

TRIBUTE TO MADGE J.
OVERHOUSE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Madge Jennings Overhouse to recognize her lifelong achievements and indisputable legacy of selfless volunteerism and dedication to public service. Madge Jennings Overhouse was born on July 29, 1924 in The Dalles, Oregon, and soon moved to San Jose. She attended San Jose State University, graduating cum laude in history, where she met her husband, a member of both the football and track teams. Madge married Howard Overhouse in 1949, and they had one son, Richard, and three lovely grandchildren, Ashley Ann, Katie and Will Overhouse.

Madge was a descendant of several generations of San Jose natives who served their city and passed that community service ethic on to her. The city's first and third fire chiefs, George and Richard Brown, were ancestors, and her father, Ralph James, was a San Jose fire captain. Her late husband, Howard Overhouse, also was a city firefighter. Madge herself worked for thirty years as a librarian at San Jose State University and San Jose City College.

Her career as a librarian spanned almost 40 years and two institutions, beginning at San Jose State, then moved to San Jose Community College. Typical of Madge, she assumed a leadership role in her profession, serving on the Santa Clara County Library Commission from 1976 to 1982, as well as serving on the California Library Agency for Systems and Services from 1979 to 1984, representing Santa Clara County as an alternate for Supervisor Rod Diridon. Madge also served on the Steering Committee for the Master Plan of California Libraries.

Madge's multitude of contributions to the community throughout her lifetime is legend, and the list of civic organizations that Madge has helped is extensive. We would like to take a moment to reflect on a few pivotal moments here.

Madge was one of the first women to serve on the Executive Board of the Santa Clara County chapter of the Boy Scouts of America. The Santa Clara County Fair Association benefited from Madge's input as a Board member from 1987 to 1995. Madge also served on the boards of the Iota Delta Chapter of the Chi Omega sorority and the Campbell Historical Preservation Board. Madge was a long-time member of the San Jose Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Madge lent her talents to the Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force, which led to the completion of Highway 85, which is now a major transportation artery in the Bay Area. She was honored in 1994 as a County Woman of Achievement for her volunteerism. At the time, she was the political director for the county Democratic Information Center, which she co-founded in 1969. In 1986, she was named County Democrat of the Year. She was a Democratic nominee for the 22nd Assembly District in 1974, served as chairwoman of the Northern California women's division of the Democratic Party and was selected to vote as an elector in the 1992 Electoral College. Over the years, she has

been honored by local police, firefighters and the AFL-CIO Labor Council. This past January 2003, she was presented the California Democratic Party's lifetime achievement award.

Madge Overhouse, known for years as the godmother of the Democratic Party in Santa Clara County, hobnobbed with top local, state and national Democrats for more than 30 years. She was a Democratic National Committee member and attended all but one of the party's conventions, since Jimmy Carter's presidency.

Madge began volunteering for political causes when politics was uncharted territory for women. As a result, she helped future generations of women see more possibilities available to them in politics. Also known as an Oracle of the Democratic Party, Madge lent her expertise to the careers of many public officials both male and female. Speaking from personal experience, Madge's gentleness in behavior, in advice and admonition will be my compass.

It was on Wednesday, September 29, 2004 that Madge Overhouse died of apparent heart failure after battling breast cancer for two years. She was 80. The original diagnosis of cancer was she had a month to live.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a friend, a role model and a constant inspiration. Madge Overhouse's heroic service to our community and guidance to individuals inspired many to go beyond their expectations and, as a result, contribute to the betterment of our beautiful and diverse community in Santa Clara County. Madge was a true hero, in every word and action.

HONORING YULIYA KOSTROMITINA

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yuliya Kostromitina, a student from McKay High School in Salem, Oregon. Yuliya, the daughter of immigrants from Russia, was selected as a delegate to the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships 2004 Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. As a result of the leadership demonstrated by Ms. Kostromitina, she was chosen as one of just four students nationwide, and one of forty internationally, to attend the 7th International Partnership Network Conference in London, England.

