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Former 12-Term U.S. Representative to Address IWU Founders' Day Convocation, Feb. 10

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Former 12-Term U.S. Representative to Address IWU Founders' Day Convocation, Feb. 10

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Patricia Schroeder Now Heads Publishing Group; Intellectual Property Rights Target of Speech

"I love books, so it's kind of like being thrown in a candy store."

Patricia Schroeder
*former U.S. Representative,
commenting on her leadership
of the
Association of American Publishers*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Former 12-term U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder, now president and chief executive officer of the Washington, D.C.-based Association of American Publishers (AAP), will be the keynote speaker at Illinois Wesleyan University's Founders' Day celebration on Feb. 10.

Schroeder will deliver her address, "Precious Ideas: The Battle of Intellectual Property Rights," at the 11 a.m. convocation in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 303 E. University, Bloomington.

Her address is open to the public; there is no admission fee.

A Woman of Firsts

Schroeder represented the First Congressional District of Colorado--most of the city and county of Denver--from 1973-97. She was the first woman to serve on the powerful House Armed Services Committee, and once chaired the panel's subcommittee on military installations and facilities.

Among Schroeder's other Capitol Hill assignments were serving on the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, where she chaired the Subcommittee on Civil Service; chairing the Armed Services' Subcommittee on Research and Technology; chairing the Select Committee on Children,

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Youth, and Families, and serving as a member of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee.

When she retired, Schroeder was the most senior female member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Commenting on Schroeder's retirement, her colleague U.S. Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) said: "Pat Schroeder blazed the trail. Every woman in this house is walking in her footsteps."

During her years on Capitol Hill, Schroeder was the leading U.S. House sponsor of the Family and Medical Leave Act, which gives workers a right to job-guaranteed unpaid leave for family emergencies. Among other public-policy issues she championed were abortion rights, the environment, welfare reform, and education.

She was co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, a bipartisan group of lawmakers devoted to advancing women's legislation in Congress.

As a member of the U.S. House, Schroeder served as the ranking minority member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, where she established a reputation as a staunch First Amendment activist--an interest in keeping with her role as head of AAP, a 200-member national trade association of the U.S. book publishing industry.

Legislative Career Natural Link to AAP

In a June 29, 1998 *Washington Business Journal* article, Schroeder said: "I don't think I could do it if I didn't believe in it," referring to her leadership of the Association of American Publishers. "I'm not an actress. But these are things I cared about passionately while I was [in Congress], so it is just a real easy transfer. These are all the issues that I worked on for 24 years." Besides which, she added, "I love books, so it's kind of like being thrown in a candy store."

A biography describes her political philosophy this way: "While her stands opposing pork barrel and wasteful defense spending earned her the reputation of a 'fiscally conservative liberal,' Schroeder served in the forefront of the progressive movement in the Democratic party and she took

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leadership positions on critical issues of foreign and military policy, arms control and disarmament, women's economic equity, educational opportunity, and civil and constitutional rights."

Quick Wit

Schroeder is known for her quick wit and sometimes biting humor. When former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) complained that President Clinton snubbed him on an Air Force One flight, she appeared on the U.S. House floor toting a small statue she dubbed Gingrich's "Academy Award for best child actor."

"In 1987," a biography points out, "Schroeder explored a possible bid for the presidency, and in a 1988 Gallup poll was rated one of the six most respected women in America."

Association of American Publishers

As AAP head, Schroeder leads a group with core interests in intellectual property; new technology and telecommunications issues of concern to publishers; First Amendment rights, censorship and libel; international freedom to publish; funding for education and libraries; postal rates and regulations; and tax and trade policy.

AAP's interests also focus on several publishing markets, including: general trade and mass market paperbacks, elementary and secondary instructional materials, higher education publishing, professional and scholarly publications, and the global marketplace.

AAP's policies are set by a 20-member board of directors.

The association's agenda includes: market expansion for American books and other media; promotion of the status of U.S. publishing at home and overseas; nurturing creativity by protecting and strengthening intellectual property rights and copyrights; fostering public understanding of the unique value of books and other published material in U.S. cultural and political life; promotion of intellectual freedom and opposition to all forms of censorship worldwide; and the exploration of the challenges and opportunities presented by new technologies.

Author, Background

Schroeder is the author of a Capitol Hill memoir, "24 Years of House
(more)

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Work . . . and the Place is Still a Mess."

Schroeder was among 18 inductees into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, N.Y., in 1995, including Eileen Collins, the first woman to pilot the space shuttle; Elizabeth Dole, the first woman U.S. Secretary of Transportation and now former president of the American Red Cross; and Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Schroeder was born Patricia Nell Scott in Portland, Multnomah County, Ore., on July 30, 1940. She attended public schools in Texas, Ohio, and Iowa before earning a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1961 and a law degree from the Harvard Law School in 1964. Schroeder was admitted to the Colorado bar in 1964. She began her legal career as a field attorney with the National Labor Relations Board for two years before entering private practice in Denver. Schroeder also taught law at Denver-area schools.

About IWU

Founders' Day marks the establishment of IWU in 1850 by 30 community leaders in Bloomington, who agreed to found "an institution of learning of the collegiate grade."

IWU enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, and a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts.