

Garnet Valley, in Delaware county, implemented an English course supplemental program. Teachers and students were trained on the successful completion of research projects, use of CD-ROM products, and print resources to support the student thesis.

Southeastern Greene School District implemented a professional development technology program to support reading, language arts, and math at the elementary level.

In Philadelphia, the Model for Enriching Reading through In-service Training Professional Development program was created. Professional development and student participation was conducted in "Writing and Language Arts", "Parent Conferencing," and "Content Area Writing."

When dollars are sent to the classroom and schools are given flexibility using them, success is the outcome. Do we want children to have these types of successful learning experiences, or do we simply want them to attend smaller classes? That seems like an awfully simplistic answer to an enormous problem.

I urge the President to agree to send education dollars in the omnibus bill to the classroom, to a teacher who knows the names of our children.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) is recognized for 45 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, being the senior member of the New York delegation is a great privilege, but one of the problems you have is that you have a responsibility to lead the tribute to say good-bye to so many New Yorkers who have served the delegation, the Congress, and the country so well. Of course, tonight is one of those nights where one of Congress' greatest Members, the gentleman from New York (Mr. THOMAS MANTON), has decided after 14 years that he will be going into the private sector.

I think the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOM MANTON) is the perfect type of New Yorker. He was born in New York, the son of an Irish immigrant family. He went to school in the city of New York and became an attorney. He also was a New York City policeman, and served in my own community in central Harlem, where he was walking the beats of Harlem while I was serving as a desk clerk in the Hotel Teresa. We both were going to law school at the time.

He then went into public office, having served 15 years as a member of the New York City Council, and finally came some 14 years ago to join us in the Congress.

□ 1745

TOM MANTON serves on the Committee on Commerce, which is one of the

most important committees in the Congress, but also one of the most important committees for the City of New York dealing with finance, energy environment, health, and a variety of other things that have been so important to our citizens of this city and of the State.

In addition to that, he is one of the most powerful political figures. Even though he walks with a soft step and has a velvet glove, he did not epitomize what most people think would be the Democratic county leader. More, he has been pictured as one who has built bridges, made friendships, and as he has done it in the city and in our State, he has also done it in our national conventions and certainly here in the United States Congress.

As we all look forward to peace throughout the world, and especially in Ireland, TOM MANTON will know as a part of his legacy that he spent a lot of time in trying to reach a peace accord in the land of his forebearers.

And so, TOM, it is with heavy heart that we are going to miss your friendship, your camaraderie, we are going to miss your strong support and your leadership that you have given us that serve on other committees, alerting us that matters were coming to the full committee or coming to the floor and working with the House leadership, both Republican and Democrat, to do the best for our country, our Congress, and the great City of New York.

We are going to miss you, but fortunately you are not leaving our city. We look forward to working with you and your family. And your loved ones should know that we say thanks for a job that has been well done.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) who took this time out for the delegation.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, let me thank the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. CHARLIE RANGEL), Dean of the New York delegation, "Mr. New York," for bringing us together today. We share today, I think in the waning hours of the 105th Congress, another chapter in the American dream.

A generation ago, Madam Speaker, Irish immigrants came here to these shores looking for a better way of life as young people seeking opportunity, as troubles brewed in their homeland of Ireland. One person was Peggy and the other one, TOM MANTON. TOM came here, became a skilled laborer, married Peggy, got a job, and worked here in the capital of the free world. He was a tradesman, a plasterer, and he worked on the very buildings that we work and make our speeches in today.

Little did TOM MANTON from Ireland know at that time as he was applying his trade in these hallowed halls that one day his son would grow up to be a Member of the United States House of Representatives and work in the very building that he helped to build, in the land that with his hands he helped to build as well.

Young TOM, when he was born, went to school in Queens, after being born in Manhattan. That was a wise choice, he came to Queens. He went to St. Joseph's Prep Elementary School. He went to St. John's Prep after that, and then he put himself through St. John's University and got a college degree. At the tender age of 19, still a teenager, he joined the Marine Corps and put in 3 years in the service, serving this Nation in Korea.

After that, he became a New York City policeman, a tough job. We call them "New York's Finest," and TOM epitomizes that. He certainly is one of New York's finest in every way and every aspect. As the Dean mentioned, he served a tour of duty while on the force on the job, as they say, on the beat in central Harlem, working with the people there.

While he worked as a policeman in the City of New York, he put themselves through law school getting a degree from St. John's University during the night, a difficult thing to do while holding down a full-time job in the day.

It was shortly after that that he ran for public office and was elected to the New York City Council and became the chairman of the powerful Housing Committee and served the citizens of our great city in that capacity for some 15 years with great distinction.

TOM has always been a team player, but when it came time to being able to stand up for what he believed in, he was willing to step forward and rock the boat. He took on the establishment when it was necessary. He ran for the United States Congress and the rest, as we say, is history.

He has been our good colleague now for 14 years. How time flies. For 14 years, he served with us in the House of Representatives, serving originally on the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, serving on what was then House Administration, Merchant Marine Committee, and the Committee on Commerce, handling such matters as trade and telecommunications and securities and consumer protection, working hard.

Here in a place, Madam Speaker, known as a stable for show horses, TOM proved to be a workhorse. Recognized by all of us as a Member's Member, doing the day-to-day work that was necessary to make this place run, to make it easier for other Members to be able to do their jobs. Doing many jobs that many other Members of Congress would ordinarily shun.

In addition to that, he quickly assumed responsibilities as the cochair of the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, a cause, very, very dear to his heart, trying to argue the cause and work for peace with justice in the land of his ancestors. His work, along with that of many others, with his leadership, has begun to finally bear fruit. For that, I know that his dad, Tom, and mom, Peggy, who I know are looking down upon him today, would be very, very proud.

□ 1800

It is hard for some of our Members to understand, because of his always friendly smile and congenial personality and attitude, working to build bridges with Members of both parties across both sides of the aisle, is that kind of a person. Yet at the same time, back home, I have to assure my colleagues he is a very partisan political player within the Democratic Party, fighting for the values that we all believe in on our side.

A great leader, becoming the county leader of our Democratic Party for at least 12 years, taking the helm of our party in Queens County at a time when it previously had been racked with scandal and had many problems. He straightened out that county organization making it one of the proudest, cleanest, preeminent county parties in the State of New York. Always a person who is fair. Always a person we could count on. Always a person to step up to the plate and exert great leadership.

Madam Speaker, I say this with a great deal of reverence and respect: We are losing in this Congress somebody who is one of the last of the old school Irish politicians from New York. He is a guy who will look you in the eye, give you his word, shake your hand and, you could count on the fact that he has been true and faithful to his word. His word is his bond, and we do not see a lot of that in politics too often these days.

These are the days of "blown-dry hair" politicians, elbowing each other for time in front of the cameras, seeking publicity. TOM represents none of that. He is from the old school. He does the work quietly, behind the scenes, not looking to advance himself in other's eyes, but knowing that he is going to be doing the right thing.

We are going to miss him down here in the Congress of the United States. It is going to be my privilege and pleasure, when I return back for weekends to my district which includes the County of Queens, to know that TOM is the county leader. After putting in all of these years, 14 in the Congress and 15 on the City Council, and a term in the Marines and all of that, he returns to private life after giving of himself, returning to his family that so graciously has shared him with us. To his wife Diane, to his children Catherine and Tom Junior and John and Jeanne, and all the grandchildren here and yet to come.

We have been privileged to serve with the likes of TOM MANTON in this Congress, Madam Speaker. He is a breed hard to find, a breath of fresh air reflecting the best of politics and the best that this system has to offer. I am happy to consider him my dear friend.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Bronx County, New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for yielding to me. The gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN)

really said it all. It is difficult to add anything, so I am just going to repeat some things. Because when we talk about TOM MANTON, all the good qualities that we would like to have in an elected official really come out. Honesty, integrity, hard working. That is really what TOM MANTON is all about.

When I first came to Congress 10 years ago, and TOM had already been here for 4 years, he came and extended his hand and offered me any help that I would need. And that is why in the 10 years that I have been here, TOM MANTON has been one of my best friends, because I always know that if there is something I need, I can go to TOM MANTON, whether it is advice or a personal favor or anything else. He make its very, very easy.

One thing about friends, we want friends to be approachable. We want to be able to come to our friends and be honest and know that we are going to get that same honesty back in return. That is what you have with TOM MANTON.

It has been a privilege to serve with him on the Committee on Commerce, and on that committee he is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Finance Hazardous Material and has done a very wonderful job there as well. We are fighting for the good not only of New York, but for the good of the country. And it has been a pleasure to serve with TOM on the Committee on Commerce.

