

I have been fortunate to work with MIKE on many different topics affecting our communities locally and abroad.

Together we formed the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, a forum to promote the domestic interests of the Greek-American and Hellenic communities, and we have tackled issues of importance to the Hellenic community such as the just reunification of Cyprus and the appropriate name for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

I am proud to call MIKE my friend, and I look forward to our continued friendship for many years to come.

I also look forward to working with his son Gus in continuing all the good work MIKE has done for Florida.

I would also like to recognize the Representative from Tampa, Florida, JIM DAVIS.

Upon arriving to Congress in 1996, JIM was elected as President of the incoming freshman class by his Democrat colleagues, an early indication of his keen leadership abilities.

While we have differed on issues, we have been able to come together and work for the good of Florida and our constituents.

JIM has served this body for over a decade, and his colleagues from both sides of the aisle will miss him.

Lastly, KATHERINE HARRIS has been integral part of the Florida delegation and her presence will be sorely missed.

In her time here, KATHERINE has made a tremendous impression on all those she came in contact with.

Not only will her constituents miss KATHERINE, but she will be missed by her colleagues for the central role she had on all her committees, especially the International Relations Committee, where I was fortunate to have her as an ally on Middle East issues.

I also had the opportunity to travel to Iraq with KATHERINE, and meet with Iraqi officials, women Iraqi leaders, and our brave troops.

Her incredible optimism and keen understanding will be deeply missed by our close-knit Florida family.

In closing, I would like to offer my warmest wishes to CLAY, MIKE, JIM, and KATHERINE for their dedicated service to our country.

Whatever your next vocation may be, I am certain that you will all continue to serve the citizens of Florida and our great Nation with dignity and I look forward to working with you all again.

#### TRIBUTE TO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

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

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a number of New Yorkers who have served so well in this Congress, some of whom are retiring, some of whom were defeated in the last election, all of whom have served our State ably. I regret, unfortunately, that some members of our very own delegation worked for the defeat of some of these, and unfortunately that does affect the comity and collegiality of our delegation, but we have to resolve that in the coming days.

But I would like to talk about my travel partner, SHERRY BOEHLERT, a man whom I have had the pleasure of getting to know over the last 18 years in my service here. He is a great guy. He is loved in his home. He is loved in Washington by all, as you have heard tonight, people on both sides of the aisle. He is a great baseball fan, a Yankee fan. People love the Yankees because they are the Yankees. They are New York. They are our brand name.

He has served as a congressional staffer for 20 years. He served for former Congressman Alexander Pirnie. So he started at the bottom and worked his way to the very top.

He is possibly the biggest baseball fan in the Congress. He is known as a centrist, a moderate.

He served on the Science Committee since 1983 and became its chairman in 2001. In that capacity, he has been the leading Republican environmentalist in the House, a remarkable title and one that certainly is fitting.

He is recognized as a champion of Federal investment in science and technology. He authored amendments to the Clean Air Act that have changed the way we breathe in this country. He authored the conservation title in 1996 on the farm bill, which changes the way we drink our water. So many things, so many contributions to our community.

Perhaps the greatest contribution that someone in the Boehlert family made was his wife, Marianne, for the time that she spent away from him while he did his job here. We are deeply grateful to Marianne for that. I know SHERRY looks forward to his move to MIKE CASTLE's district and working in the Woodrow Wilson International Center, and he will serve us well there and his country.

I would also like to pay tribute to my colleague and friend, SUE KELLY. SUE was elected in 1994 and is finishing her sixth term in the Congress. She represents the West Point District of New York. Prior to coming to Congress, she had a professional career that ranged from teacher, to small business owner, patient advocate, rape counselor, PTA president and biomedical researcher. What a resume.

She was appointed chairman of the House Financial Services Oversight Investigations Subcommittee, was a co-author of Sarbanes-Oxley, and made her subcommittee a leading force in Congress to improve the Federal Government's ability to track and disrupt terrorist financing. She also served on the bipartisan Congressional Anti-Terrorist Financing Task Force.

SUE has also been a great advocate for the Hudson River and worked hard to enact the Hudson River Habitat Restoration Act. She is also a chief sponsor of the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act, enacted in 1998.

She is a good friend, we will miss her, but I know she will continue to serve her country and her community.

My good friend and colleague, JOHN SWEENEY, also a member of the Appropriations Committee, represents New York's 20th Congressional District in Clifton Park, New York. JOHN served as executive director and chief counsel for the New York State Republican Party. JOHN served 2 more years as the New York State commissioner of labor under Governor Pataki.

He is a fellow appropriator and serves as vice chairman of the Transportation-Treasury Subcommittee and HUD Appropriations Subcommittee for Homeland Security and Foreign Operations. He is a dedicated, hardworking public official. His dedication to New York is unchallenged.

He worked very hard to restore the Albany International Airport and the Capital Region, which is a booming airport today. He helped ensure that I-87 was designated a high-priority corridor to receive Federal highway resources, and he led the charge to ban dangerous steroid drugs in professional sports and throughout our society.

Significantly, JOHN played an important role in the \$21 billion appropriation for New York City after September 11.

Lastly, my colleague and longest serving Member to retire is MAJOR OWENS. MAJOR OWENS has served New York in so many ways, representing New York's 11th District in Brooklyn. Before coming here, he served as public library community coordinator, community action executive, New York city commissioner, Columbia University professor, and New York State senator.

What a remarkable public servant he has been. During his tenure in Congress, Congressman OWENS gained notoriety for his role as chairman of the Subcommittee on Select Education and Civil Rights in the 1980s, for his role in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a strong supporter for the minimum wage, strong support of Davis-Bacon legislation and a strong supporter of workers rights to organize into labor unions.

All of these men and women have given their all for the State of New York. We owe them much. They have asked little other than to serve. They have been given that award by the people of New York. Now they are going on to something else. We wish them all the best, Godspeed, and thank you deeply from the bottom of our hearts.

□ 2115

#### REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE TRIBUTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, before he leaves the floor I would echo the sentiment of my gratitude for the friendship, the public service and the example of integrity of the gentleman from

New York, and his leadership and his kindness will be greatly missed here as well as his passion for public service. Mr. BOEHLERT, I congratulate you and thank you.

We gather today in a caucus known as the Republican Study Committee in this leadership hour to do what my colleagues from New York have just completed doing, Mr. Speaker, and that is really taking a moment to both speak of and hear from some of our cherished colleagues who will be moving on to other careers, some voluntarily, some involuntarily, but all of them ending time, short and long, here on Capitol Hill that have been marked by a commitment to principle and a commitment to integrity.

I sometimes will say, Mr. Speaker, that my ambition in Congress is to get out of this place with my family and my reputation for commitment to principle intact, and all of those that we will hear from tonight have accomplished that.

I served as the chair of the Republican Study Committee in this Congress and will be joined this evening with an assist from the newly-elected chairman of the Republican Study Committee, JEB HENSARLING from Texas, who will be helping me introduce and also extol the careers of those individuals who will be leaving the employ of the people of the United States of America at the end of the 109th Congress this week.

I want to begin by introducing for a few remarks the gentleman from Minnesota's 1st Congressional District. GIL GUTKNECHT represents the peak of the baby boom generation in his career in public service. After serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives for 12 years, GIL GUTKNECHT was elected to Congress in 1994, part of a storied class that brought a new majority to Capitol Hill. He has served as the chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry, but more than that he has earned a reputation nationally as a deficit hawk for his service while on the House Budget Committee.

He has also throughout his career earned many awards as a friend of the farmer, a friend of the taxpayer, and if I may say so, as I yield time to the gentleman from Minnesota, one of simply the most plain spoken, eloquent Members of the House of Representatives.

GIL GUTKNECHT has often said that he believes, "Words have meaning, ideas matter and actions have consequences," and he set an example of that throughout his 12 years here on Capitol Hill. It is with great pleasure that I recognize a colleague and a friend and inspiration for the Republican Study Committee, Minnesota's 1st Congressional, GIL GUTKNECHT.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Indiana for having this Special Order.

Woody Allen once observed that he was not afraid of death. He just did not

want to be there when it happened, and it was a little like that on Tuesday night about 10 o'clock for some of us. We were there when it happened.

But I did want to reflect, I have been so blessed to serve in this great body for the last 12 years. I wanted to reflect a little bit about what it was like when I first ran for Congress, what it was like during those heady days, some of the highs and lows, some of the accomplishments.

The Congress itself is a living, breathing organism, and every 2 years we have an election, and in some respects every 2 years we have an entirely different Congress. A lot of the faces stay the same, but the dynamic is different. There will be different leaders. There will be different issues, and I was so fortunate and I really do mean blessed that, first of all, I had a chance to serve in the Minnesota State Legislature.

In that capacity, I served as what we would probably call here the whip. I was the floor leader, and every day it was my job to help organize the debate. I made sure that, and the years that I was in the position we were in the minority, but every year, every day I made sure that the other side was held accountable for what they said and what they did and what they proposed and how they voted. I really enjoyed that job. We had real debates in the legislature, unlike the Congress.

But it was really time for me to move on, and so I decided to run for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994 and I was very fortunate. I picked a good year. The issues favored us. The wind was at our back.

I will never forget. It was kind of a cloudy day, and Members probably remember that as well, but it was a cloudy day when we all gathered here in Washington that fall to sign the Contract with America, and just as we went on the western steps of the U.S. Capitol Building here, just as we walked out there, the clouds parted and the sun came out. It was almost like it was a divine message that the sun was going to shine on the Republican Party that year and it did.

Most of us that day believed we were going to win, and most of us did. I came here with one of the largest freshman classes in the history of Republican Party, and I will never forget, when we came here we were the toast of the town. The Republican freshmen that year, we spent our days at orientation and looking for apartments and doing all the other things that freshmen have to do when they come here, but the evenings we were wine and dined by almost everyone.

I will also never forget one particular story. We were waiting outside the hotel, some of us, and a sweet little lady came by. I guess it is not politically correct to say a sweet little old lady, but she had kind of blue hair, and anyway, she looked at us and sort of gave a double take. Perhaps she recognized Sonny Bono, and she said, You

are the Republican freshmen, aren't you? And we said, yes, and we started to introduce ourselves. Then almost with a tear in her eye, she said, you know, I have been waiting 40 years for you because it had been 40 years since the Republicans had been in the majority in this House of Representatives.

In fact, going back just a little bit before that, one of the first trips I made to Washington as a candidate for Congress, I was invited to a leadership meeting. I was star struck. Pretty soon HENRY HYDE came into the meeting room. I sat in the corner, and there was a big pile of the best cookies I had ever since, and they had flasks of coffee, and so I sat in the corner and thought I am just going to watch this like a fly on the wall and drink coffee and eat these cookies. Pretty soon HENRY HYDE comes bouncing in and those who remember HENRY in his earlier days had quite a bounce to his step. I was in awe of HENRY HYDE. I had watched him on C-SPAN. I had heard his speeches. I was a big fan of all that he had done to protect the unborn.

I am sitting in the back of the room and Dick Armey comes in, and pretty soon Newt Gingrich comes in, and I am just sitting there, my eyes are big, and I am watching all this. And then Bill Paxon walked into the room and he spotted me. He said, oh, hey, we have got GIL GUTKNECHT over here, he is going to win that seat back in the 1st Congressional District back in Minnesota; stand up and say a few words, GIL.

I was like a deer in the headlight for longer than I want to admit. Finally, when I gained my senses I said, you know, I was born in 1951, and when I was a child, a very small child, a baby, Republicans were in the majority in this House. I said I believe like Haley's Comet our time is coming again, and you know, I have been to auction college. One of the things they teach you in auction college is to read people's eyes. As I looked around the room at the leaders of the Republican Caucus that day, I could read their eyes. Some of them were saying, yeah, right, kid, but one of them, and I will never forget, Newt Gingrich, his eyes said, yes, we are going to be in the majority. Ultimately, Newt was right.

So we came to Washington. I think about that little lady who had been waiting 40 years for us, and I thought about her often. I hope we have not let her down too much. I think maybe in the last couple of years, maybe we did, but those were heady days, and we made enormous progress.

I remember coming down to the floor of the House with one of my colleagues, Congressman Mark Neumann from Wisconsin's 1st Congressional District, and Mark came to town with charts. He was the first person that I know that actually used charts on the Special Orders. Part of the reason he used charts is there had been a study done at the University of Wisconsin that said you are 40 percent more believable if you

use charts, and so we all started using charts. But it started I think with Mark Neumann.

He had this simple chart about what it was going to take to balance the Federal budget and it was not complicated. You have to slow the rate of the growth of spending, so that the Federal budget does not grow at a faster rate than the average family budget. Now, that is not rocket science, but you know what, we did it and it worked.

I remember in, and Ernie will remember this, too, when we locked horns with former President Clinton, and in December of 1995 we shut the government down. I remember also when it was all over, when we finally, and if I can say this, when Bob Dole capitulated and ended the government shutdown, I remember what Newt said to me. He said, you know, it was a dumb fight dumbly fought, and I think a lot of people thought that, but it was an important turning point because we sent a message not only to the President and the administration but to the American people that we were deadly serious about controlling Federal spending, the growth in Federal spending and, more importantly, allowing Americans to keep more of what they earned.

We did a lot of important things. It was not just about the Contract with America. We marched through those in the first 100 days, and I remember something that HENRY HYDE said when it was all over. He said, you know, it was not a 100 days that was so tough, it was the hundred nights.

We literally were in session almost from Monday morning early, working most evenings till 8, 9, 10, 11 o'clock at night, but it was a wonderful time. We reformed the welfare system. We cut the welfare rolls in half, and we reinforced those time-tested values that I think have made America the special place that it is.

So I was so privileged to have been here as part of that, and we did make some enormous progress on so many fronts, and we literally went from a \$250 billion deficit, and deficits for as far as the eye could see, to something people had even forgotten and that is by September 11, 2001, when we had a Budget Committee meeting that morning on September 11, 2001, the issue we were talking about was what are we going to do with this big surplus. We were looking at surpluses of trillions of dollars.

So it has been a very special time to be here. I really do think we lost our way a bit once we got into the surplus situation, but as I think about all of the areas where we were able to have an influence on the course of events, yes, we made a lot of mistakes. I made a lot of mistakes, but this has been a very special time in American history.

I never thought when I ran for Congress that I would vote in effect to declare war. I never thought that I would be called to vote on articles of im-

peachment. I did believe that we would have a chance to vote for a balanced budget agreement.

The high point perhaps, during my entire tenure here in Congress, was when the President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton, joined us and he issued those immortal words that the era of big government is over. It may have been a bit premature because the empire has struck back in the last number of years, and as I say, we have made a lot of mistakes on the way.

I hope we have not let people down, but it has been a wonderful privilege for me to serve in this very special place. This is the people's House, and you know, sometimes when the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, of electoral ups and downs do not necessarily break our way, it is easy for us to blame the voters, but in the end I believe that the voters have a right to be wrong, even if they are wrong, but I also believe for the most part the voters are right. I think we lost our way in the last several years, and so they began to wonder were we still the party of reform, were we still the party that battled big government or that defended big government?

□ 2130

Were we the party that was trying to change Washington or had Washington changed us? And my only wish for all of you and particularly the Members of the Republican Study Committee is that you return to those time-tested principles and values, because in the end that is what this is all about. Government will either reinforce time-tested principles and values or it will undermine them. When government grows, freedom declines.

And I am sorry, I should remember who said it, and now I have even forgotten the quote. But I think our founders really understood that those who would trade liberty for security will lose both and deserve neither. Those words were true 220 years ago and they are true today.

And I know that we had an interesting debate this afternoon about the rights of the unborn. If you look at what our founders said and what they wrote, even Thomas Jefferson, who was not necessarily considered a religious man in the sense that a lot of our folks who were our founders, but he was a deeply religious man. And he said that the same God who gave us life gave us freedom.

