

WIC

The WIC program continues to be successful in improving the nutritional status of over 7 million low-income women, infants, and children. The Healthy Children Through Better Nutrition Act of 2003 enables WIC to be more flexible in meeting the needs of women and children at risk, while promoting a highly nutritious food package.

This legislation: Emphasizes greater consumption of fruits and vegetables in the WIC program; Allows infants and children to be certified for the WIC program for up to 1 year and allows offices to waive the "physical presence" requirement for infants and children under specific circumstances; and requires a decennial review of the WIC food package.

Mr. Speaker, as the Committee moves forward with the reauthorization of child and school nutrition programs, I encourage my colleagues to review the set of proposals in the Healthy Children Through Better Nutrition Act of 2003. This legislation which has been endorsed by the American School Food Service Association, the Food Research Action Center, America's 2nd Harvest and California Food Policy Advocates, offers a comprehensive means for improving access to child nutrition programs and addressing the troubling rise in childhood obesity rates. The Healthy Children Through Better Nutrition Act of 2003 reflects a commitment to the future by investing in our children's nutrition and overall health. They deserve no less.

RIPKEN POST OFFICE BUILDING

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to designate the postal facility in Aberdeen, Maryland as the Ripken Post Office Building in honor of the Ripken family and their contributions to this great city in the Maryland 2nd Congressional District.

It is difficult to think of baseball and not think of the Ripken name. The accomplishments of Cal Ripken, Jr. are literally the stuff legends are made of. He appears throughout the record books after 21 seasons with the Baltimore Orioles—as one of only seven players in baseball history to have 400 home runs and 3,000 hits. Of course, few in my home state of Maryland or this nation will ever forget his Iron Man record or the number 2131—signifying when Cal Ripken, Jr. broke Lou Gehrig's record for consecutive games played. Cal ended his own streak in 1998 after playing 2,632 games consecutively.

Bill Ripken had a 12 year major league baseball career as a second baseman with incredible successes including a .927 fielding percentage in 1992—the best of any major league second baseman that season. In the spring of 2002, Bill Ripken was honored for his career accomplishments with an induction into the Maryland Sports Hall of Fame.

Those achievements alone are certainly deserving of admiration and acclamation, but there is so much more to the Ripken family philosophy and that is why this designation is for the Ripken family as a whole. Starting with Cal Ripken, Sr. and his wife Vi, the work ethic

both Cal Jr. and his brother Bill exhibited throughout their professional careers can be attributed to this Ripken philosophy of hard work, dedication, sincerity of effort, and commitment.

Even more, the Ripken Way embodies the memory of Cal Ripken, Sr. and his pure belief in the joy and craft of baseball. For 37 years, Cal Ripken, Sr. played, coached and managed in the Baltimore Orioles organization. He was responsible for developing a method of teaching that shaped the Orioles' minor league system and became known as "The Ripken Way." That way has become the centerpiece of the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation and its state-of-the-art baseball academy.

This is a family with a history of giving back to the community—both the communities of Baltimore and Aberdeen. Through the Baltimore Reads/Ripken Learning Center to the creation of the Cal Ripken Baseball and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, the Ripkens continue to give of themselves in very tangible ways. The Aberdeen Complex has brought minor league baseball, jobs and prestige to the Aberdeen community. Both Cal and Bill Ripken are actively involved in youth camps, coaches clinics, tournaments and, of course, The Cal Ripken World Series.

In a world when sport and commercialism is so often intertwined, the Ripken family—the individuals and the family as a whole—serve as incredible role models for what baseball means to this nation and what it was meant to be. These are real sports heroes and truly admirable people. Mr. Speaker I am honored to introduce this legislation on behalf of this incredible family from my home state and I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

COMMEMORATION FOR WALTER EDWARD WASHINGTON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I arise today to inform the House of the passing of the first Mayor of the District of Columbia in the 20th century. Some members will remember Walter Washington's service or will know him by reputation because no mayor here or, I dare say, elsewhere has enjoyed more respect from this body. Mayor Washington enjoyed the same bipartisan admiration from the two presidents during his tenure, Lyndon Johnson, who appointed Mr. Washington the District's first mayor in 1968 and Richard Nixon who signed the Home Rule Act in 1973 giving the District its current home rule status, complete with an elected mayor and city council.

The conventional wisdom is that home rule for the District depended upon Mayor Washington's performance as appointed mayor. Few would disagree. If home rule was past due then, more than 150 years after the city's founding, surely full self-government, democracy and congressional voting representation are shamefully tardy in coming to the city's approximately 600,000 residents today. Mayor Washington, who did more than any person to bring self-government to the District, deserved to see its full realization before his death. Home rule happened because people made it happen, with Walter Washington as the lead-

er. Freedom and democracy for an entire city is a lot to have on one man's shoulders, but Walter Washington carried the burden easily. His gifts were spectacularly broad—deep integrity and ability that won him enormous professional respect as well as personal and political skills that evoked affection from the people. That combination amounts to the sum total of what it takes to lead. Few leaders have it all. Walter Washington did.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that in addition to my own statement at the time of Mayor Washington's death, I be allowed to place in the RECORD a Washington Post editorial and a personal tribute from Post editorial writer, Colbert King, who was a close friend of Walter Washington and who served on the Senate staff when Mr. Washington was mayor.