When redistricting came in 1992, TOM saw his district change, as we all did. Part of his district, for the very first time, came to the Bronx where I was born and bred and have my district. TOM and I right now have adjoining districts, back to back, and we share a number of communities in the Bronx. And even though he is Queens' famous son, the Bronx has taken him as a son as well and we have worked very well together.

The beauty of this country has been so many different groups have come to the shores, different immigrants, and we know that in New York where so many different groups have come together, the ethnic diversity of New York has been the treasure of New York. Those of us who have been born in New York and growing up in New York City share that diversity and share the culture of all the different ethnic groups, whether it is the culture or the food or just the family and the friendship, that is what we do.

TOM has been very much a part of that culture. As was mentioned before, he has been a leader in the fight for peace and justice in the North of Ireland as one of the founders and the chairman for many years of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs. But he has always stood for right and against injustice all over the world, whether it was fighting injustice in South Africa, or whether it was fighting for the right of Israel to live in peace, or whether it was fighting for peace and freedom all over the world. TOM MANTON has already been there.

It has been mentioned before, when TOM gives you his word, you can go to the bank with it. That is what we really want to see in our elected officials and in our friends.

The fight for working people, one of the things that many of us who have grown up, again, in New York and across the country, TOM's father, with his blue-collar roots and my father with his blue-collar roots, TOM and I would often talk about the fight for working people, the fight for men and women in this country to ensure that workers have dignity and have the rights. That is why TOM has always been supported by working people and has always had a very, very high rating in terms of labor and in fighting for the rights of working people.

So it was with a bit of sadness, Madam Speaker, when TOM announced that he was going to retire. But one of the joys that we have is, he may be retiring from the United States Congress but, as was mentioned before, he will be active in New York City politics as the chairman of the Queens County Democratic Party.

So even though my district does not go into Queens, I am delighted that we will continue to work together for the betterment of the Democratic Party in New York, for the betterment of the people of the city of New York and the State of New York, and for the betterment of the people of the United States of America.

TOM, we are really going to miss you. You are a great guy, a great Member. It has been an honor to be a colleague. It has been an honor to be your friend. I know that we are going to continue to work closely together in the coming years. God bless you. You are the type of elected official, you set the standard to which we all aspire. Thank you for your friendship and thank you for just being you.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Albany, New York (Mr. McNULTY).

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I thank the dean of the New York delegation for yielding to me. I am delighted to join with the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the other members of the New York delegation today in saluting my dear friend, TOM MANTON.

I want to take the few moments available to me to talk about the subject of gratitude. I am a grateful man today because 10 years ago, when I first sought election to the United States Congress, the man from Queens, TOM MANTON, reached to upstate New York and he helped me. He helped me to win that election.

And after that election was over and before I even came to Washington for freshman orientation, he called me and invited me to come to his district office in New York City where we spent the day together. And he gave me tremendous advice and counsel on what I was about to face as a Member of the

United States House of Representatives. And I shall never forget that.

When I did arrive in Washington and wanted to serve on a couple of special committees, he helped me do that as well. That kind of support and assistance has gone on for the past 10 years. I have not been the only recipient, but on my own behalf today, I want to thank my good friend, TOM MANTON, for all that he has done for me over the period of the past 10 years.

CHARLIE and my friends, it got better than that. During one of my reelection campaigns, the folks in the capital district and the Irish American community decided to get together and have an event in support of my reelection. And simultaneous with the planning of that, TOM MANTON came up to me on the floor of the House one day and said, is there anything I can do to help you in your reelection campaign? I said, well, the Irish American community is having this event and maybe it might be possible for you to come up to Albany and appear at that event with me. He immediately said yes.

And he did that. And he came up and we had a great big party up in Albany, and he spoke on my behalf. And then, DEAN RANGEL, what he did was, he sang on my behalf. And I am here today to report back to the New York delegation and the entire country that despite the fact that TOM MANTON sang in my behalf, I still won that election.

I am so grateful to have TOM MANTON as a friend. I speak for many, many people who do not have access to a microphone like this today to speak to all New Yorkers and to the rest of the country.

TOM, what I simply want to say to you today is, you have rendered outstanding service over a very long period of time to your community and your country, and I am deeply grateful that you have allowed me to be among your many friends.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Westchester County, New York (Mrs. LOWEY), and Queens and the Bronx.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, actually, those boundaries are pretty important in the last couple of years. Because of those boundaries, as a result of redistricting, I have gotten to work even more closely with our good friend, TOM MANTON.

