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Interview with Mary Carol Vanecko

Date: 5 March 2009

Location: UIC Historian's Office, 815 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, IL.

Present: Mary Carol Vanecko, Dr. Robert V. Remini, and Dr. Tim Lacy

Dr. Robert V. Remini (RVR): We are here in the Office of the UIC Historian. It is March 5th 2009 and we are interviewing Mary Carol Vanecko, daughter of Mayor Richard J. Daley.

Dr. Tim Lacy (TL): Yes, we are filming.

RVR: We interviewed your brother William (Daley) recently.

Mary Carol Vanecko (MV): Oh did you? He's good. He's excellent. Yes.

RVR: We did two interviews with him.

MV: Bill is good. He's the youngest one. But he's good.

RVR: Yes. And he remembered things.

MV: You've got to get Rich(ard M. Daley).

RVR: Yes (MV and RVR laugh). We've tried.

MV: Try. I know. It's like pulling teeth.

RVR: I called. They said, "We'll talk to him."

MV: Yes. Michael said he'd get him.

RVR: And you can't turn Michael down.

MV: Oh no. He's going to meet me.

RVR: Oh is he? OK, well we wanted to talk about your mother and father, and your memories of them, in particular about your father. We want to get the record straight about what your father was like as a human being. You know, it's really amazing what I've learned. It's not in accord what a lot of things that have been said. Neil Hartigan was very good. We're going to have him back.

MV: He's good. Yes. He worked as a young man for my dad. Well, I think that I'm like you. I was a junior in high school, when my dad was elected in 1955. Pat(ricia Daley-Martino) was in the convent. Pat was gone until 1960. So it was not a big deal when he was elected. You know, all of my high school friends were probably Republicans. They were all good friends of ours. He was our dad. He was the mayor. We had signs on the car. I was in high school. So I drove the car with the big sign on the top (RVR laughs) out to Beverly, every time I went out. It was wonderful. The thing, I think, most of what known is that he was a wonderful father. The media portrayed him a lot different than anybody knew. And I think that's the best thing about this. The University of Illinois is getting it out, how he was as a father.

MV and RVR: The people that really knew him.

MV: And sure, it was difficult. You know, he had seven children. He was educating all of us. It never occurred to me. I took the bus to high school. It was not what it is today with Rich. The security is so different than what it was when I was in high school. We went to things with him. We didn't have to go. If we wanted to go, we'd go with him.

RVR: He'd give you the choice?

MV: He'd give you the choice of going. And I was older. Ellie and I loved to go. We went to meet a lot of people. We met (President) John (F.) Kennedy when he was very

young. Then, the older we got, we'd attend more things. I went to St. Mary's of Notre Dame. We had a mock convention for John Kennedy in 1960. That was a big time. Nobody liked John Kennedy at Notre Dame at all.

RVR: Really?

MV: Sure. (Rev. Theodore M.) Hesburgh (C.S.C.) wouldn't give him the Laetare Medal. He got it later, I think. It was more Republican then. It was a Catholic university at the time. And St. Mary's was the same thing. They were for (Vice President Richard) Nixon. So it was a joy. My brothers, Ellie, Pat, and I had a wonderful upbringing with a father who was a real father. He was gone. But he always came home at night. We were so close. That's why my mom insisted that we stay there. That's because he could come home for dinner, then go back downtown for banquets and stuff. The older we got, we'd attend the banquets with him. And we'd talk about politics.

RVR: You did?

MV: Oh yes. I mean, Ellie and I were thrilled to meet all of them (MV and RVR laugh). We weren't typical girls.

RVR: Patricia didn't....

MV: Pat was in the convent. So she was gone when all of that was beginning. She came home in 1960. So it was really the four boys, Ellie, and I. My grandfather was alive. How proud he was, "Big Mike," that he saw my dad elected. And that would have been a joy for my dad to have lived to see Rich. My mother kept saying that, when Rich was elected, how proud he would be. But it was a wonderful home. We did all of the normal things that other people did.

RVR: It's amazing. It was a different world.

MV: It was a different world. The proudest thing that my parents did, and I think all of us know that, is that they educated all seven of us. And as a parent, I know it. For Bob and I, we've educated all four of our children. In those days, that was a big deal to have seven children graduate from college.

RVR: Did you have a choice? Or did he try to influence your selection on which college to go to?

MV: No. At that time, in 1960, I applied to mostly Catholic girls' schools. All of my friends were going to St. Mary's. And Notre Dame was so close. All of the guys that we knew were going to Notre Dame. A couple of them went east to school.

RVR: You'd come home on the weekends?

MV: We'd come home on the weekends. We had Notre Dame tickets when we were young. My dad did. So we were used to that area. And he was so proud. I was the first one to graduate from college, then Pat, because Pat was in the convent. Then she graduated the next year.

RVR: Were you the second child?

MV: I was the second child. The three girls were first, Pat, Mary, and Ellie, then Rich, Mike, John, and Bill. But it was a beautiful home. We were very fortunate. It was a different time.

RVR: You talked about the fact when you were a junior in high school. How about earlier? What are your earliest memories?

MV: The earlier memories are when my grandmother and grandfather lived with us. Since we were young, my dad's parents lived with us. So we never had to have babysitters, because Lillian and Mike were with us (RVR laughs). And we called them

Lil and Mike. We called Big Mike Big Mike. She was Lil. Lil died when we were young. She died in the 1940's, I think. We were young. She died at home. My mother died at home. And my sister Ellie died at home. And we were all there, each time.

RVR: It was in that house?

MV: It was in that home. So with each of us, we were all there for all of those three deaths. That's unusual, because most people, in this day and age, are in the hospital. And for whatever reason, that's how it was. We always remember that, those three things. But Lil and Mike were a part of our lives. Big Mike was a part of our lives because he was with us for so long. He died in 1959. At Grand Beach (Village of Grand Beach, Michigan), he came with us. And he was always around.

RVR: What was Big Mike like?

MV: He reminded me a lot of Michael. My brother Michael is a lot like him, very caring. He was a sheet metal worker. All of the Daleys were sheet metal workers. All of my father's uncles were sheet metal workers. We drove to Michigan, near Gary (Indiana), Big Mike would always point at us. They worked on the top of that building, which is right off of the toll road. It's either city hall or whatever in downtown Gary. The sheet metal workers all worked there. Big Mike always used to tell us that as kids, that he worked on that building.

But he was a wonderful man, very calm, and very proud of my dad. And he was always with us. He took us fishing, even the girls. And my dad loved to fish. My dad and Big Mike always fished. They'd go every summer, up to Wisconsin for the "muskie" (muskellunge). And we still have one of the big muskies somewhere. I don't know where it is. But it's somewhere in the house. But he was a wonderful man, a real good, living, very quiet man.

RVR: He was really the babysitter.

MV: And he was the presence in our lives. He took my brothers out often a lot with my dad. And he a lot of things, like the ball games and fishing. And then, in Grand Beach, he was really with us all of the time, our summer home. My dad went up there. I graduated from eighth grade. It was in 1951 or 1952. He bought up there. And we've been going up there ever since.

RVR: Did he ever talk to you about his wishes in starting a university here in Chicago?

MV: Yes. He did.

RVR: That would be public?

MV: Yes. He always said that. He always said it would be wonderful. You know all of the history. He started it when he was a state representative, when he first started doing that. He always wanted that, something for the people and the students in Chicago.

MV and RVR: A very public institution.

MV: And he worked on that. He always talked about it. And then, when it came to fruition, with the protestors, it was very controversial, with the march around the house, and all that they said about my dad. It was hard. But he knew in his heart that that was good, because he loved education so much. He went to night school. He didn't have it easy. In those days, that's what they did. And they worked very hard.

RVR: And he knew that having an education....

MV: It was the best thing in the world.

RVR: It was the most important thing.

MV: For all of us.

RVR: To achieve anything....

MV: Yes. And he needed that. I mean, you see that. When you look at the university, you see how wonderful it is. It's beautiful, and how proud he'd be.

RVR: Yes. And we didn't treat him well, either.

MV: No. And he knew that. I mean, if you look at some of the interviews he had, he knew how hard it was for the people over there, to knock homes down, and to move on. But I think in the long run, he knew the goal. And in the long run, he knew that would be right. He was very proud of that. And he'd be proud now to see it. It'd be wonderful for him to see it.

RVR: Yes. How about your mother?

MV: Oh, she was good. She was the force behind him. She was a doll (RVR laughs). She'd keep him toned down, you know, like any husband and wife, if he'd get going on and on. You didn't get very far with my mother. "Dick, you'll be fine" (MV laughs).

RVR: Oh really?

MV: Yes (RVR laughs). And she knew what he was going through. She knew how hard it was for him, and for her. She was raised on the south side. So she knew what it meant to lose a home, and in that area. But you know, it was hard to hear them criticize him so much on all of us. But it came with the territory. I think she knew that when she got into it.

RVR: Did you know that.

MV: I did. I'd hear people say things, especially in college. You know how college kids are.

RVR: But it must have hurt.

MV: It hurt. It hurt me a lot. When I think of all of us, I'm the one. That's because my brothers laughed. They'd go, "God, here she comes. She'll be crying all day" (MV laughs). I'd be mad. But I would also be hurt for him, because if they only knew what he was trying to do. He wasn't that type of person. And it's hard to read things about your father, whatever profession they are, and say things that aren't true and aren't so kind. Oh, he had his days. He knew what he was up against. He was tough, because he had a hard job to do. He had to fight for what he wanted.

RVR: Did he ever get angry with you?

MV: No. I don't think so (MV laughs). You know, he'd tell you, like any father. "You're not going." My mother would say no first. And then, we would try to get around him by saying, "Oh, it's a very important thing at Notre Dame. I've got to go." It was going to Florida, in those days. Well, you're laughing. Easter was a big time. I mean, everybody went on spring break. And I was the first one in college. Pat was in the convent. I couldn't believe I couldn't go. I was a freshman. Everybody was going to Florida at Easter. And my mom said, "No. We've got six other ones coming behind you that are going to college yet." I said, "I'll be mortified." You know how girls are. We carry on and carry on (RVR laughs). So we went to Grand Beach.

Fast forward, Bill and John were in college. So it was ten years later, or whatever it was. They went away at Easter. I was married with two children. I was in the Air Force, I think. I was down in Florida, Bob and I. I called them up and said, "I don't believe it! (MV and RVR laugh) You have changed!" He said, "It's the younger ones." So it was those kinds of things. He never really got mad. He was a great example. He went to church every day. He was a very religious man. He was a daily communicant. And that

was a great example for all of us to see growing up. That was in our home all of the time. And it was sincere. It wasn't phony.

RVR: It wasn't for political purposes.

MV: No. No. No. It was him. It was just dad. When I remember him, I remember his faith and his love of my mom. You know, you watch that and you think nowadays, marriage is so different. It was a great example to all of us, seeing that love that he had for her and cared for her. She knew how hard it was for him every day.

RVR: And it was reciprocated.

MV: It was. He did to her and she did to him. It was a love affair.

RVR: She was a marvelous woman.

MV: Oh, she was a wonderful woman. People have said, "Your mother had such great education." She went to high school. And she worked. Her parents were dead before my parents ever got married. So she worked all of her life.

MV and RVR: She had seven children.

MV: So she knew. But she had common sense. She knew how people felt. She'd be with a king one day, and down in the neighborhood the next (MV laughs). And she wasn't impressed with that. That was a wonderful trait that they both had. They loved meeting, hosting dinners, and having great things for the presidents. In those days, do you remember how they used to bring the astronauts to Chicago?

RVR: Sure.

MV: They'd bring in kings and queens from different countries. They'd go to Washington and they'd go to big cities. And it was really lovely for every city to get that. My parents would host big dinners. And we all got to go. The first one was I think for the queen, when the Queen of England (Elizabeth II) came. And all of the other ones we'd meet, the political people that came.

RVR: What an education that was.

MV: Yes. It was, when you think of it. I think of other children of political people. You hope that they participate as much as we did. We were never told that we had to go. We wanted to, because we were so proud of our dad. I know that it's a different time now. The media is so on the family. I felt sorry for the Bush girls (President George W. Bush's daughters Jenna and Barbara) and when they were in college. They were lovely girls. They dug into their pasts. They didn't do that with us. And that's what is sad nowadays. You don't blame them for any mistake. They made a mistake. But I don't blame them for not being open to the media as much. And the letter that they wrote, those two girls to the Obama girls, that was beautiful. That showed you what those two girls were really like. They're fine young women. And with the media, it's a different time.

RVR: It is.

MV: It's hard. It's hard on the family.

MV and RVR: Ever since Kennedy.

MV: I mean, everything has changed since then. It's not the same. It was a wonderful life.

RVR: Did your father bring business to the house?

MV: He wouldn't tell us all of the intricacies of what was going on. But we knew the things that were going on in the city council and how it was going. And we'd talk about it

at the table. If he was upset, we'd listen to him. And we'd give our opinions, which he loved. He loved everybody to say, "Oh, this guy is nutty." The girls would say that. The boys were better than the two girls. I think that's what was helpful to him. It brought him down, instead of getting himself all worked up and excited.

RVR: But he didn't bring politicians to the house?

MV: No. He never did. That was the one thing, and especially me, as the oldest at that time. I'm fascinated by people that wrote books and said how many times they were in and out of our home (RVR laughs). And I'm going, "Okay." I've wanted to go up to them. And I did almost, to one person, especially in 1968, when that all happened at the convention. We were home from the Air Force. Bob and I came home with our two little boys and stayed with my mom and dad. That was in the middle of it all. Bob was surgeon in the Air Force for all of the guys in Vietnam. So we knew all of this. We were at a fighter base, with all of the young men going back and forth. They'd come back to Florida. So people would say, "Right after the convention it was so bad, we went right to 35th Street." And I thought, "Hello? I was home." I'd have to leave, because Bobby and Mark (Mary and Bob's children) were home at the house. I'd run back home and say, "They never came here." That's what I think fascinates me, how people say things like that when they know it's not true.

RVR: I have learned a great deal that is not true.

MV: Yes. You do learn an awful lot that's not true. And that's another thing, I'm sure. It's in any walk of life. They like to embellish things, especially with somebody that was so popular.

RVR: Did he allow anybody to come?

MV: No. The friends from the neighborhood were our friends. Our relatives were all there, all of my aunts and uncles. You know, there were first communion parties, and confirmations.

RVR: Were there priests and nuns?

MV: No. There really was not. He had one aunt. My grandfather had a sister Laurian. But that when I was married. She died right after that. She was Big Mike's sister. And she was a Dominican from Visitation. And she'd be the one. But it wasn't an open door. It was our family. And that's why I think it worked so well for my dad. We'd have graduation parties and communion, like every party with family. But the political people never came to our parties. Abe Marovitz, we called him Uncle Abe, he was a good friend of my dad's. He was around more than anybody else. But he was a good friend of my dad's. He knew all of our family and all of our relatives.

RVR: I interviewed him, too.

MV: Yes. He was wonderful. And they started out as young men in the state Senate. They were very young. They were from different sides of the track. But they became very good friends.

RVR: Intellectually, how would you describe your father?

MV: Oh, I think he was a very smart man. He went on to higher education with a law degree. And he always read. He was always reading. He read all different things, which he could talk to anybody about. That was why he was so good at what he did. When he was in Washington at dinners at conferences, or he'd appear before the Senate, he was a learned man. He was not a Johnny come lately. He was very good. He was a smart man.

RVR: And especially in handing the budget.

MV: Handling the budget and all of the finances, he knew that. I never got that from him (MV and RVR laugh). That's one thing that I didn't get from him (MV and RVR laugh). My brothers did. But Ellie and I were not real good at that part.