Those rights and those inalienable rights that were talked about so much in the early days of our Republic need to be talked about again. And I think it really falls upon the Republican Study Committee and the people who are here, regardless of what the numbers are, regardless of what the polls may say today, those time-tested values and principles will win out.

And I don't believe the American voters voted against our values, I don't think the voters voted against our

principles. There were other cross-currents. And even if they did, we simply need to do a much better job of telling our story.

I was privileged to come to Washington with J.D. HAYWORTH and that freshman class, and so as I leave I will have both some sad memories about how things ended, or at least they ended for me, but I will have mostly incredibly fond memories of golden days and golden nights and ways that we made a difference.

I will close by saying this. When I go to high schools and visit with students, I tell them a couple things. First of all, I always tell them I am one of the luckiest people that they will meet that day, and I say that because every day I felt like I made a little difference in somebody's life. And it didn't necessarily make the papers. A lot of times people talk about, well, what is said in the Washington Post and did it make the CBS News and did Fox News do something about it. A lot of the things that we do every day don't make the news.

It may be a woman who calls and her daughter is stuck at a New Jersey airport and she has lost her passport, and she is frantic and she says, "Congressman, my daughter is stuck at this airport. Can you help get her passport?" And that is a true story. And we were able to get that young lady a passport through the State Department in a matter of about 3 hours and get her on the next plane. Now, to this day that mother thinks I am the greatest guy who ever lived. And there are a lot of other things, whether it is a veteran's benefit, to helping people plug into the right administrative issue. There all kinds of things that people in Congress do every day that don't make the news but we are making a difference in people's lives.

And I do believe in that expression that you used earlier: If you want to change the world, you have got to first change your neighborhood. And if you can't change your neighborhood, at least be a good example. And I think the responsibility of the Republican Study Committee is to be that beacon of light, but most importantly, to be a good example. Because both America and I think many Members of Congress want to follow it, and they are looking for leadership.

So thank you very much for having this little event tonight and thank you for giving me one last chance to visit with the folks here in the House Chamber. As I say, it has been a wonderful experience. I want to thank all the folks who I worked with through the years, including, and especially, Mark Newman from Wisconsin's First Congressional District for getting us started using charts. Thank you very much.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume, as we see other outgoing Members arriving, to the newly elected chairman of the Republican Study Committee for the 110th Congress, JIM HENSARLING from Texas.

Mr. HENSARLING. I certainly thank my friend for yielding time, and I did not want to let my dear friend and colleague from Minnesota depart without at least adding my thoughts as well.

I did a little homework this evening to discover that, even though my own heritage is German, I know little about it, that GUTKNECHT means good hired hand in that language. And we have a good hired hand amongst us, Mr. Speaker.

I had the honor and privilege of first meeting this man back in 1996 when we were both involved in the Phil Graham for President Campaign. Senator Phil Graham is my dear friend and mentor; and although that battle perhaps did not end well, for me it cemented an admiration for the gentleman from Minnesota. And although, as you can see and the American people can see, he certainly has a folksy Midwestern way about him that really belies the fact that I believe him to be one of the deepest thinkers that we have in this United States Congress, and I know that his principle compass always points in one direction. And I have seen this man take many, many tough votes, and I have seen this man go against his own party when he thought he was right. He is a man who puts country above career, and I have seen him do it time and time again.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that his departure from this body is not only a loss to him, but as I have the great honor and privilege in the future to follow my dear friend from Indiana and chair the conservative caucus of the House, the Republican Study Committee, that certainly his wisdom, his insight, his leadership will be sorely missed. He is a great leader. He has done great for the people of Minnesota, he has done great for the people of America, and I am proud to always call him my friend.

Mr. PENCE. ERNEST ISTOOK began his career in Congress in November of 1992, serving as a distinguished Member of the House Appropriations Committee where he served as the chairman of the Transportation and Treasury Appropriations Subcommittee.

Before arriving in Congress, he served as a city councilman in Oklahoma City, and during that time also sat on the board of many local interests. He also served in the State legislature there in the Sooner State, beginning in 1986. ERNEST ISTOOK leaves us after 14 years of service in the United States House of Representatives, and he takes with him not only an optimistic, cheerful conservatism that was the source of mentoring to me and other conservatives in the Republican Study Committee for many years, but he really takes his greatest asset, which is his wife Judy, who, while she did not become the first lady of Oklahoma this year, she was I think the first lady of the Republican Study Committee for many years and will always be so in our hearts.

I recognize the gentleman from the Fifth Congressional District, ERNEST

ISTOOK, for such time as he may consume, with the deepest gratitude and admiration of his junior colleagues in the Republican Study Committee, an organization, I might add, Mr. Speaker, that Congressman ERNEST ISTOOK founded during his 14-year tenure in the United States House of Representatives, the largest caucus in the Congress of the United States today. I yield such time as he may consume.

Mr. ISTOOK. I thank my friend from Indiana, and I thank everybody for having a little bit of time this evening to talk about the importance of the Republican Study Committee, the importance of conservative principles. And I really enjoyed hearing my friend GIL GUTKNECHT recount some of the things during his years here. Myself, I don't choose to try to talk about the things that have happened during the 14 years, because really I don't think service in the Congress is about me, and it is not about us as individuals; it is about what do we do to carry on the principles upon which this country was founded, the self-government, the ideal, the understanding that God made us as people able and capable to govern ourselves; and not only that, to live our lives without having to be controlled by government.

So I would like to spend my time this evening talking a little bit about what I believe, as a principled conservative, as somebody who believes, yes, in economic conservatism and social conservatism. But it is really based upon the premise that God made each of us as capable individuals, and that we have the free agency to make decisions for ourselves. And conservative principles enable us, enable us, to fulfill that destiny rather than having our lives dictated to us by government.

I fear, of course, that the pendulum has gone too far in the United States. Government is too big, it spends too much. And, of course, any government that is big enough to give you everything that you want is powerful enough to take everything that you have got. And I know the year that I was born, which was 1950, the typical American family, in Federal income taxes, paid something like 2 or 2½ percent of their annual income in Federal income taxes. Today, on average, it is closer to 10 times that amount. Now, that tells you something about what is going on.

And when you look at what has happened here in Washington, D.C., and the voters sent a message if people here will just listen to it. And what is the common factor, whether you are talking about the level of spending, the amount of earmarks, the bridge to nowhere, whether you are talking about campaign finance issues, ethics issues, lobbying issues, it all happens because big government creates big problems, big government creates big lobbying, big government creates a big need to defend yourself against it. So everything that we have that I think has caught the attention in a negative way of the voters this year traces back to

the fact that we haven't controlled the size of government.

Now, I was really happy when we had some years during my time in Congress when we actually balanced the budget. Boy, that was important. But you know, when 9/11 happened it became an excuse not just to spend more money on defense and homeland security to meet the security needs, but it was, what is the old adage, "in for a dime, in for a dollar." And we saw that. I remember back during the Vietnam era the catch phrase was "guns and butter." If you are going to pay for guns, you don't have enough money to pay for butter. You can't be expanding social programs at the time that you are trying to take care of the defense and the security needs of the country.

Well, we saw that some people said even though 9/11 created some spending requirements to take care of the security of Americans, we still spent too much in other ways, and we are paying the price, the consequences.

I was asked when I was first elected to Congress, if there is one thing, one thing that you could accomplish, what would it be? And I said the adoption of a balanced budget amendment, because I think that is what constricts and controls the size of government. You know, we haven't even had a vote on a balanced budget amendment here in this House in 11½ years. I have become the principal author of the balanced budget amendment, but unfortunately the people in charge of bringing things through committee and to the floor haven't brought it here in 11½ years.

□ 2145

I think that is one of the reasons that we have the difficulties that we do: We don't require government to live within its means as all of us have to do when we sit around the kitchen table and try to balance the family budget. Maybe we need to install a kitchen table here in the Congress so we can sit around it and actually have to balance things.

I certainly hope that if the people that are here in the 110th Congress don't do anything else, bring back the balanced budget amendment. It was the number one item in the Contract With America in 1994, and it is a sad travesty that it hasn't even been voted on in this body in some 11 and a half years.

We have been entrusted with the power to govern, and where much is given, much is expected. We have to be more in tune with the American people, and we have to talk to the American people about correct principles.

Too often we hear there is a problem; therefore, government needs to step in and be the solver of problems rather than the creator of problems. What was the Ronald Reagan line, too many people that if something moves, tax it; if it keeps moving, regulate it; if it stops moving, subsidize it. We have seen that too much.

We need to stress personal responsibility more than government programs. That is what we have gotten away from.

The most important thing that each of us will do happens with our families. I am so grateful for my wife, Judy, and for my five children, Amy, Butch, Chad, Diana, and Emily, and what they mean to me. But no wife could have been more supportive than my wife Judy has been. I am eternally grateful to her, and want her to know how very much I love her.

You see, I believe the most important work I ever do, or any of us will ever do does not happen within the halls of Congress but within the walls of our own home. We need that principle. We need to remind Americans that they are given God-given blessings.

As was stated in the Declaration of Independence, we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights. Among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men.

What did they say: Government exists to protect the rights that were given to us as a gift from God. We need to remember that truth. We need to follow that principle. We need to abide by that as the Founding Fathers taught us to do.

So I am grateful for the people in this body who hold true to those beliefs, who believe in the capabilities, the dynamic abilities of the American people. I believe America rests upon four pillars that we must keep strong and solid: Freedom, free enterprise, faith, and family. It is my prayer that we will each strengthen each and every one of those pillars. Thank you for letting me speak this evening.

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District for his service, his founding service to the Republican Study Committee, and would recognize our nearly elected chairman for a few brief remarks.

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I wish to add my own meager voice to those who celebrate the career of Ernest Istook, truly one of the great leaders in the conservative movement in the last decade.

Certainly his vision, his forethought, his courage to help found the modern Republican Study Committee has been critical to any progress that the conservative movement has achieved in this House. And, Mr. Speaker, it has been much. It has been much.

So as a Texan, I will certainly miss my colleague from north of the Red River. Again, as the incoming chairman of the Republican Study Committee, I will certainly miss the wisdom and leadership that he has to provide. But I know that he hopefully will not go far and be available to us at all times.

I want to say again how proud I am to know this man and celebrate his work to try to balance the Federal budget as families have to balance their budget every single day.

