

HONORING MILDRED A. O'NEILL

(Mr. McGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Mildred A. O'Neill, the widow of our late Speaker, colleague, and friend Tip O'Neill.

Millie O'Neill, who passed away yesterday at the age of 89, was a remarkable woman. She was a loving wife and mother, a tireless activist, and a dear friend.

She was also a true daughter of Massachusetts. According to her son Tom, Millie had taken a nap so that she could watch last night's Red Sox playoff game, and passed away in her sleep. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Red Sox won their game. I am sure that Millie is smiling.

All of us who admired and loved Tip O'Neill felt the say way about Millie. As Father Donald Monan, the former president of Boston College so beautifully said at the late Speaker's funeral mass, "The pride of the Speaker's life was not the Medal of Freedom or the Legion of Honor, it was the love of his beloved Millie, who gave courage to his struggles and gave measure to his successes and loving understanding through all his illness."

Mr. Speaker, I know that all of my colleagues join me in keeping the O'Neill family in our thoughts and prayers. And I will include the obituaries of Millie O'Neill from the Boston Globe and Boston Herald in the RECORD.

[From the Boston Globe, Oct. 7, 2003]

MILDRED O'NEILL, 89; WIFE, "PARTNER" OF POLITICAL ICON
(By Ron DePasquale)

Mildred A. "Millie" O'Neill, widow and celebrated sweetheart of Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr., former speaker of the US House of Representatives, died in her sleep yesterday in her Bethesda, Md., home, her family said.

Her son, former Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Thomas P. O'Neill III of Boston, said Mrs. O'Neill had taken a nap, so she could catch last night's Red Sox playoff game, when she died. She was 89.

Her son called her a "lovely, perfect lady" who enjoyed taking care of her family and working for charity. His parents' love was inspiring, he said. "They were inseparable at a very early age and right through to the end of their lives," he said.

On the dedication page of his 1987 autobiography, "Man of the House," Tip O'Neill referred to his wife as "The Speaker of My House. A loving wife, mother and my partner through so many triumphs and trials."

Anyone involved in Massachusetts politics from the 1940s to the 1980s could remember Tip O'Neill singing the 1930s' tune "Apple Blossom Time" to his wife, said US Representative Barney Frank of Newton. "Whenever you were with the two of them, everybody was happy," Frank said last night. "They were like some couple out of the movies. The sense of warmth that existed between the two of them was just extraordinary."

Born Mildred Miller in Somerville in 1914, she met her future husband at St. John's

High School in North Cambridge, where she graduated in 1932.

At a 1999 Boston College ceremony honoring her husband with a permanent library exhibit, Mrs. O'Neill said, "Life with Tom was a wonderful experience, and I am proud to have shared those 50 years and see parts of it displayed at this library."

Tip O'Neill died in 1994, ending a storied life as one of the country's premier politicians. He retired from the House in 1986 after 50 years in politics. His wife was a constant presence in his social and political circles.

In his autobiography, O'Neill wrote that when he became speaker and Millie learned that other wives never knew when their husbands were coming home at night, she told him, "I don't want you keeping them in the House until 8 or 9 at night. And that, more or less, marked the end of evening sessions in the House."

Mrs. O'Neill was chair or a member of the boards of the March of Dimes, the Congressional Wives Club, and the International Club. As chairwoman of the historic Ford's Theatre in Washington, she was one of the first to receive the Lincoln Award, in recognition in 1984 for spearheading a \$4 million fund-raising drive.

"Now, Mildred, you may have suspected now and then that from time to time your husband and I find something about which we disagree," President Ronald Reagan quipped at the awards ceremony. "But there is one thing that we sure agree on—he's lucky, mighty lucky, to be the man in your life. On behalf of everybody with whom you work, your work for this grand, old theater has meant so much, Millie, that we all thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

The O'Neills lived in Cambridge until 1976, when Tip was named speaker and the family moved to Washington. The city of Cambridge dedicated the north branch of its library as the Mildred A. O'Neill Library in 1995.

Raymond L. Flynn, former mayor of Boston, said, "She was a great friend. She was just a remarkable mother and led a wonderful life and was a great representative for America."

In addition to her son, Mrs. O'Neill leaves two daughters, Rosemary of Washington and Susan of Bethesda; a son, Christopher, also of Bethesda; a sister, Dorothy Ryan, of Marstons Mills; and eight grandchildren. A son, Michael, died in 1997. A funeral Mass will be said Friday at 10 a.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church in Cambridge. Burial will be at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Harwichport, where Mrs. O'Neill had long summered.

[From the Boston Herald, Oct. 7, 2003]

MILDRED A. O'NEILL, AT 89, WIFE OF LATE U.S. SPEAKER

Mildred A. (Miller) O'Neill of Bethesda, Md., formerly of Cambridge, wife of the late U.S. House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr. and an activist involved in many organizations, died yesterday at her home. She was 89.

Born in Somerville, Mrs. O'Neill was educated at St. John's School in North Cambridge and later graduated from St. John's High School in 1932, where she was first introduced to her husband. She was a longtime Cambridge resident, where she lived until 1976, when she and her husband moved to Washington, D.C., after he was elected speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. She was also a longtime summer resident of Harwichport.

Mrs. O'Neill was active in many causes, particularly the St. John's Church Rebuilding Fund and was president of the parish Guild of St. John's Church. She also was active in St. Coletta's School for Exceptional Children. She worked for many worthy

causes as chairwoman or executive board member for the March of Dimes, Congressional Wives Club, International Club and So Other Might Eat.

She was the chairwoman and honorary chairwoman of the historic Fords Theatre, receiving the Lincoln Medal in 1984 for her fund-raising efforts. She was also the chairwoman of the Family Pantry in Harwichport.

Many organizations have honored Mrs. O'Neill for her selflessness and devotion to her husband, family, friends, country and church. She has received honorary doctorates from the University of Scranton, Our Lady of the Elms, and Barry University. In 1995, the city of Cambridge dedicated the North Cambridge Branch Library in her honor as the Mildred A. O'Neill Library.

Mrs. O'Neill's central role during her adult life was that of political wife, family members said. Throughout her marriage of 52 years, she served as sweetheart, mentor, confidante, supporter, campaigner and friend. Her role was epitomized in the dedication of her husband's autobiography, "Man of the House," which reads: "For Millie—The Speaker of My House. A loving wife, mother, and my partner through so many triumphs and trials."

Mrs. O'Neill is survived by two daughters, Rosemary of Washington, D.C., and Susan A. of Bethesda, Md.; two sons, Thomas P. III of Boston and Christopher R. of Bethesda, Md.; a sister, Dorothy Ryan of Marstons Mills; and eight grandchildren. She was also the mother of the late Michael T.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday at St. John the Evangelist Church, Cambridge. Burial will be in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Harwichport.

□ 1930

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

LOWERING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, the big issue that is being raised on the front page of USA Today, which I hope all of my colleagues will have a chance to read, is the very large price disparities between prescription drug costs here in the United States and what they cost elsewhere in the world. I was amazed that the media is really finally jumping on this issue, because the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), who has been leading the fight on this issue, has been working on it a long time.

It shows very clearly that the people in the USA pay 58 percent more for prescription drugs than people in Switzerland do, 60 percent more than they spend in Great Britain, 67 percent more than Canada, 74 percent more than Germany, 78 percent more than Sweden, 102 percent more than France and 112 percent more than Italy.