

folks who really need to be in a position to make the decisions that affect their daily lives. These are important steps. This is progress that we have made. There is a lot of room to go and a lot of room for improvement here. Those are the things that we are going to continue to work on.

I think as we look into the next year and the challenges that are ahead of us, we have to do something to destroy the Tax Code that has become an abomination to the people of this country. In a very bold way, I believe that we are going to take on the issue of reforming the IRS and restructuring it and then taking this Tax Code and making it simpler and fairer and more practical for the American public. We are going to look at areas like education and making important reforms to, as a matter again of values, say that parents should have more input in how their kids are educated, that the taxpayers ought to get the best possible value that we can out of our education dollar and that we want to see the optimum, the very best quality of education for our kids.

Those are important priorities for us and those are things that we are going to continue to move forward. We have made an important beginning here in the past 4 years. As a Republican majority in the Congress when we took over in 1994, these are accomplishments to which we can point with pride.

I think it points also to the need to continue to build upon a vision for the future which envisions a Federal Government which again is smaller and more responsive, more efficient, and a recognition that it is in fact the people of this country and their initiative and when we give them the opportunity to keep more of what they earn, that they will do what is in the best interest not only of themselves and their family but they will also work in the areas of their communities to make this a better place in which to raise their kids, in which to build a better future for this country.

I look forward to being a part of these initiatives that we are going to continue to work on to build upon the progress that has been made and to continue down the path into the future. We have had a great beginning. We now need to move forward.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE HONORABLE WALTER H. CAPPS OF CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. HOOLEY] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to especially thank the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN], who allowed us to go first so we may honor our friend and fellow colleague Walter Capps.

I would like to begin this special order with a moment of silence in honor of our friend.

Mr. Speaker, a number of Members, especially some of the Members of the freshman class who were very close to Walter wanted to pay a special tribute to him tonight. It seems particularly appropriate that we should share a moment of quiet reflection for a man whose reflective, thoughtful style was at odds with the often noisy, clamorous tenor of this body.

Even amongst the freshman class, there is a great deal of diversity in the ways my colleagues make decisions. While high-minded ideals play a part in every public servant's decisions, there are few Members who sought a moral grounding for their judgments more seriously and persistently than Walter Capps.

He was once quoted as saying, "The question is, What will I do? Am I being true to who I am? If I go this way, will I have violated anything that is essentially human?" Plainly Walter's humanism, his morality, his seriousness, his rectitude raised the business of the legislature to a higher level. He reminded us all about our reasons for coming to Congress in the first place. Walter was a different breed, a renaissance man cut from the same cloth from which I would like to imagine that the giants of our Republic's history came.

Yesterday on the floor I recalled one of my favorite stories about Walter, how he had told me that when he was laid up from a serious accident and unable to campaign, he had written a book. How remarkable in this age of hard and fast campaigning. I was almost mystified that he could have found time to do such a thing. Later, I learned that it was his 14th book.

By now even those of us who were not lucky enough to have known Walter in the short time here have through his tragedy of death come to realize how greatly he will be missed. I will miss him both professionally and personally. I will miss his bipartisanship and his intelligence. I will miss his warmth and his good humor.

Congressman Capps' spirit will live on among the Members of this freshman class. He will live through the work that we do. His early and unfortunate death deprived us of something wonderful, but the example that he set for all of us during his time here leaves us something wonderful to live up to.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. PRICE].

□ 2100

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for organizing this special order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, Walter Capps brought rare qualities of insight and grace to political life and to his service among us. In his short time here, he touched us individually and as an institution in ways reflected in the remarkable outpouring of grief and tribute we have witnessed since Tuesday. Walter was, as the President said, a rare soul, and we are much the poorer for his passing.

I first met Walter Capps some 35 years ago at Yale University, where he was a graduate student in religious studies and I was a fellow student of his wife, Lois, and brother, Don, in the Divinity School. Walter went on to a career distinguished for the quality of his teaching and writing and research, and far-reaching in its impact on students and colleagues and in the Santa Barbara community.

His would have been a rich and full life had he never been drawn into politics, but the fact that he took on the challenge of this new career speaks volumes, not only about his remarkable and diverse talents, but also about his openness to the leading of the Spirit and his powerful sense of moral obligation.

It was not as though membership in the Congress fell into Walter's lap. Walter fought two hard campaigns and was preparing for another. He came back from a difficult loss in 1994 and a horrible automobile accident in 1996. His manner was genial and gentle, but those qualities were combined with a bedrock of conviction and courage and persistence.

He was in politics for the right reasons, but he knew that the values and purposes he brought to political life would not prevail without a struggle. With Lois at his side, he was willing to make that struggle, and our country and this institution are the better for it.

When I returned to the House after the 1996 election, Walter Capps was one of the new Members I was most eager to meet. This was partly because of our shared background, of course, but also because of the unique career path and remarkable talents that brought him to this place. I was privileged to become his friend here, as were so many colleagues to whom Walter reached out with an insatiable curiosity about the people and issues with which he was working, a cooperative and generous spirit, and great good humor.

Walter Capps cared deeply about uplifting minds and spirits. He succeeded because his own spirit was centered and at peace. He had much to give, and he gave without measure.

