

future. And he knew that he was going to help Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County.

Tonight, those counties have lost a great Congressman. California has lost a great scholar. The Nation has lost a model public servant. So tonight's tribute to Walter, with the flags at half-mast, it is also about patriotism, but not so much about the protection of the land of Walter's forefathers as it is about the preservation of the land of Walter's children.

Walter, look around you right now. I know up there in heaven, next to you is my father, who is former State Senator Fred Farr. He passed away just a few months ago. You two are probably sitting right now chuckling. With the passing of so many good Democrats, you are probably saying, the Lord is just trying to make a more perfect union.

Good night, Walter. Good night, Lois. Good night, kids. We love you.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HON.
WALTER H. CAPPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. SHERMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the day after WALTER died, I had a chance to join a number of our colleagues in recognizing him here. And I jotted down these few words just an hour or two after I learned of his death. And I thought that maybe when I came back to join with my freshmen colleagues, DON or WALTER, I would have something better to say. But, frankly, I do not.

So, with apologies to anyone who has heard me speak of WALTER in the last couple of days, I will say it again. This country lost a leader of depth and integrity. Just a couple days ago, this House lost one of our own. Lois, Laura, Todd, and Lisa lost a husband and a father. And, like several of my colleagues here today, I lost a role model and a friend.

WALTER CAPPS was the professor that we called a freshman. Most of us come here to Congress hoping that, once we are here, we will make some contribution of which we can be proud. WALTER CAPPS came here having already done more than we can hope to do.

As so many have pointed out, he was perhaps the most popular professor in the history of the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he did not just teach well what had been taught before, but invented courses, wrote books. If he never had come to this House, he would have been a major leader in the life of his district.

Now, like many new Members to this House, I often seek advice, a few hints. And when I wanted to know what was the smart political thing to do, I never went to WALTER. But when I sought wisdom and thoughtfulness, a way of looking at things that is different from today's headlines or yesterday's poll

results, I sought out WALTER CAPPS. And he was always there.

We who hold elective office are often viewed as cynical manipulators of public opinion or as slaves to public opinion. We are depicted as knowing more or caring more about the politics of an issue than the substance. You can say what you want about most of us, but you cannot say all of us. Because, for a short time, WALTER CAPPS served in this House and he was everything you want us to be. He was the best of us. He will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon [Ms. HOOLEY].

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Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would like to also enter into the RECORD a tribute from the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL], as follows:

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late WALTER H. CAPPS. Not only has this country suffered a great loss, but we, his colleagues, have lost a model of an ethical and decent politician. We can all be thankful for the perspective that WALTER brought to us in his 10 months in the House, and he will be greatly missed by us all.

WALTER provided us with a unique understanding of society through his spiritual and philosophical nature. He was not afraid to see the bigger picture; to engage public policy from a collective point of view. This was demonstrated to me by his sincere and enthusiastic support of my bill for congressional apology for slavery. WALTER's dedication to the people he represented, and his principled campaign practices show the signs of a disciplined man. But most importantly, he will be remembered as a true scholar and a gentleman, with an undying love for humanity.

To me, WALTER CAPPS will be remembered as a teacher; not only for the 33 years that he enlightened our youth with spiritual ideas at the University of California at Santa Barbara, but as a role model of the kind of person we need here in Washington. One who taught the values of democracy and moral character through his actions, and shared his knowledge and devotion to decency through his words. My prayers are with his wife and children.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would also again like to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN] for so graciously allowing us to do this at the beginning and again yielding time.

As irreplaceable as Walter Capps will be for the Members of the House, his loss will I am sure be deeply felt by his district. We express our heartfelt condolences to them. We also grieve with Walter's family, his wife Lois, his children, Todd, Laura and Lisa and the rest of his loved ones. My colleagues and I are happy that he shared himself with us even for so short a time. I can only imagine that in the fullness of time, those that had known him longer will bless and hold dear each day they had the pleasure of his company. Our prayers are with all of you. Walter, we loved you. You will be missed.

THE DEBT, THE DEFICIT, AND
SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCOLLUM). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY OF LATE HONORABLE
WALTER CAPPS

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also begin this night by expressing my condolences to the family of our colleague, Mr. Capps. I cannot count how many times my wife has said to me that she hopes that our 24 years of marriage will allow other folks around us to see that it is all right to find the right person in your life and to spend your entire life together. We also have 3 kids, and I am sure listening this evening, that Mr. Capps certainly provided a role model for many, many, many people not only in California but all across America. Married to the same woman for 37 years is something that many people should look to in this Nation for a role model. Again I cannot count how many times my wife Sue has said, "Let's hope people see that it is all right to be married to the same person," that that is the way things should be. Again, my condolences to their family and to the kids that are involved here.

Mr. Speaker, this evening I had reserved the hour primarily to talk about some budget matters. I guess last week we had a situation develop in our district where we were in dire need of some help from some folks. I gave my parents a call. My mom and dad said, well, we are going to be there instantaneously. They said they were going to drop everything they were doing.

So to start tonight rather than start on the budget stuff, I thought I would talk about a matter that is of the utmost importance not only to my parents but to other seniors like them all across America. It is an issue that has almost been put on the back burner out here in Washington and many different fronts, and that is Social Security. I thought I would start tonight by talking a little bit about what is happening in Social Security and then go to a solution as what we need to do about it, first, what is happening in Social Security.

I know many senior citizens rely on Social Security all across this great Nation of ours. The Social Security system in 1983 was set up so that it started collecting more money than what it pays out to seniors in benefits. The idea with Social Security was they would collect this extra money, put it aside in a savings account and then when the baby boom generation hit retirement, they would go to the savings account, get the money they need and still make good on the payments to our senior citizens. So it is kind of like you do in your own house where when you have got extra money coming in you put it in a savings account. Then when you overdraw your checkbook you go