

To their sons John, David and Stephen, all I will say is thank you from the Kaptur family for allowing us to know your father because, to this day, he has an influence inside this institution. I learned so much from him, and he was so kind to me as a new Member and as the first woman from my region of Ohio ever to be elected here. He welcomed me. He helped to tutor me. He made me feel very much a part of this institution from day one. I shall always be grateful to him. I never forget him. He is a standard that I hold and is someone to whom I still look up in my own work. As I look at that plaque every day, I think of him. I can't tell you how many people have commented on it, and I always say, "That's from Congressman Seiberling." His life still resonates here and across our country. We loved him, too.

Now, he wasn't exactly a lovable figure in a way. There was a certain circumstance about him. I suppose, because of his lawyerly training, you sort of felt like you were meeting a judge in a way and that he was judging every person and every event at which he was present, but there was also a great strength, and you wanted to know him better. You wanted him to teach you. You wanted to learn from him. The country is better served by individuals like him.

I doubt that John took millions of dollars away from here in any way, personally or politically. He wasn't that kind of guy. He served our country. Oh, we would be so much better if we could have more John Seiberlings in this institution.

So I say to Congressman RYAN thank you so much. You know in whose footsteps you walk. Congresswoman SUTTON knows in whose footsteps she walks.

I just feel very fortunate to have been able to serve here long enough to have known John Seiberling. His perseverance, I think, has inspired us all.

I would say to the gentleman I have other remarks to make, but I'm sure that you have other material there that you would like to place in the RECORD. I just know John is watching over us and is wanting us to do better, to do better for the Republic because he did better for the Republic, and we hope to make him proud.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I appreciate the gentleness of your coming. We thank you for your personal recollections. Those of us who came a few years after had to hear the stories, but you were here for a lot of that and for a lot of those fights.

You know, even until the last few weeks of his life, until the last few months of his life, at any time I talked to him, he wanted to talk about what was going on in the country. He wanted to talk about what the President was doing and how he was doing it wrong. He wanted to talk about alternative energy. I mean, as you said, his mind was always working on how we can fix the country, on how the country can do

better and on how we can move in a new direction.

I want to share an article. Tom Diemer from the Plain Dealer wrote this article and did a great job, which he always does, about Mr. Seiberling's reflecting on his accomplishments with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. He is quoting Mr. REGULA as saying:

"Without John Seiberling, there would never, never have been a Cuyahoga Valley National Park." The Canton area lawmaker and an original co-sponsor of the parks bill said, "Not a chance. This is going to be a lasting monument to John Seiberling."

Against strong odds and Gerald Ford in '74 to try to get this greenbelt together, Mr. Seiberling said, "That is one I am most satisfied with. Saving the beautiful valley was a real joy. I get letters every week from people who say, 'I just drove through the Cuyahoga Valley, and I'm just so grateful to you for taking action to preserve this beautiful area, and it means a lot to me and my children.'"

□ 2300

"When I get letters like that," Mr. Seiberling went on to say, "it brings tears to my eyes because I realize that those people have the same feelings that I do."

And that was him right there. I mean, that's him in a nutshell, that he understood what the people wanted, and he knew that he was down here to execute those values and those ideas, and he did it. And just a wonderful guy.

So I would also like to extend my condolences to Betty and the three sons and the big family on behalf of me and all the constituents from the 17th district, how great it is when we walk around and talk to MARK UDALL and he talks about his dad's relationship with Mr. Seiberling and all the battles that they had.

In closing here, I would like to just share and ask, Mr. Speaker, that this article be submitted for the RECORD. And I'll make a copy. And this is John Seiberling's political philosophy and legislative philosophy summed up in this article by Mr. Diemer. "What we are trying to do is maintain a livable world." Think how appropriate this is for today. "What we are trying to do is maintain a livable world free of nuclear disaster, a world that we have not polluted to the point where we can't breathe, and where we preserve some natural beauty so that we can have the solace and the experiences of being out in God's world. I feel basically it is all part of the same effort to preserve part of our heritage for our children."

Peace, a clean environment, pristine national parks and wildlife areas, and how urban sprawl has eaten a lot of it up in our time. And I think for those of us who fill his shoes here, it's now our obligation to go in and talk about urban redevelopment, to talk about preserving these natural spaces.

But more importantly, as the debate on energy has heated up over the past

few weeks and few months, for us to present a comprehensive energy policy here, and to fund the investments in alternative energy.

He would be all over this. He would be at the cutting edge of biodiesel and solar and wind, and I think in some ways we're honoring his legacy as we move into the alternative energy areas.

And just think what he would be thinking today, as Merrill Lynch is getting bought out, Lehman Brothers is going bankrupt. When you think of all the problems in the housing market, because the government failed to regulate the markets properly, he would be at the forefront of every single one of these fights.

So you and I and Betty and those of us who need to honor him by coming down here and making sure that this standard that he set for us gets met every day here.

Ms. KAPTUR. You know what is really interesting Congressman RYAN, is that coming from the background that he did, he could have been an unceasing voice for business as usual. But John took that background and he grew from it and he became something beyond his own heritage in a way, and he wanted to make America a better place.

Having seen some of what happened in industry run amuck, he believed in industry, but he knew it could be done in a better way and he set a different path for America. And his family has every right to feel blessed and gratified, as we do, for having known him. And Ohioans and every American really has a right to consider themselves very, very fortunate for having had a man like John Seiberling in our lives, if only for a time.

And I know that his family will miss him deeply. We certainly have missed him from the day that he left here, and we hope that the strength that he gave to all of us and to his family in life will comfort them now.

And we know that John Seiberling made his mark, and we feel very fortunate to have counted him among our most beloved colleagues.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And in closing, I would just like to say, from one of his old, a couple of his older pieces of campaign literature, he had the tag line, "The Guts To Do What's Right." And that was John Seiberling.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2359

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro