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5/21/65  
Steve Hess

Testimonial for Joseph W. Martin, Jr.  
Newton, Massachusetts, May 24, 1965

by Gerald Ford

Although this is a non-partisan dinner, I would like to say that I'm particularly pleased to be here because I understand that the City of Newton

casts the largest number of Republican votes of any community in Massachusetts.

*As the leader of the opposition minority in the House it's a pleasure to*  
We don't see too many Republicans around the House of Representatives these days.

In fact, I'm beginning to think that the Democrats are practicing a form of de facto segregation. However, I have a plan: We'll get the City of Newton to start a "bus-in" on the Capitol. In this way - to coin a phrase - we shall overcome!

*he is such a friendly person*

While everyone knows that it was Nathan Hale who said, "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country," tonight I would like to add a modern corollary to that famous statement. It is this: "The Republican Party regrets

that it has but one Joe Martin to give to our country!"

*All would agree that more Joe Martins would make America even greater.*

Of course, ~~if we had two Martins, I am sure that we would have run one of them in New York last November!~~

I feel a special kinship for our guest of honor. Joe Martin once said,



"The position of minority leader of the House of Representatives is the most thankless job in Washington....I would not take ten times ten thousand dollars to return to it." And now I'm the fellow whose trying to fill the giant shoes that Joe wore for so long, with such distinction, dedication and ability.

But Joe Martin and I have something else in common. We have both been avid amateur athletes. I was once a fair football player at the University of Michigan and he was once a very good semi-pro baseball player.

Many of you may not know that Joe has maintained his contacts with baseball through the years. When the great Washington Senators pitcher Walter Johnson ran for Congress, his friend Joe Martin wrote two campaign speeches for him -- one to give before labor groups, and the other to give before farmers. Unfortunately, Johnson was a better pitcher than politician. He got the two speeches mixed up, delivering the labor speech to farmers and vice versa. Needless to say, he lost the election, which perhaps proves what Joe Martin learned a long time ago: It's easier to be a great Washington Senator than a ~~great~~ member of the House of Representatives!

The man we honor tonight has had the most remarkable record of public service of any person currently active on the political scene. So, if he will forgive me, I would like to turn these remarks into my version of "This Is Your Life."



Joseph W. Martin, Jr. was born on November 3, 1884, the day before Grover Cleveland was elected President for the first time. His father wanted to name him Grover Cleveland Martin. But his mother, a staunch Republican, said, "Grover's a dog's name."

This wife lady, who could obviously tell a future Republican Speaker of the House when she saw one, was an Irish immigrant. She had little formal education, but was a witty and delightful person.

His father was a hard-working North Attleboro blacksmith whose earnings were never more than \$18 a week.

Since the family was poor, young Joe started to work outside of school hours at the age of six. One of his jobs was to brush the flies off the horses while his father shod them. Another job was as a delivery boy for the North Attleboro Evening Chronicle. (Now probably every newsboy dreams of one day becoming the owner of the paper. But Joe Martin was one young man who was to make this dream come true.)

He got his political start by marching in a torchlight parade for William McKinley in 1896. At the time, a family friend told his father, "Don't let that boy go into politics -- he's too good a boy!"

Joe, who was otherwise a fellow of extremely good sense, did not listen to this sound advise. Travelling by horse and buggy, he campaigned for the



Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1911, and was elected -- age twenty-seven.

*Joe later served three terms in your state senate.*

After three terms in the House, he was elected to the State Senate. It was 1914, and Calvin Coolidge was then president of that chamber. This was the beginning of a long friendship between the two future GOP leaders. (Coolidge, by the way, was the only man to always call our guest of honor by his full Christian name. He pronounced it Jo-seff.) Jo-seff Martin served an unprecedented three terms in the Massachusetts Senate.

In 1916 he began attending Republican Presidential Conventions. This would become a habit of more than 50 years duration. And today he holds the record -- unsurpassed in either party -- of having been five times the permanent chairman of national conventions.

His gentle humor has broken many tense moments at conventions, as all of us recall who were at San Francisco in 1956 when a Nebraska delegate tried to nominate "Joe Smith" for Vice President.

But not all moments at national conventions are so supercharged. At his first convention, Joe woke up in the middle of the night to find that a poker game was in progress in his hotel room. And to his astonishment, he discovered that the dealer was none other than the legendary Diamond Jim Brady!

