

How A Political Pro Charms Even The GOP

By KATHY MORAN

She's both charming and a political master.

And that rare combination of talents may help U.S. Rep. Martha Griffiths (D-Detroit) sail into a 10th term in Congress after the Nov. 7 election.

Mrs. Griffiths has had more than 20 years of hard campaigning and speech making to learn the ropes.

Even this election, when the shape of her district has changed drastically and the proportion of Republican voters was boosted, Mrs. Griffiths is getting warm receptions wherever her campaigning takes her.

SINCE CONGRESS adjourned only last week, Mrs. Griffiths is cramming as many campaign speeches and teas into her daily schedule as 24 hours will permit.

"I've got a lot of stamina—that's the first prerequisite," Mrs. Griffiths, 60, says of her campaigning.

That means chauffeuring herself around to breakfasts, luncheons, dinners, teas and flag presentations and then trying to cram two or three speeches into an evening. She guides herself with typed directions prepared by her staff to each spot.

Farmington, Southfield, Redford Township and Lathrup Village are now in her 17th district along with northwest Detroit.

Mrs. Griffiths has the uncanny ability to keep the discussion centered on subjects she's interested in. Her political philosophy isn't readily discernible to the average audience.

The conservative Americans for Constitutional Action give her a cumulative rating of eight per cent and a 13 per cent rating for the second session of the 92nd Congress.

The low ratings indicate she votes too liberally for the ACA taste. She voted for revenue sharing with the states, for a measure extending the \$450 billion limit on the national debt and for an amendment to cut off all funds in the defense bill as of a specified date for U.S. military activity in Vietnam. These are considered "incorrect" votes by conservative ACA standards. Even in Farmington, where voters generally support Republicans, she manages to charm the opposition and reinforce her supporters, many of whom remember her from when they lived in Detroit.

"Everywhere I go, I run into people I knew years ago," she says.

THOSE PEOPLE remember when she traveled from street to street in a trailer and invited all the neighborhood women inside for cold juice, cookies and conversation.

Now she meets neighborhood women at teas, but the conversation is still the same.

"No one will ever fool me about my constituents," she said. "I know them. I've met them and seen some of them with curlers in their hair and children at their side."

At the teas she concentrates her conversation on women's rights.

Pointing up a seemingly endless list of discrepancies in laws relating to women, she first rouses her listeners and then explains what she has

done to eliminate disparities. "I think the most discriminatory thing is the social security bill," she said, launching into a discussion of several inconsistencies.

UNTIL A YEAR ago, when a mother died, her children were unable to draw her social security, Mrs. Griffiths said. After years of pointing out this inequity, she was finally able to amend the bill to allow the children to collect. In the first year \$100 million was paid to the motherless children, she said.

Currently the social security bill also forbids a husband and wife from combining their social security and therefore being able to collect the maximum payments in their old age.

A woman could work for years and never be able to collect that money, she said.

On the other hand, a woman could be married for 25 years, and then her husband could divorce her and marry a younger woman, and the first wife would be left without any old age security, she said. But another of her amendments has made it possible for a woman who is married at least 20 years and then divorced to collect on her husband's social security.

"ARE YOU AWARE that when you bury your husband, you are also burying your credit cards with him?" she asked a small gathering of Farmington women.

With this prelude, Mrs. Griffiths launched into a discussion of inequities women face when trying to get credit—whether for credit cards or for a mortgage on a house.

"Do you know that a woman on welfare can buy most any house? But you try going down with \$10,000 down payment and see what happens," she said.

A woman collects a lower pension than a man even if she pays into it with the same salary because women are said to live longer, she added.

That's what the equal rights amendment is all about—guaranteeing women equal treatment, she said.

"Now they are putting you into a class—the same class as children and idiots. All we want is to be treated equal."

WHAT ABOUT abortion? "I'm not campaigning on abortion," she said.

"Everybody has their own vote on that. Your vote is just as good as mine."

Tax loopholes and welfare are also favorite subjects.

"The largest tax loophole in the country is interest," she told the Farmington Chamber of Commerce. But closing it

will hurt average homeowners most because they are using the interest payments as tax deductions.

"It's one of the loopholes that is exceedingly difficult to close."

"Something has to be done about welfare," she continues. "The truth is every congressman in Congress wants to investigate the Pentagon, but no one wants to investigate the income maintenance programs."

Mrs. Griffiths is heading up a subcommittee to investigate welfare payments which she said are handed through different committees and administered by 11 agencies.

AS FOR THE presidential campaign, Mrs. Griffiths is critical of President Nixon and says of Democratic

contender Sen. George McGovern (D-Dak.) "at least I think he'd be more honest."

