

HONORING THE MEMORY OF UN-
WAVERING ENVIRONMENTAL AD-
VOCATE W. KENT BAILEY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2020

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the memory of an unwavering environmental advocate, W. Kent Bailey. On any decision or issue that touched the natural environment of our beautiful Tampa Bay and surrounding area, Mr. Bailey was always there—steadfast. He came armed with science-based facts with an eye to the future. He understood how to convey his message in unconventional ways to directly convey the urgency, such as carrying a cardboard wave cutout to show how high water might rise by the end of the century. Mr. Bailey was a leader and a supporter of all causes big and small that impacted our environment.

Born in Paris, Kentucky, Mr. Bailey moved to Tampa Bay in his early adulthood. By the time of his passing on Sept. 22, 2020 at age 69, he had spent more than 30 years in Florida. His love for sailing brought sea-level rise in Tampa Bay to his attention as he documented that the actual tide level was usually higher than the projected tide level. He became an expert on sea-level rise as well as outspoken about it to elected officials and its impact in the near future if left unabated. In 2010, after fighting for the preservation of nearly 13,000 acres of land in northeastern Hillsborough formerly known as Cone Ranch, he became a full-fledged member and leader of the Sierra Club, the largest grassroots environmental organization in the United States. Thanks to Mr. Bailey and the work of others, developers were forever blocked from acquiring Cone Ranch, which has become the largest undeveloped tract of land and has since been under restoration, slowly opening to the public for families and neighbors to enjoy for passive activities, such as hiking and horseback riding.

Mr. Bailey owned and operated Bailey & Son Woodworking since 1972 but his calling was all-things environment. Mr. Bailey served as chair of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club for the past eight years, engaging and mobilizing thousands of members to protect our region and state's fragile, sensitive environmental lands. He overwhelmingly poured his time and energy in deeply studying climate science and preparing for the next public presentation or protest about it, building his ethos and all for the purpose of sustaining a more prosperous and equitable future for his 22 grandchildren and ours. He was an inspirational speaker and motivator, always leading by example and always giving credit to others and being a cheerleader for their contributions. He developed a strategy of using all angles to fight for our environment and affect state policies to promote preservation, whether it was organizing protests, writing letters to the editor or creative antics, such as purchasing stock from the local power company, Emera Inc., and traveling from Florida to Nova Scotia so he can vote at the shareholders meeting and in protest of expansion plans of a cracked gas facility in Tampa Bay.

Mr. Bailey's legacy will live through his six children, grandchildren and wife, Cathy, who

stood by him in his activism. Madam Speaker, our grateful and saddened Tampa Bay community also pledges to carry forward the work of Mr. Bailey. His formidable efforts and selfless devotion to making Tampa Bay and the rest of the United States a better place to live are unmatched and are worthy of recognition. On behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay, Florida, and citizens across the United States, I am proud to honor W. Kent Bailey for his lifelong dedication to the protection of the environment. His legacy as a tireless advocate will live on and inspire others in the community for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF RUTH BADER GINSBURG, THE 'NOTORIOUS RBG,' ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT, FEMINIST ICON AND TRAILBLAZER, INSPIRATION TO MILLIONS, TIRELESS CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE AND FIERCE DEFENDER OF THE CONSTITUTION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues during this Special Order to honor Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on Friday, September 18, 2020 at the age of 87 years old.

As a direct beneficiary of her advancement of women's rights and a long-time admirer of her vigorous defense of the constitution, I am honored but heartbroken to pay tribute to Justice Ginsburg, an American hero, feminist icon, and role model to millions.

Today, tomorrow, and forever, the American people mourn the loss of a true titan, an American legend, and an inspiration.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ruth's family, friends, and loved ones.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg dedicated her life to defending the Constitution and protecting the sanctity of America's democratic ideals, and we will forever be indebted to her service to this country.

Joan Ruth Bader, fondly nicknamed Kiki, was born on March 15, 1933 to an immigrant family and grew up in Brooklyn's Flatbush neighborhood.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg often spoke of her mother's large ambitions for her, and how the devastating loss of her mother's death at an early age instilled in her the determination to live a life that her mother would have been proud of.

And so, she did.

Ruth Bader attended Cornell University where she met Martin D. Ginsburg, her future husband and love of her life to whom she was married for 54 years.

At the age of 21, Ruth Bader graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Cornell with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government on June 23, 1954 and was the highest-ranking female student in her graduating class.

A month after graduating from Cornell, Ruth and Martin were married and moved to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where Martin was stationed as a Reserve Officers' Training Corps officer in the U.S. Army Reserve after his call-up to active duty.

To help support the family, Ruth Bader Ginsburg worked for the Social Security Administration office in Oklahoma, where she was demoted after becoming pregnant with her first child, Jane, who was born in 1955.

In the fall of 1956, Ruth Bader Ginsburg enrolled at Harvard Law School, where she was one of only 9 women in a class of about 500 men.

Harvard Law Dean Erwin Griswold reportedly invited all the female law students to dinner at his family home and asked the female law students, including Ginsburg, "Why are you at Harvard Law School, taking the place of a man?"

When her husband took a job in New York City, Ruth Bader Ginsburg transferred to Columbia Law School and became the first woman to be on two major law reviews: Harvard Law Review and Columbia Law Review.

In 1959, she earned her law degree at Columbia and tied for first in her class but despite these enviable credentials and distinguished record of excellence, no law firm in New York City would hire her as a lawyer because she was a woman.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg became a crusader for women's rights and an unstoppable force who transformed the law and defied social convention.

Her now infamous quote, "I ask no favor for my sex; all I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks", was a personal mantra for the Justice as it characterized her fight for and pursuit of equal rights throughout her lifetime.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, later affectionately known as the 'Notorious RBG,' was as instrumental and historically significant to the cause of women's rights as was Thurgood Marshall to the cause of civil rights for African Americans.

As a young lawyer and Director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, Ruth Bader Ginsburg litigated six landmark cases before the Supreme Court, winning five out of the six cases.

Like Justice Marshall, Ruth Bader Ginsburg's uncanny strategic instincts and careful selection of cases were vital in her persuasion of the all-male Supreme Court to start dismantling the legal institution of sex discrimination one case at a time.

In 1975, Ruth Bader Ginsburg litigated and won *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld*, which would become a landmark case in antidiscrimination jurisprudence.

In this case, the widower had been denied survivor benefits, which would allow him to stay at home and raise his son, based on a Social Security provision that assumed only women were secondary providers with unimportant incomes.

While some questioned Ginsburg's choice to challenge instances of sex discrimination by representing a male plaintiff, Ruth Bader Ginsburg saw it as an opportunity to show the court that childcare was not a sex-determined role to be performed only by women.

As with many of her cases, her goal was to free both sexes, men as well as women, from the roles that society had assigned them and to harness the Constitution to break down the structures by which the state maintained and enforced those separate spheres.

As Ruth Bader Ginsburg continued to challenge the stereotypical assumptions of what was considered to be women's work and

men's work, she was able to persuade the Court and the nation that discriminating on the basis of sex was not only wrong but also a violation of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees equal protection to all citizens under the law.

As the courts began to recognize the changing roles of men and women, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was able to advance gender equality with the understanding that women are capable of being heads of households or sole providers for their family.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court, making her the second woman to fill this position.

This historic appointment further symbolized the principle that women were equal to men in every respect, that they could have successful careers and also could, if they chose, be devoted wives or mothers, thereby breaking barriers for generations of women to follow in her footsteps.

In fact, many of Ginsburg's opinions helped solidify the constitutional protections she had fought so hard to establish decades earlier.

While we commemorate Justice Ginsburg's work for advancing the women's movement both as a Justice and as a lawyer, all are in her debt who cherish the progress made in the areas of LGBTQ+ equality, immigration reform, environmental justice, voting rights, protections for people with disabilities, and so much more.

Throughout her life, Ruth Bader Ginsburg worked to make the law work so that America would be more just, equitable, fairer, and better for all.

Whether it be in her legendary dissenting opinions or as leader when in the majority, Justice Ginsburg continued to advocate for the marginalized and most vulnerable.

In recent years, she may not have been able to control the outcome of the rulings, but she grew bolder in her dissents, often stating what should have been the outcome.

Throughout her tenure on the bench, Ruth Bader Ginsburg displayed her rigorous and incisive legal mind and employed her formidable skills as a consensus builder, but she could be tough and forceful when the moment demanded.

Nothing illustrates this better than her famous dissent in *Shelby County v. Holder*, in which the 5-to-4 majority negated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by invalidating section 4 of the law, which neutralized section 5, the provision of the act that required jurisdictions with a history of racial and ethnic discrimination in voting to obtain preclearance from the federal government before any changes in voting procedures, from polling stations to voter photo IDs could go into effect.

It was in her scathing dissent Justice Ginsburg stated, "Hubris is a fit word for today's demolition of the VRA" and that the majority's logic was akin to "throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet."

