

they carry me away," he said, "and I will have a few routines on the way to the Big Dipper."

We will all miss him very much. As you know, we honored him just recently. For the first time in the history of this country, we made an honorary veteran. That took place in the rotunda of the Capitol. We are all going to miss him.

Mr. BONIOR. I would add these comments to my friend from Arizona, that we are all saddened by his passing. He has provided so much joy and happiness to our planet, and to our servicemen and women in particular. He was a great American, a great world figure, and we thank him for the memories.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1766 AND H. CON. RES. 240

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor from H.R. 1766 and H. Con. Res. 240.

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

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO PAGE CLASS OF 1998

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we do traditionally on the last day that our pages are with us, to recognize them, to talk about the program and the contributions that they make to the House of Representatives and to all of us individually.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER), the Chairman of the Page Board, wanted very much to have been here to do this herself, but she had to catch a plane from Baltimore and so has left us. But, Mr. Speaker, I will include at this point in the RECORD the remarks of the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER) and the list of all the pages who have served us this year.

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the House Page Board to give my heartfelt thank you to all of the wonderful and talented students who have been involved over the last year in the House's Page Program.

I know the hard work and, at times, late hours involved in being a page. But I can assure you that it is good practice as you embark college and eventually a career. This program is designed to give you a rich experience as to how our democratic government works. As you leave these marble buildings I hope that you will take with you a deeper understanding of what it means to be an American.

After spending so many hours here in this honored chamber, you must know that you have played a role in history. Your name may not be up on the voting display or your words may not be printed in the Congressional

Record, but you helped to make what this Congress accomplished this year possible. You should feel proud of your achievement and I hope that your service here will inspire you to further success in life. We wish you the best of luck and thank you for your service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I will include for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the names of the pages that we salute today:

Joshua Allen, Dominic Alpuche, Chad Appel, Thom Backes, Sarah Beckett, Charlie Bond, Andrew Brehm, Brian Callanan, Keegan Callanan, Marianne Certain, Sarah Clark, Michael Conlon, Leia Cooper, Jason Dore, Richard Downe, Jamie Etherton, Robert Evans, Nathaniel Finn, Julie Fishman, Rebecca Fowler, Stephanie Ginebra, Brock Grunhurd, Lexi Harlow, Ashley Heher, Kristyn Hemingway, and Robin Hill.

Jill Hogue, Shyanne Hughes, Monique Jackson, Michelle Jenkins, Amanda King, Emilie Klein, Jacob Kosoff, Rodney Lake, Ryan Lane, Jennifer Lewis-Pike, Abigail Look, Matthew McClellan, Danae McElroy, Jeremy Milne, Adam Morehouse, Anna Nichols, Jerry Paradise III, Janet Patton, Beth Pezik, Amy Phillips, Kevin Powell, Kristin Quinlan, Elizabeth Quinn, Abigail Racster, and Tracy Raeder.

Ambar Renova, Leslie Robertson, Glenn Schatz, Gina Schilmoeller, Erica Schmitt, Mike Shapiro, Kathleen Sherwin, Timothy Skidmore, Lauren Stafford, Brigit Swanson, Erin Vanderveldt, Meaghann Weniger, Adam Wiggins, Brian Woody, and Erik Yassenoff.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of Members who wish to speak on this, and I want to accommodate them all. I would like to begin with the other member of the Page Board who is with me today, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, about 15 years ago Tip O'Neill appointed me to the Page Board, and that appointment has been one of the most rewarding responsibilities I have had in the Congress of the United States.

We have had great pages in those years, in my 22 years in the Congress, very great pages, and this year's page group is among the very, very best I have known.

There is a program in this country called Close-Up, which is a very, very good program, but no one has seen the Congress as close up as have our pages. They have seen us at our best and at our worst; they have seen democracy in action; they have seen our national leaders; they have seen world leaders. They have enriched us, and I hope that they have been enriched by their experience here.

About a month ago they had an auction to raise some money, and among the things auctioned off was to have lunch with myself. I was the winner of that auction, because I had lunch today with Andy Brehm, Brian Callanan and Keegan Callanan, and I look at people like them, who are representative of all of the pages, and I really have hope for our future.

About sixty years ago Franklin Roosevelt spoke these words, which I think are as true today as they were then. He said, "There is a strange cycle in

human events. To some generations, much is given; of other generations, much is expected."

This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny, and, knowing you, I know that you will meet the challenges of that rendezvous. Thank you and God bless you.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend and fellow member of the Page Board for his remarks. He has been one of the stalwart individuals who has helped to make this page program work so well, and we thank him for his kind remarks.

There are few Members of this body that are better friends of the pages, few Members that take more time to stop by and say hello and thank them and do things for them and even take them on to his boat on the Potomac, than my good friend and colleague from California, DUKE CUNNINGHAM. I would like to yield to him at this time.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. You know, a critter is something that is usually cuddly. They know what a critter is. It is something that is underfoot all the time. Sometimes you wish it away, sometimes you pat it on the head for doing a good job, and critters do whatever critters do. So I aptly named this class "the critters."

We were fortunate enough to have a sunny day and we took 70 of these critters out on the Potomac. I want to tell you, I bought 20 pizzas, 12 bags of chips, 12 bags of pretzels, 15 cases of soda pop, two Price Club bags of nuts, and they were gone before we got to Mount Vernon. They are also hungry critters, as most kids are.

But we do not thank these kids enough. Sometimes they go about, they do their work. And if you have children and you want to talk about responsibility, when they left the boat, I said to a guy when I was up above driving the boat, I said, "Is it clean down below?" One of the critters looked at me and said, "Duke, we are pages," like that is expected.

That is the way that they carry on their daily basis. They do not do it because they have to or that it is expected. It is because they are professionals, they are loving critters, and God bless every one of you. If any of us can ever be the wind in your sails, please give us a call. Thank you.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his remarks. It is because of individuals like him that the program for the pages is more than just a job, it becomes a real life experience, where they get to know real people that work here in our Congress and our government, and I thank DUKE CUNNINGHAM for making that very possible for us.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Virginia, who also is, like myself, a former page, and knows something about this program, though from a slightly earlier day.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it was many years ago. I remember my