**Statement for the Congressional Record – In memory of Carmen Warschaw**

**Leader Nancy Pelosi**

**Friday, January 18, 2013**

M. Speaker, today, the people of California mourn the passing of a political legend of unsurpassed wit, a political leader of unyielding will, and a force for progress – for women, for Democrats, for our state and our country: Carmen Warschaw.

Carmen believed in the power and promise of our democracy. She believed that politics was about people, that the political process should be a force for good, that elections should produce leaders of bold vision and strong values, courage and character. She believed all Americans bore a responsibility to participate, to vote, to make our voices heard. She believed we all had the ability and the obligation to make a difference – whether in a campaign, in our schools, or in our communities. And she never hesitated to act on her beliefs.

It was on the foundation of these principles that Carmen made her mark. It was on the basis of these values that Carmen built her legacy.

She left footprints on the lives and careers of countless political figures – as a fixture at every Democratic National Convention from 1948 to 2008; as the Democratic Party’s Chairwoman in Southern California; as a power broker in state government. She was never afraid to go toe-to-toe with the most powerful people in our state, whether a governor or a state party chair. She would, in the words of her alma mater, always “fight on.”

She was a pioneer. The daughter of immigrants, she became the first woman to lead the state’s Fair Employment Practices Commission, standing firm for civil rights, equality, and justice for all.

She was a philanthropist to her core: investing in the causes of Los Angeles’ Jewish community; supporting the state and people of Israel; endowing chairs and backing research at USC – the school where she met the love of her life, Louis.

She loved music and the arts, and was surrounded by them in her beautiful home. She loved sports, and could regularly be found on a hot summer day in her seat behind the home dugout at Dodger Stadium.

She was intensely loyal, fiercely independent, extraordinarily wise, and unabashedly proud of her heritage, her values, and her political activism. Indeed, it was only fitting that Carmen would pass away on November 6, 2012 – Election Day. In characteristic fashion, she had already voted, leaving one last, indelible mark on history.

To borrow a phrase from Jewish tradition, Carmen Warschaw was a “woman of valor.” May she forever be an example of grace, passion, and commitment to all of us. May her memory be a blessing to all who knew her. May it be a comfort to her daughters, Hope and Susan, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her friends and loved ones to know that so many share in their grief at this time.

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