



Eve Austin: This is Eve Austin doing an oral history interview for the Town Creek Foundation. I'm here with Monica Healey and we are meeting near Penn Station in Baltimore, Maryland.

Monica Healey: I'm Monica Healey. I live in Washington DC, of late I run this advocacy firm called Healy Strategies. I'm president of that and we represent not for profit all around the Maryland and the country.

Eve Austin: Great. All kinds of not for profit-

Monica Healey: Over the years, examples would be University of Maryland Medical System, Chesapeake Bay Foundation. I at one point lobbied for Teach For America, some international organizations. So it's a variety of lobbying groups, advocacy groups. That's what I have been doing the last, I'd say 7 to 10 years before that I worked in government and politics.

Monica Healey: I think I'm coming to this interview, this project from a different vantage point probably than most people because my whole career has been in government and politics and I worked on a variety of issues. I worked for a Senator from Maryland for many years, United States Senator. Also a governor-

Monica Healey: ... from Maryland. Oh, Senator from Maryland, Senator Mac Mathias, a governor from Maryland, Governor Schaefer right after Mac Mathias. Then I worked for the United States Senate leadership. I ran the Senate Democratic Policy Committee for then majority leader George Mitchell and Senator Tom Daschle. That was in the 1990s and right after that I went to the Clinton administration. I worked for Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich and my focus was Hillarycare is to promote healthcare reform that went South.

At the end of the administration I also was deputy executive director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and then after that I... After end of the Clinton administration, I just started being an advocate on the outside representing Not for Profits. As I mentioned before, examples include Teach For America. I did some work later for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation on environmental education. I worked for the University of Maryland Medical System that's located here in Baltimore. Did some advocacy work. I did work for some international groups. I was also as a volunteer active at the University of Maryland. I was chair of the board of the center for politics and citizenship there and I did that for probably 10 years.

So it's almost entirely working in the government or around the government. So I've worked on a variety of issues but I do want to say, and looking at my career, one of the most rewarding has been the Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Effort. I was there in the earliest stages in the 1980s and it was there I realized how important



government is. It can be an instrument to do good and as I said, I worked on a variety of issues but this is one of the most rewarding and why am I passionate about the environment? I grew up in DC in the Washington metropolitan area. As a kid, I used to... We had a house and we used to stay at Scientists Cliffs, it's on the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County, Maryland. I-

Monica Healey: It is in Calvert County. It's a small community and it's right on the Chesapeake Bay and when I was there as a kid, I used to swim in the clean waters and boat there and also today I still am a passion advocate. I row on the Potomac River and I Kayak on the Potomac River. So I have a special passion for the environment and protecting the Chesapeake Bay. So when I was assigned to work on this issue, I was thrilled because I had a passion in this particular area.

Monica Healey: We have Skulls, it's called the Thompson Boat houses right across the Watergate in DC. It's a ride on the Potomac River. We have skulls and I've been rowing for probably over 15 years. We have Kayaks and actually people I work with at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation encouraged me to get them... to buy a Kayak, to go Kayaking and we do Kayaking as well. So, yeah, continue to be in the outdoors. I'm hooked.

Eve Austin: That's great. I mean, we can talk about whatever you want but I'm just curious now, just over the years, what kind of changes you've seen and thoughts you have. I guess, as a user of the water. I mean as a Kayaker actually.

Monica Healey: [crosstalk 00:09:03]. Again, when I started as a kid, it was very clean but you know, the Potomac River where I mostly row has gotten a lot cleaner and I don't know if it's officially swimmable but there are people that you see swimming in the Potomac so it's come a long way since when I went... There in the 70s when we saw the severe pollution problems in the Bay watershed. So again, I think it's a lot cleaner the Potomac River as an example and I think the problem there was the point source pollution, which I think many people talked about and I remember just going back to the 1970s when I started working for Senator Mathias and I didn't pick up the Chesapeake Bay legislative portfolio until the early 1980s but in the 70s he had a real keen interest, Senator Mathias from Maryland, in the environment and protecting the Bay and he saw that there were severe... He had evidence, there was severe pollution problems in the Bay.

