

RELEASE IN FULL

COHASSET, Mass. - Priscilla B. (Dewey) Houghton, wife of former U.S. Rep. and Corning Incorporated Chairman and CEO Amory "Amo" Houghton Jr., died Friday, July 6, 2012, at home.

She was 87.

Priscilla Houghton endured a long struggle with lung cancer but stayed very active leading and advocating arts programs for children in Cohasset, Mass. and Corning, N.Y., where the couple resided

"She was, for me, the woman for all seasons," Amo Houghton said.

Amo and Priscilla Houghton married in 1989, just after Amo was elected to the first of his nine terms as a Southern Tier congressman. Their marriage was the second for each of them.

"She was the ideal partner in politics," Amo said. "She, a Democrat in spirit; I, a Republican. Our goal was to bring both sides together – in Washington, back home in New York and on foreign trips."

Priscilla Houghton was an arts consultant, producer, playwright/lyricist and writer who published nine musicals. A native of Massachusetts, she was the founder of the Charles River Creative Arts Program in Dover, Mass., which was designated by the National Endowment for the Arts as a model multi-arts program for young people. The program has since been duplicated in 40 other communities across the country.

"She believed the arts could be a transformative experience and could change the lives of at-risk young people," said Lee Baldwin, a long-time friend and Corning resident.

In 2002, Priscilla Houghton received the Elmira/Corning Board of the NAACP President's Award for her work with the Urban Improv program, which promotes conflict resolution in public schools.

"Priscilla gave unselfishly of herself to encourage and enable emerging artists in the Corning arts community. A talented artist, her enthusiasm and good humor inspired all who knew her to 'be the best that they could be.' Priscilla was a woman of courage and compassion who made a difference in Corning and in the lives of all she touched," said musician Mary Lu Walker, a long-time friend and Corning resident.

Priscilla Houghton was an ardent supporter of lung cancer research, serving on the board of Lung Cancer Alliance, Washington, D.C.

Along with her husband, survivors include three children, Priscilla, Talbot Jr., and Peter; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.