

always have to look to great national leaders or military leaders. Heroes are in these communities all around us, and Rex Cole is one of those heroes. He and his wife Karen have seven children and 13 grandchildren, but, beyond that, they have many, many young people who in a very real way have benefited from Rex Cole's mentorship and from his teaching and from his being such a solid, wonderful member of our East County community.

The other person I would like to mention is the late Cato Cedillo, who was my District Administrator in San Diego, California, in that East County area. I will never forget Cato going out to schools, to grade schools, and teaching young people how to play golf, and going out to the football field and hitting a few shots out there, and then having each young person pledge to him that they would never take drugs, and then giving each one of them a couple of cut-down golf clubs that he had gotten from various professionals in the area, sometimes from Rex Cole, giving them a couple of cut-down golf clubs and letting them have those clubs and take home a bag of golf balls and start this wonderful game.

So, Madam Speaker, I thought it might be kind of nice to talk about two local heroes, two people who gave, and in Rex Cole's case, continue to give so much of their own time and their own substance to the young people in our community.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
RALPH REGULA, THE HONORABLE
DEBORAH PRYCE AND THE
HONORABLE DAVID HOBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, tonight we are gathered to pay tribute to three of our Members from Ohio who are retiring, and we are going to speak about them in order. But, Madam Speaker, this has been a tough Congress for the Ohio delegation, the 110th Congress. Last year, our long time colleague and friend Paul Gillmor passed away suddenly and unexpectedly, and, of course, just a month and a half ago our good friend and long time colleague Stephanie Tubbs Jones passed away unexpectedly as well.

The news gets worse for us as we now arise to talk about three of our friends who have made the decision to retire: The dean of our delegation, RALPH REGULA; one of our great cardinals when we were in the majority, DAVE HOBSON, "Uncle Dave"; and former judge and the highest ranking woman in the Republican leadership, DEBORAH PRYCE.

Before we extol more, I guess our new dean from the other side of the aisle, from Toledo, MARCY KAPTUR, has asked to spend a couple of minutes with us, and I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and am very pleased to join Congressman LATOURETTE in paying warm, warm appreciation and thank-you's, gratitude, so many memories, to our beautiful colleagues RALPH REGULA and DEBORAH PRYCE, and I don't know whether DAVE HOBSON would want me to call him beautiful or not, but I guess I can. He has a beautiful soul.

These are moments that are very hard, because all those years come crowding in on you. For each one of these wonderful, wonderful Members I will at the right time this evening share some personal recollections.

With their eventual departure from here, Ohio will lose over 50 years of seniority. That is a staggering figure. And it isn't just the years, it is the friendships, the experience, the respect with which each of them is held, and the wonderful give-and-take that comes from getting to know Members well across the aisle.

I thank each of them on behalf of the people of our State for the major portion of their lives that they have given to this institution and for every single success that they have had legislatively here, that has helped build a better America and a better Ohio, and I thank them for their personal integrity throughout, carrying that torch forward for our great Buckeye State.

There are many others that wish to speak, and I will reserve at this time, but I just want to say I thank RALPH for your friendship. I thank Mary for hers, for all we have worked on together, including the First Ladies' Library, for all of the park systems all over this country, all of our great work on Appropriations. Those are memories that I will always have.

To DEBORAH PRYCE, one of the few women from the Ohio delegation actually, all the years we have spent here together, and her kindness and her strength under leadership pressures here, as well as family pressures. She was strong and a survivor, and really a role model for us all.

And certainly to DAVE HOBSON, who has this uncanny habit of just being able to weave in and out down all these aisles in this place, and he always seems to know where you are, he finds you in the back in the cloakroom or wherever, and all of our great work on Appropriations together, and his desire to reach across the aisle and to work with us, whether it was defense, whether it was energy, whether it was education, health care.

We are really going to miss you all, each of you. I just thank you for being a friend to me while I have been able to serve here. And I thank Congressman LATOURETTE for giving me a moment here to place a few words on the RECORD. I shall remain throughout this hour. Thank you.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the gentlewoman, reclaiming our time. And as I introduce the other Ohio Members and others from perhaps around the

country to speak about our honorees, I am going to say a couple of things about each of them before I hand it off to our colleagues.

First is the dean of our delegation, RALPH REGULA from Navarre, Ohio. I know his wife, Mary, is with us this evening and watching on in earnest. And if you ever saw a partnership, there is a partnership, RALPH and Mary Regula. Of course, Mary is a star in her own right because of her work at the First Ladies' Library and all that she has done.

Just two quick things about Congressman REGULA. When I was trying to figure out whether I wanted to run for Congress in 1994, I came to visit Congressman REGULA. And if you have been to his office, it is on the third floor of the Rayburn Office Building, and it looks like the Capitol is actually in his office when you look out his window. I think the Congressman saw me sort of admiring the view, and he said, "Well, don't get too excited. It is going to take you about 30 years to get a view like this."

The second thing that is often forgotten now that we are in the 110th Congress, when Congressman REGULA was in charge of Interior, he was the cardinal on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, there was a furious assault by very conservative Republicans elected in 1994 against the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Humanities and the Arts, and Congressman REGULA was really put under the gun and told that, look, you have got to defund the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. No more NPR, no more National Endowment for the Arts, no more National Endowment For the Humanities.

Congressman REGULA was true, RALPH was true to his Republican provisions, but I would dare say that there wouldn't be public funding for those entities today if RALPH REGULA hadn't stood up as a stalwart in 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998. So anybody listening this evening that enjoys Public Broadcasting and thinks that it has a place in our American experience, I think needs to thank Congressman REGULA.

I will talk more about HOBSON and PRYCE in a minute, but it is my pleasure to yield to my friend from Columbus, Mr. TIBERI.

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with bittersweet sadness that we are here today. We thought that earlier this year this would be awhile before it came, but it is here before we know it. And it is not really an overstatement to say that these three individuals that we are honoring tonight have dedicated their lives to public service and serving our communities and serving our great State of Ohio, and certainly our country, spending so many years on the ground, in fact 70 years of service to this United States House of Representatives alone.

RALPH REGULA, who served in our military, who served in the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate before being elected to this body in 1972, I will never forget his service to the Appropriations

Committee and all the fine work he did for so many people across our State and across our Nation and across the spectrum of labor, health, human services and education, and his work in Interior.

And DAVE HOBSON, "Uncle Dave" as we affectionately call him, for his years of service to our country, as well to our military and the Ohio Senate before coming to the United States House of Representatives. His work with respect to our military men and women is unparalleled, an advocate, the best advocate for the young men and women in uniform here in the United States and those serving abroad and his work on the appropriations committees to help them and help so many others across our State as well.

And DEBORAH, who served as a judge before coming to the United States House of Representatives, and her work in our leadership for so many years and guiding our party. Her work on children's issues and cancer research, again, has been unmatched and will be missed. But I know all three will continue serving in so many other different ways.

□ 2015

I will miss DEBORAH and DAVE on the plane ride to and from Columbus every week, all three have been amazing friends. They have been more than just friends. They have been teachers, they have been mentors, they have been everything you could ask a colleague to be or more. They have represented the best of what this body inspires us to do. They have represented our State and our country in great ways.

Thank you all for your guidance, your wisdom, your service and your friendship. You set a standard to which those of us who follow hope to someday achieve.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the gentleman very much. Do you want to say somebody else before we go to somebody else?

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

In order of seniority, I would like to say to the dean of the delegation, RALPH REGULA, there are many memories, perhaps not legislative, that I take with me relating to your service. One is your discussions about your red truck, and you were so happy when you bought it.

Of course, Congressman REGULA, being a farmer and I suppose some would say an Ohio rancher, you know, men really never grow up. He loved that little truck. He drove it in the garage downstairs. It was always shiny. He was really proud of it. He used to drive it back to Ohio.

I remember one time I came down the hallway in the Rayburn Building, and he was kind of coming out of his office. I said, RALPH, what's wrong, and he had been kicked by a cow over the weekend. I guess he was kind of repairing himself there. I thought, well, that's the first Member I have met who was kicked by a cow.

I remember when I first arrived, you and your lovely wife Mary were friends with Doug and Betty Applegate. That's when I first got to Congress. That was a great moment.

We used to have those fashion shows wearing U.S.-made clothing which has become almost nonexistent, which is another story. But there were annual fashion shows, and Mary and RALPH and Betty and Doug would welcome us into that. It was really great to do that and to begin to focus attention in America on the issue of trade and jobs, which has become so much of the challenge that we face today.

I can remember, in our committee, RALPH holding the gavel of his subcommittee and being asked by the Chairs, and then when he was Chair himself, calling for the committee to adjourn after various votes had been taken and the high regard, right up at the top. I mean, he moved all the way up from the last seat all the way up to the first seat on that dais, and I always see them there.

I think from Mary I will remember Mary in Canton with the Mary Todd Lincoln gown and hat. I think I will always remember what a great, great moment that was, what a great gift to America you have given just in that one, in that one place of such historical significance that we will keep building forward.

For DEBORAH PRYCE, I will say I shall always remember her as the, I believe, first woman Chair of her caucus, and very few women. I think when DEBORAH got here, there couldn't have been over 30 women in the House, maybe, it wasn't very much.

So for her to ascend and to plow a path for her daughter, and for the women of the future, was just so wonderful, and to be able to share that moment and to watch that happen, and the great pressure that is placed on someone in that position, and how she handled it so ably and always with great dispatch.

I remember her as a new mother and trying to handle motherhood as well as that enormous responsibility, and she did it, her great dedication to cancer research, pediatric cancer research and the contribution she made for all children in this country, and to find better answers in that terribly, terribly important area of health care. Also, our participation in a prayer group here in the Capitol, and the friendships and the camaraderie that came from that, those are moments that you never, never forget.

For DAVE HOBSON, obviously, you know, he loves this place, he loves being a lawmaker. I don't know what he is going to do after this. But, energy and water, that was his thing. He traveled all over the country, all over the world. He knew every general in the Army Corps of Engineers, I think, by first name, and loved helping build things for America.

When I think of armored Humvees, I will always think of DAVE HOBSON. I

don't know if any other American will, but I will always associate armored Humvees and up-armored Humvees with DAVE. His dedication to nuclear power, safe nuclear power, no one could have tried harder, studied that issue harder and made a difference than DAVE HOBSON.

He has that certain sparkle in his eye that former Representative and Speaker pro tempore, Barney Coulter, would identify with very, very much and for the great work that DAVE contributed, not just here, but in our State legislature, to help building the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo. Our people will always be eternally grateful.

So to each of them from our side of the aisle, we extend deepest, deepest gratitude, and Godspeed in the years ahead. May you be given good health. May you have more time to spend with your families, and may there be less pressure and more joy in the days ahead. It has been a real privilege to serve with each of you.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the gentlelady, the new dean of our delegation or soon to be dean of our delegation from the Democratic side for those reflections and thoughts. Before I yield to our next Ohioan, JEAN SCHMIDT, from southern Ohio, I want to talk a little bit about DAVE HOBSON.

I think it's appropriate that Ms. KAPTUR talked about she doesn't know what Representative HOBSON is going to do. A lot of us have been getting phone calls from his wife, Caroline, saying please find something for him to do so that she doesn't have to spend so much time with him.

Most of us in the delegation call him Uncle DAVE. Again, going back to 1995, aside from all of the other things that Congressman HOBSON had to do, Newt Gingrich was the Speaker at the time in the 104th Congress. He assigned Congressman HOBSON to babysit John Kacich, who was the Budget Committee chairman at the time, just to make sure that Congressman Kacich, who has a tendency to be a little exuberant, controlled that exuberance.

This Congress, this historic Congress that has the first woman as Speaker of the House, Ms. PELOSI of California, who sort of ribbed Congressman HOBSON about the fact that every time the Speaker of the House goes on a trip, she needs a Republican, obviously, for it to be bipartisan. For some reason it is always Congressman HOBSON.

I think that it's appropriate that Ms. KAPTUR talked about infrastructure. Because even though DAVE is from Springfield, Ohio, and that's his district, down around the Dayton area and his loves are Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, so many things, he, like RALPH REGULA when they were cardinals, took care of all of Ohio.

If you had a problem, if you had a concern, if you had a need, he didn't say I am going to take care of me first. He said I am going to take care of Ohio and the country first and many of the things that are being built. Just in my

district, the Ashtabula River and harbor, he helped to secure \$53 million to help clean up contaminated sediments. That never would have happened without Congressman HOBSON.

It's now my pleasure to yield to my good friend and colleague from Ohio, JEAN SCHMIDT.

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three retiring Members from Ohio, my friends, RALPH REGULA, DAVE HOBSON and DEBBIE PRYCE. The entire State of Ohio owes these three a huge debt of gratitude for their hard work on our behalf and the dedication to their constituents. But, particularly, I owe each of these colleagues a special debt for the help they have given me in the 3 years that I have been here.

RALPH REGULA, the dean of our delegation, as a group, we will miss your steady hand at the wheel. Over his 18 terms in the House, there is not much that RALPH REGULA has not seen. His experience and his advice have been invaluable, and I appreciate all that he has done for me.

DAVE HOBSON, rightfully called Uncle DAVE, because he is everyone's uncle in this House, has also been a special mentor to me. His Seventh District is very close to the eastern part of my district and shares many of the same struggles and values. Uncle DAVE has been a great source of wisdom and advice in steering me towards the best course of action for dealing with the issues that face the folks I represent. I have appreciated having his counsel and, most importantly, his wisdom and his humor.

Last but not least, DEBBIE PRYCE, my friend. Few in this body can relate to what the challenges that any woman, Republican or Democrat faces, when they enter Congress. When I first got elected, DEBBIE took me to lunch in Columbus, and we sat down for almost a 3-hour lunch. She addressed my concerns and made me feel like I had a friend, not just here, but forever. I am going to continue that friendship with DEBBIE because she is a remarkable woman.

Ohio is a better place for these fine Members, and our State will miss them. After they have ridden off into the sunset to embark on new and undoubtedly successful endeavors, I know that they will be leaving a great legacy behind. God bless them for all they have done for this body, Ohio and the United States of America.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the gentlelady very much.

