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TRIBUTE TO THE 16TH ANNUAL
MAR ADDAI CHALDEAN CHURCH
FESTIVAL

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Chaldean American community of Michigan, who celebrated the 16th Annual Mar Addai Chaldean Church Festival on Sunday, June 23, 2002.

As Michigan is home to a thriving Chaldean American community, we have the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of a fabulous people. They possess a focused vision of their future and will do all they feel is necessary to ensure prosperity.

Today, the United States is enriched by the many Chaldean Americans who have made this country their home. As one of the largest communities in Michigan, Chaldean Americans are making their mark, serving as hard working members of the civic, business, and professional communities. They have made major contributions to nearly every facet of American society. The Chaldean American community of Michigan truly adds to the wonderfully diverse American culture by sharing with us their customs, traditions and beliefs.

The 16th Annual Mar Addai Chaldean Church Festival attests to the wealth of the culture we have developed here in Michigan. An all day festival of food, music, dancing, and fun, the Mar Addai Festival is attended by thousands of Chaldean and non-Chaldean people and is one of the largest and most successful family festivals in Oakland County. The spirit and enthusiasm of the Chaldean American community of Southeastern Michigan has been such an invaluable asset to our great state, and will surely continue to bring families and communities together for many years to come.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Chaldean American community of Michigan on this landmark day, and I salute them all for their tremendous contributions and support.

HONORING MARY "BILLY"
BOATWRIGHT

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, Mary "Billy" Boatwright, a wife, a mother, an athlete, a newspaper reporter, a tireless advocate of better education, and a member of the National Republican Committee for nearly two decades, passed away on May 31 at the age of 82, a victim of cancer. She was a model Republican, a woman of principle, and an integral part of my hometown, Stonington, Connecticut. Her family and friends mourn her and remember the way in which she gave her life to her community.

Billy Boatwright was a role model for me and for the many people whose lives she touched. Friends who confided in her did so in faith. Candidates who sought her advice found a ready ear and a bright mind. Many of us can look back on our lives and find a person upon whose advice and counsel we built our careers and forged our ideals. For the people of Stonington Billy was that person.

Billy believed in loyalty and was willing to elevate principle above party lines. Her decision to oppose a party nominee for Governor and support instead a lifelong friend forced her to give up her seat on the Republican National Committee. She also vacated her seat on the Stonington Republican Town Committee. In her absence the Committee made the decision not to fill her seat. After the election, Republican leaders invited her to return. This is one of many examples of the respect in which she was held by her peers.

Mr. Speaker, politics does not build character. It reveals it. Those of us who knew Billy Boatwright had the honor of knowing a woman of the highest character, the image of honesty and learning, a woman who understood the importance of serving the interests of the public. She will be greatly missed. We are fortunate to have been a part of her life and even more fortunate that she was a part of ours. I would like to submit Westerly Sun columnist Jeff Mill's story on her legacy for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Westerly Sun]

STONINGTON LOSES "BILLY" BOATWRIGHT,
POLITICAL LEGEND
(By Jeff Mill)

Mary H. "Billy" Boatwright, a power in Republican politics on the national, state and local levels and an integral part of Stonington life for over 40 years, has died.

Boatwright, who had been ill in recent months, succumbed to cancer Friday. She was 82.

A wife, mother, sportswoman, newspaper reporter, staunch advocate of reading and learning, and member of the Republican National Committee for 17 years, she was described as "a life force" in Stonington since moving here with her husband, Victor, in 1957.

Expressions of sympathy and admiration flowed in Saturday, as word spread of her death. (An obituary appears in the obituary section of the online Sun.)

"She was really a remarkable woman," declared Andrew W. Maynard, the warden—a post akin to mayor—of Stonington Borough. "Her death is certainly an enormous loss to the Borough and really to the entire area of southeastern Connecticut."

Spare and direct, Boatwright was the grand doyen of Republican politics in town and throughout the region. Candidates on the local and state levels regularly sought her out for advice and counsel. Those who didn't rarely succeeded.

Yet, she was equally at home every August behind tables sagging with books in the Borough's Wadawanuck Square as part of the Stonington Community Center's annual Village Fair. She ran the book tables for years, and they became known as "Billy's Books."

Second District U.S. Rep. Robert R. Simmons, R-Stonington, was one of those who went to Boatwright for advice.

