

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to honor a great legislator, a consummate public servant, and a man whose legacy will leave an indelible mark on this institution and every American he served during his 59 years in the House of Representatives. As the Dean of the House, JOHN DINGELL holds the distinction of being the longest serving member in the history of Congress. However, it's not the length of his tenure that will earn him a place in the history books, but his many accomplishments that have improved the health of our entire nation and its citizens.

JOHN DINGELL presided over this chamber during passage of Medicare in 1965, just one of the laws he shaped over the course of his distinguished career. He helped write the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. He has fought diligently to protect Social Security, a program his father helped create, and he was a champion of the Affordable Care Act following years of advocacy on his own part to create an accessible and affordable system of universal health care.

Those of us who have been lucky enough to serve with Representative DINGELL will remember him as a man of unparalleled fortitude and passion, tempered with a sense of respect for his fellow colleagues and the legislative process, who raised the overall tenor of discourse and debate in the House of Representatives. Although we are extremely sad to see his service in this chamber come to an end, his contributions will continue to impact our country for years to come, and the DINGELL name will continue to grace the halls of Congress through his wife, Debbie, who will carry the mantle of public service on behalf of Michigan's 15th District.

Representative DINGELL, on behalf of a grateful country, I thank you for your service to this Congress and to our nation.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, others on the floor are recounting Representative JOHN DINGELL, JR.'s historic legislative record, his breathtaking parliamentary skills, and his powerful advocacy. I won't repeat all of that here.

But I would like to say something about my good friend, JOHN DINGELL, JR., and recount an event that shows a great man in the making. On December 8, 1941, soon after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered his speech saying that December 7th is a day that will live in infamy, the House briefly recessed and then reconvened to debate and declare war on Japan.

As I understand it, it was the job of a 15 year-old page, JOHN DINGELL, JR., to go up to the press gallery to tell Fulton Lewis of the Mutual Broadcasting System to turn off the microphones now that the House was going back into session because back then there was no audio recording of Congressional activities.

Instead JOHN told the famous newscaster to leave the microphone on and the tape running. The world now has the recording of that House debate and declaration of war. Here we see JOHN DINGELL, JR. already with a sense of history and an understanding of the importance of Congressional action.

JOHN, who knew that my father was serving in Congress at the same time as his father, befriended me early when I arrived in this Chamber, has shown me the warmest friendship and wisest counsel. For that I am most grateful and full of admiration.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Missouri). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. I don't know if he knows, but we are going to be honoring him tomorrow night.

Mr. WAXMAN. Thank you very much, Congressman PALLONE, for recognizing me and for acknowledging the fact that I am the ranking member at the present time, but, of course, you will now take on that job very ably, I am sure, and both of us will follow in the tradition of JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. Speaker, it is so appropriate that the room where the Energy and Commerce Committee meets is now known as the "JOHN DINGELL Room." JOHN DINGELL has been the leader of that committee and a leader in the Congress longer than anybody else has served in either the Senate or in the House; yet, what I want to say is from my own personal perspective.

I have served on that committee for 40 years, and I have learned more from JOHN DINGELL than I have from anybody else I have served with as a colleague. There were times when we had disagreements, and we argued them out and then resolved them and compromised on them; but most of the time, he was a stalwart defender of the interests of the working people of this country, a protector of the environment, a person who led the efforts for civil rights, a man who cared about people and understood that government had a very important role to play in people's lives.

From his father, who was active in the New Deal, under President Franklin Roosevelt, who led this Nation to use the government in a positive way—to help people who had nowhere else to turn—JOHN DINGELL carried on that tradition. It is the Liberal-Progressive tradition, and I associate myself with it.

I learned everything I knew as a member of the committee—and I learned everything I knew as a potential chairman and as a short-term chairman—from JOHN DINGELL. He is a Member's Member, and he is going to go down in the history books as one of the outstanding Members of Congress and leaders and chairmen of the oldest committee in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I know we don't have a lot of time, so I just want to say to JOHN DINGELL:

I wish you all the best, and I know you will whisper to Debbie, if she has any questions, the right course to take. Of course, she has been with you long enough that she probably, by this time,

will know what to do on her own. God bless you, JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), who himself has been the ranking member of two committees.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, one of my distinct pleasures in serving for 38 years in this body has been to work with the dean of the House, Mr. JOHN DINGELL. Throughout our almost four decades of serving the people of our respective districts and those of our Nation, my respect and sincere appreciation for this son of Michigan has only grown each and every day.