RVR: Did you become a teacher, too?

MV: We were all teachers. All three girls were teachers. The boys went into law. And then John went into insurance. Of all my friends, I probably followed what one did. Pat was in the convent. In 1960, when you graduated from college, when I did, you either became a nurse or a teacher. So all of my friends were either teachers or nurses. Ellie and I taught in Wilmette (Illinois).

RVR: Did you?

MV: Yes.

RVR: Where?

MV: I taught at Logan, which is right near the public school. It's called McKenzie. Mrs. McKenzie was my principle. And they named it after her after she died. Ellie taught at Harper. After I got married and had children, I stopped teaching. Ellie came into the city schools. Ellie taught at Graham on the south side, in Canaryville. She taught there until the day she died. Pat was a teacher. Pat taught in the public schools in the city. She was a very good teacher. She started at Tilden, which is one of the toughest schools on the south side. She was a very good high school teacher.

RVR: And you haven't gone back?

MV: No. I haven't gone back (RVR laughs). I raised my four children. I volunteered at Misericordia. Misericordia was our charity. That was always my mom's. Misericordia was on 47th street, on the south side. And that was our charity when we were in high

school, because we had the mercy nuns. And so, we volunteered there. Then, after I had children, I got on the board. And I've been on the board ever since.

RVR: Oh? Then you know Axelrod?

MV: Yes. And oh my God, he just did a wonderful thing for Misericordia by having it. He raised a lot of money. He was very low keyed about that. But this was the first time he became so public, because of his daughter. She's a young adult. And Misericordia has more adults than they do babies anymore. They don't have babies like they used to. But he's been very helpful.

RVR: Are you into politics at all?

MV: No. You know, I love to talk about it. As Bill says, "She doesn't have any idea what she's talking about (RVR laughs)." I will give my opinion and I'll probably be way to the wall off. Or, if I'm right, I won't let them forget (RVR laughs). But I'm proud of them. I'm proud of Rich. And I'm proud of Bill, even thinking of whatever he wants to do. He's thinking of running. I said, "As long as they spell your name your name right," as dad always said. So, it's good to see how they like it, because they saw their dad.

RVR: I thought maybe when Rich ran for mayor, that you were a volunteer.

MV: Oh I was! Oh yes, we all volunteered. I'm up on the north side. So I had all of my girlfriends who knew nothing about politics. Up in Sauganash (neighborhood), the North Side, right around there, we had a lot of fundraisers.

RVR: What did you do?

MV: We volunteered every day. And we'd go out. We went door to door with the kids, at that time. When Rich ran the first time, for state's attorney, nobody supported Rich. He

came before the Slate Committee, the Democratic Party, which my dad founded. And not one committeeman endorsed Rich.

RVR: Why was that?

MV: They were all for Eddie Burke. This is all knowledge, as we all know. I didn't go. I had just had Mary, I think. And I couldn't go. But Pat and my brothers went, stood there, and watched. And it was very hard to see. He ran, really, as an independent. None of the wards were for him when he ran. And there were all of my girlfriends, who never knew anything. We'd be driving around, going up door to door. We had a lot of fun with our children, too. When Rich ran for mayor, then they usually had a family member go out with somebody from the campaign and speak. It was really grass roots in the beginning.

And then, it became bigger each year. But in the beginning, that first time, I remember that I was out. Bill was in charge of the campaign. That was the first campaign. We were at a big hall. I was the family member. And a woman kept bugging about my dad, just like what they do today. "Why does he have to be the mayor, just because his father was the mayor?" And I'd say, "Well, my husband is a doctor. Does that mean that none of my children can go into any type of medicine (MV and RVR laugh)?" Whatever possessed me, then I said, "You mustn't have gotten along with your father."

Ask my brother Bill. I got a call from Bill. He said, "You're not going anymore. No more (RVR laughs)." I said, "I asked her a question. I asked her how she got along with her father (RVR laughs)." The woman told how he was a terrible man. She went on for about twenty minutes. So meanwhile, I wasn't asked to go again very often where, to say a few words. But Pat is real good. Pat is like my brothers. She's really good. I think I'm more sensitive. She really comes out with it. If you mention something bad about my father, I get very angry (laughs). So Michael said, "Leave! You can't stay here (MV and RVR laugh)!" But anyway, it was a very wonderful life. And we're very proud of Rich now. He's done a wonderful job.

RVR: Yes. Did you ever do any volunteer work for your father?

MV: Sure. We passed out things in Beverly, I think, because all of my girlfriends lived in Beverly. Beverly was Republican at the time. All of my friends from high school lived there. Nobody would vote for him. He never won the 19th Ward, because it was all Republican at the time. So we did some of that, which was fun. We volunteered for Kennedy. That's when I really volunteered at the office on Michigan Avenue. That was the age, my age. All of my friends wanted to get in on that. So we all did that.

RVR: Did you go to the White House?

MV: We did. We did that the morning after. We have those pictures and he signed something for all of us.

RVR: Kennedy was amazed that that was all your father wanted.

MV: Yes. That was all he wanted. And we met President (Harry) Truman, going out. He was the first visitor. And then we went in. The only one missing was Rich. And Pat had come out, so Pat was with us, too. So it was wonderful. He took us on a tour of the White House.

RVR: Did you go upstairs?

MV: No. It was the first floor.

RVR: Did you go into the oval office?

MV: Yes. That's where the picture was taken. I should get that for you. He signed everything for us. But we went to the conventions. Ellie and I were out. At that time, we were all out in Los Angeles, when John Kennedy was nominated. In those days, it was a convention.

RVR: A real convention?

MV: It was a real convention. We would go from one state to the other and hear the candidates, like (Lyndon B) Johnson and whoever was running. Scoop Jackson and all of these guys were running. You know, they were still in the running. They wanted the vice president, too, a lot of them. So they'd come up and be running back and forth. And we'd be running all over the place to see and hear them. Ellie, my brothers, and I were all on the floor of the convention when he was nominated. So we have wonderful pictures. They introduced my dad with the state of Illinois. They had the parade with the Shannon Rovers (Irish pipe band). We remember all of that. In those days, it was a convention. When they introduced a man from the state, then the state would wind through there.

RVR: And he took you all?

MV: Oh, we were all there.

RVR: That was part of your learning process?

MV: That was part of it. We were down there when Adlai (E. Stevenson II) walked in with Mrs. (Eleanor) Roosevelt. If you remember, they were trying to change it. And they walked right by. We were all on the floor. We weren't right next to my dad. We were on the floor. We got to be on the floor. But it was a wonderful thing, and how proud he was. Then, when he was nominated, my dad was on the platform with them. All of the mayors and each state was up there. It was a wonderful thing to see. We met him a lot when he came to Chicago during the campaign, and then afterwards. I think my dad was very proud of John Kennedy.

RVR: Yes. You were lucky to have such parents.

MV: We were. We were very fortunate. I look at my own children. Bobby and Mark, our children, are the oldest grandchildren. I have wonderful letters that my dad wrote to them. And he'd take them to everything, because they were the first two grandkids. Then, Pat's

were right behind. They were in and out of the house all of the time, with them, and staying with them. He'd come down to Florida and nobody knew who he was. We were in the Air Force at Homestead Air Force Base.

RVR: Your husband was....?

MV: Bob was a doctor in the Air Force. So my dad would come down. It was 1967 to 1970, around that time. He'd come down and go fishing with Bob and stay on the base with us. And nobody knew who he was. They never would get it. In those days, there wasn't the security. President Nixon was the president. He would fly into Homestead. We have pictures of our kids. We'd all stand, because you honored the office. You'd watch the president land. Nixon was not a great fan of my dad, at that time. We have wonderful pictures of my children. The president's plane would land. Then, he'd go over on a helicopter to Biscayne Bay. President Nixon would go. But my dad loved to fish. And he would go down to the Keys a lot. Bob and my brothers would fish.

RVR: And your father went to meet Nixon?

MV: Yes. And that's a wonderful story. Bill, I'm sure, told you that because, at the time, Nixon was not.... You know, they were trying to get my dad every which way, investigated, and all of that stuff. Nixon flew in. (James R.) Thompson was the governor. (Charles H.) Percy was the senator. They were both Republicans. No one met them, except my dad and my four brothers. Billy was like, "We don't have to do this (laughs)." I remember my dad saying, "You honor the office." And he went and met him. Nixon was very grateful.

RVR: I would imagine so.

MV: He was very grateful to my father, because it was a time when nobody stood with him. He was alone. He flew in alone. He went and spoke somewhere. But my dad met him at the airport. And he was the only one. So it was a great example for my brothers

and for us to know. And our grandchildren all know that. They've all been told that, how their grandpa would do that.

RVR: Your father had principles.

MV: Oh, he did. He was a very good, loving man. He knew his politics, though.

RVR: Did he ever talk to you about politics as such?

MV: No.

RVR: Did he ever try to say, "Wouldn't you like to throw your hat in the ring (RVR laughs)?"

MV: No. I don't think, in those days, they ever did. I wanted to be a teacher. As I said, it was not real important. It was not this day to day, "Oh, dad is involved in such and such every day." I was too interested in high school, running to parties, and seeing what was going on. But it was not my dad sitting down and saying, "You should do this. You should do that."

RVR: Yes. Or with the boys?

MV: With the boys, I think he talked a lot more with them. They knew a lot more about politics than I did, at least. He was always on education. He was always on your grades and how you were doing. And he was never putting you down if you didn't do well. When I got to St. Mary's, it was difficult. And I'd always get that call. "You'll do well. Don't worry." He was just giving you that encouragement, which was wonderful for me.

RVR: Yes. Did he help you with your homework?

MV: Oh, in high school he did. If there was a report and you were trying to get some information, he'd help us get some information. He was very good.

RVR: Did you go to him?

MV: Oh, I would. I'd go to him and ask him. We all did. We never had any problem going to him and asking him, especially at St. Mary's. I'd be calling him saying, "Listen, do you know anything? How do I do this?" (MV laughs).

RVR: He must have been really proud of you, that you went to St. Mary's.

MV: He was. He was very proud. That was a very big day. I graduated from college and Rich graduated from high school at the same time. Well, that's the difference. He was very proud of me at St. Mary's. At the time, the honoree was Tom Dooley. Do you remember Tom Dooley?

RVR: Yes.

MV: He was the honoree at St. Mary's. And Tom Dooley, I can remember, was so proud to meet my dad at that graduation. You know, it was small. It was not as big as the classes are now at the universities. It was more one on one with Tom Dooley. And he was so proud to meet him. Those are my wonderful friends from St. Mary's. I still have those girlfriends from all over who remember my dad and my brothers. They were from all walks of life. And most of them were Republicans at the time. I was so proud of my dad when they'd meet him. Now, I get the calls on Rich. My friends are all over the country. They go, "I can't believe that's Ritchie!" (MV and RVR laugh). So it's cute for friends. It's a wonderful thing to have.

RVR: Yes. That's very true. I'm starting to forget where I was going.

MV: Yes. I can't remember (MV laughs).

TL: Well, the one thing I was going to ask about you've already covered, which was where you met Bob.

MV: My husband.

TL: Yes. You were in Florida. You met him in the Air Force?

MV: No. Bob is from here. Bob was a doctor at Cook County. Bob trained at Cook County. We were married in 1964. I was the first one to be married. My dad announced it, if you look at any of the things. I was at work in Wilmette. And we had gotten engaged over the weekend. So he went to work and told everybody that I was engaged. Well, I hadn't told anybody (MV and RVR laugh). So, I was getting out of the car, coming from teaching. Ellie and I taught. And there were reporters in front of the house. I said, "Oh my God. I wonder what's going on?" And Bob was at Cook County. This is a classic. Bob trained at Cook County. And they were all over Cook County looking for Dr. Vanecko. He was in hiding. He wouldn't come out (MV and RVR laugh).

RVR: Was he a doctor at that time?

MV: Yes. He was a resident. He was doing his residency at Cook County. We were married in 1964. He finished his residency. And then we went into the Air Force at Homestead Air Force Base. In those days, everybody was drafted. Bob was on the Berry Plan. And the Berry Plan was when he was in medical school. He signed up that he could finish his whole residency before he went in. Most of our friends didn't sign up for that. When Vietnam came, they were all pulled out of their practices during Vietnam. So we knew we had to go. We were assigned to a warm climate. And I was thinking, "Oh my God! Vietnam!" (RVR laughs). They needed a surgeon at Homestead. In those days, they'd fly the wounded back. They'd do something in Germany. Then they'd come to Homestead or they'd go to Tampa. In those days, that's what they did. And my dad loved

coming down. And I lived with my parents in the beginning, when he went in, for that whole summer.

RVR: I remember what I was going to ask.

MV: Now you remember (laughs).

RVR: When things got ugly, and people came and started to protest, what was life like?

MV: It was very hard.

RVR: What did they do?

MV: They walked. There was Jesse Jackson and all of those people, whatever that was about. And they shuffled their feet, that whole block, all night long. That was the protest. It must have been with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I can't remember. But it was the housing and the civil rights. That was very disturbing, because we were older. But there were a lot of people on the block that had children. And it was all night long. That was very hard, because my mother was very conscious of her neighbors. We'd sneak out the back. You had to go out the alley to get out of the house. You couldn't go out the front way because they were all up and down. They did a lot of that protesting in those days. I don't think they go to Rich's house protesting like they used to, going down to City Hall. In those days, they did a lot of protesting. And with the University of Illinois (at Chicago), it was the same. There were a lot of protesters on that one, too. But it was hard. It was very difficult on a family. You know, we had school. My brothers went to school.

RVR: Were you frightened?

MV: I was. But that's my nature. My brothers would be sneaking out and trying to see. We'd go out the back way. My dad was very upset, because he knew how much it disturbed our family life. And he wanted a normal family life.

RVR: Yes. Was Ellie also frightened?

MV: Yes. Ellie was frightened. The girls were, I think. The boys were good. You never knew, in those days. Now it's worse. I mean, now it's a lot worse.

RVR: Yes. Was there any violence?

MV: No. I don't think so. The neighbors supported my dad. The police were all around.

RVR: The police did come?

MV: The police did come. But there was nothing in those days. You couldn't stop them.

RVR: Do you know that when I interviewed your mother, there was always a policeman outside.

MV: Yes. They always had a policeman over.

RVR: Who would harm them?

MV: But you never know, though. With what you said, after John Kennedy was killed, the whole country changed. With security, they always had a policeman for my mom out in front of the house. That's because you'd never know what somebody would do. But we were fortunate. We didn't have any incidents.

RVR: The worst of it....

MV: It never happened. And Grand Beach was our out. We were secure there. We had friends there since we were children.

RVR: And there was never any damage?

MV: There was never any bother. No. They never bothered anybody else. Oh, I think when my dad was sick, when he had his surgery, he spent the summer out there. The media was all over him out there. They couldn't get in on our property. I was pregnant. They came to my house, which was just a few doors down. And I remember Andy Shaw, when he was just a young man. I was going, "What? (RVR laughs). Get out of here."

They were different then. As a daughter, you remember. My brothers have all gone on, been in politics, and dealt with it a lot better than I think I would ever have. That's because you remember what they said. They always say you can forgive but you can't forget (MV and RVR laugh), which is a terrible thing the older you get. But there's a lot of truth to it (MV and RVR laugh). So I remember. As Billy always says, "Just ask Mary. She'll remember. But don't say it (laughs)."

RVR: So when you were over there, you lived in a different house than your parents.

