

IN MEMORY OF IRVING KRISTOL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the life and work of Irving Kristol who died on September 18, 2009. An icon of the conservative movement, Kristol brought his intellect and enthusiasm to the many debates that spanned the nearly nine decades of his life. The Kristol Family has made a difference for America.

Stephen Miller of the Wall Street Journal penned the following tribute to Mr. Kristol on September 19, 2009.

NEOCONSERVATIVE PIONEER PAVED WAY FOR REAGAN

(By Stephen Miller)

Irving Kristol, who died Friday at 89, was an editor, political essayist and provocateur universally known as the “Godfather of Neoconservatism.”

In a six-decade career, Mr. Kristol’s politics evolved ever-rightward, most markedly in reaction to the Great Society programs of the 1960s. As his opposition to what he saw as excesses of the welfare state crystallized, he helped provide the intellectual underpinnings of the Republican resurgence that began with the 1980 election of President Ronald Reagan.

Neoconservatism became a Washington byword for supply-side economics, defense-budget increases and entitlement cuts. The neoconservative framework came to the fore again under President George W. Bush, who awarded Mr. Kristol the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002.

“America has lost one of its finest thinkers and greatest patriots,” House Minority Leader John Boehner (R., Ohio) said in a statement Friday. “Irving Kristol added intellectual rigor and heft to the conservative movement by redefining how we apply the values and principles our nation was founded on to the challenges of the modern era.”

Mr. Kristol was appointed an editor of *Commentary* magazine in his 20s. But it was in his own tart essays and as an editor of literary-political journals that he helped found, including *Encounter* in Britain and the *Public Interest* in the U.S., that he fostered his reputation as a public intellectual.

Later, he was a professor at New York University, an executive vice president at Basic Books and a longtime contributor to *The Wall Street Journal’s* editorial page.

Mr. Kristol at first resisted the label “neoconservative,” but later accepted it. As much an avatar as a progenitor of neoconservatism, Mr. Kristol once described the credo as that of “a liberal who has been mugged by reality.”

Mr. Kristol grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. His father was in the garment trade and Mr. Kristol, like many of his bright contemporaries, attended City College of New York, then a hotbed of student radicalism.

He was a self-described student “Trotskyist,” but soon after graduation rejected that label. Of his youthful leanings Mr. Kristol later wrote, “It was a useful inoculation that rendered me not only immune, but positively indifferent to the ideological chatter around me.”

Any remaining faith in the masses was obliterated by his experience serving in the Army during World War II alongside “thugs or near-thugs.”

“Again and again, and to my surprise, I found reasons to think better of the Army and less well of my fellow enlisted men,” he

wrote in 1993. “The Army may have radicalized Norman Mailer; it successfully de-radicalized me. It caused me to cease being a socialist.”

Energized by the writings of Lionel Trilling and Reinhold Niebuhr—self-described liberals both, but thinkers critical of the human capacity for perfection—Mr. Kristol became managing editor of *Commentary* in 1947.

In 1952, he left *Commentary* and traveled to England to found *Encounter* with the British poet Stephen Spender, as a counterblast to left-wing intellectual publications.

He returned to the U.S., and in 1965 founded the *Public Interest*, a quarterly journal he edited with Daniel Bell, a sociologist and friend from his City College days. The journal was hardly a bastion of right-wing thought, and Mr. Kristol identified himself more as a moderate than as a conservative.

In his 1972 book “On the Democratic Idea in America,” he wrote, “I regard the exaggerated hopes we attach to politics as the curse of our age, just as I regard moderation as one of our vanishing virtues.”

Later, though, his positions hardened. By 1993, he wrote, “What is wrong with liberalism is liberalism—a metaphysics and a mythology that is woefully blind to human and political reality.”

Paul Wolfowitz, former deputy defense secretary, said Mr. Kristol infused policy debates with a practical, “more fact-based” approach and showed thinkers that “it’s not enough just to have a sense of what’s right and what’s wrong, you also have to have a sense of how the world works.”

Nathan Glazer, another of the founders of the *Public Interest*, said Mr. Kristol had “a wonderful way of formulating things” and that his Trotskyist years had helped shape his work. “I think his conservatism is clearly inflected by where he came from and how he came to it,” Mr. Glazer said.

Mr. Kristol is survived by his wife, Gertrude Himmelfarb, a noted historian often identified with the neoconservative movement, and his son, William Kristol, a former chief of staff for Vice President Dan Quayle and editor of the journal *the Weekly Standard*.

HONORING NANCY CARRINGTON
ON HER 25TH ANNIVERSARY
WITH THE CONNECTICUT FOOD
BANK

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many friends, colleagues and community members who have gathered in congratulating Nancy L. Carrington on her 25th anniversary as Executive Director of the Connecticut Food Bank. This is a remarkable milestone for an outstanding and dedicated woman—one whom I am proud to call my friend.

Nancy came to the Connecticut Food Bank just two years after it was incorporated. She began her work with the organization as a food solicitor—responsible for seeking the donation of excess and unsalable products from local and regional food companies. When Nancy first came to the Food Bank, the organization was already distributing 1.3 million pounds of food a year to 188 community agencies throughout Connecticut. Just five

years after she first started with the Food Bank, Nancy became its Executive Director. Twenty-five years later, Nancy can be credited with seeing the organization through its expansion to the largest centralized source of donated, emergency food in Connecticut—distributing enough food to 650 food assistance programs to feed about 250,000 men, women, and children every year.

Nancy is not only responsible for the day-to-day operations at the Food Bank, but is also one of Connecticut’s strongest voices on behalf of the hungry in our state. Nancy has said that “food should not be a privilege . . . it should be a basic human right.” The fact is that our nation produces enough food to feed everyone—yet families still go hungry. And today, as the economic challenges our families are facing increase, demand in Connecticut is up twenty percent. Nancy has made it her personal mission to overcome the challenge of feeding the hungry—her work touching the lives of thousands over the years. There is no stronger or more dedicated advocate. While she hopes for the day when organizations like the Food Bank are no longer needed, we are certainly fortunate to have her at the helm and can find comfort in the knowledge that someone with her passion and commitment continues to serve our community.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank Nancy for her many years of friendship. She has been an invaluable resource to both myself and my staff. I am grateful for her insights and constant commitment to ending hunger in our state and our nation. And so I stand today to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to Nancy L. Carrington, for all of her good work and many years of dedicated service to the Connecticut Food Bank. It has been her leadership that has made this organization such a success and, more importantly, it has been because of her compassion and advocacy that the Food Bank has been able to make such a difference so many lives. Nancy—my heartfelt congratulations to you as you celebrate your 25th anniversary and my very best wishes for continued success.

IRVING KRISTOL TRIBUTE

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Irving Kristol, an extraordinary modern intellectual leader who sadly passed away recently.

Irving Kristol will be remembered as “perhaps the most consequential public intellectual of the latter half of the 20th century” as *The Daily Telegraph* recently memorialized him.

Born to Jewish immigrants in New York City in 1920, Irving grew up during the Great Depression, and his experience during those dark times undoubtedly shaped his worldview.

Kristol was a Trotskyist in his youth who embraced socialism long before he ever advocated for free markets and tax cuts; however, he broke from liberalism and will be remembered most for his conservative thoughts and writings that had a profound impact on generations of Americans.

He worked as the managing editor of *Commentary* magazine, executive vice president of

Basic Books, and in the mid-1960's, Kristol co-founded *The Public Interest*, a domestic policy journal that cast wide influence among policy-makers.

Kristol also served as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, senior fellow emeritus of the American Enterprise Institute, and a member of the board of contributors for the *Wall Street Journal* in addition to the many books he authored. To honor this distinguished career, President George W. Bush awarded him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002.

Irving Kristol was a thought leader and his forward-thinking ideas shaped policies and helped cement the Republican Party's position as the "party of ideas."

A soldier during World War II, Kristol once wrote that "my army experience permitted me to make an important political discovery. . . . The idea of building socialism with the common man who actually existed—as distinct from his idealized version—was sheer fantasy, and therefore the prospects for 'democratic socialism' were nil."

These beliefs helped shape the policies of President Ronald Reagan's administration in defeating communism.

Our former colleague, Speaker Newt Gingrich recently said that it was Irving Kristol's insights that helped create the solutions-oriented Republicanism that led to the Contract with America.

Irving Kristol was a cheerful conservative, rejuvenating and shaping American politics, often with a smile.

The list of those who will mourn his loss is long and distinguished as he touched many lives, but I take comfort in knowing that both the Kristol name and legacy will live on.

I offer my most sincere condolences to his wife Gertrude, and children, Elizabeth and Bill.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act. While I have supported unemployment extensions in time of economic emergency, and will continue to do so, I will not give my support to this particular legislation because it unfairly taxes states with strong economies to pay for workers in states that have engaged in poor economic planning.

As you know, the bill would extend unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks in states where the average unemployment rate is over 8.5 percent. To pay for this extension, the legislation extends the 0.2 percent Federal Unemployment surtax for one more year. This is a tax that all employers are required to pay regardless of the state unemployment rate. In other words, citizens in states with low unemployment will be paying for benefits in states that have been fiscally irresponsible or have mishandled their own unemployment fund.

Currently, Madam Speaker, there are 27 states with an unemployment rate of over 8.5 percent. But many states have engaged in commonsense approaches to economic devel-

opment to avoid this catastrophe. In my home state of Oklahoma, for example, our unemployment rate, though rising, is still only at 6.8 percent. As many of you know, Oklahoma suffered a major economic downturn in the 1980s due to the oil bust. However, during the late 1980s and early 1990s, the state of Oklahoma and business community learned from this experience and made great strides in economic diversification. In the years following, housing prices in Oklahoma remained stable and infrastructure grew. Today, Oklahoma's energy, agricultural and entertainment industries are strong and help to support a robust, diversified economy.

At the same time, the state of Oklahoma has worked hard to ensure that its unemployment fund remains solvent. Though many states' unemployment funds were not prepared for a major recession, Oklahoma is one of the only states that will not have to borrow from the federal fund to repay benefits to unemployed workers. In fact, Madam Speaker, the state is not raising the unemployment payments next year. It is entirely inappropriate to force the citizens of states like this to pay a tax in order to pay for the irresponsibility of others. Oklahoma already pays more in unemployment taxes than they receive back from the system, and this extension only makes the situation worse.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I again would like to emphasize that I am not opposed to ensuring that Americans have means to support themselves in economic hardship. However, I do believe that it is unwarranted to tax the citizens of the 23 other states who have produced good economic growth and responsible governance.