We are deeply saddened that Walter's time among us was so abruptly cut short, but we rejoice in a life fully and usefully lived, and we are heartened that a man like Walter Capps could be elected and could grace this House and our service with his presence.

In the words of the Apostle Paul, we thank God upon every remembrance of him.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield time to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DAVIS].

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tonight is an evening for us to give thanks for the remarkable life of Walter Capps. It is also an opportunity for us to express appreciation to Walter's constituents in Santa Barbara and the communities he represented, to thank them for sending Walter to Congress to serve with us. It is further an opportunity to reflect on the unique attributes of Walter Capps.

Walter stood out in a body of very, very strong-willed people as being an extremely strong-willed person himself. How else can you explain the fact that Walter succeeded in getting elected to Congress while spending a few months in a hospital bed with very serious injuries?

Yet what made Walter stand out was the fact that while he was a very strong-willed person, he was also a very selfless person. I was struck on the several times that I talked with Walter by the fact that there was absolutely no sense of ego in this man, simply a determination to do his job.

Walter invested himself in learning the issues. Walter invested himself in trying to understand how to make this a better place within which to do the people's business. This is because Walter, above all, believed in the power of knowledge. He believed in the power of ideas, and his weapon here on the floor of the House of Representatives was his knowledge of the issues and his ability to use his intellect to convince others on the merits of issues.

One of the other things I will always remember about Walter Capps is his remarkable peace of mind. Amid the sound and fury that often characterizes this body, Walter had a certain calm about him which most of us can only envy.

That calmness in Walter Capps can clearly be attributed to a very rich and deep spiritual life, which he shared with many through his writings and his teachings in Santa Barbara, and also a quite remarkable sense of self-knowledge.

Walter Capps knew who he was. Walter Capps knew what he believed. Walter Capps understood quite clearly what gifts he had been endowed with, and he knew how to use them. He came here to simply get the job done. Above all, Walter was a teacher, and we were just beginning to learn from Walter in so many ways. So in the short time we had to get to know Walter, we have learned a lot.

To Walter, and to Lois, and to the Capps family and to the constituents that sent him here, we thank you for the chance of having had the opportunity to serve with him.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California, [Ms. LOFGREN].

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it does not seem possible that it has just been one year that we had the good fortune

to know Walter in the people's House, the House of Representatives. In some ways, I feel like I knew him very well in that one short year, and I thought, well, why is that? Because our districts are kind of neighbors? Well, maybe that is so.

Because we are one of, I think, only two Swedish-Americans in the House of Representatives and we used to tease each other about that? Maybe that is the truth. But as I think about it, I think I feel I know Walter very well because we all do, because he took the time to share himself with each of us and not just with us, with his constituents.

I think about what we have lost and what his constituents have lost, what his family has lost, and I also think what we have gained.

When I think of Walter, I think of several things. I think of his integrity, and I remember sitting here on this floor when we would be casting our votes and for the freshmen Members, trying to make those fine decisions, trying to understand all of the forces at play, and Walter would say something like, "I think the right thing to do is this." Not the political thing, not the popular thing, but "I think the right thing is to do this." And then he would do that thing.

I think of Walter as a sparkley-eyed person, and I think of the jokes that he and Reverend Ford used to tell, sometimes in Swedish so the rest of us would not understand, and the jokes that he would tell. He proved up the truth that you can have values and integrity, but you don't have to be grim and not fun to be around.

I think about Walter as a modest and egalitarian person, who treated the most modest person from his district or on the street as the owner of the country, who did not put the rich or the powerful or the important on any higher pedestal than the least person he ever met. And it is those values that we got from Walter. It is that that he gave to us.

Where does a person get their life, their attitude towards life? Surely from their values. In Walter's case, from his faith. I also think his severe accident really had a very large impact on him. He talked to me, and I think to many perhaps, about how it made him understand in a very real way how precious life is, when he had confronted the fact that he was really not expected to live, but he fought his way back.

After that, he took, without ever telling anyone, no press, never made much of it, but he always made a point to go back and visit the rehabilitation center where he spent those months and to visit with the people who were still there or who had become ill since he had left and to give them some hope, just by being there, that he had made it and they could, too.

Finally, I think of Walter as someone who loved his family in a way that was very special. I think of him and Lois

walking these floors at night when the votes were going, because Lois was here as his life partner, but also his values partner. I think of the pride that he had in his children and how he would share that pride and how wonderful that was, and I think of how honored he felt that his neighbors had selected him to come here for a short while to represent them, to trust his values to be translated in their behalf.

He knew that all of us are here passing through at the request of our neighbors to do the people's will. He did not know it would be just for one year. In that one year, he has done more than many do in decades.

For that, Walter, we all thank you, honor you, and thank your family.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield time to the gentlewoman from New York, [Mrs. MCCARTHY].

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as you can hear from all of our colleagues, Walter Capps, Congressman Walter Capps, was a wonderful person. Again, I am a freshman, and I can remember meeting him for the first time during orientation.

I was scared during those days, because it was the first time that I had come here to try and work and do the people's work, and I remember sitting next to Walter, and he kind of saw me shaking and said, "Are you okay?" I said I don't know. I hope I can do this job. And he goes, Carolyn, you got here. You will do it, and you will do it fine.

Well, we are here almost 11 months and Walter had become my teacher, and for that I thank him. I loved walking from the halls to here while we would talk about what was going on in our lives and what was going on back in our district. For those things, I thank him for very deeply.

The one thing about Walter, he was a quiet man, but he was a giant. We have had a lot of extremely important people here, and more important people will come and do great things. Walter would have been one of those people. We will never know.

Yesterday, I was going over my desk and I saw that I had signed on on a bill with Walter, because he was always working to try to make life better for people. I think all of our colleagues will work to make sure his name is on that bill and that bill will pass. That will be our legacy to Walter and to his family. I thank you so much. We will all miss Walter.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield time to the gentleman from New Jersey, [Mr. ROTHMAN].

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman HOOLEY for putting together this tribute to our friend, the late Walter Capps.

First of all, I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to Lois and Walter's children. We can only imagine how you are feeling. You have our thoughts and our prayers.

Walter Capps lived a very rich and vigorous life, serving his community in

many different ways. As a young man in Omaha, Nebraska, he learned the value of a hard day's work with Union Pacific Railroad by delivering newspapers and by painting houses.

As a professor of religious studies at the University of California Santa Barbara, he emerged as a national leader in the study of peace and conflict, veterans affairs, and America's democracy.

While at the University of California Santa Barbara, he also developed one of the first college curriculums on the history, experience and ramifications of the Vietnam War. He was active with his community, service organizations in the Santa Barbara area and in his own Lutheran church.

Walter epitomized the kind of person we all want to be, not only as Members of Congress, but as human beings. In a time when petty partisanship engulfs this body so often, too often, and prevents the Congress, many times, from doing the people's work, it was such a gift to be able to look over and see Walter Capps, a man who exuded humility and compassion and grace.

He refused to subscribe to the lowest common denominator of discourse. He spoke from the heart, always challenging us to see the big picture and to work for a world where harmony, reconciliation and thoughtfulness were to be more common than anger, conflict, and ignorance.

□ 2115

While campaigning to represent the people of the 22nd Congressional District of California, Walter Capps often spoke of the broken bond of trust between the people of the United States and their government. He believed that Americans deserved a government as good as the people it served, and that idealism has a place in Washington, DC.

In the memory of Walter Capps, I challenge each and every Member of this great House, and every Member of the United States Senate, to seize this sense of idealism and to begin to work for a Nation that Walter would have been proud of, a place where social divisions melt away into a national community, where we come together to solve our problems in a constructive, thoughtful, and compassionate manner.

I remember first meeting Walter in our freshman orientation sessions. I am 5 feet 8½ inches, and Walter was tall, but he was a giant, as the gentlewoman from New York, Mrs. CAROLYN MALONEY, said, in other ways. When you met him, you knew that here was just a great person, a great man; smart, smarter than all of us, but he was so kind. He was so humble. He really was a beautiful human being. You were almost in awe of him when you spoke with him, because he was so smart, he was so well-read, he was so knowledgeable, but he was tolerant of all of us, short people, smaller people, and I do not just mean in height.

He had great intelligence, humility, gentleness, grace, maturity, and eyes that bespoke a great love of life. It was a tremendous honor to serve this Nation with Walter Capps, and to have gotten to know him and work with him, however briefly. I will miss him. I think I will always miss him, and his loss is a wound that will never heal.

It is my hope and prayer that this House will carry on his legacy, and will always remember and live up to his expectations and grand vision of the potential of the United States of America and the potential of the human race.

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. BOSWELL].

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, 50-plus some hours ago we were stunned, 2 days and a little bit, when we heard in this Chamber, the people's Chamber, that one of ours had left us, had left this earth. Many of us had many mixed feelings. For me, I still struggle with it somewhat.

We shared a lot, I guess because we are the oldest ones of our class. I told him, though, I was the oldest. He said, well, we have got to check that. So we did, from time to time, as if he would have forgotten. Of course, he did not. But we talked probably about every day about something, sometimes just to share a little joke, or whatever, but we seemed to touch one another on a regular basis.

I know, Lois, if you are watching us through this great medium of television and satellite and so on, and the people in California, it is our opportunity to share with you about how this man touched our lives.

He came to this, the people's House, after many years, and probably never on his want list of things to do. But finally the time came, whatever the circumstance was, and he probably knew within him that life experience had shared with him things that he could come and share with us; that he could come and represent the people of his district and bring a balance, some levity, at times, but bring some sincere, deep feelings about what America is all about.

He was a theologian, a writer, and I think he practiced what he believed. Behind our Speaker is that beautiful flag that Walter loved, and just above our Speaker's head are those words, "In God We trust." As the Speaker and as I look across, we look into a picture of Moses. I think those things were very, very important to Walter Capps.

He tried to live by example. He did not go around boasting that he had written 14 books, as I have learned here. He did not boast that he won a race after going through a horrible accident. He was Walter, a man of the people, a man who loved his country, his community, his State, and the people that occupied the same.

This morning by chance I happened to talk to a Mrs. Kersh from out in his district. She called to be sure that I knew that Walter had passed, and his

funeral was going to be Monday. So we talked, and she said, we have had a great loss. We are just not sure how we are going to handle this. He loved us all, in spite of ourselves, at times. And she said many other things.

The thought that comes to me as I think of this, and I shared it a little bit Tuesday morning or Wednesday morning, there are some promises that I know that Walter Capps would believe in. I often reflect at times like this on John: 14, where Jesus was talking to his disciples, knowing that sometime he would be leaving. He said, I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come and receive you to me, and I will not leave you comfortless.

Lois, you will not be left comfortless. I believe that. And I believe, as I understood Walter Capps, that he is at that someplace that is hard to identify, watching down upon us with a twinkle in his eye, a smile, grieving for those of his loved ones that are grieved for him, but he is there, doing his work, assisting in preparing a place for us and for you. Our lives were touched by him, our lives were made better because Walter Capps came our way. I am very appreciative. I thank the gentlewoman for this chance to share.

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY].

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I join with my colleagues to honor the life of Walter Capps. At this moment, may I take the opportunity to thank the 22nd District of California, the area of Santa Barbara, for sending this wonderful, wonderful man to the House of the people, to the Congress of the United States of America.

In his one year in Congress, Walter Capps added immensely to the lives of every one of us that he served with. Walter Capps was thoughtful. Walter Capps was reflective of something that was so important to all of us. He was willing to engage in dialogue on both sides of the aisle. He was committed to the fact that well-meaning people can reason together, that we can talk, we can debate, that we should come together in the interests of the United States of America and the things that the people of the United States of America want us to do. For that reason, Walter Capps should be an inspiration and model to all of us.

I met Walter Capps in the orientation of the freshman class, the new Members of the 105th Congress. I met him, I saw him, and I knew that this was a man that was delighted to be here. Walter Capps was a brave man. He was absolutely as brave as you get. Some of us who are in politics and understand what it is like to run for public office know, you literally put yourself up and you can be shot at. He ran for public office, he ran for Congress, and he lost. He had the courage to come back and run again and he won, so he came to be among us.

Walter Capps was probably about as honorable as you can get, as honorable

a man as there can be to serve in this body. He was also gracious. What I remember when I met him that week of orientation was that he insisted that every single one of us, we that had been in the Congress and were there with the new class, met his wife, his beloved wife, Lois. Because he understood that in those two races that he had run to come to Congress, that she was the partner that helped him get here.

One of the reasons that I appreciated Walter to the extent that I did, because I have been here a while, I understood that Walter understood governance. He understood our democratic system. He understood that he was elected, one of 435, to come here to represent his constituents, and to respect the government of the United States of America. He understood that he had to be positive to make this government work, and as a result of this understanding, he enhanced the system.

For me, the real loss of Walter is that he understood something so deeply, but something that is so much a part of our democratic system of government. He truly understood, because of his background, because of his education, because of all that he was, he understood such a definite piece of our government: he understood the separation of church and State. He understood how strong that wall had to be. He understood that we cannot have a democratic system if we mix religion and politics.

Why I feel so badly about Walter leaving us is that I thought that with his understanding, with his education, a Ph.D. From Yale and divinity studies, that he could teach this body, each and every one, that this democratic system could not survive if we in this body did not understand that we had to have separation of church and State.

So I come here tonight to mourn his loss. I come here tonight to say that he was only with us for one year. I come here tonight to say to his family, I hope that they have comfort to think this is one man who could come here in one year and have such an impact on his colleagues.

But I also come here tonight, and stay here tonight with the members of his freshman class, who will not be freshmen much longer, wonderful Members of the 105th Congress, to say to them, you come here to honor Walter's memory. You come here to say good-bye to him. You come here to say that you love him. But let me give you a challenge.

I am a woman that has been in this body for 15 years. I am a woman who has seen classes come and classes become part of this body. The last two classes I have seen, the last two classes, the 104th Congress and the 105th Congress, are quite special, particularly on the Democratic side. That is one of the reasons that I feel after 15 years that I can leave this body, because I think you can carry on the dialogue, you can carry on the constitu-

tional mandates, you can carry out what this country has to do to be great.

So I give you a challenge tonight. I say to you Members, particularly Democratic Members of the 105th Congress, new Members, you are going to do a good job. I think you are wonderful. I think you are probably the best class I have seen in a long, long time.

But no matter how hard you work, no matter how good you think your work is, I challenge you to go an extra mile, to do more because you knew Walter Capps, and you knew if he could have lived longer, how much he would have done.

So I challenge you Members who loved Walter Capps to say you will work as hard as you can, but you will work even harder to make sure that his being is among you, and that you do better than you think you can do in memory of that beloved man.

□ 2130

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. TURNER].

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, each us who began service in this Congress with Walter are left with fond memories of our friendship with him. It is a tribute tonight to hear the statements of our colleagues who each in their own unique way saw the true value of Walter's life.

We all knew him as a true gentleman. We all saw him as a deeply spiritual, religious man. We saw him as a kind and thoughtful and principled man. We saw him as a man of quiet determination.

We all remember as he walked in this Chamber and had a quick smile and a kind word for each of us. And many of us watched him as he walked across the Capitol to our office building, hand-in-hand many times, with Lois. He reflected the best of a good father, a loving husband, a man who understands and understood what was really important in this life.

I know as we speak tonight, Lois and the children are perhaps listening with many friends and I must say that Walter and Lois were an example to all of us as husbands and fathers. Lois really in many ways was like a 436th Member of this body. She oftentimes attended committee meetings with Walter and often she ventured off to go to committees that he was not even on. She shared his intellect, his keen interest and in his campaign she was a true partner in being sure that they were victorious in their election.

Walter Capps was a man who really stood apart. He came here as a college professor serving over three decades as a professor at the University of California in Santa Barbara, best known for his course on the Vietnam War. They say that there were over 800 students signing up for that class, filling the hall. In fact, they had to have the largest lecture hall at the university just for those who wanted to be under his tutelage.

Yes, we learned that when Walter spoke, as those students learned, Walter had something to say. And we knew that it was worth listening to. Walter was a man who understood adversity. He lost his first election and had to run again to come here. He nearly lost his life in a head-on collision during his second campaign. He met head-on on a mountain road with a drunken driver. But Walter, as he reflected upon his injuries during rehabilitation, said something worth quoting. He said, "I never want to forget what it's like to go through the world in a wheelchair. I would never wish for a car accident like this, but I've learned from it. Love and care for one another is what is at the core of what links us."

Walter understood the important things of life. We all were enriched by having known him. He taught us by his example to remember why we are here. He gave politics a good name and in the rough and tumble world of politics, as we so often see it in this House Chamber, Walter in many ways would at first glance appear to not fit in, as if he did not really belong here. But on closer reflection, we all realized that, yes, he truly did belong here and he set the standard for us all.

Mr. Speaker, Walter was a man who knew who he was. He knew what he believed in and he knew where he was going in this life and in the life hereafter.

Around here we often note that we are addressed as "The Honorable." Walter Capps truly deserved the title of "Honorable." He was a great American, a great family man, and a friend to each of us. He will be truly missed. May God rest his soul and may God be with Lois and the family in this difficult time.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. LAMPSON].

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker and other House Member colleagues, I rise to honor the memory of my friend and colleague, Walter Capps.

We freshmen Members on the Democratic side learned to look to Walter Capps as a leader among us. He led with humility, with fundamental goodness, and boundless wisdom. It is an overwhelming thing to arrive here in Washington, DC, and realize that we now have to stand in the shoes of generations of leaders who have steered this country through the course of its history. It was reassuring to have among us a man who seemed to understand our role as part of a scheme that went beyond the day-to-day operations of the government. As a scholar of religious studies, Walter Capps' presence in this House reminded all of us that our work must reflect our beliefs and our faith.

Mr. Speaker, Walter Capps ran for Congress because he believed he had something to offer to this country. He had already had a successful career and certainly had a beautiful family. He

did not need this. But he felt obligated to offer his gift, himself, because he loved his country.

In the short time that he served, Walter Capps made a difference. He touched the lives of each of the Members of the House of Representatives, and he touched the lives of the citizens across America. And tonight our deepest sympathies go with Lois and his beautiful children. Indeed, "God bless you."

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield time to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STRICKLAND].

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for the time. St. Francis de Sales I think has conveyed a profound truth when he said, "There is nothing so strong as gentleness, and there is nothing so gentle as real strength."

Our friend and our colleague, Walter Capps, was gentle and he was strong.

Mr. Speaker, I have been amazed in the last couple of days as we have heard each other talk about Walter Capps. It has caused me at 56 years of age to reflect upon my own life and my own mortality; to ask myself if I were to leave this Earth, would people say about me what they say about Walter? Could they say about me what they say about Walter?

Those of us who serve in this place do so for a variety of reasons, some noble and some perhaps not so noble. Politicians are described in different ways, as smart, skillful, crafty, successful, weak, corrupt. Many words are used to describe politicians.

I think I would like to be described as a loving person, as a loving politician. And if I can just share with you what Walter's death has done for me, it has caused me to reflect upon the people that I know, my constituents, my family, my colleagues. We are talking of Walter's goodness, his gracefulness, his gentleness, his greatness.

It has caused me to wonder if every day in this place people like Walter walk past us in these aisles and sit beside us in these chairs, people on both sides of the aisle, people who are truly good and decent and caring, and we get so caught up in our day-to-day activities and our efforts that we fail to recognize the goodness and the strength and the gentleness that is all about us.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for Walter Capps, for his wife Lois. We lived together in the Methodist Building. I was able to see him occasionally as he would come and go. But I hope that Walter's death teaches us a lesson that is somewhat lasting.

The scripture asks the question, "O grave, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" And I guess I would like to think that for me and perhaps many of us, we can learn from Walter's death as we learned from Walter's life, that we should pause and reflect and be grateful for Walter, but also be grateful for each other.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. JOHNSON].

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I join in offering tonight my condolences and my thoughts tonight about Walter Capps. Here was a man who, like me, had never held elective office before and yet he seemed at ease coming here to the Halls of Congress.

He told me once that he was as thrilled as I was at being here. Walter Capps had, as I had, already a successful career in another job. He was a teacher and professor and, we found out, an author. So this place was new and exciting and yet thrilling to him.

Many of us freshmen Congressmen got to know Walter and Lois Capps because even though he counted among his friends some Members of Congress, it was now him, he was coming to Washington as a freshman Congressman, a 63-year-old freshman, older and wiser than many of us, I thought, yet just as exuberant as a kid or teacher who just got his first job.

Walter and Lois came together to many of the orientation sessions here. It was the teacher, the professor, Walter Capps, in the classroom learning about his new job, representing the people. Most of us listened when he spoke. His questions seemed to me to be, maybe because he was a professor, more thoughtful. His tone was questioning and inquiring. He was for many of us a teacher and a student. The freshmen came here students of government and now practicing government at its peak, representing the people.

We knew Walter was a good one. As I said, he and Lois sat through days of meetings. When it was nice outside, we sat inside learning about government. And I remember a day we were outside not too many months after we arrived here and we were walking over to this House for a vote, and he turned and asked how I liked this job, and I said I loved it and he said, "I do, too. It is a great honor. We are pretty lucky."

But it was all of us who got to know Walter Capps for a short time, not quite a year, it was we, who were lucky, lucky to know a freshman who, like us, was so real, so energetic and compassionate and caring and, as we will hear tonight, just a real nice guy. It is true, like all of us, Walter Capps was a politician and he worked hard to get here and appreciated his opportunity and his chance to play a role in this Nation's future. Walter Capps, whose service to his district, state and country was brief, but his effect on those he met personally will last far beyond any legislative record, and we are all better for having worked with Walter Capps.

Mr. Speaker, I would say his district was pretty lucky to have him, we were lucky to know him, God is lucky now to have him a lot closer. He was not showy and he was not flashy. He was tall and he was just good, what any American would want in their Representative.

Mr. Speaker, I would say, "Thank you, Walter, for running for Congress,

for choosing to play your part on the stage of American politics." It was reluctantly brief but remarkable in its impression. And I would say "Thank you, California, for recognizing a wonderful choice to represent you. Thank you, Lois, for sharing your time and your husband, Walter Capps, with us and the Nation. And Walter, we miss you."

□ 2145

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. ETHERIDGE].

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. HOOLEY] for putting together this evening of tribute to our dear friend, Walter Capps.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a friend and a colleague, Representative Walter Holden Capps, who was our friend. It is with deep sympathy and grief that I speak this evening. Words cannot truly express the loss that Members on both sides of the aisle feel with Walter's passing.

As a professor of religious studies, he was known for his strong spiritual background and his deep, deep commitment to education. As you have heard, he was the holder of a doctorate degree from Yale University and the author of 14 books. He came to this people's House after winning one of last year's most hotly contested House races. Representative Capps entered the House after many years of committed service to education, 33 years. For 33 years he had been a professor of religious studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he pioneered the study of conflict resolution, a great beginning to come to the people's House.

Students recognized him for his questioning, spiritual nature and a willingness to engage public issues on a philosophical level. In 1984, Walter invited the then Governor of the State of Nebraska, Senator BOB KERREY, to teach with him his course on the Vietnam War. This nationally recognized course was the first of its kind to be taught in the United States.

A Medal of Honor winner for his service in Vietnam, Senator KERREY urged then Professor Capps to consider political life. Ten years later, Walter made his first run for the United States Congress but, as we have heard this evening, he came up just short.

On May 21, 1996, during a second attempt at gaining public office, as we have heard this evening, Walter was injured in a massive automobile accident as he returned to his Santa Barbara home after having just completed a news conference. After emerging from three months of rehabilitation, Walter returned to the campaign trail where he was victorious in the grandest fashion.

As a fellow member of the House Committee on Science, I would often sit next to Walter. He had a keen interest for the growing role of science in our society and asked many probing

questions and wondered why we were not putting more money in science. Although he will be remembered as a Member of the House of Representatives, as we have heard this evening, and his contributions here, I will most remember him for the impact he has made on the young people through his many years of contribution, 33 years in education.

He and I shared a commitment to providing quality education to all the children, no matter what their background may have been. I think if Walter is remembered by his family and his community, it will be for his commitment to the children.

I will end by extending my heartfelt sympathy to Walter's wife, Lois, and to their three children, Lisa, Todd, and Laura. I know that this will be a tough few days ahead, but remember that your friends love you and they will be there for you because you have many, many friends. I join my colleagues in saluting Walter for his wonderful spirit and lifelong commitment to his fellow man. He was a true friend and he will be missed.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. GOODE].

Mr. GOODE. I thank the gentlewoman for arranging the program this evening.

Mr. Speaker, together with my colleagues, I rise tonight to pay tribute to the memory of one of our best, Walter Capps. Walter's death on Tuesday not only shocked and surprised all of us, but also has united us in sadness that we have lost such a gentle and caring friend. My wife, Lucy, and I met Walter and Lois at freshman orientation last November and have had the opportunity to come to know them in the months since then.

From my observations, today's issue of Roll Call was completely correct with its headline that characterized Walter as the nicest Member of Congress. There was something special in his nature, a cheerfulness, an openness, a warmth that made him both liked and respected.

I remember very well Walter's remarks to our Thursday morning prayer breakfast not long ago. He spoke about his personal faith and his experiences as a professor of religion at the University of California, Santa Barbara. From his remarks, one could sense Walter's deep commitment to America's young people, the strength of his faith and a certain inner peace. To Lois and the Capps family, I say that we feel your loss with you for we have lost a friend and someone whom we are richer for having known.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ].

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak about a friend, Walter Capps. My husband, Stephan, and I had a very difficult campaign. I came in January at the same time that Walter came with his wife, Lois. During this

entire campaign, while we were south of Los Angeles, just north of Los Angeles, Walter Capps and Lois, his wife, were running for Congress. And I kept hearing some amazing things about this super man who would go out and talk to people and was bright and intelligent and had the toughest race going on in Congress.

I kept thinking, would it not be wonderful if in California we would have somebody like Walter Capps representing us? And when I arrived, the first thing my husband said to me was, I would really like to meet Walter Capps. Of all the famous people we have here in Congress, my husband, Stephan, wanted to meet Walter.

Now, my husband, Stephan, had gone to the University of California at Santa Barbara. He had spent five years there, finally graduating with his degree, and in that time he was one of those students who had petitioned to try to squeeze into one of Professor Capps's classes. And in five years there was such a demand for those classes that he was unable to be in his class.

So he said, the one person I really want to meet is Walter Capps. As you know, my husband has stayed back in California, and I go out to California to be with him on the weekends. I kept saying to my husband, do not worry, you will get a chance. There is always the Christmas party in December. And as I heard about the death of Walter this week, the first thing that came to mind was that there never really is enough time. In fact, tomorrow sometimes never comes for some of us.

If there is one thing I have learned from Walter's death, is that we all have to appreciate each other while we are here together. A couple of weeks ago, Walter came and sought me out and took me outside of these halls, and we sat down and we spoke a while.

Walter and I had a lot of things in common. We were both Representatives from California. We both had tough races. He went back every single weekend, most of the time on the same plane that I did. Many times we would talk. And while many people have said, oh, my God, how can Loretta take the pressure of everything that is going on this year, what most people did not realize was that Walter Capps was doing the same thing I was doing, going back every weekend, talking to the people, getting ready for a very difficult reelection, being with the people back home, trying to be with his family, his three children and his wife, and trying also to do the job of a new Congressperson.

He took me outside of this room and sat me down and he said, are you okay, Loretta? Is everything okay? Is there something we can do for you?

Here Walter had been going through the same things, in essence, that I had and yet he had found the time to ask me if everything was okay in my life.

I guess the most special thing about Walter was the fact that he had such a great family. As we all know, family

takes time and it takes love and it takes commitment. About the greatest thing I can remember, as you all do, I am sure, is Lois and Walter together holding hands. That always struck me, because Stephan and I have been married for a little over seven years, and many of you have not had a chance to see us together. But when we are together, we hold hands.

When I used to watch Walter and Lois, I used to think to myself, they do it and they have been married almost 37 years. I thought, would it not be great if when Stephan and I reach 37 years we are still holding hands?

Walter, you taught me quite a bit. I am proud to call you my friend and, Lois, our thoughts are with you. He was a great man. He is a great man. He will be with us for many, many years.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. BERRY].

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the memory and service of my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California, the Honorable Walter Capps. His warm smile, kind words, great intellect and integrity made this a better place. His wisdom and courage made this country a better place. Even though he served only a short time, we were all honored by his having served as a man of the House. Our prayers go with Lois and Walter's family because they have lost the most.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maine [Mr. ALLEN].

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here tonight to share with my friends and Walter's friends our memories of him in his service to this House.

The people of California's 22nd District chose well when they chose Walter Capps, and we want to express our sympathy today to, Lois, his partner in life and in politics, and to their children, Lisa, Todd, and Laura.

We now know, as freshmen, how we have come to know each other over the past year, and we knew Walter well by now, but if I can take you back to the time when we first came together, we were getting to know each other, telling each other stories about how difficult our own races were. And each of us felt that we had had a particularly difficult race.

Then we talked to Walter and we learned that he had been hospitalized for three months and that he had essentially campaigned from his hospital bed and that while in his hospital bed he had written his 14th book. We realized that this was a very extraordinary, gifted and talented man.

His kindness, his intelligence, his integrity will always be with us, but I think we will remember especially his joy in this job. And we will remember, as several have said, Lois and Walter walking outside, looking up at the Capitol rotunda all lit up at night, absolutely enthralled with both the responsibility and the joy of being here.

Lois, in particular, his partner in life, was thoroughly engaged in the issues that we dealt with and shared his goals and values. I want to just say one other thing. We knew him as a representative here in Congress. But there was a tribute today in the Washington Post written by Lou Cannon which gave some sense of what he was like as a professor.

It mentions his class on the Vietnam war and the 800 people who would sign up. And it has a paragraph that I believe you should hear. Lou Cannon talked to people who were in Walter's class. And he said:

A Vietnam veteran told me he had left the Capps lecture arm in arm with someone who had dodged the draft. A Vietnamese student wept as she told me that Capps had made her family's sufferings meaningful to her. Nobody quite knew how he did it. I think he was effective because he understood but did not judge. I think he was effective because he understood, but did not judge.

□ 2200

That sums up Walter Capps to me in a great many ways. He made his family, his university, his State, and this House better for his presence. He was our friend, and we will miss him. But he has taught us to listen to the better angels of our nature and try to live up to his example.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HON. WALTER H. CAPPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. REYES].

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR], for yielding.

It is a special time for us here as we talk about a dear friend. And for those of us that think that we have to know somebody for a long, long time in order to respect them, in order to love them, we do not.

Walter Capps most of us only truly knew for about 10 months or so. I can only say for my part that I feel a great sense of loss for losing him, but most of all, for not having the opportunity to have known him longer or having met him earlier in my life.

I can remember clearly the first time that I met Walter Capps. We were at one of our freshmen orientations. He came down and sat down next to me, like he would sit down to talk to others, and he looked at me and he said, "You are that Border Patrol guy, aren't you?" Walter Capps was unique. I did not know quite how to respond to him. Except, he spoke to me at length, and later I had the distinct feeling that I had just been through an interview in a very friendly and charming sort of way.

Walter Capps was a humble and gentle man. He was patient. He had a sense of humor. Many times in this hall, I wound up sitting next to him and we would trade witty remarks, and he would look at me and smile with a twinkle in his eye and say, "You know, you are pretty good at this stuff." And he was not so bad himself. He always kept a good sense of humor. He had a great sense of family. You could see that.

To the people of the 22nd District, I wanted to say thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve with a man of integrity, a man of high morals, a man of principles.

In closing, I would like to remember him as he truly was, as a loving husband, a devoted father, a dedicated true public servant and, for me and my wife, a dear friend that we will miss but that we know tonight is looking out for all of us, and most especially for you, Lois, for Lisa, for Laura, and for Todd. This world is a better place because Walter Capps walked among us. He was a giant. He was a friend. And he will be missed.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan [Ms. STABENOW].

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I take just a moment this evening to join with my colleagues. It is an honor to serve in this body with my friends in the freshmen class. And it has been an honor to serve with Walter Capps. So much has been said about him, it is hard to know what to add, except to share a couple of personal experiences about Walter.

He and I met through the television set. We were both featured on one of the stories near the end of the campaign about hot-contested races. I had the opportunity to hear about this wonderful man, this bright, wonderful author and professor in California. We both had similar opponents. When we got here at orientation, we were very quick to look each other up and, not knowing each other, gave each other a hug and said that we were glad that we had both made it.

We went on to sit together on the Committee on Science. Walter sat next to me. He was all the things that everyone has said tonight in terms of his wit, his compassion, his intelligence, his caring. Sitting next to him on the committee, we had an opportunity to share some really important discussions about education, science and math education, the importance of investing in research, in science. It was clear to me that this was a man of incredible depth, as well as a man who was extremely caring and respectful of other people.

He was always teasing me about my legislative director, who he said was wonderful and he wanted to steal her from me. And every time she came up to speak with me on the Science Committee, he would say, "Is she treating you all right? And if she is not, just let me know." My staff loved to talk with Walter.

I think when I heard about what happened on Tuesday, and I was with my legislative director, both of us felt like we had been hit in the stomach, we were so shocked, and had a very difficult time the rest of the evening as we went back to the office and had an opportunity to share with each other about the wonderful discussions and interactions with our friend, Walter Capps.

To Lois and the family, our prayers are with you. You have had a wonderful opportunity to know our friend, Walter Capps, certainly much better than we have. But for me, for my staff, we want to let you know that we care deeply about your family and your loss and our prayers are with you.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume and then with a close to the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE].

Mr. Speaker, tonight the United States Capitol mourns the loss of our colleague, Congressman Walter Capps. Tonight, it is a beautiful autumn evening outside. The Capitol is basking in spotlights, and the flags are all at half-mast. Forty-eight hours ago in this Chamber, the House of Representatives, we were a buzz as the news, the shocking news, was passed from Member to Member about Walter's sudden heart attack.

Tonight, I rise to pay tribute to this great man. First, because he was what politics in America needs, a scholar, a thinker, an accomplished man, Ph.D. from Yale, an author of 14 books, and, as so many speakers before me have mentioned, an incredible loving husband to Lois, the partnership that I think was the envy of the Capitol.

But he was also an incredibly loving, wonderful father to Lisa, Todd, and Laura. How many times we saw Laura at Capitol events as she worked in the White House. And how many of us as parents envied the ability and the wonderful relationship that he had with his daughter to be able to work in the Nation's Capitol alongside one of your children.

Walter was a mentor to us. What was so wonderful about him is his style, as everybody has mentioned. In an era of cynicism about politics, he made the cynics doubt themselves. He represented the district that is next door to mine, a district that I have long had close relationships with. The politicians in that district have been like the politicians in my own. I went to school with county supervisor Billy Wallace. And Jack O'Connell, the State senator, was my roommate when I was in the State legislature. And Andrea Seastrand, who preceded her husband, Eric Seastrand, who served with me in the State legislature and also died while he was in office. All of these people have been about that wonderful district.

Walter Capps was a futurist about that district. He knew that he could make a difference. And he was making a difference. He was excited about the