MV: Yes. When we were raised, we were down in the village. I got married. My parents bought the house I live in now in Grand Beach. It's all in Grand Beach. But we needed a bigger house. I got married in 1964. They bought this bigger home in 1962 or 1963. Then, that's where we were raised. And then, when I had two children, like any grandpa, "It's getting a little crowded here. I think Mary should move" (MV and RVR laugh).

So I built a little A-frame house right near my dad. And in the years since, all of us have. Michael has a home. Pat has a home. My brother Bill has a home. Rich and John have a home. We were raised with all of those people up there. So all of our friends are like us. They're all our age. We were raised with them. They all have their homes. And their parents were my parent's friends. My dad had wonderful friends up there. That was his out.

RVR: And didn't he go around with donuts?

MV: Oh yes (RVR laughs). He did that anywhere we were. He loved donuts. He'd ring the bell. They were here. Whether you liked it or not, they were here (RVR laughs). That's what my kids remember. Bobby and Mark will tell you a lot, because they remember all of that as children. We lived with them when we'd go up on weekends and stuff in the summer. It's a wonderful thing to see, now that we're grandparents, both Bob and I, how he loved that. After my mom died, I moved into this house. Then, Bobby took over my house. That's because he's got five children. So it's just as easy for him.

RVR: I've heard that he's got five children.

MV: Yes. So we've got the next generation up there. So my dad would be very proud, because all of us have grandchildren. I think Nora had the twenty fifth great grandchild.

RVR: Is that....?

MV: That's Rich's daughter. There are 22 grandchildren. My parents had 22 grandchildren. And now, there are 25 great grandchildren. So, every weekend up there, it's like that.

RVR: I think your father was an only child.

MV: He was an only child! (RVR laughs) I know. And he would have died (MV and RVR laugh). He wouldn't believe that. So it was a wonderful home. And that's what we want, everybody most of all, to know.

RVR: Every time I went to interview your mother, she always had what we called Danish.

MV: Oh, she always did that. She loved sweets. Michael is a lot like her. He brings the donuts all of the time. Michael has always loved the sweets. But she was so proud when you'd come to interview her. I think she interviewed you a lot, too (MV and RVR laugh).

She'd ask him so many questions. And we'd go, "No! You're supposed to answer his questions" (EV and RVR laugh).

RVR: You know, she asked me once, "What are you working on now?" I said, "Oh, I'm doing a biography of John Quincy Adams." And she said, "Oh, our sixth president."

MV: Oh, she knew them.

RVR: I said, "How did you know?" Who would know that John Quincy Adams was the sixth president? She said, "We learned that in school."

MV: Oh yes. She was a very smart woman. She read a lot, too. And my kids are always fascinated as to how she did the streets in Chicago. She would know all of the downtown streets. She would name them off like mad, you know. She would memorize all of that in school. That was all memorization at that time, when she was in grade school, which was very good in a way (MV and RVR laugh).

RVR: And it hadn't left her at 90.

MV: No. It didn't, at 95.

RVR: Her birthday was yesterday.

MV: She would have been 102.

RVR: I only regret that....

MV: You didn't do more. I know. I said that to Bob. I said, "It's too bad that she didn't start it a little sooner."

RVR: We were getting into your father's career.

MV: And she was the one who could tell it.

RVR: They talked.

MV: Oh, they talked. Sure. In those days, there were no advisors. Today, you go down to a political campaign. There's a chief of staff and all of that. But it was my mother. Then, when he came in, he would talk to her. Her advice was very good. I'm sure it was the same with most of the political wives. But nowadays, they have all of these pollsters and so many people involved with the candidate. Everybody is telling them what to do.

RVR: There's a deputy press secretary. I get put off from one to the other.

MV: I'd rather hear from the man (MV laughs). I'd rather hear from the person. I'll get on his case. I'll tell him (RVR laughs). And Michael will, too. He's got to do it. If I did it, he'll do it (MV laughs).

RVR: I know. I never expected it.

MV: I know. But that's what Michael kept saying. "You've got to go. You've got to go." It's fun to talk about him. I think that the older you get, you want to meet people.

RVR: I'm glad that it's important, and that the record shows what kind of man he was, both as a husband and as a father.

MV: And they have all of the other things that they know about his political career. I mean, that's all over the place, one way or the other. But this part is something that we're very adamant about getting out.

RVR: Do you know of any stories or recall any anecdotes that involve your mother or father, any stories of things that happened? Your brother Bill told us when those Mexicans came.

MV: Oh, that was for my mom's birthday!

RVR: Yes (RVR laughs).

MV: Yesterday we went to mass. I met my brothers at mass for my mom. They had a mass yesterday for her birthday. The lady behind us was laughing. She said, "The Mariachis! The Mariachis!" They always came on her birthday. That's because it was the city's birthday. It was Chicago's birthday. So they'd all be in the gangway. We'd be sleeping (MV and RVR laugh). And they'd all be playing the Mariachis. My dad always invited them in for coffee. We'd get up, trying to get dressed, and that. There was the parade down for John Kennedy, before he was elected, the torchlight parade. The movies are wonderful, I'm sure. I mean, we were right there, with the crowds. I remember that. Oh my God. And then, we raced in because the crowds pushing and pushing. We wanted to get in to see it. I mean, those things were political and so proud.

RVR: Yes. You didn't go to England when they went to meet the queen?

MV: No. Ellie went with them when they went to Italy. I think it was when Cody was named, (John) Cardinal Cody. You know how they had the delegation from the city?

RVR: Right.

MV: Ellie went with them when they went, when Cardinal Cody was named.

RVR: I didn't know he went when he was named.

MV: Yes. A lot of people from Chicago went when he was named. In those days, you'd go to Rome. We went to Ireland. My dad loved Ireland. We have pictures from Ireland.

RVR: Did you go?

MV: No. I went before my dad. Pat and I did, out of college with four girls.

RVR: They let you go?

MV: Oh yes. They let me go then. We were older. We were teaching. We had a job (MV and RVR laugh). We had addresses of my dad. The Dunnes and the Daleys were from Dungarvin and Waterford and Wexford. That's where they were from. And the Guilfoyles were from a little north. I can't remember where they were from.

RVR: That was his wife's family?

MV: That was the Guilfoyle family. And my mother said they came out of the woodwork. No one knew a Guilfoyle (RVR laughs). You know, they couldn't have been all related to him. But the pictures, when he was in Dungarvin and Waterford, he would stand with relatives and their little grandchildren. Our kids, when we look at them now, there are similarities. You can pick out our children. With my little Mary, they would all laugh, or Bobby, a little Irish kid. He had a wonderful time. He was very moved by that trip to Ireland.

RVR: Do you remember when that was?

MV: I was married in 1964. So my dad must have gone right after I was married, in 1965. We went in 1962 and 1963, the four girls. They had a lot of Dunne. And they reminded us of our grandmother. They were on my dad's side, the relatives that were staying with him. But he was very pleased. He went where the Kennedy's were from. That was in that similar area, where John Kennedy had relatives.

RVR: You don't remember any of your grandparents?

MV: I remember Lil and Mike, Big Mike. That's because Pat and I were the oldest, so we remember them. Pat was very close to Lil. I don't know how old I was. I was probably seven or eight when Lil died. Big Mike we remember. Pat would remember Lil the most. That's because she was the oldest.

RVR: Yes. Was your father alive when Ellie died?

MV: No. My dad died in 1976. Ellie died ten years ago. Ellie has been dead ten years. My mother has been dead six years.

RVR: Was that hard on your mother?

MV: Yes. It was very hard on all of us. And it came out of the blue. She always said, "You never bury a child." Both of my brothers have buried children. Rich and Bill both buried children.

RVR: And Mike?

MV: Michael buried a wife. And my mother always said that that was the worst, no matter what age. Ellie was 54. She was a mother to the end. Ellie had a blastoma (cancer). So there was basically no surgery or anything. She lived a year. We had nurses around the clock for Ellie. They'd say, "Mrs. Daley, sleep." But she wouldn't, right to the end she cared for Ellie!