Our next speaker is another Ohioan, who is new to us. Before I introduce him, as promised, I want to say a couple of things about DEBORAH PRYCE. As a couple of us have indicated in this Congress, I indicated it was historic because Ms. PELOSI is the first Speaker of the House. DEBORAH PRYCE became another ceiling breaker when she became

the chairman of the Republican conference.

You may remember that it wasn't a good year, a couple of years, 2005, 2006, for the Republican party, but somebody who was always cheerful, who was always helping Members with whatever their difficulties were, whoever was crafting messages and making sure that as we left Washington to return to our districts we had the tools necessary to do our jobs and communicate what it is we are doing, DEBORAH PRYCE, in fact, did that. I am particularly fond of her because her prior life, she served as a judge, and my prior life was as a prosecuting attorney. She always brought that skill.

We serve on the Financial Services Committee together and, in the crisis that this country is now facing today, with the crisis of confidence on Wall Street, and the work that we have to do, DEBORAH PRYCE as ranking member is a leader. She will continue to be a leader as she, in fact, exits the Congress.

JEAN SCHMIDT made the observations about the challenges of being a woman in the United States Congress. Aside from that, on a personal level, I think the time that Representative PRYCE has served in the Congress have had incredibly high highs, and incredibly low lows. Through all of that, she has always performed her job as a professional, one, and two, whenever possible, with a smile on her face. If you really want to see a smile on her face, the day that I remember her smile being the widest was the day she brought her daughter, Mia, to the Financial Services Committee. I think Mia actually voted a couple of times on some matters.

My only complaint about Representative PRYCE is a couple of years ago there was a fundraiser that she and Representative TIBERI had for me down in Columbus, for which we are all grateful for when our friends help us. PAT got up and gave this really long-winded introduction and made me sound better than I was. DEBORAH stood up and said, well, STEVE LATOURETTE is here, he is a little different, he is a little weird, but please welcome him. Even though her observations were correct, it wasn't the warmest introduction that I can recall receiving.

It's now my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to one of our new friends, BOB LATTA from Ohio.

□ 2030

Mr. LATTA. Well, thank you very much for yielding.

I appreciate that from my friend from northeastern Ohio. As mentioned, I am the newest or, I can say, the least senior or the most junior—I'm not sure which is the best term for me—but I am truly humbled to be here with you this evening and to be part of this great delegation because the Ohio delegation has always been one of those great delegations, I believe, in this

United States House of Representatives, and it has always been really like a family, an extended family, for all of the Members who are within it. I know it has to be a tough decision for you all to make to leave this body.

I know my dad served here for 30 years, and I know, when he left here, it was a tough decision, but it's a decision you have to make at some point in time. When you look at the experience that has already been mentioned with Congressman REGULA, with Congressman HOBSON and with Congresswoman PRYCE, who have 18, 9 and 8 terms that they've served here, that's 70 years of experience; that's 70 years of knowledge; that's 70 years of experience not only on this floor but also on those committees. That's going to be hard to make up because, as people come and as people go, there are so many folks who look to those Members who have served here for a good number of years for that experience, for what they need to know when they come onto these committees or when they come onto the floor.

One of the things that has already been said is that they have all served this House well with great distinction, and I think that one of the things, again, that has been mentioned is that they've all been great public servants.

As to one of the things my dad taught me, because he had had 36 years of public experience, he said that you always want to remember that you want to be a public servant and never a politician. I think that each of these three individuals whom we honor here tonight have been great public servants.

What is the difference between a public servant and a politician? It is very, very simple, and it was explained to me. Public servants see how much they can give of themselves to the people they represent while politicians see how much they can take from the people they represent for their own benefit.

Again, I think the people we have here before us this evening all epitomize that one great fact, that they've all been great public servants. They've worked hard. They've served their districts. They've gone home. You know, they make sure that their people back home are being taken care of, but at the same time, they recognize the duty they have to this great Nation that we all serve.

As I mentioned, it's truly a tough thing to see these folks go. I know that I first met Congressman REGULA many, many years ago because his office is right around the corner from where my dad's was up on the third floor there of the Rayburn. You know, Dad's office was there at 2309, and I always thought he had quite an impressive office. I know when I was in to see Congressman REGULA when I was running, I looked out there, and I knew it would be a long time coming before I'd get a view like that.

I'm truly blessed and privileged to be here with them tonight. This House has

been made a much better place by you three serving here. You've blessed your constituents, and you have a Nation that's very grateful for all of the hard work that you've done. I just want to say thank you very much for your service.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the gentleman very much.

Now, Madam Speaker, we're going to hear from our three retiring Members in order of seniority. The first, as I indicated, is RALPH REGULA, the dean of our delegation. I don't know what we're going to do without RALPH around here.

As he comes to the microphone, I will just tell you that, when I, again, was elected in 1994 and I thought I'm a lawyer and that I was a prosecutor and that I'd like to be on the Judiciary Committee, RALPH put his arm around me and said, "Son, you're going to the transportation committee." It was the smartest decision I ever made because I saw that the Judiciary Committee had the impeachment of President Clinton and all of this nonsense. The transportation committee is a bipartisan committee, as the Speaker knows, and to build America is not a bad thing.

It is now my pleasure, as we begin the final 15 minutes allotted to us, to yield to the dean of our delegation, RALPH REGULA.

Mr. REGULA. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this tonight. You'll have to admit that I have one gift, and that is that I recognize talent. That has turned out to be one of the better decisions I made when I got STEVE LATOURETTE on Transportation.

Madam Speaker, the Ohio delegation and this body will be losing two outstanding Members at the end of this Congress—DAVID HOBSON and DEBORAH PRYCE. Both Members have been tireless servants on behalf of the people in their districts in our State. I'd like to take this opportunity to share some of the legacies they leave behind.

DAVE was elected in 1991 to represent Ohio's Seventh Congressional District. He was appointed to the Ethics Committee as a freshman lawmaker, and it's obvious that the leader saw an element of fairness in the makeup of this gentleman and gave him what was, I think, a very tough assignment. I was pleased, again speaking of recognizing talent, to help DAVE secure a position on the Appropriations Committee during his second term.

Speaker Gingrich made HOBSON his personal appointee to the Budget Committee in the 104th and in the 105th Congress. In that role, DAVE served as a member of the House leadership and as a conduit between the Speaker and Ohio Republican John Kasich. Knowing these two personalities, that was a challenge. John Kasich was chairman of the Budget Committee and, as he would say, the architect of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

As chairman of military construction within Appropriations, DAVE led the ef-

forts to provide troops and their families with safe, clean and modern facilities both here and overseas through housing privatization. When you have to depend on a volunteer Army, it becomes very important to have good housing because this affects the decision of members as to whether they will re-up in the military. Of course, their spouses, who are impacted by the housing, always have a great word in as to whether or not that happens. So DAVE made a real contribution to a volunteer military force by taking care of the housing problems.

DAVE became chairman of the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee where he worked with the U.S. Corps of Engineers to develop a long-term approach—and we don't have enough long-term approaches in this body when it comes to management. He kept the corps from entering into costly, open-ended contracts, but made sure that it had the funding necessary to complete high-priority infrastructure projects.

Through his subcommittee, he also helped to bring a post-Cold War approach to the Department of Energy's management of the nuclear weapons complex. An example of this new focus was eliminating funding for the "bunker buster," also known as the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, a fancy name for a bunker buster. DAVE stopped it, and it would have been a waste of money.

Congressman HOBSON used his experience as a small businessman to work with the communities in Ohio's Seventh District to promote economic growth and job creation. Part of his efforts included bringing leaders from both the public and private sectors to help attract new businesses. DAVE has a very good skill in bringing people together, which is important when handling the military and which is also important when handling the leaders of his community.

With four military bases in his district—Wright-Pat, Defense Supply Center Columbus, Springfield Air National Guard, and Rickenbacker International Airport—he worked tirelessly with community leaders and base officials to support the missions of each of these bases. It included his work to protect Ohio's military bases from the impact of the BRAC round of base closures.

Continuing to work, he began as chairman of the Ohio Senate Health Committee. He worked in Congress to preserve the basic values of American health care, including access, security, affordability, choice, and fairness. I think as one that parents would especially appreciate, he supported legislation to ensure fair access to immunizations for low-income children and to help small business owners and farmers secure better prices on health insurance premiums. I think this illustrates that DAVE was a Member with a heart, with a caring for people, and that's so important in this job. He worked to

modernize the Medicare program by adding the prescription drug benefit.

In all of his efforts, both here and in the State, he has a reputation for working in a bipartisan way. I think this is reflected in the fact that he was very successful in all that he did. I can say a lot more about DAVE, but again, I think one of the good decisions I made as a member of the steering committee was to get both STEVE on Transportation and DAVE on Appropriations. The public of this Nation is better served.

Next is Congresswoman DEBORAH PRYCE. She was elected in 1993 to represent Ohio's 15th Congressional District. Throughout her distinguished career in the House, DEBORAH has worked tirelessly in support of improving access to health care, especially for children, and I know the parents across this Nation are in her debt for all that she has done in working on children's health issues.

She authored the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act of 2008 and the Patient Navigator Outreach and Chronic Disease Prevention Act—two very important legislative enactments to help with children and to help with health care generally. I know that she has been a strong supporter of Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, one of the leading children's hospitals in the Nation. In fact, I visited there once, and they were bringing in children from all over the country to benefit from Children's Hospital, and they didn't know that they were in the debt of DEBORAH PRYCE for making that facility be there and be the strong leader it is in children's health issues.

She was also a strong supporter of GME, Graduate Medical Education programs for pediatricians. Again, it is so vitally important because pediatricians, I think, are a very essential component of the health care program because they deal with the early years of a child's life, and DEBORAH was a leader in that effort.

She was appointed by the Speaker to the House Rules Committee where she served from 1995 to 2004 and as chairman of its Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process. Then she was appointed to the House Select Committee on Homeland Security and to the Republican leadership health care working group on managed care reform. DEBORAH has always been a leader in health care, and I think that is such an important responsibility of the Congress.

She served as a member of the Committee on Financial Services. The committee, of course, is in the hot seat right now. DEBORAH is not there, but I think it illustrates the importance of this committee and that she served it so well in both 1993 and 1994 to 2005. She served on the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology, and she is currently the ranking Republican member on the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises.

She was the cofounder and cochair of the House Cancer Caucus where she has been an active leader in educating others on this terrible disease. Further, DEBORAH coordinated House Republican strategy and served as its chief House spokesperson on the landmark tobacco settlement among 40 States and tobacco companies. What a challenge. I think a bailout seems simple after that.

As Ohioans, we are extremely proud that DEBORAH became the highest ranking woman in the House Republican leadership when she chaired the House Republican Conference from 2002 to 2006. This required a lot of diplomacy, and she gave that program the type of leadership that made her very successful in that role. She was the fourth ranking elected leader in the House of Representatives. She has had other leadership positions, including as vice chairman of the House Republican Conference, as secretary of the House Republican Conference, and as deputy whip from 1996 to the present.

Madam Speaker, the Nation has received outstanding service from these two great Members from Ohio. We will miss them. We extend our appreciation for their work on behalf of the people of Ohio and on behalf of the country. We wish them and their families health and happiness in the future.

I just want to say on a personal note that it has been a real joy to serve with DAVE HOBSON and DEBORAH PRYCE. They're the kind of individuals who make service in this Congress something that we can all point to with pride and with the joy of fellowship in working with them and in helping provide leadership under their guidance for the many programs that benefit the people of this great Nation. Thank you.

□ 2045

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I thank the Dean of our delegation. And after that set of remarks, you know why this will be a hole in our delegation and for the country that we're not going to be able to replace.

Our next retiring Member has been described in a lot of different ways already, but there isn't an energy and or a water project across the country that doesn't have DAVE HOBSON's imprint on it. Never his name, because that wasn't what he was about. He was about making sure that we had the best infrastructure in the country when it came to energy and water.

And Congressman REGULA again spoke of the fact that Newt Gingrich put Uncle DAVE in charge of watching John Kasich, and I reflected on why that was. And I think it's because Congressman HOBSON never gets upset; he's always placid. He's always calm. He never raises his voice. And what better influence could we have in dealing with Chairman Kasich.

It's now my pleasure to yield to Congressman HOBSON.

Mr. HOBSON. I want to pay tribute to my colleagues and my friends, RALPH REGULA AND DEBORAH PRYCE.

To be honest, it's a little surreal standing here doing this because I'm joining them in retirement at the end of this term, but I'd like to take a few moments to talk about both of them.

RALPH and Mary showed up in Urbana, Ohio when I was running for Congress. And I pulled up in my pickup truck. I had one too. It was burgundy, it wasn't red. That was my campaign color. With a big sign, HOBSON for Congress.

And RALPH's walking down the street, and I never met RALPH or Mary before. And RALPH says, I've been reading about you; and I think we're going to get along just fine. And he was right. We did.

And I came to Congress and I got elected. And I came down here and JOHN BOEHNER wanted to be on the Ag Committee, and I wanted to be on the Ag Committee. And we got in a little tussle about that. And RALPH says, hey, if he wants it that bad, let him have it. You could never do enough for them, and you can never get off the committee. And by the way, there's a transportation bill coming up this year and he said, I think I can get you on that Transportation Committee. And you're going to get a lot of stuff for Ohio. And I did. I got everything that the Governor asked for. And I got a bike trail I didn't really want in the beginning, but Mr. OBERSTAR liked bike trails, and I showed up for him on some meetings, and suddenly I got almost as much money for bike trails as I did for highways. And I really wanted the highways, but the bike trails turned out to be a great thing.