And even more importantly, Mr. Speaker, for the work that he has done to ensure that in this Nation that it is truly one Nation under God because we know that our unalienable rights are granted to us by our creator, and that unless we champion the cause of public affirmation of faith, we cannot preserve liberty unless we know and allow people to affirm their faith in public that these rights are given by God himself, and that is the work of Ernest Istook, and I am proud to know him.

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, this was a time of transition in particular for my home State, the Hoosier State. Indiana this year will bid farewell to the extraordinary service of Congressman JOHN HOSTETTLER of southwestern Indiana and to a two-term congressman from the land of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, Congressman CHRIS CHOCOLA.

Throughout both of their careers, they have been men of integrity, commitment to their families, and in the case of Congressman HOSTETTLER and Congressman CHOCOLA, they are both men who throughout their career in Congress were active members of the Republican Study Committee and they brought the principles of their conservative values day in and day out to committees and to this floor.

Another example of that is Congressman MIKE SODREL who joins us on the floor today. Mike and his wife, Keta, who most members of the Republican Study Committee have come to know well since he was sworn in as the congressman for the Ninth District of Indiana in January of 2005, have made an extraordinary impression on the heart of our caucus and the heart of this Congress in a relatively short period of time.

MIKE SODREL served in the Army National Guard from 1966 to 1973. In 1976, Congressman MIKE SODREL and his wife Keta scraped together a few dollars and bought a truck and turned it into one of the most prolific and successful transportation companies in the Midwest.

A veteran Indiana political reporter called MIKE SODREL, upon his election Congress, "the closest thing to Mr. Smith goes to Washington as I think you will find in Congress."

MIKE SODREL and I come dialectically from a very different part of our State. Pronunciation of words is a little different farther south of Highway 40. I hope however long the Lord permits to serve the people of Indiana in this place, that I will serve with the integrity every day to principles and family and to conservative values that the gentleman from Indiana served.

I yield to the congressman from the Ninth Congressional District of Indiana.

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those kind words, and for his commitment to the Republican Study Committee. I will be short. In fact, a reporter accused me when I first arrived here of being laconic. I have to admit I had to go look that up. It means being relatively stingy with your words. He asked me two questions, and I said "yes" and "yes," not realizing it was the job of a Member of Congress to elaborate on all of these things.

As I listened to the previous speakers, if you want to know what happened in this election, you can walk over to the Science Committee. In the hearing room one of the first things I noticed in the wood paneling behind Members in gold-leaf lettering was Proverbs 29:18: Where there is no vision, the people perish. We failed to give the people vision; not the fault of the Republican Study Committee, but it was our fault generally, failure to give the people vision.

I know the RSC has a vision, and I encourage you to not only keep the vision, communicate the vision, and insist that others listen to the vision.

It has been my distinct honor to serve in this body, serve my district and my State and my country for the last 2 years. I had the privilege of visiting my former unit, the 151st Infantry when they were deployed in Afghanistan. They are fine people and represented our State and country well, and acquitted themselves well in the field.

And in typical Hoosier fashion, and I would like to recognize them here tonight, their mission, according to the military was security and training. They couldn't go home in the evenings, so they took on a third mission which was humanitarian. In partnership with Graceland Baptist Church in New Albany, they provided money and classrooms and blankets and virtually anything that the people of Afghanistan needed that they could supply.

They also had a skill set that you don't find in a typical infantry battalion. The commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Grube, was a 6th grade schoolteacher. Sergeant First Class Scott Hamm was manager of the Silver Creek Water Company. So it didn't matter what the locals needed, if you needed water, you called the 151st. If you needed a classroom built, you called the 151st. They had carpenters, electricians, they had all of these civilian skill sets. And being just one step out of civilian life and being of a higher average age than a normal infantry unit, and a lot of them being married with children, they related well to the local folks. So I had the privilege to visit them in Afghanistan and see what kind of job they did and how they represented the State of Indiana in that theater.

I really have nothing else to add other than it has been my honor and privilege not only to serve in this institution, but to serve with people like

my colleague from Indiana, Mr. PENCE, and I appreciate your service as chairman of the Republican Study Committee and I appreciate your integrity and hard work and I hope that you will certainly carry on.

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman for his gracious words. I know that I speak on behalf of all of the people of Indiana when I express my gratitude for your career of service that we know will be ongoing. Just the hours will be better, but we are grateful for your participation in allowing us to embarrass you tonight.

I want to yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my voice to say that Congressman SODREL will be missed. His cheerful countenance will be missed. In getting to know him, I got to know a man of courage who would always vote on principle, who knew what needed to be done and would do the right thing regardless of the consequences, a man who has served his Nation well, and like the other gentleman from Indiana has said, will serve his Nation well again in the future.

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, before we bring a Member of Congress who is the appropriate clean-up batter tonight in this Special Order celebrating the life and career of members of the Republican Study Committee, I cannot help but feel that we have loaded the bases and the Babe is about to come to bat. At the risk of having to interrupt him, which I have not done in my 6 years in Congress and would not have the courage to do tonight, allow me to do a little housekeeping before that and mention the names of BOB BEAUPREZ of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, a dairy farmer, community banker, a United States Congressman and a member of the Study Committee.

MARK GREEN of Wisconsin served his fourth term in the United States House of Representatives with impressive, populist leadership.

We have heard from GIL GUTKNECHT tonight.

