5-1-1985

Dedication Ceremony for Jeannette Rankin Statue

Max S. Baucus
Senator * or Department*: BAUCUS

Instructions:
Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.
Prepare and insert additional forms at points that you want to index.
For example: at the beginning of a new folder, briefing book, topic, project, or date sequence.

Record Type*: Speeches & Remarks

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: May-1985
(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*: Arts/Historic Preservation
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* Dedication Ceremony for Jeannette Rankin Statue

DOCUMENT DATE*: 05/01/1985
(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"
STATEMENT BY SENATOR MAX BAUCUS
DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR JEANNETTE RANKIN STATUE
MAY 1, 1985

IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE TODAY TO HONOR ONE OF MONTANA'S
MOST OUTSTANDING NATIVE DAUGHTERS AND ONE OF THE NATION'S
GUTSIEST PUBLIC SERVANTS.

JEANNETTE RANKIN SYMBOLIZES WHAT IS BEST ABOUT MONTANA: AN
INDEPENDENT MIND...FIERCELY HELD CONVICTIONS...THE COURAGE TO
STAND UP FOR HER BELIEFS...TOUGHNESS TO TAKE ON ALL CHALLENGES,
NO MATTER HOW GREAT.

If Miss Rankin were here today, I'm sure she would ask us
not to focus on the past, but to look to the future.

She would ask us not just to talk about her achievements,
but to build on them.

Miss Rankin was a political activist -- par excellence. Her
dedication to the women's suffrage movement demonstrates this
fact.

She once said: "If I am remembered for no other act, I want
to be remembered as the only woman who ever voted to give women
THE RIGHT TO VOTE* 

That vote occurred in the 65th session of Congress, in 1919, during Miss Rankin's first term representing Montana in the House of Representatives.

That vote for suffrage was precious to Miss Rankin because it culminated years of grass-roots political activism.

As a young woman, Miss Rankin had worked tirelessly for suffrage legislation enacted in Montana, Washington and California.

During her campaign for suffrage in Montana, she visited every county more than once.

In a May, 1914 letter to another suffragette, Miss Rankin said of her travels:

"I have just returned from a month's trip through seven large counties. I made 26 speeches in 25 days. We elected 20 precinct leaders, and held one regular county central committee meeting."

Few politicians today would be able to match Miss Rankin's
I am sure that if she had written a book on political, grass-roots campaigning, it would still be a best-seller today.

And Miss Rankin didn’t stop working when the suffrage issue was settled.

She found other crusades.

Between her two terms in Congress, she worked in many states for social legislation improving the condition of women and children. A resident of Georgia in those years, she worked for better race relations. In the 1960s, she campaigned against the Vietnam War.

Miss Rankin was a forward thinker. She provoked, she questioned, she prodded. She was always on the move -- working for change.

Not all Montanans agreed with her views. But few should disagree that she deserves a place of honor in Statuary Hall.

We need more leaders today like Jeannette Rankin.
WE NEED MORE LEADERS WITH HER BRAND OF DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE AND COMMITMENT TO MAKING THE FUTURE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

JEANNETTE RANKIN IS A SYMBOL OF WHAT MADE THIS NATION GREAT, AND WHAT WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE US GREAT.

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