Few, if any, who have served here in the people's House over the last nearly 60 years would have a different view of the worth and of the value of JOHN DINGELL's contributions to the day-to-day work of this distinguished body. In fact, Representative DINGELL's vast legacy will assuredly be the legions of Members and staff who have learned so many lasting lessons of leadership under JOHN's tutelage. Basic, fundamental, timeless lessons on how to get the people's business done were always at the ready for any Member to partake in and adopt for their own future use. All of us can remember times when Big John felt it appropriate, timely, and beneficial to just gently impose one of his lessons on Members, even on this body as a whole, if he felt it would move our country forward.

First and foremost, JOHN DINGELL has always valued good, old-fashioned trust. He sees a person's word as his bond—a bond that never shifts even in the strongest political winds. In JOHN's playbook, loyalty, particularly loyalty to principles, is a powerful force that can move the entire country forward. He insists on one other useful attribute for success—time-tested hard work. One must put in the time to do the hard work, the homework, with great attention to the details, ensuring that every T is crossed and that every I is dotted.

These virtues exercised by my friend, whether by his hand's wielding the gavel or in his sizable arm's embracing your future in the back of the House Chamber, he has served our Nation productively. Upon this virtuous foundation, many compromises have been struck to forge stable vehicles to serve the people, their environment, their health, and their livelihoods. A champion of the American worker, of the autoworker, and of our Nation's coal miner, JOHN DINGELL fully appreciates the role that our government can and should play in supporting the breadwinners in every American family.

From the moment JOHN DINGELL came here to the moment he leaves and well beyond, these tenets are the legacy that will always burn brightly in my mind as well as warm my heart. Had I but served a single term with JOHN DINGELL, I would have counted many blessings because of it. Multiplied 29 times, suffice it to say, the entire Nation can itself count many

blessings thanks to the good work of our dear friend, JOHN DINGELL, the dean of the House of Representatives.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. "Thank you" to the gentleman from New Jersey for the recognition and for leading us in this Special Order that pays tribute to Representative JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand on the House floor this afternoon to say "thank you" to JOHN DINGELL.

Thank you for your service to country. Thank you for your service to the State of Michigan. Thank you for your service to your congressional districts through the years, and, certainly, thank you for your interaction and networking with your colleagues, which has crossed over party lines and has shown, in exemplary fashion, how to get business done in the House. In your tribute this evening, it is important to make mention over and over again of your service to the military by serving us in the Army and by serving us during World War II.

Also, the Great Lakes State, Michigan, has produced a leader of greatness in JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN, it is an honor to say here, during this special tribute, that you were, indeed, everyone's coach. I know the person of humility that you are. You shed that praise when it comes your way, but make no mistake about it that it has been your coaching, your reinforcement, your encouragement to each and every one of us. Certainly, to those of us who entered as freshmen, you were right there to shadow us and to guide us and to remind us that there is a nobleness—with a small "n"—of service through the House that can influence policy and speak to the needs of those most marginalized in our society.

To that end, I want to thank you for identifying so very strongly with struggle. You saw a struggle, and you moved to address it. Whether that be through health care, through human services, through education, and certainly through all sorts of efforts that speak to public safety, our environment, and our energy policy, you saw a struggle, and you met it head-on, and you made certain that the challenges were responded to. You showed us how to work across party lines, and you showed us how to be factual and to see your word as your honor.

With all of that, I salute you, JOHN DINGELL, as being an awesome leader who taught by example how to conduct yourself in this public arena. You are proud of your heritage. We have talked about that many times over. Those roots have fed you so very well and have enabled you to be this person of greatness coming from the Great Lakes State. So thank you so much for your service to country and to all of us here in the Chamber.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am testifying before the Rules Committee right now, but I will submit my statement for the RECORD.

To know him is to love JOHN DINGELL. He taught me that dedication to the legislative process and getting it done comes first.

