

REMEMBERING NANCY REAGAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday the American people lost an icon. Nancy Davis Reagan died at the age of 94.

Years ago, during an event at the White House, Nancy once serenaded her husband, singing: “together we are going a long, long way.” And boy did they ever.

Born in New York and raised in Chicago, Nancy studied theater at Smith College in Massachusetts before moving westward to California to pursue a career in acting. She appeared in 11 motion pictures, but her life changed forever when her name appeared on the infamous list from the House Un-American Activities Committee. This was a list of people suspected of having ties to the Communist Party.

Worried that she may be blacklisted, she demanded to meet with the president of the Screen Actors Guild in an effort to remove her name. And guess who was serving as president of the Screen Actors Guild—Ronald Reagan.

They met and fell in love. The rest is history.

This month, 64 years ago, Ronald Reagan and Nancy Davis married, and in Nancy’s words: “my life really began when I married my husband.” And what a life it was.

From the Governor’s mansion in California to the White House, one thing was clear, Nancy was always on Ronald Reagan’s mind.

Straight out of a Hollywood script, their 52-year marriage was a true American love story. Their mutual love and devotion is a beautiful reminder of what a marriage should look like. We should all be so lucky.

Fiercely loyal to her husband and America, you didn’t want to get on the wrong side of Nancy Reagan. She had grit and was one tough lady when she had to be.

Nancy was a passionate protector of her husband and the Presidency. And during talks with the Soviet Union, she constantly encouraged her husband to stay with it and not give up. She understood that nothing is more important than peace, and the historic START I arms reduction treaty may not have been possible had it not been for Nancy.

After her husband’s Presidency, she championed issues such as drug and alcohol abuse and afterschool programs. In 1994, after announcing his diagnosis with Alzheimer’s, Ronald Reagan wrote: “I only wish there was some way I could spare Nancy from this painful experience.”

But Nancy endured by working to stamp out Alzheimer’s and tirelessly advocated for embryonic stem cell research for the rest of her life. She was determined to save other families from the pain she had gone through and she raised millions of dollars for research.

She praised President Obama when he removed restrictions on the Federal funding of embryonic stem cell research and even teamed up with Ted

Kennedy to work on these issues that were so close to her heart. Nancy had a special friendship with Ted Kennedy—who would call her every year on her birthday and sing an old Irish song to his dear friend.

That type of bond between the two political parties is missing today in Washington.

In an era when the political discourse can overwhelm the real problems we work to solve, Nancy Reagan’s legacy can offer a path forward that we all can learn from. Before her death, Nancy reflected on the state of American politics and the inflammatory rhetoric we hear on the campaign trail, saying: “Do you believe this? Do you believe this?”

Like many of us, she was disappointed by the lack of civility between the candidates. It certainly does not reflect a saying she made famous: “Dignity should be at the center of everything we do.”

In honor of Nancy Reagan, I hope we all take that message to heart.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4557. An act to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for brick and structural clay products or for clay ceramics manufacturing before requiring compliance with such rule.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1826. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 West 2nd Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as the Lieutenant Colonel James “Maggie” Megellas Post Office.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 161(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2211), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives as Congressional Advisors on Trade Policy and Negotiations: Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. REICHERT of Washington, and Mr. NUNES of California.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4557. An act to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for brick and structural clay products or for clay ceramics manufacturing before requiring compliance with such rule; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Assistant Secretary of the Senate reported that on March 4, 2016, she

had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1596. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2082 Stringtown Road in Grove City, Ohio, as the “Specialist Joseph W. Riley Post Office Building.”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 1890, a bill to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-220).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1518. A bill to make exclusive the authority of the Federal Government to regulate the labeling of products made in the United States and introduced in interstate or foreign commerce, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-221).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2361. A bill to enhance airport security, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-222).

H.R. 2843. A bill to require certain improvements in the Transportation Security Administration’s PreCheck expedited screening program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-223).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2643. A bill to improve the implementation of the settlement agreement reached between the Pueblo de Cochiti of New Mexico and the Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2644. A bill to reauthorize the Federal Communications Commission for fiscal years 2017 and 2018, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2645. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2646. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve health care provided to veterans by the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. BALDWIN):