

She made each person feel special. Maybe it was her southern twang that pulled you in, or the sparkle in her eyes.

I first met Louise when I joined the House Rules Committee. I was new to Congress.

I barely understood the rules of the House, and I found myself assigned to the Rules Committee.

Louise took me under her wing and taught me not only the Rules of the House, but the Rules of Louise:

Be cordial. Be kind. Know your stuff. Understand it is a privilege to serve in the House of Representatives. Always stay true to your word and fight for what you believe is right. And also, of course, laugh. Which she and I did a lot.

We spent many memorable days and long nights together while I was on the Rules Committee, particularly during the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

I remember her husband Bob being there, he was practically an honorary Rules Committee member.

Louise's leadership kept everyone around her going through late nights, and her unfailing wit helped ease tense days.

A longtime advocate for public health, Louise knew how important it was to expand access to healthcare in this country. Her tenacity and dedication helped usher through the Affordable Care Act in the House, helping even the playing field for families seeking care.

Louise traced her lineage back to Daniel Boone.

She was a pioneer herself. The daughter of a blacksmith in Lynch, Kentucky, she went on to fight for the people of New York in the New York State Assembly, and then in the United States Congress.

When she came to the House of Representatives in 1987, there were only 25 female legislators here. But Louise wasn't intimidated. She was a fierce, skilled legislator who became an example for all of those who came after her.

Not far from Louise's district is the site of the historic Seneca Falls Convention. Louise drew from that history and spent her career championing the causes of women everywhere.

She was the first woman to serve as Chair of the powerful House Rules Committee. She spearheaded the landmark Violence Against Women Act and the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act.

She fought for, and secured, federal funding for the National Institutes of Health, and was instrumental in the creation of the Office of Research on Women's Health.

And she co-founded the Pro-Choice Caucus, serving as a passionate proponent for women having the power to forge their own destinies until her last days in Congress.

At the heart of all of these legislative accomplishments is a common thread—Louise wanted to help people who were traditionally underrepresented. She wanted to give them a voice, and she did.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton said, "The best protector any woman can have . . . is courage."

Louise's courage to fight for her progressive ideals, to stand up for equality, and to ensure working families in her district had opportunities was a model for young girls everywhere and really a model for all of us here in Congress.

It was Maya Angelou who said, "Each time a woman stands up for herself . . . she stands up for all women."

That's what Louise did. And, as she stood up for other women, she always stayed true to who she was. She was genuine. She was a fighter. She loved people. And she was kind.

Her passion for the arts and music bridged all of her life experiences. She loved everything from the songs of the 1950s and '60s, to gospel music, to hard rock, to classical music.

It was that authenticity and approachability, paired with her pioneering spirit, which made her both so tenacious and so well-loved.

As much as Louise loved Congress, she also loved her family and took such great pride in them. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy in her three daughters, seven grandchildren, and great-grandchild.

When I go to the Rules Committee, I feel her presence, I hear her strong opinions, and I know that she is happy now reunited with her dear husband Bob and chairing the Rules Committee from up high.

Louise Rules.

THE ENFORCER—FIRST LADY  
BARBARA BUSH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, December of 1941 brought the United States into one of the deadliest wars in our history, but it also brought together the longest-married presidential couple in U.S. History.

At a dance in Rye, New York, 16-year-old Barbara Pierce, a high school junior home on break from her school in South Carolina, caught the eye of 17-year-old George Herbert Walker Bush, a high school senior.

Love was in the air, and the two became engaged a year and a half later. While George was deployed in the Pacific during the latter stages of World War II, he penned letters to his "darling Bar" expressing the joy that she brought him.

The couple finally married on January 6, 1945, and for 73 years Barbara remained at George's side.

Barbara was an iconic woman and truly embodied what it meant to be a public servant in this country. She stood beside the American people through decades of major political events, from the Cold War to the terrorist attacks on September 11th, providing a reliable, steady presence that never failed to induce calm into those around her.

She led our nation as First Lady with dignity, grace and more than a little bit of wit. She watched two of her sons follow in their father's footsteps in bids for the U.S. Presidency and provided invaluable support to her son, George W. Bush, during his time in office. As a wife and mother of presidents, she taught us all the value of our families.

During her time as wife of the Vice-President and eventually First Lady, Barbara Bush became one of our country's greatest advocates for education and literacy. She started her own foundation, the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, in 1989 and her influence helped pass the National Literacy Act into law in 1991. As a result of her dedication to this cause, tens of millions of Americans have learned to read and write, and several million more were given another opportunity to graduate high school.

While she was not born in Texas, she eventually made the state home and forged a special bond with the place and its people. From supporting students across Texas and the Houston Metro area, to cheering on the Astros with her husband, her good will and magnetic personality left an indelible mark upon communities in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, Barbara Bush died as she lived, a strong Texas woman. She will be missed dearly by all Americans, especially those of us from Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MR.  
WALLACE MARTIN

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible contributions and life of Mr. Wallace Martin from Carrizo Springs, Texas.

Wallace's roots run deep in South Texas. In 1948, Mr. Martin took over Dixondale Farms, growing onion transplants, cabbage, carrots and cauliflower. However, Wallace's career began in the military. He honorably served his nation in World War II, when he flew over Omaha Beach on D-day, and conducted numerous heroic missions throughout Germany.

As a farmer, Wallace oversaw the growth and expansion of Dixondale Farms during railroad expansions and stoppages, hard freezes, and moves. His leadership is truly a testament to the character and spirit of Texas's 23rd Congressional District.

I had the honor of meeting Mr. Wallace Martin this past August. I saw Mr. Martin at a Town Hall and was able to speak to his contribution to the community.

Wallace Martin passed away on January 25, 2018, leaving behind an extraordinary legacy and family. While we mourn the loss of this great man, I know his reputation and the values he represented will live on through his family, his friends, and community. I would like to extend my most sincere condolences to Mr. Martin's family during this difficult time and am proud to recognize all that he did for the great state of Texas and the United States of America.

DR. HARRIET HALL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Harriet Hall for receiving the West Chamber's Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award. This award honors outstanding individuals who have had significant and long-lasting impacts on Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

Dr. Harriet Hall is most admired for her advocacy and unwavering commitment to people with mental health disorders, their families and our community. Her passion and tireless efforts have impacted the lives of thousands of individuals living with mental illness.