

Two years later, Tom became the Chairman of the Queens County Democratic organization and immediately began the revitalization of the local party. Tom took the reins at a time when the party was racked with front-page problems and a loss of public trust. Not only did he turn the party organization around and bring it back to full health, but in doing so, he insisted on making its membership more diverse and more reflective of the diversity of our beloved borough of Queens.

Tom's passion for equality took form in his commitment to helping new political leaders of varying ethnic backgrounds achieve impressive firsts. He helped elect the first Latino from Queens to the New York State Assembly; the first Chinese-American to the City Council; the first woman to serve as Borough President; and then the first African-American woman to Borough Presidency; he supported the first Indian-American and Korean-American District Leaders. These are just a few of these achievements.

As a direct result of the discipline and commitment he brought to every task, and the tireless work he put into the party, the Queens Democratic Committee is now one of the strongest party organizations in the country. Every Democratic candidate for President, going back to Michael Dukakis, sought Tom out, knowing that without his support, the votes of Queens Democrats would be few and far between.

As a congressman, Tom was a bull-dog-like advocate for New York's interests. He won a seat on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and used his influence to bring jobs and opportunity to his constituents. He fought for critical improvements in the Superfund program to accelerate the cleanup of toxic waste sites. He also took the lead in improving the conservation of our Nation's fisheries and ocean resources as chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Management. He used his experience as a former member of the NYPD to ensure that police officers across the Nation—and their families—would receive fitting lifetime compensation in the event of permanent job-related injuries. He was a Member's Member, constantly working behind the scenes to assist his colleagues, helping to rescue stuck legislation, or cutting deals that made everyone feel like a winner.

Having lived the American Dream himself, Tom worked ceaselessly to safeguard the opportunity for everyone, native born and immigrant alike, to live the American Dream as well. Tom was tough, but Tom was fair. And respect for Tom was universal, and went beyond ideology or partisan boundaries.

Tom never forgot his roots. He played a tireless and crucial role in helping to bring peace to Northern Ireland. He served as co-chair of the bipartisan Irish Caucus. He was selected to be the Grand Marshal of the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade, something of which I know he was proud.

With Tom Manton's passing, we have lost one of the classic old school Irish politicians that New York has sent to Washington to look after the interests of ordinary Americans. Tom was a guy who was decent and honest. His word and handshake were his bond. Tom worked quietly behind the curtain, rather than grandstanding in front of the cameras. Tom was a stand-up guy, the real deal.

When Tom Manton entered Congress in 1985, I had been serving in Congress for little more than a year. All of us in the New York delegation turned to Tom for advice and guidance. Tom made a difference in the lives of everyone who knew him, and his efforts improved this country for every one of its citizens.

My heartfelt condolences go out to Tom's widow, Diane, his children, and grandchildren. He loved them dearly and they love him still. Like many of my colleagues, I will miss Tom. I will miss his wise counsel and his unquenchable passion for our community and its people. America and New York have lost a truly good man and a great public servant.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my sentiments to the words that have been spoken already. I associate myself with the remarks that have been made about Tom Manton.

Tom Manton was a political leader in an adjacent county, the Borough of Queens. In the Borough of Brooklyn we had what we call a first-rate political machine, and in view of the fact that we have been discussing power-sharing and the Voting Rights Act, I remember dramatically seeing the difference between Brooklyn and Queens.

As a leader in Queens, Tom Manton believed in power-sharing. Minorities did not have to fight to get what they deserved in Queens. Harmony was not established only after a big battle was waged and the spoils were settled. In Brooklyn we had to battle for everything. We had to fight all the way.

Tom Manton was a political boss. He was the head of a machine. But he gave new meaning to the word machine and being a boss. A conciliator, a mediator, a guy who made things happen as he took this diverse, rapidly growing borough; rapidly growing in terms of diverse population, and he wove it all together without bitter fights and without leaving a lot of blood in the aisles.

So I take my hat off to Tom Manton and the kind of example he set. Several of my colleagues have said that Tom embodied "the American dream." Yes, he did. But the totality of his achievements cannot be contained in even that sought-after tribute. This ordinary American with his extraordinary ability to appeal to the best parts of human nature gifted Ireland, the land of his ancestors, with a lasting peace by facilitating the Good Friday Accords. Throughout his life Tom encouraged political solutions to contentious issues—not violence, fear or isolation.

Tom Manton fought hard for his constituents, often greasing the wheels of the bureaucracy to help them out. Elected officials and public leaders also received his invaluable support and guidance. He shared a workingman's outlook because he was a workingman: a policeman, a salesman, and Marine. He cared for the environment and recognized that protecting the air and water would protect communities. He was a thinker and a far-sighted activist for a better world.

In Tom's sensible hands, politics might be partisan, but could never be called "dirty." In his capable hands, the New Yorkers who unflinchingly voted him into Congress were confident of fair thoughtful representation. They knew—regardless of race, gender, or back-

ground—they were welcome at any table where he presided. He had a beautiful vision of what a community should be, a party, a country, a world. He was a loyal friend to many and a much-loved family man. He will be missed, but his life and his contributions will not be forgotten.

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