

1960, and lastly, a doctorate degree in mathematics at the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1968. These are significant achievements for anyone, but even more so for someone who had to overcome the discrimination of the time.

It is this experience that has driven Milt Gordon's lifetime commitment to improving access to education for everyone. In his first convocation address at Cal State Fullerton in 1990, Dr. Gordon said, "By providing access to professional careers for the broadest cross-section of Americans, including women and members of minority and immigrant groups, our university represents a pathway into the American mainstream for individuals and families who otherwise would not have the opportunity to make this step, thus helping to ensure the stability of our free economy and of our Democratic government."

That was his first commencement address. Well, from that commencement address, I would say that the impressive enrollment and graduation statistics and the many awards and accolades that Milt Gordon has received over the last 20-some years clearly demonstrate that he more than met the challenge of his work.

Today Cal State Fullerton is one of our Nation's largest and most inclusive institutions of higher education. And I assure you, greater quality has been the hallmark of this growth. It is no exaggeration to say that Dr. Gordon has transformed CSUF from being a regional school to being a global one. His vision has provided an enriching environment which allows students to develop intellectual, cultural, and economic curiosities well beyond Orange County, California. The university in the Gordon years has been an unquestioned asset to the region, to the State, the country, and the world.

In closing, as an alumnus and the congressman who represents this university, I have to say that I am sorry to see President Gordon retire. His accomplishments are many, and the university will continue to thrive because of them, but there is only one Milt Gordon. But speaking as a friend, I am pleased for Milt and for his wife, Marge. They have dedicated their lives to education, to Cal State Fullerton, and to their community. To that end, they deserve our deepest gratitude and our most heartfelt wishes for a long and enjoyable retirement after a job very well done.

HOPE FOR AMERICA'S UNEMPLOYED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. Last Christmas the gift that we gave to the unemployed was the shock of their lives, as they thought that the Congress would not extend the unemployment compensation. So this morning, I'm joining with

Congressmen STARK, DOGGETT, LEVIN, and CROWLEY to make certain that we don't do that again this year.

The opposition to the extension last year was due to a large number of Republicans truly believing—and voting against the bill—that these people really would rather receive unemployment checks than look for work. Of course it's more than just the salary when you are working. It's the pride and dignity of knowing that you are taking care of your family, you are responsible for putting food on the table, clothing on your children's backs, and all of those things that America has come to believe as just the normal way of life.

With the poverty numbers growing so fast and the unemployment going up so fast, a lot of people are losing hope in terms of finding a job. As a matter of fact, it's oftentimes forgotten that in order to qualify for extended unemployment comp, you have to be qualifying for a job. But because jobs are so scarce and people want to remain with a little bit of dignity and not just automatically increase the rolls of poverty, we ask that this body, in the name of humanity, think about these people as they would think about themselves if suddenly they found themselves without work and without their savings and without health care and without the resources to save their families from disaster.

In addition to that, when we go home next week—and again, we will be home—talk to some of the local vendors. We all recognize that it's small businesses that are really the backbone of our economy, as it's the small businesses that produce the jobs. But one of the problems they're having is, if consumers don't buy, they can't sell, and they cannot continue to hire people, which adds to the vicious cycle of unemployment.

So if those people truly believe that they want to spur the economy, allow these people to be able to buy the goods and services that they would normally buy if they were employed. And for God's sake—since the day before yesterday we made it abundantly clear that we trust in God—so for God's sake, let's get a jobs bill on the floor. Let's put aside our party labels. Let's just put the election aside long enough to be able to get our country back to work. More and more people are not only losing their jobs, but the most important ingredient, I think, that America has: giving hope to people who don't have much.

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If we take that away from them, by seeing the solid pillars of our society without work, without the ability to take care of their families, little hope that it gives for those people that have been consistently unemployed as the job market shrinks, and so I do hope that there will come a time, and very, very soon, that there will be no need in this great country for unemployment compensation because we would have

been able to have a jobs bill that would include severe cuts in terms of expenditures that we make but also would include putting revenue on the table so that we just don't balance the budget at the expense of those people who have little or no resources.

The United States of America, unfortunately, is becoming one of the countries that have the widest gap between the handful of 1 percent of the people that own almost half of the wealth of this great Nation. That formula doesn't work economically, it doesn't work morally, and it doesn't work spiritually. So we all have to come to the table to save this Nation, whether we are wealthy or whether we hope one day to become middle class and wealthy, because without the country having hope for the future, there's absolutely no hope for the people who are looking for employment to raise their family and to forever protect this great Nation.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER W5 JOHN CURRIE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 236th birthday of the United States Marine Corps, I would like to take the opportunity to honor a marine whom I served with during the first Gulf War.

Chief Warrant Officer W5 John Currie, United States Marine Corps Reserve (Retired), served our Nation with distinction from his first enlistment in 1966 until his retirement in 1999. I met Chief Warrant Officer Currie late in the fall of 1990 when I volunteered to serve with a light armored infantry company that was mobilized for the first gulf war.

From the start, I was deeply impressed by his leadership, the respect his subordinate marines had for him, and by his tactical skill and the courage he demonstrated on the battlefield.

His citation for the Navy Commendation Medal reads: "Late in the afternoon of 21 February 1991, Chief Warrant Officer W3 Currie decisively led his platoon through enemy indirect fires to occupy a key defensive position opposite significant portions of an Iraqi infantry brigade. Over the next 2 days and nights of combat, his clear reasoning, calm issuance of orders, and effective employment of supporting arms against enemy forces motivated his platoon and the entire company in their efforts to hold the center of the battalion's defenses. Early on the morning of 24 February 1991, he led his platoon to a new position on the division's extreme left flank and initiated a series of aggressive actions against enemy positions which inflicted numerous casualties. Chief Warrant Officer W3 Currie's coolness, poise, and decisive actions inspired and steadied all who observed him, as he successfully gained and maintained control over a