

20,000 Hungarians and 3,500 Russians died in the fighting. The defeat of the Hungarian Revolt was one of the darkest moments of the Cold War, but it was also one of the early indications that the freedom-loving peoples of Central and Eastern Europe could not be forever repressed.

The documentary takes its name from one of the most memorable images of the 1956 Hungarian Revolt. The revolutionaries cut from the center of the Hungarian tricolor flag the coat of arms of the communist People's Democratic Republic of Hungary. The flag with a hole in its center was emblematic of the Hungarian people's desire to rip out communism from their homeland, and this has been one of the most enduring symbols of the 1956 Revolution.

Like the student revolution in Tiananmen Square, China, in April 1989, where Chinese students were brutally suppressed after a massive demonstration for democratic reform, the Hungarian Revolt provided the world with sharp insights into communist tyranny. The governments of the Soviet Union in 1956 in Hungary and China in 1989 at Tiananmen Square used similar tactics in cracking down on dissidents. In my office, everyday I see a large picture of the brave Chinese student who stood boldly in front of a long row of tanks during the Tiananmen revolt. That Chinese student and the brave Hungarian revolutionaries of 1956 represent the fighting spirit of all men and women against tyranny.

The 1956 Revolution in Hungary is full of lessons and inspiration for people living under repressive regimes even today. The heroic fight of thousands of young men and women has played a crucial role in leading to the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to note with me the upcoming 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, to watch for the documentary "Torn from the Flag", and to rejoice that men and women everywhere are willing to unite in the fight, despite overwhelming odds against them, in order to free themselves from tyranny and repression.

TRIBUTE TO WYANDOTTE COUNTY,
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, MAYOR/
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CAROL MARINOVICH

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was once talking with a group of constituents from Wyandotte County, and asked who they looked up to in Kansas City, Kansas.

A gentleman said, "I can't say I look up to her because she is barely five feet tall, but I do admire and respect Carol Marinovich."

As Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, Carol Marinovich established a record of achievement that inspired awe throughout the Kansas City area and beyond. Whether as a teacher, special education coordinator, or Kansas City Councilwoman, she has brought a sense of hope, pride and progress to Wyandotte County.

First elected as Mayor of the City of Kansas City in April 1995, she served as Mayor/CEO

of the Unified Government since its establishment in April 1997, stepping down from that post on April 20th of this year.

During that time, Carol provided leadership in a period of unprecedented change and growth that has transformed Wyandotte County into a place with much to celebrate. She spearheaded the city/county consolidation process, taking two separate entities and bringing them together into one more effective and efficient government. House by house, she worked with neighborhood groups to reinvest in our neighborhoods. Evidence of that success is everywhere: the Mount Zion Estates, Turtle Hill, Cathedral Pointe, Mission Cliffs, Rainbow Park, Mount Carmel Place, Carmelle Estates, River's Edge East, Jersey South, Nehemiah, and the Strawberry Hill Townhomes and St. Peter/Waterway. In 2004, 500 housing permits were issued in Wyandotte County—a 40 year high. In the same year, crime dropped by 7 percent and Wyandotte County experienced the fewest murders in ten years and unemployment dropped for the first time in five years.

With Carol's guidance, downtown revitalization has been spurred by projects such as the Hilton Garden Inn with the adjacent, renovated Reardon Center, the new Board of Public Utilities building, and the federal Region VII Environmental Protection Agency headquarters. She has helped make dreams of developing western Wyandotte County a reality, where the Village West project is still expanding. Today we are all proud it is home to the Kansas Speedway, Cabela's, the Nebraska Furniture Mart, and the Great Wolf Lodge. As she left office, \$1,000,000 of redevelopment projects were under construction in the city's urban core, and the mill levy had dropped 18 percent during her tenure.

In 1989, Carol became the first woman elected to the City Council of Kansas City. Six years later, she was the first woman elected Mayor of Kansas City, Kansas. During her tenure, she received the Excellence in Local Government Award from the League of Kansas Municipalities and has been recognized by Governing Magazine as one of the Public Officials of the Year in America. She was picked by Kansas City Magazine as "Best Local Politician" and was awarded the Excellence in Community Service Award by the Points of Light Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I'm 6'2" tall, but I look up to Carol Marinovich. Mayor/CEO Carol Marinovich turned our community into a place where you would want to work, shop, live and raise a family. I am proud of everything she has accomplished and even more proud to call her a friend. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD for review by the House of Representatives an article that was carried by the Kansas City Star on the day Mayor Marinovich concluded her tenure in office.

