

and, of course, spending time with her three grandchildren. And when most of us are content cruising through life with our careers and family, Donna's love of learning and public policy motivated her to get her legal degree from UCLA in 1996.

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Before I came to Congress, Donna served as my chief of staff in my final two terms as a member of the California State Assembly. Any chief of staff who oversees a district and legislative office knows that job has its rewards, but also many challenges. As I transitioned to Congress, Donna came east to Washington to fulfill a long-time goal of developing public policy, a job she is well suited for. She has an ability to put her arms around an issue and see all sides of it. Instead of sound bites, Donna is always able to see the whole picture.

She has been so much more than a trusted adviser on the issues. She has been a partner in crafting legislation on teacher quality, improving curriculum, promoting renewable energy, protecting open spaces in San Diego, and negotiating the complex issues of the 2000 electricity crisis in San Diego.

In the midst of immersing herself in politics and policy, Donna has also immersed herself in the cultural and artistic endeavors that Washington has to offer, as she did in San Diego.

She is not only a multitasker, but a multi-talented renaissance woman. From playing her cello, to singing in the choir at the National Cathedral, to traveling to such exotic locales as Egypt, New Zealand and India, it can certainly be said that Donna has not let life pass her by.

Many of us in Congress know that a good staff is the key component to our ability to create public policy, and Donna has been such a vital asset to my office and to my successes as a public servant. Donna has been more than an invaluable member of the staff; she has been a good and loyal friend.

She not only will be missed in our office. I am sure she will go on and be envied by all of us. As we are all heading off to work next week, Donna will continue to travel, to sing, to play and taste the flavors life has to offer. And in the middle of all that, she will find and give great joy as the consummate grandparent. And knowing Donna, she will be an active player in making our country and the world a better place to live.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the years of hard work and public service that Donna Smith has provided to San Diego, to California, to the Congress, and to our Nation.

Thank you, Donna.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GINGREY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CONDEMNING REMARKS OF WILLIAM J. BENNETT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, this evening I rise before this House condemning the words spoken yesterday by former Secretary of Education William Bennett. It is truly reprehensible that as we try to heal the wounds that were laid bare following the disaster of Hurricane Katrina, that powerful elements in the Republican Party still insist on espousing racial rhetoric while trying to divide Americans based on the color of their skin.

I was shocked, I was appalled that the former Secretary of Education, William Bennett, a prominent member of the Republican Party, would go on public radio and say, "But I do know that it is true that if you wanted to reduce crime, you could, if that were your sole purpose, you could abort every black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down."

Mr. Speaker, as a proud black American who was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, I know that this is precisely the kind of insensitive, hurtful, and ignorant rhetoric that Americans have grown tired of.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bennett still has power and influence within this Republican administration; and he is representative of the ignorant, inconsiderate politics that have been displayed in this government today. And I am calling on my friends, the responsible Republicans, to rebuke Mr. Bennett for his damaging statement.

Where is the indignation from the GOP, as one of their prominent members talks about aborting an entire race of Americans as a way of ridding this country of crime? How ridiculous. How asinine. How insane can one be?

Mr. Bennett's remarks were thoughtless, mean-spirited, and well, well off the mark. We all know that aborting black babies would not decrease or erase the crime rates in this country. Abortifacient the Republican policies which have hurt the disadvantaged, the poor, and average Americans for the benefit of large corporations would be a much more sane and reasonable way to address crime and poverty in this Nation.

Americans are sick of the poisonous, divisive atmosphere that is prevalent in this Republican era. Americans want reform. Americans want change. Amer-

icans want an end to the culture of corruption and bitterness that the Republican Party and this House have come to embody.

It is ironic that the same people who promised America that they would clean up the system 11 years ago, have used their power and influence to benefit their own agenda and defile the

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ENGEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THANKING THE PEOPLE OF KAZAKHSTAN FOR THEIR AS- SISTANCE TO AMERICA AND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina has caused not only colossal damage to the economy of Louisiana and the entire Gulf Coast but she has also taken away hundreds of innocent lives and left thousands homeless. As the Representative of the Third Congressional District of Louisiana, half of which was leveled by this disaster, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who have responded to this American calamity. I would especially like to thank the people of the Republic of Kazakhstan and their president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, for the condolences and readiness to render financial assistance to Katrina's victims.

No one can have too many friends, and that applies to both countries and individuals. The history of the United States and Kazakhstan's cooperation is a vivid example of a partnership between true friends and allies with shared values.

Kazakhstan inherited the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal from the Soviet Union but choose not to keep that lethal legacy, which could have automatically placed Kazakhstan among the world's nuclear superpowers. Instead, the people of