

Elsie H. Hillman
Address to Republican State Committee
June 8, 1996

Any resemblance to iambic pentameter is quite by accident!

'Twas a day in May in '52
(Feels like 100 years ago!)
When I signed up with General Ike
And to his campaign decided to go!

Citizens for Ike was such a success
It went to my silly head
And instead of cooking and mending and such,
I went into politics instead!

Henry, my wonderful husband knew
That if I started I could not stop.
And he patiently waits at our garden gates
For my final shoe to drop!

Before I go I must recall
Some memories all can share.
When politics was funny and fun
And laughs were everywhere.

From Ike I went, as a volunteer
To the Allegheny Republican Committee
To coordinate minorities
To build a party in the city.

And then I organized volunteers
For rally's small and big
We did opposition research
Through papers we would dig!

And one thing led to another
As Henry said it would;
And I ran for County Chairman
Because I really thought I'd be good!

We didn't change much history
But we had a barrel of fun
And fought like fury for City Hall
Jon Tabor, our favorite son!

Pennsylvania had a Republican governor then,
Beloved by all he met.
Bill Scranton and Mary, their names you know,
A family we'll never forget.

And Ginny and Dick, my great friends,
Who lived in the very next block,
Proved that Western Pennsylvania
Produces mighty fine stock.

Then Nixon and Lodge and Ag-e-new,
Barry, Rocky and Ford,
We had a wide variety of candidates
Who kept us from being bored.

Our Senators, Scott, Heinz and Specter
And now young Rick Santorum
Have helped Pennsylvania on the Senate floor,
Always looking for a quorum!

I miss my friends, the ones you know
Who are no longer here.
Who helped me every inch of the way
Their memories are clear and dear.

On the RNC we are two at a time,
A woman and a man.
I served with Tom and Drew and Herb
No finer men in the land.

And for 21 years I have really tried hard
To emulate my mentor
Because Sally Stauffer was the best
And I shall never forget her.

You can tell that I'm ending my history book
As I've come to Tom and Michelle.
How could they be any better,
They govern and tend us so well.

In 44 years of politics,
And 21 at the RNC,
Perhaps the friends that I love the most
Are members of the RSC.

I have pictures taken with Presidents
and the House and Senate, too.
But I treasure the most the ones I have
Playing with all of you.

The Councils, the YR's, and the college gang,
Have shared so much of my life.
That it's hard to think of going home
To become a dutiful wife!

Pennsylvania leaders are so dear to my heart,
The PA House and Senate
And Barb as well as Bob and Matt
We all must give them credit!

It's hard to speak of Ann and Bill
Two people I love so dearly
They have made my job so wonderful
And to say more will make me teary!

Before I leave I must report
That the Bush's are doing fine.
I visited them in Texas,
And we drank far too much wine!

I'd like to leave with one last thought
Be gentle, friends, and kind
Respect each other's differences,
Leave bigotry behind!

The only thing that we each have
Are the gifts that God has shared
He did not pick and choose, you know
Our worth was not compared.

So let's leave this hall in harmony
Our work should well be done.
And tell the face in the mirror each day,
Being nice is much more fun!

I love you all.