I wanted to rise today, Madam Speaker, in tribute to our friend and our distinguished colleague, THOMAS MANTON. Actually, I have known TOM since the early 1960s. As some of you may know, my district does run from Westchester through the Bronx to Queens, but we both raised our children in Queens. And when I lived in Queens raising my children, I guess it is about 40 years ago, a while ago, TOM and I were both raising our children and we got to know each other in Queens politics. And TOM is an example of what is good and right in politics today.

TOM understands that government and politics is the way to make life

better for people, make life better for families in our communities. He has been very involved in politics and government in Queens County and, in fact, the entire State for a long, long time.

We can all learn a lot from TOM because, as my colleagues have said, and I think that is probably one of the core traits of TOM, is that he is the kind of person you can trust. His word is his bond. He has absolute integrity. He is a man you can count on to tell the whole story, not part of the story.

He is a man who stands up and tells it like it is and we can respect that. We need more people like that in this body and in politics and government today.

As a member of the New York delegation, I have developed a great relationship with TOM and, more importantly, a warm friendship. In fact, my respect for TOM, my admiration for TOM, has only grown throughout the years.

First, it was local politics, and then when I was elected in 1988 I had the privilege of working with TOM as a member of the delegation.

I am sad to see TOM leave this body but I know that he will be happy and successful in whatever he does. TOM MANTON was born in 1932, of Irish immigrant parents on the west side of Manhattan, having grown up in Astoria. He is a product of the area he was elected to serve.

After attending both St. John's University as an undergraduate, and St. John's Law School, which are both in my district, TOM served as a flight navigator in the United States Marine Corps and then joined the New York City Police Department.

TOM has, as I mentioned before, a long and distinguished record of leadership in the Democratic Party of New York State. He began as a member of the executive committee in 1972, and in 1986 he was elected chairman of the executive committee of the Queens County Democratic Organization. In 1988, TOM was unanimously reelected county chairman and has served continuously in that capacity since then.

During his tenure in Congress, TOM has been active on a number of environmental issues. He has used his seat on the Committee on Commerce to fight for much needed improvements in the Superfund program in order to accelerate the cleanup of toxic waste sites. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Management, during the 103rd Congress, he also took a lead in improving conservation of our Nation's fisheries resources.

Perhaps TOM's greatest legacy, as my colleagues have mentioned, will be his tireless and effective work regarding Northern Ireland. I am pleased to be a member of the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, and TOM has been and continues to be a great cochairman.

The committee was founded in 1977, to bring about peace, justice and an end to all violence and discrimination in Northern Ireland, and as the leader of this committee, TOM MANTON has

held hearings, introduced legislation, written letters in support of the rights of the Irish. The committee crosses over partisan and geographic lines to advocate and represent the interests of the Irish American community and to ensure a friendly and productive relationship between America and the people of Northern Ireland.

Efforts such as this and the great leadership of our colleague TOM MANTON paved the way for the historic Good Friday Peace Agreement. When deportation proceedings were tearing apart the Irish American community in my district, TOM MANTON was there to fight to keep these families together. His commitment to the peace process is unquestioned, and as the people of Northern Ireland struggle through perhaps this most vital and important time, you can be assured that TOM MANTON, even after leaving this body, will continue to lead this effort and standing with them.

TOM has doggedly represented his constituents for 14 years. The people of the 7th District of New York and Congress will be losing a wonderful representative, but I can assure you that Congressman TOM MANTON will continue to stand up for what is right.

I am very pleased that my district is right near where TOM currently resides, and I know we will continue to be good friends. I look forward to spending time with TOM and Diane, and I wish you both good luck. God bless. I have been privileged to be your friend. I am proud to be your colleague and I look forward to continuing to work with you to stand up for what is right and just. Thank you, TOM.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York City (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank the dean of the New York delegation, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), for yielding me this time and being here with us as we all pay tribute to our dear friend and outstanding colleague, TOM MANTON.

It is always very good to have neighbors you can rely on. TOM MANTON is my neighbor. He literally lives in my congressional district. It has been a pleasure working with him and sharing the New York Queens Borough with him. I know how the New York Police Department must have felt when officer, Police Officer Manton, left the force.

We will truly miss this law enforcer, turned law maker on the front lines of this House of Representatives. The residents of Queens are now feeling the same loss as the entire New York delegation feels this loss.

TOM MANTON has made clear through his years of public service, first as a police officer and later as a fellow member of the New York City Council, his commitment to mankind. He has made, many contributions in his work for the residents of New York City on the New York City Council Housing Committee,

and I worked with TOM on that committee. He was chairman of that committee. I had to work hard many years to even get on that committee.