Yuliya's achievement is proof that the GEAR UP program, or Gaining Early Awareness and Preparedness for Undergraduate Programs, in which she participates at McKay High, can help build great students. GEAR UP provides five-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP programs serve an entire group of students beginning in middle school and continuing through high school. Within each school GEAR UP funds are used to provide meaningful academic enrichment activities that result in systemic school improvement and increased student achievement that will prepare students to go to college. GEAR UP funds are also used to provide college scholarships to low-income students. With its emphasis on school improvement,

GEAR UP dovetails well with the high standards set by No Child Left Behind and gives schools the resources needed to meet NCLB standards. This outstanding program helps at-risk students succeed in school and prepares them to attend college, an option many of them had previously considered out of reach. GEAR UP helps students from low-income backgrounds realize that they too can succeed in college and shows them the path to a better future.

As Congress considers reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, I hope my colleagues will recognize the value of the GEAR UP program and continue to provide resources that will help students like Yuliya reach their potential.

HONORING MIM KELBER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mim Kelber, one of the bright, shining lights of the women's movement. Mim passed away this summer, leaving a legacy of extraordinary activism and passion for social justice. Best known as Bella Abzug's best friend, soul mate and speechwriter, Mim was also a much-admired activist and leader in her own right.

I had the privilege of speaking at her memorial service on August 17, 2004 where I said, "This weekend the world lost one of the great feminists—Mim Kelber."

A labor journalist, freelance writer and activist, Mim devoted her life to improving the world she lived in. Together with her great friend, Bella Abzug, Mim encouraged women to use their political power to ensure their rights.

There is not an American woman alive today who does not have more rights, command more respect or enjoy more opportunity as a result of their work together. Mim and Bella broke through barriers, shattered glass ceilings and woke people up.

Mim was a consummate organizer, a terrific writer and a true idealist. As co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, the Women USA Fund, the Women's Foreign Policy Council and WEDO, Mim worked to bring other women together to work to achieve common goals.

As an author, Mim helped draft a roadmap for women to follow in fighting for our rights. She wrote part of Bella's unyielding call to arms, including the Contract with the Women of the USA. Mim used her pen to help people change the way they looked at the world and how they lived their lives.

Whenever I wanted to organize women to pass the ERA, to fund UNFPA or to bring women together for any cause, I would call Mim. She was a source of inspiration for me. A veteran of many of the old battles, she always had good advice about how to fight new struggles.

It is incumbent upon all women to keep her spirit alive and to further the irresistible momentum that Mim helped foster. May we long remember her contributions.

To honor her memory, I want to insert into the RECORD some of the other loving tributes

made by family, friends and colleagues that day:

Her daughter, Karli Kelber: "I am so proud to be Mim Kelber's daughter. She was a great speech writer and she also gave many speeches—some in this very room. She was very modest. She would have been amazed by the number of people here today. She could have written for Presidents though unfortunately none of the presidents in recent history would have been worthy enough to read her words."

My mother spent her life working to make the world a better place. She had so many great ideas, especially for organizing women. She would often lament, "If only the men could stay home and the women could run things."

She hated religion, blaming it for so many wars. She often told me to remember that there were more good people than bad people in this world. She believed in the golden rule. She also warned us that happiness was not a constant state of mind—although she wanted her daughters to be happy all the time.

The consummate reporter, she was always asking questions. She taught me the five "w" questions at an early age and her sharp editing skills helped me through high school and college—if only she could have edited this speech!

She educated me to care about others. To help make a difference. The lessons started quite early. She was pregnant with me when she was called to the House Un-American Activities hearings in Washington where she took the 5th Amendment. She then named me after a very famous Karl.

Women's Strike for Peace and PTA politics were a constant in my childhood. She took my sister and me to countless peace demonstrations. And then there was Bella Abzug's strong influence on our lives. I was incredibly proud of the powerful speeches my mother wrote for her and mesmerized by the way Bella spoke. There was always hope in the air despite so many setbacks—and the victories were exhilarating.

Those were exciting times for my mother yet she told me that her happiest days were raising my sister and me in our Clark Street apartment across from the Brooklyn Heights promenade. She had a deep love and admiration for my father. She was in awe of his constant energy and determination and would often exclaim, "Your father is really a remarkable man!" That he is. And she adored her five grandchildren.