[From the Kansas City Star, Apr. 20, 2005]

MARINOVICH LEAVING DRIVER'S SEAT
WITH KCK TRANSFORMED, MAYOR'S TERM ENDS

(By Mark Wiebe)

A bleak landscape confronted Carol Marinovich when she was elected mayor of Kansas City, Kan., in 1995: high crime, plummeting population, a crumbling retail base.

Today, violent crime has been cut in half, record numbers of housing permits are being issued, and Wyandotte County boasts the largest tourist attraction in Kansas with its Village West retail district.

One constant throughout that decade of change has been Marinovich, the former schoolteacher who once said she decided to run for mayor because "it was my town—and it was going down the tubes."

Tonight, Marinovich ends her political career in local government when Joe Reardon is sworn in as the Unified Government's second mayor and CEO. After 16 years in public service, she leaves behind a county that has shed its image as the area's beleaguered stepchild.

During that time, she's made countless tough decisions, but the ones she believes will shape her legacy are often overlooked in the narrative of the county's success: consolidation of the city and county governments in 1997, and neighborhood revitalization.

The latter helped Marinovich, 54, cultivate allies at the grass-roots level. Consolidation was but one issue that created political enemies for her, and some complained of her unyielding style. Even among some of her most vocal critics, though, there is a grudging respect for the change she helped usher in.

That stubbornness, supporters said, was a decided asset.

"Has she upset people? Made them mad? Yes," said Cindy Cash, president of the Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce. "When you're doing what you think is best for the community, you do run the risk. . . . But she does have the best interest of the community at heart."

PROGRESS, NOT POLISH

Marinovich isn't a highly polished politician. Her extemporaneous moments are sometimes peppered with unfinished sentences. She is not adept at working a crowd. Put her in a cocktail party where she doesn't know anyone, she says, and "I'd probably stay five minutes then get in my car and go home."

The issue that secured her first political victory, to the City Council in 1989, is one that remains close to her heart: the revitalization of the city's urban neighborhoods. She kept that emphasis through her six year tenure on the council and then into the mayor's office.

"Neighborhood groups weren't heard of" before Marinovich became mayor, said Patty Dysart, executive director of the Armourdale Renewal Association. "I can remember five or six. But they would ride in parades and that was about it."

Today, the county boasts more than 130 neighborhood groups, many of them active in crime watches and cleanups, reporting code violators and organizing community events.

As soon as she was elected, Marinovich established "impact teams" that made cleanup sweeps through neighborhoods. Such efforts demonstrated to neighborhood leaders like Dysart—tough-talking and demanding grassroots supporters—that Marinovich meant business.

"She didn't have my respect at first," Dysart said. "I just didn't think she cared, especially about Armourdale."

Her opinion changed when Marinovich participated in an impact team and attended some of Dysart's meetings. She realized then that Marinovich was "just quiet and shy but has this big heart."

HARD-WON RESPECT

Despite her supporters' admiration, Marinovich leaves a city that is not entirely enamored of her. In her 2001 run against Elmer Sharp, she grabbed what many considered an unimpressive 53 percent of the vote. In this month's mayoral election, she supported former state Rep. Rick Rehorn; he lost by an 18 percent margin.

Former Unified Government Commissioner Joe Vaught, who backed Marinovich in 2001,

said her stubborn and uncompromising leadership style had alienated some people.

Still, he said, "our city moved forward, and she was in charge. So whether I liked her or didn't like her, the city moved forward and that was important."

Then there's the county's Achilles heel: high property taxes. Despite an 18 percent reduction in the Unified Government's rate of taxation since 1997, most property tax bills continue to rise as property values surge.

State Sen. David Haley, who lost to Marinovich in a landslide in 1997 and who later sparred with her on many legislative matters, accused the mayor of not doing more to lower taxes. "I just think she had the power to be a catalyst for progress for the taxpayers," he said. "It's not an abuse of power; it's just an underutilization of all that office could have done."

Despite that criticism, Haley insisted that Marinovich "does have a track record that is enviable. And at the end of the day, she accomplished a tremendous amount for Wyandotte County."

Marinovich acknowledges that the Unified Government, which came with the promise of more efficient government, needs to rein in spending. In 1997, county and city spending stood at \$168.8 million. In 2003, the last year available for the government's actual expenses, that figure had jumped 24.6 percent, to \$210 million.

Wage increases, rising health-care costs, the addition of nearly 100 employees—many of them hired to form a new emergency medical service—account for much of that increase. But with a budget that stands at more than \$250 million this year, the government's expenses aren't going down.

Marinovich, who attributes many of the budget issues to the plight of an aging city, said one of the biggest challenges for the next administration would be to get that spending under control. If it can't, she said, "That doesn't bode well for the future."

