

a number of nephews and nieces that look up to her for guidance and advice.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to Clara for her many contributions to the State of Colorado and it is with great pleasure that I offer her my warmest regard and wish her a happy 104th.

HONORING DUTCH NEWMAN

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend, Hila "Dutch" Newman. In Missouri, Democrats from every region and every level of government seek her counsel, value her judgment, and understand that her word is her bond. Over the years her leadership, civic pride, integrity and commitment to our community have fostered a deep respect by all who know her. Dutch has a gift of uniting people in common cause. She personifies how one person can make a significant difference in the lives of others.

On September 6, 2001 friends of Dutch Newman will gather to pay special tribute to her. A foundation in her honor will be initiated with an objective to provide innovative voter education and registration opportunities, as well as scholarship funding for our youth. The Dutch Newman Voter Education and Scholarship Foundation will become another facet of her legacy, and have a lasting impact on our community. The mission of the foundation is derived from her own, providing today's youth with unique voter education and registration opportunities and scholarships so they will be better able to participate in our democracy. Dutch epitomizes the citizen that President Kennedy sought when in his Inaugural Address he said, "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

Dutch Newman has served in every facet of Democratic politics and always brings sound judgment, insight and perspective to her work. She presently holds the following offices: President of the Westport Landing Democratic Club; President of the State of Missouri Federation of Women's Democratic Clubs; and Vice Chairwoman for the Jackson County Democratic Committee. She serves as a member of: the Democratic State Committee and their Executive Board; Committeewoman for the 5th Ward in Jackson County; Chairperson of State House District 38; and Secretary for the 5th Congressional District. Dutch was the first woman to be appointed by a Governor to sit on the committee for the Senatorial Redistricting of the State of Missouri. She was also the Kansas City Coordinator for Senator Hubert Humphrey's presidential campaign in 1968, and Missouri Coordinator for the National Campaign Conference for Democratic Women in Washington, D.C. She has been a Missouri Delegate at the National Democratic Convention for six presidential elections. Her work has not gone unnoticed, especially her grassroots organizing, as she has been recognized by the Jackson County Democratic Party with the Harry S. Truman Award, as well as Woman of the Year Award presented by the Women's Fifth District Democratic Club, now entitled the "Dutch" Newman Woman of the Year Award.

An article in today's edition of "The Kansas City Star" details many of the other aspects of Dutch's life, including her devotion to her children and grandchildren, and her service to our community outside politics, and I ask that it be made a part of today's RECORD following my statement. Dutch was one of the original founders of the Volker Neighborhood Homes Association, and is a member of: the Daughters of Westport, the Westport Historical Society, Neighborhood Crime Prevention; and the Guardian Angel Altar society. In recognition of her dedication and commitment to the quality of life in Kansas City, Mayor Wheeler presented her with a certificate of appreciation and proclaimed October 5, 1974 as "Dutch" Newman Day in Kansas City, Missouri. Her work with people with HIV and AIDS was recognized by a certificate of Appreciation from the National Association of People with Aids.

The Dutch Newman Voter Education and Scholarship Foundation will be a constant reminder of the ideals she represents. Through this foundation young people will gain appreciation for our country's government and become active citizens in the electoral process. Dutch Newman has accepted the challenges of life, conquered adversity, sacrificed for her family, and become a role model for our citizens, inspiring future generations to take an active role in their community. Thank you, Dutch for all you do and for your valued friendship. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring a Missouri treasure, Hila "Dutch" Newman.

[From the Kansas City Star, Sept. 5, 2001]

IN KANSAS CITY POLITICS, IT HELPS TO KNOW
DUTCH

(By Kevin Hoffmann)

If you're a Democrat in Kansas City and want to run for a political office, then you better go Dutch.

Going Dutch has little to do with money. It has everything to do with grass-roots politics and the woman who epitomizes it, Hila "Dutch" Newman.

Newman, a force behind Democrat—and a few Republican—candidates since the 1940s, will be honored at a special tribute Thursday night at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. More than 500 people are expected to attend.

The event's list of honorary hosts is a virtual who's who of past and present politicians.

And whether they were seeking office in Kansas City, Jefferson City or Washington, Newman helped elect them all.

"Her reputation was that of a very effective worker who could deliver the vote for the Democratic party in the precincts she served," said Former Kansas City Mayor Charles Wheeler.

Those precincts include the Country Club Plaza, Westport and Volker neighborhoods. Newman has a direct method of finding the candidates she trusts, then working earnestly knocking on doors, making phone calls and printing thousands of sample ballots to pass out to voters.

Besides the tribute to Newman, a voter education scholarship foundation has been established in her honor. The foundation will provide voter education programs for youth and eventually will offer scholarships for students studying politics.