Unlike the others, Justice Ginsburg was able to see the ramifications of the ruling and its allowances for reinvigorated efforts of voter suppression.

Today, I join millions of individuals who are mourning the loss of this legal giant, feminist, and trailblazer.

Justice Ginsburg loved this country, so much so that she served the nation while en-

during illnesses and undergoing treatments that would have incapacitated lesser mortals.

She inspired generations of women then and now to shatter glass ceilings, and her legacy will inspire new generations of women in the years to come.

As the news of her passing continues to reverberate across the country and around the world, it is important that we remember and honor what she stood for and continue fighting to realize the goal of equal justice under law.

I am honored to be able to pay tribute to the memory of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the 'Notorious RBG,' one of the greatest jurists in our nation's history, a tireless and unyielding champion for equal justice, and a fierce defender of the Constitution.

JOHN DORMINEY PAULK III

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Mr. John Dorminey Paulk III of Georgia's First Congressional District, who recently passed away at the age of 85.

He was a teacher, mentor, and friend to countless people, so he was often referred to as the "Mayor of Jekyll."

He loved to enjoy the many golfing opportunities on the island so much that he eventually became a teaching golf professional at the renowned East Lake Country Club in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1965, he was one of four local qualifiers in the U.S. Open in Atlanta.

Two years later, he became Jekyll Island's Head Golf Professional and was eventually inducted into the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame.

He was such a devoted and accomplished golfer that tournaments were named in his honor, including the "Johnny Paulk Invitational" and the "Johnny Paulk Two Man Classic."

He has shown what it means to be a great ambassador for Jekyll Island and the game of golf.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

FAREWELL LETTER FROM U.S.
REP. TOM GRAVES (R-GA-14)

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Madam Speaker, when I was young, my Dad always used to tell me that if I dreamed big and worked hard, I would achieve much. Dream Big, Work Hard, Achieve Much. I have carried that advice with me my entire life. Those words fueled my ability to go from the hall of a single-wide trailer to the halls of Congress.

I write that today as I reflect on what makes America so special: the ability to chart your own course and achieve any dream. My heart is filled with gratitude for our country and the enduring experiment of democracy that has al-

lowed someone like me to end up in the U.S. House of Representatives for the past decade.

Serving as the Representative of Georgia's 9th and 14th districts has truly been the honor of my life. This privilege was made possible by the sacrifice and support of so many wonderful people. First and foremost, my parents "Big Tom" and Penny; my wife, Julie; my children, Josephine, John, and Janey. My family has supported me every step of the way on this path of public service. My wife and children bore a burden that often goes unrecognized in politics. There are many precious days of life that we spent apart. Knowing their sacrifice motivated me every day to do the very best I could. Now it's time to shift the focus to them, and support their journeys and dreams, just as they supported mine.

For my final words entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a member of Congress, I want to share the most essential lesson learned over the past decade: the importance of relationship building. Tone, rhetoric and civility are crucial to opening doors to new and unexpected relationships with lawmakers from across the political spectrum. Often the best policies are the product of broad perspectives and creativity, with input from people who bring experience from different walks of life.

I can think of no better embodiment of that ideal than the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. Committee members hail from opposite sides of the country, with different professional backgrounds and life experiences. Regardless of our political and personal differences, our commitment to those we serve—our constituents—came first. The way our committee operated should serve as a model for this institution. Our bipartisan collaboration resulted in 97 recommendations to make the legislative branch work better. I hope that this work continues, because the American people deserve an institution that is as forward thinking and innovative as they are. Bipartisan relationships are at the heart of anything that can become law, and the American people are far better off when we connect over shared goals and work together to accomplish them.

Serving on the Select Committee is the perfect capstone to my career in public service. I am grateful to my partner, Chair Derek Kilmer of Washington, for his outstanding leadership. Nothing the committee produced would have been possible without Chair Kilmer's bipartisan approach and boundless passion for our work. I am also grateful to Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY of California for appointing me Vice Chair of the committee. It was truly an honor to be chosen from the pool of talented members I serve alongside.

I am also filled with gratitude for my staff, who have delivered incredible service to my constituents and the country. These are people with a heart for public service, who truly care for our nation. I saw tremendous sacrifices made: long hours, late nights, the burden of stress and pressure that comes with the weight of the work, whether it was securing life-saving veterans benefits for one person or passing a policy that affects millions of Americans. My team carried themselves in such a way that it was clear they knew the honor and privilege of working for the U.S. House.

In my tenure, I had two chiefs of staff: Tim Baker and John Patrick Donnelly. They led our