By 1924 Joe was running for Congress. *and he's held that office as your*  
The era of the horse and buggy was over,

*representative ever since.*



? ~~and he now campaigned in a brand new Monroe automobile. So Joe Martin was sent  
by his constituents to the quaint and sleepy city of Washington, D.C.~~

? These were the days of great orators in the House of Representatives. However, not all Congressman could keep from wallowing in clichés. Joe remembers that one of the first "great" speeches he heard began: "I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that politics makes strange bedfellows. Especially since women got into 'em."

Joe was put on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Of course he really wanted to be on the Post Office Committee! (But not all freshman legislators could be that lucky.) <sup>1</sup> *Interestingly* At that time the Foreign Affairs Committee spent a full week debating such earth-shaking questions as whether or not to authorize \$20,000 for an international poultry show in Tulsa.

The new Congressman began to establish his lifetime reputation as a fighter for New England. But he also learned the pitfalls of his office. After getting a new Post Office for Fall River, it turned out that the building contract went to a firm in St. Louis! The building was constructed not with Fall River granite, but with Indiana limestone! And to top it all off, the job of night watchman was given to the father of Joe's Democratic opponent!

Yet despite such temporary setbacks, he kept getting reelected to Congress.

A dairyman from Taunton once said, "I vote the straight Democratic ticket, except



for Congressman Martin. I always vote for him because my father told me ten, fifteen years ago." Indeed, Joe Martin had become a vital institution in his district.

Much deserved recognition came often to Joe Martin. 1936 -- he was chosen Republican National Committeeman from Massachusetts. 1938 -- he was elected Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee. 1939 -- he became the Republican Leader of the House. 1940 -- he was considered a dark horse candidate for the Presidency, and received forty-four votes at the convention. Although he never sought the office, this is what the great Kansas editor, William Allen White, said of him: "He will make...if the dice roll right, a liberty-loving president."

When Wendell Willkie was made the 1940 nominee, he begged Joe to become Chairman of the Republican National Committee. Putting devotion to Party above personal wishes, as usual, Joe accepted the post. As Chairman he had the rare distinction

of seeing the Committee evicted from its building when it was purchased by ~~an organization~~ *an organization*

*that hasn't been too friendly to most Republicans*  
all organizations -- ~~the CIA!~~ However, although he was far from a wealthy man,

Joe took over another building and obligated ~~h~~ himself as a personal liability for the \$33,000 lease. (Is there any wonder why Republicans love Joe Martin?)

The greatest tribute came to Joe Martin in 1947 when he was first elected

Speaker of the House. ~~For a man who has always had little taste for public speaking,~~



~~it was slightly ironic, but funny, that he would now be called "Mr. Speaker."~~ Next  
to the President, as most students of government know, the Speaker is the most powerful elective official in the United States.

But what most people don't know is that besides presiding over the House, the Speaker has a great many other duties -- such as supervising a Capitol bank with assets of four million dollars. The Speaker also has responsibility for four barbershops and a beauty parlor. But Joe, as a confirmed bachelor, told a colleague, "I think I'll let you run the beauty parlor. You are more experienced with the women than I am."

This question of experience with the opposite sex was to change rapidly. For under the new law of Presidential succession, Speaker Martin was first in line if anything happened to President Truman. (There was no Vice President when Truman succeeded FDR, you will recall.) Of course the possibility of a bachelor President was a great temptation to the single ladies of this country. Joe Martin was deluged with offers of marriage! (One proposal that particularly amused him came from a woman spiritualist in Clarksburg, West Virginia, who wrote that the deceased Wendell Willkie had told her to marry Joe!)

? ~~Here is another interesting situation that resulted from the line of Presidential succession. It is possible to argue that Joe Martin was actually President of the United States for a few minutes on January 20, 1953. At noon~~





~~of that date the terms of President Truman and Vice President Barkley expired by law. But the inauguration of Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon did not take place until a few minutes after twelve. So, I believe, our history books should record the short but successful administration of President Joseph W. Martin, Jr.~~

There are a great many reasons for Joe Martin's success. But I would like to mention just two of them.

The first is his adherence to the old New England principle of thrift. Once Joe Martin invited a President of the United States to his office for lunch. He called a caterer for some box lunches and was told that they would cost \$2 apiece. Well, this seemed a bit high to Joe, so he shopped around until he found a man who would provide a box lunch for \$1.19. I am sure that this makes Joe the only man in American history to entertain a President at such a bargain price! And, of course, Joe has always applied this same principle to the taxpayer's dollar.

Second, Joe Martin is a very likeable person. Even those who are his political opponents have come to have a special place in their hearts for him. For example, there is quite a collection of GOP elephants in Joe's office, and one of the most handsome was given to him by Harry Truman. The story behind this is that someone sent it to the White House, and President Truman told his secretary, "Take this up to Joe Martin. I don't want any damned dancing elephants around here!"



