

Schenectady, Tom Manton of London, John Manton of Woodside, Queens, and Jeanne of Astoria; and to his four grandchildren, Nicole, Marc, Danielle, and Liam Henry, and incidentally, Liam Henry, Tom would always remind me, is the same name of my son and how it was a great coincidence that he and I would share that as well. It was something that in this last year particularly he would always point out to me, and it brought a chuckle to him and to me as well. I want you all to know that Tom, your granddad, your father, and your husband, is in our thoughts and in our prayers.

But more importantly, Diane, you and your children and your grandchildren are in all the prayers of the Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle.

I have to say for the record, I loved Tom Manton, and he is not the kind of guy you would say that to. I didn't have to say it to him. He knew it. There was an unspoken language between the two of us. He knew how I felt about him, and I certainly knew how he felt about me. He showed it in so many ways.

I will miss my good friend, my mentor, Tom Manton, as I know his law partners will, as his community will. His legacy will live on in so many people but especially in this Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the Associated Press article regarding Tom Manton's death.

(From *NEWSDAY*, July 23, 2006)

THOMAS MANTON, FORMER CONGRESSMAN
FROM NEW YORK, DIES

(By Devlin Barrett)

WASHINGTON—Thomas Manton, a former congressman who for years wielded his influence to shape New York City's political landscape, has died. He was 73.

The seven-term congressman died Saturday, said Rep. Joseph Crowley, who took Manton's Queens congressional seat when he retired.

Crowley declined to discuss the cause of death but Michael Reich, the Queens Democratic Party's executive secretary and Manton's spokesman, told the (New York) Daily News that Manton died of an undisclosed and lengthy illness.

Elected 20 years ago to his post as Queens Democratic Party chair, Manton was known as a behind-the-scenes politician who fostered the careers of City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and other local political figures.

When he announced his retirement from Congress in 1998, he successfully hand-picked Crowley, then a state assemblyman, as his successor, and he played a role in the selection of the two most recent City Council speakers.

"He was a great man and a great friend and he'll be terribly missed," Crowley said Sunday. "He's left the Queens Democratic party in a very strong position."

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said he had reached out to Manton when he first began considering entering politics.

"He was a classy guy. It's a sad day," said the Republican mayor, a former Democrat. "We really did lose someone who made a difference."

Manton served 15 years on the New York City Council before taking over Geraldine

Ferraro's congressional seat when she ran for vice president in 1984. As a congressman, he had little problem getting re-elected, winning with 87 percent of the vote in 1994.

He said his years as a city councilman made him sensitive to the needs of constituent service and set the tone for his congressional career, which was focused on local concerns and New York City politics.

As the head of the county party, he helped choose the city's leaders and, Crowley said, helped open up the party leadership to minority groups.

"He was a steady rudder of the ship who brought the Queens party back from its lowest ebb. He diversified the leadership of the county, welcoming minority leaders," said Crowley.

Born in 1932 to Irish immigrant parents in Manhattan, Manton carved a colorful career path, serving as a New York City police officer, an IBM salesman and a flight navigator for the U.S. Marine Corps. He worked as a lawyer for decades, reportedly retiring just months before his death.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday the House of Representatives lost one of its own and New York City lost a great civil servant when Congressman Thomas J. Manton died at the age of 73.

Mr. Manton embodied the American dream and his story is one of integrity, hard work and dedication to community service.

The most important lesson we learn from our former colleague is that you don't have to be born into a political or influential family, nor do you have to have lots of money to succeed in politics. Mr. Manton's formula for success was honesty and coalition building.

His parents, Thomas Manton and Margaret Manton emigrated from Ireland in search of a better life. On November 3, 1932, they had their first and only son, Thomas J. Manton in a Manhattan hospital.

Mr. Manton's father supported the family working as a plasterer and the family moved from Manhattan to the borough of Queens where Mr. Manton lived until he passed away.

Mr. Manton demonstrated his commitment to public service very early on when he served our country as a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps.

Upon returning, he worked his way through law school, serving the city as a police officer with the New York Police Department.

In the same spirit of service he was elected to the New York City Council and served there for 14 years.

In 1984, the voters from the 7th Congressional District chose Mr. Manton, to represent their interests in Washington. He served with distinction on the Commerce Committee and as Co-Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs.

