

[Press Release from the Kennedy Companies,
Oct. 25, 1999]

RETIRED REPUBLICAN SERGEANT-AT-ARMS,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Walter P. Kennedy, retired Republican Sergeant-at-Arms, U.S. House of Representatives (1950-1993) and a 43 year resident of Bethesda, MD, died on Sunday, October 24, 1999 in the Coronary Intensive Care Unit of the Washington Hospital Center. He was 78.

Born to Thomas Kennedy and Mary Stella McElvogue on February 23, 1921, he was an immigrant with them from Ireland in 1924. He was raised in Paterson, New Jersey.

During World War II, he served in the Army from February 1943 to November 1945. In 1943, as his unit was preparing to deploy, he became a naturalized citizen. He saw combat in France, Germany and Austria as a medic in the 63rd Engineer Battalion, 44th Infantry Division.

After his discharge from the service, he completed his studies at Seton Hall College, in New Jersey and went on to receive a law degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

He began a 44 year career in the U.S. Congress in 1950 as the chief administrative assistant for the Hon. Gordon Canfield of New Jersey, retiring in 1993 as the Republican Sergeant-at-Arms for the last couple of decades. In his position with Republican Leadership, he served under Charles Haleck, Gerald Ford, John Rhodes and Bob Michel.

Mr. Kennedy's 44 years of Congressional service is significant inasmuch as it represents more than 25% of all the years Congress has been in existence.

Notably, on the day of his retirement, he was honored by the House of Representatives while it was in session with impromptu speeches by many Members.

Subsequent to his retirement, he logged an additional 6 years on Capitol Hill with consulting, political fundraising and public relations through The Kennedy Group Companies of Washington, D.C., for which he was the Chairman and CEO.

Since the death of his father, he had been the patriarch of a big and very close-knit family. He is survived by his wife, Ana Louisa Bou, to whom he was married for more than 53 years, 7 children, Walter P. Kennedy, Jr., Ana L. Kennedy, Thomas F. Kennedy, Dennis M. Kennedy, Stella M. Kennedy-Dail, Kevin J. Kennedy, and Kathleen P. Kennedy McGovern, 4 daughters-in-law and a son-in-law, 12 grandchildren, all who reside in the great Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. He, himself, was the oldest of four children and he is survived by a brother, three sisters, their spouses and children. He was also the brother for two sister-in-laws, Ernestina Bou and Marie Isabel Pelalas.

He was active with the Boy Scouts and the Catholic Committee on Scouting for more than 40 years. Since 1956 he was an active member of Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Church in Kensington, Maryland, particularly with the Holy Name Society and the Social Concerns Committee. He was an active member and a Knight of the 4th Degree in the Knights of Columbus.

He was a man of leadership and vision, but also, above all else, a good, honest and kind man. Though never losing focus on the future (which he always maintained as promising), he would consider everyone, yet remain vigilant for the underdog.

He was loved deeply by all and he will be greatly missed.

HONORING DR. BARNETT SLEPIAN

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this past October 23rd marked the one-year anniversary of the death of Dr. Barnett Slepian. Dr. Slepian was an obstetrician-gynecologist who provided birth control and fertility service, delivered babies, and, when needed, performed abortions. One year ago Dr. Slepian was shot through the window of his own home in Buffalo, New York. A year later, the murder of Dr. Slepian still casts a chill on everyone who believes in a woman's right to reproductive freedom.

To this day, I am shocked and saddened by the death of Dr. Slepian. For more than a decade, he had bravely stood up to terrorists threats, never wavering in his commitment to his patients and to women's reproductive health. I salute Dr. Slepian's courage and that of reproductive health care workers across the nation. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family, friends, and colleagues.

A nationwide campaign of violence, vandalism, and blockades is curtailing the availability of abortion services and endangering providers and patients. Since 1993, three doctors, two clinic employees, a clinic escort, and a security guard have been murdered. And although clinic protection laws at the state and federal level have alleviated some forms of violence against abortion clinics, the threats, intimidation, and violence against clinic providers and staff continues. This domestic terrorism hinders access to abortion services and threatens the lives of those dedicated in ensuring a woman's right to choose and therefore, must be stopped.