"Nixon changes his mind every 30 minutes," she said.

Between now and Nov. 7 the congresswoman has a daily schedule that leaves little room for air.

Record Set

Despite timber shortages, enough lumber and plywood was produced in 1971 for a record 2,000,000 homes.

Mini-Desk

A rectangular box of 1x12-inch western pine boards with fold-down door makes a convenient wall-hung desk for kitchen or family room.

Rev. Carl E. Brand of...

Highlands Baptist Church
Hoffman Estates, Illinois

Will be speaking Nightly at...

BEVERLY HILLS ALLIANCE
CHURCH

15858 W. 13 Mile Rd.
(Near Greenfield)
7:30 P.M.
October 23 thru 27

NOW! FIVE HAIRSTYLISTS TO SERVE YOU

Gino De Roma
BARBER SHOP

20764 Farmington Road • Farmington



Michael - Rodger - Wally - Gino - Rocco - Barbara
OFFERING THE ULTIMATE IN HAIR STYLES
AND HAIR PERICS. Appointment by request
476-2211

Tuesday - Friday 8-6 Saturday 8-4
Specializing in Roman layer & shag cuts

JUST NORTH OF 8 MILE RD.
Next to the Big Boy

We use and recommend
RK acid-balanced
organic protein products.
Formulated especially for men's hair

HARVEY A. NEELY FUNERAL HOME INC.

16540 Meyers Rd.
Meyers at Lodge X-Way

TWO COMPLETE CHAPELS
PRIVATE PARKING
AIR CONDITIONING

E. FRANK CRAVER
IVONA
425-3041

OUR BUSINESS IS BUILT UPON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAMILIES
WE HAVE SERVED

TELEPHONE UN 1-3880
Serving Detroit and Suburbs Since 1899

JAMES H. BRIDSON
FARMINGTON
626-8181

10 UNIQUE SHOPS ENCLOSED
IN THE MALL DESIGNED
FOR QUICK, EASY SHOPPING

• Old World Imports
• The Village Toy Shop
• The Klay Korner, Inc.
• Bayberry, Bees & Tallow
• Helen's Health Hut
• Golden Fleece
• La Playgirl
• Art Alcove
• The Village Goldsmith
• The Menagerie

Open: Mon., Thurs. 9:30-9:00
Tues., Wed. 9:30-6:00

Hours of parking in the rear - free and easy

the VILLAGE MALL
33335 Grand River at Farmington Road
10 UNIQUE SHOPS ENCLOSED IN THE MALL DESIGNED FOR QUICK, EASY SHOPPING

- Old World Imports
- The Village Toy Shop
- The Klay Korner, Inc.
- Bayberry, Bees & Tallow
- Helen's Health Hut
- Golden Fleece
- La Playgirl
- Art Alcove
- The Village Goldsmith
- The Menagerie

Open: Mon., Thurs. 9:30-9:00
Tues., Wed. 9:30-6:00
Hours of parking in the rear - free and easy

Holiday Inn®
OF SOUTHFIELD

is Proud to present
in its --
"PENALTY BOX LOUNGE"

TUES. & WED.
7:30-12:30 a.m.
HITONES

THURS. & FRI.
8:30-1:30 a.m.
BLUE KNIGHTS

SAT.
8:30-1:30 a.m.
NINA SANTA TRIO

Dinners 'til 10 p.m. Hors D'Oeuvres 'til 12 Midnite
26556 TELEGRAPH
at 11 Mile Rd. & I-696, Southfield

GRAND Opening KARATE

and Judo Schools of America

HERE'S OUR NEW HOME!

CLASSES STARTING TODAY

Just East of Middlebelt

We're proud to announce the Grand Opening of our THIRD Karate and Judo Schools of America. Come get your body in top physical condition while you learn the art of self defense in one of the United States newest and largest schools! Sharpen your mental alertness and improve your self confidence while you enjoy our up-to-the-minute facilities. Dad... bring your son and learn together.

TO CELEBRATE OUR GRAND OPENING

Enjoy our modern Finnish Sauna and Whirl Pool

Firm up and slim down while you learn self defense

Here's some of the advantages you'll enjoy:

- Full-time, high ranking Black, Brown and Blue Belt Instructors
- Certified with local United States Karate Union
- U.S. Karate Union Black Belt Champs '72
- Huge Authentic Finnish Sauna
- Needlepoint Pressure Showers
- Invigorating Whirl Pool

BEGINNERS CLASS
DAILY 6 DAYS A WEEK

For your FREE demonstration Call
474-0235

Other two convenient locations:
IVONA 425-3041
FARMINGTON 626-8181