

Following a trip to the Soviet Union in 1983, Congressman Porter founded the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. He witnessed numerous human rights abuses while in the Soviet Union and decided to enlist the support of his colleagues to bring pressure to bear on nations and groups that mistreat the innocent or prisoners of conscience.

In his role as cochairman of the Human Rights Caucus, he helped free refuseniks, fought for the rights of Northern Korean refugees and religious freedom in China, spoke out against the use of child soldiers in Africa and condemned the brutal regime of Sani Abacha in Nigeria.

The Congressional Human Rights Caucus was the first U.S. Government entity to host the Dalai Lama in Washington, and Congressman Porter sponsored legislation authorizing the creation of Radio Free Asia and then secured appropriations to fund this groundbreaking program, helping move the agenda of freedom in China.

Mr. Porter's record of accomplishments in foreign policies is impressive, but his record of constituent service is unmatched. He led efforts to improve safety at Waukegan Regional Airport by updating the radar at the control tower. He brought back the Coast Guard Rescue Unit to the southwestern shore of Lake Michigan, the same rescue unit that saved my life after a boating accident when I was a teenager.

He worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to control flooding along the north branch of the Chicago River, and his commitment to the environment also led him to be a strong supporter of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. He orchestrated the effort to designate 290 acres of land at Fort Sheridan as open space and was one of only six House Members named taxpayer super hero by the Grace Commission's Citizens Against Government Waste in 1992.

He was named to the Concord Coalition's honor roll in 1997 and 1998 for his commitment to eliminating deficits and balancing the budget. John Porter was always willing to take chances when he truly believed in an issue, and 15 years ago, long before it was safe to do so, he proposed dramatic reform to the 3rd rail of American politics, Social Security.

His proposal, in fact, can be considered revolutionary because it was one of the first and is remarkably similar to that of the plan announced by President George W. Bush during his campaign.

What Congressman Porter may be most remembered for was his improvement for health care for all Americans. In his role as chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education of the Committee on Appropriations, Congressman Porter launched the effort to double funding for the National Institutes of Health within 5 years. This additional funding has already helped re-

searchers develop new and better treatments for illnesses ranging from AIDS to cancer, diabetes and flu.

His commitment to improving biomedical research is an investment in the future and will undoubtedly result in better medical care for all people, Americans and non-Americans alike.

John Porter served us all in the highest tradition of public service and commitment to the greater good. Having served as his administrative assistant, I could not have had a better role model from whom to learn about public service. I have some very large shoes to fill and can only hope to represent and serve my constituents as well as he did.

This record clearly demonstrates Northeastern Illinois' character: Strongly independent and ahead of our time. Ideas like emancipation, equal pay for women and an end to apartheid were all part of our representatives' leadership in decades ahead of the body politic of the time. Our opinions do not necessarily adhere to strict party lines, and therefore anyone who represents our area must demonstrate independence and break from the party on occasion to cast a vote with the people. My predecessors did this, and while I am a firm believer in my party's vision, it is a tradition of independence that I will follow.

Elihu Washburne, Marguerite Stitt Church, Don Rumsfeld, Robert McClory, John Porter, they are not household names, but their service shaped the history of our Nation because of their commitment for what was right and a decision to take action to protect those who were most in need. It is an example of what I must live up to and take heart as I embark on the greatest honor of my life, representing the people of the 10th district.

Drawing on this tradition, I will focus my service on constituent service modeled after Mrs. Church, on national defense modeled after Don Rumsfeld, and America's role in the world modeled after Elihu Washburne, and finally on the foundation of biomedical research founded on John Porter's tradition.

As we enter the 21st century, we face key challenges, challenges of solving the increasing gridlock in our communities; challenges on the environmental front of cleaning up nuclear waste and PCBs; challenges of maintaining the tradition of 10th district education excellence; challenges like keeping the U.S. health care system on the cutting edge so that each American lives a full and healthy life, and providing tax fairness for married people and ending the death tax and stopping government waste.

□ 1130

Y tengo algo para un comunidad nuevo en nuestra pueblo. A la comunidad Hispanica yo digo "bienvenido" y vamos a trabajar juntos para escuelas mejores y una sistema de salud para todos.

And I have something for a new community in our town. To the Hispanic community, I say "welcome" and we will work together for better schools and a health system for all.

It is in this spirit, built on the foundations of service to others by my predecessors, that I begin my work.

I thank the people of the 10th district of Illinois for the opportunity to serve them as I enter service here in this House in a new century.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1655

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ARMEY) at 4 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on February 8, 2001 at 11:35 a.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress that he has submitted his agenda for tax relief.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

THE PRESIDENT'S AGENDA FOR TAX RELIEF—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-43)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Enclosed please find my plan to provide needed tax relief to the American people. Over the last several months, the economy has slowed dramatically. I believe that the best way to ensure that our prosperity continues is to put more money in the hands of consumers and entrepreneurs as soon as possible. I