

About the editor of *Miriam's Words: The Personal Price of a Public Life*

Mary Lou Judd Carpenter spent the first years of her life in the interior of China, where her parents were medical missionaries. Her first language was Chinese. After a short stay in Minnesota, she grew up in Washington, D.C., where her father, Dr. Walter Judd, was a 10-term Congressman from Minnesota. Mary Lou is a 1955 graduate of Mount Holyoke College and worked in New York City and at the University of Michigan before moving to Minneapolis with her husband in 1960. They had three children and she was an active community volunteer.

After the children were launched and the marriage ended, she embarked on the second half of her life voyage of self-discovery and exploration, traveling to all seven continents. She used her skills and experience to work as a lay pastoral care associate at a church. She continues to offer grief education and organize support systems for people in transition.

When Mary Lou read the letters she gained a new perspective on her life and that of her parents, and eventually she chose to share these stories, to enhance the historical record as reported by men, knowing that she could not do justice to this first-person account of history in any other way.

About the author of *Miriam's Words: The Personal Price of a Public Life*

Miriam Barber Judd was born in India in 1904 to missionary parents. They moved back to the United States when she was 8 and they settled in Montclair, NJ. She attended Mount Holyoke College, graduating in 1925. It was there that she first met Dr. Walter Judd. They were both involved with the Student Volunteer Movement, and she was the editor of their magazine in New York City for two years. She then taught English in India for two years. She received a Master's degree from Columbia Teacher's College. She and Walter were married in 1932, and after a short stay in Minnesota, they moved to China, where Walter was head of a hospital in the interior. After the Japanese invaded, she was finally forced to flee for good with her two young daughters, and Walter joined them a year later in New Jersey, where by now Miriam had given birth to a third daughter.

After Walter's election to Congress in 1942 on the strength of his stance against Japanese militarism, they moved to Washington, D.C., where they stayed for the remainder of their lives. There, Miriam ran a household and raised three daughters while volunteering with the Red Cross, Congressional Wives' Club, United Givers' Fund and Meals-on-Wheels. She was involved in several church leadership roles as well. She was dedicated to the YWCA, serving on the board of the area branch as well as the national organization, and it was during her presidency of the National Capitol Area YWCA that all the branches of the area were first desegregated. She also remained very active in her Mount Holyoke alumnae activities, and spoke to many civic groups about her experiences. She died in 1994 at almost 90, just four months after Walter's death.

Miriam's Words: The Personal Price of a Public Life

Selected and edited by Mary Lou Judd Carpenter

Miriam's Legacy Publishing, 352 pages, paper

ISBN 978-0989-0-4890-3, \$17.99

Coming in September 2013

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