

"Lindy" was born in Pointe Coupee Roads, Louisiana, on March 13, 1916. She was the only child of Roland Claiborne, a wealthy sugarcane plantation owner and prominent lawyer, and Corinne Morrison. Her nurse nicknamed her "Rolindy" because she thought Lindy resembled her father more than her mother.

Following her father's death when she was only two years old, Lindy and her mother went to live in New Orleans with her maternal grandparents. The Morrison family's roots can be traced back to the Mayflower. Lindy's grandmother Morrison had a great influence on her and lived to be ninety-seven, as did Lindy.

Her mother remarried when Lindy was six to a man who owned a cotton plantation. This is where Lindy said she was introduced to politics, as the plantations controlled much of the politics of the state.

This is also where Lindy was introduced to enduring, gracious, hard-working women. She said, "The women on plantations were absolutely remarkable. They had an autonomous situation. They had to do everything in the house . . . and everything had to be done in time for a huge mid-day dinner. Then, in the afternoon . . . they created their own cultural environment. They had musicals, and they had book reviews . . . it all occurred within those houses." With no work these women weren't willing to do, it never occurred to Lindy that women couldn't accomplish whatever they set their mind to.

Lindy matriculated at Newcomb College in New Orleans, the first women's college in Louisiana and the sister school to Tulane University, where she majored in history and education. During her freshman year at Newcomb, she met Thomas Hale Boggs, who was the editor of the Tulane University newspaper where Lindy served as women's editor.

In January 1938, at age twenty-one, she married Hale and, through university connections, Hale and Lindy embarked on a political career as part of the grass-roots reform movement that took place in Louisiana in the late 1930s. With Lindy's indefatigable support and help, Hale was elected to Congress in 1941, eventually rising to majority leader.

When Hale's plane tragically crashed in 1972 on a campaign trip in Alaska, not only did Lindy find herself raising their three children alone, but she also found herself running for his vacant seat, saying, "I woke up and just found myself running one morning; I never made a conscious decision to run."

Later, she would reflect: "When the various people were trying to persuade me to run . . . Lady Bird Johnson [wife of President Lyndon B. Johnson] . . . called and talked to me for a long time about how I had an obligation and all of these things. Then when she thought maybe she had convinced me, she said 'But darling, do you think you can do it without a wife?' I've told her many times, it was very hard without a wife."

In March 1973, Lindy Boggs was elected to the House of Representatives in a special election. Her victory made her the first woman to represent Louisiana in the House and the first Catholic elected from a State that had never elected a Catholic to any major state office.

Lindy was at first appointed to the Banking and Currency Committee, where she played a key role during the markup of the Equal Credit

Opportunity Act of 1974. She cited her experience as a newly widowed woman seeking credit as her motivation to add "sex or marital status" to the provision barring discrimination on the basis of "race and age, and their status as veterans." Without informing the other committee members, Lindy added those words and made copies of the revision for her colleagues, saying, "Knowing the Members composing this committee as well as I do, I'm sure it was just an oversight that we didn't have 'sex' or 'marital status' included." The bill passed unanimously.

It was this persistence and skill at indirect pressure that marked Lindy's style as a progressive southern woman working to advance the cause of humanity, acting as a champion of civil rights in her diverse district.

In 1976, she became the first woman to preside over a national political convention. In 1977, she was elected to the House Committee on Appropriations. At her retirement she remained the longest serving female member of that committee after serving 12 years. That same year, she helped to co-found the Congressional Women's Caucus, later serving as its secretary. When Lindy was elected to Congress, only 16 women were serving in the House out of 435 members; by her retirement, there were 29.

In the early 1980's, Lindy helped create, and served as a member of, the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. From 1985 to 1989, she served as the chair of the Bicentenary of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In January 1991, at age 75 and after 18 years of service, Lindy Boggs retired from Congress to care for her daughter Barbara who was dying of cancer. In July of the same year, the House named a room off the Rotunda in her honor: The Lindy Claiborne Boggs Congressional Women's Reading Room.