I ask the entire House to join me in paying tribute to a man of historic stature in the District of Columbia and in offering the profound respect and condolences of the House of Representatives to Mayor Washington's wife Mary and his family.

NORTON SAYS PASSING OF WALTER WASHINGTON MARKS END OF HOME RULE ERA

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) today released the following statement on the passing of Mayor Walter E. Washington.

"The era of home rule ended today with the passing of Walter Washington. Mayor Washington simultaneously shaped the office of mayor and the practice of home rule governance for a city that had lived without democracy for a hundred years. The District has a strong mayor form of government in no small part because his service as appointed mayor demonstrated that a mayor could lead this city as mayors of other big cities did. His service is significant for far more than the office he held, however; President Lyndon Johnson appointed Walter Washington our first mayor because he wanted a man of great character and ability to pave the way for an elected mayor. The people of the District returned the compliment by electing Walter Washington our first elected mayor. Residents realized he had the "right stuff" to be mayor—not only outstanding ability and integrity but also the indispensable political skills and common touch that make people want to follow the lead of an elected official. That combination of gifts proved mighty useful during the 1968 riots. The mayor was legendary for his way with the President and the Congress, but Walter Washington was appreciated in this town not only because he could talk to power but because he talked equally well to the powerless.

"People who missed his years as mayor often got some sense of his political gifts on the public occasions when his extraordinary wit was in full form as it remained throughout Walter's life.

"With the passing of Mayor Washington, the home rule era he shaped also passes. Perhaps, almost 30 years after Walter Washington was first elected, Congress will now understand that a new era of full democracy, independence and voting rights is overdue.

"Mrs. Mary Cornelia Washington, Walter's daughter, Bennetta Jules-Rosette and his family have my condolences and the sympathy of the city who loved him."

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 28, 2003]

WALTER E. WASHINGTON

"What I would like to be remembered for is that Walter Washington changed the spirit of the people of this city, that he came in as mayor when there was hate and greed and misunderstanding among our people and the

racers were polarized. And in the span of just a little over a decade, he brought people together through love and compassion, he helped bring about home rule . . . and helped people have more meaningful, satisfying and enjoyable lives."

This noble self-remembrance of Walter Edward Washington, who died yesterday at the age of 88, is—like so much that he accomplished for the city he deeply loved—just right. More than anyone in this century, he was the heart, soul, spirit and creator of the capital city as it is enjoyed today. Were it not for his perfect presence at a critical point in the city's history, the people of Washington would not be enjoying even the limited self-government they now have.

To appreciate fully the importance of this most likable and shrewd negotiator-leader, we need only recall a 70-percent-black city in strict colonial bondage, barred from acting on any significant local policy matter without the assent of an indisputably hostile and domineering U.S. House committee of mostly Southern segregationists. For many years before President Johnson pressured Congress to accord home rule to the District of Columbia—only to suffer an embarrassing defeat—Walter Washington had been among the tireless workers on behalf of enfranchising the citizens of the capital. Mr. Johnson, determined to strike back at Congress, used his executive powers to reorganize the District government from an arm of the federal government headed by three appointed commissioners to a new system with a single appointed commissioner and a council. For commissioner—a position whose holder the president unofficially but forcefully dubbed "mayor"—the president chose Mr. Washington, the first African American named to lead a U.S. city.

Thanks to Mr. Washington's keen sense of the politically possible, the knowledge of the bureaucratic ropes that he gained as a federal official and his exquisite abilities to put the most wary people at ease, the city began to enjoy new status on its road to limited home rule. He transformed the face of the District government, placing blacks in key positions that were long the exclusive preserve of whites. Until his arrival, the District Building had been a tomb, barely visited by residents. Powerful local business interests dealt directly with Congress, as did the 80-percent-white police force and other organized employee groups. As Mr. Washington involved more citizens in government activities, the top floor of the building came into its own as a local government center. Congress approved a limited home rule bill in 1973; the next year, Mr. Washington was elected mayor.

Though Mayor Washington was best known for his easygoing, humor-laced manner, he was bold and tough when it mattered. In 1966, when President Johnson first talked to him about a commissioner job with the understanding that another, white, commissioner would supervise the police department, Mr. Washington said no. When he was tapped the next year as lone commissioner, his stance prevailed. It paid off in later years, when Mayor Washington's public safety commissioner, Patrick V. Murphy, and Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson recruited and promoted African Americans and trained a once insensitive force to deal with the protests and riots that came to Washington.

Mr. Washington's ability to gain the confidence of federal leaders extended to President Nixon, who on his first full day in office toured the riot-torn areas of downtown, expressed confidence in the mayor and pledged new federal support for his rebuilding programs. Mr. Washington, as usual, had done his homework and labored behind the scenes to set the stage. He was always the healer,

the pleasant but insistent voice of reason on behalf of the city, able to draw on an unmatched network of sources—from the streets to the businesses, embassies and focal points of federal power.

