

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

102 years old marks the departure of one of this country's most impassioned conservation leaders.

From her early upbringing in Alaska, Mardy gained a deep respect and love of the region's vast rugged terrain—its unspoiled lands and its remarkable wildlife.

As the first woman graduate of the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, she became a tireless advocate for the protection of Alaska as a national treasure. She once said, "When I was a child, Alaska seemed too vast and wild ever to be changed, but now we are coming to realize how vulnerable this land is. I hope we have the sensitivity to protect Alaska's wilderness . . ."

Upon graduation in 1924, Mardy married naturalist Olaus Murie and together they formed a partnership to not only protect this spectacular land, but other parts of the remaining American wilderness.

As an author and a lifelong activist, she inspired her husband, her family and her fellow citizens to build an entire conservation movement. For decades, the Murie family traveled the Alaskan wilderness, and once established in Wyoming, where Olaus served with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, they studied the biology of both regions—its mossy tundra, its streams, grassy sloughs, its elk, coyote and moose, and its wilderness.

While her children were growing up, Mardy became an active community member, serving on the school board, campaigning for education and the local library and promoting activities for local youth. In World War II, she grew a victory garden and managed a dude ranch.

In 1944, the Muries moved to Moose, Wyoming, where their home would become a center of the wilderness movement. Following Olaus' retirement from federal service, he accepted the directorship of the Wilderness Society, later to serve as its president.

Through her wilderness experiences with Olaus, Mardy became a fierce advocate for the protection of the Brooks Range in Alaska. She authored a book, *Two in the Far North*, which chronicled their summer-long adventure to this Alaskan region and inspired countless others to visit the Arctic area and fight for its protection.

Their dedication and effort paid off in 1960, when the Arctic National Wildlife Range—later renamed a National Wildlife Refuge—was created.

In 1964, the Muries and many other conservationists won another major victory when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law. Working for the National Park Service, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society and the Izaak Walton League at various times in her historic career, Mardy explored additional areas in Alaska and other parts of the country to determine their suitability for wilderness designation.

These continuing efforts helped achieve enactment of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, when President Jimmy Carter signed into law the bill that my father had sponsored in the House of Representatives.

Mardy Murie was the recipient of numerous prestigious awards honoring her outstanding environmental work. She was awarded the Audubon Medal in 1980, the John Muir Award in 1983, the Robert Marshall Conservation Award in 1986, and an honorary Doctor of Hu-

mane Letters from her alma mater, the University of Alaska. As she neared her 100th birthday in 2002, Mardy was honored with the J.N. Ding Darling Conservationist of the Year Award, the National Wildlife Federation's highest tribute.

In 1998, President Clinton awarded Mardy the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian award. At the event presenting her this distinction, President Clinton said "For Mardy Murie, wilderness is personal. She and her husband, Olaus, spent their honeymoon on a 550-mile dogsled expedition through the Brooks Mountain Range of Alaska. Fitting for a couple whose love for each other was matched only by their love of nature."

Margaret Mardy Murie was a national treasure. As a pioneer of the American conservation movement, she was and will continue to be an inspiration to us all. Her commitment to this country's wilderness sites will be a lasting legacy to the beauty of this nation and the importance and value of preserving our wild landscapes. May her spirit and inspiration live on in all of us for decades to come.

INTRODUCING THE JUVENILE VIOLENT GUN CRIME REPORTING ACT

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce with Congressman CHRISTOPHER SHAYS and 27 cosponsors the Juvenile Violent Gun Crime Reporting Act. This bipartisan bill would close a loophole in current law and help keep guns out of the hands of individuals with a history of violent crime.

Every year more than 10,000 people are murdered with guns in the United States. In 2001, guns were involved in one third of all violent crimes. Firearms have a particularly damaging effect on America's youth. Of the 1,400 juveniles murdered in 2001, 44 percent were killed with a firearm. During the 1999–2000 school years, 2,837 students were caught bringing a gun to school. In my home state of Illinois, 164 students were expelled for bringing a gun to school between 1999 and 2001. A regrettable but plain fact is that minors are not only the victims of gun crime but the perpetrators as well. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, 93,000 gun crimes or 9 percent of the total gun crimes were committed by individuals under the age of 18 between 2000 and 2002.

In an effort to combat America's high rate of gun violence, Congress enacted the Brady Bill in 1994. I was proud to work on passing this landmark bill when I served in the White House. A portion of the Brady law requires any individual wishing to purchase a firearm to undergo a background search. This system, known as the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), prohibits any individual with a violent criminal history from purchasing a weapon. Through 2001, 38 million background checks were conducted and 840,000 purchases were denied. However, a loophole in the Brady Bill allows violent juvenile criminals to purchase firearms. The Juve-

nile Violent Gun Crime Reporting Act (JVGCRA) would close this loophole once and for all.

Under current law, nearly all juvenile records are expunged once an individual reaches the age of 18. Because the expunged records are not included in the NICS background check, someone who committed a violent crime before the age of 18 can legally purchase a weapon on his or her 18th birthday. In response to this glaring loophole, my legislation amends federal law and requires states to report violent juvenile crime so that it may be utilized by NICS. Further, the bill makes it illegal for anyone to transfer a weapon to someone who has a history of violent juvenile crime.

Mr. Speaker, the Juvenile Violent Gun Crime Reporting Act is a simple and straightforward bill and could go a long way toward making our streets, schools, and cities much safer for our children and our families. It is a good bill and we hope that my colleagues will join us.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH DISHANNI

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph DiShanni, Founder, Executive Director and Director Emeritus of the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce, who passed away on October 21, 2003.

Mr. DiShanni received many awards, acclamations, and special recognitions throughout his career in acknowledgement of his tireless commitment to his community. He is most revered for his accomplishments in industrial and business development for the City of Irwindale and the San Gabriel Valley. He was affectionately known as "Mr. Irwindale." In addition to his service to the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce, he served on the Los Angeles County Insurance Commission and as a Traffic Safety Commissioner for Los Angeles County.

Born in Walkkill, New York, in 1909, Mr. DiShanni immigrated with his mother and two older sisters to Italy after the death of his father. At the age of 18, he returned to the United States in search of the American Dream. His hard work and dedication to his community made him an inspiration to all who knew him.

The Irwindale community, his family and his beloved wife Margaret will miss him dearly. I am pleased and honored to pay tribute to him today.

THE ARTICLE "THE 'BUT' ECONOMY"

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend to the attention of my colleagues the following article by former General Electric Chairman and CEO Jack Welch.