

passing last month at the age of 63. Even as he suffered from Parkinson's disease, Mr. Speaker, Lane Evans heroically and tenaciously fought for veterans in the years leading up to his retirement in 2007.

When Congressman Evans retired, the Vietnam Veterans of America said:

Lane's compassion for his fellow veterans and his commitment to do right by them has come right from the heart.

As ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee during my tenure as chairman of the committee, I saw firsthand how he turned his knowledge, compassion, and expertise—his heart—into effective advocacy and how he worked to make a tangible difference in the lives of veterans and their families around the country.

Mr. Speaker, during our tenure as chair and ranking member, we were able to craft and shepherd into law numerous bills that expanded care and service for our Nation's veterans, including expansion of the GI Bill and assistance to homeless veterans.

Lane's commitment to ensuring that men and women who wore the uniform had timely access to world class medical treatment that they have earned was, in a word, extraordinary.

Of particular interest to Lane, a Vietnam veteran himself, was health care for veterans exposed to agent orange during their service in Vietnam. Throughout the 1980s, it was an honor to work side by side with Lane and others, like Congressman Tom Daschle, in an effort to convince a highly reluctant Department of Veterans Affairs and Pentagon that agent orange severely injured many who served in Vietnam.

In 1991, Lane introduced the Veterans' Compensation Amendments of 1991, which became part of the Agent Orange Act, to provide presumptive service-connected disability assistance to veterans with diseases linked to agent orange; thus the gentleman from Illinois helped ensure that veterans received the care and the compensation they deserved, while not being saddled with the onerous burden of proof for injuries due to exposure to a herbicide that was laced with dioxin.

It is, therefore, highly fitting to name a community-based outpatient clinic after a remarkable lawmaker who fought hard for veterans, health care, and compensation during his time in Congress. I urge my colleagues to join me and all the leadership here on the floor in supporting S. 2921 to honor the legacy of Congressman Evans as a remarkable veterans' advocate.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2921 in honoring the life of our former friend and colleague, Lane Evans, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support S. 2921.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2921.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN TOM LATHAM ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, we are here today under a Special Order because at this time of year—at the end of a session—we have Members that are retiring, Members that deserve recognition, and Members that other Members of the House would like to talk about for a few minutes.

Today, we have one of the best that, unfortunately, is retiring at the end of this year. He is a gentleman that I have known since I came to Congress and have become good friends with. We have had many entertaining times.

I am sorry to say that the thing that people in Washington are going to miss the most, probably, is a rendition of Roy Orbison duets by Mr. LATHAM and myself. I don't know how, but we certainly had fun with those at various events.

Before I say anything else, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

□ 1700

Mr. LOEBSACK. I thank the gentleman from Idaho, Mr. SIMPSON. I didn't know that you did "Oh, Pretty Woman" and all these other songs. I can't wait, TOM, to see you back in Iowa.

Madam Speaker, it is really an honor for me to be up here tonight to speak for and about TOM LATHAM. When I got elected in 2006, TOM had been here for some time, not a long period of time, but for 12 years. I knew about TOM from what I had read. I didn't know him personally. I was one of those folks who came to Congress with no one expecting me to get here, so I didn't know that many folks in this body certainly before I got elected.

When I got elected, one of the first things I did was try to find out as much as I could about TOM LATHAM and meet with TOM LATHAM and work with him

on a number of issues because I knew he had a reputation for working across the aisle. I also knew that he was very good friends at the time with Mr. BOEHNER, who subsequently became Speaker of the House, so I knew it was probably in my interest to get to know TOM LATHAM if I wanted to get things done for Iowa, even though Speaker PELOSI took over when I came.

My job since I have been here, I believe, has been to work with both sides of the aisle, and TOM LATHAM is a model, as far as I am concerned, for doing exactly that.

When I first came, you know, we had a lot of tough issues to deal with here in the U.S. Congress, and one of the things that happened very early on when I first got elected was the issue of the National Guard came up, and I was on Armed Services. A lot of those Guard folks were being deployed multiple times, and it was very, very difficult for their families.

