

the truth. Unfortunately, as was pointed out, sometimes truth is not a defense on this floor under the House rules, and so Millie was proud of the fact that Tip stood up for what he felt was right, as were we all that day.

I find it ironic that Millie died last night, just as the Boston Red Sox were winning the right to move on to the post-season series by seeing the last pitch of the game go the Red Sox way. As a huge, huge Red Sox fan, I know Tip would have been thrilled to see that; but with Millie's dying at that same time, she could at least rush and tell Tip the good news. So I think all of us are hoping that for the next 2 weeks Millie and Tip will have a good box seat in heaven, watching the Red Sox hopefully playing the Cubs in the World Series.

They brought grace to their State. They brought grace to this institution, and they brought good feelings and warmth and cheer and respect to all of us who knew them both; and I know that, as will the family, we will all miss both of them greatly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOLT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### LETTERS FROM CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I just got the good news that in the first inning the Cubs versus Marlins, that the Cubs are three to nothing, scored three runs. So Chicago fans are very, very happy after waiting since 1908 to win a World Series. We think this is the year, and it would be great if it

were the Chicago Cubs and the Boston Red Sox.

But I am here for another purpose this evening, and that is, I wanted to read some of the letters that have come from constituents of mine regarding the war in Iraq, the ongoing war in Iraq, as has the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and others.

The letters and e-mails that have been largely generated by *moveon.org*, that has an online petition asking people, and hundreds of thousands have responded to sign on to their online petition, that says that Congress must withhold the \$87 billion requested by President Bush until he dismisses the team responsible for the quagmire in Iraq, starting with Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, and ends the U.S. occupation of Iraq by transferring authority for rebuilding to the United Nations.

I know that the writers of these letters did not mean just a kind of shuffling of the players, that is, to move Condoleezza Rice up one and Donald Rumsfeld down one, but rather, that the team that has gotten us into this situation in which day after day Americans wake up to news of more of our troops being killed and still no plan. These are the sentiments that are expressed in these letters from my constituents.

David from Chicago says, "Do not authorize the spending of any additional American citizens' money on this madness until the people in charge make a drastic personnel change, draft a complete and detailed game plan directly involving the United Nations, and apologies made to all peoples and nations caught up in this disgraceful and bloody mess!"

Dorothy from Evanston says, "Please zip the open purse closed before our billions and billions of dollars go into the quagmire which is Iraq, largely because of the policies of Secretary Rumsfeld, and President Bush's espousal of same. Secretary Rumsfeld ought to be removed from office as quickly as possible, and we should ask the United Nations to join us as full partners, in authority as in other ways, in trying to normalize Iraq. Thank you very much."

Mary from Chicago says, "I am appalled at the amount of money this administration paid to companies that have such close ties to Bush and his friends. As this atrocity drags out, it is clear that their agenda has always been to get their hands on Iraqi oil and they don't mind sacrificing our servicemen and -women to do it. It is an insult to those men and women, to the American people, and to the world to give this administration the money they have the audacity to demand. If you give it to them, why not make the check directly payable to Halliburton care of Dick Cheney? Please do not give your stamp of approval by voting to give this money, especially before all of the 'players' in this disaster are held accountable for their lies and deception."

David from Chicago says, "The people of Iraq deserve our continued commitment to helping them redevelop their country. However, we must recognize that we can't do it alone and that the United Nations must be legitimately engaged in leading us out of Iraq. Secretary Rumsfeld and his team are clearly unwilling and/or incapable of taking this course and therefore are unfit to continue in their current role."

Another David from Chicago says, "I hear story after story of parents of our men and women serving in Iraq sending regular care packages with things like sunscreen because their children are not being provided these items by the military. It is clear that the money being sent is not being targeted to those in the service and apparently not to the Iraqi people who still lack power, food, water and medical facilities. It does appear that Halliburton is profiting quite nicely from its no-bid contract."

