

She took on such subjects as Joe McCarthy, the war in Vietnam, Richard Nixon, and U.S. policy in Central America. And while she was an unabashed liberal and proud of it, many of her admirers included some of the most conservative politicians in America, in large part because they admired her integrity and her character. She called it as she saw it.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join and commend him and commend our Rules Committee colleague, the gentlewoman from New York, for focusing on the life of Mary McGrory. I think that the gentleman may have been referring to me with what he just said because I am a proud Republican who often, in fact I rarely agreed with Mary McGrory. But the fact of the matter is she was an incredible writer, an extraordinary human being, and very talented. I had many vigorous exchanges with her on a wide range of issues. Believe it or not, we did on more than a couple of occasions come down on the same side on an issue. She was thoughtful, she was dedicated, and she was very capable.

I just want to thank my friend and join as one of those Republicans who did have a great admiration for this great woman. I thank the gentleman for yielding and again thank the gentlewoman from New York.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I appreciate the gentleman's words.

Mr. Speaker, I would also remind those who are watching that her words that appeared in the Washington Star after the assassination of President Kennedy are still remembered and are still quoted today and are incredibly moving. She was also a rarity in that when she felt she was wrong, she said so. I remember that she was less than thrilled when President Bill Clinton gave Gerry Adams a visa to come to the United States to engage in talks about peace in Northern Ireland. It was a big deal to many of us who thought President Clinton was right because when you think of Irish, you think of Mary McGrory, and it was important to have her on your side. But later on Mary demonstrated the courage and the moral compass to publicly observe that her original words of skepticism might have been wrong. I admired that so much that she was willing to write in her column that she had a change of heart.

Over the years, Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of being invited to many of Mary's famous dinner parties. These remarkable events were attended by who's who in Washington. There were politicians, journalists, administration officials. Oftentimes the Ambassadors of Ireland, Italy, and India were present. There were young people and some not-so-young people, and there were lots of people whom Mary just

found interesting, friends of hers over the years. The conversations were always lively and off the record. I learned a lot about Washington and the world just by sitting back and listening.

These dinner parties, however, were about more than just politics and good conversation. They were parties that were also about entertainment and about fun. Mary liked to have people sing for their supper. Mark Gearan, a long-time aide to President Bill Clinton, former director of the Peace Corps and now president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, was regularly enlisted to play the piano. Phil Gailey, a former co-worker of Mary's at her beloved Washington Star and now with the St. Petersburg Times, would play some sort of harp instrument that to this day I still cannot identify.

Some of Mary's guests, like LOUISE SLAUGHTER and TOM DASCHLE and John Podesta and DICK GEPHARDT and ED MARKEY and Max Cleland and Mary Gearan and NANCY PELOSI, the late Tip O'Neill and my former boss, the late Joe Moakley, were often called upon to sing from Mary's song book. Some of her favorites included "Amazing Grace" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." Other people were asked to tell jokes or recite poetry. And then there were people like me with absolutely no talent who would hide in the back of the room, I was always afraid she would call on me, and watch this amazing show unfold.

Mary also did a great deal for this community. She was a huge supporter of St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville, Maryland. She volunteered there. She read to a lot of young kids, many of them who had no families. She gave them love, and she gave them hope. She used to take them to Hickory Hill, to Ethyl Kennedy's house, for swimming on a regular basis. A lot of the young kids could not pronounce her name, so they used to call her Mary Gloria instead of Mary McGrory. In fact they named a room after her called the Mary Gloria Room.

Mr. Speaker, let me just conclude with one final personal thought. When Mary died, she left instructions about how her funeral would be conducted. Her assistant Tina called me and said that Mary wanted me to be a pallbearer. I was so touched, and I thought it was such a great honor. It was to me an honor like getting an honorary degree from an Ivy League college or university because I admired this woman so much. She stood for all the right things, and she was a great woman of integrity and character.

Mr. Speaker, all of us who are gathered here today and I think all the people who are watching all throughout this country will miss Mary McGrory. I already do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order out of turn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARY MCGRORY

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a consummate patriot Mary McGrory, who passed away 2 weeks ago, and we may never see her like again. Mary was a loyal friend, a generous humanitarian, and most of all, a brilliant writer. Her lyrical commentary illustrated a command of the English language that was unparalleled. She used her talents to craft tough commentary, softened only by her steadfast compassion. Her allegiance to the defeat of injustice and the exposure of political phonies made her a champion to the underprivileged, a thorn in the side of policy makers, an icon to many, and a hero to me.

I met Mary McGrory shortly after coming to Washington when I was first elected in 1986. And as part of my campaign, I had run against the Contras. I thought everybody was. But Mary singled me out as being somewhat unusual, and she interviewed me for an article shortly after I got here that she was writing about the Iran Contra hearings, and we became very fast friends. I certainly never expected that wonderful national icon Mary McGrory to seek me out, but I had always loved her articles and I was awestruck by the fact that we were friends.

The passion with which she approached her life was remarkable. Nothing she did was done halfheartedly or without absolute conviction. As a result, her achievements as a journalist were preordained.

Mary's story serves as an inspiration to women working to achieve their dreams. When she entered the field of journalism, men dominated it. Journalism was not an easy profession for a woman to break into. Her first assignment in Washington was "gender appropriate" for the time, writing the book reviews for the Washington Star. But then she covered the Army-McCarthy hearings in 1954. Mary McGrory was the first person in the country to announce and denounce Joe McCarthy

as a bully. She then earned a national reputation as a serious and credible journalist of the first magnitude.

