

he has provided for dozens of Bay Area men and women. Whether it is career advice, help in making an important decision, or just sharing the wisdom of a man who has done it all, John is eager to help and always more than generous with his time.

Madam Speaker, I am privileged to call John Carver my friend and fortunate to represent him in the United States Congress. My only wish is that our earth was blessed with more John Carvers.

HONORING MARTHA DODD
BUONANNO'S LIFE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved friend of mine and many in this body, Martha Dodd Buonanno.

Martha Buonanno would best like to be remembered as a mother, grandmother, and wife. She died after a brief illness on July 6, 2009. Her five children, Helena, Bernard, Carolyn, Jody, and Margaret, and 17 grandchildren surrounded their father Bernard Buonanno crying and laughing as they celebrated the life of this remarkable woman.

Her love of family and children led her to volunteer for many worthy organizations in Rhode Island. She was a mentor in Providence public schools with the VIPS program; she served on the boards of the Providence Preservation Society and the RI Association of the Blind. She was proud to chair the research center at the University of Connecticut that had been named in honor of her father: Thomas J. Dodd.

Martha and I became friends more than 50 years ago at Trinity College in Washington, DC. We shared in common that we both came from political families—in fact, when we first met, both of our fathers were running for Senate.

But our friendship grew over many years because we had so much more in common: Martha loved to travel, she loved to laugh, and always, Martha loved Democratic politics. In fact, Martha volunteered on every single one of her brother, Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD's, campaigns. She adored all her siblings: CHRIS, Tom, Carolyn, Jeremy, Nick.

Martha Dodd Buonanno had a strong connection to this House, where her father and her brother served. She lived and raised her family in Providence and was admired by our colleagues PATRICK KENNEDY and JIM LANGEVIN, and Senators JACK REED and SHELDON WHITEHOUSE. Her roots were in Connecticut and Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO and Congressmen JOHN LARSON, JOE COURTNEY, and CHRIS MURPHY join me in expressing condolences to the Buonanno and Dodd families.

It is a fitting tribute to Martha's life that more than 3,000 people attended her wake, lining the streets for more than seven hours. Her funeral mass was moved from her parish to another simply to be able to accommodate everyone. Those who came to pay their last respects to Martha included Vice President BIDEN, United States Senators, and a Governor; but Martha would have been equally proud to know that children that she tutored, neighbors from her block, and friends from growing up joined that day. As I know well, when Martha made a friend, she stayed friends with them forever.

Although Martha was always a sparkling personality, she became even more so when she met Bernie. Their love, and their children and grandchildren, are her lasting legacy.

I hope it is a consolation to her family that all of her classmates at Trinity College loved her for more than 50 years, and will miss her.

I am honored to place in the RECORD the extraordinary eulogy of her beloved brother, Senator CHRIS DODD, which captures her spirit and honors her life.

A TRIBUTE TO MY FABULOUS SISTER MARTHA
(By Christopher J. Dodd)

Before sharing some brief comments about my sister Martha, I want to observe that anything I say will only pale in comparison to the incredible comments of Martha and Bernie's children, and the outpouring of love and friendship that over 3,000 people shared for over 7 hours at last evening's wake.

It was obviously a great tribute to Martha—but it is also a great tribute to all who waited for hours to say good by to this bright, shining lady.

Now, let me begin with the obvious: My sister Martha is one fabulous gal!

And so we gather today to celebrate the life of a spectacular wife, a devoted mother, an over-the-top grandmother, a trusted fiend, a tireless community activist, a political confidant, an amazing spark plug of a woman, and the best sister a sibling could ever hope to have.

When most people lose loved ones, they instinctively wish they could have had just a little more time with them. The Dodds and the Buonannos were lucky enough to be with Martha constantly in the last days of her life.

And those last days were beautiful. Even as I say these words, they sound so inherently contradictory.

Yet for a little more than a week, my sister insisted on spending time alone with each of her five children and their spouses, each of her 17 grandchildren, each of her five siblings, as many of her close friends as were available, and, of course, Bernie.

How many of us have lost someone without ever having a chance to say goodbye, or the chance to tell them how much they meant to us?

Martha left us with remarkable dignity, grace, and courage. She had the incredible gift of deep, deep faith. She was truly at peace.

And even though Martha has left us, we remain brightly lit by the incandescent life she led. Frankly, as sad as we are today, it's hard not to be overwhelmed with joy and love when we think about a life filled with such vitality and vigor, curiosity and compassion.

Martha was a few years older than me. At least, that was the case until about twenty years ago. I was always the younger brother until one night at the Dunes Club in Narragansett, when she introduced me as her older, white-haired brother.

But, for most of our lives, she made for one heck of a big sister.

I learned early how special my sister Martha was.

One summer afternoon, decades ago, we were about to head off for a family vacation. Our bags were packed, the station wagon was full, and all of us were itching to get out of town—but Martha's 8th-grade championship softball game was running late. So we all waited together and watched.

In the bottom of the ninth, with the bases loaded and her team behind, my sister Martha hit a grand slam home run to win the game and the championship.