In the early seventies. He took a five day boat trip, I believe, to talk to scientists and water men and a whole... You know, anybody that was affiliated with the Bay and also they had a series of conferences. It was then that he decided, you know what? We've got to do something about it. We know there's problems, we know there's a lot of evidence that we've got problems but we don't know what's causing it and then also there were people that are addressing it. The States where the localities, the scientists, but it wasn't in a coordinated fashion.



So he working with the then EPA administrator Russell Train during the Nixon administration. Who got up a study, we've got to get to the bottom of this and so then in the 1970s he pushed through this comprehensive \$27 million study of the Bay and it lasted seven years and when I came to work for Senator Mathias... I was there in the 70s and I was a little familiar with what he was doing but I started working on the Bay cleanup issues in 1980 I believe and we were in the middle of this study and the one thing about this study is he had a big supporter in the beginning and when president Carter was... It was a \$27 million study but every year he had to go back and get \$5 million in installments year after year and the first four years in the late seventies, it was a lot easier because we had a democratic president Jimmy Carter.

A democratic Senate lot friendlier to the environment and he was on the money committee that held the purse strings for EPA and he worked with his pal Senator Sarbanes from Maryland to get the money but then 1980, we had this president Ronald Reagan, who was not friendly to the environment and they had this EPA administrator named Anne Gorsuch and she was very controversial and so they were reluctant to put money into the Bay's study but he pushed and pushed and pushed. Worked with Paul Sarbanes and they were able to get the money and so the study was going to be released in September of 1983 but we knew that the study, when it was released, it was going to be bad news for the Bay. We knew that they'd have some good recommendations as to what to do. So we knew earlier before that Bay's study was released that we've going to have to get the support of the new EPA administrator and there was this newly installed administrator name William Ruckelshaus and a little bit of backstory about William Ruckelshaus.

Eve Austin: Great.

Monica Healey: Okay. William Ruckelshaus worked for president Nixon, while he worked for president Nixon. He was a deputy attorney general and many people may remember the Saturday night massacre during the Watergate scandal. President Nixon asked Ruckelshaus to fire the special prosecutor who was investigating his criminal wrongdoings. Ruckelshaus refused and resigned. Okay. I mentioned this because number one, this new EPA administrator had a lot of courage. Number two, our new EPA administrator had worked for Nixon, had run the EPA but the thing is we needed the head of EPA to be a huge advocate here. We couldn't just have someone who had lukewarm support because we knew that the study was going to come out and there's going to be some severe problems that we had to address and we had to come up with a blueprint for action. Right? It's going to be very controversial.

So how do we get Ruckelshaus? Well, first of all, I just want to explain why EPA was so important then. As I mentioned a lot of people were doing a lot of different



things. The States were doing their thing, the locals, the scientists, the researchers. There was no coordinating mechanism and so you needed somebody that could pull it all together. The obvious would be... The leader should be the Federal government, should be EPA. As many people talked about the environment knows no boundaries. If you do something in one part of the environment, it's going to affect the other part. So you need the Federal government as the leader here and so obviously it was EPA and Ruckelshaus was the head of EPA and Governor Hughes, the governor of Maryland and Mathias, they decided, well, how... They were talking strategy. How do we get Ruckelshaus engaged and said, let's take him out on a boat trip. Let's take him out, show them firsthand what the problems of the Bay are.

Let them talk to Waterman and scientists and researchers. Show up firsthand [inaudible 00:12:46], one and governor Hughes decided to take the lead. He had the whole machinery of the state government. He had a great boat. Number two, we figured if we take him out on this boat, we better show him there's political support. We better show him that he's got good cover. So we invited other senators from the Bay states. So Bay states then was Maryland the lead, Virginia and Pennsylvania. So we needed to invite the governors from the three states and the senators. So on this boat tour-

Eve Austin: Now let me just say for anybody who's listening is that you're pulling out a photo that you have in front of you and we're looking at it now.

Monica Healey: And we're looking at... and the reason I mentioned this picture because it does capture a pivotal moment in the Bay Cleanup Effort. On this boat is you have John Warner. He was a Senator from Virginia. He was married to Liz Taylor, so he's conservative Senator but he had a lot of... It's like he had celebrity status, I'd say. It's always helps when you want to build political support. Then there's Governor Harry Hughes and he was the governor of Maryland and I consider him as one of the heroes because the state really had to take the lead in terms of providing resources and he really stepped up to the plate and Maryland had of course the lion's share of the Bay.

Behind him is Lieutenant Governor Casey from Pennsylvania, he was another Republican. As you can see, it's bipartisan but we had... It's important to have Republicans because Republicans were in charge of the government at that point and the Reagan administration is going to care more about Republicans and Democrats. Another person is Senator Paul Sarbanes from Maryland. He was Mathias's partner in the Senate. He was there when you needed him to work the Democrats when you needed to get money or policies put forward for the Bay. Another person was Senator Chuck Robb of Virginia. Virginia was important. Virginia didn't have as much steak as Maryland but key to this effort and then behind him is Senator Mac Mathias. That's my boss. He was a liberal Republican. He



was the one who invited Ruckelshaus.

Actually, I don't see Ruckelshaus in this picture but anyway, he was the one who invited Ruckelshaus. He's actually not in this picture but EPA administrator Ruckelshaus to come take the boat tour but this is the example of the group from the Chesapeake Bay watershed that was on this boat. So this was key. So they took him on this boat trip Ruckelshaus and they held him hostage. I mean there was no escape hatch for him. What was he going to do? Jump in the water. So they'd cornered him and you know, they... Again, they showed him firsthand. They had them talk to Waterman and scientists. When he got back a shore, he was sold. He became one of the chief advocates for this Bay Cleanup Effort.

Critical because we needed him. This was a Republican administration. They did not have a good record on the environment, the Reagan administration. So we needed somebody within that would be Ruckelshaus to fight the good fight for us. Because we knew going forward once that study came out that it was going to be very difficult and we needed a skillful in fighter in the Reagan administration. If we did not have Ruckelshaus as a strong advocate, I don't know if we would have made the progress that we made. So I mentioned this folk trip and actually Ruckelshaus is not in the picture but he was on the boat with these members of Congress and-

Eve Austin: Let me just ask you this. Did you take this picture?

Monica Healey: No, I did not take this picture but what's interesting is... You know, I think Ruckelshaus is a part of this but he's not in this-

Eve Austin: He's not in this Photo shot.

Monica Healey: I have because the Bay Cleanup Effort, it's so important to me and I worked on it for probably for five or six years, is when I have... The pictures I have in my den... Actually in my office at home is this picture. I think I have the separate one with Ruckelshaus in it because it was so meaningful to me and this also was a pivotal moment in the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay.

Eve Austin: Where you on the boat?

Monica Healey: No, they didn't... I mean the people-

Eve Austin: You were not invited to play.

Monica Healey: ... probably on the boat were probably the state officials that had a purpose but oftentimes... and I can't remember who was on the boat beyond the members. Obviously, there were support staff but something like that often times you want to keep it at principals only because they can be more candid with each other. They



can be much more open with each other. They can be more persuasive so... But I remember the boat very well because I worked very closely with the Hughes administration when they were organizing this boat trip. I mean, they deserve credit. They put together a great boat trip and it was very effective and it served the intended purpose but I was not actually on the boat, but it was to me a pivotal moment in the whole Bay Cleanup Effort.

Eve Austin: It's kind of brilliant politics, right? I mean.

Monica Healey: Brilliant politics. Again, I can't overemphasize how important it was because the hurdle that we were to face later on is the... First of all, let me just talk about when the study came out. So this was July of 1983. The big \$27 million study came out in the fall of that year. Right? This is another interesting story is on the day it was supposed to come out, we had been working behind the scenes. It was going to be Senator Mathias announcing it because it was his study. He sponsored it. I mean standing alongside the EPA officials.

