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**GRIPPING COLLECTION TRANSCENDS DOMESTIC LIFE**

Letters give behind-the-scenes look at mid-twentieth century

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN** – July 22, 2013 – Miriam Barber Judd was a prolific letter writer. She could pour out her feelings and experiences much more easily on paper than propriety allowed her to in daily life. The result is an amazing collection of letters (she left almost 2,000) and private writings that give a real-time, first-person account of the life behind a public servant.

*Miriam's Words: The Personal Price of a Public Life* is a selection of the most telling of those 2,000 letters. Selected and edited by her daughter, they give a chronological, well-written, insightful account of the life of the spouse of a public servant. Dr. Walter Judd was a medical missionary to China in the 1920s and 1930s, a 20-year Congressman and a delegate to the United Nations. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1981.

What is seldom heard is the price of such service. They were separated in China, when she had to evacuate with the children as the Communists closed in. And when they returned to the U.S., he was away from home often, where Miriam was left to raise their three daughters. After two years in Minneapolis, she was whisked off to Washington, D.C., where the state of the world took precedence over her needs. She was often lonely and frustrated by the lack of companionship.

But it wasn't all misery. She attended luncheons with Madam Chiang Kai-shek, Eleanor Roosevelt, Queen Elizabeth and many others. And Miriam was a formidable woman in her own right. She entertained dignitaries and gave speeches to countless women's groups. She was a leader of the Washington YWCA, worked tirelessly for various causes, and helped Walter with scheduling and correspondence. Mixed with that are details of family life, such as church pageants, Sunday School teaching, adolescent social demands and piano lessons.

This is a fascinating account of a time long past, with details that simply aren't available anywhere else. *Miriam's Words* will enrich readers' understanding of 20<sup>th</sup>-century politics, international relations, and domestic life, and the creation of the world in which we live.

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

Selected and edited by Mary Lou Judd Carpenter

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Also available as an e-book.

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