Big Dreams
Dear Neighbor,

I’ll never forget something my father told me when I was growing up—he said, “Life will throw you some tough tests, but if you dream big, you can achieve anything.”

That’s the spirit of America that I grew up with. In that small house in the Spaghettiville section of Lowell, with my six brothers and sisters, we had plenty of big dreams. And we knew that with some hard work and good luck, we could make those dreams come true.

My folks worked hard—Dad worked two jobs to support us kids. He was like so many of the everyday heroes that live and work in the Merrimack Valley, trying to make ends meet, trying to live out their dreams and the dreams they have for their children. I’ll never forget how hard my parents worked to give us a good start.

U.S. Congressman Marty Meehan
They didn’t have a lot of formal schooling, but they never let us forget the value of an education. I worked my way through high school, college, graduate school, and law school, and I’ll never regret it.

I believe we have responsibilities as members of our communities to the hard working families who live here. For me that meant working hard as a Prosecutor, First Assistant District Attorney, Deputy Secretary of State, and as your Congressman. I’ve worked hard so that hard working families in Massachusetts can have better lives.

My family continues to live and work in our communities—they’re all still in Massachusetts. We’re dreaming about big things and better tomorrows together. And together, we can reach those dreams for ourselves and our children.

Marty with his Dad.

U.S. Congressman Marty Meehan
When I was a kid, our classes were so overcrowded, I was bused to different schools. In all, I attended six different schools before the 8th grade. That's too many. No child should have to be bused around because our schools are overcrowded or falling apart.

"In Congress, I've worked hard to make the dreams of all parents come true by leading the effort to improve public education. More teachers... smaller class sizes... safer schools... all in the name of our children.

"I know the value of a good education. Three of my sisters are teachers. They never let me forget about the dreams of the children they teach every day."

Marty, with his mother, at his high school graduation.
“My mom is 74 years old. She takes four different medications and pays hundreds out of her pocket every month for these needed prescriptions.

“We have to do something about this problem, now. And we need to do something that will have an impact, that will bring prices down on prescription drugs and give our seniors real peace of mind and security. Not some gimmick ... not some cheap political trick.

“I’m committed to finding an effective solution so that seniors won’t have to choose between life-saving medications and the bare necessities of life. I’ll continue to fight for real prescription drug coverage under Medicare. Because lives are at stake—like my mom’s.”

Marty with his siblings.
“F"or years, I saw my dad work hard, day in and day out, to provide for his family. I know what it’s like not to have the resources to make all your kids’ dreams come true, or even to pay all the bills. I want to make sure everyone in my district has the chance for a good, secure job.

“I’ll never forget what happened at Malden Mills—you’ve probably heard the story. A few years ago, the mill that produces Polartec burned to the ground. I was there the night of the fire—it was horrible.

“Aaron Feuerstein, owner of Malden Mills, personally paid his employees through the holidays. That’s what loyalty means. He rebuilt his business, and he still employs many people. I’ve helped by sending millions in federal contracts to Malden Mills, but the real work was done by Aaron and his employees.

“No Enron here—no WorldCom. Just hard work, loyalty, dedication, and a dream for the future. That’s what our economy should be based on.”

U.S. Congressman Marty Meehan
Big Dreams of a Better, Cleaner Government

“I’m so proud of working with Republican Senator John McCain in passing the McCain-Feingold-Shays-Meehan Campaign Finance Reform bill. When President Bush signed our bill into law, we finally got the huge, unlimited, unregulated donations by big companies and the very wealthy out of our national politics.

“What campaign finance really means, though, is that we can finally have a better government. We can make clear decisions about health care without the interference of the big pharmaceutical companies or the HMOs. We can regulate fuzzy accounting practices and protect pension plans because Enron, WorldCom, and Xerox can’t make enormous contributions to politicians anymore.

“Our work means more than just less money in politics. It means better government, clearer decisions, and a real focus on working families rather than the special interests.”

Republican Senator John McCain with Congressman Marty Meehan.

U.S. Congressman Marty Meehan
Big Dreams for His Family... and Ours

"I'm proud to call the Merrimack Valley home. Ellen and I are proud to raise our children here. Ellen works hard as a health care administrator to provide accessible, high quality medical care for families at Lawrence General Hospital. We are so lucky, so blessed, to live here and to share the values of this community with our children.

"My two year old, Robert Francis, and my newborn son, Daniel Martin, will have many more opportunities than I did, but they'll still face the same tests, the same challenges.

"We all have big dreams—for the future, for our families, for our children. My job as your Congressman is to help you make your dreams a reality."

U.S. Congressman Marty Meehan

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