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Justice Kennedy today advised his colleagues that he is submitting to the President a
formal notification of his decision, effective July 31 of this year, to cease active status as an
Associate Justice and to assume senior status. He said: “It has been the greatest honor and
privilege to serve our nation in the federal judiciary for 43 years, 30 of those years on the
Supreme Court.” He added that while his family was willing for him to continue to serve, his
decision to step aside was based on his deep desire to spend more time with them. He said, too,
that admiration for his colleagues on the Court means that he will retain warm ties with each of
them in the years to come.

Justice Kennedy was nominated by President Reagan and took his oath of office on