To a person, Walter Washington's successors sought his counsel. His politics of inclusion, his honesty and civility, and his strengthening of the local fabric were invaluable. He was, in every sense, the city father—whose family across the wards will remember him fondly.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 28, 2003]

THE END OF AN ERA

(By Colbert I. King)

Tom Eagleton, Missouri Democrat and chairman of the Senate's District of Columbia Committee, was chain-smoking and as keyed up as I had ever seen him. The subcommittee's majority staff director, Robert Harris, on the other hand, was his usual stoic self. I was seated in the customary position of the committee's minority staff director, off to the side. We were in Eagleton's Senate office, and the purpose of the gathering wasn't social.

Sitting on the sofa directly in front of Eagleton was Walter Washington, the presidentially appointed mayor of the District. Next to him sat Julian Dugas, the mayor's longtime friend and director of licenses and inspections. Walter Washington was the most relaxed person in the room.

It was 1973. Congress had just passed the home rule bill and Walter Washington "was positioning himself to run for mayor in the city's first municipal election in 70 years. Eagleton had asked the mayor to come to Capitol Hill because he was going to break some bad news and wanted to do it face to face.

The committee had asked the General Accounting Office to take a look at the city's books. The GAO's preliminary view was that the books weren't auditable. Eagleton was going to call for a reorganization of the city's finances by a public accounting firm, and he expected the timing would be embarrassing to Washington.

"Walter, I don't want to hurt you politically but I won't be able to live with myself if we turn over the D.C. government to the city with the books in a mess," I recall a heavily perspiring Eagleton as saying. "Now you can go out of here and publicly attack me if you want, and I will understand," he said. "But I've got to do this."

Washington merely smiled and, calling Eagleton by his first name, said he recognized the problem. The books were a long-standing mess and had been an albatross around the city's neck since the time when it was governed by three presidentially appointed commissioners and tightly controlled by congressional committees, said Washington. And after a few pleasantries, Washington, accompanied by Dugas, shook hands all around and left. It was as if the mayor had given the senator special dispensation to do his job. And Eagleton seemed appreciative.

I tell the story because it provides a glimpse of the Walter Washington I knew behind the scenes. Unlike the current mayor, Anthony Williams, and the two city chief executives—Marion Barry and Sharon Pratt—who followed Washington in office, Walter Washington operated on Capitol Hill like an impresario, winning small victories here and there for the city in ways that escaped the attention of the average citizen. He managed to get hostile Southern barons to open federal purse strings for city projects long neglected by the three commissioners. And he diplomatically staved off rapacious members of Congress who thought the city was theirs for the taking.

It's fair to say that without Walter Washington, there would not have been home rule, at least not in the year when it was achieved. The road from appointed to elected government had plenty of pitfalls, both on the Hill and in the city, but Washington deftly steered around them. He cajoled when necessary, pleaded when required and schmoozed unceasingly. He stopped at nothing to get for District residents what they wanted most of all, an end to what Washington called an "anachronism of votelessness in our capital city." As he told the Senate District committee when he was making his pitch to pass the bill in 1973: "Whatever you call it, home rule, local suffrage, self-determination or self-government—I am for it."

Much is made of the home rule movement and the people taking to the street to bring about self-government. Much of what you hear about that period is pure, unadulterated myth. It was the work of Walter Washington, moving and shaking behind the scenes on Capitol Hill, that kept alive the drive for home rule. I know. I was there. The thought of an elected District of Columbia government being in Walter Washington's hands probably won as many votes in the Senate and House as any single effort by one individual on the Hill or in the city.

Washington's victory in 1974 as the city's first elected mayor was the first step in transforming this once overwhelmingly African American city from one dominated by southerners and a predominantly white city government leadership and police department to the multiracial and multicultural city we are today. And Mayor Washington pulled it off without polarizing and balkanizing the city.

Although I saw a great deal of Walter Washington when he was both an appointed and elected mayor, I saw even more of him in the past several years, as we shared membership in the same close-knit social club, the DePriest Fifteen. The name's no mistake. About 15 of us, all associated with the city in one form or another, would gather on a Saturday night once a month without our spouses for an evening of eating and drinking whatever we wanted without the presence of overseers and tattletales. We would share complete and unabridged war stories, the kind we are unlikely to take to our graves. Walter Washington had a storehouse of the best, which he shared with great relish. I can't imagine how we'll do it without him.

With his death, we are witnessing not only the passing of a local icon but also the passing of an era. His was a time when leaders understood the meaning of the words civility and comity. Walter Washington will be remembered as a uniter, not a divider, as a healer, not a destroyer.

And he did it all with a style and a light touch—and out of love for this city and the people in it—that we shall never see the likes of again.

TRIBUTE TO MARDY MURIE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Margaret "Mardy" Murie, one of America's true heroines.

Born in Seattle, Washington in 1902 and reared in Fairbanks, Alaska when it was truly the western frontier, Mardy and her husband, Olaus, were instrumental in the development of the American conservation and land protection movement. Her passing on October 19 at