As the son of immigrants, Mr. Manton never forgot what makes this country great. As Chairman of the Queens Democratic Party, he embraced the growing diversity in Queens and recruited candidates of all ethnicities, including from the Asian and Hispanic communities.

Mr. Manton maintained his position as District Leader for the Anoroc Democratic Club in his home district until the day that he died, which further demonstrates his commitment to being accessible to the public and the value he placed on being in touch with the community.

Over 2 million people are lucky enough to call the borough of Queens home. Queens is an exceptional borough largely because of Thomas J. Manton, and we can all only hope

to do what he did—leave the world a better place than we found it.

I, with the entire City of New York, mourn the loss of the honorable and distinguished Congressman Thomas J. Manton and send my heartfelt condolences to his beloved wife Diane, their four children, and four grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO LATE CONGRESSMAN THOMAS J. MANTON

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I mourn the passing of our distinguished former colleague, the Honorable Thomas J. Manton. Tom was a great public servant, a great New Yorker, and a great American. Indeed, Tom Manton was the personification of the American Dream.

The son of immigrants from the Irish countryside, Tom Manton was born and raised a New Yorker. His father was a plasterer, and Tom loved to tell the story of how proud his father was of his election to Congress; and how when he came to celebrate that election, they were in the Longworth Building, and his father told him that he had helped build that building in which Tom served.

After serving with honor and distinction in the United States Marine Corps, Tom put himself through college and law school while serving proudly in the New York City Police Department. He was recognized by his community in western Queens for his outstanding leadership abilities when his neighbors chose him to represent them on the New York City Council from 1970 to 1984.

I was proud to call myself a colleague and friend of Tom Manton. We served together on the New York City Council, and I served with him on the Housing Committee, which he chaired. I will never forget one day he came in late to a meeting. He was never late. But that night he had stayed up all night counting votes that sent him to Congress.

It was in that legislative body that I learned to appreciate his quiet, firm, steady powers of persuasion and conciliation, the true hallmarks of leadership in a democratic society. I was privileged as well to call Tom Manton a colleague in the halls of the United States Congress. No Member of this House was ever more dedicated to serving the needs of his constituents.

Tom played a crucial role in helping forge the peace that prevails in Ireland today through his patient and persistent efforts to bring peace to that once troubled land. He served as co-chair of the bipartisan Irish Caucus, on which I served. And he was selected to be the Grand Marshal of the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade. He was very proud of that and kept in his office a big picture of that event.

But he also embraced Tip O'Neill's maxim that all politics is local, and he

lived it, to the everlasting gratitude of the people that he represented in Queens and the Bronx. When the Long Island Railroad threatened to build a waste transfer station in western Queens, Tom led the successful fight to block it. When police officers suffered permanent job-related injuries, Tom made sure that they and their families received fitting lifetime compensation.

But perhaps Tom Manton's most enduring legacy may be forging the most united and effective political party organization in any county in New York City. He accomplished this remarkable achievement in what is probably the most ethnically diverse county in the Nation, and he did it with his singular and extraordinary powers of leadership. He was able to convene diverse groups and views and unite them behind common goals and purposes.

He showed an unparalleled ability to identify and encourage new leadership and talent from the emerging communities of our City and to develop and nurture future public servants who were worthy of the responsibilities with which they were entrusted. That is truly Tom Manton's greatest legacy, a history of leadership through inclusion, guided by the principles of tolerance and equality.

When I first came to Congress, Tom took me under his wing. He was an important mentor to me, an important friend, and my heart goes out to his wife, Diane, his children and his grandchildren. You are in our hearts and in our prayers. Tom will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO LATE CONGRESSMAN
THOMAS J. MANTON

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am going to try to speak from the heart, and that is what I want to do, because Tom Manton was my friend.

You know, you get to an age where when you hear eulogies and you think that it is someone who lived in the distant past and not one of your colleagues or not one of your contemporaries. And even though Tom was several years older than me, he was certainly one of my contemporaries, because when I came to Congress in 1988, there was no one who was warmer and friendlier and opened his door more to me than Tom Manton.