As I sat next to her on that car trip for our family vacation, I was filled with the kind of awe you only feel when you're a fourth-grader with the requisite dreams of being a sports hero and you've just watched your twelve-year-old sister win the big game.

Every time I drive by that softball field in West Hartford, Connecticut, I can't help but think back to the day I officially, and forever after was dazzled by my big sister.

Nothing Martha ever did was shy or tentative. When she was just a toddler, during World War II, she once devoured our entire family's monthly ration of butter. And when our father wrote home from Nuremberg, Germany, in 1945, he always made sure to ask how "Miss Butter" was doing.

Over the years, Martha never lost her love of a good meal, but the most important part of any meal, any occasion for that matter, was always the company with which she enjoyed it.

If Martha were your dinner partner, you never had a better or more enjoyable time in your life. She was that much fun.

Like most people with a vibrant spirit and a contagious personality, she made a lot of friends in her life.

If you asked her, she'd tell you that our sister Carolyn was her best friend in the world. Martha had a lot of great friends, because when she made friends, she kept them forever.

I want to acknowledge the presence of several of my Senate colleagues who were with us last evening and today.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi is here with us today. She and Martha became friends in college, and have been close ever since.

I have never known two people who were better friends to their friends than my sister Martha and her friend Nancy D'Alesandro Pelosi.

I want to also thank my good friend, and a Martha Dodd Buonanno fan, Vice President, Joe Biden, for making the effort to be with us yesterday.

Here also with us today are friends from high school, friends from college, friends she made during her 45 years in Rhode Island, and friends she accumulated at every stop along the way.

Martha was fiercely loyal and compulsively competitive.

She was a natural politico. She was involved and present in every part of every campaign I ever ran for Congress or the United States Senate. She was my unflinching advocate, my unyielding supporter.

And when I ran for President—a very brief run, you may recall—she showed up all over South Carolina, Iowa, and New Hampshire—and anywhere else there was a debate or forum or town hall meeting.

No matter where we were, she put the hard sell on anyone she encountered.

Even as her health was failing last week, she promised me that she would tear into any opponents I might have from wherever she was.

And in light of my present political circumstances, I told her there'd be no lack of opportunity to use her talents.

However, along with Martha's loyalty came the requirement that you stay true to yourself. So, she had no problem calling me anytime to tell me in no uncertain terms when I was screwing up.

Once, she called me and practically jumped through the phone. "Why did you vote with Jesse Helms?" she asked.

I asked her, "Well, what issue are you talking about?"

"I don't care WHAT the issue is! I just can't believe you voted with Jesse Helms!"

It is important to point out that Martha could be non-partisan in her outrage. She had a similar outburst once when I voted with my friend Bella Abzug!

When she was in her last days in the hospital in Boston, I received a very kind phone call from President Barack Obama, who was concerned about her failing health and wanted me to pass along his and the First Lady's thoughts and prayers.

After the call, I walked back into Martha's hospital room, and said in the presence of her family that I had just received a very important phone call—but I didn't want to be a name-dropper.

Martha opened one of her blue eyes, and said in a voice we could all appreciate, "Oh, go right ahead and drop the name."

When I told her who had called, and what the message was, she opened the other blue eye, laughed, and said, "You know, you shoulda beaten that guy."

I told President Obama that story when he called from Italy on Tuesday to express his condolences. The President roared with laughter at Martha's reaction.

Martha and Bernie have been such a magical couple—which, of course, doesn't mean they always had the same tastes. Which may have had something to do with the magic.

Martha, as you all know, loved to travel, which you'd expect of someone with such an adventurous spirit.

Her favorite spot was the Dominican Republic, but there wasn't anywhere in the world she wouldn't explore.

For Bernie, on the other hand, as Martha loved to say, "foreign travel" meant going from Providence to Westerly. And a trip to see the Red Sox, the Celtics, or the Patriots was a voyage on par with space travel.

So, as all of you know, Martha would travel on occasion by herself—to India, to Ireland, to Mexico and Europe.

On one occasion, she became fascinated with the Lewis and Clark expedition, and decided to follow their trail west—with a group of complete strangers. Or, at least, they were complete strangers when they started out.

It didn't take long for them to become life-long friends, one of whom is here with us today.

Even with all the energy she devoted to campaigning and to the many, many efforts she made in this community, Martha would always say, "My sole ambition is my family."

In one of those wonderful, quiet moments last week, when she knew the end was near, she said to me, "My ambition has always been my family, and I have fulfilled every ambition."

Martha and Bernie have been remarkable parents, and the proof exists in their children. They are all frighteningly bright. They are all remarkably successful. They are all unbelievably well-balanced. And those were their mother's descriptions when she was being modest.

Now, children can be gifted intellectually and athletically just by winning the genetic lottery—but when children grow up with decency, kindness, and humanity, you know that's a direct result of great parenting.

These five young men and women are the mirror reflection of their parents. And nothing, absolutely nothing, gave my sister Martha greater satisfaction than their goodness.

Together, these five children are raising 17 terrific children of their own.