Then RALPH came to me later on. And this is the way RALPH is, and this why our delegation over the years has been such a good delegation, because when he went into the Committee on Committees, he worked to place us all around within the committees so that Ohio had a voice when legislation was being done, whether it be on the authorizing committee or the Appropriations Committee. RALPH had us covered so that our State benefited and our people grew on those committees to points where, at one time, I don't know how many committee chairman we had when we were in the majority, but we had quite a number and we had the Appropriations Committee covered. We were the only State that had two cardinals when we were on the Appropriations Committee when we were in the majority. That was due to RALPH because RALPH came to me and he said, would you like to be on the Appropriations Committee? I didn't ask him. He came to me and he said, would you like to do this? And he was sharing, and that's the way RALPH REGULA was. He shared. RALPH Regula shared the whole time he was here, and even today, about what we're all about, of doing good for this country.

He's been a mentor to all of us in the delegation. He's been a great friend to Ohio, and he's done a lot of really neat things for Ohio and the country.

One of the things we've both done together and it's actually, some money was put in, most of you didn't see it, but it got in there in the CR to take care of the Everglades, because RALPH REGULA is probably the father of most of the restoration in the Everglades. And I've helped him do that when I became chairman of energy and water. And the Everglades we have looked at is not a treasure for Florida, or not even a national treasure, it's an international treasure, and we've saved it for our grandchildren and their children if we could get the things done that we need to do.

He's also worked very hard for things, not just in his district that he felt were good for Ohio, such as the Cleveland Clinic, NASA Glenn, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. He's done great things with the parks all over the country. He's done great things with research, education. He's just been an outstanding Member for many, many years of this Congress. I consider he and Mary true dear friends.

Mary is also very giving. You've heard the good work she's done. But also she was a mentor to my wife when we came. She got my wife into the chairs to become head of the congressional club, all the spouse groups of both the House and the Senate. She got my wife into the chairs, and my wife became president of that, just as Mary had done many years before. Didn't have to do that, but it was their way of sharing and caring for people from Ohio. And we both, my wife Carolyn and myself really appreciate their friendship over the years.

Something that RALPH and DEBORAH and myself have all worked on together is this GME for children's hospitals across the country. Our delegation, when John was here, John became a convert to that, Kasich when he was here because he had a personal situation in his family, and we all worked on that. We all worked on a number of hospital issues.

And going back to RALPH, I can remember once when I was in the Speaker's office, I was working on durable medical equipment, and the Speaker finally said to me, shut up, HOBSON. You got a billion dollars. Shut up. Get it down. And RALPH said, DAVE, you'd better be quiet and we'd better move on. So we did move on.

But DEBORAH, PAT and myself have represented Central Ohio, and DEBORAH's made a real difference for Central Ohio. And we've all worked together on a number of projects for the community. The Rickenbacker International Intermodal facility is going to create 20,000 new jobs over the next 2 decades. That wouldn't have been done without DEBORAH's hard work with all of us to try to get this done.

The VA clinic in Central Ohio, again a product that we've all three worked on. We had hearings in Columbus on the VA Clinic. All of our districts were impacted by it. Fortunately, it turned out to be in my district, but we all

worked to make sure that's a reality for the veterans of Central Ohio, so that they can get health care in a better situation in their local community.

We worked on the Defense Supply Center during the BRAC, which most of the people, it's in my district, but most of the people live in PAT and DEBORAH's district. And again, we worked as a unit, the three of us worked together. We were partners in this. When she ran for leadership, we were partners to help her get into leadership and be the highest ranking female ever in the Republican delegation, and frankly, in this Congress, until Speaker PELOSI was elected. And that's a real tribute to DEBORAH and her leadership, but also to our delegation, who all worked together to make sure that DEBORAH got there.

And another place she's been just a tireless advocate on behalf of the Ohio State University and Columbus Children's Hospital. We have great programs in both places that are attributed to DEBORAH and her hard work. At Children's Hospital in Columbus there's a number of programs there. We just did an autism program that will be great for children with autism, which is afflicting so many young children in our region, and it's going to be working with the Children's Hospital in Columbus, and also with Wright Patterson Air Force base and Children's Hospital in Dayton. And I've had a number of people call and thank DEBORAH and us for putting this together.

And Ohio State, she's been the premier leader for all the stuff that's happened at Ohio State University, which is her alma mater. And she's been tireless in fighting for better quality education, but also in getting the facilities and the programs there to make sure that Ohio State is a premier, leading institution in our region. And frankly, it has moved up, under her tenure, to be, moved up dramatically in the research that it does for this country while DEBORAH has been representing that facility.

And that's even true that PAT TIBERI played the trumpet. But you must have played the whole band because we got a lot more stuff there since you've been here working on this.

I think probably in addition to her leadership here of our caucus and working on the health care things that she's done, there's a bill that passed that I think is probably the crowning glory she might share with you of her being here and that was the bill that was named for her daughter, Caroline, and one that dramatically increases funding for pediatric cancer research, and it was signed into law this year. That's a lasting tribute and it's making a great difference in the lives of so many families touched by pediatric cancer.

These are two great Members that I've had the privilege of serving with here.

In closing, I'd like to say I've really enjoyed serving with them, but I've

really enjoyed serving in Congress. It's been an honor for all of us, I'm sure, to have been here to work with our colleagues. And I know when you look on TV you say oh, you watch this floor sometimes and you say, all they do is bicker amongst themselves. Well, you see it here, but you don't see the great work that goes on behind the scenes where Members get together and work together, talk together and get the country's work done. And I think it's unfortunate that the public doesn't understand the great friendships that are here across the aisle and within delegations as we do our work in furthering the work of this country on behalf of all the citizens of this country.

So I knew it was time for me to leave. I didn't know RALPH or DEBORAH, where they were going to be at the point, but I made up my decision. We each made up our own decisions. And I knew that it was time to move on. But I've got to tell you, it's been a pleasure to work with everyone in this Congress, and especially our delegation, both Democrats and Republicans. We have not had the rancor between Democrats and Republicans.

And I'm really saddened tonight when we do this, not for us, but there's two people who are not here that were dear friends of mine, Paul Gillmor. I wouldn't be here if Paul Gillmor hadn't gotten me appointed to the State Senate. And Stephanie Tubbs Jones became one of my best friends. We traveled all over the world looking at military bases together. And she would, if I flew to Cleveland to see my daughter and we were on the same plane, I didn't have a car there, she would drive me to my daughter's house and take me there, and we became true friends. I took she and her husband on their 25th wedding anniversary. She wanted to go on a codel, and I said I'll give you the best party that you can ever have if you'll go on this trip and get Mervyn to go with us. And those were the days when you could do that. We had a great party for them. And she was a wonderful Member of this Congress.

You know, maybe there were some things in the political realm that we all disagreed with. But as people, we all cared about each other, and that's what's important.

So thank you for your service tonight, all of us together, and thank you, STEVE, for giving me the time to speak.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fellow Ohioan and a great American, Congressman RALPH REGULA of Ohio. RALPH was elected to represent the 16th Congressional District in 1972 and has served in this body since he was first sworn in as a Member in January 1973. He is the longest serving Member of Congress from Ohio in our State's history with unbroken service totaling 36 years, and he will be retiring at the conclusion of this session.

In his second term, RALPH was appointed to the House Appropriations Committee, an unusual act at that time, as Members had historically served multiple terms before being ap-

pointed to the prestigious committee. Over the course of more than three decades of service on the committee, Congressman REGULA has made his mark in many areas, and I would like to highlight some of them this evening.

First, after having served on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee since 1975, RALPH became its Chairman in 1995 and served in that capacity for 6 years. As chairman his accomplishments are too many to mention here, but I want to address a few of the groundbreaking changes he made that will have lasting benefits well into the future.

Chairman REGULA focused on making critical changes to ensure that the most important issues and problems were addressed by the agencies in the Interior bill. Much of what he accomplished didn't make headlines. He insisted on an emphasis on "taking care of what we have," and made tremendous strides in reducing the backlog of maintenance projects on Federal lands, in Indian schools and hospitals and in cultural institutions like the Smithsonian Institution.

He instituted a pilot recreation fee program whereby the National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Forests and Bureau of Land Management charged users of those resources modest fees. The fees were then available for making necessary improvements for the benefit of the visitors to those lands. This concept of recreation fees had many naysayers, but RALPH persisted and worked for years to show the merits of the program. He was right, and as of today, nearly \$2 billion has been paid in recreation fees, and those fees have resulted in tremendous improvements in visitor services in our National Parks, Forests and other Federal lands.

He was a critical leader on the cleanup of the Everglades in Florida. He insisted that restoration of natural resources should be the primary focus of the program and that the Department of the Interior have a seat at the table to ensure that decisions on water distribution and development were not made separately from, and without consideration of, natural resource restoration needs.

As Chairman of the Interior Subcommittee, he identified management shortfalls in the agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction and helped agencies help themselves by addressing management improvements. For example, he oversaw the complete overhaul of the National Park Service construction program. The program lacked a national priority setting process, and its list of construction needs included many projects that were unrelated to construction projects. Chairman REGULA made sure that the entire program was changed to incorporate meaningful measurement criteria for identifying and prioritizing projects and that the management structure was streamlined to ensure that the emphasis was on getting the job done rather than designing grand concepts to justify a bloated bureaucracy.

Congressman REGULA has had a tremendous impact on energy research and development. He fought for a balanced national energy strategy. He focused limited Federal funds on improving the efficiency and cleanliness of fossil fuels at the same time as we pursued renewable and alternative energy sources. He conducted extensive oversight on what we had gotten for the billions of dollars

invested in energy research since the establishment of the Department of Energy. He continued and expanded critical research on natural gas infrastructure improvements, oil field productivity improvements, developing fuel cells for electric power generation and transportation applications, and decreasing emissions from coal-fired power plants. He recognized that Federal energy research only works when we have a joint government/industry effort and that most major energy breakthroughs have come from industrial research efforts and from small entrepreneurs in the private sector.

RALPH, a farmer himself, was the moving force behind the establishment of the Children's Farm at the National Zoo. He worked tirelessly for several years to bring this exhibit to fruition. It provides a "hands on" experience for young children to see what life on a dairy farm is like and has become one of the most popular exhibits at the zoo.

Congressman REGULA continuously demonstrated his strong commitment to doing the right thing for both the Government agencies in the Interior bill and for the American taxpayer. He made sure that the Federal land management agencies made tremendous strides in improving those lands, in reducing their maintenance backlogs, and instituting management improvements. He made sure that energy and mineral development on Federal lands was expanded responsibly and in an environmentally sound manner. He made sure that essential science programs—dealing with critical issues such as satellite imagery, earthquakes, volcanoes, the biological sciences, landslides and mapping—in the United States Geological Survey were maintained. He made sure that priority school, hospital and clinic construction for Native Americans were addressed in annual appropriations bills.

Republican term limits in the House required Ralph to give up his chairmanship of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee in 2000. At the request of then-Chairman BILL YOUNG, REGULA took the reins of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee beginning in 2001 and held the position for a full 6 years until 2006.

REGULA took the chairmanship, having never served on the subcommittee as a rank and file member, but with a good staff and as a quick study, he masterfully managed a bill with the largest domestic spending level in the Federal Government and with many of the most divisive policy issues.

George W. Bush had just been elected President and had come to Washington with a major domestic policy objective—the improvement and accountability of our Nation's education system on behalf of our children. During that first year, REGULA held hearings on the administration's budget request for the three cabinet departments and nearly 500 programs funded in the bill, putting together a balanced, bi-partisan bill. At the same time, Congress' education committees were drafting and negotiating the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, NCLB.

While endorsing increased accountability and standards for students being included in the new NCLB, REGULA, himself a former teacher and principal, knew that the keys to improving student achievement were the teacher and the principal. He provided the necessary funding increases for Title I, Fed-

eral funding for the disadvantaged under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind Act, and continued support for School Improvement and Innovative Education grants to help local schools address these new accountability and school improvement standards. Further, he focused targeted funding to improve teacher training and performance within the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act through programs such as Math and Science Partnerships and the Comprehensive School Reform program.

His motto became, "We need a good teacher in every classroom in this country." With this motto REGULA knew that a well prepared and well-trained teacher would indeed lead to improved student achievement.

Additionally, he provided funding for innovative demonstration programs to improve teacher education, training and performance which are today infusing our Nation's classrooms with teachers from a host of diverse educational and work backgrounds. These programs include Teach for America, now the largest recruiter of college graduates which brings graduates from our Nation's top colleges into our most challenging schools for a 2 year service commitment and Troops to Teachers which provides financial assistance to those retiring from the military to transition into our Nations classrooms. The Teacher Incentive Fund is being adopted by key school districts around the country to incentivize teachers to teach in the most challenging districts and schools.

When REGULA took the helm of the subcommittee, it was the beginning of year 3 of a 5-year commitment to doubling the funding for biomedical research through the National Institutes of Health, NIH. Our country's biomedical research efforts—supported by NIH and carried out in universities and institutes throughout the country—are premier in the world. Over time, however, the increasing costs of conducting research began to erode the ability of researchers to compete for limited grant dollars, resulting in fewer grants and an increasingly difficult climate for attracting young scientists into health research. The doubling effort received bipartisan support from both Congress and the new administration, and, despite very tight subcommittee allocations, REGULA oversaw the completion of the 5-year doubling effort that brought the NIH research effort from \$13 billion to \$26 billion annually. Today, this number stands at more than \$29 billion in annual health research funding to improve the lives of all Americans.

While Federal funding for training of physicians and specialists is provided nearly exclusively through Medicare, Federal training for pediatricians and pediatric specialists had been virtually non-existent when Congressman REGULA took the chairmanship. He understood immediately, though, that the most important years in one's life are the early years and, without a well-trained pediatric workforce, we are not investing wisely in our Nation's children. Therefore, REGULA ensured that Federal dollars were in place every year to assist in training these critical physicians at children's hospitals throughout the U.S. After completing their training, these physicians and specialists are now caring for and treating children across the country, not just where children's hospitals are located. Today, REGULA remains one of this Congress' most vocal advocates of Children's Graduate Medical Education funding.

While many in national politics and health policy continue to wring their hands about the number of people in our country without health insurance, REGULA saw the value of community health centers in providing healthcare to the uninsured and under-insured. During his tenure as Chairman, funding for these centers rose from \$1.2 billion to nearly \$2 billion. Today more than 4,000 service delivery sites exist throughout the U.S., providing primary healthcare to over 15 million people.