~~I have tried to make this a light hearted biography of Joe Martin. But, in conclusion, I would like to be more serious for a few moments.~~

Joe has served our nation with great skill. He has been a major force in some of the most crucial decisions of our times. To cite just one instance: During World War II General Marshall came to him and asked for \$1.6 billion to manufacture an atomic bomb. Joe's job would be to try to get this money from Congress largely on faith -- for the greatest secrecy had to be maintained. Thus, to a large extent, Joe Martin was responsible for putting through a program that eventually shortened the war and saved millions of American lives.

But speaking to you, in a sense, as a representative of Joe Martin's party, I would also like to say a few words about "Joe Martin, Republican."

When he was first nominated for House leader in 1939, it was said of him: "We are doing more than electing a floor leader. We are choosing a symbol of the Republican Party..."

And Joe Martin has been a magnificent symbol of integrity, dedication, honor and patriotism.

Through the darkest days of Republican Party history, he has played one of the most significant roles in keeping the two-party system alive and functioning.



The dedicatinn of Joe Martin's autobiography reads: "To the millions of Republicans -- and to the many Democrats and Independents as well -- who fought with me through the years to maintain the two-party system of government in the United States."

This has been Joe Martin's greatest fight. And all Americans, regardless of party, are very much in his debt and owe him a lasting vote of thanks.

From all of us, Joe Martin, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



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Those were the days of great orators in the House of Representatives. However, not all Congressmen could keep from wallowing in cliches. Joe remembers that one of the first "great" speeches he heard began: "I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that politics makes strange bedfellows. Especially since woman got into 'em."





Joe was put on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Of course, he really wanted to be on the Post Office Committee! (But not all freshman legislators could be that lucky.) Interestingly, at that time the Foreign Affairs Committee spent a full week debating such earth-shaking questions as to whether or not to authorize \$20,000 for an international poultry show in Tulsa.

The new Congressman began to establish his lifetime reputation as a fighter for New England. But he also learned the pitfalls of his office. After getting a new Post Office for Fall River, it turned out that the building contract went to a firm in St. Louis! The building was constructed not with Fall River granite, but with Indiana limestones! And to top it all off, the job of night watchman was given to the father of Joe's Democratic opponent!

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The greatest tribute came to Joe Martin in 1947 when he was first elected Speaker of the House. Next to the President, as most students of government know, the Speaker is the most powerful elective official in the United States.

But what most people don't know is that besides presiding over the House, the Speaker has a great many other duties -- such as supervising a Capitol bank with assets of four million dollars. The Speaker also has responsibility for four barbershops and a beauty parlor. But Joe, as a confirmed bachelor, told a colleague, "I think I'll let you run the beauty parlor. You are more experienced with the women than I am."

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Second, Joe Martin is a very likeable person. Even those who are his political opponents have come to have a special place in their hearts for him. For example, there is quite a collection of GOP elephants in Joe's office, and one of the most handsome was given to him by Harry Truman. The story behind this is that someone sent it to the White House, and President Truman told his secretary, "Take this up to Joe Martin. I don't want any damned dancing elephants around here!"

Joe has served our nation with great skill. He has been a major force in some of the most crucial decisions of our times. To cite just one instance: During World War II General Marshall came to him and asked for \$1.6 billion to manufacture an atomic bomb. Joe's job would be to try to get this money from Congress largely on faith -- for the greatest secrecy had to be maintained. Thus, to a large extent, Joe Martin was responsible for putting through a program that eventually shortened the war and saved millions of American lives.



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Man of Year

King -  
Bates / Phelan -  
Larry Curtiss -

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in such a friendly environment where there is a Republican mayor, a member of C.O.P. alderman + where Ed Brock now lives.

While everyone knows that it was Nathan Hale who said, "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country," tonight I would like to add a modern corollary to that famous statement. It is this: "The Republican Party regrets that it has but one Joe Martin to give to our country!" All would agree that more Joe Martins would make America even greater.





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that Joe wore for so long, with such distinction, dedication and ability.

*At this point I would like to thank Joe for his help & his encouragement before & after January 4<sup>th</sup>*

But Joe Martin and I have something else in common. We have both been

avid amateur athletes. I was once a fair football player at the University of

Michigan, and he was once a very good semi-pro baseball player.

