

Smith College, like Trinity, has a long history of supporting women. It was a tremendous opportunity I was given when Smith accepted this older woman into its graduate program and gave me a scholarship. Without that support I would not have had the chance to create a better life for myself during my erstwhile "retirement years". But still, it is late. Sometimes, in the middle of the night, I wake and wonder how long can I sustain the tremendous amount of energy it takes to keep going. I have to face the fact that when I'm in my eighties, my financial situation may not be so different than my mother's after all.

After my father died, my mother, at 82, was barely able to make it on Social Security and my father's small teacher's annuity. She had to spend her late life without enough money to be sure it was going to last longer than she did. I can remember her in the lamplight, with her scarlet robe and short white hair, going over her bills. Toward the end, knowing she'd reached a point where she couldn't stay out of poverty much longer—there were the constant co-pays on doctors' bills, and her savings were gone—she was having dreams of finding herself in a bad part of town and not being able to get back home. She was 86 when she died, in the nick of time, her resources depleted. It saddens me that even with assurances of protection from my brother and me she had to endure such anxiety at the end.

Studies have shown that concern about ending up a bag lady is women's worst fear, greater than that of getting cancer, greater than that of dying of a heart attack. And why shouldn't they be afraid?

To try to protect her old age, my mother had even taken on the machinations of investing. I was still young when I learned that she'd been putting her piano teacher savings—"pin money", people called such women's earnings, then—into Certificates of Deposit. That was in the 70s, when CDs were hot. Eventually her slender earnings grew to \$40,000. I was inspired by my mother's cleverness in finding a way to support her old age, but alas, my father needed private nursing for a few months before he died and overnight, my mother's pin money disappeared.

Women have been conditioned to believe that in the long run it's all going to work out. I'm reminded of the many who've worked part time, forgoing pensions, health insurance and other benefits, because they couldn't afford child care. Women are used to putting others first. As for their later years, they think, How could I end up behind the eight-ball when I've spent my life trying to do what's right? But as they head into their sixties and seventies, behind the eight-ball is exactly where women find themselves. Most that I know, writers, therapists, owners of small businesses, expect to be working "forever" because otherwise they won't have enough money to get by. Rallying themselves for a long, late-life phase of work, they push to stay ahead of the curve. For some, for the fortunate, it's a kind of hip old age. We like to think of ourselves as being "out there". But there's an ominous feeling that permeates the thinning air past sixty. Women worry about how they're going to survive as the years roll on—and on. They lack a financial cushion for their really old age and believe that no matter what, they must stay healthy enough to keep on working. It's a desperate and shame-inducing situation they find themselves in, and no one's talking about it. That's why it's important for us—the first generation of women to be affected by the women's movement and the first to have a remarkable and unexpected very long productive life ahead of us—to begin speaking up. We must insist that the voices of older women be heard, because no

one is going to pick this up for us until we start shouting. We can take some strength—and reduce shame—from the recognition that our numbers are astounding. I believe that if a presidential candidate were to take this on, the ball game would be over. That's how strong we are, if we choose to be. The more of us who speak up, just as we did in the seventies, the greater the chances that attention will be paid. Let the secret out. We owe it to our daughters and granddaughters. We owe it to ourselves. Maybe it isn't too late, even for us.

HONORING GARFIELD HOOD ON
HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF
JUDGE OF MICHIGAN'S 12TH CIR-
CUIT COURT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Honorable Garfield W. Hood on his 35 years of service. Judge Hood retires this year as Chief Judge of Michigan's 12th Circuit Court, serving Houghton, Keweenaw and Baraga Counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring and thanking Judge Hood for service to the people of Houghton, Baraga and Keweenaw Counties.

Garfield Hood, or Gar to most, moved to Baraga County after law school to take the position of tribal attorney for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. He was appointed Baraga County Probate Judge in 1972, the youngest person in the State of Michigan to hold the job, and continued to serve as a tribal attorney and worked private practice in the Western Upper Peninsula. Since 1990, Judge Hood has been Circuit Court Judge for Michigan's 12th Circuit. Judge Hood and his wife, Sue, reside in Baraga County. Together they have raised three wonderful daughters.

Judge Hood came to the bench by appointment in 1972. Then-Governor William Milliken needed someone to fill the Baraga County Probate judgeship and Hood was the only attorney in town. A few years later, he was hooked and in 1990 ran for election to the 12th Circuit Court.

Judge Hood has enjoyed the variety of his work as judge and his interactions with the people he serves. On average, Judge Hood ruled on 9,200 cases a year—7,000 civil and more than 2,000 criminal matters. The attorneys, judges and staff who have spent the majority of their careers arguing cases in front of Judge Hood or working for him, say the courtroom won't be the same without him.

Madam Speaker, Judge Hood has been an intrinsic part of Michigan's judicial system as a member of the 12th Circuit Court. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in thanking Garfield Hood for his 35 years of service and in wishing him well as he embarks on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MEMBERS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute today to three men with whom I have had the privilege of serving in the House and all of whom unfortunately are ending their service in Congress this year.

TERRY EVERETT, RON LEWIS, and JIM WALSH, listed in alphabetical order, have all become very close friends of mine. They are unquestionably three of the finest men I have ever known, and this Nation is a better place because of their work in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TERRY has been a leader on three very important committees: Armed Services, Intelligence, and Agriculture. Not only have we enjoyed many meals together, but he has been kind to me even when I voted against some of the bills about which he cared the most.

RON became very influential on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee and also enjoyed his service on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

We not only enjoyed meals together, but also often sat on the floor and discussed many, many votes. RON is one of the kindest men I have ever met and has a humility that is rare in high-level Washington political circles.

JIM became one of the senior and most respected members of the House Appropriations Committee. In that position, he not only did amazing things for his own district, but he helped people all over the Nation including me several times. JIM was a really effective member, but much more importantly, a really good man.

I have humorous stories about each of these men (but certainly nothing scandalous), and I will save those for other times. I realize it is popular to bash down on politicians. But these three men exemplify all that is good about this country.

I am sad that they are leaving the House, but I am sure that each of them will have many years and much great service ahead in whatever they end up doing.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAUREEN AND MIKE MANSFIELD FOUNDATION

HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation.

Nearly 25 years ago Congress passed legislation authorizing funds for a foundation that would advance the lifelong efforts of Maureen and Mike Mansfield to promote understanding and cooperation between the nations and peoples of Asia and the United States.

Mike Mansfield is one of Montana's most distinguished citizens, a remarkable public servant and accomplished statesman who helped guide the United States through important transitions in the domestic arena and in its relationship with Asia.