Prior to Sandra Day O’Connor, no other female in the United States had been given as heavy and as public a yoke to carry in representing women, the West and in turn the best interests of the nation. President Ronald Reagan appointed Justice Sandra Day O’Connor to the United States Supreme Court in 1981; she was the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court since its inception in the late 1700s.

The National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame proudly celebrates 2002 Hall of Fame Honoree Sandra Day O’Connor with this exhibition. Drawing largely from the book co-authored by Justice O’Connor and her brother, H. Alan Day, Lazy B: Growing Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest, the exhibition takes moments from her life and expands upon them. Issues of practicality connect both ranch life and bench life, while distinctive issues faced either on the ranch in Arizona or during confirmation in Washington are explored.

The exhibition features family and public-life photos, ranch artifacts on loan from the Day family, and selected editorial cartoons. Arid desert scenes are juxtaposed with the confirmation hearings and the publicity that surrounded the future Justice. “We have created an exhibition for one of our own,” said Patricia Riley, Executive Director of the museum. “Justice O’Connor, who was inducted into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 2002, is the archetypical Honoree. Raised on an isolated ranch, she was expected to hold her own with the ranch hands, and, when she was appointed Justice, no one doubted she could hold her own in that arena as well.”
Exhibit Installation Views