It is a great privilege to speak about the career and accomplishments of my good friend, JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN has been one of the giants in this body a man with countless friends, but few peers.

His impact on this Institution and this country cannot be overstated.

Over the course of six decades, John has led some of the most important fights in the history of our country—fights for health care, civil rights, social justice, consumer protections, and so much more.

In 1964, he helped push the Civil Rights Bill through Congress.

In 1965, JOHN DINGELL presided over the House as it considered and then passed Medicare.

JOHN wrote the Endangered Species Act.

He wrote the 1990 Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and legislation to build North America's first international wildlife refuge.

He authored Affordable Care Act and then fought tirelessly for its passage.

Thanks to JOHN, millions of Americans are getting the benefits today of the Patient's Bill of Rights, the Children's Health Insurance Program, the Mammography Quality Standards Act, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, and the Prescription Drug User Fee Act.

JOHN DINGELL's towering list of accomplishments are the best representations of what Members of Congress can do when the long-term needs of the people—the country—are elevated beyond the fleeting politics of the moment.

Whenever the history of this country is told—The Civil Rights Act, Medicare, the Affordable Case Act, Environmental Protection, Workers Rights will stand out as the hallmarks of the Democratic Party—our core principles.

They are the legislative actions that delivered on the promise of the American dream—and helped to put it within reach for millions.

These pillars of social justice all bear JOHN DINGELL's name writ large.

JOHN DINGELL is also a strong advocate for women, a long-time champion for the Equal Rights Amendment, and a leader in the fight for Equal Pay for Equal work.

JOHN was here in 1963 when the Equal Pay Act was signed into law

In the 108th Congress, he and I requested a report from the GAO on the Glass Ceiling.

That report analyzed 18 years of data on over 9,300 Americans and found that women working fulltime were being paid an average of 80 cents for every dollar that men are paid.

He has been fighting to realize the goal of the Equal Pay act for decades and it is a fight that JOHN's wife Debbie is sure to continue in the next Congress.

For more than 80 years, there has been a Mr. DINGELL from Michigan representing Democratic Values and the people of Michigan.

I know I speak for all members of the House when I say that I look forward to working alongside the first Mrs. Dingell from Michigan!

JOHN's impact on Congress and on this country will be felt for generations to come.

His unyielding commitment to do what is right—for his country and his Michigan constituents has been an inspiration to us all.

I fear we may never see his like again in this Congress—but I shall hope that each and every day—every Member of Congress will strive to live up to the example that was once set by the great JOHN DINGELL, Dean of the House of Representatives.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I thank my colleague and our new ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great lawmakers of our era, who has dedicated his life to fighting for civil rights, to strengthening our Nation's safety net for the vulnerable and elderly, and in pushing for workers' rights and protecting American jobs.

I am honored to call this man a mentor and a friend—the dean of the House, Congressman JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my full statement be placed in the RECORD.

JOHN's illustrious career speaks for itself: the longest-serving Member in the history of the House of Representatives; the author of dozens of Federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Affordable Care Act; the chairman or ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee for 28 years; a veteran of the Second World War.

What the history books will never be able to fully share is the respect and kindness JOHN has given to all who have been fortunate enough to work with him.

JOHN has always been generous with his time and with sharing his unparalleled institutional knowledge of the people's House. In 2005, JOHN was a vital voice, and he supported efforts to pass the Energy Policy Act, which became one of the key Federal supports for the current energy renaissance that is providing jobs and lower energy prices for the American people today. Outside of Washington, I was fortunate to spend time with JOHN on hunting trips, where I had the opportunity to get to know him better as a man, as a father, as a husband, and as an avid sportsman.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, I would like to personally thank JOHN for his decades of public service in fighting for America's working families. Our Chamber will not be the same without him. God bless JOHN DINGELL and the United States of America.

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JOHN has always been generous with his time and sharing his unparalleled institutional knowledge of the People's House. In 2003, during the DeLay redistricting fiasco in Texas, which gerrymandered out many longtime House Members, JOHN advised me on what avenues were available to Members to voice disapproval.

In 2005, JOHN was a vital voice and supported efforts to pass the Energy Policy Act, which has become one of the key federal supports for the current energy renaissance that's providing jobs and lower energy prices for the American people today.

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Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, I would like to personally thank JOHN for his decades of public service in fighting for America's working families. Our chamber will not be the same without him.

God Bless JOHN DINGELL and the United States of America.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, in 1997, when I was a 39-year-old freshman, JOHN DINGELL took a risk on me. He put me on the Energy and Commerce Committee as a freshman. Since that day, I have learned at his knee every single day. He has become a friend; he has become a mentor—and like so many of us on both sides of the aisle, our experience here in Congress would not be the same without him.

□ 1715

A lot of us know about the long arm of JOHN DINGELL. Over the years, when Chairman DINGELL would put his long arm around your shoulders, and he would say, "Diana, I have a little chore for you," you knew that that little chore was anything but little. It was a part of something much, much bigger. Whether he was just moving a minor amendment to a bill or a large bill itself, and no matter what the issue was, it was always an honor to work together with JOHN DINGELL to get something done for the American people.

As the now-ranking member on JOHN DINGELL'S subcommittee, the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, I feel a special responsibility to his legacy. JOHN DINGELL, over the years, held powerful people from all around the country,

from every part of industry, accountable to the American public. And today, it is up to all of us, as members of his distinguished committee, to take up the great mantle of that legacy and to make the powerful tell the truth to the American public.

I commit myself today, along with all of us, to carry on his legacy, to do just that, to make this committee a committee that JOHN DINGELL will be proud of.

I am going to miss my dear friend, my wise mentor, and my trusted colleague. All of us will. We all recognize the great contributions he made to this institution and, most importantly, to this country.

Few retirements are as well deserved, with such distinguished service as Mr. DINGELL'S. And so I want to say, JOHN, job well done. Godspeed.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

If a test of a career is whether you made a difference, Big JOHN'S career has been a big success. In so many ways, JOHN was tall in stature physically and in every other way.

There has been much note about his particular accomplishments. I would like to spend just a few minutes today talking not about those accomplishments that are so vivid and so clear, but to talk about JOHN DINGELL and his character.

He remembered his roots, never forgot them. There was always, I think, a sense of the underdog. I think his family came to this country and felt, in a sense, like the underdog, but were thankful that they had an opportunity in this country to rise. And it is so clear that JOHN succeeded.

You might sum it up this way: JOHN DINGELL was a legislator's legislator. He combined courage and civility, dedication and decency, strong views with strong friendships.

I don't remember exactly when it was that, down the hall here, when JOHN was being honored, he decided to talk about this institution and what he had seen happen to it. And it was a very frank talk. And he really bemoaned recent events here, where it was much more difficult to have strong views but to have strong camaraderie, to have strong views but have the ability to compromise on them, to have strong views but find a way to seek and find common ground. That was so convincing, so persuasive for someone who has been in this institution longer than anyone else in the history of this country.

So I think our best salute to JOHN, maybe the best way to remember his contributions—in addition to all of the particular legislation that came to be and meant so much to millions of people in this country—is to try to pick up the mantle that surrounded him all of his career here, to really see if we can

seek and find some way in this institution to operate the way JOHN DINGELL saw so much of his career, and why he felt it was such a loss when it dwindled.

So I would like to just join everybody else with some emotion. Our two families have been so close for so many decades. Our two families, the Levins and the Dingells, the Dingells and the Levins, have had their lives so interwoven, so interwoven, coming from somewhat different backgrounds. But those weren't an obstacle. Those were really opportunities.

So I join so many others in saying to JOHN and to Debbie, who has been his partner, more than a job well done—a path that all of us should seek to follow.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs).

Mrs. CAPPs. I thank my colleague for yielding.

It is such an honor, in paying my tribute, to follow one of Mr. DINGELL'S best friends, SANDY LEVIN, his colleague from Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride as well as deep humility to honor the longest-serving Member of Congress, the dean of the United States House of Representatives, the Congressman for the 12th District of Michigan and my personal friend, Mr. JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN has served his country with such honor and such distinction, first as a second lieutenant in the United States Army during World War II and, for the past 59 years, right here in Congress over the terms of 11—that is 11—United States Presidents.

But it is not just his longevity that has made JOHN such a force in the United States Congress. Yes, we are losing this man's incredible institutional memory, but hopefully neither he nor we will ever lose our love for this institution.