*In all his years in politics Joe has been a good batter & a fine puller for good government.*

Many of you may not know that Joe has maintained his contacts with baseball

through the years. When the great Washington Senators' pitcher, Walter Johnson,

ran for Congress, his friend Joe Martin wrote two campaign speeches for him --

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His father was a hard-working North Attleboro blacksmith whose earnings were never more than \$18 a week.

*But Joe's parents proved something we often forget - character is of the soul not of the cloth.*

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*Politics & politicians put breath in his.*



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*One of Joe's greatest assets is his unique ability to master new problems, new challenges as they come to our society. Space*



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You deserve this high honor



TESTIMONIAL for JOSEPH W. MARTIN, JR.

Newton, Massachusetts      May 24, 1965

by Gerald R. Ford

Although this is a non-partisan dinner, I would like to say that I'm particularly pleased to be here because I understand that the City of Newton casts the largest number of Republican votes of any community in Massachusetts. As the leader of the oppressed minority in the House, it's a pleasure to be in such a friendly environment.

While everyone knows that it was Nathan Hale who said, "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country," tonight I would like to add a modern corollary to that famous statement. It is this: "The Republican Party regrets that it has but one Joe Martin to give to our country!" All would agree that more Joe Martins would make America even greater.

I feel a special kinship for our guest of honor. Joe Martin once said, "The position of minority leader of the House of Representatives is the most thankless job in Washington....I would not take ten times ten thousand dollars to return to it." And now I'm the fellow who's trying to fill the giant shoes that Joe wore for so long, with such distinction, dedication and ability.

But Joe Martin and I have something else in common. We have both been avid amateur athletes. I was once a fair football player at the University of Michigan, and he was once a very good semi-pro baseball player.

Many of you may not know that Joe has maintained his contacts with baseball through the years. When the great Washington Senators' pitcher, Walter Johnson, ran for Congress, his friend Joe Martin wrote two campaign speeches for him-- one to give before labor groups, and the other to give before farmers. Unfortunately Johnson was a better pitcher than politician. He got the two speeches mixed up, delivering the labor speech to farmers and vice versa. Needless to say, he lost the election, which perhaps proves what Joe Martin learned a long time ago: It's easier to be a great Washington Senator than a member of the House of Representatives!

The man we honor tonight has had the most remarkable record of public service of any person currently active on the political scene. So, if he will forgive me, I would like to turn these remarks into my version of "This Is Your Life."

Joseph W. Martin, Jr., was born on November 3, 1884, the day before Grover Cleveland was elected President for the first time. His father wanted to name him Grover Cleveland Martin. But his mother, a staunch Republican, said, "Grover's a dog's name."

His father was a hard-working North Attleboro blacksmith whose earnings were never more than \$18 a week.

Since the family was poor, young Joe started to work outside of school hours at the age of six. One of his jobs was to brush the flies off the horses while his father shod them. Another job was as a delivery boy for the North Attleboro EVENING CHRONICLE. (Now probably every newsboy dreams of one day becoming the owner of the paper. But Joe Martin was one young man who was to make this dream come true.)

He got his political start by marching in a torchlight parade for William McKinley in 1896. At the time, a family friend told his father, "Don't let that boy go into politics -- he's too good a boy!"

Joe, who was otherwise a fellow of extremely good sense, did not listen to this sound advice. Traveling by horse and buggy, he campaigned for the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1911, and was elected -- age twenty-seven.

In 1916 he began attending Republican Presidential Conventions. This would become a habit of more than 50 years' duration. And today he holds the record -- unsurpassed in either party -- of having been five times the permanent chairman of national conventions.

His gentle humor has broken many tense moments at conventions, as all of us recall who were at San Francisco in 1956 when a Nebraska delegate tried to nominate "Joe Smith" for Vice President.

But not all moments at national conventions are so supercharged. At his first convention, Joe woke up in the middle of the night to find that a poker game was in progress in his hotel room. And to his astonishment, he discovered that the dealer was none other than the legendary Diamond Jim Brady!

By 1924 Joe was running for Congress, and he's held that office as your representative ever since.

Those were the days of great orators in the House of Representatives. However, not all Congressmen could keep from wallowing in cliches. Joe remembers that one of the first "great" speeches he heard began: "I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that politics makes strange bedfellows. Especially since women got into 'em."

Joe was put on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Of course, he really wanted to be on the Post Office Committee! (But not all freshmen legislators could be that lucky.) Interestingly, at that time the Foreign Affairs Committee spent a full week debating such earth-shaking questions as to whether or not to authorize \$20,000 for an international poultry show in Tulsa.