During REGULA's tenure, health policy experts became increasingly concerned about our Nation's ability to cope with newly emerging infectious diseases, especially as we watched how quickly disease could travel across the globe with the example of SARS. Further, in the wake of the September 11 tragedy and the anthrax attacks, these same experts called our attention to our vulnerability to biological hazards. Working with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, Ralph provided the key funding to step up the resources of the CDC to protect the Nation and prepare it for possible intentional biological threats against our population. Similarly, with the rise and spread of avian influenza, RALPH'S subcommittee appropriated new funding to help the Nation, as well as at-risk countries in the developing world, improve the ability to detect, prevent, and control a potential pandemic flu strain. Today, pandemic preparedness and response plans are in place at the national, State, and local levels of Government, and research and development is ongoing on both a pandemic flu vaccine and new antiviral medicines.

Income support and healthcare payments to the elderly and disabled through the Social Security and Medicare programs are funded through mandatory spending; however, it is the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee that provides the critical administrative funding to ensure that benefit payments are processed efficiently and in a timely manner. While Congressman REGULA knew that ensuring adequate staffing to these critical agencies would never be a top media story or even a leading policy topic, he understood that Americans' dependence on these services required his good management of these agencies and financial support to ensure their efficient operation. Following enactment of the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit program, RALPH saw to it that the agencies had the financial support necessary to carry out the new program.

Finally, very outspoken in his belief that education is the key to our Nation's future in the global economy, RALPH also understood that educational growth is more comprehensive than a traditional classroom. As a result, he is still a leading spokesman for the One Stop Centers funded through the Department of Labor. These community-driven centers assist workers at all points in their working lives with training to improve their skills or to develop them in new business areas. Their training programs come through community colleges, technical schools and other accredited programs. Throughout his tenure as chairman, Congressman REGULA supported these centers with both Federal funding through his subcommittee and through his regular stump speeches about the terrific partnerships these One Stops can have with the businesses and

employees in their communities, thus ensuring the continued economic well-being of these communities.

RALPH'S impacts throughout his district and the State of Ohio are too many to name here. Suffice it to say that the residents of our State enjoy benefits of a premier national park in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, improved healthcare institutions, schools, higher education institutions, including medical schools, highway infrastructure and the arts as a result of his work in this body.

Throughout these 36 years of service in the House, RALPH REGULA has remained a serious legislator with an open mind and a kind demeanor. He has worked effectively and professionally among his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that the work of our Nation gets done. He has exemplified the words of Ronald Reagan when he said that "there is no end to what you can accomplish when you don't care who gets the credit."

This Congress will greatly miss the steady hand, judgment and leadership of Congressman RALPH REGULA. We wish him all the best as he leaves the Congress. I am sure that he and his lovely and talented wife Mary will continue to do great things on behalf of Ohio and the Nation. RALPH, I know your colleagues here, the thousands of folks at the Departments of the Interior, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and the countless independent agencies funded in those two bills, and, most importantly, the American people will not forget all you have accomplished and the impacts that your work has had in improving our lives.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank you, DAVE, very much.

And before we recognize our last retiring Member, we've been joined by another new member of the Ohio delegation. And I want to express my appreciation and apologize to Congressman MANZULLO and the Illinois delegation. We were supposed to split this hour 50/50, so anybody tuning in at home and wondering where the Illini delegation celebration is, we're going to talk, use our last few minutes; and then in the next hour stay tuned because Congressman MANZULLO and the Illini bunch will come marching out on to the field.

And just to Congressman HOBSON, I don't know if Congresswoman PRYCE wants the record to reflect that she played the entire Ohio State band. I think perhaps had played all the instruments in the Ohio State band would be a better way of turning it.

It's now my pleasure to yield 1 minute to one of our new Members, JIM JORDAN.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I'll be real brief. I appreciate you putting this together. And I just wanted to say congratulations and thank you to our three retirees for all your years of outstanding public service. And you know, I've only had the privilege of serving with these three individuals for 20 months, but each of them, in their own way have been helpful to me. Friendship is there, and I appreciate that.

And I really appreciate Congressman HOBSON, who used to be my congress-

man, used to have Champaign County for several years. But his help in so many ways, in particular, navigating the defense appropriations process has been extremely helpful.

So congratulations; my best to each and every one of you. And thank you again for what you've done for the Buckeye State and for our country.

Mr. LATOURETTE. The last retiring Member we have from Ohio is certainly not least, and we've talked about her service on the Financial Services Committee.

Madam Speaker, when I joined the committee, I think we had six Ohioans on the committee, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Paul Gillmor, who's passed, Bob Ney, who is not with us anymore, PAT TIBERI, he's now been promoted, Mike Oxley was the chairman, and Congresswoman PRYCE who of course is, I think, the third or fourth ranking Republican on the committee. And now, with all these retirements and passings, I'm the only one going into the next Congress if I'm lucky enough to be re-elected.

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And so I'm kind of sad that they all left me, but I will always cherish serving with them, and it is my pleasure to recognize the gentlelady, Ms. PRYCE.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And Steve, I don't know that—I just can't believe that I said at a fundraiser that you were a little different and you were a little bit weird. But it's true. And I thank you for yielding me this time.

You know, there has been no greater honor than anyone could ever enjoy than to serve in the company and then leave with the members of the Ohio delegation. Both Republicans and Democrats alike, it has been an honor and a joy.

RALPH REGULA and DAVE HOBSON were mentors, they were colleagues, and they were the best friends a gal could ever have. They really have been wonderful to me.

When I first arrived here straight off the Municipal Court bench, I was a very green Member of Congress; and I was all new to this boys' world, and it's a lonely place for a woman. But my delegation was very kind and very welcoming to me and made it a place that I felt comfortable and at home and in which I thrived.

And these two gentlemen, which we honor tonight, were a very huge part of that.

Let me say first about RALPH—and you can't say "RALPH" without saying "Mary." They are the true congressional couple. And the Ohio delegation never—well, they didn't always get along like we do today. And because of the leadership of our dean, RALPH REGULA, our delegation came together for the entire time that I have served here to be effective, to be efficient, to be very good for Ohio, but also to be very friendly to one another.

And RALPH led that. He nurtured us. He did everything that he could pos-

sibly do from the initial days when I got here and he was on committees and gave me a committee I didn't necessarily want and didn't necessarily understand. But it was, first of all, good for Ohio, and second of all, good for DEBORAH PRYCE.

So I will always thank you, RALPH, for your consideration and in placing all of us where we needed to be for the good of Ohio.

And Mary in the balcony. Mary, you are an original feminist, and I love you for that. An original feminist with the First Ladies Library. You advanced the cause of women with no strings attached, and that is no small thing, Mary Regula. Thank you.

You know, RALPH, I didn't stay long enough to get the view that you have, but I will always remember you and Mary for your kindness, for your nurturing, and for the good will that you taught me that makes this job a joy.

And then to Uncle DAVE and his wonderful wife Carolyn.

