

called a friend back in Oregon who filed the necessary papers to make Maurine Neuberger a candidate for the Oregon legislature.

Maurine won that House seat, making the Neuberger the first husband and wife team in U.S. history to serve in the State legislature at the same time. They were both progressive liberals of the day, fighting for consumers, the environment, and civil rights. Maurine never stayed in her husband's shadow and even got more votes than him when they ran for reelection in 1952.

Maurine championed many causes as a State legislator but became known as the champion of the housewife for one cause in particular, overturning a ban on food coloring in margarine. This may sound like a frivolous cause to take up in these days, but to a woman in the 1950s, this was no silly battle. The Oregon dairy industry had lobbied for a ban on yellow food coloring in margarine. This required housewives to add the coloring themselves to improve the look of the whitish margarine for the dinner table. This was a hard and cumbersome task and virtually unknown to the all-male Oregon House. So in 1951, she walked into a crowded Agriculture Committee hearing room, donned an apron and proceeded to demonstrate the difficult process of adding a pellet of food coloring to a pound of margarine. The act made the statewide papers and the ban on food coloring was soon repealed.

When her husband, Dick Neuberger, was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1960, Maurine came to Washington not just as a spouse but as a political adviser and aide. She often attended hearings on her husband's behalf during absences and advised him on pending legislation. But even as a senatorial spouse Maurine could not hide from the limelight.

She created a mini-scandal in 1953 when she participated in a charity modeling show with other Senate wives, wearing a bathing suit. As it was described in the articles of the day, "the somewhat leggy picture" caused a stir back home in Oregon. Maurine found the incident amusing, brushing off criticism by saying, "Well, what do people think Senators' wives wear when they go swimming?"

Dick Neuberger's death in 1960 on the eve of the election's filing deadline came as a shock to both his wife and the State. Maurine was urged to run for the seat by columnists, State politicians, and even her husband's colleagues in the Senate. Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey, in an appeal for her to run for the seat, sent a telegram saying, "I cannot imagine the Senate of the United States without a Neuberger in it." She decided to put her grief aside and filed the necessary papers within hours of the deadline.

Maurine Neuberger easily beat the "caretaker" replacement who had been appointed by the governor to fill out the term of her husband and in Janu-

ary of 1961 she was sworn in as the third woman in U.S. history elected in her own right to serve in the United States Senate.

□ 1630

In an early interview as Senator-elect, she demonstrated her forward-thinking values, favoring medical coverage for senior citizens, Federal aid for more teachers and classroom construction, pollution controls for automobiles, and a strong civil rights bill.

In her 6 years as Senator, she fought for environmental protections, challenged the meat industry for adding water to hams, and took the bedding manufacturing industry to task for selling flammable blankets. But she will probably be best known for her early and outspoken opposition to the tobacco industry.

Mr. Speaker, 1963 was a time when the dangers of tobacco were just becoming clear. The industry, the Government and even the medical profession fought controls against its sale. Senator Neuberger fought these interests in every arena and even wrote a book on the topic, *Smoke Screen: Tobacco and the Public Welfare*. She said in the text, "I have undertaken to write this book because I believe that the moral and intellectual poverty that has characterized our approach to the smoking problem must no longer be shrouded in the press-agentry of the tobacco industry, nor the fancy of bureaucratic footwork of government agencies charged with the responsibilities of guarding our Nation's health."

She called for major legislation to combat what she considered a national health risk. Her program included an education program to convince children not to take up smoking, expanded research into making cigarettes safer, reform and curtailment of cigarette advertising, and warning labels on cigarette packages.

As an early advocate for a common sense approach to tobacco policy, she would persuasively lobby her smoking colleagues of the Senate, often describing in vivid detail the results of the latest medical study on the hazards of tobacco.

Maurine Neuberger decided not to run for reelection, dissuaded by the amount of money she said she would have to raise to win the seat, a lesson that even this Congress could well consider as we ask ourselves, how many other great Americans turn down the responsibility of public office because of the demands of our current campaign finance system.