The peaceful world she envisioned has not yet come to pass. After witnessing terrorism from her living room window, in despair she told me, "We worked so hard—we always thought that things would get better." She labeled herself "a realist" yet her whole life was guided by an optimistic activism. Although her last days were a painful struggle for her, her intellect and political astuteness would often shine through. She was constantly composing letters to the editors in her head.

Katherine Hepburn, my mother's favorite actress, who was a true feminist, said, "I have no fear of death. Must be wonderful, like a big sleep. But let's face it: it's how you live that really counts."

My mother leaves behind a legacy of social activism and love. She had a real vision of the way things could be and she taught us never to give up—and mom, we never will."

Bella Abzug's daughter, Liz Abzug: "First, I want to send my deepest condolences to Mim's family and her friends."

Mim knew my mother, Bella Abzug, for 60 years. They were classmates at Walton High School in the Bronx. They worked together at Women's Strike for Peace in the sixties—pro bono, of course—and when my mother ran for Congress, Mim was tirelessly there for her, from the first campaign to the last.

In 1971, when my mother was elected to her first term in Congress, she named Mim as her executive policy assistant and speech writer. Mim chose to work out of New York instead of Washington because she didn't want to be separated from Harry and her children.

In 1980, Mim and my mother co-founded the Women USA Fund and in 1990, they co-founded Women's Environment and Development Organization, WEDO. Along the way, they co-authored many, many publications. Just to name a few—*Bella Abzug's Guide to Political Power for American Women*; *Women and Government*, *New Ways to Political Power* and *Gender Gap* which they dedicated "To our daughters and to young women everywhere, the future leaders of our Nation."

In other words, Bella Abzug couldn't have gotten along without Mim Kelber. I remember these lively discussions they had together, these great debates that were often loud—at least on my mother's part—and I think each inspired the other.

My mother often told me that she thought Mim was brilliant. From everything we've heard here today, I think it's obvious why."

Harold Holzer: "I first met Mim Kelber on a Monday morning in March of 1975—at Bella Abzug's Congressional offices at 252 Seventh Avenue. It was more than 29 years ago . . . a lifetime, really. But it seems to me, and probably to many of you, like yesterday. A yesterday when, unlike today, hope really did seem to be on the way."

I can still see the configuration of our office with vivid clarity: Bella and Dora Friedman in side-by-side offices, usually arguing. Sylvia Epstein and her constituent services operation to the south, although she was always available to come around the corner, for arguing. And to Bella's North—in a bullpen setting with steel and frosted glass walls that only rose five feet off the floor, sat Mim. An island of isolation and serenity. Tranquility and concentration in the eye of a hurricane. And right outside Mim's enclave was what passed for the press office . . . namely, me. Arguing.

But not with Mim. In fact, for 2 years I don't think I ever saw Mim's face for more than a few minutes every day. That's because her back was always to me. What I saw was her blonde hair, her head rigidly facing her desk against the wall, as if her gaze could not be torn away from the paper before her, no matter how loud the distraction. Her concentration was awesome. I've never seen anything like it before or since. What I heard from her direction was the constant clatter of her electric typewriter—remember that familiar sound in the days before computers? Rhythmically, rapidly, relentlessly, from 9 in the morning until 6 at night, when she would calmly board the Lexington Avenue subway for Brooklyn Heights to claim a bit of peace until the next morning.

Even more remarkably, not only did those words flow quickly—but also flawlessly. It's hard to imagine—these, after all, were the

days before we could move paragraphs, re-arrange words, and correct errors with the mere press of a button. But Mim had a computer operating in her head when Bill Gates was still a baby. She would pause from time to time, but for what only seemed like a second—then would come another clatter of the keys and another flood of words.

The office had its own particular assembly line. Speeches and statements flowed from Mim's electric typewriter to my desk for adaptation into press releases—while an office worker faxed a copy on to Bella in Washington—page by laborious page. Yes, those were also the days of the dinosaur fax—complete with chemical smells.

Somehow we got it done. And inevitably, almost routinely, by the time Bella rose to speak on the floor of the House, on the campaign trail around the state, and later around the world—the magic of the words were filtered through the singular personality and passion of her lifelong soul-mate. And the result made history.