A number of us recognized that what we needed to do was build facilities, more facilities, upgrade facilities, get rid of those old National Guard armories and replace them with readiness centers that would be there to train and equip our troops in the event that we had to send them overseas on a mission, which we did many, many times, and Iowans proudly have served over the years, over these many years, in Iraq and Afghanistan and other places.

We needed to construct those facilities also for their families, for their spouses, and for their children. So on the Armed Services Committee I did what I could in terms of authorization to make sure that the funds were there, and on the Appropriations Committee, of course, what TOM LATHAM did was make sure that we had the funding to make sure that we built those facilities as well. So we were able to work on that issue together.

Then when the floods, the great flood of 2008 hit across Iowa, but mainly across the eastern half of Iowa—and it would include a lot of TOM LATHAM's district—a lot of it included my district, about half the damage was in my district alone. But I worked with TOM, I worked with STEVE KING, BRUCE BRALEY, and Leonard Boswell. We really did a great job working on a bipartisan basis to make sure that what we needed in Iowa we got. So we worked very hard on that.

Then also on veterans issues. When we heard about the scandal in Phoenix, the first thing I did was I contacted TOM LATHAM and said, "Hey, we need to go to Des Moines together if that is okay with you. I know it is your congressional district—it is not mine—but let's go to Des Moines together and talk to the folks there about the Des Moines facility."

I have been to the VA facility in Iowa City in my district many, many times, but I wanted to go to Des Moines, and I wanted to go with TOM, and I knew that he would work together with me on that to make sure that everything

is right, and if it isn't right that we fix it.

So he was very much open to that. He didn't hesitate for a second. That is the kind of person he is. That has been the kind of legislator he is, even at a time—and in this body we have seen a lot of ugliness over the years. It seems as though our politics in America has just gotten uglier by the day sometimes, and even in the middle of all that, when that has happened, TOM LATHAM has stood tall, he has stood proud as an Iowan. He has got a lot of common sense, like most Iowans do, and he works with the other side because he knows that the job is to get things done. That is what TOM LATHAM does. He has gotten things done.

We are going to miss you, TOM, there is no question about that, and I think you know that probably better than we do. We are going to miss you. I know you have heard that from a lot of folks.

TOM LATHAM, he is a humble Iowa guy, that is what he is. He has been able to get a tremendous amount done for his district, for my alma mater, Iowa State, before he lost that to Congressman KING, and for any other number of folks in his congressional district over the years. I honor you. I honor Kathy. I am looking forward to seeing you later tonight, and thank you for everything, TOM. Farewell and good luck with whatever you end up doing.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman from Iowa for his statement. Now I would like to yield to another gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Idaho for yielding to the gentleman from Iowa. There are about four people on the floor right now that do know the difference.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to give a great message of gratitude and thanks to Congressman TOM LATHAM. I want to tell a little bit of the narrative about how this unfolds from the perspective of Iowa, and that is this: we are all politics all the time. There is no off season for us. You are always on season. When the Iowa caucuses emerge, there is a big focus on Presidential politics.

If you are on the State Central Committee, you are in the middle of that arena. That is where I first met TOM LATHAM and first became aware of his commitment to the political arena and to conservatism. I would want to let the body know, Madam Speaker, that TOM LATHAM didn't come from a place that was a big magnificent megalopolis, unless you would want to describe Alexander, Iowa, with 160-some people, as a big megalopolis. 168 people would be the population of Alexander, Iowa, rooted in now a three-generation seed company, and rooted in the soil. I don't have to explain this to the people from either Idaho or Iowa, but all new wealth comes from the land, and it regenerates itself every year in the form of corn in our neighborhood and soybeans and potatoes in Mr. SIMPSON's neighborhood.

When you see where their origin of wealth comes every year, and you see the families that came across the prairie and turned the sod for the first time and maybe built their house out of it and put their roots down into that soil, and then took the family farm that raised the wealth and boiled that out of there and over from the farm to the town to the city, and you see a family business with multiple brothers engaged in it, and three generations now, you know that they are tied to the heart of the heartland and the good of what is good about Iowa and America.

That is what TOM LATHAM brought to the political arena from the State Central Committee to a primary and to the United States Congress in 1994, and then catching that wave, that 1994 wave and being elected to the United States Congress 20 years ago.

I take a look at him now, and I think he is no worse for wear. It is the same TOM LATHAM that came here 20 years ago that is going off into retirement today, or shortly here at the end of this Congress, and he hasn't lost his enthusiasm.

Here is what I see—this is a STEVE KING perspective, Madam Speaker—and that is that everybody that comes to this place has their own style and their own way of getting things done.

But the people that have worked with TOM LATHAM for these years know that it isn't always an issue that is run up the flagpole. It doesn't come necessarily with lights and blaring horns, but it gets done. It gets done in a quiet way, it gets done, sometimes with just a slow persuasion. It gets done with building a network of people that want to help and want to get things done.

So when I was elected to come to this Congress in 2003 and inherited a lot of the real estate that had formerly been represented and the constituents that had formerly been represented by TOM LATHAM, I noticed that there were ribbon-cutting ceremonies taking place in my district, and I wasn't necessarily the lead guy when it came to the ribbon-cutting because TOM LATHAM had laid the groundwork for that for years, and they knew it, and they still know it.

The friends and the relationships that were built by doing a good job of representing constituents throughout those years are still there. They still exist. And it has been an easy thing for me to step into that neighborhood because they were well taken care of and well represented.

So, now, after moving from Agriculture over to the Appropriations Committee, I would just remind the body that TOM LATHAM, today, is the only Iowa member on the House Appropriations Committee. He has done a good number of things with projects, not only the transportation projects, but the Iowa National Guard, ag, economic development, small business development, and he is currently chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing

and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, and he serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug, and also on Homeland Security.

That is an influential footprint in this Congress, and the people that arrive here as freshmen and sophomores recognize that.

But I recognize, also, this man that is rooted in Iowa soil, who is the continuation of the family farm and the family business that relies upon the very foundation of our economy, that all new wealth comes from the land, and that there is a core of family and faith and neighbors and neighborhood that TOM LATHAM has brought to this Congress.

Wherever he ends up in his retirement, we all want to congratulate him and say to TOM LATHAM, "Congratulations, you have earned it. You have picked your time, you have done it your way."

There are only about three ways to leave this Congress: one of them is to get beat, one of them is to die in office, and the other one is to choose your time to retire.

I am glad that you are fit and vigorous and prepared for a fit and vigorous retirement.

But it wouldn't be appropriate, Madam Speaker, for me to conclude my portion of this without saying into this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a deep and heartfelt thank you to Kathy Latham. It is from me personally, as well as, for a lot of reasons, across this Hill that with the work that she has done, you got, oftentimes, two for the price of one with TOM and Kathy Latham.

She sacrificed a number of times and made my life easier and made things work better for Iowa, for the House of Representatives, and for this country, and I think that the best interests of all of us have always been what made the decisions in the Latham family, which, by the way, now ranks up in about the top three of Iowa political families.

So pay attention, Madam Speaker, to the Latham family going forward. They are not done yet, but they do have a patriarch that is going to ride off into retirement.

Thank you a lot, TOM LATHAM, for serving our country. God bless you.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman from Iowa.

Let me say, Madam Speaker, that Mr. KING just mentioned the difference between Iowa and Idaho. I will tell you a funny story.

When I was first elected, TOM had been here for 4 years. When I got elected, they used to have a function with a lot of the D.C. reporters and political reporters in town at the Washington Hilton, and they would select a freshman Republican and Democrat from both the House and the Senate to give little speeches, and they were supposed to be kind of funny speeches and stuff.

So I didn't know what to do. They selected me as one of them. So I decided

that I was going to explain the difference between Iowa and Idaho because there is a difference. So I went through all the differences in Idaho and Iowa.

Of course I recorded it, and I got home and turned it on to see how I had done. Underneath, and this is on C-SPAN, underneath it said, Congressman MIKE SIMPSON, Republican, Ohio. So we not only get mixed up with Idaho and Iowa also, but also between Ohio and Idaho and Iowa. So that has always made it a little more challenging.

But TOM and I have served together on the Appropriations Committee for, I guess the last 12 years that I have been on it, and he was on it before that. He has been, as was mentioned, the chairman of the Transportation Committee and chairman of the Energy and Water Committee, both committees very important to both Idaho and Iowa and to the country. We have been able to work cooperatively to try to address issues that affect the country and our respective States.

The thing I have always noticed most about TOM, and both speakers have already mentioned it, is the way he works, the way he gets things done. I have always noticed that TOM takes the job that he was elected to do very seriously, but he never takes himself too seriously, which is an important characteristic, I think.

Others have enjoyed working with him on both sides of the aisle. I have certainly enjoyed working with him. And again, we are going to miss him.

At the end of the each session, some people, as STEVE KING mentioned, decide that it is time to retire, and TOM has decided that. Not only are we, in Congress, as friends, going to miss him but, frankly, the country is going to miss him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES).

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Idaho, my good friend. I just want to echo what you were saying, Mr. SIMPSON, that TOM LATHAM actually is a guy who came here, doesn't seek the limelight, but seeks to get things done.

It is tough for me to say this about him because he is my good friend and he is going to rib me about this later. But he really does try to get things done. You don't see him running out to the TV, to the news shows. You don't see him running out holding press conferences. But what you do see is someone who works.

I can tell you that when I first arrived here in Washington, TOM was one of the first people who came up to me and talked to me about—asked if he could help me in any way. He was a farmer from, obviously, the great State of Iowa, and he knew that I was a farmer from the great State of California. We shared what we had in common, and then he asked how he could be helpful.

From day one, TOM has been one of my best friends here, and I don't think

there has ever been a day that we have been in Congress that I haven't spoke to TOM. And then, we always talk over the time that we are not here also.

□ 1715

I have had numerous times when TOM has come out to California to visit my district and to do some good, quality work in meeting with some of my constituents. At the same time, in talking about TOM's work ethic, TOM has had me out to his district in Iowa several times. Typically, you think you are going to do a short, little meeting with some folks, but I can tell you that, when I went out there, TOM actually put me to work. We had to spend a full day working.

I remember, TOM, that you put on a conference for all of your community leaders—your business leaders and your government leaders. You had people from all over the State of Iowa who came there for a full day's session about how your office, its being the last link to the Federal Government, could better serve your constituents.

That is really what this is about, Madam Speaker. TOM worked very hard for his constituents. He didn't try to get press out of it, and he didn't try to make a big deal about it; but you could tell, when I was on the ground there—the several times I was there—that it was about working. It was about working with people, working with his constituents, and about trying to represent them here in Washington the best way that he could. I know the people of Iowa will miss him.

I think you have represented almost the entire State of Iowa at one point or another.

His district has moved around so much over the years.

TOM's family, obviously, great people. His wife, Kathy, deserves a lot of praise for having to deal with him over all of these years that he has been in Washington, traveling back and forth. It takes a special person, and Kathy really is a special, special person to not only deal with TOM but also to put up with having to deal with the tough things that people say. Mr. LATHAM has been through many tough elections, and it takes a very tough person to have to deal with the things that come out in political campaigns, as we are all familiar with.

I know TOM is very proud of his children and grandchildren, and I know that is part of the reason he is leaving us—because he has served his country, and he did the best that he could do for the time that he was here. I think he has a long tradition of serving the people of Iowa—just like his parents, who were community leaders in northern Iowa there, and also his brothers.

I think you had at least one or two brothers who served with distinction in Vietnam, as I remember. I have met all of them, I think, over the years.

Anyway, Madam Speaker, it is kind of a sad day for me to be down here on the floor of the House but also, I think,

a happy day for TOM and his family because he will be able to spend time with his children and grandchildren, which we know, when we are here in Washington, is tough to do.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman from California.

The gentleman from California mentioned something that is very important that a lot of people don't realize: it takes a special individual and a special relationship with your spouse, be it husband or wife, to be able to serve in this place. Most people don't realize how many nights you spend away from your family when you are here. I am certain that with most spouses—when I look at mine and when I look at TOM's Kathy—this was not something that they had planned on when they got married. To be able to, I want to say, put up with that and the separation that it causes and the pressure it puts on a family is extremely difficult. Kathy is, truly, a person who is special and has put up with him for 20 years in the House and 39 years of marriage. She has really put up with him for a long time, and we are honored to have spouses like that who support us and keep us going.

The reason I asked for unanimous consent at the first of this Special Order—for people to insert their comments—was that tonight is the White House Christmas reception for Members of Congress, so there are going to be a lot of people getting ready to go down to the White House. Now, one of those individuals who had some responsibilities tonight but who wanted to be here was the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, who is one of TOM's best friends. They have been together ever since I have come, and, consequently, I have been allowed to associate with him—I don't know why—but we have gotten along and have done some great things.

We are going to miss TOM, but this process goes on. People will get elected—whether it is any of us—who will replace us, and they will step up to the plate and do the job. It is an amazing system that we have been given by our forefathers.

At this point, I yield to my good friend from Iowa, TOM LATHAM.

Mr. LATHAM. First of all, I will say “thank you” to Mr. SIMPSON—a great, great friend—for doing this this evening; to Mr. NUNES, who is still on the floor here; to STEVE KING and DAVE LOEBACK, who were down here. I am not going to sing—we will pass that by—but, again, thank you very, very much for the honor you have bestowed on me and for the kind words here tonight.

Madam Speaker, I will just say the thing I will miss most are my good friends here. That part of it really is hard because it becomes an extended family over time—people whom you know, whom you work with, whom you trust on a day-to-day basis. I will miss that. Now, there is a lot of other stuff I won't miss here, but I will miss the personal relationships and friendships.

Mr. SIMPSON mentioned the Speaker. I will just tell you that there is no one who could be a better friend and someone I owe so much to. John and Debbie Boehner, Kathy and I owe them so much. They are great, great friends. We love them, and we will continue that friendship as we will with all of the colleagues here we have come to know and love.

Anyone who does this job for any period of time understands you are never going to be successful or accomplish anything without the great work of your staff. I have been blessed both in Iowa and here in Washington with tremendous people who have worked so hard for me, who have committed themselves to the people of Iowa—to the service to them and to this country. All of them are very, very special to me. One person, my chief of staff, James Carstensen, who happens to be in the Chamber tonight, has been with me since day one—actually, a year before I got elected, working on the campaign. So 21 years he has had to put up with me.

Thank you very much.

Thanks to all of the members of my staff. It has been a pleasure for me—a great, great honor to have the privilege of serving with them—because we have all done it on a cumulative basis, and we have tried to do the best job possible for the people of Iowa.

I have to say “thank you,” obviously, to the Iowans. As Mr. NUNES said, I have represented a lot of the State in having the different districts, starting with the Fifth District, then the Fourth District, and now the Third District—moving from northwest Iowa to northeast Iowa to southwest Iowa. It is the honor of my life to serve the people of Iowa and to have that opportunity to be their Representative in Washington to try to accomplish things for their good and for the good of the country. Again, I just say “thank you.”

Everybody who is in Congress knows the sacrifice of your family. My parents, who were such great role models for me, taught me so much. They are gone now. I have got four brothers and their families. I have my son, Justin; Lynnae; Emerson and Jack; my daughter Jennifer; her husband, Brian; and Keaton, Mason, and Carson; and my daughter Jill and her husband, Nick, and their son, Will. I love them, and what they have done to support me over the years is tremendous and will always be appreciated.

