

Martha opened one of her blue eyes, and said in a voice we could all appreciate, "Oh, go right ahead and drop the name."

When I told her who had called, and what the message was, she opened the other blue eye, laughed, and said, "You know, you shoulda beaten that guy."

I told President Obama that story when he called from Italy on Tuesday to express his condolences. The President roared with laughter at Martha's reaction.

Martha and Bernie have been such a magical couple—which, of course, doesn't mean they always had the same tastes. Which may have had something to do with the magic.

Martha, as you all know, loved to travel, which you'd expect of someone with such an adventurous spirit.

Her favorite spot was the Dominican Republic, but there wasn't anywhere in the world she wouldn't explore.

For Bernie, on the other hand, as Martha loved to say, "foreign travel" meant going from Providence to Westerly. And a trip to see the Red Sox, the Celtics, or the Patriots was a voyage on par with space travel.

So, as all of you know, Martha would travel on occasion by herself—to India, to Ireland, to Mexico and Europe.

On one occasion, she became fascinated with the Lewis and Clark expedition, and decided to follow their trail west—with a group of complete strangers. Or, at least, they were complete strangers when they started out.

It didn't take long for them to become life-long friends, one of whom is here with us today.

Even with all the energy she devoted to campaigning and to the many, many efforts she made in this community, Martha would always say, "My sole ambition is my family."

In one of those wonderful, quiet moments last week, when she knew the end was near, she said to me, "My ambition has always been my family, and I have fulfilled every ambition."

Martha and Bernie have been remarkable parents, and the proof exists in their children. They are all frighteningly bright. They are all remarkably successful. They are all unbelievably well-balanced. And those were their mother's descriptions when she was being modest.

Now, children can be gifted intellectually and athletically just by winning the genetic lottery—but when children grow up with decency, kindness, and humanity, you know that's a direct result of great parenting.

These five young men and women are the mirror reflection of their parents. And nothing, absolutely nothing, gave my sister Martha greater satisfaction than their goodness.

Together, these five children are raising 17 terrific children of their own.

When our parents passed away, Martha was the magnet that kept us all in the same orbit. As we all know, once our parents have passed, it can be hard to get the family together.

That didn't happen with us, because we all knew that if there was a holiday, there was going to be a get-together at Martha's house.

There was going to be good food, and a lot of it.

And there was going to be a lot of laughter, raucous debate, conversation, and the sheer joy of each other's company.

Her favorite holidays, by far, were Christmas Eve, the Fourth of July, and Thanksgiving.

In fact, she never let anything get in the way of bringing her family, including her siblings, closer together—not even the law.

Now, what I'm about to tell you could never happen in my State of Connecticut. Martha once started building a structure on their property in Narragansett which, as far

as the local zoning commission knew, was a tool shed.

She managed to avoid suspicion, even when the tool shed started to get way too big to be plausibly intended for just tools.

Martha got even more brazen with time, as the tool shed acquired extra rooms.

And, really, the jig should have been up when she added plumbing to that tool shed.

But Martha was nothing if not bold, and she got away with building that guest house for our sister Carolyn to stay in when she'd come and visit. Once it was clear that the zoning commission was not about to mess with Martha Dodd Buonanno, she even put up a sign calling it "Aunt Kitty's Cottage."

Martha was so proud of our brother Tom's years at Georgetown, and his time as our ambassador in Costa Rica and Uruguay.

She never ceased in her amazement of her best friend, my sister Carolyn's achievements reviving American Montessori, and her forty years of teaching.

The photos chronicling the growth of her wonderful family, taken by our brother Jeremy, which hang in their home, reflect Martha's respect, admiration, and love of her brother.

And the tales, travels, and exploits of our brother Nick kept her, in Martha's words, laughing and breathless for years.

I already miss my charismatic, funny, lively, beautiful sister.

But she touched so many people so deeply that I don't think she'll ever really be gone. I'm going to see her in the faces of her children and grandchildren.

I'm going to hear her voice whenever I'm on the campaign trail or casting a vote in the Senate—particularly when she would disagree with me.

And I'm going to feel her presence every time we celebrate a holiday, every time we share a meal, every time I drive by that softball field in West Hartford and remember just how incredible it was to grow up with Martha.

Since moments like this never give you a chance to express all of your emotions, let me just say, on behalf of all of us, thank you, Martha, for everything.

All of us love you, all of us miss you, and all of us were so lucky to be touched by your generous spirit.

#### FISCAL SOLVENCY OF CERTAIN TRUST FUNDS

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3357, however I do so with great hesitation.

This legislation infuses the Highway Trust Fund with \$7 billion from the Treasury in order to prevent a shortfall that will impact the fund in only a few short weeks. The Highway Trust Fund, which is financed by the gas tax, is facing insolvency, again. For months it has brought in less revenue than previously expected as families have felt the pinch at the pump and were forced to conserve more than ever before.

Important transportation projects across Minnesota would be seriously jeopardized or delayed should this fund go bankrupt. That is simply not something we can allow. And that is why I must vote for this legislation.

You will recall that we faced this very same Hobson's choice last year. Transferring funds

from general revenue to cover the HTF shortfall must not become a precedent and Congress must set itself seriously to the task of reforming the way it pays for infrastructure improvements.

Furthermore, this is a stark reminder of the dramatic ripple effect our dependence on foreign oil continues to have throughout our nation. Our failure to aggressively pursue energy independence hurts all aspects of our economy. We must implement an "all of the above" energy strategy and increase our domestic supply of energy resources now so that we do not continue to band-aid this transportation crisis time and again.

Perhaps most disappointing in this specific instance is that the majority also loaded up this legislation with a hodgepodge of entirely unrelated spending, increasing spending levels for three other government programs facing shortfalls. It increased the Federal Housing Administration's capital fund to \$400 billion, from \$315 billion, thereby increasing the fund's statutory floor. It increased Ginnie Mae's guarantee of mortgage-backed securities by \$100 billion, from \$300 billion to \$400 billion. And, finally, it authorized "such sums as necessary" to shore up the Federal Unemployment Account which may encounter a shortfall due to rising claims for unemployment benefits.

Talk about a blank check. In one fell swoop, and after only 40 minutes of debate on the House floor, this bill spends billions upon billions of dollars. Members barely had a chance to know what was being voted on as the text of the legislation was not even available until the very last minute.

We must restore the integrity of this House and stop shoving legislation through that Members have not even had a chance to read and fully digest. I hope that the Majority will work with the Minority in the future to ensure more time and transparency is allotted throughout the legislative process.

And, I hope that we will have an opportunity to address the long-term flaws in each of these programs so that taxpayers are properly protected from these emergency shortfalls.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2009*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 3183). This Appropriations Act makes important investments to move America toward a clean energy economy. I thank Chairman OBEY, the House leadership, and my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee for their hard work on this legislation.

A transition to clean, renewable sources of energy is critical for America's national security, economic prosperity, and environmental stewardship. One of the most effective strategies for reducing America's dependence on foreign oil and polluting fossil fuels is to decrease our energy consumption. This bill invests \$2.25 billion in Energy Efficiency and