

of the State. As a result, the depression-stricken Arkansans who had endured months of unemployment, poverty, and low farm prices began to see Hattie Caraway for who she was, an honorable friend and neighbor who would always remain an advocate for the best interests of them and their families. At the polls, the people of Arkansas stood by Hattie in overwhelming numbers, doubling the votes of her nearest rival and carrying 61 of Arkansas' 75 counties.

In the Senate, it was rare for "Silent Hattie" to participate actively in debate or deliver a speech to the chamber. She had learned from her husband's years of public service and was weary of the politicians who placed a higher priority on hearing their own voice than working on behalf of the people they were elected to represent, often remarking, "It's funny how they talk on after we've all made up our minds." Senator Caraway took her responsibilities as a legislator seriously and built a reputation among her colleagues as a woman of integrity who showed a determination to faithfully champion the interests of Arkansas above everything else.

Although she maintained her political independence, Hattie was a proponent of much of the legislation proposed under President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. As a friend to the veterans and a critic of lobbying groups, Hattie also advocated commercial aviation safety and used her seat on the Senate Agriculture Committee to fight for farm relief and flood control on behalf of Arkansas farmers. Her diligent service and effective advocacy of legislation for Arkansas won her another term in 1938, beating in the Democratic primary a legend in Arkansas politics who would later serve 34 years in the U.S. Senate, John L. McClellan.

Quickly becoming accustomed to breaking the Senate's gender barriers, Hattie became the first woman to chair a Senate committee, the Committee on Enrolled Bills, in 1933 and 10 years later would become the first woman to serve as Presiding Officer on the floor of the Senate. Her legacy would also be distinguished by the support she offered for many of the Nation's historical pieces of legislation. One of these bills was President Roosevelt's lend-lease proposal and Hattie gained national notoriety by speaking assertively on its behalf. This program of lending supplies and materials to England to assist in their war effort was viewed by many isolationists in the United States as an unnecessary measure that would drag our Nation into war. In that time, women were seldom involved in issues of war and national security but Hattie's voice was influential in passing the lend-lease bill through Congress. Hoping to avoid war at all costs, she felt lend-lease would only strengthen England's effort to provide the "last wall protecting us from Naziism." As the proud mother of

sons serving our Nation in uniform, she was a credible voice on the issue and her plea to view the matter without emotion struck a chord among Americans.

Hattie's historic Senate career came to a conclusion during the Democratic primary of 1944, when she was defeated by another Arkansas political legend, J. William Fulbright. At the conclusion of her final term, Hattie was honored by her Senate colleagues with a standing ovation on the floor of the Senate. Those on hand described it as "almost without precedent."

Although Hattie passed away in December of 1950, her impact is still felt in the institution she served and by all of those who have found inspiration in the life she led. In 1996, a portrait of Hattie was placed just outside the Senate Chamber in the U.S. Capitol. The portrait is only the second in the Senate's permanent art collection which honors a woman; the first is Pocahontas. In 2001, Hattie made history again when she became the first Arkansan to ever appear on a stamp and I was proud to help unveil the 76-cent Hattie Caraway definitive stamp, as a part of the Postal Service's "Distinguished Americans" series.

While there are many ways for us to remember Hattie, her lasting legacy will live on in those who have been inspired by her example and in the generations of women seeking elective office who have followed the road she has so boldly paved. We have come a long way since the Suffragist Movement at the beginning of the last century, and we have women like Hattie Caraway to thank. Thirty-one women have followed Hattie Caraway to the U.S. Senate, and today, a record 14 women are currently serving. With the 68 women serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, a record 82 currently women serve in the U.S. Congress today. Hattie would be proud. It is up to us to continue the progress she made and to urge a new generation to follow the heroic example set by her and so many other pioneering women.

When I think of Hattie Caraway, I think of a quote she made throughout her 1932 campaign. I carried it with me throughout my first Senate campaign: "If I can hold on to my sense of humor and a modicum of dignity, I shall have a wonderful time running for office whether I get there or not." Well, Hattie, you got there. In the process, your humor carried you through and your dignity earned you the affection of generations who are inspired to follow in your footsteps despite whatever barriers they may encounter or traditions they must overcome.

In the illustrious history of this great body and in the hearts of those who are inspired by her courage, one woman clearly stands out. Her name is Hattie Caraway. I am proud that she is from my home State of Arkansas, and I am proud to call her one of my heroes.

Each of us has our own personal story about a woman who has provided

our lives with hope and inspiration. During this month, take some time to tell that story. By doing so, you will not only honor their efforts but may also inspire a member of our younger generation with both the imagination to think a bit larger, and the courage to boldly turn their dreams into reality.●

ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate one of Montana's fine educational institutions on its first national championship title. Rocky Mountain College, located in Billings, is Montana's oldest institution of higher education. Last weekend, the men's ski team became the overall national champions at the 27th Annual US Collegiate Ski Association Championships.

Montana's schools may be smaller than the (average universities around the Nation, but Rocky Mountain College has again proven that smaller schools can achieve giant results.

Under Coach Jerry Wolf's leadership, the men's ski team made history for Rocky Mountain College by leading the men's ski team to their first national championship in the school's history.

However, the men were not the only ones from the Big Sky State to shine that day. The Women's ski team finished 10th overall. Both teams have made it to the national championships for the last 4 consecutive years but never with this excellent combination of results.

I want to recognize three students who finished events with times in the top 10: Pete Petry, Erik Willborg, and Johanna Aaker. I know how hard all of the students on the ski team worked to achieve these fantastic finishes, and I am pleased to represent such talented individuals.

To both the men's and women's ski teams of Rocky Mountain College, congratulations on your fantastic seasons.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTED MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by