I wasn't there to observe the development of the dynamic synergy that bound these two great women together. By the time I joined the assembly line, it was well-oiled, honed by years of practice, give and take, debate, a little fighting, and lots of passion—the fire and ice, yin and yang, of a partnership that inspired, challenged, and ultimately changed the nation. I simply had the privilege, for a few precious years, to observe it, promote it, marvel at it, celebrate it. And see some of its more hilarious manifestations, too.

Once, during the Senate campaign, Mim had prepared a 20-page speech for Bella to deliver in Buffalo. But Mim had also written a 20-page speech to deliver a few nights later in New York. Bella liked both of them—she didn't know which to use—and then hours before we were ready to leave, she demanded that Mim write an entirely new speech, based on the best of both. Mim's reply was simple: "Forget it Bella." They exchanged words. Bella screamed. Mim shouted back—in her own way. Then she simply turned and left. Bella's response: "I'll do it myself." Then she added: "The quiet ones always get you in the end!"

We were late: she grabbed up the two speeches and took them with her. We flew to western New York—Bella, Maggi Peyton, and me—she was holding the two speeches, still trying to figure out what to include and what to cut when we took an elevator up to the top floor of a Buffalo hotel. But when the doors opened, a huge gust of wind blew into the cab and all the papers went flying into the air and settled slowly to the floor. Bella said to us: "Pick those papers up and give them to me." We handed her 40 pages, which she simply shuffled together in no particular order. That night Bella Abzug gave two Mim Kelber speeches in one—and you know what? It sounded fine. Happily, Bella ran out of gas about two-thirds of the way through, or she might have spent the entire campaign there.

Bella is gone now. 252 Seventh Avenue is a luxury co-op—a far cry from the place where Dora couldn't leave animal crackers in her desk overnight without the mice eating them. But Bella's memory burns bright. And Mim's words live on in every thought inspiring the hope for a saner world—the world of peace and equality to which she gave such articulate vision.

The quiet ones will get you in the end. And Mim's quiet—her quiet dignity, tirelessness,

eloquence—got us right in the heart—in the beginning, for the duration, in the end, and always.

One day, Mim walked out of the office—after an upheaval of a fight with Bella, accompanied by slamming doors and angry words—the full deal—about something quickly forgotten. But ever the professional, before she left Mim took her latest speech and practically threw it on Bella's desk.

Bella erupted. She pounded her fist on the table, took off her hat and slammed it down, and only then picked up the pages and started reading. She turned one page, then the other, grew silent, then looked up and smiled and said: "There's no one like Mimi." As usual, Bella was right."

Mim was a source of strength and inspiration to thousands of women who heard her words or followed her career. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mim Kelber, a brilliant strategist, eloquent writer, and faithful friend.

TRIBUTE TO ART GINSBURG

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting my good friend, Mr. Art Ginsburg. On November 6, 2004, the Los Angeles Valley College will honor him at its annual President's Gala. Art is a successful businessman and respected community leader who selflessly devotes much of his time and resources to community, governmental, civic and charitable organizations.

As the Vice President of the Los Angeles City Planning Review Board, he works hard to enhance the commercial areas of Studio City. He is a founding member of the Studio City Improvement Association and helped create its "Sidewalk Walk of Fame." Also, Art has been an active member of the Studio City Chamber of Commerce for 47 years and he serves as a member of the Studio City Residents Association.

A wonderful place to eat and one of the San Fernando Valley's famous landmarks is "Art's Delicatessen and Restaurant" in Studio City. It is a family run business that has been a favorite of many of my constituents since its opening in 1957. I know first-hand that, "every sandwich is a work of Art."

In addition to his business accomplishments, Art is a strong supporter of Los Angeles Valley College which he attended in 1956 and 1957. He is a member of the Board of Directors college foundation, the Patrons Association, and serves on the business liaison, executive council and scholarship committees. He has established a number of scholarships that have greatly benefitted many students. Art frequently sponsors campus activities by providing food from his Deli.

Art and his lovely wife, Sandy, have three children and three grandchildren. Two more grandchildren are expected soon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in saluting my good friend Art Ginsburg and congratulating him on the honor being bestowed on him by Los Angeles Valley College.