JOHN DINGELL'S hand has helped construct nearly every major advancement in social policy that this country has known over the past six decades, policies that support working families, that strengthen our middle class, and support the United States economy.

Many of us here speak of significant events in United States history, but JOHN DINGELL can speak of these historic events because he was often right there, standing by the President's side. JOHN knows this institution inside and out. And it is that knowledge, coupled with his belief that Congress does have a vital role in making this country better for all of us, that has made him so influential over the years.

But for all he has done for the Nation, JOHN has been and continues to be such a great friend to each of us, no matter which side of the aisle we sit on.

When I first came to Congress, JOHN DINGELL took me under his wing and helped me to earn a seat on the Energy and Commerce Committee, his beloved committee. He told me that we did

need nurses at the table, and he always has been a passionate advocate for quality health care. He is such a good friend to my own colleagues in the nursing profession.

The good people of Michigan are losing a great advocate for their State in Congress. This country is losing a passionate and brilliant Representative, and what I am told is the best Twitter feed on the Hill. And I am losing a personal friend on the floor of the House and a real mentor on the dais at the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

But we won't be sad for long. Next year, we will have another Dingell who will be here as one of us, and that is JOHN's very own lovely wife, Deborah. I look forward to working with Deborah and have no doubt that she will continue the legacy of service that JOHN and his father before him have established.

So with that, I do not say good-bye, dear friend, but I do say best wishes. And know that we are all so full of gratitude and in great debt to you for your service, as you have for so long been of enormous service to each of us.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield now to our Democratic whip, Mr. HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for taking this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, when this new House convenes on January 6, it will be the first in 59 years not to include the distinguished dean of this House, Mr. JOHN DINGELL of Michigan.

We will still have a Dingell from Michigan. It will be his wife, Debbie, whom so many of us in this House have come to know and admire. I have worked with Debbie every year that I have been in the Congress. She won the election to succeed JOHN, and surely we will continue to have him in our midst as a congressional spouse. But he will be very, very sorely missed among the Members of this body, all of whom he welcomed to the House over the course of his service as the longest-serving Member in the history of the Congress.

A lot of people like to point to JOHN's tenure in the House and note that when he came to Congress, Americans had Dwight Eisenhower as President, Brooklyn had a champion Dodgers baseball team, and Elvis Presley had his first gold record.

But what I will point out is what Americans did not have. They did not have Medicare. Seniors were unprotected from the rising costs of health care in their golden years until JOHN DINGELL became their champion and introduced legislation that was the precursor to Medicare. And he presided over this House when it passed Medicare in 1965.

Americans did not have the Civil Rights Act or the Voting Rights Act. When JOHN DINGELL took his first oath of office as a Member of this House, millions of African Americans across the South could not vote for Representatives in this House. Just 4

months after taking office, he bravely challenged the Eisenhower administration's leadership on civil rights.

He rose in this Chamber with great audacity to demand that the President protect those who were being denied their most fundamental rights as Americans. It almost cost him his seat. But all of us who know JOHN understand why he was willing to risk everything for a cause that was just.

Americans did not have the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, or the Safe Drinking Water Act, nor did they have the Endangered Species Act or the National Environmental Policy Act. JOHN realized before many of his contemporaries that if Congress did not act to protect our environment, future generations would inherit a Nation spoiled by pollution and neglect, so he became a crusader for conservation.

And the American people did not have SCHIP or the Affordable Care Act—SCHIP being children's health insurance. JOHN DINGELL fought his entire life in public office to make affordable quality health care accessible to all who need it.

In between his work to pass Medicare in 1965 and the enactment of health care reform in 2010, JOHN DINGELL successfully pushed for incremental progress that made the Affordable Care Act possible. And when Leader PELOSI struck the gavel to signify the passage of that law, it was the same gavel that was used by JOHN when he announced the passage of the Medicare Act nearly 50 years before.

□ 1730

I was proud to nominate JOHN for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor, and to be on hand last month as President Obama presented that Medal of Freedom to him at the White House.

Let no one mistake JOHN's legacy as one of simply longevity. Had he served nine terms and not 29, we would surely be here on this floor to praise him as a man of vision, of principle, of courage and achievement, and of a deep love for this country, its people, and for this institution.

