

"ANYTHING TWO PEOPLE KNOW IS NOT A SECRET."

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## Barbara Cubin's "influence" rank in the U.S. House is 193 rungs below California's Mary Bono. Mary is Sonny Bono's widow!

Source: Congress.org

### I got you babe

Sonny and Cher

HER: They say we're young and we don't know

We won't find out until we grow

HIM: Well I don't know if all that's true

'Cause you got me, and baby I got you

BOTH: Babe, I got you babe, I got you babe

HER: They say our love won't pay the rent

Before it's earned, our money's all been spent

HIM: I guess that's so, we don't have a pot

But at least I'm sure of all the things we got

BOTH: Babe, I got you babe, I got you babe

HIM: I got flowers in the spring

I got you to wear my ring

HER: And when I'm sad, you're a clown

And if I get scared, you're always around

Don't let them say your hair's too long

'Cause I don't care, with you I can't go wrong

HIM: Then put your little hand in mine

There ain't no hill or mountain we can't climb

BOTH: Babe, I got you babe, I got you babe

HIM: I got you to hold my hand

HER: I got you to understand

HIM: I got you to walk with me

HER: I got you to talk with me

HIM: I got you to kiss goodnight

HER: I got you to hold me tight

HIM: I got you, I won't let go

HER: I got you to love me so

BOTH: I got you babe, I got you babe

I got you babe, I got you babe

I got you babe

*The above lyrics by Sonny Bono aren't directly related to the story but when it's your paper, you can do what you want. Indirectly, of course, they do. Sonny was first elected to the California House seat now occupied by his widow, Mary Bono. She was appointed to fill his unexpired term, then elected on her own. That does have relevance to this story. (She remarried and divorced after his death but retained his name.)*

In 1994, Sonny Bono surprised the nation by being elected to Congress from the 44th District of Southern California.

The diminutive songwriter and singer was extremely popular with fellow legislators for one primary reason: He was Sonny Bono, svengali, mentor and singing partner of Cher. Not lacking in charm himself, he had successfully run for mayor of Palm Springs, California, because of his personal problems in opening a restaurant in the city. Much like Jack Spiker decided to run for city council in Cheyenne after experiencing unresolved problems with skateboarders in front of his downtown retail store.

After Sonny's divorce and professional split from Cher, he married again and then, in 1986, he married for the third time - to the 25 year-old Mary Whitaker. He was 51. In 1992, he sought the Republican nomination for U.S. Senator from California but failed. But he was swept into office (along with Barbara Cubin) in the Republican Revolution of 1994.

Sonny Bono skied into a tree at a ski resort in Nevada on New Year's Eve of 1998 and died five days later. In a special election to serve the remainder of his term, his attractive and young widow, Mary Bono, was elected. She has been elected in her own right in 2000, 2002, and 2004 and is seeking election to her fourth full term in November.

On the Congress.org website, there is a ranking that has been freely quoted in Wyoming newspapers. The mainstream press chose to use selective information from the rankings, which suggested that Barbara Cubin was held in higher stead than is actually the case. Members of Congress were listed in Power Rankings by "Position," "Influence," and

"Legislation." Very arbitrary.

"Position" is determined by House leadership. The rankings for "Legislation" can be skewed by filing a multitude of bills and amendments and seeing at least one of them passed into law.

"Influence" is described in this survey as:

"How much power did the legislator demonstrate to influence the congressional agenda or outcome of votes through the media, congressional caucuses, or money contributed to other members of Congress by his or her campaign committees or leadership PACs?"

Barbara Cubin, Wyoming's lone Representative, was ranked #312. Her ranking put her in the 27th percentile of Republican House members.

In public schools, students in the 27th percentile are often held back - required to repeat the same grade with the expectation that they will learn the subject matter well enough to progress.

Here's where Mary Bono, the widow of doe-eyed and everybody's little buddy, Sonny Bono, comes in. Mary Bono has been in the House since early 1999, Barbara Cubin since January of 1995. Mary is one of those elevated to office to

complete a deceased spouse's term of office. Sympathy can get them into office but it doesn't always keep them there. In these same Power Rankings produced by KNOWLEGIS, the Congresswoman from California (far junior to Barbara Cubin) was ranked 119th. 119th!

Celebrity spouse Mary Bono ranks 193 spots higher than Wyoming's only representation in Congress on the House side.

What's wrong with that picture?

How come, after 12 years, our Congresswoman has so little influence in Washington? Seniority certainly counts for nothing in this case.

(See page 6 for examples of votes cast by Mrs. Cubin, bills she introduces, etc.)

#### Disclosure ...

*In addition to producing this newspaper, I am campaign manager for Bill Winney, who is challenging Barbara Cubin in the August 22nd Republican primary election. Obviously, I have a bias - but I have held and expressed the same views about Barbara Cubin for as long as I've published the Cheyenne Herald. These are not newfound concerns on my part about her poor performance. The rankings referenced here only serve to reinforce the points I have tried to make for more than four years.*

Dave Featherly

### Alternative Press Be We

The **alternative press** consists of printed publications that provide a different or dissident viewpoint than that provided by major mainstream and corporate newspapers, magazines, and other print media. As long as there have been media, there have been alternative media, and the alternative press is a subset of them.

The alternative press often engages in **advocacy journalism** and frequently promotes specific political views.

In the United States, there are a number of alternative weekly newspapers such as the *Village Voice* in New York and *The Boston Phoenix*.

Source: Wikipedia

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