

HONORING THE MEMORY OF UN-
WAVERING ENVIRONMENTAL AD-
VOCATE W. KENT BAILEY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2020

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the memory of an unwavering environmental advocate, W. Kent Bailey. On any decision or issue that touched the natural environment of our beautiful Tampa Bay and surrounding area, Mr. Bailey was always there—steadfast. He came armed with science-based facts with an eye to the future. He understood how to convey his message in unconventional ways to directly convey the urgency, such as carrying a cardboard wave cutout to show how high water might rise by the end of the century. Mr. Bailey was a leader and a supporter of all causes big and small that impacted our environment.

Born in Paris, Kentucky, Mr. Bailey moved to Tampa Bay in his early adulthood. By the time of his passing on Sept. 22, 2020 at age 69, he had spent more than 30 years in Florida. His love for sailing brought sea-level rise in Tampa Bay to his attention as he documented that the actual tide level was usually higher than the projected tide level. He became an expert on sea-level rise as well as outspoken about it to elected officials and its impact in the near future if left unabated. In 2010, after fighting for the preservation of nearly 13,000 acres of land in northeastern Hillsborough formerly known as Cone Ranch, he became a full-fledged member and leader of the Sierra Club, the largest grassroots environmental organization in the United States. Thanks to Mr. Bailey and the work of others, developers were forever blocked from acquiring Cone Ranch, which has become the largest undeveloped tract of land and has since been under restoration, slowly opening to the public for families and neighbors to enjoy for passive activities, such as hiking and horseback riding.

Mr. Bailey owned and operated Bailey & Son Woodworking since 1972 but his calling was all-things environment. Mr. Bailey served as chair of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club for the past eight years, engaging and mobilizing thousands of members to protect our region and state's fragile, sensitive environmental lands. He overwhelmingly poured his time and energy in deeply studying climate science and preparing for the next public presentation or protest about it, building his ethos and all for the purpose of sustaining a more prosperous and equitable future for his 22 grandchildren and ours. He was an inspirational speaker and motivator, always leading by example and always giving credit to others and being a cheerleader for their contributions. He developed a strategy of using all angles to fight for our environment and affect state policies to promote preservation, whether it was organizing protests, writing letters to the editor or creative antics, such as purchasing stock from the local power company, Emera Inc., and traveling from Florida to Nova Scotia so he can vote at the shareholders meeting and in protest of expansion plans of a cracked gas facility in Tampa Bay.

Mr. Bailey's legacy will live through his six children, grandchildren and wife, Cathy, who

stood by him in his activism. Madam Speaker, our grateful and saddened Tampa Bay community also pledges to carry forward the work of Mr. Bailey. His formidable efforts and selfless devotion to making Tampa Bay and the rest of the United States a better place to live are unmatched and are worthy of recognition. On behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay, Florida, and citizens across the United States, I am proud to honor W. Kent Bailey for his lifelong dedication to the protection of the environment. His legacy as a tireless advocate will live on and inspire others in the community for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF RUTH BADER GINSBURG, THE 'NOTORIOUS RBG,' ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT, FEMINIST ICON AND TRAILBLAZER, INSPIRATION TO MILLIONS, TIRELESS CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE AND FIERCE DEFENDER OF THE CONSTITUTION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues during this Special Order to honor Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on Friday, September 18, 2020 at the age of 87 years old.

As a direct beneficiary of her advancement of women's rights and a long-time admirer of her vigorous defense of the constitution, I am honored but heartbroken to pay tribute to Justice Ginsburg, an American hero, feminist icon, and role model to millions.

Today, tomorrow, and forever, the American people mourn the loss of a true titan, an American legend, and an inspiration.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ruth's family, friends, and loved ones.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg dedicated her life to defending the Constitution and protecting the sanctity of America's democratic ideals, and we will forever be indebted to her service to this country.

Joan Ruth Bader, fondly nicknamed Kiki, was born on March 15, 1933 to an immigrant family and grew up in Brooklyn's Flatbush neighborhood.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg often spoke of her mother's large ambitions for her, and how the devastating loss of her mother's death at an early age instilled in her the determination to live a life that her mother would have been proud of.

And so, she did.

Ruth Bader attended Cornell University where she met Martin D. Ginsburg, her future husband and love of her life to whom she was married for 54 years.

At the age of 21, Ruth Bader graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Cornell with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government on June 23, 1954 and was the highest-ranking female student in her graduating class.

A month after graduating from Cornell, Ruth and Martin were married and moved to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where Martin was stationed as a Reserve Officers' Training Corps officer in the U.S. Army Reserve after his call-up to active duty.

To help support the family, Ruth Bader Ginsburg worked for the Social Security Administration office in Oklahoma, where she was demoted after becoming pregnant with her first child, Jane, who was born in 1955.

In the fall of 1956, Ruth Bader Ginsburg enrolled at Harvard Law School, where she was one of only 9 women in a class of about 500 men.

Harvard Law Dean Erwin Griswold reportedly invited all the female law students to dinner at his family home and asked the female law students, including Ginsburg, "Why are you at Harvard Law School, taking the place of a man?"

When her husband took a job in New York City, Ruth Bader Ginsburg transferred to Columbia Law School and became the first woman to be on two major law reviews: Harvard Law Review and Columbia Law Review.

In 1959, she earned her law degree at Columbia and tied for first in her class but despite these enviable credentials and distinguished record of excellence, no law firm in New York City would hire her as a lawyer because she was a woman.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg became a crusader for women's rights and an unstoppable force who transformed the law and defied social convention.

Her now infamous quote, "I ask no favor for my sex; all I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks", was a personal mantra for the Justice as it characterized her fight for and pursuit of equal rights throughout her lifetime.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, later affectionately known as the 'Notorious RBG,' was as instrumental and historically significant to the cause of women's rights as was Thurgood Marshall to the cause of civil rights for African Americans.

As a young lawyer and Director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, Ruth Bader Ginsburg litigated six landmark cases before the Supreme Court, winning five out of the six cases.

Like Justice Marshall, Ruth Bader Ginsburg's uncanny strategic instincts and careful selection of cases were vital in her persuasion of the all-male Supreme Court to start dismantling the legal institution of sex discrimination one case at a time.

In 1975, Ruth Bader Ginsburg litigated and won *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld*, which would become a landmark case in antidiscrimination jurisprudence.

In this case, the widower had been denied survivor benefits, which would allow him to stay at home and raise his son, based on a Social Security provision that assumed only women were secondary providers with unimportant incomes.

While some questioned Ginsburg's choice to challenge instances of sex discrimination by representing a male plaintiff, Ruth Bader Ginsburg saw it as an opportunity to show the court that childcare was not a sex-determined role to be performed only by women.

As with many of her cases, her goal was to free both sexes, men as well as women, from the roles that society had assigned them and to harness the Constitution to break down the structures by which the state maintained and enforced those separate spheres.

As Ruth Bader Ginsburg continued to challenge the stereotypical assumptions of what was considered to be women's work and