Obviously, there is one person. You could never be successful if you didn't have the support of your spouse. Kathy has been just exceptional in putting up with all the back-and-forth—having two residences and having had to travel here and keep everything going at home while I am away. For the first 19 years we were married, I was on the road with our family business. For the last 20 years, I have been gone, being in Congress. So, obviously, her love and her support has meant everything in the world to me.

Thank you, Dear.

Let me just say, in closing, that it has been an amazing ride for 20 years. For a kid, like Mr. SIMPSON said or Mr. KING said, who grew up in Alexander, Iowa—who grew up on a farm outside of a big town of 168 people—to come to Washington to be able to represent Iowa here is, obviously, a huge, huge honor from that background.

I will honestly say to any Member listening, if you ever get to the point when you walk across the street and don't look up at that dome and get that chill up your spine about something much bigger than you are, you probably should go home. Now, I still get that chill, but I think it is time for me and my family to go a different course.

I am extraordinarily proud to have served here. This is a great, great body. It is something that is an incredible institution. It is truly a slice of America when you come here and you meet the different folks and all you learn about this great country. Having to take into consideration a lot of different views and constituencies from all over the country is an amazing experience. I am very, very proud of that, and I will always feel that my time was well spent here. More so today I am excited about the future because we are going to have an opportunity to spend more time with the family—with Kathy, with the kids and grandchildren. We are going to be able to do some things we have never been able to do before. So I am proud of the past and am excited about the future, and I just thank God that I have had the opportunities I have had to grow up in a State like Iowa and in a community like I grew up in, with parents like I had and brothers and the support of the family.

This is the greatest country in the world. It will always be because of our system of government. As hard as it is to get something done, it is very difficult, but it is the right way to do things, and we need to get back to everyone listening to each other. There is one thing I will say: I never learn a thing when I am talking. You learn things when you are listening to other folks. I think we should all, maybe, step back and listen to each other more, and I think, maybe, we would be better off.

With that, I will just say “thank you” to everyone. It is a great country. God bless America. I am excited about the future.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman.

Again, TOM, we are going to miss you. We have become good friends. Don't become a stranger. You still have another week or two to serve before we sine die, and there are some important votes to cast.

Now that you qualify for Medicare, I wish you and Kathy the best in the next part of this journey of life, and I am sure you will do fantastic. Make sure you get out to Idaho when you get an opportunity, and we will take some

famous Idaho potatoes and some famous Iowa corn, and we will put them together with some steak and have a little barbecue.

I thank you for your service to this institution, to the State of Iowa, and to the country. We will miss you.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WALORSKI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, let me offer my congratulations to those who have served our country in the Congress who now will be retiring and moving on. All of us will get there sometime.

This is a noble job if we make it such, and many people who have served here have done great things for the United States of America. Why? Because they, number one, believe in the principles of the United States, what were set down by our Founding Fathers. Even more than that, what we have had here and what we need more of in America are leaders who care specifically about the American people and what impact they are having on the American people and what impact those policies that they advocate will have on the American people.

□ 1730

All too often, people come to Washington, and pretty soon, what they care about is this or that specific special interest. Or they have a special idea, special interest or special ideas. They have a philosophy. They have a vision that goes beyond what the benefit to the American people is, what they are going to establish because of this philosophical commitment to some ideal.

Well, both of those are enemies of the well-being of the people of the United States. If people who are elected by the population come here and are loyal to special interests that have to make a profit in a specific area, even though it might be detrimental to the American people as a whole, or people come here and they don't care about the American people—they want to see their dream come true, their intellectual and philosophical ideal put into place—well, the American people get left out with that type of leadership.

And what we are doing today, one of the most important issues that we have been facing for almost a decade now, with constant pressure to do something about—what? About immigration policy in the United States. And what we do, what we finally do on this issue will tell us whom we care about and what are our ideals and who we care about more. Do we care about special interests? Do we care about some ideal notion that is not so tangible? Or do we care about what policy