

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

here for a long time, but when JERRY got elected, he called me. And no one has ever called me and taken an interest in the small town that I represent. And it wasn't for the purpose of trying to get projects, because we know that those are very difficult when you have a lot of cities. But JERRY WELLER cares about the little people in this country so much so that he contacted all of the small town mayors and all the mayors just to say that he's our new Congressman and he's there to help us."

I can't find a better tribute to an individual who does stuff like that, anybody who takes the time to travel the area and get to know the people.

I also noticed that when I was with him, people would call me "Congressman MANZULLO" but they would call him "JERRY." I said, You know what? What a title of honor to feel comfortable enough around this man, and even with the dignified title of "Congressman," they called him "JERRY." And why? Because JERRY has always been JERRY. Just your average young man working on a hog farm with a desirous heart to serve America elected to the United States House of Representatives.

And JERRY, we're going to miss you. We're going to miss your humor, your unfunny jokes. We laughed at them just to be polite.

And, RAY, we're going to miss you also because of the dignity that you always would bring to the House of Representatives. You had the heaviest mallet in the House. When you hit that mallet, people would sort of stand to attention.

HONORING RAY LAHOOD AND JERRY WELLER

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I, too, am honored to be here tonight just for 5 minutes to talk about two of my colleagues, two of my mentors, two of my friends who helped me as a new Member of Congress. They both served seven terms, finishing their seven terms, 14 years. One's about 10 years older, one is the same age.

Both represented—well, JERRY had parts of Cook County, Chicago in his first district, but mostly south of I-80 guys, which brings in a different dynamic in Illinois politics, which is rural, small town, agriculture interests.

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I'd like first to spend time to talk about JERRY and his fight on the Ways and Means Committee primarily—most of us know him for eliminating the marriage penalty, and that was before JERRY got married. So it was no conflict of interest. He wasn't in doing things for himself.

And since that time not only did he save—I mean the basic debate that he made was this. Marriage should not be penalized under the Tax Code, and that position he fought hard and long for, and it has maintained itself until the loss of the majority here. And that marriage penalty is threatened unfortunately by Democratic control of Congress, and hopefully, they will make that permanent, and it will be a tribute to you, JERRY, if they do that.

Not only does he have a lovely young bride, a congresswoman, Zury Rios Sosa from Guatemala, but a lovely daughter, and I can't even pronounce her first name, Marizu Catherine Weller, and JERRY has been proud to show these pictures around. We understand why JERRY now has chosen a different path in life. He's got a lovely bride, a young daughter. This is not a very great profession for families. It's very challenging. And no one casts any disappointment on JERRY WELLER choosing family over a profession here.

JERRY's been a confidante and friend. Our staffs are very close. My chief of staff worked in his first campaign. JERRY has been very helpful to me. He knows that. I'm honored to call you a friend, and I look forward to working with you for many years to go.

RAY LAHOOD. These guys are like two polar opposite-type guys. RAY's come up through the political system as a staff director for Leader Bob Michel, a State rep himself, a man of the institution. Shocking that he would decide to leave because he loves the institution so much. RAY is close friends with former Speaker Denny Hastert. He's a guy that you always know where RAY stands, and he's not embarrassed to tell you, and he's not embarrassed to tell his constituents when they agree with him and when they don't.

RAY has a unique ability to confront those in opposition with him forcefully and firmly. Some of those attributes I've tried to take on because sometimes you have to confront those who attack your values and your position. You've got to attack it front on. You don't want to be coy. You just want to tell them what it is you believe and why, and that's what RAY has always brought to the table.

RAY and I have had our own fights, but our friendship and loyalty has lasted through the time of our service. He's also finishing his seventh term, that means 14 years as a Member of the House, many years with Leader Michel, probably 30-plus years in Federal service that he's done for this great country.

A man from Peoria, born, raised there, lives there, went to school there,

again a southern Illinoisan who tries to balance the interests of rural America and agriculture interests with some of the big, monumental issues of our time. He proudly represented Caterpillar, which the home office is in Peoria, and made sure, as JERRY WELLER did, the importance of trade to both our agricultural community and manufacturing sector, especially Caterpillar.

These are good friends, mentors to me, mentors when I was doing stuff right and mentors when I was probably going off the track and I needed some direction to stay focused on the responsibilities as a Member of Congress. JERRY was always there to help me do that. RAY definitely was, also. I appreciate that.

We're going to miss them, but they have chosen to pursue other pursuits. We want to honor and recognize that, and I want to thank them publicly for their service.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JERRY WELLER AND THE HONORABLE RAY LAHOOD

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, it is a real honor for me to be here with my colleagues from Illinois to honor two men who have really served admirably and have brought great pride to the Land of Lincoln.

The first is Congressman JERRY WELLER who I got to know in the Illinois House of Representatives, and I served for one term with Congressman WELLER. When he was in the State House of Representatives, he had a reputation of somebody who knew how to come back.

And he got involved in a tough election, and I won't drag you all through the weeds of that tough election, but he got dealt a tough blow in that many people thought he fairly won that election, but for a whole host of political reasons, he wasn't seated in that election. Do you know what? Rather than going home and say, oh, woe is me, JERRY WELLER came back and he went out and he campaigned, and he earned the confidence of the voters of that district. He earned the confidence of his neighbors in Morris, Illinois, and he came back, and he was there to greet me when I first went to the House of Representatives in 1992.

Then JERRY WELLER was a part of the historic class of 1994 that came in, and as has been previously mentioned by Mr. MANZULLO and Mr. SHIMKUS, he was the person who focused in on repealing that marriage penalty, and I remember him talking about that to me. I remember him focusing on that. I remember reading about JERRY WELLER pursuing that and pursuing that and pursuing that, and as we all know, it is a very difficult thing to pass a major piece of landmark legislation like that. There's a lot of exit