The new Congressman began to establish his lifetime reputation as a fighter for New England. But he also learned the pitfalls of his office. After getting a new Post Office for Fall River, it turned out that the building contract went to a firm in St. Louis! The building was constructed not with Fall River granite, but with Indiana limestone! And to top it all off, the job of night watchman was given to

the father of Joe's Democratic opponent!

Yet, despite such temporary setbacks, he kept getting re-elected to Congress. A dairyman from Taunton once said, "I vote the straight Democratic ticket, except for Congressman Martin. I always vote for him because my father told me to, fifteen years ago." Indeed, Joe Martin had become a vital institution in his district.

Much deserved recognition came often to Joe Martin. 1936 -- he was chosen Republican National Committeeman from Massachusetts. 1938 -- he was elected Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee. 1939 -- he became the Republican Leader of the House. 1940 -- he was considered a dark horse candidate for the Presidency, and received forty-four votes at the convention. Although he never sought the office, this is what the great Kansas editor, William Allen White, said of him: "He will make....if the dice roll right, a liberty-loving President."

When Wendell Willkie was made the 1940 nominee, he begged Joe to become Chairman of the Republican National Committee. Putting devotion to Party above personal wishes, as usual, Joe accepted the post. As Chairman he had the rare distinction of seeing the Committee evicted from its building when it was purchased by an organization that hasn't been too friendly to most Republicans. However, although he was far from a wealthy man, Joe took over another building and obligated himself as a personal liability for the \$33,000 lease. (Is there any wonder why Republicans love Joe Martin?)

The greatest tribute came to Joe Martin in 1947 when he was first elected Speaker of the House. Next to the President, as most students of government know, the Speaker is the most powerful elective official in the United States.

But what most people don't know is that besides presiding over the House, the Speaker has a great many other duties -- such as supervising a Capitol bank with assets of four million dollars. The Speaker also has responsibility for four barber-shops and a beauty parlor. But Joe, as a confirmed bachelor, told a colleague, "I think I'll let you run the beauty parlor. You are more experienced with the women than I am."

This question of experience with the opposite sex was to change rapidly. For under the new law of Presidential succession, Speaker Martin was first in line if anything happened to President Truman. (There was no Vice President when Truman succeeded FDR, you will recall.) Of course, the possibility of a bachelor President was a great temptation to the single ladies of this country. Joe Martin was deluged with offers of marriage! (One proposal that particularly amused him came from a woman spiritualist in Clarksburg, West Virginia, who wrote that the deceased Wendell

Willkie had told her to marry Joe!)

There are a great many reasons for Joe Martin's success. But I would like to mention just two of them.

The first is his adherence to the old New England principle of thrift. Once Joe Martin invited a President of the United States to his office for lunch. He called a caterer for some box lunches and was told that they would cost \$2 apiece. Well, this seemed a bit high to Joe, so he shopped around until he found a man who would provide a box lunch for \$1.19. I am sure that this makes Joe the only man in American history to entertain a President at such a bargain price! And, of course, Joe has always applied this same principle to the taxpayer's dollar.

Second, Joe Martin is a very likeable person. Even those who are his political opponents have come to have a special place in their hearts for him. For example, there is quite a collection of GOP elephants in Joe's office, and one of the most handsome was given to him by Harry Truman. The story behind this is that someone sent it to the White House, and President Truman told his secretary, "Take this up to Joe Martin. I don't want any damned dancing elephants around here!"

Joe has served our nation with great skill. He has been a major force in some of the most crucial decisions of our times. To cite just one instance: During World War II General Marshall came to him and asked for \$1.6 billion to manufacture an atomic bomb. Joe's job would be to try to get this money from Congress largely on faith -- for the greatest secrecy had to be maintained. Thus, to a large extent, Joe Martin was responsible for putting through a program that eventually shortened the war and saved millions of American lives.

But speaking to you, in a sense, as a representative of Joe Martin's Party, I would also like to say a few words about "Joe Martin -- Republican."

When he was first nominated for House leader in 1939, it was said of him: "We are doing more than electing a floor leader. We are choosing a symbol of the Republican Party..."

And Joe Martin has been a magnificent symbol of integrity, dedication, honor and patriotism.

Through the darkest days of Republican Party history, he has played one of the most significant roles in keeping the two-party system alive and functioning.

The dedication of Joe Martin's autobiography reads: "To the millions of Republicans -- and to the many Democrats and Independents as well -- who fought with me through the years to maintain the two-party system of government in the United States."

This has been Joe Martin's greatest fight. And all Americans, regardless of Party, are very much in his debt, and owe him a lasting vote of thanks.

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