

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my fellow colleague, Mr. GARAMENDI, for being so generous with this hour. To our chairman, IKE SKELTON, thank you. Thank you very much.

What I have learned, sitting for 14 years, my full time here in the Congress on this committee, has been invaluable. And you were actually the first to ask me to go on a congressional delegation, the first to take me before some of the world leaders, the first to tell me about what it was to be in the military. And all the information you gave me, "Learn the ranks, LORETTA. Learn what a star means. Learn what two stars mean." Just all the very beginning information 14 years ago when I got to the committee, I cannot say enough, IKE. I really can't.

Aside from being somebody who has loved the troops, and you have, and I have seen that just as my colleague, Mrs. DAVIS, and I sitting on the Personnel Subcommittee have seen that from you, aside from really being the champion for the troops, and that's how I will always remember you, you are really a Congressperson's Congressperson. You are somebody that we model ourselves after.

And, IKE, from the bottom of my heart, we will miss you. Thank you. Thank you for all the memories, for all the learning, and in particular for taking some of the women on the committee under your arm and showing us what it is to serve proudly on the House Armed Services Committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Number one, I want to thank Mr. AKIN for allowing us to go into your time a little bit. As a fellow Missourian, it's obviously time well spent.

Mr. Speaker, I have a Vietnamese American friend who has a limited use of the English language. He is also very devout. I once saw him at his boatyard hit his thumb with a 5-pound maul. And having a limited use of the English language and also being very devout, he did not use the kinds of words I would use in that situation. He just shouted over and over as he was shaking his thumb, "No joy." This is a "no joy" moment.

For those of us who have had the privilege of working with IKE, we want to say thank you. If you are the mother or father of a troop, a marine, a coastie, a sailor, you should know about IKE SKELTON. You should know his name. In our line of work, if you do something stupid, you are a headline. If you do the right thing, people don't know your name.

But if your child has been saved because of a mine-resistant vehicle, you

should know IKE SKELTON's name. If you are a military retiree who is enjoying the benefits of TRICARE for life, you should know IKE SKELTON's name. If you are a guardsman or Reservist who is now eligible for TRICARE, you should know IKE SKELTON's name.

What he won't ever tell you, out of concern for his kids, and I won't tell you the branch, but he has two sons who are officers in the United States military. But what every mom and dad should know is that there was one more parent out there looking out for their kids, and that was IKE SKELTON.

So, IKE, for all of those things and for your great humility, I got to tell the story. IKE visited a Coast Guard buoy tender on the Missouri River. And given his nature, obviously he paid his respects to the captain, engineering officer. But then he sought out the lowest-ranked person on that boat, a seaman apprentice. Went back to him and said, Hi, how are you doing? I am IKE SKELTON. I am a Congressman from Missouri. How do you like the Coast Guard? I do. He said, Have you ever had a Congressman on your buoy tender before? And the kid said, No, and I hope to hell we never do again. They have been working my butt off for the past 2 weeks scraping and painting, getting this boat ready for you, sir.

Now, only IKE SKELTON would tell that story about himself. So now the rest of America knows. And I hope that seaman apprentice is listening tonight, and I hope he made chief one day.

But, IKE, you have been an incredible role model. Someone who put together a \$600 billion bill that involved the lives of airmen, marines, sailors, and to some extent coasties, certainly the troops in the field, and it passed out of your committee unanimously. That is an incredible feat. And all of us are grateful for your service. God bless you.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. It was 13 months ago that I was given the great privilege of becoming a Member of the Congress. And it was 7 months ago that I was given another privilege of becoming a member of the Armed Services Committee. For the last hour and 10 minutes, we have heard from Chairman SKELTON and from his colleagues that have expressed their appreciation based upon their knowledge and their experiences of working with an extraordinary man.

I feel cheated that I don't have all of those years that my other colleagues have had to learn and to share time with Chairman SKELTON. My 7 months have been just too short; but in those 7 months, I have found the opportunity for friendship, brotherhood, and the op-

portunity to work and to be mentored by an incredible individual.

□ 1840

What you have seen here tonight is the outpouring of emotion and respect for a gentleman that has served this Nation and the armed services for 34 years in the capacity of a Member of Congress. That's an incredible record. Seven months of that I have had a personal experience of, and I value those moments intensely.

I have had my hours on the floor talking about policy. I have not had such an important hour as this hour listening to the Members of this Congress speak of one of their colleagues. It has been a very good hour.

Chairman SKELTON, you are loved, beloved, for a very good reason. You are a unique individual.

HONORING IKE SKELTON

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to add my note to the already numerous congratulations and praises for Chairman SKELTON. I have served my 10 years in Congress on the Armed Services Committee. I told him the night before last at a reception that I thought that IKE was like my big brother down here.

You know, sometimes as we go on CODELS in the field, and we can talk to different level officers, sometimes it's a sergeant, sometimes it's a general, sometimes it's in between, how we get different answers, and sometimes a well-placed question to the right person is very helpful. I am a Republican, and sometimes a well-placed question to a Democrat is a very smart thing to do.

I will ask IKE, I say, I think I have got a bright idea, IKE, but what do you think of it? And he will tell me sometimes, TODD, that's the dumbest thing I ever heard. And sometimes he says that would be a good thing if you can get that done. Because IKE is like a big brother. He is a big brother to everybody down here.

IKE runs a committee the way I understand it used to be done, where the objective is to deal with the security of our country, and that is the business of the committee.

So I thank you very much for your great work down here. We are going to miss you a lot, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Marine, and my big brother.

God bless you and Godspeed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4853, MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2010, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. POLIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report