

huge double ornate doors, causally turned to the Secret Service man and informed him that we were official House Pages. Unhesitatingly, and without uttering a single syllable, the Secret Service man with a mere wave of his hand gave permission for us to join the House Members on the inaugural platform.

Albeit, our stay was brief but the undeniable fact remains that Jim and I were the only Pages (House, Senate or Supreme Court) who that day gained admission onto President Truman's Inaugural platform.

Jim and I were ensconced in the 'nose bleed' seats. Behind us was the stone outside wall of the U.S. Capitol Building! As a matter of fact we rested our backs against it.

In front of us sat the House of Representatives! Across the wide center aisle was the Senate. The Supreme Court was in attendance, including Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson (who swore into office that day, both Vice President Alben W. Barkley and President Harry S. Truman), the members of President's Cabinet and invited V.I.P. guests. Seated immediately in front of the Inaugural platform was the United States Marine Band, and in front of the band were the members of the Washington Diplomatic Corps and beyond them, thousands of invited guests. It was an exciting scene that Jim and I were certain we would always remember!

With the arrival of Vice President-Elect Alben W. Barkley and his daughter, the Marine Band played 'ruffles and flourishes', and we all stood as they took their places on the platform.

We arose from our seats again when the Marine Band struck up 'Hail to the Chief', announcing the arrival of President Truman, his wife Bess and daughter Margaret.

Standing there thrilled to be participating in the Inaugural ceremonies, Jim and I were thunderstruck when out into the middle aisle stepped 'Fishbait' Miller, looking straight at us and inexplicably, but with great emphasis gestured for Jim and me to leave the Inaugural Platform. And to leave immediately!

We looked at each other in utter disbelief! How could Fishbait, in this huge throng of people have known Jim and I were on that platform? Considering the distance from where we were seated to where he was standing it just did not seem possible! Congressman Breen who had been observing the scene, turned to me and said, "Al, I guess you two will have to go." With the sounds of 'Hail to the Chief' ringing in our ears we quickly departed.

Disappointed, but not ready to call it 'quits', Jim and I scurried up to the roof of the Capitol Building, sharing that lofty vantage point with the Marine who were there on guard. But it was not the same. And, after a while we came back down, and with several other House Pages observed the remainder of President Truman's Inauguration from one of the House windows. To mark the occasion, we opened the window panel and inscribed our names.

Several days passed before the opportunity presented itself to inquire of Head Democratic Page why 'Fishbait' Miller had ordered Jim and me off President Truman's Inaugural platform. He told me that Jim was 'inappropriately dressed' as he was wearing a surplus WWII Navy Pea Coat.

More than sixty years have passed since that day and I still cannot figure how 'Fishbait' spotted the two of us in that crowd!

Not too long after the Inaugural, I was honored to be invited by Fishbait to be his guest at his church's Father & Son Banquet. He couldn't take all of the House Pages so I was selected to represent them. I still have the Banquet Program.

Later that spring Fishbait assigned me to the House Ways and Means Committee to operate the sound system during the committee hearings on Amending the Social Security Act 1935. For that assignment I am forever grateful to him.

On the first day of the hearings, the Doorkeeper sent fellow Page Dave Cunningham. Dave did not like the job and asked to be re-assigned. Early the next morning Fishbait collared me, and away I went to the New House Office Building and the Ways & Means Committee! Had I been on the job the first day of the hearings I would have met former President Herbert Hoover, the man who was President of the United States the year I was born. In 1949 he was then President of the Hoover Commission and the first person to testify before the committee. I deeply regret having missed that opportunity.

I couldn't have been happier with my assignment on the Ways & Means Committee, and I remained for the entire hearings; I was later recalled for several hearings on other legislative matters. I have a letter from Ways & Means Committee Chairman, the late Robert L. Doughton (North Carolina) in which he said, "I remember you and your efficient services to the Committee very well. If and when you are in Washington while I am here, I would be pleased to have you come by and see me." He enclosed a line drawing of himself inscribed "to my Dear Friend Albert R. Anness" and signed it, "Robert L. Doughton."

My last contact with Fishbait occurred sometime in the 1970's. My wife Sharon and I were in the D.C. area visiting college friends, and one day with time to spare found ourselves near Capitol Hill. As I wanted to show Sharon around the House of Representatives, I hailed a cab, and in short order we were walking up the steps into the Rotunda through the same huge double ornate doors that I had exited President Truman's Inaugural Platform many years earlier.

Desiring to renew my acquaintance with Fishbait, introduce Sharon to him and ask him permission to take her onto the floor of the House, we headed for his office. Since the House was in recess I didn't hold out much a chance of finding him there, but I felt lucky that spring day!

I was pleased to find Fishbait in his office bent over a mimeograph machine busily trying to get it to work! He looked up, and greeted us in his typical down home fashion. I introduced myself and Sharon. After we shook hands he immediately hugged and kissed Sharon and then hugged and kissed her again! Grinning like Cheshire cat, Fishbait turned his attention to me. He, of course, did not remember me, and small wondering considering the hundreds of House Pages he encountered during his long career as Doorkeeper. We talked briefly and he mentioned several former Pages who had returned as Congressmen. Realizing he was busy, I soon came to the point of my visit and asked for a pass to the House floor. He apologized for not having the time to personally conduct our tour himself, and quickly scribbled out a note to the Capitol Policeman in the Visitor's Gallery.

After handing me his handwritten pass, he again hugged and kissed Sharon. We shook hands, and wished each other the best. I turned, and left Fishbait's presence for the last time. On September 12, 1989, two days before my fifty-eighth birthday, Fishbait passed away.

THE STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to this bill and in support of New Mexico's children and the dedicated men and women who educate them. This bill cuts federal funding for education at a time when other countries are strategically investing in the next generation, and seeing positive results come from those investments. We can't afford to cut funding for education, especially when the U.S. is lagging behind in several key indicators. American fourth graders now rank eleventh in math and sixth in reading. And in a few years, we'll ask them to compete in a global economy without giving them the tools to succeed.

But funding isn't the only problem with this bill, Mr. Chairman. This bill also fundamentally alters the federal role in education. Traditionally, the federal government has assumed the responsibility of maintaining equity in education. Of ensuring that students with disabilities, or students in low-income or unique communities, have equal access to a public education. This is particularly important in my home state of New Mexico, where students of color make up a significant portion of the school-age population. Provisions in the No Child Left Behind Act requiring that data be broken down into subgroups, and that schools be held accountable for the achievement of those subgroups, have allowed us to identify where there's more work to be done, and to begin shifting support to the areas where it's most needed. But we've got a long way to go. This bill represents a step back for equity, eliminating requirements that ensure that all students have access to the services they need, and that schools, school districts, and states are held accountable when they fall short of that all-important goal.

When I talk to New Mexicans about what's wrong in public education, it's never that there's too much money, or that we provide too much support for our students facing the greatest challenges. It's that we're not getting funds to where they're most needed or providing support services that care for the whole child. That's why we can't afford to pass this bill; I urge my colleagues to reject this approach and oppose this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOROTHY SAVARESE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Dorothy Savarese on receiving the prestigious Mercy Otis Warren Woman of the Year Award.