RECOGNITION OF CLINTON TOWNSHIP DEMOCRATIC CLUB HONOREE ELEANOR TOCCO

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, at the heart of every political organization, is a team of volunteers. Tonight, the Clinton Township Democratic Club honors one of its most active members, Eleanor Tocco. Eleanor Tocco is the water that keeps the grass roots growing. As a retired teacher and member of the Michigan Education Association, Eleanor has organized teachers, both active and retired, to get directly involved in the political process.

Eleanor realized early on that the legislative process has a direct effect on the welfare of teachers, students and education. She has been invaluable—educating not only our children, but also her fellow teachers. Because of Eleanor's outreach, on any given work night or phone bank in the Tenth District, a new teacher will show up. She has brought in educators who would normally have no other interest in the political process, and made them a part of shaping policy.

The idea that your life slows down once you retire was lost on Eleanor. She always seems to be in full gear. Whether it is stuffing a mailing, working a bingo, or directing a project for

MEA Local One, Eleanor is always in the middle of it, and is always good for rounding up more volunteers to help out. We can count on her to be outspoken and true to her beliefs—qualities that I greatly respect.

Thank you, Eleanor, for your years of service to your profession and to your chosen party. The Democrats in Macomb County are better organized, better represented, better served for having you among our ranks.

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA KNIPP

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who was an outstanding citizen of the Fourth District of Texas—Barbara Alice Knipp of Ladonia, who died on July 3, 1999, at her residence. Barbara was devoted to her community and to her family, and she will be missed by all who knew her.

Barbara was born on April 20, 1921, in English, Red River County, TX, the daughter of Theodore R. and Annie Bell Hunter Duncan. She was a member of Business and Professional Women, worked as a dental assistant and office manager for 34 years, taught at Lawton College of Dentistry at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and worked in office management and as a consultant. She was president of American Legion Post 247 in Honey Grove and served as fourth district chaplain. She also served as Girls State chairman for Post 247 and Post 17.

In 1993 she married Joseph Daniel Knipp in Wolfe City. She is survived by her husband, son and daughter-in-law Don and Bobbie Callaway; sons Clay, Ray and Bobby Knipp; daughter and son-in-law Joan and Kenneth Alexander; daughter Margaret Manning; sister and brother-in-law Kay and Don Loden; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Bobbie and Sam Smith; 18 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother Martin Duncan, a baby brother and a son, Kenneth Callaway.

Barbara was a kind and caring person. She was a longtime valued close personal friend to me and my entire family. She loved her family and loved life. Barbara, in her last battle against cancer, fought bravely—as did her husband, J.D., and her entire family. It is for Barbara—and others in the desperate and menacing clutches of cancer, that we continue to fund medical research—and use the bio-reactor in the space station to seek answers to cancer, diabetes, heart, and other dreaded diseases. So Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of Barbara Alice Knipp and her many contributions to the life of her community and to her family.

IN HONOR OF FRANCES LoPRESTO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Frances

LoPresto. Ms. LoPresto has been a civic activist and pillar of the Queens, New York community for more than 50 years. Ms. LoPresto's dedication and service to neighborhoods all across Queens deserves our recognition. Her years of community leadership serve as a model for future generations.

Ms. LoPresto is a member of the United Community Civic Association (UCCA) of Jackson Heights, New York and is on UCCA's Board of Directors. She is also a Board member of the Kiwanis Club of Jackson Heights. In

this leadership position, Ms. LoPresto has initiated the Kiwanis mission of service; to the advancement of individual, community, and national welfare; and to the strengthening of international goodwill.

During the Second World War, Ms. LoPresto joined a national effort to protect against air attacks through the Civil Defense Alert Team. She traveled night after night, in rain, sleet, or snow, to make sure all lights were turned off.

Additionally, Ms. LoPresto has been a District Leader in Astoria, Queens for many years. In this role, she has contributed to community dialogue on issues of public concern and sustained the spirit of civic participation so important to our nation's health and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the life and work of Ms. Frances LoPresto and I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing her significant contributions to the Queens community and to our great nation.