

Maureen and Mike

# Mansfield Library

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**Interviewee: John Glenn**

**Interviewer: Jim Caron**

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John Glenn: Mike really helped me out tremendously. He was really a big help in my getting started here in the Senate. One of my more memorable, one of the best memories I have of Mike is when he asked my wife Annie and I to go with he and Maureen to China, and we did. The four of us and staff members went. We were in China almost three weeks and Mike, of course, was a real student of Far East history, and I think he had taught that at one time, I believe, in the university, so he was a real expert on China. And it was a tremendous opportunity for me, not only to get to know him personally, he and Maureen, but to travel with him and benefit from his expertise on the Far East.

I was on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at that time, and then I became the chairman of the Far East subcommittee, and it was just a great start for me in the Senate under his tutelage there. He was a leader here in the Senate who was very fair, very well thought of as he's famous for, a man a few words, but when he spoke it meant something. I think that's something we should all try to emulate around here as much as we can.

Jim Caron: That's terrific. What kind of legacy do you think he leaves the Senate?

JG: Well, he set standards as a majority leader that are going to be hard for anybody to ever exceed, I think, and he was majority leader for, I think, the longest tenure of any majority leader we've ever had in history of the United States Senate. I think some 14 years, and that indicates the esteem in which he was held around here. Anyone—any of our young people today who aspire to public service could do well just to try and follow the career of Mike Mansfield, and I mean that in the way of fairness, willingness to tackle the issues that are tough issues, willingness to take a stand on whatever the thing is and reason it out, not duck the hard issues, and that's the kind of public service we need more of. Mike set an example in that that everybody could well follow.

JC: Great. Just in closing, anything you'd like to say to the people of Montana about him?

JG: Well, they've sent a—they sent a giant to the United States Senate when the people of Montana sent Mike Mansfield here, and he made his mark in the world, not only for Montana but for the whole United States of America, and his career is one that is exemplary for anyone else to follow. Stating that, he was here in the Senate for so many years, had a great impact here on the big issues of the day that he took a part in debating when he was here. He was the leader that helped set the agenda here, and then when he decided to leave the Senate, was ambassador to Japan, and he was probably the ideal figure to be ambassador to Japan because the Japanese respect a sort of reserved father figure, if you want to put it that way. And I think

Mike fit that role to a tee, just too perfectly, in the ambassadorship, the ambassadorial role that he provided for us in Japan. He's well-respected by the Japanese. They didn't want to see him leave Japan. He finally felt after what was eight years, nine years, I guess, that he was ambassador, that it was time for him to go, but he left a mark in the international field too, as well as what he did while he was here in the United States Senate.

JC: Thank you, Senator.

[End of Interview]