After remarrying and leaving the Senate, citizen Maurine Neuberger went back to the classroom. She taught at Boston University and Radcliffe College. Then she became an opponent of the Vietnam War and supported Robert Kennedy in his 1968 presidential race.

Eventually, she moved back home to Portland, Oregon, but stayed active in public affairs, serving on presidential

commissions for Presidents Johnson and Carter. Friends say she remained interested in politics and lived an active life up until 2 months before her death at age 93. Senator RON WYDEN said he talked to former Senator Neuberger after he had cross-examined tobacco executives with tough questions before a congressional panel, and she told him, "Stay after them."

Maureen became well known in Portland circles, not just for her political acumen and her bridge-playing, but as an avid gardener. In fact, she became so well known for her green thumb that a rose was named after her, a miniature rose called the "Maureen Neuberger." The American Rose Society describes it as "red, a reliable bloomer."

The seeds that this reliable bloomer planted in Congress have taken many forms in the 34 years since she served here, in stronger civil rights laws, protections for consumers, and honest recognition about the dangers of smoking. I am honored to share a family connection to this remarkable woman and public servant, and I applaud the spirit that she brought to this Congress and to her life.

DECREASING OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, before 1995, the United States banned the export of oil produced on Alaska's North Slope, feeling we should supply our own national needs first. In 1995, Congress, with the full support of the current administration, voted to change the law and allow companies to export North Slope oil. At the time, I believed that lifting the ban was a bad mistake, that it would raise gasoline prices on the West Coast, and I said so on this floor. Now, with regular gasoline costing over \$2 per gallon in some places on the West Coast, I have unfortunately been proven correct.

Refineries on the West Coast depend on North Slope oil for much of their production. A single company, British Petroleum, controls an overwhelming share of the oil. In a recent complaint, the Federal Trade Commission alleges that British Petroleum manipulates oil prices on the West Coast by exporting to Asia at lower prices than it could get for the same product from West Coast refineries.

When the ban on North Slope oil exports was lifted, Americans were told that the action would benefit the oil industry and the American consumer. However, they did not say how it might help the American consumer. North Slope oil exports has only benefited one company, British Petroleum, and have contributed to the tremendous fuel price increases experienced by West Coast consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 4017, which would reinstate the ban on North Slope oil exports. I believe we should not export any oil when the U.S. must import oil for our own Nation's use. I hope that those of my colleagues who are interested in lowering fuel prices, ending discriminatory pricing, and decreasing our dependence on foreign oil will join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

HONORING SENATOR MAURINE NEUBERGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to follow the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and to precede the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) in honoring former Senator Maureen Neuberger, an accomplished Oregonian and a true trail blazer.

Senator Neuberger made her mark nationally when her husband, Dick Neuberger, died and she beat five opponents to fill the vacant Senate seat. However, she was already familiar to Oregonians as a State legislator, party organizer, and as a teacher.

Senator Neuberger was a trail blazer because she was not only the third woman elected to the other body, but also because she championed many of the same issues which continue to bedevil us today, like education and health care reform. She sponsored one of the first bills to mandate health warning labels on cigarettes, a measure which is commonplace today. Senator Neuberger is an inspiration to women, to Oregonians, and to all Americans.

On a more personal note, Senator Neuberger came to a function in support of me early during my campaign, and I was deeply honored that she was there. Quite frankly, I was a little bit mystified because she has such a large presence in the State, and I was such a dark horse candidate. It was just a sign of her genuine interest in public affairs in Oregon that she came that day to that event, and she came with her great friend, Bud Forrester, also a gentleman who had been very active in our community for many, many decades.