So when we were planning it, it was originally supposed to be just the EPA region three administrator, not the top dog. Right? Reason being oftentimes when the studies are coming out, it's bad news. They don't want to be associated with it. Second thing, the first thing that people are going to ask it, so what are you going to do about it? You've got all these problems, you've got a blueprint for action or you can commit resources or your going to develop strategies. You got to prepare to answer that question and if you have a lower level person, they're not put on the spot the way a higher level person would be.

so the day of, I remember this very well, I was walking down the hall to get Senator Mathias to walk him to the press conference. As we're walking down the hall, Senator Mathias turned to me and said, "Oh okay, so we have the region three administrator, what kind of press is here?" And I said, "no Senator at the last minute administrator Ruckelshaus decided to come" and he looked at me. He was really surprised because Ruckelshaus would be put on the spot. He'll be put on the spot, he'd have to commit money and resources and commit to moving forward with a blueprint for action. So we get to the hall, we didn't know to the extent of press that would be there. How interested the were. We opened the door, there must've been a dozen TV cameras, over a dozen.

There was national press there, local press of course, the Washington post, the Baltimore Sun, Annapolis Evening Capital, Time Magazine, New York Times. It became not just a local story but a national story and the reason I think they're interested because in the report, in the unveiling of the report, what it said was essentially the Bay's dying, Chesapeake Bay's dying and we've got a new culprit. We got non point source pollution, agriculture runoff, urban runoff in addition to the point source pollution and it did not paint a pretty picture. So it was bad news, if it



bleeds it leads. So the press is interested because hey, the largest estuary in the country is dying pretty much and the second thing is the Reagan administration had a horrible reputation on the environment. They had this EPA administrator name Anne Gorsuch who had-

Eve Austin: Is that the spouse of the current-

Monica Healey: Yes.

Eve Austin: ... Supreme court-

Monica Healey: I think it's the mother.

Eve Austin: Oh the mother. That's right. You're right.

Monica Healey: So anyway, she didn't have a very good reputation on the environment and also there was the Secretary of Interior, James Watt-

Eve Austin: I remember him.

Monica Healey: Who was also very controversial. Aligning him up. So they had a bad image. So here reporters aren't bad news for the Bay. Reagan administration has turned their back on the environment. What are they going to do? So it was a great story. So that's when the study came out and so the next step is we had to get money to put things into action. We had to take the recommendations of the base study, had to put resources, had to develop strategies, had to develop goals. That's the hard part. Then there's winners and losers in the environment as you know, from talking to many people and so we needed to get the money for this and the problem was the head of the budget for the Reagan administration. This guy named Dave Stockman did not want to put any money in the budget for the Bay cleanup.

Now, Ruckelshaus during the press conference said 5 million a year. Stockman said, no, we're not putting anything into it and oh my gosh, what are we going to do? They're not going to put... They're just... It's going to stop. There's going to be no implementation is going to be awful. We needed EPA. So Ruckelshaus who was a skilled infighter, we would work day in and day out with the staff. So we had a political strategy. The political strategy was to go to the white house, go over this guy's head, this guy, head of OMB outranked Ruckelshaus because he was head of EPA. This guy Stockman was the head of the budget. So we had to go over his head and go to the white house officials. So they had a series of meetings I think with the domestic advisor for Reagan and they lobbied and the same time we were getting a lot of press because good story Bay's dying. So the Washington post regular coverage and they had big reporters for the Maryland and Virginia delegations and you had the reporters covering the state houses.



So it was a political story and the paper is a lot smaller now, you don't have that kind of coverage but this was a big deal. This is a big story so we had the media piece. So we had the media piece and the political piece... and interesting when we went to the white house. We had John Warner take the lead. Not Senator Mathias. You know why? Because he was the more conservative Senator and Reagan administration liked him better than Mathias because he vote in favor of their policies, Mathias didn't. So we had Warner take the lead. So we did this extensive lobbying. Low and behold, they announced not only are they going to put money in, they're going to double it, they're going to put in 10 million a year, they're going to make a multiyear commitment, Four years. We never dreamed of that.

So they're going to put in this money, they're going to devote resources to it and it's more than money. It's got to be policy, it's got to be enforcement. Huge pledge and on top of that, Reagan singles it out in the state of the union, which we never ever dreamed of and what was significant-

Eve Austin: [crosstalk 00:25:33], that all happen?

Monica Healey: Here, I'll give you some answers [crosstalk 00:25:37], what it means to have something in the state of the union. The state of the union is a great platform. Everybody or most people watch the state of the union. So you have the opportunity to get the citizens engaged, education to the citizens, Bay has a problem. You've got the conserve Republican is going to do something about it. Get more citizens engaged. More money's flowing into those advocacy groups that are trying to raise money for the Bay. I mean, think of the advertisement you're in the state of the union.

