

Honest, Compelling Private Letters of a Congressional Spouse Published

Before Women Started to 'Lean In,'

Miriam Judd was an Activist against Communist China,

Witnessed the Real D.C., Raised a Family

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Sept. 23, 2013—In an era when the public sees the Congressional wife as a conniving partner in “House of Cards,” Miriam Judd’s newly published private letters from over 60 years provide a different portrait—a Congressional spouse who generously joined her husband in the fight for freedom before and after World War II at home and abroad. *Miriam’s Words: The Personal Price of a Public Life*, also details the struggles of a woman who was often raising three daughters “virtually single-handed” as her husband rose through the ranks on Capitol Hill.

Miriam was a force in her own right: she inspired an American boycott of Japanese silk stockings and helped integrate the D.C. chapters of the YWCA in the 1960s as her husband, Dr. Walter Judd, served 10 terms as a Republican Congressman from Minneapolis.

Her daughter Mary Lou Judd Carpenter has collected the most insightful of her private correspondence to family and friends through the years and shared them in the new book (www.miriamswords.com).

In between the observations about the health of Franklin Roosevelt and poor press treatment of the Eisenhowers are stark personal observations: “I’m not a good mother these days,” and “what a Hell I have been creating for myself.”

“This is a book for anyone who wants to know what it was like before women could really run for public office or become head of a company. Yet Miriam was not a pushover...it took courage to move a family around the world and stand up to what she saw as Communist aggression,” says Judd Carpenter, her daughter and editor of the book. “I hope readers will learn from her experiences and discover possibilities for living.”

As the Red Scare gripped the Capital in the mid-century, Miriam writes about a journalist friend who was “duped, deceived” by a Communist. She could be short-sighted as well when it came to the ethically challenged Sen. Joseph McCarthy: “I know there is so much misinterpretation...it only gets me worked up,” she wrote.

Mostly the Judds were on the right side of history. President Reagan awarded Dr. Judd the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Miriam, who died almost 20 years ago, has had the complete collection of her writings donated to the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Harvard University.

“One cannot read her letters without admiring her resilience and goodness — and without wondering what heights Miriam Barber Judd might have climbed if she had been born 50 years later,” Lori Sturdevant wrote in her review in the online *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. “Her daughter’s compilation of this strong woman’s correspondence is a gift to women’s history,” wrote Mary Ann Grossman in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

“Miriam’s Words,” is available via Amazon at: <http://www.amazon.com/Miriams-Words-Personal-Price-Public/dp/098904890X>

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