"As a Republican, she was a great leader," he said. "I think she was the first woman to represent Stonington in the General Assembly, back when that was not an easy thing to do."

"She was a staunch member of the Republican Town Committee and a great mentor to

people like me and Michael Blair (a former Borough warden) who wanted to get involved in politics but didn't know how. She really was an extraordinary woman."

"She loved to travel, and she had so many friends, and she was quite independent," said her daughter Mary T. "Tolly" Boatwright. "She was so devoted to so many things—to her country and the democratic process and to the Republican Party. And yet, she never followed anything blindly."

Boatwright was, for instance, a strong and loyal supporter of Gov. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., even when that became unfashionable in some circles. It was a measure of her loyalty that she bolted the Republican Party to join Weicker's A Connecticut Party—and in doing so gave up her seat on the Republican National Committee.

"I would put her, literally, in a handful—and I mean five people—who were the greatest influences in my career," the former governor said Saturday evening from his Virginia home.

"She had enormous integrity and a great sense of humor, and she was one of the most loyal people I know," Weicker said, noting that Boatwright gave up her seat on the RNC "when just about any Republican woman in the state would have died for that seat. But that was Mary."

"Every leader should be surrounded by people with that integrity (who are willing to relay bad news even) when you don't want to hear it."

Simmons recalled that when she resigned from the party to back Weicker's independent run for governor, "I was chairman, and the town committee decided not to fill her seat. After the election, she was invited to come back and occupy the seat. That's just one sign of the respect in which she was held by her fellow Republicans."

Her son, Bill Boatwright, mentioned another instance in which his mother remained loyal—to Richard Nixon, whom she first met during her postwar career as a newspaperwoman at the San Francisco Chronicle. He said "she supported him and remained very hopeful that his policies" would achieve the recognition she felt they deserved.

"As an individual, she would follow the strength of her convictions," he said.

William S. Brown, a selectman and chairman of the Republican Town Committee, recalled Boatwright as "a lovely lady. She was very bright and intelligent and a stalwart Republican."

Respect and affection for Mrs. Boatwright crossed party lines.

James M. Spellman, a Pawcatuck Democrat, was often in Mrs. Boatwright's sights during the 24 years that he served as Stonington's first selectman. And yet, he praised her Saturday, saying, "Mary was an outstanding citizen of Stonington. She was very knowledgeable, and she always quietly offered her time for many different programs. It could be the (Stonington) Community Center, the town of Stonington, or Westerly Hospital. But I believe her first love, no doubt, was politics, in which she played a major role on the local, state and national level."

"I always admired her," Spellman continued, "because she knew the issues and she worked in the best interests of our area, and I respected her as a friend and a political opponent."

Boatwright was by equal parts direct and humorous. She did not suffer fools gladly, but she could be supportive and funny—often devastatingly so.

Her youngest daughter, Tolly Boatwright, recalled just such an incident during World War II, when her mother drove a tractor at the North Island, Calif., Naval Station.

"She met Eleanor Roosevelt once and Mrs. Roosevelt said how interesting her job must

be," Tolly said. "And mother said she had only learned two things—how to swear and how to spit, although I think she already knew how to swear."

Tolly reflected that it "had to be a trial" for such a dedicated Republican to meet the staunchly Democratic first lady.

Maynard spoke of "her enormous influence and commitment to the Borough and around the state."

"She had such dedication to her community and to her church," Maynard said. "She was so dedicated to the (Stonington Free) Library, to the cause of learning and to volunteer work, and she did all that with great enthusiasm."

"I think of her just now standing in front of the (Borough) post office, speaking with someone and with her head thrown back in a laugh. It's really sad to think of her no longer being with us."

"She had a lot of energy, and she generated enthusiasm," First Selectman Peter N. Dibble said. "She cared deeply for the people she befriended, and there certainly were many people in this community who benefited from her friendship."

"For those of us involved in politics, she was a party stalwart who touched the lives of many of us, but she did not limit herself to partisan politics. She helped numerous people in public life regardless of party lines."

Maynard, Simmons, and Tolly Boatwright all mentioned a love of knowledge that pervaded Boatwright's life.

"Mother really cared about people no matter their age," Tolly Boatwright said. "And if a child made the honor roll, she would cut out the (newspaper article about it) and send it to the parents. She championed children and academic achievement, and doing the best they can."

Simmons said his daughter was one of those who received a clipping and a note of encouragement.

