



Millicent Fenwick

February 25, 1910 - September 16, 1992

Bernardsville, New Jersey

Millicent Fenwick, New Jersey congresswoman, Vogue editor, pipe-smoking Republican reformer, and later U.S. ambassador to the U.N. food agencies in Rome, died in Bernardsville, New Jersey, on September 16, 1992. She was eighty-two. Manhattan birth and Somerset County roots had already made her a national character: the tall patrician who talked straight on human rights and consumer honesty while refusing to sound like a machine politician.

Born Millicent Vernon Hammond in New York City on February 25, 1910, she modeled, wrote, and edited at Vogue before New Jersey politics claimed her - General Assembly service, then four terms in the U.S. House (1975-1983). Constituents knew the pipe and the candor; colleagues knew the Helsinki Final Act instincts and the willingness to scold her own party when conscience required it. A failed 1982 Senate bid ended the House run; Reagan then sent her to Rome as the first U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Agencies for Food and Agriculture.

Popular culture borrowed her silhouette - Lacey Davenport in Doonesbury was widely read as Fenwick-adjacent - but the legislative record was not a cartoon. Civil rights, consumer protection, and an old-fashioned belief that public servants should sound like adults defined the brand more than parody did.

She died in Bernardsville on September 16, 1992. New Jersey still claims her as proof that Republican reform once had a distinctive accent.

Fenwick's lesson is style in service of substance - manners that did not excuse moral laziness. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 16 remembers a New Jersey voice that made Congress look briefly civilized.

Services

Died in Bernardsville, New Jersey, September 16, 1992. U.S. Representative (R-NJ, 1975-1983); former Vogue editor; U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Agencies for Food and Agriculture.

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