Catherine from Chicago, "I have already voiced my opinion on the issue of the \$87 billion in aid to Iraq in phone calls to my representatives in Congress. This is an outrageous, egregious use of American and my tax dollars. I support appropriate aid. This is a completely inappropriate boondoggle turning into a disaster!"

Keith from Chicago says, "Please do not fund another cent for the occupation of Iraq. It is immoral to expect future generations to pay for a war that does virtually nothing to make Americans or other peoples safe from terrorism."

Jonathan says, who is from Chicago, "Don't reward failure! The war in Iraq was won handily, but the Defense Department's hamfisted attempts to run things in Iraq, over the objections of the more experienced State Department, has been dismal and embarrassing. By all means, fund the continue rebuilding efforts in Iraq, but not while the architects of the current mess are still choosing how to spend the money."

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO MILLIE O'NEILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, in 1976 Congressman Tip O'Neill from Massachusetts was selected by the House to serve as Speaker; and while for most of us that was an exciting era, most people did not know that when he came to Washington and brought his family, he brought the wonderful and the beautiful Mildred O'Neill with him.

All of us have heard and talked about so often the partnerships and the sacrifices that wives and children make for those of us who have offered ourselves for public service, but I do not think that was so with Millie and Tip O'Neill because they just seemed like a

perfect movie Hollywood couple that just loved each other and did not mind expressing that love in front of everybody.

I had the opportunity for 12 consecutive years to travel with Tip O'Neill as he was invited around the world as Speaker; but I do not know whether it was Tip or Millie, but one thing was abundantly clear, that they were not Democratic trips. They were not Republican trips. It was traveling with Millie and Tip O'Neill, and they made everyone feel like just one big congressional family, representing this great body and representing these great United States.

You always feel when you have lost somebody that you just did not spend enough time saying how much you appreciated them while they were here, and I tried to tell Millie how much I loved her, and Millie had been very kind to me, as had Speaker Tip O'Neill; but I suspect that for the rest of us, many who never knew this wonderful couple, that we can take time out as we lost Millie to see whether we could be more sensitive and appreciative, not only to our wives but to our families that are either with us here in Washington or back at home, and that some way we can go to the Members who were fortunate to serve at a time where we did not dislike each other as a body, we may have disagreed on war or disagreed on policy, disagreed on theories, but at the end of the day, we were just so proud to be Members of this House.

□ 2045

It was people like Millie who kept our families together, who kept encouraging our wives, who really inspired a lot of our Members to want to be good Members of Congress and not Democratic and Republican Members of Congress.

So I would just like to join with so many people who knew and loved Millie O'Neill. Not nearly as much as Tip did, but we always will remember him singing to her and her batting eyes as though it was a flirtatious first date. We will miss you, Millie, as we miss Tip. So many of us are just so fortunate and so lucky that if we do not have them, we have their fond memories.

#### TRIBUTE TO MILLIE O'NEILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, Massachusetts will miss Millie O'Neill dearly. She and Tip were one of the greatest couples of the greatest generation. I am sure that if Tip were with us today, he would say that he was the luckiest man in the world to have met his sweetheart Millie in high school, to have her willingly and joyfully join him on a journey through the highs and the lows of national politics in

America's last half century, to have raised three wonderful sons and two outstanding daughters. Tommy, who I met at Boston College; Susan, who was my classmate and a history major with me at Boston College. I have known them my whole life.

This is a wonderful family, and they balanced the demands of that journey against the love and attention that a family requires. And Millie emerged from it all with her love for Tip as strong and as deep and as transparent as the two schoolkids they once were. She leaves a legacy of warmth and companionship that will glow for the ages.

Millie was pretty good at taking Tip's favorite sayings and turning them around to her advantage. One of my favorites is retold in Tip's wonderful autobiography, *Man of the House*. Tip loved to remind people in politics of the priceless advice of Mrs. O'Brian, a neighbor and teacher in North Cambridge. She taught him the lesson that you should never assume someone will vote for you. You have to ask, said Mrs. O'Brian. So Tip writes, "Poor Millie is sick of hearing me tell the Mrs. O'Brian story, and I can't blame her. But during my long career in Congress, we would always go to the polls together on election day, and before leaving the house I would say to her, Honey, I would like to ask for your vote. Tom, she would reply, I will give you every consideration."

Millie's selfless devotion to her children and her grandchildren and her support for the March of Dimes and the arts was unparalleled. All of us in Massachusetts and our country feel like we have lost a pillar of public service. And, oh, how she loved the trips with the Rangels and the Contes and the Moakleys and the Michels on their journeys around the world, this incredible congressional delegation, with each of them becoming a family member of the other family in the course of all of the years that they traveled together.

So for us it is a great loss, but it is I think our country's great, great, great honor to have had Tip and her be the Man and the Woman of this House for 10 years, providing a family-like atmosphere that so many Members long for; that brought a joy to this place, as almost a second home for Members when they were away rather than a place that they just saw as one in which they worked. Those days we all long for. And we thank the O'Neills for the blessings which they conferred upon each of us during their lives because they are amongst our fondest memories.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I pay tribute to a gem of a lady, Millie O'Neill, wife of former Speaker of the House Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, who recently passed away. According to the obituary in the Boston Globe, Millie had taken an afternoon nap in order to watch her beloved Red Sox play the fifth and deciding game of the American League Division Series against the Oak-

land Athletics and she passed away in her sleep.

Millie O'Neill was an incredible woman who was not often recognized for the selfless work she did for Congress and our country. Mr. Speaker, I want to call attention to two things that Mrs. O'Neill was instrumental in achieving. The first was a massive fundraising effort on behalf of the Ford's Theatre Foundation, raising over \$4 million dollars, for which Millie was recognized at a Gala dinner in 1984.

The second item that I believe Mrs. O'Neill deserves to be recognized for was ensuring that the House of Representatives keep normal hours during her husband's Speakership. According to Tip's autobiography, he wrote that when he became Speaker, Millie told him that she didn't want him keeping the House in till 8 or 9 at night because she had heard concerns from other Member's wives that they didn't appreciate not knowing when their husbands would be home. As a result, during the majority of Speaker O'Neill's leadership the House of Representatives was a more family friendly environment and did not have the all night sessions that plague our distinguished body today.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, Mrs. O'Neill passed in her sleep while taking a nap in order to watch her beloved Red Sox play later that evening. Although her passing prevented her from watching in person, I am sure that she was delighted to watch the Red Sox triumph from the best seat in the house, next to her beloved Tip.

Mr. Speaker, I urge of my colleagues to join me in offering the strongest condolences to the entire O'Neill family and request that today's Boston Globe article about her passing be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Boston Globe, Oct. 7, 2003]

MILDRED O'NEILL, 89; WIFE, "PARTNER" OF POLITICAL ICON

(By Ron DePasquale)

Mildred A. "Millie" O'Neill, widow and celebrated sweetheart of Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr., former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, died in her sleep yesterday in her Bethesda, Md., home, her family said.

Her son, former Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Thomas P. O'Neill III of Boston, said Mrs. O'Neill had taken a nap, so she could catch last night's Red Sox playoff game, when she died. She was 89.

Her son called her a "lovely, perfect lady" who enjoyed taking care of her family and working for charity. His parents' love was inspiring, he said. "They were inseparable at a very early age and right through to the end of their lives," he said.

On the dedication page of his 1987 autobiography, "Man of the House," Tip O'Neill referred to his wife as "The Speaker of My House. A loving wife, mother and my partner through so many triumphs and trials."

Anyone involved in Massachusetts politics from the 1940s to the 1980s could remember Tip O'Neill singing the 1930s' tune "Apple Blossom Time" to his wife, said U.S. Representative Barney Frank of Newton. "Whenever you were with the two of them, everybody was happy," Frank said last night. "They were like some couple out of the movies. The sense of warmth that existed between the two of them was just extraordinary."

Born Mildred Miller in Somerville in 1914, she met her future husband at St. John's High School in North Cambridge, where she graduated in 1932.

At a 1999 Boston College ceremony honoring her husband with a permanent library