

As majority leader and Democratic whip over the past 16 years, I have had to balance service to our district with my responsibilities to our Caucus and to our country. Betsy has spent every single day of that time making sure that our district always comes first.

I will miss Betsy. I expect to remain her friend throughout my life, but I will miss her daily advice and expertise, though I am relieved that she will always be just a phone call away.

As she retires, Madam Speaker, to spend more time with her husband and their family in Pennsylvania, I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Betsy Bossart for 30 dedicated years, yes, to me, but, more importantly, to our constituents, to our State, and to our country.

Madam Speaker, were I to speak another 2 hours—as some fear—I could not thank Betsy Bossart enough.

God bless Betsy Bossart, a wonderful friend, a wonderful American.

SUPPORT MILITARY SURVIVING SPOUSES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today is legislative day 5 since House Democrats subverted the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act from being a standalone bill.

I am grateful that 86 percent of Congress, 371 Members, have cosponsored this legislation, who were recruited by determined widows in the veterans service organizations.

As Minority Whip STEVE SCALISE noted on the floor last week:

Here is a bill that can quickly get to the President's desk, and it gets included in other pieces of legislation that might come months away. But here is a bill where a Member worked in good faith under the rules that were created, and it was unfortunate that the rule to bring the NDAA bill to the floor turned off the Consensus Calendar specifically for that bill, that one bill, which happened to be the first bill that met that requirement.

We should work together, bipartisan, to bring the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act up for a standalone to eliminate the widow's tax.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

□ 1315

HELP LIMIT CORRUPTION IN WASHINGTON

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, the way we finance campaigns in this country is a true threat to our democracy. This structure is a leading cause

of our Nation's political paralysis and voter apathy.

In the book "Dark Money," Jane Mayer wrote: "In 2006, only 2 percent of 'outside' political spending came from 'social welfare' groups that hid their donors. In 2010, this number rose to 40 percent, masking hundreds of millions of dollars."

Since the 2010 Citizens United decision and related decisions, this number is even greater today. The massive amount of money flowing into our political system corrupts the political process and stymies effectiveness.

That is why I introduced a proposed constitutional amendment to reform our broken campaign finance system. My amendment would eliminate political action committees and "dark money." Funding for a candidate or ballot measure would be limited to the use of a public financing system or donations given directly to the campaign by individual citizens. This would end much of the corruption in Washington.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do everything possible to help limit corruption in Washington, including supporting this legislation.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), a former district judge.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD HUDSON INTO THE TEXAS NAVY

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. GOHMERT, for yielding.

I rise today to honor my dear friend, Congressman RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina.

Congressman HUDSON served as my chief of staff from 2006 to 2008 and is now forging his own path right here on Capitol Hill.

Some time ago, Congressman HUDSON gave me a hard time about other Members being recognized as "Honorary Texans" by Governor Abbott. Well, after speaking with the Governor, we have gone one step further with our recognition here today, and I am pleased to swear in Admiral Richard L. Hudson to the Texas Navy.

I will now read the certificate granting his commission:

"In the name and by the authority of The State of Texas to all to whom these presents shall come, Greetings. Know ye, that Richard Hudson is hereby commissioned an honorary Admiral in the Texas Navy with all rights and privileges appertaining thereto and with the duty of assisting in the preservation of the history, boundaries, water resources, and defense of the State.

"In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the

State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin, this the 10th day of May, 2019."

Signed: Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas.

I am now going to read the oath that Mr. Hudson will take as he takes this commission:

"I, Richard Hudson, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Texas against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States, the Governor of Texas, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. And I will remember the Alamo. So help me God."

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. GOHMERT for yielding, and I thank Judge Carter for this incredible honor. The gentleman is a dear friend and someone I admire very much. His love for the State of Texas is unmatched.

This truly is an honor. I am proud to be a North Carolinian, but I do love the State of Texas.

I would first suggest that we should all remember that seven North Carolinians, if my recollection is correct, died defending the Alamo.

I also have family ties to Texas. My great uncle Joseph Wesley Humphrey was a deputy sheriff, a member of the Texas legislature, and county judge in Rains County, Texas.

Another great uncle, Reverend Daniel A. McRae, was a Methodist minister in San Augustine County, Texas. I believe that might even be in Mr. GOHMERT's district. And the church and the cemetery there is still named "McRae" after my great uncle.

So I do have family ties. I do love the State. I am deeply honored to receive this commission, honorary as it may be, and I will be proud to recite the oath:

I, RICHARD HUDSON, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Texas against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States, the Governor of Texas, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. And I will remember the Alamo. So help me God.

Madam Speaker, I thank Judge Carter.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mr. HUDSON.

Mr. GOHMERT. It is wonderful to have a new admiral in the Texas Navy, and we welcome Congressman HUDSON to that role, that honorary role, in the Texas Navy.

And we are grateful to Judge Carter for his role in making that happen and to our great Governor Greg Abbott. I thank both the gentlemen.