Another important reason why you want in the union because it sends a political message. Because even though Reagan is putting in his budget, we still need to get to the support of Republicans or the Congress and Republicans were in charge and there were a lot of conservative Republicans that didn't want much of a role. Didn't think the government should have a big role in the environment or provide resources. So they're seeing this, they're seeing their president conservative Republicans supporting us. At the very least, they're not going to oppose. They're not going to probably jump on down support but they're not going to oppose. There's no percentage in it and Mathias could go to moderate Republicans and say, hey, you know, which they knew and you had also the base States Senator Specter from Pennsylvania who I think was on the dock, not on the boat, Republicans it was helpful and other John Warner and other people were helpful.

Now you ask how did it get into the state of the union? Well, I think you know the political... You had the whole Bay States and it was politically important. You had the Bay's study, the Bay was in the backyard. It was kind of embarrassment to



Reagan but in reality I'd like for my boss to get credit for this and the other Bay's state Senators and they did a lot to make it happen but as I mentioned before, the Reagan administration had a horrible reputation on the environment. They needed something to reverse the reputation. They needed to pick a successful project and this wasn't that expensive.

They needed to pick something they could highlight in the state of the union that they were doing for the environment, largest estuary in the country and also Reagan was coming up for re-election. I think he was going to start campaigning soon. He was up not too long after and he needed to appeal the general electric, not just the Republican base. So I think the combination of reasons they decided to do that was political. It was getting a lot of media attention but he needed to restore his... or reverse the reputation on the environment.

Eve Austin: Wow.

Monica Healey: Yeah.

Eve Austin: That must've been a great day.

Monica Healey: That was a great day. That was a great day. I mean-

Eve Austin: They doubled the amount that-

Monica Healey: And again, the important thing as a multi-year commitment and also is not just the money. Oh, that was a lot then but it's not just the money, it's the commitment, the programmatic commitment, the enforcement, all those things that come with it and then after that... Okay, so you get in the state of the union but we couldn't rest on our laurel certainly and so you actually had to get the Feds, EPA and the States all together to sign a compact. Okay, we are going to work together. We're going to implement these strategies that had been recommended to the Bay's study and so they did a compact in 1983 the three governors from the States, DC and the head of EPA came together. They signed this general compact. We're all going to work together.

Then in 1985 there was another agreement. It was general goals, we're going to work together but the significant one was in 1987. Another story I have is 1987 Mathias left office in 1986 and he left and usually when you disappear nobody pays attention to you anymore but in 1987 the fall of nine months or the winter, I think nine months or 10 months after he had left office, there was an historic agreement, a historic meeting conference on Bay. They call it historic. It was an historic agreement because the first time EPA and the Bay States then Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania DC signed an agreement. They identified specific goals, specific strategies. They got specific. So it was a big deal and they had invited Mathias to be



the key note speaker that was so gratifying to him because this is one of his biggest causes. They had not forgotten him. They're recognizing everything he did and also what was important.

I mean he was really touched that they invited him and I went with him actually, even though I was working for governor Schaefer at the time, that also to know that the baton had been passed and it was in good hands after that. That you had an infrastructure, you had this great partnership, federal state, it was going to move forward and these people were committed and just one other thing is with the Reagan administration, we wouldn't have got the EPA to commit to... or the administration, unless the States were going to put up money and I think in 1984 Virginia committed 40 million. I think all of the States committed, I think 70 million. Anyway, it's a lot more now but the States had to put up resources and commit to do a lot of things because EPA is not going to carry the load. Because it really is the States that have to implement all of this stuff. EPA does but the States have to. They're on the front lines. So they were key to all this.

Eve Austin: Wow. So you had some incredible experience. That's amazing.

Monica Healey: Oh yeah. I'm a grateful actually because... Let me say this, for something like this, it's a huge project and I was in the lead of Mathias's office starting in 1980, early eighties but there are other people in the office that also were involved and active and I can't tell you how important the advocacy groups were. You had Will Baker, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Will Baker, actually who you interviewed was working... Was the head of the Bay foundation in the 80s. I work hand in hand with him. He was key in building the grassroots support. You need someone like Will Baker's operation. Key in educating people why? You know about the Bay, the problems with the Bay, explaining why they needed to get involved and also another thing with these advocacy groups, which are key.

Another one I'll single out is Environmental Policy Institute then. There's this guy named Chuck Fox who has stayed with the Bay cleanup his entire career as has Will Baker. I really admire these people. He was an extension of our staff. I mean he was a great resource. He had the technical, the policy. It's a political exercise. He was practically a young kid. He was in his twenties but he was really sophisticated so I would lean on him to help me, help Mathias. He helped me staff Mathias actually. You need that because it's such a huge issue. I'm spread thin as a staffer. I can only spend so much time so you need those advocacy groups to help you, help your course and so I just want to point out... and then there's another person that was... early on that's still with it. This woman named Ann Swanson. She was then head of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, is now and they coordinate all the state efforts. They're important, they're key.

So as I say, it takes a village. That sounds like a cliché. It is and then you also have to



have leaders and here when I worked on it, there was Senator Mathias who was just outstanding. He had a lot of courage and he knew early on if he's going to take on this responsibility, it's going to be controversial. In the Barmah there's winners and losers but he cared so much about that he spent time as a boy in the Bay that he's willing to do that. He's very courageous and you needed a leader like that who is also skillful. Second was William Ruckelshaus, had he not been the chief advocate for the administration and stepped up to the plate in the 80's I don't know if we would've had made the progress that we made and the third is Harry Hughes.

The States where key Maryland had the lion's share of the problems and lion share of the Bay. He stepped up to the plate and he was a great leader then. So identify three then and then of course you have the heads of the advocacy groups. I mean, there were lots of people that deserve credit. I was there in the early stages, I would say as start up and... But to make it happen, you needed lots and lots of people. It's a huge watershed and there's so many people from the State agencies, the Federal agencies, Local government and citizens. That all played a role.

Eve Austin: So you were... the phrase you used of passing the Baton. I guess that's the what's... Let me get you to think that way to shift for our time together of... You know, Town Creek is asking people to think about when you consider now a new young crop of environmental leaders and activists coming up. What kind of challenges do you envision that they'll have ahead of them and what advice do you have?

Monica Healey: Well, for one... You know, I've been not working on the big clinic for many, many years but I can see... I've observed, obviously he's made a lot of progress but there's still huge challenges ahead. So the good news is we made progress but there's huge challenges and the people have to stay committed. There has to be a sustained effort. One thing I was thinking about this that I actually did do some work for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation on environmental education. I think the key is environmental education. Get to the kids when they're in middle school and high school. Get to them early.

You know I work... As I mentioned the Bay foundation, there was a leader to try to get policy changes in the Federal government, the State government to make environmental education a priority, to get the money flowing from the States to the localities. Work with the localities to build environmental education into their curriculum or build it into history, math, whatever subject it is. Make it fun, make it interesting and then another important part of that is to take them out on field trips.

They need real world experience and my advice is get the kids early, get them educated, get them hooked at an early age and then... Because we need to get to the future generations, we need to think of the kids in school right now because this is so key. It won't be solved by the time they grow up. They got to keep at it.



They got to keep active and I'd say that's a key thing and not only... and what the Bay Foundation did that the governor O'Malley, who is governor of Maryland, what he did, he enacted... They enacted a policy that required all kids when they graduate from high school in Maryland to be environmentally literate and the Bay Foundation was working with all the other States around the country to get that same requirement. I know they made a lot of progress so it's not just in Maryland, not just the Bay Watershed, but all around the country. Get to kids early.

Eve Austin: Yeah, that's good. When you just said then take them out on field trips. I was looking at that picture. It's like you guys did that.

Monica Healey: Exactly.

Eve Austin: You took politicians on field trips, right?

Monica Healey: Yeah.

Eve Austin: It made all the difference.