You know what patience that woman has. But Carolyn is a joy to us because she gives us DAVE.

David taught me so many things, and you know, I will always see DAVE HOBSON with a cell phone on his ear. I can't picture DAVE without a cell phone on his ear. But not only—he's always in communication with someone. He's always making the deal, he's always making things happen, and he's making things happen for all of us in Ohio.

But one important thing that DAVE HOBSON taught me, and he continues to try to teach the world, and that is that "earmark" is not a dirty word. And the good things that these two cardinals, DAVE HOBSON and RALPH REGULA, did through the earmark process for the State of Ohio will continue to make our State strong and important in the general scheme of things throughout history.

Earmark is not a dirty word as long as they are good earmarks. And these two gentlemen always made sure that they were.

And one more thing about DAVE. He always had my back. And he still does. Thank you.

Gentlemen, thank you both for so many things. This is a hard job for me to leave because of the joys, of the companions that I made here, the relationships, and the true camaraderie that could make this a great place, and it should make this a great place if we just rely on that more.

So thank you, Mr. HOBSON. Thank you, Mr. REGULA.

You know, Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings I might just have to head to the airport to get my fix of all of the politics because I'm really going to miss those moments we spend together, the private publicness that we've lived in all of these years together.

Thank you, Mr. LATOURETTE.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Thank you, DEBORAH.

GENERAL LEAVE

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5

legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I think I have about 1 minute left, and I'm not going to insult Mr. MANZULLO by giving him a minute to talk about his retiring. So he's come up with some parliamentary scheme to make it all work and honor Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. WELLER, who are both classmates of mine, who are retiring.

But I think, Madam Speaker, from this last hour, which we didn't know it would take an hour, but we should have expected it would have taken an hour for each of our retirees, we are richer for having served with RALPH REGULA, DAVID HOBSON, and DEBORAH PRYCE; and we in the institution will be poorer with their retirement, but we will always remember the gifts that they have given us; and it shall be our challenge, both Republicans and Democrats as Members of the United States Congress, to stand on their shoulders and follow in the example that they've set for us.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my good friend DEBORAH PRYCE whose service to Ohio and her nation has been exemplary.

I first came to know DEBORAH when I was active in a Task Force to elect more Republican women to Congress. Her spirit and enthusiasm impressed me then and it was no surprise to watch her quickly become a leader among her colleagues. In 2002 she was elected House Republican Conference Chair, a position I once held, where she articulated the party's message and helped craft the Republican agenda. In this capacity, DEBORAH became the highest ranking Republican woman in history.

I am particularly touched by the work DEBORAH has done to fight cancer. After losing her beloved daughter Caroline to this disease, DEBORAH co-founded Hope Street Kids, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing funding and awareness of pediatric cancer. Knowing DEBORAH like I do, she will tirelessly continue her fight against this dreadful disease.

I wish her well as she returns home. Congress' loss will be her family's gain.

Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to honor my good friend and fellow appropriator DAVE HOBSON of Ohio.

I've had the pleasure of serving alongside DAVE as we have fought to make sure our military has the resources it needs to defend our interests around the world. DAVE's commitment to ensuring the brave men and women of our armed forces receive the pay, benefits, housing, and quality health care they deserve is second to none.

DAVE made constituent service a priority during his time in office. He has long sponsored monthly "Open Doors" meetings in his district so his constituents could directly share their concerns with him.

During his time on the Energy and Water Subcommittee, DAVE visited Northern Cali-

fornia on behalf of our colleague JOHN DOOLITTLE. DAVE brought to our attention the urgent matter of levees and flood control. His expertise on this issue has been critical as California has worked to address this serious problem.

Retirement is something to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new life adventure. I send my friend DAVE my best wishes in all his future endeavors.

Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to honor RALPH REGULA, the second-longest currently serving Republican member of the U.S. House and a man I am honored to call a friend.

I thank RALPH for his years of service. He has inspired a legacy that demonstrates the true character and compassion of his Ohio district. During his many years on the Appropriations Committee, RALPH has done magnificent work on many subcommittees, particularly the Labor, Health, Human Services and Education budget, which is the largest discretionary domestic account. He focused on strengthening our education system to meet the demands of a rapidly changing global marketplace, making health care accessible to all, ensuring that the U.S. remains at the cutting edge of medical research, and retaining workforce training programs that provide people an avenue to seek gainful employment.

He has been an example of the very best of the Appropriations Committee and has been a Member that colleagues on both sides of the aisle could turn to. While I will miss seeing him in the halls of this great institution, I know he will be happy at home on his farm in Ohio with his wife Mary and their four grandchildren.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2786. An act to reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans.

H.R. 6460. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Secretary be directed to request the House of Representatives to return to the Senate the bill (H.R. 3068) "An act to prohibit the award of contracts to provide guard services under the contract security guard program of the Federal Protective Service to a business concern that is owned, controlled, or operated by an individual who has been convicted of a felony."

TRIBUTE TO RAY LAHOOD AND JERRY WELLER

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

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, tonight we recognize the retirement of two great Members of Congress from

the State of Illinois, JERRY WELLER and RAY LAHOOD. Both of these gentlemen came with the great Republican class of 1994. It's indicative because these are two guys that are rebels with a cause, always believed in a continuous fight, never would miss a fight that would take place on the floor of the House.

And in particular, RAY LAHOOD, who represents Abraham Lincoln's old district in Illinois, probably one of the greatest institutionalists. A person who has been with this Chamber for a considerable period of time serving as chief of staff to minority leader Bob Michel. And what's interesting that he puts in his own biography is the fact that he says, "Leading the efforts to establish a higher level of civility, decorum, and bipartisanship in the House of Representatives."

I don't know how you can pay a higher tribute to somebody than that. Recognizes that he had the—call it the honor, whatever it is, of being the person to hold on to the gavel during the impeachment hearings or impeachment proceedings taking place in this body of President Clinton. And the reason he was chosen is because of somebody who loves this institution, understands the meaning of order, and wanted to bring the highest level of civility to a place that has been torn up by things other than civility, especially during that period of time involving the impeachment.

And JERRY WELLER. Yes, JERRY. What an interesting person he has always been. What a great American. What an interesting start to politics. When he ran for the general assembly and then he lost, but he thought that he had won in a very interesting election that was taken away from him just before he was sworn in to be a member of the general assembly.

But JERRY came back with a great class, and every married couple in this country has JERRY WELLER to thank for the fact that he's the one who's the leading champion of the 2001 marriage tax penalty. Every couple in the country has him to thank for saving at least \$1,700 on their joint tax return.

Always an interesting individual. I was in Chicago with him one time attending a hearing, and we went to a restaurant on the north side. I lived way out in the country, and actually JERRY's background is a hog farmer. And we went to this restaurant, presumed that nobody knew who we were, and somebody came over and said, "Aren't you Congressman JERRY WELLER?" And I turned to him and I said, "I bet you paid that person to say that, to come over here and recognize you in Chicago way out of your territory."

But I have known him as a confidante, as a friend. I had the opportunity when I chaired the Small Business Committee to travel with him around his district. And a small town mayor came up to me and said, "You know, Congressman, I have been mayor