MELISSA HART, a cherished member of the Republican Study Committee from Pennsylvania's 4th Congressional District, was elected in the year 2000. Her district included southwestern Pennsylvania, and she rose swiftly in this institution to some of its most important committees and most powerful positions in the national party. She is a voice that we will hear and see again soon.

We heard of JOHN HOSTETTLER tonight from Indiana's Eighth Congressional District, and from ERNEST ISTOOK of Oklahoma's Fifth.

ANNE NORTHUP, a feisty, strong, principled conservative who served the Third Congressional District in Kentucky since 1996 is retiring, and she and her tenacity will be missed.

From California's 11th District, finishing his seventh term in the United

States House of Representatives, a man who brought principled conservative reform to American environmental policy, RICHARD POMBO, will be receiving the Congress and our caucus this year.

And a man I might lastly add, JIM RYUN of the Second Congressional District of Kansas, a five-term Member of Congress, a budget hawk, but a man who along with his wife, Anne, have simply been in the business of ministering to families in this institution every day they have been here. JIM RYUN came to global fame as the world record holder in the high school mile, a record that he held for 36 years until one day when we walked from the Capitol together and he received word of a young Virginia teenager who had bested him.

□ 2200

And JIM RYUN in his typical style jumped in the car, drove to meet with that high schooler, and congratulated him. JIM's faith, his integrity, his character, his voice will be missed in this place as will the charm and ebullience of his wife, Anne.

Lastly I would just mention the staff of the Republican Study Committee. During my term as chairman of the Republican Study Committee, we have had not one but two extraordinary executive directors. Sheila Cole served as the executive director during the first year of my tenure, a tumultuous time where the winds of change and circumstances buffeted House conservatives, and our staff led by Sheila Cole, a courageous woman who has gone on to be an at-home mom, we simply would not have been able to achieve what we achieved in impacting the policy of this Nation for fiscal discipline and conservative pro-life values had Sheila Cole not been at the helm.

And if I might also add Dr. Paul Teller, who stepped into her stead and served and led the staff of the Republican Study Committee with equal distinction. Whether it be his passion and guidance on fiscal issues, whether it be his capacity to build coalitions within the Congress or his professionalism in informing Members in a timely way of the issues that we confronted as a caucus, Dr. Paul Teller has provided exceptional leadership to this organization. And I know that his future is so bright that he has got to wear shades, and we thank Dr. Paul Teller.

To Russ Vought, to Joelle, to Derek, to the balance, Mr. Speaker, I would just add to the RECORD tonight my humble and heartfelt gratitude. Anything that we have accomplished as a caucus, we have accomplished because of an extraordinary staff.

With that said, allow me to yield to our last speaker of the evening, Mr. Speaker. He is the gentleman from the Fifth Congressional District of Arizona. J.D. HAYWORTH represented Arizona's Fifth District, which includes Scottsdale, Tempe, and its environs. First elected in 1994. He was the first Arizonian ever to serve on the House

Ways and Means Committee, which is one of the most powerful legislative panels in Congress. J.D. also added another key subcommittee assignment to his duties for the 109th session of Congress. He served on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health during a particularly crucial time, the debate over the Medicare prescription drug entitlement. He was a key voice in ensuring that there were free market reforms included in that legislation as it moved through the Congress. He also, being a westerner, served on the Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over public lands, water, Indian affairs. He has been a powerful voice for reform and private property and humanity in the development of those policies.

Since coming to Washington, DC, Mr. Speaker, as anyone looking in tonight might also know, he has become simply the most prominent Republican on the airwaves of the Nation. Whether it was radio talk shows, whether it was television programs on every single network, there has been no more compelling voice for conservative values, no more compelling voice for a strong stand on immigration in America. There has been a no more passionate voice for conservative fiscal and social policies than the gentleman from Arizona.

I yield to Mr. J.D. HAYWORTH.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Indiana for an overly generous introduction and one that I will cherish and agree with wholeheartedly.

I would also be remiss, as I was listening to his statements earlier and as he very generously offered a sports analogy and spoke of the "Sultan of Swat," the great bambino, George Herman Ruth, for purposes of full disclosure, at least I have lost the Ruthian dimensions here in my midsection, although I have maintained the skinny legs but, alas, not the ability to hit the long ball besides in a metaphorical fashion here on the floor. Mr. Speaker, despite that generous introduction, for purposes of full disclosure, we should point out that to put it delicately, I was involuntarily retired from this body. One who served here before, a great gentleman, Stan Parris of Virginia, when I first met him, he said, "J.D., I retired from the Congress because of ill health."

I said, "Oh, really?"

He said, "Yeah. The voters of my district got sick of me."

So perhaps, again, to be perfectly candid, there was some of that at work as well.

And my friend from Minnesota who preceded me here in the well, along with my friends from Indiana and from Oklahoma, offered varying perspectives, but they are variations on the same theme: What a great honor it is to serve in the people's House. And many take their leave in different fashion.

History notes that the great Davy Crockett of Tennessee, when informed



of his election loss by members of the press, invited those gentlemen from the fourth estate to visit a "nether region" as he instead would head for Texas, as the gentleman from Texas remembers.

And again to be perfectly candid, Mr. Speaker, we would be less than human, we would be less than honest if at times during this difficult period of transition we were not tempted to offer the recommendations of Mr. Crockett to those, although I hasten to add to my friends from the Lone Star State I shan't be following them to Texas. And hopefully should I return to the media, Mr. Speaker, I won't be sent to those other nether regions, come to think of it.