She and Mr. Forrester passed away on the same day very recently; and in passing away, these two great public servants on the same day, they are, in essence, an Oregon version of the Jefferson and Adams story where two great Americans died on the same day, the 4th of July, over 150 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Neuberger will be greatly, greatly missed by me, by Oregonians, and by all Americans; but her devotion to civil service and her strength and determination will be remembered in Oregon and around the country for years to come.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, in the 5 years I have served in the House of Representatives and thinking back on all of the public meetings I have held, I can think of few that are as poignant as the one I held yesterday concerning the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Years ago I witnessed firsthand the mental and physical damage caused by domestic violence and sexual assault. As a patient advocate and rape counselor, I was on the front lines in emergency rooms when victims were brought into the hospitals for treatment. Unfortunately, though, for many, domestic violence was a dirty little secret with which they lived. Fear of their abusers, fear for their children and families, a lack of self-esteem, as well as fear that no one in authority could offer guaranteed safety and security, kept them from speaking out.

In 1994, Congress addressed this problem head on through the creation of the Violence Against Women Act known by the acronym VAWA. This landmark legislation was the first time the specific needs of victims of violence were directly addressed by the Federal Government. Yesterday, I brought together advocates, law enforcement officials, and those who work with victims' services, to discuss the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. In addition, I asked New York State Senator Vincent Leibell, Putnam County District Attorney Kevin Wright, and Westchester County Deputy District Attorney MaryEllen Martirano to join us so the group could benefit from the exchange of ideas from their experiences as well. Also the mayor of Mount Kisco, New York, Pat Riley, was with us, so we had all levels of government.

The fight against domestic violence cannot be won alone. It is only through the cooperative effort of Federal, State and local people that we can assist victims of violence so that we can begin to end the cycle of violence. Yesterday, we began that effort.

Mr. Speaker, there is violence in one out of every four American homes. One of the most alarming things I found while working in New York's emergency rooms was that many women are sometimes unable to receive treatment. Services were not available in many areas. Today, however, thanks to the Violence Against Women Act, services have become more common; yet without reauthorization of this critical legislation, these shelters will have to shut down.

Another topic we discussed during this meeting was legislation I introduced last fall, the READY Act. This bill, entitled Reducing the Effects of Abuse and Domestic Violence on

Youth, speaks to the effects on children of witnessing and experiencing domestic violence. Between 20 and 40 percent of chronically violent children have witnessed extreme parental conflict. One study has found that boys who witness their fathers batter their mothers have a 1,000 percent higher battering rate themselves than those who did not.

In order to try to address these problems and end the cycle of violence, the READY Act creates a grant program for multilevel interventions to create a more supportive, cooperative system in communities. Another gives grants for age-appropriate curriculum developed in coordination with community agencies and schools to teach children about how to deal with violence.

Through encouraging partnerships between entities like the courts, schools, physical and mental health care providers, child protective services and battered women's programs, we can build upon the existing services to develop programs to specifically address the special needs of children in domestic violence situations.

In addition, the READY Act creates a grant program for safe havens, for visitation and visitation exchange. Sadly, children are often used as pawns in these situations; and, therefore, visitation exchange is one of the most dangerous times for battered women. Supervised visitation programs would greatly enhance the safety of both the mother and the child and help ease the potentially volatile situation.

Mr. Speaker, as we look to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, I hope we will be able to recognize the need to expand the programs under it, to include the important measures. Some of these successes of the Violence Against Women Act include the Mount Kisco New York Police Department's implementation of a bilingual domestic violence hotline, as well as their implementation of a primary aggressor checklist for responding officers when arriving at the scene of a domestic dispute. VAWA funds have been used by the New York district attorney's office to hire seven additional staff people to address the special prosecutions division.

Thanks to VAWA grants, the Pace University Women's Justice Center has been able to institute a program training public safety workers about sexual assault and public service announcements about the full faith and credit provisions included in the VAWA Act.

Other VAWA grants have provided victims' agencies like the Northern Westchester Shelter, legal service assistance, which otherwise their clients would have to do without. Beyond formal legal assistance, the Violence Against Women Act enables trained volunteers to act as legal advocates.

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My Sister's Place in White Plains used grants to train volunteers who will accompany women to court when