

hundreds and hundreds of hours in consultation, planning, touring, and legislating. It was the most effective mentoring possible.

There are those who have been known as “a man of the House,” and Jim Oberstar certainly was “a man of the people’s House.” But even more, he was a man of the T&I Committee, the Public Works Committee.

He rose through the staff ranks to become staff director. Then, succeeding his Congressman, Congressman Blatnik, he became a Member of Congress, and ultimately became its chair. This is something no one else has done, serving as staff director of a committee and then ultimately presiding over it.

As staff, committee member, or chair, or as a member of all the subcommittees, whether in the majority or minority, Jim Oberstar had an outsized influence on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for decades. It is safe to say that over the last 50 years no one had more influence than Jim.

For almost 20 years he was the top Democrat, but most feel he was the top member, period. He was totally seeped in policy, the history, and the mechanics of transportation. But it was not just transportation. It was aviation, marine, the waterways, and waterworks of America as well. They were all his areas of expertise.

Jim Oberstar was a partisan—and not necessarily a political partisan, but he was an infrastructure partisan. A true expert. That is why his partnership with Congressman Bud Shuster, although they were of different parties, was so effective. Bud was Jim’s partner for years on the committee, even before either of them assumed their respective top leadership positions.

Infrastructure came first, partisan-second.

One of my most vivid memories was how our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, under the leadership of Jim Oberstar and Bud Shuster, beat Speaker Gingrich and President Clinton when it mattered on our highway bill in 1997.

Jim was a man of remarkable memory and learning. He spoke a half-dozen languages. He never stopped fighting for what he believed in and what he knew for his district, his State, or for the American people.

He was a man of faith that never wavered. But as much as he loved the job of being Congressman, his people, his bicycle, his first love was his family. I don’t think he ever recovered from the loss of his first wife, Jo, but then he found Jean. They were married 20 years. They were a remarkable team.

Jean is a knowledgeable and experienced transportation professional in her own right. She knew what Jim’s speeches were about. In fact, she could encourage him occasionally, in good humor, to shorten them just a little bit.

Over the years, dozens of members of my staff felt in a sense that they

worked for Jim Oberstar as well, because of his commitment, his skill, and his innate decency. I am hearing of their sense of loss from people around the country.

We all knew that Jim Oberstar had a lot to say. What he said was worth listening to. America is a better place not just because of what he said, but what he did in a remarkable career spanning almost 50 years.

Few people had more lasting impact on this institution of Congress and on America than Jim Oberstar. We are all richer for his life of outstanding service.

#### TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in deep appreciation for a group of individuals who hold our future in their hands: our Nation’s teachers.

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week, during which we thank the countless men and women who strive every day to ensure that a child’s potential can become reality.

America’s ability to outcompete rival nations is contingent upon the next generation of minds possessing the education but also the confidence to think outside the box. Our future competitiveness is contingent upon our next generation of children having the skills but also creativity, vision, and know-how to build the future.

Each child’s potential is realized through the engagement of families and communities, but also teachers rising to the occasion, which they have done for generations.

So let us take a moment to recognize the compassionate individuals who dedicate their lives and professions to the cultivation of minds and the betterment of our Nation.

During this Teacher Appreciation Week let us not forget those teachers who have helped shape our own lives. They deserve our praise.

#### END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have come to this floor once a week during the 113th Congress to talk about hunger—specifically, how we can end hunger now if we simply muster the political will to do so.

Technically identified as food insecure by the Department of Agriculture, there are nearly 50 million hungry people who live in the United States, the richest country in the history of the world. These people don’t earn enough to be able to put food on their table. Simply, they don’t know where their next meal will come from.

Now, let’s be clear. This has not been a particularly kind Congress to those who struggle with hunger. We are seeing nearly \$20 billion cut from our Nation’s preeminent antihunger program, known as SNAP.

SNAP is a lifeline for the 46 million Americans who rely on it to have something to eat each day. Yet this Congress decided that Americans who live at or below the poverty line can simply absorb massive cuts to SNAP.

Sadly, Republicans and some Democrats joined together to cut a benefit that was already meager and didn’t last through the month even before these cuts took effect.

These cuts are bad and hurtful, but just as hurtful is how these Americans were described and depicted on the floor of this House during the debate about cuts to SNAP. During the debate on the farm bill, some Republican Members came to the floor to justify cuts to SNAP as a way to prevent murderers, rapists, and pedophiles from getting a government benefit.

Poor people have been routinely characterized as “those people,” as part of a culture of dependency. They have been described as “lazy.”

Mr. Speaker, I am sick and tired of poor people being demonized. I am sick and tired of their struggle being belittled. We are here to represent all people, including those struggling in poverty.

Unfortunately, insults continue.

For the most part, we try to keep campaign rhetoric out of the debate on the House floor. However, today I want to highlight some rhetoric that is even more vile than even some of the language that was used on the House floor during the SNAP debate.

A few weeks ago, a Republican candidate for United States Senate in South Dakota actually equated SNAP recipients to wild animals. That’s right. We are now at a point where it is apparently okay for political candidates to denigrate our fellow citizens by comparing them to animals.

Dr. Annette Bosworth shared a viral image on her Facebook page that said the following:

The food stamp program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They proudly report that they distribute free meals and food stamps to over 46 million people on an annual basis. Meanwhile, the National Park Service, run by the U.S. Department of the Interior, asks us, Please do not feed the animals. Their stated reason for this policy being that . . . the animals will grow dependent on the handouts, and then they will never learn to take care of themselves.

The post continues:

This concludes today’s lesson. Any questions?

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What an incredibly offensive thing for anybody to say.

Mr. Speaker, I was taught to love my neighbor. I was taught to care about the people and to strive to make everyone’s life better, and what is being tolerated as political dialogue violates