

# Former U.S. Representative Jolene Unsoeld

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## Personal

Born in Corvallis, Oregon, December 3, 1931.

Attended primary school in Shanghai, China; graduated from Vancouver High School, Vancouver, Washington, in 1949; attended Oregon State University 1949-51.

Married Willi Unsoeld, mountaineer and educator, 1951 (widowed 1979). Four children: Regon, Krag, Terres, and Devi (deceased). Four grandchildren.

Home: Olympia, Washington (since 1970).

## Experiences and Positions That Consumed My Attention

*Manzanita Beach Residents Association -- a Home Owners' Association and Non-Profit Water Company; Vice-President (1997-2001), President (2002-2005)*, during the re-organization, planning, designing, land acquisition, well drilling, construction and management of a first-class water system. The Association also successfully settled an adverse possession lawsuit to protect its community beach property.

*Spearheading a Successful Challenge of Thurston County's 1999 Attempt To Violate the State Growth Management Act By Running a Sewer Line Several Miles Beyond the Urban Growth Boundary.* The Growth Management Hearings Board found that "... The record does not show that the sewer line is necessary to protect the environment. Rebuilding the Tamoshan plant provides similar protection. The record does not show a threat to public health and safety from the current Tamoshan or Beverly Beach plants...." The Growth Management Hearings Board ruled (July 16, 2000) that Thurston County did not comply with the state law and ordered the County to remove authorization to extend the sewer line. The decision was upheld on appeal and was also upheld by the Supreme Court of the State of Washington on November 21, 2002.

*American Civil Liberties Union of Washington.* Elected to State Board, 2000-2003

*Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission.* Served 1995-98.

*Fellow, Institute of Politics,* John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 1995 Fall Semester.

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***The U.S. Congress, 1989-95***, representing the 3rd Congressional District in Southwest Washington. District stretches from the southern tip of Puget Sound to the Oregon border and from Mount St. Helens, the base of Mount Adams, and the Columbia River Gorge west to the ocean. Served on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and Education and Labor Committee. (Legislative highlights follow.)

***Washington State Legislature, 1985-89***. Achievements included playing a major role in the adoption of the 1986 Water Quality Financing Act creating the Centennial Fund to help local governments finance water quality needs.

***Unpaid Independent Citizen Lobbyist, 1971-84***. Among other successes, played major role in triggering these state reforms: reversing practice allowing utilities to wine and dine public officials at ratepayer expense; requiring utilities to notify customers of their rate proceedings; and a legislative mandate for an independent study of Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS) construction of nuclear plants 4 and 5.

***Author*** of two research publications: *Who Gave? Who Got? How Much?* summarizing what the fifty largest vested interest groups gave to those serving in the 44th and 45th sessions of the Washington State Legislature.

***Director, English Language Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal, 1965-67.***

***Interspersed with being a wife, mother, and widow.***

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### **Highlights of Congressional Efforts (1989-95)**

***Driftnets*** -- Worked three years to force worldwide ban on large-scale driftnets, 30-to-40-mile long "curtains of death" used by Japan, Taiwan, Korea and other nations to kill not only targeted squid, but also millions of salmon, steelhead, other non-target fish, seabirds and marine mammals. U.N. Resolution 46/216, calling for a global ban on all large-scale driftnetting by Dec. 31, 1992, passed the U.N. General Assembly on Dec. 20, 1991. ... Unsoeld overcame administration opposition to enact legislation in 1990 that established as U.S. policy the goal of banning large-scale driftnets. ... In 1991 she pushed U.S. negotiators toward passage of a tough U.N. resolution on driftnetting by introducing legislation that would use sanctions and stepped-up enforcement to force driftnetting nations into compliance with international laws, by traveling to Japan to warn Japan's director of fisheries that driftnetting must end, and by lobbying other U.N. members to back the U.S.-sponsored resolution ... Unsoeld was an author of successful 1992 legislation that calls for mandatory sanctions, stepped-up enforcement and removal of port privileges to crack down on illegal large-scale, high-seas driftnet fishing.

***Sustainable Management of Global Resources*** -- Successfully amended the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries Enforcement Act to specifically direct the President to modify articles of the GATT to secure a working party on trade and the environment within GATT and make GATT and other trade agreements more responsive to national and international environmental concerns. This language was cited by USTR in defending its right to press environmental issues in trade negotiations. Rallied support among House and Senate Members to call on the President to push for protection of environmental efforts from GATT attacks. Initiated official letter from GLOBE (Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment, consisting primarily of northern hemisphere parliamentarians) to international leaders calling for creation of Committee on Trade and Environment Committee within GATT and calling for active consideration of environment/sustainable use issues within GATT (March 2, 1994).