Boatwright's love of learning extended throughout her entire life.

"She had an amazing intellectual curiosity that she carried even into her later years," Maynard said. "In her 70s, I would see her still expanding her mind" as they took courses at Connecticut College.

Maynard is a Democrat, but he said "even though she was a vigorous partisan, I had such a regard for her willingness to stay involved. I just had the greatest regard for her."

THE NEED TO SUPPORT PASSENGER RAIL

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, while the other countries of the industrialized world continue to support passenger rail services with 'High Speed' and 'Bullet' trains, the current Administration continues to nickel and dime Amtrak.

Last fall, this Administration and this Congress came to the rescue of our airline industry to the tune of \$15 billion. But when Amtrak asks for little more than 1 percent of that to cover its short term operating costs, the President hesitates.

This Administration is proposing retroactive repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), sending \$25 billion in rebate checks to the richest corporations in the world. The rebate check to IBM alone would be \$1.4 billion. That

one check would keep the trains moving in America for all of next year.

Mr. Speaker, this is a disgrace!

The Administration should immediately release the funds necessary to keep Amtrak in service.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. MURRAY ROSS TO THE U.S. CONGRESS ON HEALTH POLICY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Murray Ross for his 14 years of service to the U.S. Congress at both the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and the Congressional Budget Office.

MedPAC is the advisory panel to Congress that provides guidance on Medicare payment policies. Dr. Ross has served with distinction as MedPAC's founding executive director, providing outstanding policy analysis and exceptional service to Members of Congress and their staff.

Before MedPAC, he served as unit chief for the Health Cost Estimates Unit of the Congressional Budget Office, directing his staff in developing key spending and cost estimates for the Congress.

Prior to becoming the director of the health unit, Dr. Ross served as a principal analyst in CBO's Health and Human Resources Division, providing important analyses of health reform and income security policies.

While I may not have always agreed with the advice and analysis received from MedPAC or CBO during his tenure, I speak for many when I say that we always knew Murray was shooting straight with us and doing his best to see that we were provided accurate information in a timely manner.

It is with pleasure that I join the congressional and health policy communities in commending Murray Ross for his service to the Congress and America, in thanking him for his professionalism, and in wishing him well in his new endeavors.

I also welcome Murray to the San Francisco Bay area and look forward to working with him to improve health care in my home community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcalls 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256 and 257.

ALLEN J. KAYNER: SETTING THE PACE FOR BAY COUNTY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and mourning the death of Allen J. Kayner, a teacher and coach for untold high school athletes and students in the Bay City Public Schools in my hometown of Bay City, Michigan. Coach Kayner was a legend in the local running community, having founded both the Bay Area Runners Club and the St. Patrick's Day Road Race. He also taught history and geography at my alma mater, Bay City Central High School, and I considered him a friend and mentor.

Throughout his 30-year tenure with the Bay City Public Schools, Al Kayner was a devoted and intelligent teacher who gave the full measure of his talents to help students in and out of the classroom. His enthusiasm, patience and attention to detail were tremendous assets in teaching geography and history and they were also his greatest gifts as a coach.

In the early 1970s, Al founded the Bay Area Runners Club, serving as the club's first president and then again he offered his services as its president in the early 1990s. Before that, Al coached track and cross country at both Bay City Western and Bay City Central high schools. He also coached long-distance running at Essexville Garber High School for a short time.

Al will perhaps be best remembered as the man behind the St. Patrick's Day Road Race, which he organized and led from the start. On March 17, 1974, Al ran the first race with 65 other runners who began at Veterans Memorial Park and finished at Wenonah Park. The race now begins in Essexville and finishes in downtown Bay City, but otherwise it's the same footrace that Al envisioned 28 years ago and it is still going strong.

When Al died last year of cancer, the loss was certainly felt most by his wife, Judy, their three children, Karen, Kristine and Steven, and the rest of his loving family. However, his passing was most assuredly also felt by the entire community. Al left his mark on all those he met. It is especially fitting to honor him with fireworks on the Fourth of July because Al's life on this earth was certainly a star-spangled event never to be forgotten.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Al Kayner, a coach, teacher and friend to all. I am confident that Al is somewhere right now lacing up his running shoes and preparing for a heavenly marathon with the other angels. Godspeed, Al.

TRIBUTE TO THE LABOR COUNCIL FOR LATIN AMERICAN ADVANCEMENT

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, which will be celebrating