Madam Speaker, I can remember when TOM was elected to Congress. He came in late to a city council meeting and we sat there and waited about an hour or two for him to come in. He had been up all night and he came in and chaired his last meeting as chairman of the Housing Committee.

TOM is also a leader and is chair of the Ad Hoc Committee for Ireland. He was grand marshal for the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and he told me that his mother was not particularly impressed when he became a Member of Congress but when he was grand marshal on St. Patrick's Day, that was really, really important to her.

TOM and I had the good fortune of traveling to Northern Ireland and Ireland with President Clinton. I had the great opportunity of meeting his family, his aunts, his sisters, his extended family that still lived in Ireland, and TOM was really a leader in working with President Clinton for the Good Friday agreement and very recently working in a bipartisan way with the gentleman from New York Congressman (Mr. WALSH) in increasing the number of peace visas for the Irish to come here to New York.

TOM is also, and has been for many years, the county chair of the great County of Queens. He has been recognized as the most outstanding county chair really, I believe, in New York City. He was the first county chair in the borough to endorse President Clinton.

I personally think that he would make an outstanding State chair of New York State and bring the same balanced leadership and commitment and understanding and time that he gives to all of the problems of New York City and to this delegation daily in helping us work through our problems.

He is a great friend. He has been a rock on which to lean. He has helped me and other Members of this delegation on so many issues that we work on.

I remember also he is a very personal and wonderful friend. I remember being in his office one day, and he looked around the office, and he said, my father, when he came to this country, he worked on the House office buildings. He helped modernize them. He was tremendously proud that the building that he helped modernize and helped restore was the office that his son later took as a Member of Congress.

He told me, on the day that his father was here when he was sworn in to this great body, that his father left the celebration and just walked around the buildings trying to find the exact spots that he had worked on many years ago and was deeply moved that his son later was elected to this body.

TOM will leave many marks of achievement here in Washington, and

he will be remembered for a long time to come. While we will miss him here in Washington and in New York, I admire his decision to pursue his personal dreams.

So I wish you well, THOMAS. All your constituents and friends do. I am sure that your goodwill and dedication will follow you as you enter this new world. Best of luck to you. Our friendship is always with you. Thank you for all that you have done for New York City, New York State, the great Borough of Queens and all your many friends and supporters.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Bronx, New York (Mr. SERRANO), home of the New York Yankees.

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for mentioning the greatest team on Earth. In fact, there is no score between those other two teams that are just playing today for a chance to get beaten by the Yankees next week.

TOM, I was wondering as I was watching these proceedings on TV if the folks who visit us here and the folks who watch on TV fully understand what goes on when we do one of these, when we come together as a delegation, when we come together as colleagues to say farewell from this body to a Member such as you.

I think what is important to note is that we take very seriously what we do, and this job brings a lot of joy with it, a lot of accomplishment, and then it brings some difficult moments. It is those difficult moments, I think, that bring people together and friendships and relationships that last a lifetime.

So what we do today in saying all of these things about you is to do that which human beings never get a chance to do on a regular basis to say, and we should, to say you are a great guy, you are a great human being, you are a stand-up person, but mostly you have been a good friend and a good colleague. I wanted to take some time to tell you what you mean to me.

Two years ago, 1990, they were going to redraw districts, as my colleagues know, and they did. There was a possibility that they would put my district into Queens, into East Harlem, and Manhattan along with the Bronx. I stayed in the Bronx. I did not for one moment get nervous about the possibility of having Queens in my district, first of all, because I would get Shea Stadium, and then you would have a problem to tell me what team I am rooting for, but because I would have you as my county leader.

But I think what the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) just said about you becoming a great State chairman, we are not knocking anybody who is there now, but I think it is something you should think about, because I think you have everything that it takes to be the chairman of the State party.

What are we talking about? We are talking about your ability to be fair.

We are talking about your ability to be friendly. We are talking about your ability to understand the county you represent, the district you represent, the city you are in, and the Nation we are living in, and trying to deal with every one in a fair way.

But most importantly, we are talking about this ability you have to never look on the surface like you are upset at anyone. I know you have been upset, at least slightly, at all of us at least once, but you do not show it.

We know of your work. We know of the work you have done on behalf of Northern Ireland. We know the work you have done on behalf of many issues here. We know what a strong party man you are and what a loyal Member of this delegation and loyal Member of the Democratic Caucus. But all of our colleagues have spoken about that, and everything we put in the RECORD will indicate that.

