

March 21, 1991

**SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING**

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. With us this morning for the prayer this morning we have Pastor Robert Folkers who is the Executive Director of the Ministries for the Methodist Conference. Pastor Folkers.

**PASTOR FOLKERS:** (Prayer offered.)

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Pastor Folkers. Now in recognition of National Women's History Month, Senator Jessie Rasmussen is going to talk about a significant woman in her life. Senator Rasmussen.

**SENATOR RASMUSSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In celebration of women and women's achievements, I offer this salute today to Eleanor F. Kerrey, the woman who made the greatest impression in my life. Eleanor F. Kerrey was born into a family of seven children in rural Iowa. She grew up on a farm, went to a country school and then set off to the Iowa State University. When she arrived at the university, there were those who said, we don't expect you to do very well. You didn't get a very good training in your country school and you didn't do very good on those achievement tests when you entered our school, but we have to take you because you're a resident of Iowa. Eleanor just sort of shrugged her shoulders and went about her work and four years later graduated first in her class. Shortly after her graduation, she married Jim Kerrey and with him created seven children and established a family business. She was a quiet, unassuming woman but very diligent. I remember her up early in the morning fixing breakfast for her brood, getting them all off to school and then joining her husband at work for most of the day and then back home again nurturing the family and doing laundry till wee hours of the morning. When several of her children were taking piano lessons and she was about 45 years of age, she decided the best way to help them was for her to take piano lessons. And, likewise, when three of her children were in college she joined them and once again graduated with a Master's Degree, with honors, in Food and Nutrition. She went on to become an instructor at the University of Nebraska where she created curriculums and wrote curriculum manuals that are still used today in the Food and Nutrition Department at the University of Nebraska. During that time, she also helped her son and her son-in-law in the creation of recipes and food practices for their business. And, as she approached retirement