

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORKS
OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, "Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em."—William Shakespeare, "The Twelfth Night."

It is with a sense of proud sadness and deep gratitude that I am blessed to offer a few words about a man who was born to greatness, had it thrust upon him and achieved greatness—because, in the end, he was not afraid.

It is with an array of inexpressible emotions that I am blessed to call him an inspiration, mentor, and most valued friend.

To be Ted Kennedy's friend was to be wrapped in a special embrace, a golden aura of generosity and thoughtfulness, compassion and comradeship. It simply felt good to be around him.

I believe the highest praise bestowed on anyone is that he made the people around him better. This he did by calling all of us to the better angels of our nature.

It is said that to whom much is given, much is expected. No one expected more of himself than did Ted Kennedy, and no one gave more of himself to others.

No one bore greater burdens—some of them the result of cataclysmic events that damaged not only our nation, but hurt him deeply and in ways that would have paralyzed any of us.

He carried on, shouldering the future of a young and sprawling family and the continuing hopes and dreams of our nation.

In a speech in August of 1968, mere weeks after the death of his brother Bobby, Teddy said:

"There is no safety in hiding. Like my brothers before me, I pick up a fallen standard. Sustained by the memory of our priceless years together, I shall try to carry forward that special commitment to justice, excellence and courage that distinguished their lives."

We met in 1978 in San Francisco when I was little more than a laborer in the vineyards of California Democratic politics. In 1979, I joined his campaign for president and was appointed to his state steering committee.

I soon found myself involved in decisions about who to seat at the 1980 Democratic Convention and in strategic discussions about how we might win the nomination against a sitting president.

In this way, he lifted the fortunes and the sights of so many, allowing us to find new challenges, to seek out new responsibilities and to broaden our own understanding of what we could do, who we could be and how we could help him achieve an America of justice, excellence and courage.

It was at the convention, of course, that he gave what is widely regarded as his greatest single speech. The speech concluded with those words that have continued to ring out through the decades: "The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die."

Conventions have become pre-packaged events with carefully staged "spontaneous"

demonstrations of affection and support. At the 1980 convention, we were outsiders, there against the wishes of an incumbent president whose strategists controlled all the machinery of convention-like hoopla.

So, for an hour, we clapped and cheered, we cried and we chanted "Kennedy, Kennedy."

In retrospect, we were enthralled not by the end of a campaign but by the promise of future fights and the certainty that our cause would go forward, as would our work on behalf of the downtrodden and the disaffected.

He said in 1985, with yet another presidential election stirring, "The pursuit of the presidency is not my life. Public service is."

He loved to be of service and he reveled in all that it meant, taking joy in those things that would have seemed small and inconsequential to him—and spreading joy.

In 1986, while serving as a member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, I was elected to the position of chairman of the Board. The title was nice, but it was antiquated and was a vestige of an era when only men served in office. I asked the county counsel to take the necessary steps to change the title to president of the Board.

It became a national news story that appeared in the Wall Street Journal, an article that included the headline: "Eshoo to become president."

Teddy sent me a telegram that read: "I always wanted to be president, but I'm glad you got there first."

No one bore greater burdens—some of them self-inflicted. He faced them unflinchingly and with the hope that he would do better. In a scandal-besieged era, he was, again, an example to us of how to live in the public eye with humility, with humanity and with yet another kind of courage.

He said: "I recognize my own shortcomings—the faults in the conduct of my private life. I realize that I alone am responsible for them, and I am the one who must confront them. I believe that each of us as individuals must not only struggle to make a better world, but to make ourselves better, too."

When others would have scrambled for the safety of obscurity, he stood at the helm and sailed the storms.

He was flawed but in a way that makes his virtues stand even taller, for in our midst was a man who never thought of himself as a saint, but believed that the least among us deserve the greatest blessings this nation can bestow.

He was generous. He was thoughtful. He was passionate. He was courageous beyond measure.

And so it is fitting that his last large moment on the national stage should be filled with hope. This is how he lived his life. This is the gift he gave to us.

At his final Democratic convention, he harkened to his own past to paint an enduring vision of a better tomorrow that is uniquely Teddy:

"The work begins anew. The hope rises again. And the dream lives on."

So, we are saddened at his passing and in the knowledge we will never see his like again and that we will never be warmed by the sun in quite the same way.

But we are filled with the promise he believed and that he gave us, ready to do battle in his name and to extract a measure of joy from life, as he would do.

And we are comforted in the knowledge that he is with his family and his legions of friends and that he is at peace. May God grant this peace to Vicki, his great love, his precious children and his entire family.

As John Bunyan wrote in "Pilgrim's Progress":

"When the day that he must go hence was come, many accompanied him to the riverside, into which as he went, he said, 'Death, where is thy sting?' And as he went down deeper, he said, 'Grave, where is thy victory?' So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of recognizing the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

This special recognition started 25 years ago to highlight and raise awareness of this devastating disease.

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women in the U.S. other than skin cancer.

In 2009, it is estimated that in the United States there will be 192,370 new cases and 40,170 deaths from breast cancer.

Sadly, just in my District in San Bernardino County, California the breast cancer incidence was reported to be 116.6 cases per 100,000 females during the period of 2001 to 2005.

This is why we need to continue all efforts to raise awareness, not just during October but throughout the year.

As a husband, father, grandfather, and as a son—the wonderful women in my life continue to be my driving force behind trying to make a difference in this fight against breast cancer.

My efforts and passion date back to my public service in the California State Legislature.

Through the leadership of Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, I helped passed the reauthorization for the Breast Cancer Stamp, which to this date has raised over \$55 million dollars for research on breast cancer.

These efforts coupled with the month long activities of many organizations on behalf of Breast Cancer Awareness Month are necessary to ensure that all men and women across America have the tools to overcome breast cancer.

While we recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we must also keep in mind that breast cancer is prevalent in our society and any healthcare reform must address this problem.

This is why passing healthcare reform that includes a ban on denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions is extremely important.

Millions of Americans combating breast cancer must not be denied coverage based on their condition at a time when these individuals need coverage the most.

We must ensure that access to adequate testing for breast cancer and patient education is readily available.

I congratulate all individuals and organizations that will hold events this month, and urge