"I can't recall another event like this," said political and communication consultant Mary O'Halloran, an organizer of Thursday's event. "Not a tribute to a political and community activist who has never served as an officeholder.

"The phrase I've been hearing over and over is that she's a legend in her own time," she said. "They don't know of anybody else who has had the passion for succeeding and winning and at the same time have compassion for people."

Former Kansas City Mayor Richard L. Berkley, a Republican, holds Newman in high regard.

"She's so active and involved," Berkley said, "She's willing to work hard for those she wants elected to public office."

U.S. Sen Jean Carnahan of Missouri said: "Dutch proves one person can make a difference."

Newman's roots are simple.

She learned the gift of getting along with people and developed her sharp intuition while pouring beer at the Westport tavern owned by her father, Harry Bucher.

While tending bar during World War II, Newman volunteered for the Civil Defense Program and was charged with planning a blackout test for Westport.

Her first door-to-door effort was successful except for one glitch.

As she drove around a darkened Westport with a Civil Defense Program official, Newman noticed a lone light coming from her third-floor apartment. She cringed.

"He said, 'Dutch, isn't that your apartment building?'" Newman returned home and errantly turned on the light.

"I could have killed him," she said. "My apartment was the only one with a light on."

George Aylward, who ran the influential Kansas City political club Democracy Inc., was impressed by Newman's ability to organize. He asked for her help with a candidate for Jackson County-assessor in the 1944 election.

Newman campaigned through the local neighborhoods and picked up quite a few votes at her father's tavern. Aylward's candidate won big. Just like that, her career in politics took off.

She worked for the club for several years with Aylward as her mentor. Eventually, she formed her own group, the Westport Landing Democratic Club.

"I really had a great instinct for whether or not they were in it for the people or for themselves," she said of her ability to back successful candidates.

She also had a City Hall post: supervisor of the Commercial Recreation Department which oversaw things such as liquor licenses and massage parlors. In 1965, then-Gov. Warren Hearnes appointed Newman a fee agent in the Raytown license bureau, a post she had for nearly a decade. After that, she worked as Jackson County's supervisor of liquor control.

In the 1960s and 1970s, women were scarce in back room political circles.

But at a 2 a.m. strategy session at a club called the Green Duck, there was Newman alongside Bruce Watkins, Leon Jordan and Alex Presta.

Newman is more than a fountain of good advice for politicians. She's also full of good stories.

Like the time she was passing out campaign literature and a man answered the door naked.

"I said, 'Here, read this and get inside before you freeze your rear off,'" she recalled with a laugh.

Or the time Newman and her sister, Sue Lawson, were in line at the 1976 Democratic convention in New York.

As Secret Service agents checked the entering delegates ahead of them, Lawson nudged Newman.

"She whispers to me that she has a gun in her purse," Newman said, adding that her sister worked for the prosecutor's office. "It was legal (for her) to carry them, but why she had one, I don't know."

Newman decided they should inform the agents.

"I guess I should have phrased it better because in seconds there were 10 men surrounding us," she said. "They literally picked us up by the shoulders and dragged us out of there."

At the police station, Newman attempted to reach someone from Clarence Kelley, a former Kansas City police chief, then head of the FBI.

Soon after, the women—minus the gun—headed back to the convention.

Then there was the time she was in the hospital during the Gerald Ford-Jimmy Carter presidential race.

"The nurse comes in and says, 'Mrs. Newman, I think this is a prank, but there's a guy on the phone who says he is Jimmy Carter,'" Newman recalled.

Indeed it was Carter, wanting to make sure Newman was OK.

"I was in the hospital another time and (George) McGovern called me," Newman remembered with a sheepish grin. She whispered, "I really didn't like him that much."

On a visit to Kansas City in his run for the White House, Vice President Al Gore stopped his motorcade when he saw Newman standing on the lawn of Penn Valley Community College. He got out of the limousine and ran over to give her a hug.

Newman hasn't won all her battles. She backed Joseph P. Teasdale when he lost his second bid at governor to Kit Bond. Carter lost to Ronald Reagan. She couldn't prevent the closing of her neighborhood school at the Guardian Angels Church.

But even in defeat, she set herself apart by staying loyal, several politicians said.

"Even if their ship was sinking," Newman said, "I stayed with them."

Newman once filed for a seat in the Missouri legislature but later withdrew. Once, she was approached to run for lieutenant governor.

Among the reasons she declined was her family.

"I was sitting at home eating dinner with the family and I remember thinking, 'I can't leave this for four or five days a week,'" she said.

Daughter Michele Newman said Newman always managed to be the consummate mother, even while staying busy in politics.

"My sisters and I always felt blessed to have such an incredible mom," she said. "We were reflecting and it's amazing that first and foremost was us three girls and our father. We were always No. 1."