***Protecting Downstream Fish Runs*** -- Initiated legislation and successfully helped insert a provision into Energy Bill passed during 102nd Congress that puts decision-making on fish-passage facilities at federal dams in the hands of federal resource agencies -- not the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The provision ensured that FERC will not be able to repeat the move it made in 1991 when it issued a ruling that would have omitted downstream passage requirements for federal dam licensing and relicensing, jeopardizing young salmon.

***Experimental Forest*** -- Sponsored legislation to establish the Olympic Experimental State Forest, which lays the groundwork for changing forest management practices to provide both sustainable forests and healthy forest ecosystems. Unsoeld's Experimental Forest bill was the only piece of forest-management legislation passed during the 102nd Congress.

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***Reimposing Log Export Ban*** -- During third term, passed legislation to reinstate a ban on the export of raw logs off state lands. The ban, originally put in place in 1990, had saved over 6,000 jobs in Washington State alone but had been overturned in May 1993 on a legal technicality. Unsoeld's bill reimposed the ban in a way that met legal standards. It went from a piece of paper to a law in only 23 days.

***Eliminating Log Export Subsidy*** -- Won a two-year fight in 1993 when Congress passed a budget bill eliminating a subsidy for big companies that send raw logs overseas. Was one of the first to call for an end to this 1970's export promotion program, which allowed raw log exporters to establish "Foreign Sales Corporations" and qualify for tax breaks. Ending the subsidy should save an estimated \$393 million over five years -- with 2/3 of the money going to timber-dependent counties and the rest to deficit reduction.

***River Restoration*** -- During first term, passed legislation authorizing a study and restoration program for the Chehalis River Basin, which once had some of the best salmon and steelhead runs in the Northwest. Helped obtain continued financial support in subsequent sessions of Congress for the project which has been cited as a national model by U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service.

***1992 Earth Summit in Rio*** -- Designated by Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee to serve as an official observer.

***"Roads to Trails"*** -- First in Congress to propose converting abandoned logging roads into trails. A 1994 Interior Appropriations bill included funding to begin the process in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Roads to trails was seen by many as a cost-effective way to enhance recreational trails, create jobs, and protect watersheds from damage caused by abandoned logging roads.

***Establishment of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary*** -- Was a major force within the Congress to successfully prod the U.S. government to take the long-envisioned Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary from blueprint to a reality. Successful Unsoeld legislation had already protected the Sanctuary from oil and gas drilling. Unsoeld was also instrumental in bringing an end to the Navy's practice of conducting bombing runs on Sea Lion Rock, an environmentally sensitive area within the Sanctuary boundaries that is home to threatened Stellar Sea Lions.

***Ban on Computer Phone Soliciting*** -- Introduced Telephone Privacy Act, in March 1991 to ban commercial phone soliciting by computer. The bill signed into law incorporated Unsoeld's bill by banning computer soliciting to residence or emergency lines. The law was challenged in court, but upheld by Courts in 1995.

***School-To-Work Opportunities Act*** -- Language included to encourage establishment of business-education partnerships.

***Head Start Reauthorization*** -- Incorporated Unsoeld language to define the priorities and parameters of services for families with children ages 0-3 to include early childhood education emphasis as a means of violence prevention by offering programs to help at-risk families and their very young children.

***Other Education Legislation*** -- As a member of the *Education and Labor Committee* Unsoeld helped draft major education legislation including successful enactment of the National Service Act, and the Goals 2000 Education Act including an amendment to ensure that testing and assessment systems be of high technical quality (reliable, valid, and free of discrimination). Unsoeld helped draft the Elementary Secondary Education Act (which was killed by Senate Republicans at close of 1994 Session of Congress), including provisions for dropout prevention for pregnant and parenting teens; establishing demonstration program for Head Start/Even Start children making the transition to elementary school; ensuring coordination among agencies serving homeless children, encouraging business-education partnerships; and successfully sponsoring a "second degree amendment" to retain local control over sex, homosexual, and AIDS Education in Schools.

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## **Special Honors, Accomplishments**

Fellow, Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 1995 Fall Semester.

Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from Whitman College, 1992.

Trout Unlimited 1990 Betty Winn Memorial Award, "Legislator of the Year".

Trout Unlimited Grays Harbor County Chapter, 1990 Legislative Natural Resources Award.

Friend of the Earth Award, 1990, for effective leadership in controlling driftnet fishing.

The Washington Trollers Association, 1990, Legislator of the Year.

Co-Chair of successful Citizens Toxic Cleanup Campaign (Int. 97), 1987.

Northwest Citizens Forum on Defense Waste, 1986-1988.

Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Board Member 1985-88.

First woman to climb the direct North Face of the Grand Teton.