

## Adjourn in Memory – August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### Trudy Schafer

- Each of us in this body has the privilege of adjourning of memory of individuals who have had extraordinary impacts in their communities. People who, in the face of cynicism and myopia, stay faithful to the long arc of justice.
- Today I rise to honor a member of *our* community, who, by all accounts was an incomparable force here in this Capitol for 25 years.
- Her name is Trudy Schafer. As we all know, she was the Senior Director for Program of the League of Women Voters of California.
- And on June 20<sup>th</sup>, surrounded by family, she passed away after a battle with pancreatic cancer.
- As I reflect on her impact, I am inspired by the words of Abraham Lincoln:
- “I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true; I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have.”

- Trudy was the most honorable of honorable people I have worked with in the past quarter century, and her title – Senior Director for Program – does not even begin to capture the breadth and depth of her work.
- But I want to start telling Trudy’s story from the beginning, before she became the luminary we all knew her to be.
- Trudy was the daughter of an Air Force family, growing up in towns across the country. She ultimately landed in Evanston, Illinois, where she earned her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University.
- From there, she hopped across town to pursue her passion for physical chemistry at the University of Chicago, where she earned her PhD in that field, and was awarded a prestigious Hertz Foundation Fellowship.
  - It was during this time that Trudy met and fell in love with the man she married in 1969, John Schafer.
  - And listen to this! Trudy’s work as a scientist contributed to her advisor’s Nobel Prize several years later!
- After Trudy received her PhD, she and John moved across the country where Trudy took a postdoctoral fellowship at UC Berkeley, before finally settling here to Sacramento.

- It was at this time, around 1978, that Trudy put her promising chemistry career on hold and began volunteering for the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County.
- That volunteer position quickly evolved into the first executive staff position for the statewide League of Women Voters.
- It was in this capacity that Trudy almost single-handedly developed the architecture of the modern League of Women Voters of California, the organization as we recognize it today.
- For the next 25 years, Trudy stood at the vanguard of some of the most significant political efforts of our time: she fought tooth and nail for campaign finance reform in the 1980s; she ardently defended our state's landmark environmental protection law, CEQA; and she worked tirelessly to make our elections more fair and accessible through motor voter laws and nonpartisan redistricting.
- But the real remarkable thing about Trudy is not just what she did, but how she did it.
- Trudy was steadfast in her core beliefs, and dogged in her advocacy. But in all her years walking these halls fighting for what's right, not once did Trudy sacrifice the smallest measure of respect, compassion, and humility in her interactions with others.

- Trudy not only believed that the better angels of our nature were worth fighting for; she exemplified them at every turn.
- And those values, those fundamental human qualities that made Trudy Schafer the incredible woman that she was, live on in her family, with us here today:
  - Her **husband, Dr. John Schafer**
  - Her **daughter Anne Schafer**, with her husband Mike Buckley
  - Her **son, Bob Schafer**, and his wife Kristina Carbonell
  - And her **three grandchildren: Rachel, Laurel and Reese.**
- We also have several of Trudy’s colleagues from the League of Women Voters here in the gallery with us.
- “I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have.”
- That holds a lesson for all of us. An aspiration to define ourselves not by our victories alone, but by the virtue and integrity with which we strive to achieve them.
- Trudy Schafer lived by it. What an example she set; what a trail she blazed. Let us honor her memory, and follow in her footsteps.