RECOGNIZING THE YOUNG MEN'S LEAGUE OF GUAM FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING RESOLUTION TO GUAM WAR CLAIMS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the Young Men's League of Guam (YMLG) in building community support for the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission and working to bring resolution to a painful era in Guam's history.

As Guam's oldest fraternal organization, the Young Men's League of Guam, in conjunction with the Mayor's Council of Guam, has taken a lead role in building community consensus on the issue of Guam War Claims following the presentation of the Guam War Claims Review Commission report to Congress on June 9, 2004. YMLG and the Mayor's Council collected 1,800 signatures in a petition to the President, Congress, and local leaders requesting Congressional action to bring closure to the horrific experiences endured by the people of Guam, demonstrating broad support within our community for resolving the issue of Guam War Claims. YMLG advocates quick action on the recommendations of the Review Commission's report to bring closure for the remaining survivors of the occupation.

YMLG President and Chairman Dr. Jose T. Nededog and other YMLG leaders have championed the cause of bringing recognition and justice to those who experienced the occupation. Dr. Nededog, who lost his older brother in the Fena cave massacre during the occupation, is like many Chamorros, who after enduring enemy occupation went on to proud careers of service in the U.S. military.

Guam is the only United States jurisdiction invaded and occupied by enemy forces since the war of 1812. Over 8,000 Chamorros suffered personal injury, including rape, beatings, forced labor, forced march and internment, and approximately 1,000 were killed at the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army. YMLG is concerned that many of those who survived the brutal 32 month occupation are passing away before the issue of War Claims is fully resolved.

I commend Dr. Nededog, the Young Men's League of Guam, and the Mayor's Council of Guam for being a voice for the survivors of the occupation of Guam and for actively engaging in the effort to bring closure to the issue of Guam war claims. I welcome their support and encouragement and look forward to moving this issue through the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to submit for the RECORD a copy of the Young Men's League of Guam Resolution No. 01-04 "Relative to Expressing Strong Support to the Recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission for the Chamorro People."

RESOLUTION No. 01-04

Whereas, the Young Men's League of Guam is the oldest Chamorro fraternal organization on Guam, established in 1917; and

Whereas, members of the League are replete with great leaders of Guam who determined the destiny of Guam and its people; and

Whereas, the majority of the members of the League and their families have experi-

enced the atrocities of the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II; and

Whereas, the majority of the members of the League have testified before the Guam War Claims Review Commission during their visit to Guam to secure testimonies from the Chamorro people who experienced the atrocities of the Japanese occupation; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors and the Council of Elders of the League were elected at large by the general membership; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors and the Council of Elders are representatives of the General membership with the fiduciary responsibility of overseeing the general welfare and well being of the members: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Young Men's League of Guam totally supports the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission that would bring closure to the long awaited recognition for the undue suffering of the Chamorro people through Japanese atrocities during World War II because of their dedication and loyalty to America; and be it further

Resolved, That the Young Men's League of Guam requests the Guam Legislature and the Governor of Guam to jointly support the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission.

NATIONAL WILDERNESS PROCLAMATION MONTH

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, it has been 40 years since Congress passed the 1964 National Wilderness Act, which has allowed parts of public land to be protected by law for future generations.

It might surprise some to know that this groundbreaking act of legislation was derived in part from the work of a New York City resident, David McClure, who chaired the Committee on Forest Preservation at the state constitutional convention in Albany in 1894.

McClure helped draft an article, which ensured that certain state land would remain "forever wild." Those words, adopted by the convention and later approved by the voters, have never been altered and remain in effect for the 3-million acre New York State forest preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill parks. This visionary accomplishment was the inspiration for those who drafted the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a New York City Proclamation honoring the 40th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act and designating September 2004, in New York City, as National Wilderness Act Month.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas: While we thrive in a concrete jungle, New Yorkers are not blind to the necessity of forest preservation. In fact, our urban sensibility allows us a special appreciation for green spaces and wilderness.

Whereas: It has been forty years since Congress passed the 1964 National Wilderness Act, which has allowed a small percentage of the nation's public lands to be protected by law for future generations. It might surprise some to know that this groundbreaking act of legislation was derived in part from the work of a New York City resident, David McClure, who chaired the Committee on Forest Preservation at the State Constitutional