In retirement, Lindy remained politically active, writing her autobiography *Washington Through a Purple Veil* in 1994. In 1997, President Clinton appointed the 81 year old as the first woman U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican, a position she proudly served until 2001.

Of the accomplishments she was most proud of, she cited bills she co-sponsored on behalf of minorities, women, and children; her efforts to improve education from the elementary to the college level; her work on the children's task force on crisis intervention; her efforts to open the National Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C.; establishing the Office of Historian of the House of Representatives; and achieving Margaret Chase Smith's dream of making the rose the national flower.

Lindy Boggs's gracious southern charm, strong faith, sense of humor, quiet persistence, deep social conscience, and firm belief in what's right made her one of the most influential and extraordinary women of our time. She is dearly missed by all who knew her, and by all who have benefited from her extraordinary work.

Personally, I hold many wonderful memories of Lindy and her unending kindness. When I was first elected to the Appropriations Committee, as the only other woman on her side of the aisle, she made sure I sat next to her to coach me on the unique rules of the Committee. She always took the time to say hello and give an encouraging word. She offered Members rides home, she invited them to par-

ticipate in Caucus functions of which she was a part, and she worked hard to bring people together across the aisle in every way she could. She made the House a more human place.

May her surviving children—Cokie Roberts and Thomas Hale Boggs—as well as their spouses, children, grandchildren, family and friends draw strength at this time of bereavement from her incredible life and accomplishments. Truly, this was a woman for all seasons, a woman of extraordinary measure. Personally, she endured the loss of her father and husband, and then two of their children, Barbara Boggs Sigmund, who had been elected Mayor of Princeton, New Jersey, and infant William Robertson Boggs. Always, Lindy kept her eyes on the horizon and endured. She assumed responsibility after her husband's passing for continuing their brilliant partnership as progressive, elected Representatives from the State of Louisiana during times of enormous social change and broadened civil and human rights. And, she raised her young children on her own. Lindy's ascension to key Congressional Committees, often as the lone woman, carved a swath forward for gender equity in our nation. Her appointment as the first woman Ambassador to the Vatican in the last quarter of her life mark her total service to the people of the United States as one of the longest and most generous in the history of our nation, extending well over half a century. She was a patriot of the first order. Her legacy will live on in the legislation she passed and in the inspiration and encouragement she imparted to all those whose lives she touched so selflessly. May God bless her and place her among the stars that shine from the highest points in the cosmos. And to her family, a most sincere thank you for sharing her with the nation, and with the Congress, these many decades.

#### SHARING STORIES IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the stories of 65 Floridians whose lives have been profoundly impacted by this House's lack of action on immigration reform. The vast majority of Floridians, like the vast majority of Americans, support comprehensive immigration reform that creates a path to citizenship, secures our borders, and grows our economy.

These stories, collected by the ACLU of Florida, the Florida Immigrant Coalition, and other coalition groups from the "Say Yes" to Citizenship Campaign, were originally in Spanish, have been edited for length, and have had the names removed so that individuals who had been afraid to speak up could speak freely.

Whether we consider H.R. 15, which I introduced, or another vehicle, we cannot afford to wait any longer. I urge my colleagues to listen to these stories and recognize the real human consequences of our inaction.

Story 1: I met my husband in Colombia. He was on vacation and he was American. We fell in love and we married in Colombia.