I have had the privilege of serving with JOHN in this House for 33 years. Throughout that time, he has been a dear friend from whom I have learned much and with whom I shared many memorable experiences on and off this floor.

JOHN DINGELL, my colleagues, has been and is a man of conviction, he has embodied civility, and he has worked in a bipartisan fashion. His example is one that if we follow, it would benefit the country and the House.

As chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, JOHN was instrumental in supporting a strong auto industry and jobs for America and measures to promote manufacturing here in this country.

Americans remember with gratitude his determined effort as chairman to root out waste, fraud, and abuse across

the government and save the taxpayers while improving how the government works.

Seventy-three years ago this week, a young JOHN DINGELL, Jr., then a House page, sat in this Chamber, in which his father, John, Sr., served, while President Roosevelt delivered his famous speech asking for a declaration of war as a result of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on that Day of Infamy.

Four years later, while serving in the United States Army, Second Lieutenant JOHN DINGELL was preparing to invade Japan when the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought the war to an end and quite possibly saving his life. We are all grateful for that, that Providence spared him, so he could come to the people's House and do the people's work for 59 years.

We will miss him dearly. I will miss him. I take comfort in knowing that he will still be here among us as a private citizen, as the husband of the new Member from Michigan's 12th District, and as an elder statesman for our country who I hope will always be ready to share the wisdom of his experience with those who will continue his work in this House.

JOHN DINGELL has been a great American, a citizen who loved his country and served it well. God bless you, JOHN DINGELL, and thank you.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is an understatement to say dean and Chairman JOHN DINGELL is a gentleman of this House and a respected man of the law. He has served our Republic his entire life, beginning as a page for this House at the age of 12, followed by his enlistment in the United States Army and his service during World War II. He is a bona fide representative of the Greatest Generation's dedication and enduring legacy.

He is a Member's Member, always available for counsel and always with an encouraging word. How many of us have benefited from his astute advice? This Chamber says thank you to a man who knows how to negotiate, who knows how to legislate, and knows how to foster great change. He is a master of the art of compromise.

His service has been honorable for over half a century. He has been indefatigable. JOHN has walked forthrightly in the shoes of his beloved father before him, and he served our Nation nobly in this House and the people of Michigan who reelected him 30 times. His service has established a historical record 59 years long of consistent dedication to liberty and to the people of our country.

Historically, he has assumed his place as one of the House's strongest timbers, truly a foundational Member, a master of the rules and decorum that should attend to our privileged service here. He is a champion of the dignity of the House.

Generations to come would be well-advised to emulate his service. He understands and treasures this House, its centrality in steering progress for our democratic Republic.

He is a champion of civil rights, of living wage jobs in America and labor rights here and abroad, of American manufacturing and the auto industry, of energy independence for America, of Medicare and Social Security as his father was before him, of our natural environment and the legal basis for respecting it—our Great Lakes, the fish, fauna, and creatures that form the wild kingdom, the park systems and wildlife refuges, the river and ocean ecosystems that maintain and sustain the stunning beauty and bounty of our land and frankly sustain us. He is the heartbeat of Motown.

I personally will always treasure the moments we spent working on legislation to refinance the U.S. auto industry and our tours of the auto giants' manufacturing platforms, of the times we spent together creating the first international wildlife refuge in our country in the Great Lakes region spanning our shared Michigan-Ohio border with Canada, the clean water and clean air achievements, the tours of the La-Z-Boy company and that firm's stellar involvement in environmental stewardship of our Ohio-Michigan region.

Mr. Speaker, I shall always treasure our encounters, countless as they are, along the Ohio-Michigan border that we shared, the hundreds of plane rides together, often with Deborah along, with dear colleagues like JOHN CONYERS, Billy Ford, as well as our car ride back to Michigan together after 9/11.

We have shared the priceless opportunity to guard liberty and extend her welcoming arms to the people of Poland, our shared ancestral heritage, as Poland cast off the shackles of Communist oppression. Though each of us dreamed of the day when that incredible moment might transpire, its achievement remains one of world history's most glorious moments.

