

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

 TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RON PACKARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a response, but there is one or two others that would like to say a word.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PACKARD. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) would also be pleased to be recognized before the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD) speaks. If the gentleman would be willing to yield to him for 5 minutes, I will ask then for a 5-minute special order myself and yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD).

Mr. PACKARD. That will be fine.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, this has been a very enjoyable evening. I think there have been many great things said about a very great man.

Years ago, in 1982, my father-in-law, in one of his visits, said that he had been asked to help a great man in his Congressional District to run a write-in campaign for Congress. That man was RON PACKARD.

Whenever my father-in-law would visit, he would tell us stories of what they were doing and how they were preparing for the campaign. I knew not much about the Congress and knew nothing about running a campaign for Congress, and so I was not as impressed as I should have been.

Now, having run a campaign and been elected to Congress, I know that it is impossible to win on a write-in. I wish my father-in-law were still alive, and I could tell him how great a job I think he did in helping elect such a great man as RON PACKARD to Congress.

RON is in stature shorter than I am, but he is a man that I always look up to. There have been a couple of stories told about how tight he is with a penny or a dime. I think that if one knew his background one would understand why the story told about how he was raised with 16 brothers and sisters and how every penny, every dime counted I think is really important. It is re-

flected in one story that I have heard RON tell that I think shows how important money was to him and to his family as they were growing up.

His family had a .22 and a shotgun, and it was very expensive for them. It was hard for them to buy ammunition. But he tells of a story one time that he and his brother went out hunting ducks, and they had to wait till the ducks got in a line because they had to get as many as they could with one shot.

The one brother shot as many as he could when they got in line with the .22. Then, as the rest of the ducks took off, the second brother shot with the shotgun. Then they went around and gathered up all the ducks. They got 23 with one .22 shell and one shotgun shell.

The meat was important. The feathers were important for their pillows and their quilts. They used every bit of those 23 ducks. Life was not easy for them in Meridian, Idaho. But they did great things with their lives.

We have heard lots of stories about RON and his family. I know some of his brothers. I know what great people they are. There are so many things that we can learn from this great man.

He and I are from the same faith, and we believe the words of a prophet that lived many years ago that said, "whatever you achieve outside the home is not as important as what you achieve within the home." RON has done a great thing both within and without the home, but he has never forgotten his family.

Now, as he retires, he is going back to live in San Diego by other members of his family. We will miss him here but know that he will continue to do great things as he has throughout his life.

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I am very fortunate to call this great man a friend.

 TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RON PACKARD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I come tonight because I think it is a testament of any Member of this House when someone on the other side drops what they are doing to come and speak favorably on the departure of a Member. I have come tonight because RON PACKARD is a friend of mine, one whom I admire immensely.

When I came to this House, I began to serve on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. There were a lot of times when I was not quite clear as to what I would do in terms of asking for more funding for California, but then I met a man who was from California who knew exactly what I should be doing and how I

should do it. That man was RON PACKARD.

RON PACKARD represents the best in all of us in this House, whether we are a Republican or a Democrat, because he simply puts his hands out to give advice when one who was a freshman sought that advice. He made me feel quite welcome to come to him and comfortable to come to him and to seek that advice. I remember one time when I was asking for perhaps more money than I should have for California, and he simply said, let us get together and see what we can do to work this out.

I will always have fond memories of RON PACKARD. And as he leaves this House to go and be with his family and children and grandchildren, I know that he will look back upon this House with fond memories, but we want him to leave knowing that he had friends on both sides of this aisle who not only recognized his experience and his expertise on transportation and appropriation issues but also recognized his friendship, his putting his hands out to both those across the aisle as well as those who worked directly with him on the Republican side.

We wish the very best for RON as he goes back to California. I know he will not miss the traveling, coming back and forth from California, but I hope he will miss us as his friends, because we certainly will miss him and all of the great things that he has done to make the people of California feel proud of him and to make this Nation feel proud of him. I am happy to call him my friend.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to our colleague, Mr. PACKARD, of California for the many years of service and dedication he has given to this body and to the American people.

Mr. PACKARD is retiring from this House after 18 years, and during these years we have served together on the House Appropriations Committee. He has risen in service to Chair one of our most important subcommittees, and he has displayed outstanding leadership for the nation in this capacity. Water resources and energy resources are vitally important to the quality of life for our citizens, and RON's leadership has moved the U.S. to new levels of achievement in addressing those needs. The confidence of those he represents was well exemplified by the fact that RON was only one of four in the history of our nation who was elected by a write-in vote.

RON, I join your many friends in the House in wishing you and Jean years of happiness and good health.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California Representative RON PACKARD, Chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee on Appropriations. I am proud to recognize the gentleman for this accomplishments and wish him continued success as he retires from the United States Congress.

I have had the honor and pleasure to serve with Chairman PACKARD in the Appropriations Committee and I can tell you from personal experience that he is one of the hardest working and most effective members of Congress.