When I got pregnant, we moved here to the United States because he wanted his son to grow up here. That was twenty years ago. We have three kids from our marriage. After my husband passed away I had to find a job. My English was minimal and I didn't have any family around to help. I was cleaning houses in the beginning, and I worked for UPS for six years. I left UPS and tried to follow my dad's career. He was a jeweler in Colombia, so I got a job with a local pawnshop in Jacksonville. I worked for them for four years, but I got in trouble for purchasing stolen merchandise and because of my knowledge—they said I should have known about it being stolen. The items were no more than a thousand dollars, but they split the items and charged me five times. I served four days of jail, four months of home arrest, and nine months of probation. After a year of my life being on hold and not being able to work and not knowing how to support my kids, I was obligated to plead guilty so I could keep going on with my life. I was very blessed and lucky to find a job where they got to know me and see what kind of person I am. I have been with them for one and a half years, and I have been promoted a couple of times. I flew to Columbia a year ago and when I came back, I was stopped by immigration in the airport and questioned about what happened. They told me that, because of the incident and leaving the county and coming back, they were going to start the procedure of deportation. They removed my green card and gave me a temporary green card for one year and I was to hear about what was going to happen. I've been in this country all my life. I worked in this county all my life. I have three American kids. I have a dead American husband. I think I'm American. I made the mistake of trusting someone and paid the consequences. I think we deserve another chance.

Story 2: I was born in Brazil. I came at the age of 14. I am a DREAM Act student. When I first arrived in the U.S., I learned about the importance of freedom. I learned what it meant to be an American. For me, those American ideals are really important. When I decided I was going to marry the person I love and decided to share the rest of my life with, I also wanted to fight for our right to be fully recognized in this country. I am an undocumented immigrant, but my spouse is a U.S. citizen. The only difference between us and the rest of our peers is the fact that we are in a same sex relationship. The inclusion of the Uniting American Families Act will protect our family from deportation and also our general well-being. When we saw that Senator Rubio and others specifically spoke against our family we felt that not all families were included in immigration reform. It was extremely outrageous to us to see the Uniting American Families Act fail in the Judiciary Committee last week. We hope that Senator Rubio will speak on behalf of the entire state of Florida, people like me, and also the 67% of Florida voters who support the inclusion of same sex couples in immigration reform.

Story 3: I'm an immigrant rights activist and I have been one for the past five years. I absolutely say yes to citizenship for the eleven million undocumented immigrants living in this country. I feel it's imperative that the government finally takes care of this issue after so many years. For example in my case, I have been living here for twenty-three years, but have been undocumented from the age of two. Right now I want to legalize my status so I can become an architect, finally realize my dream of becoming a citizen, and do my best in giving back to this

country—the only country that I really know.

Story 4: I came here from the Bahamas a year and a half ago searching for a better life and to further my education and athletic career. I graduated senior high school at the age of sixteen, and I am now eighteen. Because of my immigration status I was unable to continue and further my education. I've had scholarships to the top schools but was unable to obtain them because of my immigration status, which put part of my life on hold. I am saying yes to citizenship so I can be a voice not only for myself, but also for the students that stand in my shoes.

Story 5: I'm twenty-five years old and from West Palm Beach, Florida. I've lived here my whole life, and I'm the second oldest of seven children. All me and my brothers and sisters are U.S. citizens. We were all born here in the United States. My dad is Guatemalan—he is an immigrant. And my mom is Salvadoran—she is also an immigrant. They immigrated to the United States about twenty-five years ago. About seven years ago my mom and my dad were both deported at the same time, on the same day. I was a senior in high school. I remember the day clearly. I said goodbye to both my mom and my dad like a normal day. I knew they were going to immigration court but I never thought that I would never see them again. That was the last day I saw them. My dad owned his own company in which he paid taxes. We had everything that we wanted growing up because my dad worked hard and was able to own his own business. When my mom and dad were deported we lost the house that he bought. With the house he lost the business, and with the business we pretty much lost everything. It was up to me and my older sister to pretty much provide everything for my younger brothers and sisters. From that point on, I was no longer a normal high school student. I became a father of six, pretty much. My life changed completely. I had high hopes of one day playing collegiate soccer and hopefully maybe even one day playing professional soccer, but those dreams were shattered when my parents were deported. There was a moment when some of my brothers and sisters were actually homeless due to the fact that we lost the company, we lost my parents, and we lost the house. So we did live on the streets. We lived at hotels sometimes. It completely destroyed my family. Two years ago my mom was actually killed due to the violence that people flee the country for. The first time I saw my mom since the day that she was deported from this country in five years was in her coffin for her funeral. That was the first time I ever saw my mom. I never got the chance to hug my mom or kiss my mom or say "hi" to my mom ever again. She was never a criminal. She never even got a speeding ticket. Now I live here with my brothers and sisters, and we get by however we can. Obviously things are rough. Things are hard, but we're getting through it. It saddens me every day to know that the fact that my parents were deported broke a happy family, a truly happy family that's no longer together and will no longer ever be happy. If I had one goal, one mission in my life, it's to prevent other children, other kids, other families from going through what I went through.