"She was the coach for our girls volleyball team at Guardian Angels ... she was always the room mother at school," Michele Newman said. "It's been incredible having her as a mother."

The human side of Newman is what neighbors notice most.

Tim Mulvany remembered his real estate agent telling him about Newman when he moved to her block in 1979.

"A week went by and there she was at the door," he said. "She immediately included us in everything."

Mulvany discovered Newman's political savvy in the first Kansas City election in which he voted. He noticed that Newman backed everybody he was voting for. He printed up a special campaign sign for the next election. It read: "Whoever Dutch votes for."

Neighbor Joe McKenna said Newman is the first to help with any neighborhood problem.

"If you need anything it seems like you always end up calling Dutch," he said. "There's a lot of people who don't even know she's helped them."

McKenna said Newman is always quick to help a neighbor whether it is providing a ride

to the doctor's office or help with a utility bill.

"One time a little boy on the street got his bike stolen," McKenna said. "By noon, there was a brand new bike on that boy's porch." McKenna smiled. "That's Dutch."

TRIBUTE TO MARISSA WHITLEY

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give tribute to Marissa Whitley, who for the last year has been Miss Missouri Teen USA. On the night of August 22nd, this wonderful young lady was crowned Miss Teen USA 2001. For Marissa, who lives in my district, this coronation serves as a fitting accomplishment in a journey full of dedication and sacrifice.

"She's always been a leader since she was young" according to Marissa's aunt, Karen McHaney. Mrs. McHaney should know as well as anyone. McHaney took three-year-old Marissa in after Marissa's mother passed away due to a cerebral hemorrhage. Marissa and her family met the challenges of her loss. She has worked hard to achieve her new title of Miss Teen USA. Marissa volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House and a local Boys and Girls Club while competing in and winning four pageant events. In addition to maintaining her rigorous schedule as Miss Missouri Teen USA, she was still prepared for college and scheduled to begin classes at St. Louis University this fall until this most recent "detour." Her perseverance and vision to seek out and fulfill her dreams make Marissa an excellent role model not only for the young people of Missouri, but for youth across our country.

Marissa's home town is Springfield, Missouri. She has been featured in local media stories as she worked to represent young American women. Marissa's hard work and dedication are worth recognition and I'm confident she will continue to use her position of leadership to set a positive example to young people. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress wish her well as she begins this part of her life's journey.

HONORING MR. FELIX SPARKS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Retired Brigadier General Felix Sparks, who proudly served our nation by leading a Colorado National Guard contingent into the European theater during World War II.

General Felix Sparks has seen and experienced the horrifying aspects of war that most of us cannot even imagine. Mr. Sparks has lost close friends in battle and although surrounded by death, his heroism shone throughout his service. Mr. Sparks was a member of the team of American soldiers who landed at Anzio and later he joined in liberating the Dachau concentration camp in 1945.

After serving his nation, Mr. Sparks moved to Colorado and attended law school at the

University of Colorado. After his education, Felix served as a District Attorney for a seven-county judicial district in Colorado's Western Slope and also served as a Colorado Supreme Court Justice. Mr. Sparks is a first-class citizen who dedicated himself towards bettering Colorado both as a justice of the peace and as a commander of the Colorado National Guard.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to a distinguished Colorado citizen-soldier, Retired Brigadier General Sparks. On behalf of our nation and the great state of Colorado, I offer Mr. Sparks my warmest regard and debts of gratitude.

IN HONOR OF MR. TONY VENTO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly wonderful humanitarian, Mr. Tony Vento, on his retirement from the Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America.

Mr. Tony Vento, Coordinator of the Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America, was born and raised in Ft. Lauderdale but soon left for Philadelphia to study Urban Studies with a focus in Community Development Planning and Architectural History. After his undergraduate work, Mr. Vento decided to accept a position as campus minister of the University of Pennsylvania and centered his work on peace, justice, and community service.

Mr. Vento's theological career led him down many winding paths, including trips to Italy, Peru, and the University of Toronto's St. Michael's College. His dedication to the furthering of democracy eventually brought him to the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, where he was hired as the Director in the fall of 1992. The task force uses education human rights work, and advocacy of peaceful policies to build bridges of hope and solidarity with the most consistently martyred region in our hemisphere.

Mr. Vento has been a true jewel for the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, and he will be greatly missed. His dedication and love for the people of Central America is extremely evident in the fine work he does. He will be soon joining Pax Christi USA to be their National Program Director.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in humbled recognition and celebration of Mr. Tony Vento. He has, and will continue to, inspire many not only in his local community, but across the globe.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AL-ANON

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, shortly before the August District Work Period, this body passed H. Con. Res. 190, a resolution I offered commemorating September as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. The theme of Recovery Month this year is "We Recover Together: Family, Friends and Community."