A LASTING MARK

If Marinovich controlled her legacy, she would place revitalization and consolidation of the city and county governments above economic development. County Administrator Dennis Hays seconds that.

Consolidation ended decades of local Democratic Party machine politics. But, Hays said, it also gave the community a single body to make decisions. "We could not have done what we did with the speedway and Village West without it," Hays said. "Our community needed a single voice to take a risk and move forward."

Consolidation also gave Marinovich immense power. With a veto threat in hand, the ability to break tie votes and the authority to hire and fire the administrator (with the commission's support), the Unified Government's mayor occupies a position of strength that other mayors around Kansas City can only dream of.

It's a government with true executive power, said real estate agent Mike Jacobi,

co-founder of the consolidation movement. And Marinovich has used that power responsibly, he said: "She restored our integrity. Taxes were skyrocketing; values were falling. 'When you restore the integrity of the community,' he said, 'it's OK to invest here again. It's OK to live here again.'

THE MARINOVICH LEGACY

The most visible evidence of Wyandotte County's economic resurgence under Carol Marinovich is Kansas Speedway and Village West commercial district.

To make way for that massive complex in 1998, Marinovich and the Unified Government Commission displaced 150 families in western Wyandotte County—the most difficult moment of her political career, she has said.

Other hallmarks of her tenure: Consolidation of the city and county governments. Voter approval of consolidation in 1997 quelled the influence of a powerful Democratic Party machine that had overseen decades of economic decline.

As a city councilwoman, she teamed with District Attorney Nick Tomasic to take on the city's adult entertainment industry, eventually wiping it out.

With the Unified Board of Commissioners' support, she stepped up the demolition of blighted structures and cracked down on code violators, angering landlords who viewed the measures as too harsh.

LEFT UNDONE

The unfinished business that Marinovich had hoped to address: Furthering economic development to broaden the tax base and lower tax bills for property owners.

Creating plans for an ambitious development near the confluence of the Missouri and the Kansas Rivers.

Bringing more commercial and residential development to the urban core.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Marinovich insists she doesn't know what she will do next. Her immediate plans are to take a brief vacation and to spend more time in her garden and with her husband, Wyandotte County District Judge Ernie Johnson.

Is another run for higher office looming? "Not at this point," she says. "I don't enjoy the politics. Never have. I don't think I ever will."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1989: Becomes first woman elected to the Kansas City, Kan., City Council.

1995: Becomes the city's first woman elected mayor, defeating incumbent Joe Steiniger.

1997: Wins voter support for consolidation of the city and Wyandotte County governments; elected first mayor and CEO of the county's Unified Government, defeating state legislator David Haley.

2001: Wins second term as mayor and CEO, defeating former City Councilman Elmer Sharp; plans are announced to use tax incentives to bring Cabela's, Nebraska Furniture Mart and Great Wolf Lodge to the city.

2002: Named one of the nation's top 11 public officials by Governing magazine.

2004: Announces she won't seek re-election, becoming the first mayor in decades to leave voluntarily.

April 20, 2005: Hands over office to Mayor-elect Joe Reardon.

RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT DAVID WALLACE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary public servant. Lieutenant David Wallace has served the people of Litchfield, Illinois, for over 20 years as a firefighter and a training officer for first responders. Like all firefighters, he has dedicated his career to protecting the people of his community.

But on June 7 of last year, Lieutenant Wallace went above and beyond the call of duty, even for his noble profession. Just after midnight, a 9-1-1 dispatcher reported people trapped in a fire in a mobile home just two blocks from Lieutenant Wallace's own home. Though off duty, he rushed out the door and was the first rescuer on the scene. Upon arrival, he noted the heavy black smoke billowing out of the building's back porch. Knowing that there was an individual trapped in the home, but also aware that his own safety equipment was aboard a fire truck that was yet to arrive, Lieutenant Wallace made a split-second, life-or-death decision to enter the burning building and attempt a rescue.

Once inside, Lieutenant Wallace found a man on the floor, unconscious with a weak pulse. Relying on his firefighter training and his instincts, Lieutenant Wallace crawled the ten feet between the door and the victim, and began to drag the man out of the burning building. Just as he reached the door, the first pumper truck reached the scene, and a fire captain and an EMT arrived to assist in the rescue. The victim was rushed to St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield and is alive today thanks to the brave efforts of Lieutenant David Wallace.

At this year's annual ceremony in Springfield, Illinois, Lieutenant David Wallace will be awarded the Firefighting Medal of Honor for his actions that night. I want to congratulate Lieutenant Wallace, his wife Mary and his son Michael on this award, and thank David Wallace for his commitment to protecting the lives of the people of Litchfield, Illinois.