RVR: She was with your mother all of the time?

MV: She was, all of the time. Ellie never married. She taught school. She lived at home. She did a lot of things. Ellie was all over the place. She traveled. She had good friends,

wonderful friends. She loved teaching, she really did. She was a wonderful teacher and a wonderful sister.

RVR: Were you close to her?

MV: I was very close to Ellie, because Pat was gone. So it was very hard. That's because one day she was fine, and the next day for that to happen. I remember sitting with all of the surgeons. My husband knew all of this. And there was nothing he could do. But my mother knew from day one. She said, "It should be me, not my daughter."

RVR: She lived another ten years almost.

MV: No. Ellie lived a year. She was diagnosed and then lived a year. She died ten years ago. She was a wonderful friend and a sister. We were very close.

RVR: How about you and Pat?

MV: Pat and I are real close, too. She was there all of the time. But she was in the convent. But we were real close.

RVR: How long was she in the convent?

MV: She was in from high school, just like I was in college. So it was about five or six years. She came out when she should have taken her vows. In those days, you went in right out of high school. Then she came out. I graduated from college in 1960 and she came out then.

RVR: Yes. Did that disappoint your parents?

MV: No.

(end of video tape one)

TL: Okay. We're in good shape.

RVR: Do people know that you are a Daley?

MV: They do. A lot of times, they didn't. This is a fun story too, when I was at St. Mary's of Notre Dame. I'd be at parties in those days, down at St. Mary's. We were at one big party. I heard a guy say, "Oh, I'm the mayor's nephew." This was a guy my age or a year older. He didn't know me. So I was laughing. He was from somewhere. And I said, "Oh, you really are? What is your name?" And he was saying, "Daley. Daley." Well, my dad was an only child. So I knew that. And that had happened a lot, saying that they were a relative. And my mom used to laugh and say, "If they all went to De LaSalle with dad, it'd be a university, because everybody would meet him. 'I went to De LaSalle with your father (MV and RVR laugh).'" Well, they couldn't have, because it was a very small school at the time. Now they do, in the neighborhood up where we are. A lot of times, they don't. They don't get the name Vanecko, which is wonderful in a way. I can listen to what they're saying (laughs), and then go from there.

RVR: Tell them you're related to the present mayor.

MV: I'm related to the present mayor. And you're proud. You'll have a lot of people give their opinions, which is fine. That's what it's all about.

RVR: Would you like to see your children go into politics? Or are they already?

MV: No they're not. I have two lawyers and a son trying to get in with the movies. R.J. likes all of this movie stuff. So he's trying to get into that. Mary is a midwife. My youngest, Mary, was in Guyana, South America in the Peace Corps for two years. She graduated from college and went on to the Peace Corps. She just passed everything and got a degree. She's a midwife at Northwestern. She did that in the Peace Corps.

RVR: I didn't know they had that.

MV: Yes. You know, they're not the kind that you think. They work for the hospital. But anyway, I don't know. They haven't shown any interest so far. I think they've seen the criticism of their Uncle Rich. I think of how hard it is. It's different.

RVR: It's not worth it.

MV: You wonder if it is. I don't think so. They haven't shown any interest. Mary is in medicine. And with the other three, I don't think so. They're proud of him. They're very proud of Rich. They worked at all of the campaigns. They helped as young men.

RVR: You have three boys?

MV: I have three boys and one girl. And they always remember. R.J. was two and a half when my dad died. He was the grandson. And the day before my dad died, we still have a big fire hat that he gave R.J. that was red. So we always remember that. That was one of the last presents that he gave the night before he died. We had Christmas at their house that day before. So that's something that R.J. remembers. He doesn't remember. He was too young. He knows more than any of them, because he has listened to the stories.

RVR: He's the oldest?

MV: No. He's the third son. Bobby is the oldest. Bobby and Mark are the first two.

RVR: I've met them.

MV: Yes. They really remember an awful lot, how he gave them so many things. Bobby was ten or eleven when my dad died. He was in football at Queens. They start in third and fourth grade. My dad would come up to the game at Queens. He wanted one of those

big dummies, like the pros have, where you tackle the dummy (RVR laughs). So Bob and I were looking all over. There was Sport Mart at that time. And so we got to my dad's house. He was like a little kid. So he had all of these presents. He said, "Look! Look!" I said, "Where did you find it?" So he found it. He wanted to be the one to give it to Bobby. Bobby still has that. It's the old dummy that they use to tackle at football games. And he still has it. Bobby remembers a lot of that, how his grandpa would take him. They'd go to the Bears games with him all of the time, and the White Sox games. Just like my dad took my brothers, he took his grandchildren. Pat's kids were the same way.

RVR: He was an avid....

MV: He was a sports fan.

RVR: And your mother was, too!

MV: She knew more about the White Sox than anyone (RVR laughs). She could not understand. We used to have to go. It was not my cup of tea (RVR laughs). I used to sit there and think, "I'm going to get hit with this ball," because we all sat in the front. So even now when I go, Michael said the last time, "Don't come anymore. You're like this" (MV shrieks). Well, they're so close. You could get hit (RVR laughs). But that was wonderful, when I think how my dad would do that with his sons. They'd switch off sitting next to him to talk to him. Because he was a busy man, that was the time he could talk to them about whatever was going on in their lives. My brothers, still to this day, they all have tickets in the same area. And they do the same thing. But my mother loved baseball. She'd listen to it all day long on the radio. She'd listen to it. And she loved going to the games. She did.

RVR: That's where they met.

MV: They met there. That was one of their first dates. My Uncle Henny fixed them up. They loved that. And when we took her to the boxes, after the boxes were built, she sat

there. It's like a party. You're in the box. And there's really nobody watching the game (MV and RVR). She didn't like that at all. But it was hard for her getting down the stairs. And she didn't like being up in the box at all. She was a wonderful mother.

RVR: You were born at Christmastime.

MV: Yes. It was December 20, 1938.

RVR: I was told that the first child, whoever that was, was either going to be....

MV: They were going to be Patrick or Pat. She was born on St. Patrick's Day, Pat was born on St. Patrick's Day. So she was Patrick or Pat. Then I was born on Christmas.

RVR: It was Christmas Day?

MV: No. It was December 20. And that's the day my dad died. So that's kind of bittersweet. We were having a party for me. He had called me. I was pregnant with Mary. He had called me. And they were giving a party that night for me. He and my mom would go to a breakfast. He was going somewhere out south, something with basketball. He called me and said, "We'll see you tonight in a couple of hours. We'll have the birthday party." They were getting both families together, my husband's family and my family for my birthday. And then he died on my birthday. So that's why it's bittersweet. So we always celebrate on that day, the Daley Christmas, since my dad died. It's on the day he died, on the twentieth.

RVR: That happens to be....

MV: It's my birthday. So we've done it every year since then. My mother started that. She said, "Why don't we do that?" That's because we all had to go with our in laws. With my sister in laws, some of them would have to leave. Maggie was from Pittsburgh. She

wanted to go home with Rich and her kids. So we always did it on the twentieth. And we've all kept it up, ever since, and have a wonderful Christmas Day.

RVR: How were you told?

MV: It was a terrible thing. I was home alone. Bob called. It was on the radio, but I didn't have the radio on. We lived in Sauganash. My girlfriend heard it. And she came on over. But I didn't get it. They didn't tell me he was dead. Bob just said, "Your dad's had a spell," because I was pregnant and they were worried. He said, "One of the policemen is coming to get you and bring you down." I said, "Fine." But then, when I saw my friend, I knew something happened. Then she drove down in the car with me and we got there.

RVR: You got where?

MV: We went right to where my dad was dead. It was on Michigan Avenue. It was where the old, a hotel.

RVR: Was it the doctor's office?

MV: Yes. It was the doctor's office. It was called something. There was a restaurant on the first floor. It's not where Water Tower is. It's where the other one is.

TL: Do you mean Lewis Towers?

MV: No. I mean north of there.

TL: Where Borders is?

MV: It was where the Four Seasons and all of that is. So they took me right up. And he was dead already. We were kneeling and saying the rosary. Father Graham was there.

Father Graham had been in town for the day before, for the Daley Christmas. Then we all said the rosary with my mom.

RVR: Your mother was there?

MV: Yes. We were all there. I was the last one to get there. That was a terrible day. You couldn't believe it. He was dead. He went quick.

RVR: And on every birthday, you remember it?

MV: I do, on every birthday. And it was very hard in the beginning. My mother was strong. So she helped me to be strong about that. She said, "You know, in a way, he's leaving you something, Mary. Just remember that. It's something special." So you believe all of that. And you believe in God. I think on the day before, he went over to see Morgan Murphy. Morgan Murphy was a good friend of his. He was the head of Commonwealth Edison. And he was dying at the time. He had been at Mercy on a respirator for too long. I remember him coming home and saying, "Oh God. That would be a terrible way to live that way, Sis." So, in a way, he went quick. In a way, that would be a blessing for him. He didn't suffer. And we just came home. But my mother was awfully strong, when I think now of how strong she was. Oh, it hurt. It hurt her terrible. But she remembered him. And we always talked about him. A lot of people, when somebody dies, they clam up, they don't want to remember, and all of that. But that was never our way. We always talked and laughed about him, which is wonderful.

RVR: That's Irish (RVR laughs).

MV: It's Irish. And it kept you going.

RVR: You need those things.

MV: We need those things in life. Yes. He was a wonderful man.

RVR: (Asks something about Mary Carol's name)

MV: No. With one of the nuns, she was something Carol, Christmas Carol. She wanted something with Christmas Carol. She was saying Noel, and all of this. Then one of the nuns came in. You see, they knew all of the nuns. Mercy Hospital was so close to our home. They were friends with my mom. She knew them all. Half of them were probably neighbors, children, and stuff. One of the nuns came in and said, "It should be Mary, something with Mary." So then, my mother thought of a Christian carol, which was very good. Then, Richard was named after my dad. Michael was Big Mike. Then John came from my mom's brother. My mom had a brother John that died. And with Bill, I don't know how he got Bill. He and Mike look the most like my mom. He's the last one. I think he reminds me an awful lot of her. He's very good at what he does, Bill.

RVR: I hope he runs for governor.

MV: I do, too. I hope he does something. He's very good. I'm very proud of him.

RVR: Or that Obama....

MV: I hope that he brings him into his cabinet. He's so good.

RVR: I saw him at the inauguration.

MV: Oh, did you go to the inauguration?

RVR: Yes. I was on the platform.

MV: Oh my God! That was wonderful. Wasn't it? We didn't go. I watched it. We were glued to the t.v. for the whole time. How proud everybody should be. He's a fine young man, and how far he's come. What I don't get now, with the finances, and I'm not real

good with finances, this didn't all come forty days ago. He got bombarded with this whole thing. I think he's doing a wonderful job. He's a young man.

RVR: It shows what this country is really all about.

MV: Yes. That's all about it, and how far we've come. And that's why people should be behind him, both sides. With the Republican Democrat thing, I don't get that (MV and RVR laugh). I think of Rich and how close he was to President Bush, after 9/11 and the first year that he was in office. He couldn't go to New York for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He was the president. He just became the president. So he called and came to Chicago for that first St. Patrick's Day in March with Rich in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. And I think they've been very good friends. They disagree. But it's a wonderful thing to see, with that kind of politics.

RVR: That's your father.

MV: That's my dad. And Rich has a lot of that, where you may disagree. But they were wonderful.

RVR: Don't be disagreeable.

MV: Yes. And Rich and Maggie had gone and stayed in the White House. They had been invited to dinners under Bush. It's a wonderful thing to be that way, not so anti.

RVR: Neil Hartigan said that we ought to interview Maggie (Margaret Daley).

MV: If she wanted to, it would be fine. You could just ask her. She loves to be interviewed.

RVR: Was she close to them?

MV: She was very close to my mom and dad. Her mother died when she was young. She was very close to my mother. She tells wonderful stories too, about my mom, how she helped her, and stuff. And my mother, which I admired about my mom so much, when Rich was elected, everyone thought that my mother should have been out there, front and center. You could just see my mom stepping back, which was wonderful. She did it in her own way. They kept inviting her and inviting her. She told them, "Oh no. I'm with the grandchildren." But I always admired that, because she wanted Rich and Maggie to shine. You know, it was their time, a new beginning. Let them do what they want to do. But I always said, "Mom, you should go to this dinner or that." She was honored right after my dad died. It was one of those Irish things. You could just see that it was very hard on my mom. And I always remember it. Then after that, she just stepped back. Oh, she'd go to a lot of the dinners, but not as out front and center. And I always admired that. She was very smart. She knew it was time for them to do whatever they wanted to do. And I always admired that about her, because she was doing it her own way. Maggie would say, "Sis, come on. Come and be with me." My mom would say, "Oh no, Maggie." That's what she wanted. And Maggie has done a wonderful job, oh my gosh. She's very committed. And she's a wonderful mother.

RVR: Tell me, do you have any letters from your father?

MV: I do. I have letters. And I have letters to my children. I don't think they're going to give them to you (laughs).

RVR: I don't want them. I wouldn't ask for them.

MV: Oh no. They're wonderful letters that my dad wrote to Bob and I. The ones to Bobby and Mark are all on his stationery. I'll get those together for you to look at.

RVR: Would you?

MV: There are the ones he wrote to Bob and I in the Air Force. In those days, Vietnam was very controversial. And he knew that a lot of our friends were on either side. And he knew how hard it was. My brothers lost a very good friend. Jay McKeon was one of Michael's best friends. He died in Vietnam. And he did not have to go. He should have been home. So it was a terrible war. It was not good on either side. We were on the opposite side.

RVR: Your father was opposed to it.

MV: And he told them. But then, he supported the president in his own way. But we were at a TAC base and a SAC base. Those were the fighter pilots. They would go out and come back. All they wanted to do was the opposite. You'd see those movies, Top Gun and all of those. In those days, they were really like that. They wanted to go. Oh my God, they'd scare the hell out of you. But I mean, that was the war they were given.

RVR: And every day, there was a list of people that were killed.

MV: And I think this one is very similar. Channel 11 still does that at night.

RVR: He's gone to end it.

MV: Yes, hopefully.

RVR: Your sons are not, in any way....?

MV: Are they in the military? No.

RVR: They're not thinking of going in?

MV: No. Patrick did. Patrick served and he's home.

RVR: Is he back home?

MV: Yes. He's back home.

RVR: We don't have the draft.

MV: Oh no. And Bob says that. They should have something. There should be some meaningful way that you do something for your country. Most countries do. All of the European countries do. You know, you have to do something. I don't know how they'd ever do it. The draft wasn't the answer.

RVR: I tell them to vote at least once.

MV: I'm in that district. There's nobody there. Nobody voted.

RVR and MV: It was seventeen per cent.

MV: There was nobody there. We were away and they always say they'll do it. The young people think they'll do it by computers the next time. I was at a party and I said, "Okay (laughs)."

RVR: How are you going to maintain your liberty, your independence, and your democracy?

MV: And I'm a great one. I got it from my mother, when we're at a dinner party or something and they're all screaming, especially with Obama. I mean, I'm on the north side, like you (RVR laughs). They say terrible things. You want to go, "You're a seventy year old man (laughs). What are you saying?" It was so bad. I'd always say, "Oh, tell me. Did you vote?" My mother used to ask that all of the time (RVR laughs). And you'd be surprised. They don't! They are the first ones that are yelling the most, especially during

this last election, if anyone says that nobody voted in this district, which was a disgrace. I mean, that is a disgrace. I mean, they were the ones that were yelling the most.

RVR: Even with Obama, with his election, it was sixty-four percent.

MV: Yes. I know. It's amazing.

RVR: In Europe, it's ninety percent.

MV: I thought that there would be a lot more for Obama, in that election. That's because it was so one way or the other. And you thought that they would have come out. The young people did. But they didn't come out in this one. In this election it was Wrigleyville and all of that young area.

RVR: And it extends.

MV: Yes. It goes all over. And nobody voted. A lot of them don't like to declare themselves. But that day is gone. I don't think it bothers them anymore.

RVR: Do you think I could enlist your aide in convincing your brother Rich to talk to me?

MV: You mean to do an interview?

RVR: Yes.

MV: Yes.

RVR: And also, could you ask him to think about donating his papers to his father's papers here in the library?

MV: Yes. I'll talk to him. I'll mention it to him. I wouldn't be surprised if he'd probably do that. Didn't Bill do something like that?

RVR: Bill already has, the government papers.

MV: Rich would be wonderful. Yes.

RVR: It would become a great research library for the study of Chicago history. It would be a great honor to your father and your mother.

MV: It would be. Yes. It would be a wonderful honor. Sure. I'll mention it to him. How far it goes, I don't know (MV and RVR laugh). If it's your brother, you can always mention it to him. But I wouldn't be surprised. He's so proud of this, too, this university. It's very important to him and his administration, to have this all here, and how much it does for the city.

RVR: And your father wanted it close to a means of transportation.

MV: And look at it. You're right here, which is wonderful.

RVR: It was so that kids who couldn't afford could go....

MV: They could get there by public transportation. And they did, which is a wonderful thing.

RVR: Yes. He saw it.

MV: Oh, he had a great vision. That's one thing that he had. He looked forward to things, which is a wonderful thing for the city to have that. And we're proud of you. You've worked so hard on this. It's wonderful.

RVR: Thanks.

MV: I love seeing all of the interviews. There's one with Dan Rostenkowski.

RVR: Oh yes.

MV: Oh, he's a character (RVR laughs). And he was heavy then. Now, he's lost a little weight.

RVR: I haven't seen him in a while.

MV: I haven't either. Anyway, he was witty. He can be very witty.

RVR: And was a very important figure to your father.

MV: Sure. He was a young man when he was named an alderman. He was the youngest Congressman, I think, when he was named.

RVR: We need to have him come back and talk specifically about your father.

MV: Yes. He'd be good at that. Yes. That would be wonderful. You're doing a lot of the interviews, which is good. You're getting a little bit more every day.

RVR: Well, I'm only here part time.

MV: So they're trying to get more, the more they can get at this time.

RVR: That's before they go. I've looked at the list of the ones that you've had so far, which is good.

RVR: Do you have any questions?

TL: No.

MV: I'm fine. I hope I've helped you (laughs).

RVR: You have.

MV: It's the way that we want to portray him. I don't know the political part. I can't talk about that. My brothers can talk about the law and all of that. And Pat can.

RVR: But you'd have to make your father as a living person.

MV: Oh he was. He was very moving. For our wedding, he was so moved. He loved "My Fair Lady." We had gone to New York with my mom and dad and saw "My Fair Lady" (RVR laughs). He loved that play. Oh my God, he loved it. "Get me to the church on time." My dad loved to sing. We all loved to sing. He would sing that all of the time.

RVR: Did he like to sing?

MV: Oh, he loved to sing.

RVR: I didn't know that.

MV: He'd sing, oh yes. Oh, he thought he was wonderful (RVR laughs). But he would sing, "Get me to the church on time." Oh, he loved that. And at my wedding, they wore tails and top hats. I think that's the reason they all did (MV and RVR laugh), because in that play, they all had top hats. So in the wedding pictures, he was so cute (RVR laughs). He was good. He was a wonderful man. And he was a wonderful example to my children.

RVR: I think your mother once mentioned that they used to go to the opera.

MV: Yes. My dad loved the opera. They went all of the time. Yes. People don't know that. They did the theater a lot. He loved to play golf. Up at the lake, he'd play golf. They weren't that good. But he'd go with his friends and play golf. He fished a lot with my brothers and my grandfathers. That's what he did.

RVR: Yes. What was his favorite meal? Do you know?

MV: Oh, I think he loved corned beef and cabbage, and any boiled dinner (TL laughs).

RVR: Boiled?

MV: Oh yes. You boiled everything. You boiled the corned beef. In those days, that's what you did. We used to have liver and bacon, I think, once a week.

RVR: I kept kicking myself. That was the one question I was going to ask your mother.

MV: She loved cooking corned beef. She did corned beef and cabbage all of the time for my dad. He loved that. And he loved it boiled, oh boy (RVR laughs). The Irish did that, I think. I didn't like any of it. But he was always home.

RVR: Did they go out to dinner very much.

MV: Not much. You know, we were talking about that, Bob and I, how our generation does that. But our parents didn't do that. Their parties were in the home. They had our relatives over, my Aunt Mayme and my Uncle John. That was my mother's sister and my Uncle John. They were real close. They'd come over for dinner a lot. But there was not going out for dinner like our generation does.

RVR: It's a generation thing.

MV: It is. I think so. There are the graduation parties, the first communions, and the marriages. Those were their big social parties. But not going to dinner.

RVR: Except for the dinners he had to go to.

MV: For the dinners, they had to go. Oh yes. She'd run down if she could. You know, there was no thing that she had to go. He could get in and out, if she wasn't with him. But she didn't have to go to all of those big dinners.

RVR: I also heard that he went to some dinners and didn't eat very much. And then...

MV: He came home and ate. That's what he would do (MV laughs). He'd have a big lunch, though. My mother would always ask him, "What did you have for lunch?" He'd say, "Oh, not much." Well then, she'd hear that he went somewhere and had a big lunch and wanted a big dinner, too (MV and RVR laughs). As my brothers and Pat will say, they had a wonderful relationship.

TL: Wasn't there a diner by St. Peter's downtown?

MV: Yes. He would go in there after mass.

TL: And I think he was very common there. Was he always there for breakfast?

MV: Yes. He'd go there for breakfast, even though he'd already ate breakfast. He'd come down and he'd go again.

TL: I think, is it Maxine's (Maxim's)?

MV: It's one of those. My brothers still go there. You know, the best breakfast, it's on that street. I can't remember what the name of it is. But he'd walk there. You know, he'd walk from city hall to mass.

TL: So, between having a nice tasty breakfast and lunch....

MV: He'd have another one (MV and RVR laugh). And she'd be cooking for all of us.

TL: I'll figure out the name of that (restaurant).

MV: I know exactly what you're talking about.

TL: I just can't remember. It's on the corner there of Madison and something else, Clark maybe, or Dearborn.

MV: He used to get out on Michigan Avenue and walk a lot.

RVR: Did he?

MV: That was after he had that first spell. I remember the first time, when he had that carotid artery. That's when he came up to Grand Beach and spent the whole summer. That's when the media was up, at that time, after he had that surgery. And he spent the whole summer there.

RVR: Did he have a heart attack before?

MV: I think so. I'm not too sure. He had something. You know the Irish. It was a spell (MV and RVR laugh). I have a girlfriend that just those mini strokes, the T.I.A.'s, or whatever they are. And she said it was a spell. I said, "Nancy, I don't think it was a spell (laughs)." But I mean, that was how you would say it. But he did everything that the doctors told him. He was not a bit afraid. There was no question when they told him what had to be done. And my mother was the same way with medicine, never questioning like we do now. We get on the internet and find out all of the stuff that they're going to do to us. They had such confidence in physicians. It was so different with that generation. And

they just went ahead and did it. They put themselves in the hands of the physicians and did it. Yes. So it was wonderful.

RVR: Well....

MV: I think that's plenty. And you know, cut a lot of it out. My brothers will say a lot more (RVR laughs). They say a lot more important things than I do.

*****END OF INTERVIEW*****