When our parents passed away, Martha was the magnet that kept us all in the same orbit. As we all know, once our parents have passed, it can be hard to get the family together.

That didn't happen with us, because we all knew that if there was a holiday, there was going to be a get-together at Martha's house.

There was going to be good food, and a lot of it.

And there was going to be a lot of laughter, raucous debate, conversation, and the sheer joy of each other's company.

Her favorite holidays, by far, were Christmas Eve, the Fourth of July, and Thanksgiving.

In fact, she never let anything get in the way of bringing her family, including her siblings, closer together—not even the law.

Now, what I'm about to tell you could never happen in my State of Connecticut. Martha once started building a structure on their property in Narragansett which, as far

as the local zoning commission knew, was a tool shed.

She managed to avoid suspicion, even when the tool shed started to get way too big to be plausibly intended for just tools.

Martha got even more brazen with time, as the tool shed acquired extra rooms.

And, really, the jig should have been up when she added plumbing to that tool shed.

But Martha was nothing if not bold, and she got away with building that guest house for our sister Carolyn to stay in when she'd come and visit. Once it was clear that the zoning commission was not about to mess with Martha Dodd Buonanno, she even put up a sign calling it "Aunt Kitty's Cottage."

Martha was so proud of our brother Tom's years at Georgetown, and his time as our ambassador in Costa Rica and Uruguay.

She never ceased in her amazement of her best friend, my sister Carolyn's achievements reviving American Montessori, and her forty years of teaching.

The photos chronicling the growth of her wonderful family, taken by our brother Jeremy, which hang in their home, reflect Martha's respect, admiration, and love of her brother.

And the tales, travels, and exploits of our brother Nick kept her, in Martha's words, laughing and breathless for years.

I already miss my charismatic, funny, lively, beautiful sister.

But she touched so many people so deeply that I don't think she'll ever really be gone. I'm going to see her in the faces of her children and grandchildren.

I'm going to hear her voice whenever I'm on the campaign trail or casting a vote in the Senate—particularly when she would disagree with me.

And I'm going to feel her presence every time we celebrate a holiday, every time we share a meal, every time I drive by that softball field in West Hartford and remember just how incredible it was to grow up with Martha.

Since moments like this never give you a chance to express all of your emotions, let me just say, on behalf of all of us, thank you, Martha, for everything.

All of us love you, all of us miss you, and all of us were so lucky to be touched by your generous spirit.

FISCAL SOLVENCY OF CERTAIN TRUST FUNDS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3357, however I do so with great hesitation.

This legislation infuses the Highway Trust Fund with \$7 billion from the Treasury in order to prevent a shortfall that will impact the fund in only a few short weeks. The Highway Trust Fund, which is financed by the gas tax, is facing insolvency, again. For months it has brought in less revenue than previously expected as families have felt the pinch at the pump and were forced to conserve more than ever before.

Important transportation projects across Minnesota would be seriously jeopardized or delayed should this fund go bankrupt. That is simply not something we can allow. And that is why I must vote for this legislation.

You will recall that we faced this very same Hobson's choice last year. Transferring funds

from general revenue to cover the HTF shortfall must not become a precedent and Congress must set itself seriously to the task of reforming the way it pays for infrastructure improvements.

Furthermore, this is a stark reminder of the dramatic ripple effect our dependence on foreign oil continues to have throughout our nation. Our failure to aggressively pursue energy independence hurts all aspects of our economy. We must implement an "all of the above" energy strategy and increase our domestic supply of energy resources now so that we do not continue to band-aid this transportation crisis time and again.

Perhaps most disappointing in this specific instance is that the majority also loaded up this legislation with a hodgepodge of entirely unrelated spending, increasing spending levels for three other government programs facing shortfalls. It increased the Federal Housing Administration's capital fund to \$400 billion, from \$315 billion, thereby increasing the fund's statutory floor. It increased Ginnie Mae's guarantee of mortgage-backed securities by \$100 billion, from \$300 billion to \$400 billion. And, finally, it authorized "such sums as necessary" to shore up the Federal Unemployment Account which may encounter a shortfall due to rising claims for unemployment benefits.

Talk about a blank check. In one fell swoop, and after only 40 minutes of debate on the House floor, this bill spends billions upon billions of dollars. Members barely had a chance to know what was being voted on as the text of the legislation was not even available until the very last minute.

We must restore the integrity of this House and stop shoving legislation through that Members have not even had a chance to read and fully digest. I hope that the Majority will work with the Minority in the future to ensure more time and transparency is allotted throughout the legislative process.

And, I hope that we will have an opportunity to address the long-term flaws in each of these programs so that taxpayers are properly protected from these emergency shortfalls.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 3183). This Appropriations Act makes important investments to move America toward a clean energy economy. I thank Chairman OBEY, the House leadership, and my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee for their hard work on this legislation.

A transition to clean, renewable sources of energy is critical for America's national security, economic prosperity, and environmental stewardship. One of the most effective strategies for reducing America's dependence on foreign oil and polluting fossil fuels is to decrease our energy consumption. This bill invests \$2.25 billion in Energy Efficiency and