I wanted today just to tell you what a great human being you are and how much I know you have played a role in some of the things that have happened to me.

When I decided that I wanted to be on the Committee on Appropriations, my delegation was good enough to support me. But that was step one. Two gentlemen here, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANTON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) played a major role in it.

They kept in touch with me on a daily basis telling me how they were going to maneuver my ascension to that committee. It is not an easy thing to do. After all, I had been here a couple of years, and I wanted to move on to a big committee. But you felt it was important to do it for the delegation, for my neighborhoods, and for myself. I am not going to forget that ever.

I am also not going to forget the way in which you just deal with each one of us on a daily basis. As our colleagues know, you could always be found in that corner over there to the right. Well, to somebody's left, but probably to most people's rights.

You always know what is going on in New York city politics, what is going on on the floor, what is happening nationally, and you just talk to people and make them feel good.

When this is all done, when this is all over for us, what do we have? A couple of laws that carry our name, one reporter who may curse us out or say something nice about it, our family trips while we were Members of Congress.

I think what we will remember the most is those people that we met here, that we dealt with, that we keep a relationship with, as we will, because we are from the same part of town.

That is what is important today, the fact that, no matter how long I am here, I shall remember that my beginnings were strengthened because it was TOM MANTON who was willing to support me and to be a friend.

So I can tell you honestly, as I know all my colleagues can, because I know

how they feel about you, that you are measured by the friends you have. You are measured by the respect people have for you. I assure you, you will have friends and respect like very few people do.

I just wanted to simply come and join my colleagues to tell you how special you are to me. If I may drive the young lady to my left crazy, let me just say that we have a phrase in Spanish that I use every so often on the floor, and it is one that sticks to a few people. It says—(Mr. SERRANO spoke in Spanish). Tell me who you walk with, and I will tell you who you are.

Well, this delegation walks with you, and therefore we are you. We do pretty well when we stay close to you. The best to you. I know you will probably make \$10 million on the outside, but you will probably become State chairman and do not make \$1.50 after that.

You will be at Shea Stadium. We will welcome you at Yankee Stadium. You will be with your family. You will enjoy your life. We will miss you. We will miss you, my friend. I am just so glad I had an opportunity in my life to serve with you. Thank you.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Brooklyn, New York (Mr. TOWNS), who knows how important it is to have a friend as county leader.

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I think the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and of course to all the Members of our delegation here.

This is a real tribute to a very fine individual, 1 that I have had the opportunity to serve with for 14 years. Of course, TOM and I serve on the same committee.

TOM is a real stabilizing force. He has a flare for saying the right thing at the right time. I remembered some meetings when they get pretty heated. In the Committee on Commerce, there is always a lot of negotiating and that we sit there.

Of course TOM does not speak early, early. He will let it sort of heat things up; and when things get really heated, then TOM will come with his common voice and say, well, have you thought about this? Of course, sometimes we do not get it right away; but then, all of a sudden, just before we give up, then TOM will come back again with a thought or an idea, and that idea will carry the day.

TOM, you have just been a tremendous person on that committee. A lot of things that we were able to accomplish we would not have been able to accomplish if it had not been for that common voice of TOM MANTON.

TOM MANTON is one negotiator. If TOM MANTON cannot negotiate it, forget about it. It is something that cannot be done. TOM knows how to talk in the back room. He knows how to operate.

He is not a guy that gets on the floor every day and make a lot of noise on the floor and bang and talk about what should happen and all that. But TOM is

always there sitting very focused and negotiating on what is in the best interest for his district, what is in the best interest for the State, what is in the best interest for this Nation. TOM is always there doing that.

I think the other thing that TOM has, he has the ability to sort of listen to whatever is being said and then, of course, sort of pick out really the key kind of factors, because then, based on that, then you can determine what tomorrow is going to do. We watch him. Then all of a sudden, he will make a vote.

Occasionally I will ask him why did you vote this way. He will give us history. That was the thing that I was very shocked, because I did not see TOM in terms of the kind of guy that would sit back and sort of talk about what happened many, many years ago and, as a result, that is why he is now behaving this way.

I want my colleagues to know, the other part that I think that is very, very important is that TOM is truly a leader, because sometimes we have people that are leading, and nobody is following. That is just somebody taking a walk. But TOM MANTON shows real leadership, and people follow him. People listen to him. People want to know in terms of what he is going to do and what he is going to say.