Monica Healey: Yup. Yeah, so they can feel it, they can see it and even Mathias wanting to decide... and the power of the media, again. You know these days you have the social media then we had the traditional media. Now you have both but just the power of the media then... Even Mathias, before he even did that Bay's study, he promoted it. He took a five day tour of the Bay and he got a lot of press out of that and I can't overemphasize the importance of the media and the social media. You've got to get the word out to the public and the way to do it, you got to use every tool at your disposal and you have to figure out how to get good use of the social media and traditional media because that's a great way to leverage what you do is through the media and you have to figure out how to do that.

That is key and I think that's a lesson going forward, is that you can't just be sitting at your desk doing what you're doing, try to make the Bay healthier. You've got to get the word out day in and day out and that's what I learned early on with the Bay cleanup. We didn't have that media attention. That was a critical ingredient. You know, important part of our success is getting all that media attention and then of course having it in the state of the union and people need to be constantly reminded, constantly educated and I think that's another important piece and the sustainable effort is just evidence that the politicians are carrying forward.

I know that just today in the Senate, you've got the two Senators from Maryland. They're the lead Senator Cardin and Senator Van Hollen and you still have a challenge. You can't rest on your Laurels to get money for EPA, which is the key and Donald Trump in his budget. They either zero out money for EPA or put very little in. Cardin and Van Hollen have to restore that money in Republican Congress and a



lot of conserve Republicans who've got the president eliminating the money for the Bay and they fight the good fight and they're successful. Back then it was 10 million a year. That was a big deal. I think they got something like around 76 million for EPA. Huge difference and huge... You can see that they're keeping up the good fight and the other thing about this other Senator from Maryland, Senator Van Hollen, if I may add.

Senator Van Hollen and I work side by side when I worked for Senator Mathias. Senator Mathias was his role model. He handled foreign affairs but he watched and observed to see what Mathias did on the Chesapeake Bay because we were getting... You know, worked on it every day. Sometimes they shared a room, sometimes he was in another room. So he was familiar with what we did. I can't help to think... I know that he's very passionate about the Bay, that that had an effect on him because when he left Mathias, we then worked together a little bit for governor Schaefer. He worked on Bay issues and he was a leader in the general assembly in the Congress and now in the Senate and I just want to point that out because I think working for Senator Mathias way back when, even though he didn't do Bay issue's had an impact on him.

Eve Austin: It sounds like it. Yeah. That's good. Thank you.

Monica Healey: Yeah.

Eve Austin: I'm sure you could probably speak for hours and hours.

Monica Healey: [crosstalk 00:40:16], glad to be a part of this because I actually kept some of the stuff. I kept some hearing record. I kept a report we wrote. I have this picture on my wall. So it was great for me and very rewarding to go back and just refresh my memory about what we had done in the early stages and feel good about. You know, I played a small role. I was just a staffer to Mathias but wow, what a privilege it was to work on this Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Effort and get it all started, be there in the early stages and to see that people have carried on.

Eve Austin: Absolutely. Well, even though you played a small role, I mean it's... You know, everybody plays their part.

Monica Healey: [crosstalk 00:41:00], I was on the front lines. I was on the front line. So I'm glad even though I had to do a little bit of research to check my facts a little bit, that I was invited to be a part of that because it's very gratifying to be a part of this.

Eve Austin: Yeah. Is there anything else that you'd like to add before we finish?

Monica Healey: [crosstalk 00:41:26], I think that's about it. As I mentioned, the lessons learned. It's got to be a sustained effort, the importance of advocacy, have a sense of



possibility. Again, with Mathias, the key is the leaders is, don't just dwell on the obstacles just go do it and that's what Mathias did. That's what Ruckelshaus did. That's what Hughes did. They knew it would be huge obstacles. They knew it'd be a challenge but they always maintain that sense of possibility.

I hope as people work on this issue, they don't get jaded and worn down, oh it is so difficult. Just maintain that sense of possibility and you can get that from the youth more than people who've been around for a while. Again, with the youth get to them early and hopefully the next generation, they will have that same sense of possibility and they'll have these great role models and they can continue the campaign.

Eve Austin: That's great.

Monica Healey: All right. Thank you very much.

Eve Austin: Thank you so much. So I'll just sign out by saying again that it is... This is Eve Austin and just have done an oral history interview with Monica Healey. It's October 23rd, 2019 and she came and shared her story with me near Penn Station in Baltimore and she's going to head back on the train back to Washington DC. Well, thank you.