

REMARKS AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR FRANCES HUMPHREY HOWARD
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2002
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

I am Alice Brandeis Popkin. I had the pleasure of meeting and becoming a friend of Frances' more than 25 years ago in Washington D.C. From the moment I met Frances, I found myself in vibrant conversations concerning government and international affairs, opera, the performing and visual arts, and, of course, politics. Frances was a true American Democrat-both with a small d and a capital D.

In all her years with the Federal Government, Frances was committed to public service. She produced the results that were only possible for someone who was both a dedicated bureaucrat and a superb politician.

What fun it was to be a friend of Frances'. She enjoyed good company and all the social comings and goings that make things happen in Washington. Frances wanted her friends to know one another. If you were fortunate enough to be a friend of Frances', you became part of a wonderful community of interesting, successful and caring individuals from all parts of the world.

And, she was a mentor to many young people - particularly young women. It was all part of how Frances lived - a life of hard work, politics, family and friends.

I will close with a favorite quote from Joseph Conrad with apologies for the gender.

“What one lives for may be uncertain; how one lives is not. Man should live nobly though he does not see any practical reason for it, simply because in the mysterious, inexplicable mixture of beauty and ugliness, virtue and baseness in which he finds himself, he must want to be on the side of the virtuous and the beautiful.”

Frances' life was indeed based on ethical and democratic principles, and devoted to beauty - both in the arts and human relationships. We will miss her.