TOM, I would just like to sort of associate myself with those who are saying that they would like to see you become the next New York State Chair. I do not want to get involved in that. I do not want to talk about it too much.

But I will tell you this, TOM, that if there is anything that I could do, I mean, of course whatever it is, I would definitely be there on behalf of you in terms of making certain that that happened, because I know that New York State and this Nation would be much better off as a result of TOM MANTON providing that kind of leadership. He has done it on the local level. I am certain that he could do it on the State level. Of course he will do it again on the national level as he has done it as a Member of the United States Congress.

On the Committee on Commerce, TOM, let me close by saying we are going to miss you. We are going to miss you in terms of the fact that I am sort of wondering now who is going to calm us down, who is going to be the guy that has the flare to say the right word to sort of settle things down. I do not know who is going to do it.

I think the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANTON) has been here around long enough that he sort of trained some of us here from our delegation, and I am hoping that we will be able to use those skills that he has given us to be able to sort of calm things down, to be able to continue to get things for Queens, of course, and of course Brooklyn and New York State, and of course to be able to do the kind of things that this Nation needs done, and we need it done very effectively.

TOM, you have done a magnificent job here in the 14 years that you have been here. We are going to miss you, TOM, but I am so happy to know that you are not leaving politics, that you are going to go back to New York, and you are going to be involved in the political arena as well.

So we look forward to working with you there in that capacity where you can continue to calm folks down. Thank you so much. You need to come to Brooklyn and calm Brooklyn down.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to rise to pay tribute to an outstanding colleague and a dear friend who regrettably has decided to depart this body after a fourteen year record of outstanding public service to his Congressional District and to our nation.

TOM MANTON first came to Congress unexpectedly 14 years ago. I say "unexpectedly" because no one had anticipated only a few months earlier that his own Member of Congress, our former colleague and my former constituent, Ms. Ferraro, would be nominated for the Vice Presidency. However, when Ms. Ferraro stepped into the national spotlight, TOM was more than ready to take her place in this chamber, having already accumulated 14 years experience on the New York City Council, and a successful career as a practicing attorney.

In the House, TOM gained recognition not only for his dedication to diligent work but also for his concern regarding those issues of deep concern to him. As a fellow co-chair of the House Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, I became familiar first hand with TOM's deep concern for the cause of justice and peace in the north of Ireland, and his commitment to human rights. TOM is one of those individuals who grasps instinctively that any threat to the human rights to any people anywhere is a threat to the human rights of all of us.

On our House Commerce Committee, TOM has served with distinction, and his position as Ranking Minority Member on the Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials has been of great benefit to all of us in the State of New York, where the transport and disposal of hazardous wastes is a deep concern.

We extend to TOM our best wishes for good health, happiness and success in all of his future endeavors, and we remind TOM and his lovely wife, Diane, that they will always have a home away from home here at the Capitol. TOM MANTON's accomplishments will long be remembered.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I will truly miss Representative TOM MANTON of New York. He is an honorable and friendly person.

He is also my kind of Democrat.

We worked together on the financial reform bill, my satellite privatization act, securities litigation reform and many other issues.

He leaves Congress having built a record of accomplishment and a long list of friends on both sides of the aisle.

I am happy to be one of his friends.

We did some traveling together when Democrats controlled Congress. I will always remember our side trip to the holy shrine of Medjagoria. Since TOM and I share the same religious faith, that was an important event we will always remember.

The son of Irish immigrants, a former policeman, a good politician and a friend—I will miss TOM MANTON.

I wish him and his family all the best in the years ahead.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANTON), our honoree and our friend, who is not leaving New York but leaving the Congress.

Mr. MANTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) very much, a great dean of our New York delegation, and all of my colleagues who are here tonight joining in this tribute.

Some mention was made of my mother and father being Irish immigrants who came from the west of Ireland from small farms. They did not know each other in Ireland. But they came to the great city of New York from the quiet country life of their respected farms, and they met in New York City where they married and raised a family.

The reason I am here is because we live in a republic which recognizes that people can advance themselves. My father was always one who said you must get an education.

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My father had a third-grade education. My mother was much more educated. She had eight grades of education. She came to the loud and boisterous and busy city of New York with the cacophony of all these sounds and taxis and trucks and people and I always wondered how they survived those early years.