I didn't really know Tom before I came to Congress. I had heard about him. He served on the New York City Council while I was serving in the New York State assembly, and he had a reputation of being this tough guy, maybe a bit gruff, and I didn't really know what to expect. But when I got to know Tom, and I got to know him very, very well, I learned that under this gruffness was this soft underbelly; that he was a very thoughtful and soft-spoken man; a very good person, who really cared about people, really cared about

his country; a great life smart, intelligent man who came out of an ordinary working class family in New York City, the way so many of us did, and who worked hard.

I am sure he was the first person in his family to go to college. He went to law school and became a good lawyer. He was a very smart intelligent man and he really lived the American dream. That is what so many of us have done, children of immigrants and grandchildren of immigrants. Well, that is really what Tom Manton did.

Tom and I became very, very good friends. We were very close. We would go out to dinner and talk a lot. I still have a picture hanging in my office of Tom and myself taken, I think I was just elected but not yet sworn in. I had won the election and Tom signed it and said, "The New York delegation is richer with your election." And that was just the kind of nice thing that he would do, would write it with his own handwriting.

It was Tom who encouraged me to go on the Energy and Commerce Committee, which is a great committee but difficult to get on to, and Tom encouraged me. He was a member of the committee and encouraged me to try for the committee, which I did with his help and support, and eventually was made a part of that committee.

Tom cared about people. He cared about working people and was very close to labor. He always had very, very close friends because he worked very, very hard for the average person. My colleagues have already talked about what a difference he made in people's lives from the Irish peace process to just caring about every day people, ordinary people back home.

After he left Congress, he kept in touch and came down several times doing some lobbying, doing some work. And whenever you needed him to help you, with a campaign contribution or just a good friendly smile or some good friendly advice, Tom was always there. That is why he was such an effective Democratic county leader of Queens County and why his influence really extended beyond his borough, because when people wanted to aspire to leadership positions in the New York City council, be it speaker or whatever, if you got Tom Manton's blessing, you really had a leg up on everybody else in order to achieve that position. And Tom really was very effective in doing that.

When you are a political leader, you make tough decisions. You make friends and you make enemies. But everyone knew that Tom Manton was always fair and above board. He told you where you stood, and he was very, very honest with it. A very, very soft-spoken person who really cared about his country, about his state, about his city and, indeed, his friends as well.

I would say to Diane and the rest of the family that our lives are all richer because we knew Tom Manton. His memory will live because the benefits

he provided to his city and his State and his country will continue to go on and on.

I last saw Tom a few years ago during the presidential campaign when there was a rally in his borough for JOHN KERRY. And although I have spoken with Tom since then, that was actually the last time I had physically seen him. And I remember thinking that he didn't look quite as good as I had remembered, and from that point on, with his long illness, which of course culminated in his death.

Let me just speak for me, but I think all of us aspire to be the kind of person that Tom Manton was, an honest person coming from working class roots, a working class family, who understood that by helping people, you helped the country and you make a difference in people's lives. Tom, I know, is looking down at us, and I want him and his family to know that he has made a difference in all of our lives, those of us who were fortunate to call him our friend and fortunate enough to call him our colleague. But even those people that never met Tom, that only knew his name, are better because Tom Manton served in the United States Congress and made a difference in their lives as well, a difference in everybody's lives in the United States of America.

I am going to miss my good friend. We are all going to miss him. But we are all going to remember him. He is going to live on in our hearts and our minds and with the good work he did to make our country a better place. God bless you, Tom. We will all miss you, but we will never forget you.

TRIBUTE TO LATE CONGRESSMAN
THOMAS J. MANTON

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

Mr. MEEKS of New York. This is indeed a sad time, but a happy time. Sad, and my prayers go out to Tom, Thomas J. Manton and his family over his passing; but happy because his life passed our way. And so, as in all things, we thank God. We thank God for the life of Thomas J. Manton.

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When I think of Tom and all of what he has done in his career, there is a commercial that ran some time ago and it said he "did it the old-fashioned way." Well, Tom became an attorney, a member of the New York City Police Department, a member of the city council, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, and a county leader of Queens County the old-fashioned way. He earned it. He truly is an inspiration for men and women who may have grown up on the hard side of the mountain, that if, in fact, you focus and you work hard, that truly you can make a contribution to your community and to the great society that we call America.