

November 19, 2008 - Congressional Remarks in Honor of PA Lt. Gov. Catherine Baker Knoll

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha, Dean of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation, made the following remarks in the U.S. Congressional Record today in honor of the life and service of Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll:

"Madam Speaker, on November 12, 2008, Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll succumbed to a four month long battle with neuroendocrine cancer.

"I've known Catherine for 30 years. She was a remarkable woman who never stopped fighting to better our Commonwealth and to improve the lives of Pennsylvanians. She was one of the most hard-working and determined individuals to ever serve in state government, and her passion and dedication to both the Democratic Party and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was unparalleled.

"Catherine was a transformational figure – one of the first women to run for statewide office, she served as Pennsylvania State Treasurer (1989-1997) and later became the first woman to serve as Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor (2003-2008). She never stopped fighting for what she believed in, and this determination placed her at the forefront of so many important issues.

"Catherine's kindness and friendship touched the lives of many. Over the past few months, people from all across Pennsylvania asked me how she was doing, and how she was coping with the disease. I reminded them that Catherine Baker Knoll was made of 'steel' and that she was fighting this disease with the same strength and fortitude she fought every other challenge in life.

"Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the career and life of someone who devoted both to serving the interests of her fellow Pennsylvanians. I rise to thank and commend her four children, Charles, Mina, Albert, and Kim Eric, for always being by her side and giving her constant strength.

"Madam Speaker, all of us will miss the friendship and great leadership of Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll."

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