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U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS



NEWS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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REMEMBERING PAT NIXON

Those of us privileged to serve in this chamber know that being the spouse of an elected official is one of the toughest jobs around. Canceled vacations, late night phone calls, and intense media and public scrutiny are just part of the sacrifices they are asked to make.

Few people in history made this sacrifice with more grace and dignity than Pat Nixon.

I join with all the members of this chamber, and with all Americans, in extending our deepest sympathies to President Nixon, Tricia, Julie, and the entire Nixon family.

Born in a small Nevada mining town, Pat Nixon exhibited early in her life the courage and perseverance needed to withstand the turbulent world of politics.

As a twelve year old, she nursed her mother during her final days in a battle with cancer. And as a seventeen year old, she faced the death of her father.

Through a series of jobs, Pat Nixon earned and saved enough money to put herself through college. In 1937, she graduated from the University of Southern California, and became a teacher in nearby Whittier.

It was there that she would meet a young lawyer named Richard Nixon, and they were married on June 21, 1940 -- 53 years ago yesterday.

In 1946, Richard Nixon began his remarkable political career that would take him from the House of Representatives, to the United States Senate to the Vice Presidency, and to the White House.

And through it all--through victories and defeats, through the highest mountaintops and the lowest valleys -- Pat was always at his side.

She was there in Venezuela in 1958 when their lives were threatened by a rock-throwing mob. And she was there in 1972, when President Nixon made historic visits to China and Russia, and Pat won the affection and admiration of men and women around the world, just as she had done with the American people.

During her years as First Lady, she devoted her attention to many worthwhile causes -- including educational programs, community self-help undertakings, and most especially, volunteerism.

But no doubt about it -- her number one cause was her family and her husband. And in the most trying times, when Richard Nixon most needed her support and strength, she never wavered.

Just as Pat Nixon never wavered for her family, she never wavered for America. Elizabeth joins with me in letting the Nixons know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

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Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 12:35 PM EDT.