

CONGRATULATING APPALACHIAN
STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL
TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Appalachian State University football team for advancing to the NCAA Division I-AA national championship game this Friday night in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

While this is the 13th time the ASU Mountaineers have made it to the I-AA playoffs, it marks the very first time in history that the team has advanced to the national championship game. It has been a fantastic year for football at Appalachian. The Mountaineers finished the season 8-3 before winning their three playoff games. In addition, the team has won 18 home games in a row at Kidd Brewer Stadium, in Boone, North Carolina. This impressive record helped them go on to win the Southern Conference championship.

The Mountaineers have excelled under the leadership of Coach Jerry Moore, who has been at Appalachian for 17 seasons. Coach Moore is a real asset to the university. He is the winningest coach not only in Appalachian State University history but in the history of the Southern Conference.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this football team and their coach, not only for their athletic team but for their teamwork, work ethic, goals, and perseverance. There are two young men on the team who deserve a special recognition. Brian Stokes and Wayne Norman both served their country as marines in Iraq before returning to school. These bright young men bring tremendous leadership and maturity to the football team and serve as positive role models for their peers.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Appalachian State University football team. I wish them the best of luck this Friday. Go Mountaineers.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING AN
AMERICAN GIANT: CONGRESS-
MAN JOHN D. DINGELL, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order today.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I have over 15 persons including myself who have asked to be included in this Special Order, that is, celebrating the 50th year of service of the Dean of the House of Representatives JOHN DINGELL of Michigan; and I am very pleased and honored to lead this discussion. I would encourage all of the Members to share this time as expeditiously as they can and insert the rest of their materials or remarks into the RECORD.

Let me begin, Mr. Speaker, by pointing out that the first Member of Congress I ever met in my life was JOHN DINGELL, namely, because he was my Congressman. Further, our relationship and family went back before because my father knew JOHN DINGELL's father. Further, we shared contiguous districts across the entire span of my service, and many of our constituents were mutual and frequently, according to the whims of the Michigan legislature the lines that changed from time to time, and frequently my constituents became his as his became mine.

This is a particularly moving event for me because it did not take long for me to realize that one of the more formidable legislators of the 20th century was the same person who worked so hard for my family as his constituents and for the congressional district he represented, but more for all of the citizens of this country.

The legislative prowess and the ability with which he exercised his leadership as chairman of a major committee and the many different and important pieces of legislation have been recounted already tonight and at other events. But I merely want to say that JOHN DINGELL is the Renaissance man of the 20th century in the Congress, the man for all issues, the leader for all challenges, and the person who has created a friendship and a relationship with, as far as I can tell, every single Member of the House of Representatives who has served with him during these 50 years.

So this celebration is absolutely in order. The fact that it has been so widely recognized and so movingly responded to, not only by Members of Congress but by those across the country, it is no easy task to win the admiration and love of the labor movement and yet retain the respect of the corporate economic system leaders of this great country.

And so it is with great pleasure that I begin this recounting of our memories, of our relationships, of our legislative successes with the Dean of the Congress. And it seems fairly clear to most of us that he will soon be able to exceed the staying power of those several Members who exceeded him in 50 years of service. I am, of course, one of those looking happily and proudly toward that day when that occurs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, do we have to tell the truth about the persons we are honoring tonight?

Mr. Speaker, I guess if we have to tell the truth, then I will have to say the same thing I would have said if we did not have to tell the truth, that JOHN DINGELL is one of the great men in the history of this institution.

I want to thank JOHN DINGELL, not because he is Dean of the House, not because he is the third longest serving Member in the history of the House. I think the most notable aspect of JOHN DINGELL's career is not his length of service, but its quality.

When each of us comes to this institution, we come with one of two desires, either to be something and somebody, or to stand for something. In the end, we take little note of those who merely want to be a Member of Congress, or be a United States Senator. But we take great note of those who use their service here to do things on behalf of the country and the people they represent.

JOHN DINGELL and I both share admiration for former Congressman John Moss, who is a great leader in his own right in this institution. John Moss earned a reputation as a lion fighting for justice and for the rights of the common people of this country. Like John Moss, JOHN DINGELL personifies integrity, courage, independence, and dedication to the public interest. JOHN follows in the footsteps of his father. He has championed the cause of wildlife, of wild lands and wild places. He has championed the cause of consumers in an economy of corporate giants.

He has championed the cause of medical research. He has followed in his father's footsteps in championing the cause of health insurance for all Americans. He is truly a social gospel Democrat who understands that we are elected to this House for the same reason that we are placed on this Earth, namely, to try to do good for others.

I want to congratulate JOHN DINGELL for his passion, for his conscience, for his vigor; and I want to thank his remarkable wife, Debbie, for helping him focus his prodigious abilities on behalf of not only his constituents but so many of our own.

I feel privileged to have served in the same institution with JOHN DINGELL. I am proud of his service, and I want to thank JOHN for the honor that he has done this place by the quality of his service for the last 50 years.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am so glad to be here with my colleagues. JOHN DINGELL is being lionized here tonight and for good reason, as was true on previous occasions. And I think "lion" is a good term to describe JOHN DINGELL. Ferociousness. There is a ferocity about JOHN, about his beliefs, a belief in the common man and woman and their aspirations and their needs.