She grabbed the heart of the Nation with her coverage of President Kennedy's assassination. Her poetic tribute to his life and gentle commentary of his funeral comforted a grieving Nation.

The national spotlight shined on Mary again in 1974 when she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for commentary for her coverage of the Water-gate scandal. She was most proud that her coverage landed her a spot on President Nixon's notorious "enemies list." That recognition served not as a warning to tame her merciless analysis but as a validation for her relentless work ethic.

When the Washington Star closed its doors in 1981, Mary was devastated. I am convinced, I believe, that she had lost her own true love. Although she would continue to write for the Washington Post, whom she also loved, her first allegiance was to the Star.

My colleague has already talked about the wonderful work that she did with the orphans and the children needing help in this city for more than 5 decades, but I can never forget Mary McGrory the entertainer. I was a proud member of the Lower Macomb Street Choral Society for which we had to audition. Whether one was a diplomat, a media member, or anybody, they had to audition for that group in the comfort of her living room. Her infamous lasagnas fed our stomachs and her favorite Irish songs fed our hearts. It was a coveted invitation to go to McComb Street, and then for the last 10 years, Mary and I have had dinner together here in the Capitol just before the State of the Union address, and the next one for me will be extremely lonely.

I last spoke with her on the day that the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) rescued the portrait of Mary Theresa Norton from one of the Capitol closets. She had been the Chair of the Committee on Labor and was responsible for child labor laws and the fair labor standards, and we knew nothing about her. We were happy that day to find an article that Mary had written about Congresswoman Norton where she quoted the gentleman from Michigan's (Mr. DINGELL) father as saying that Mary Theresa Norton could do anything that any man could do and do it better and do it faster, and it was a great honor to pay to her.

I would like to end with one of Mary's favorite songs that we sang together with Phil Gailey sometimes at 2 and 3 in the morning, and they sang this at her funeral, and I know the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), who is here in the audience, will know this.

I'll meet you in the morning
With a how do you do
And will sit down the river
And with rapture old acquaintance renew.
You'll know me in the morning
By the smile that I wear

When I meet you in the morning
In the city Four Square.

I will meet you there, Mary.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

ABU GHRAIB PRISON

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as an American, I am ashamed and disgusted by the horrendous unspeakable acts at Abu Ghraib prison caught in pictures and displayed around the world. The impact of these images is devastating precisely in the part of the world where we are already struggling to counter the widespread impression that we do not respect the Arab world and Islamic traditions.

There is no excuse for these pictures and the acts shown. There is no excuse for a Secretary of Defense to be out of the loop and then deliver an apology that sounds like a lecture. I have listened repeatedly to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld dismissively brush aside penetrating questions from Members of Congress about both his policies and their execution.

We have seen Rumsfeld and his civilian managers at the Pentagon fail to appreciate and understand concerns from their uniformed command structure. They have dismissed the truth tellers like General Eric Shinseki who gave an honest and accurate assessment of troop requirements. They have removed people within the administration like White House National Economic Council Director Larry Lindsey who was candid about the cost of this war.

At one time I thought Rumsfeld's refusal to put a price on the projected cost on the mission he was leading was because he was trying to hide it.

While it is true there has been no excess of candor from this crew, it is becoming more and more clear that another reason that Rumsfeld and his team have not been forthcoming is that they probably really do not know. They have not a clue and repeatedly do not appear to care that they do not know.

The most recent example from the guy who is always trying to look like he is in charge but not knowing what is going on is the report of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners which has forced the President into a series of embarrassing efforts to apologize. A war that has begun with the exaggerated threats of weapons of mass destruction has morphed into a war that is based upon, well, I frankly do not begin to under-

stand the latest justification. It took reporters like Seymour Hersh of the New Yorker to force other reporters to know what they knew and only when the truth behind the administration's contradictions and misinformation is exposed does the administration acknowledge that there may be a problem. And now months after a report that highlighted these problems, there is a grudging acknowledgment and apparently some steps are being taken to correct it after widespread damage to our credibility, damage to our already low-standing in the Arab world, and giving a green light to people who take our troops and other American citizens hostage as we have lost moral authority to effectively protest abuse of our people.

The administration does not know what is going on and clearly they are unsure about what to do. They are spending huge sums of money on private contractors that is not just eating up far more than it would take to equip U.S. troops properly but blurs lines of responsibility. They do not know whom to hold accountable, and if they did, it is unclear what they can do to these independent contractors other than canceling a contract.

I think it is clear four things need to happen. First, we should open our Iraqi prisons to independent third-party monitoring by the United Nations and International Red Cross. There is a reason why we should honor constitutional protections and commit to international standards of law and prisoner treatment. We should stop delegating to unaccountable private contractors functions that should be under the direct control and supervision of United States military uniformed command. We need to get a new Secretary of Defense, somebody who really is on top of the situation and who does read reports, who is not dismissive of our allies, of Congress, and of his own uniformed command.

Most important, for those of us who are in Congress, we should be finding out ourselves about these issues, not relying on the New Yorker and CNN.

There was a time when congressional panels, oversight committees were exercising oversight. We can grumble about the administration, but failure to do our job is only our fault.

PRISONERS IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we are all shocked, saddened, and outraged by recent reports of the abuse of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan. The evidence cannot be in dispute. Graphic photos have gone from one end of the earth to the other that show stripped young Iraqi men forced to lie in a naked pile with a male and female soldier standing over them and hamming for the camera. Whether we like it or not, the