

four lovely children, articulate campaigner and author—a truly gracious lady.

It is my pleasure, as President of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, speaking on behalf of the members of our Association—your friends and admirers all—to present to you this plaque for exemplary service to the nation and these two books of letters from your friends.

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE

It's such an honor to get a Distinguished Service Award from a group that epitomizes Distinguished Service.

And, I'm pleased to be a part of the 25th Annual Spring Meeting. For the last 25 years, every spring, a group of individuals have come together to reflect on—and to add to—the role they played in the oldest democracy in the world—a government that more than any other can shape life.

In or out of office, you serve your country—by your leadership, by your dedication, and by your very example.

In Congress, we entered a world of traditions. There are those who will never understand why in the midst of a heated debate that we refer to opponents as "My distinguished colleague" or "My esteemed friend from the other side of the aisle."

Though, of course, there are limits. Thaddeus Stevens (R-PA) once said, "I will now yield to my honorable colleague * * * who will make a few feeble remarks."

Then there was Senator Homer Capehart of Indiana. He once got so carried away with the rhetorical courtesies that he referred to himself as "The Distinguished Senator from Indiana."

But those of us who have been lucky enough to serve in our Nation's Capitol, know that these traditions ensure civility when we need it most.

And we also know, that when we say "good friends on the other side of the aisle * * *" that it is not only civil * * * that it is not only just tradition of our Congress * * * but something which is absolutely true.

I know that your service and your contribution hasn't stopped with your retirement from Congress. Of course, sometimes retirement is involuntary. My father, who "retired" from the Senate in 1970, likes to say, it was due to a marginal error on the part of the people of Tennessee.

There is a line attributed to Jefferson that "When a man assumes a public trust, he should consider himself as public property."

That isn't always easy.

Two reasons come to my mind right away.

First, regardless of what side of the aisle you sit on—you came here with the intent to serve your constituents and your nation the best way you knew how. And not only was that your goal: it was your accomplishment.

And second, and on a more personal note, no one knows more than all of you how much you sacrificed during your time in office. You were on the road * * * working long hours * * * you were away from the family. You missed the kids' baseball games for a hearing on the budget. Instead of helping your daughter with her homework, you had to be in the Cloakroom—eating a hot dog for dinner—waiting for a vote.

Your spirit of self-sacrifice has always inspired me to remember what really matters. Serving the nation. And for me to be honored by a group of people with such noble intentions—that is the highest compliment I could be paid.

President Kennedy once said that: "Mothers all want their sons to grow up to be Politicians. They don't want them to become politicians in the process."

You have all been politicians. None of us has been President. But on this week after Mother's Day, I hope you feel you've made

not only your family, but your country very proud.

Mr. RUPPE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say one thing, I thought the Vice President was very, very kind and gracious to give us his time last evening. I think I can say to everyone here that his remarks certainly reflected his empathy with Members, former and present Members of the U.S. Congress.

The Speaker was bipartisan, he was gracious, he was kind, and I think he really was, as he well should have been, indeed, the highlight of that evening. I hope his friends and his family realize how important his being there and accepting that award was for all of us as former Members of Congress.

Lindy Boggs, our new president coming up.

Lindy, I just want to say how pleased we are as an association that you will be the next president, and how happy we were that you did, I'm sure, a great deal of work in getting Vice President GORE to be with us last evening. It was a marvelous evening, an outstanding event, and he was very, very gracious to join us.

I would also like to put in a statement from the Ukrainian People's Deputies of the Former Verkhovna Rada, who, for their association, extended to us their greetings at the time of their 25th anniversary:

MAY 18, 1995.

Hon. PHILIP E. RUPPE,

President, U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. RUPPE: On behalf of the Association of Ukrainian People's Deputies of Former Verkhovna Rada we want to, first of all, congratulate you and AFMC on the occasion of your 25th Anniversary. We wish you enjoyable festivities and many, many more years of success.

Secondly, we want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to you and, through you, to your entire membership, first of all—Kyiv Representative of FMC Mr. Cliff Downen, for the support, both advisory and financial, that the U.S. Association of Former Members of our Association.

Our organization's meeting was held on the floor of the Verkhovna Rada on the 31st of March with the participation of the Chairman of Verkhovna Rada and almost two hundred former members. We signed up 168 members of our Association on the first day. We look forward to working with you and other former members associations of the World in the years ahead.

Thank you again for your assistance and support.

With warm regards and our best wishes for your continued success,

PAVLO KYSLYI,

President of Association.

OLEXANDR BARABASH,

LEONID BILYI,

JURYJ GNATKEVICH,

Vice Presidents of Association.

Mr. RUPPE. Mr. Speaker, this concludes the 25th Annual Report to the Congress by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress.

I want to say to the Speaker that we were very honored by his warm welcome and by his generous comments to all of us here today. We want to thank those seated Members of the Congress

for their very personal greetings. It is always fun to come back on the floor and see some of the Members with whom we have served in the past, or others whom we have gotten to know via C-SPAN or other forms of media, and have the opportunity to greet them personally.

I think I can say for everyone in this group, and I certainly can say it for me, that being a Member of Congress was probably the most exciting and the most challenging moment of my life, so this, for me, and I think it is for all of us, is a rare and thoroughly enjoyable opportunity to greet old friends, to feel for a moment the majesty of this Chamber, and share with everyone here the activities of its former Members.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we want you to know that this association will continue its efforts to promote greater public understanding of and appreciation for this very uniquely American legislative body, the U.S. Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the very distinguished Member, and the statements will be conveyed to the Speaker wholeheartedly.

The Chair wishes to thank the former Members of Congress for their presence here today. I should say, before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite all those former Members who did not respond when the roll was called to give their names to the reading clerks for inclusion on the roll.

The Chair wishes to thank all the other former Members of the House for their presence here today. Good luck to you all.

The House will continue in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House continued in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma] at 10 o'clock a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize each side for five 1-minutes.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

REPUBLICANS COMMITTED TO BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, the changes going on here in Washington are truly historic. The new majority here in the House has said goodbye to the old Washington ways.

Congress is now run by those who see that the Federal Government is not a solution to everything. It has become much too big and it spends too much.

For the first time in a generation, Congress has stood up to the mess we call a budget. We are committed to balancing this budget, so that our children will have a future free of debt and full of opportunity.

The defenders of the status quo on the other side of the aisle though criticize us, they offer no alternative. They have no vision and they have no plan. The only thing they have left are worn-out class welfare slogans and programs that will continue out Nation's course to more spending, more taxes, higher interest rates, and greater debt for our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are moving ahead to preserve the American Dream for our children and their children. We have a plan, we have a vision of a debt-free America, and we will balance the budget.

BUDGET DEBATE IS ABOUT REAL PEOPLE

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this debate comes down to one simple question: Do you think we should be cutting Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security in order to pay for tax breaks for the privileged few in our society?

I can tell you one thing—Margaret Leslie doesn't think so.

I have a picture here of Margaret. She is a senior citizen who lives in my district.

During World War II, she was known as "Margie the Riveter."

She helped build the B-29's that helped the Allies defeat Hitler in the Second World War. Today, she lives on Social Security.

After paying for her rent, her medicine, her Medicare and MediGap premiums, she is left with about \$130 each month to pay for food, bill, and everything else.

Mr. Speaker, this budget before us today will take \$240 out of Margaret's pocket because of cuts in Social Security.

And over the next 7 years—it will force her to pay an additional \$3,500 for Medicare.

Not to cut the deficit. Not to balance the budget. But to pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest few in our society.

Mr. Speaker, we need to defeat this budget.

REPUBLICANS OFFER HISTORIC PLAN TO BALANCE OUT-OF-CONTROL FEDERAL BUDGET

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, our liberal friends are tragically on the wrong side of history. Their time has come and gone. Their ideas have been clearly refuted with evidence, their representatives defeated at the polls. For those that remain in this House, there cannot be much to motivate them as we move to smaller, less costly Government.

Clearly, the promise of big Government has crumbled and given way to a total reassessment of the Federal Government.

Something else is just as clear—the need to balance the budget.

Republicans have offered a historic plan to balance the out-of-control Federal budget. I can think of few things more important to our future and the future of our children than to balance the budget. We will return power to families and local governments as we shift the focus of governing away from Washington.

Republicans believe in the ability of the individual and of families to make the right choices, instead of big Government.

This philosophy places us against status quo liberalism here in Washington, but squarely on the side of the American people.

MILLIONS OF NEEDY AMERICANS DEPEND ON MEDICARE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this is Tom McDonough. Tom McDonough is not interested in liberal or conservative. Tom McDonough is interested in the problems he has as a family member. Tom McDonough is 66 years of age. Tom McDonough's heart is failing. Tom McDonough lives in Bowie, MD, in my district and he gets \$800 on Social Security.

And the Republicans' budget wants to say to Tom McDonough, we are not going to help you pay for the medical care you need. We promised it as a Nation. We made a promise, and we talk about promises kept, but this is a promise broken.

Social Security is going to be cut in 5 years, in 4 years, and in 3 years for Tom McDonough. He does not think that is a promise made and a promise kept.

His Medicare is going to be cut back. Tom McDonough does not think that is a promise made or a promise kept.

REPUBLICAN PLAN WILL SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, when we began this debate yesterday or since we have begun this debate yesterday the debt has risen by \$846 million. That is \$846 million more that you and I and our children and our grandchildren are going to have to pay.

We will see the other side all day long today produce props and photographs of individuals who will be affected by this so-called budget reduction, which is not a reduction unless you live inside the beltway.

But I am here today in Congress for these people. Here today are my two children, Lucy and Jonathan. That is what it is all about today, because today is historic. The Republican Budget Committee is going to turn this budget around, and I would like to see the American people judge this Congress not by the harsh rhetoric and the hard choices that we will be making over the next couple of days but by the country and the government that we give to our children and our children's children long after we are gone.

AMERICANS WILL PAY MORE FOR MEDICARE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, Lewis and Ed Kierklewski are two hard-working Texans. They have worked hard all of their lives. One is retired, one is nearing retirement, and they deserve to have the security of Medicare and Social Security.

But today that security is threatened, because the Republicans say we need to have the largest corporations in this country pay less taxes and we need for Lewis and Ed to pay more for Medicare.

Interestingly enough, as peaceful as Ed and Lewis look, the Republicans are scared to death of them, and so in 6 hours of debate, they have provided us this plan. This is exactly what they have told Lewis and Ed they will do with their Medicare.

Now we know that on this sheet of blank paper there is nothing about doubling the deductible for Lewis and Ed. There is nothing about raising their premium every year. There is nothing about increasing their costs, because the Republicans are afraid to stand in this well and tell Lewis and Ed and millions of American seniors the truth that they are about to hike their out-of-pocket expenses for Medicare to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy.