married in Texas."

In praise of the decision, President Obama called it "justice that arrives like a thunderbolt."

Four of the court's justices weren't cheering. The dissenters accused their colleagues of usurping power that belongs to the states and to voters, and short-circuiting a national debate about same-sex marriage.

"This court is not a legislature. Whether same-sex marriage is a good idea should be of no concern to us," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in dissent. Roberts read a summary of his dissent from the bench, the first time he has done so in nearly 10 years as chief justice.

"If you are among the many Americans — of whatever sexual orientation — who favor expanding same-sex marriage, by all means celebrate today's decision," Roberts said. "But do not celebrate the Constitution. It had nothing to do with it."

Justice Antonin Scalia said he was not concerned so much about same-sex marriage as "this

See **RULING, A4**

Tucson revels in moment



Married couple Michelle McLoughlin, left, and Irene Estrada, right, squeeze in with son Logan McLoughlin, 11, for a selfie Friday at a downtown celebration to mark the Supreme Court's ruling that guarantees a nationwide right to gay marriage. Story, **Page A4**



The White House took on rainbow hues Friday in commemoration of the historic ruling.

Retiring A-10s is risky, GAO says

Notes that studies on savings not yet done

By David Wichner
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The Air Force plan to retire the A-10 Thunderbolt II ground-attack jet could create capability gaps in close air support missions, particularly in coordination of combat-rescue operations, the Government Accountability Office says in a new report.

Meanwhile, the Air Force hasn't fully studied the potential cost savings of retiring the A-10, a mainstay of operations at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, the GAO said.

The Air Force has proposed retiring all of the nation's A-10 "Wart-hogs" by 2019, citing intense budget pressures. A-10 supporters in Congress, including Arizona Sen. **John McCain**, and U.S. Rep. **Martha McSally**, blocked the retirement plan during consideration of the defense budget last year and are on a path to do the same this year.

In preliminary findings of a study ordered by Congress last year, the GAO said that Air Force divestment of the A-10 "will create potential gaps in CAS (close air support) and other missions," noting that the Pentagon is planning to fill some of those gaps by using other manned and unmanned aircraft until the multirole F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is operational.

However, Air Force documentation shows that the F-35's close air support capability will be

VIEW THE REPORT
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Injured tourists are treated on a beach in Sousse, Tunisia, where a gunman killed at least 37 on Friday.

Dozens killed after IS call to violence

Tunisia, France, Kuwait all hit in spasm of terror

By Ben Wiacek and Paul Schemm
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUSSE, Tunisia — A young man pulled a Kalashnikov from a beach umbrella and sprayed gunfire at European sunbathers at a Tunisian resort, killing

at least 37 people — one of three deadly attacks Friday from Europe to North Africa to the Middle East that followed a call to violence by Islamic State extremists.

The shootings in the Tunisian resort of Sousse happened at about the same time as a bombing at a Shiite mosque in Kuwait and an attack on a U.S.-owned factory in France that included a

beheading. It was unclear if the violence was linked, but it came days after the IS militants urged their followers "to make Ramadan a month of calamities for the nonbelievers." In all, the assailants killed at least 65 people.

The attack in Tunisia, the country's worst ever, comes just months after the March 18 massacre at the national Bardo museum in Tunis that

killed 22 people, again mostly tourists, and has called into question the newly elected government's ability to protect the country.

"Once again, cowardly and traitorous hands have struck Tunisia, targeting its security and that of its children and visitors," President Beji Caid Essebsi told

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COMING SUNDAY

DOWNTOWN DILEMMA: It's great to see new buildings going up, columnist Tim Steller says, but do they have to look so boring?



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