I was blessed in being able to have a number of jobs before coming to this great body. Some mention was made of my service in the United States Marine Corps, it was 2 years of active duty, some 5 years in the New York City Police Department, 15 years in the New York City Council, and now 14 years in this great body. Where else can you walk through the hallways of this Capitol and know that they were traversed by other people who were Members of the House of Representatives: John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Abraham Lincoln, James Madison, and there are others, John Tyler, James Polk, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce and others that I will not mention. So it shows that in the United States of America, people from modest backgrounds under our great system of laws can get an education and prosper in this great nation that we know as the United States of America. Yes, I have had an affinity for the problems in my parents' ancestral land, in Ireland. I was very pleased to serve as the cochair on the committee which we know as the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, and the fact that we had the peace agreement of Good Friday makes my service and I think the service of all of those who were involved in that process in bringing President Clinton into it, having him invest a lot of political capital, sending an envoy, Senator Mitchell, to Ireland and generally working with the leadership in Northern Ireland of both traditions to see that we had this

agreement. It makes me happy, and I know the people that have worked in this body happy as well.

I have had the opportunity to, as was mentioned, go to law school and practice, I practiced law for some 20 years before coming to this great body, and I am going to return to that profession. I loved it a lot, I have missed it in the last couple of years and decided that I am going to take another try at it.

My colleagues, I thank you very much for bringing on this special order tonight. It is with a certain amount of bitternessweetness that I am leaving this body but I am not, as you have suggested, leaving politics, too. I am going to continue as long as they will have me as chairman of the great Queens County Democratic organization. It is an organization that stands for the principles of the Democratic Party that we all love and admire. With a certain amount of sadness, I bid you good-bye for a short while. I will be around. Please do not forget me. When you come to Queens, you are always welcome. Some of you may end up in Queens with the reapportionment of 2002, and we will be awaiting your good suggestions on how these lines should be drawn and whatever input we can make into that.

I say good-bye, God bless you, and thanks for everything. It has been a great honor.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

DEMOCRATIC MANAGED CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 15 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, let me also if I can just take a minute to also express really the friendship that I have had over the last few years with TOM MANTON. He is also on the Commerce Committee with me and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) as well. I have always admired him for the reasons my colleagues have all set forth but just to mention a couple of things. My father was a policeman. I know what it was like to have a policeman, to serve on the police force, and I know that he is the kind of policeman or the person in the police law enforcement background that is really kind of the perfect image, if you will, of a law enforcement individual.

In addition to that, I have seen him as I think the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) said really be a consensus builder on the committee. The committee can often be very contentious, not only Republican-Democrat but even within the Democrats. TOM was always the person that was out there trying to bring us together on so many very important issues. I also saw him operate with the Hellenic Caucus. I do not know if that was mentioned tonight, but he worked very hard with the Greek community and he was a leader dealing with those issues as well. I really admired him for a long time. We worked on the Merchant Marine Committee together. He was always a person that was trying to help other Members of Congress, to help his colleagues at all times and do what was best for the country and for his State and for his district. Thanks again, also. I am going to miss you as well.

Madam Speaker, I just wanted to take some time this evening, if I could, to essentially refute, if you will, some of the statements that were made earlier this evening in the special order that my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle made on the issue of HMO reform. I have taken to the floor many times over the last few months to point out that I believe, and I think the evidence shows, that the Republican leadership of this House was very much determined not to bring a true HMO or managed care reform to the floor and essentially was very much under the influence of the insurance industry which still today does not want to see any real HMO reform. And so I was sort of, not shocked I would say but I was sort of displeased to see that in the waning hours of this Congress that the Republicans who put together the HMO bill that passed this House were actually trying, I think effectively, to defend their actions, because they know that the American public is clamoring for HMO reform.

And so I will say two things tonight: One is the fact that the HMO reform bill was not even taken up in the other body, in the Senate, is a strong indication of the fact that from the beginning, the Republican leadership in both houses of Congress had no intention of really dealing with the issue of HMO reform. In addition to that, the Republican leadership over here bypassed all the committees, never allowed hearings, never allowed a markup of the HMO reform bill and at the 11th hour when it appeared that there was overwhelming support for the Democrats' patients' bill of rights, which was really sort of a bipartisan bill because we had some Republicans, also, that supported us, but when the patients' bill of rights, the real HMO reform bill, was gathering incredible strength and the Republican leadership felt it was necessary to address the issue in some form, they quickly brought up their HMO bill, brought it to the House floor, without hearings, without committee markup, and passed it very narrowly, I think by about five votes, and