Story 6: I live in Auburndale, Florida. I was undocumented. I want to say yes to citizenship because it's a very important thing for immigration reform to happen. We've been promised immigration reform for years since Obama's first term in office and he did not go through with that promise, though he did pass the action for childhood arrivals a

couple months before his reelection. I was undocumented for many years until my wife is able to fix my status but my legalization does not mean that I can stop fighting for other undocumented people. I have family and friends who are still in the shadows, who are willing to come out, and who I want to come out to better themselves.

Story 7: I'm saying yes to Congress supporting a path to citizenship. Many of us have stories. My story is this: my mom brought me here when I was six months old and it's not her fault, it's nobody's fault. By the age of 13 I started helping them in the fields and I learned and went to school and everything. After school I would go straight to the fields to help out my mom because she needed help. I want to see a path to citizenship because I want to see everybody have opportunities in life.

Story 8: My family actually immigrated 200 years ago. My great great grandfather was a stowaway from Germany and a German Jew. I really love it here in Florida. I really see how the immigrant community has enriched our community. I worry that increasingly we are being hostile to immigrants because they look a little different from the immigrants that have come here from the past instead of realizing how much they enrich the place. I think we need to continue to be a country that welcomes people just like it has with my great great grandfather.

Story 9: I'm from Argentina, and I've been here for 30 years. I came to this country looking for a better future. I have two American children and the greatest fear I have is being separated from them. I have been threatened with separation from my children and all that I ask the congressmen and senators is to pass immigration reform with a path to citizenship in order to give a better future for my children and to fulfill my dreams in this country.

Story 10: I think it's important what we're doing today because the people are of value, they are an asset to our community and we need them. None of us would be here if it wasn't for the immigrants. We all come from that. It's important that they're allowed to be here so they can add to our economy. And they're not taking jobs. They're doing the jobs that no one wants to do. I'm an American, born and raised, and I'm in total support of it. I think the government needs to look at our immigration system and make it user-friendly to become a citizen because right now it's not user-friendly. It's too expensive and too much paperwork and too much red tape. Let's get down to the brass tacks and do it right. And do it in a quick manner. We can do it and the government knows how to do it. Let's just do it.

Story 11: I'm here because I have a lot of friends that I go to school with who can't go to school because of tuition hikes in our state. I'm in this club Students Working for Equal Rights, and our president right now is in Georgia because her boyfriend got arrested for driving without a license. Of course, if you're not documented you can't get a license, and if you're undocumented and get arrested, you'll constantly live in fear of being deported. I've just seen this problem escalate, and I'm here to make sure I help that in any way that I can. I want to see immigration get reformed because there are a lot of people that play by the rules and work really

hard. They want to raise their kids or do anything any other decent person wants to do, but they're denied the basic opportunities most Americans take for granted.

Story 12: I say yes to a path to citizenship because it would mean brightness where

darkness has been for many people for a long time. Undocumented immigrants face many injustices and abuses. They fear getting stopped by a police officer and standing up for themselves. I'm here because I'm not di-

rectly affected, but my friends and family are and I want to stand up for my people. I want to stand up with all the organizations that are fighting for justice.