There is a saying, Mr. Speaker, that we laugh to keep from crying, and it is not my intent to launch into an overly maudlin remembrance tonight in this valedictory. And while I appreciated my friend from Oklahoma talk about the principles of self-government, I fear that some will hear these remarks and say, well, you have got the first part right because it turns out being about self. Not entirely, but, again, it should be noted that those of us who come here and serve, Republican, Democrat or independent, from across this country do share one basic characteristic: None of us suffer from a shortage of self-esteem.

And during my time here, Mr. Speaker, I have seen incredible things. Yes, I will talk policy. I will get to that, but given my reputation according to Washingtonian Magazine as only the second biggest windbag in Congress, I am bucking tonight to go a little further afield. Now, in all sincerity, Mr. Speaker, I have seen on this floor and in this institution acts of incredible kindness. I have also seen acts of unspeakable pettiness. I have seen policies embraced with foresight and vision, and I have seen actions taken that have wreaked of the expedience of the nanosecond. I have seen the great and good. I have seen the bad and ugly. In short, Mr. Speaker, I have seen here in the people's House the full range of the human experience. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, that again reaffirms the genius of our Founders in naming this institution the House of Representatives, because just as so many have come from so many different walks of life, we have seen representative behavior that has been of incredibly high standards, and to be candid, we have seen other less desirable traits. But stop and think about what our Founders have wrought. Understanding, as my colleague from Oklahoma talked about, what separated this new experiment in this new world from the monarchies of Europe, from other governments instituted among men, the notion that our Creator endowed us with rights and we the people voluntarily conferred power, political power, on the government; that first God, through the freedoms granted us, gave us that ability to voluntarily confer power on this government.

And in this constitutional republic, Article I, Section 1, "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States." And in the initial inception of this particular institution, in the inception of our founders, one constitutional office directly accountable to the people, decided by popular vote, and given the fact that events could change a mechanism through a fairly short term of 2 years so that the body politic could make those changes representative of their change in priorities and their change in outlook. And despite all the flaws and the foibles and the pitfalls and pratfalls of the human experience, it has worked remarkably well. Whether the disappointment voiced by one Davy Crockett and others in other ways finishing second in elections, again, a euphemism for losing elections, we have put aside personal disappointment to give thanks that here we settle questions with balance, not bullets.

And as we reflect on all the talk that we have heard during the course of the campaign that there should be a new bipartisanship, a new nonpartisanship, for purposes of full disclosure, let us understand that many items and many actions pass through this institution through unanimous consent, but on major questions, it is inevitable that free people will have different perspectives. And it is well and it is good and it is proper for a free people to freely debate and discuss and advocate different positions, and here with this marvelous mechanism of representation, the people decide.

My friend from Oklahoma spoke of bringing the kitchen table in. Mr. Speaker, I would offer another room in the house. Mr. Speaker, in essence, this hallowed Chamber is America's living room. And here we gather to discuss the challenges we face as a people. And we have our arguments and we have our times of agreement, and despite many challenges and many disappointments, somehow we get it done.

Mr. Speaker, one word in closing. I would be remiss if I did not thank my family. My wife, Mary; my kids, Nicole, Hannah, and John Micah; my parents; so many who have given me much such support. My colleagues who join me here in this Congress with the new majority. But most of all, the people of Arizona, who for 12 years gave me the opportunity to represent them in the Congress of the United States.

I do not know what is next, but I do appreciate the words of the Prophet Jeremiah: "For I have plans for you," sayeth the Lord, "plans to prosper you, not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future."

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, public service is not always defined by public office. And for all the American people, let us join in a prayer that the future of our republic will forever remain bright.

□ 2215

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). The gentleman from Indiana has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. PENCE. I would like to yield the balance of that to the new chairman of the Republican Study Committee, Mr. HENSARLING of Texas.

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that God only made one J.D. HAYWORTH. And right now he is saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant." What a powerful orator.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we celebrated the congressional careers of proud sons and daughters of the Republican Study Committee, proud sons and daughters of the Republican Party, proud Members of this body who have served their Nation well.

We thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 854. An act to provide for certain lands to be held in trust for the Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe.

H.R. 1472. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 167 East 124th Street in New York, New York as the "Tito Puente Post Office Building".

H.R. 4246. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8135 Forest Lane in Dallas, Texas, as the "Dr. Robert E. Price Post Office Building".

H.R. 4720. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Gateway Drive in Lincoln, California, as the "Beverly J. Wilson Post Office Building".

H.R. 5108. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1213 East Houston Street in Cleveland, Texas, as the "Lance Corporal Robert A. Martinez Post Office Building".

H.R. 5736. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 Palafox Place in Pensacola, Florida, as the "Vincent J. Whibbs, Sr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 5857. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1501 South Cherrybell Avenue in Tucson, Arizona, as the "Morris K. 'Mo' Udall Post Office Building".

H.R. 5923. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29-50 Union Street in Flushing, New York, as the "Dr. Leonard Price Stavisky Post Office".

H.R. 5989. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10240 Roosevelt Road in Westchester, Illinois, as the "John J. Sinde Post Office Building".

H.R. 5990. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 415 South 5th Avenue in Maywood, Illinois, as the "Wallace W. Sykes Post Office Building".

H.R. 6078. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 307 West Wheat Street in Woodville, Texas, as the "Chuck Fortenberry Post Office Building".