

Act, a historic corporate accountability bill.

In addition to his commitment to the serious work of this body, MIKE's friendly, outgoing personality and his love of sports, particularly baseball, helped to bring a positive atmosphere both in his committee and here in the House. We will miss MIKE very much and wish him and his wonderful wife, Pat, well in their future pursuits.

Mike Oxley is completing a twenty-five-year career in the U.S. Congress and a career in public life of over thirty years.

Mike was born in Findlay, Ohio, on February 11, 1944, to Maxine and Garver Oxley. He attended public schools there through his graduation from Findlay High School. Mike earned his B.A. from Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) in 1966, where he was student body president, and his law degree from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1969. He worked on the staffs of U.S. Representative Jackson Betts, Attorney General William B. Saxbe, Lieutenant Governor John W. Brown, and Cleveland Mayor Ralph Perk. After law school graduation, he became a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation based in Boston and New York, where he met Patricia Pluguez. Mike and Pat were married in November 1971, and are the parents of a son, Chadd. The Oxleys moved to Findlay, where Mike joined his father's law firm: Oxley, Malone, Fitzgerald, and Hollister. He was elected to the Ohio General Assembly in 1972. He represented the 82nd Ohio District until he won a special election in July of 1981 that sent him to Washington to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In a lifetime of representing his districts in rural and small-town Ohio, Oxley has dedicated himself to promoting the values and policy goals he shares with his constituents: economic prosperity, family, lean government, low taxes, a strong defense and intelligence capability, free trade, competition, and the U.S. as the leader of the free world.

District Accomplishments:

Transportation and Economic Development
 Joint Systems Manufacturing Center-Lima
 Ohio Air National Guard 179th Airlift Wing
 Marathon Oil
 University of Findlay Center for Terrorism Preparedness
 River Valley Schools
 Public Safety
 Agriculture
 Health and Environment
 Housing
 Reagan-Bush I Era:
 Economic Recovery Tax Act (1981)
 Tax Reform Act (1986)
 Rebuilding the U.S. Military
 MX Missiles and the Nuclear Freeze
 A Strong Foreign Policy
 Gulf War Resolution (1990)
 Improving Economic Competitiveness
 Curbing Entitlements and Wasteful Government Spending
 Energy and Environment
 Social Security Reform (1983)
 The Republican Majority Era:
 Contract with America
 Protecting America's National Security
 Restoring the National Defense
 Tax Relief and Economic Growth
 Fiscal Responsibility
 Regulatory and Tort Reform
 Open Markets and International Trade
 Welfare Reform
 Health Care
 Moral Values
 Personal Legislative Achievements:
 Sarbanes-Oxley Act (2002)

PATRIOT Act (2001)
 Financial Services Modernization
 Telecommunications Reform
 Trade and Economic Opportunity
 Energy and Environment
 Decency in the Internet Age
 Muhammad Ali Boxing Safety Act
 Public Safety
 Defending American Values
 A Legacy of Leadership Financial Services:
 Sarbanes-Oxley Act (2002)
 The Common Cents Stock Pricing Act (1999)

The Investor and Capital Markets Fee Relief Act (2001)

PATRIOT Act (2001)
 Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (2002)
 Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (1999)
 Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (2003)

Check 21 Act (2002)
 Deposit Insurance Modernization (2006)
 American Dream Downpayment Act (2003)
 Mike Oxley's credo has always been "play hard, but play fair." He was guided by that philosophy both in the halls of Congress and on the athletic field. Oxley played in the Congressional Baseball Game for Charity for 16 years, manning every position except pitcher and catcher. He managed the Republican team for the last eight years, compiling a 7-1 managerial record and raising more than a half million dollars for charitable causes.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise today to recognize the 25 years of public service that Chairman OXLEY has bestowed upon this body. He is a dedicated and hard-working public servant whose leadership as Chairman of the Financial Services Committee has been exemplary. Under Chairman OXLEY's leadership, the Financial Services Committee enjoyed an unprecedented level of collegiality and comity that permitted us all to work together and get things done.

Chairman OXLEY has a series of legislative successes few others can rival. When investor confidence was at a low, Chairman OXLEY restored confidence in our financial markets by authoring the landmark Sarbanes-Oxley Act. This legislation established tough new standards to ensure corporate accountability to all American shareholders. In addition Chairman OXLEY was responsible for the passage of The Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, or FACT Act, which gave consumers new identity theft protections and also improved credit report accuracy. Chairman OXLEY also spearheaded efforts to reform our nation's deposit insurance system and modernize our check clearing process which brought our antiquated systems into the 21st century. These achievements will have a positive impact on our financial services system for generations to come.

Aside from his leadership in the House, MIKE OXLEY has been a true mentor and friend. Fortunately, this is not a retirement for MIKE OXLEY but a beginning of a new chapter in his career. I look forward to working with him in whatever his future endeavors may be. Although I am losing a colleague and fellow Member, Linda and I look forward to many years of continued friendship with MIKE and his wife Pat.

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WAR AND THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, the President has repeatedly said that he is not interested in engaging in Iran in an effort to stabilize Iraq. There is a tragic irony in the President's intransigence. While the President is unwilling to talk to Iran, his policies in Iraq, in reality, are allowing Iran to take over Iraq. But if we don't recognize and act on this soon, Iran will succeed.

This is real, it is not rhetorical. Actions by the President, through his appointed surrogate to run Iraq, Paul Bremer, that date back to the first days of the U.S. invasion, have created a situation today that makes Iraq a prime candidate for what Iran could never accomplish on its own militarily; that is, taking over Iraq, its oil, its infrastructure, even its existence as a separate Nation. Iran couldn't successfully invade Iraq, but we did, and now we are playing right into the hands of the Iranians by not acting on what Iraqis see happening.

The media portrays an overly simplistic picture of sectarian struggle. We hear a lot about Shi'a and Sunni Iraqis, but we don't hear about Persians; that is, Iran and the Persian versus Arab is where the real battle for Iraq will be won or lost. Every time the President meets with Iranian Shi'a clerics, or those connected or controlled by them, he confirms in the Iraqi-Arab minds, both Shi'a and Sunni, that he is ceding control to the Iranians.

It began with Bremer's decision to give the Shi'a control of the governing council. Then his decision to disband the Iraqi Army and the Baathist technocrat government further confirmed to the Arabs the feeling that the United States, despite its protests to the contrary, was opening up Iraq to an Iranian takeover. The borders were open.

This is not my speculation, this is what moderate leaders in the Middle East told me in face-to-face meetings I attended in Amman, Jordan recently. Moderate leaders desperately want the American people to understand what is really going on, because they see that as perhaps their last hope of getting our President to see.

To the Iraqi Arabs, there are only two explanations to account for Paul Bremer's actions: a blunder based upon ignorance of the history of the region, or a deliberate decision to neutralize Iraq as a strong Arab secular nation, thereby making it more susceptible to U.S. influence in the future.

Moderates in the region see it this way. The President, and therefore