So the patriotic gentleman from Michigan, House seniority rank number one, our dean, you have not only earned your title as "Man of the House," you have inspired millions of people and ably met the call of DANIEL WEBSTER in your time and generation to perform something worthy to be remembered. You have met that test.

My colleague, may God bless you and Deborah and hold you and your loved ones dearly. America thanks you, and so do I, as dean of Ohio's delegation. Godspeed.

Mr. PALLONE. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate his friendship with the distinguished leader of the entire Congress, the dean number one, as Congresswoman KAPTUR said.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to be brief and put some of my statement in the RECORD and hopefully return to the floor in the couple of days ahead to say more about Mr. DINGELL because so many Members are waiting, and I hope more time will be afforded for us to sing the praises of this great man.

Every now and then, you hear the expression "somebody is a living legend." That doesn't even begin to describe JOHN DINGELL. He is a living legend. He has had a hand in nearly every major legislative accomplishment over the past six decades from protecting civil rights and workers' rights—and I am so glad to see JOHN LEWIS here—to ensuring food safety, to enacting essential consumer protections, and to creating jobs in Michigan's Twelfth District and throughout our country.

Among his countless achievements, none holds greater significance than his contribution to the good health of the American people. Each congressional term since 1955, he introduced legislation to secure affordable health care for all Americans.

In 1965, he held the gavel in his hand as Medicare became law of the land, and in 2010, more than half a century later, it was my privilege to hold that same gavel in my hand as we passed the Affordable Care Act, realizing the dream of the Dingell family.

To work alongside JOHN DINGELL is to be inspired by his strength, by the history of our institution, and by the seriousness of his work, not only the length of his service for sure, but the quality of his leadership. He is our distinguished chairman, our distinguished dean, a cherished colleague and friend, a living legend as I said, but that only begins to tell the tale.

His experience, his leadership, his partnership, and his passion will be sorely missed by all of us who had the honor to serve alongside him. We wish him and his beloved wife, our soon-to-be colleague, Debbie, and the entire Dingell family the very best.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in the tributes to a public servant of unmatched leadership and quality.

The distinguished gentleman from New Jersey has followed the many footsteps of Mr. DINGELL on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

AMERICA: LAND OF LIBERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) for 30 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. PALLONE. I want to thank the gentlewoman and remind my colleagues that we have a lot of speakers, so if you can limit your remarks, we would appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, as a freshman, I have learned to be brief, and I will be brief. Coming from Michigan and growing up in a political family and actually succeeding my own uncle, Dale Kildee, in this seat, one would think that Dale is the first Congressman that I really knew, but if you are from Michigan and you were born any time after the middle of the 1950s, JOHN DINGELL is the first Congressman that we knew.

He was a strong voice for our State, and he was really the picture of a Member of Congress for so many years. His longevity is obviously remarkable, but it is what JOHN did and stood for that is most remarkable over his long tenure.

He first was a witness to history in this place when 73 years ago this past Monday, his father was here and he was a page, he sat and watched Franklin Roosevelt give that famous speech on December 7.

He made history in this body. I remember just a few months ago watching on C-SPAN, as I do occasionally, and watching the signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and watching JOHN DINGELL stand there and receive a pen from President Johnson as that act was signed into law. I sat with him the next day and discussed that time in our history and realized what an amazing privilege I have been given to serve in the same body with JOHN DINGELL.

He is a witness to history, and he made history, but more importantly, for 59 years, JOHN DINGELL was on the right side of history. Look at his record. Look at what he has stood for. He has always been ahead of the rest of the country.

The one thing I do hope is that we can take a lesson from his service and realize that there has been a time in this body when you can be a strong and passionate voice, when you can hold to principle, but still find ways to work across the partisan divide and find compromise and get things done. That is the lesson of his legacy, and it is one that I think we all have an obligation to try to live up to.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard that Representative JOHN DINGELL from Michigan is the longest-serving Member of the House of Representatives in the history of this institution. You have heard that he has been a Member since 1955 and has held a seat in this body since President Eisenhower sat in the White House.

You heard that exactly 1 day and 73 years ago, a young JOHN DINGELL, then a page in the House, was standing in this very room when President Roosevelt gave his declaration-of-war speech against Japan. He was a page.