

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 freshman 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

future. And he knew that he was going to help Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County.

Tonight, those counties have lost a great Congressman. California has lost a great scholar. The Nation has lost a model public servant. So tonight's tribute to Walter, with the flags at half-mast, it is also about patriotism, but not so much about the protection of the land of Walter's forefathers as it is about the preservation of the land of Walter's children.

Walter, look around you right now. I know up there in heaven, next to you is my father, who is former State Senator Fred Farr. He passed away just a few months ago. You two are probably sitting right now chuckling. With the passing of so many good Democrats, you are probably saying, the Lord is just trying to make a more perfect union.

Good night, Walter. Good night, Lois. Good night, kids. We love you.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HON.
WALTER H. CAPPS

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the day after WALTER died, I had a chance to join a number of our colleagues in recognizing him here. And I jotted down these few words just an hour or two after I learned of his death. And I thought that maybe when I came back to join with my freshmen colleagues, DON or WALTER, I would have something better to say. But, frankly, I do not.

So, with apologies to anyone who has heard me speak of WALTER in the last couple of days, I will say it again. This country lost a leader of depth and integrity. Just a couple days ago, this House lost one of our own. Lois, Laura, Todd, and Lisa lost a husband and a father. And, like several of my colleagues here today, I lost a role model and a friend.

WALTER CAPPS was the professor that we called a freshman. Most of us come here to Congress hoping that, once we are here, we will make some contribution of which we can be proud. WALTER CAPPS came here having already done more than we can hope to do.

As so many have pointed out, he was perhaps the most popular professor in the history of the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he did not just teach well what had been taught before, but invented courses, wrote books. If he never had come to this House, he would have been a major leader in the life of his district.

Now, like many new Members to this House, I often seek advice, a few hints. And when I wanted to know what was the smart political thing to do, I never went to WALTER. But when I sought wisdom and thoughtfulness, a way of looking at things that is different from today's headlines or yesterday's poll

results, I sought out WALTER CAPPS. And he was always there.

We who hold elective office are often viewed as cynical manipulators of public opinion or as slaves to public opinion. We are depicted as knowing more or caring more about the politics of an issue than the substance. You can say what you want about most of us, but you cannot say all of us. Because, for a short time, WALTER CAPPS served in this House and he was everything you want us to be. He was the best of us. He will be missed.

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

□ 2215

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would like to also enter into the RECORD a tribute from the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL], as follows:

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late WALTER H. CAPPS. Not only has this country suffered a great loss, but we, his colleagues, have lost a model of an ethical and decent politician. We can all be thankful for the perspective that WALTER brought to us in his 10 months in the House, and he will be greatly missed by us all.

WALTER provided us with a unique understanding of society through his spiritual and philosophical nature. He was not afraid to see the bigger picture; to engage public policy from a collective point of view. This was demonstrated to me by his sincere and enthusiastic support of my bill for congressional apology for slavery. WALTER's dedication to the people he represented, and his principled campaign practices show the signs of a disciplined man. But most importantly, he will be remembered as a true scholar and a gentleman, with an undying love for humanity.

To me, WALTER CAPPS will be remembered as a teacher; not only for the 33 years that he enlightened our youth with spiritual ideas at the University of California at Santa Barbara, but as a role model of the kind of person we need here in Washington. One who taught the values of democracy and moral character through his actions, and shared his knowledge and devotion to decency through his words. My prayers are with his wife and children.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would also again like to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN] for so graciously allowing us to do this at the beginning and again yielding time.

As irreplaceable as Walter Capps will be for the Members of the House, his loss will I am sure be deeply felt by his district. We express our heartfelt condolences to them. We also grieve with Walter's family, his wife Lois, his children, Todd, Laura and Lisa and the rest of his loved ones. My colleagues and I are happy that he shared himself with us even for so short a time. I can only imagine that in the fullness of time, those that had known him longer will bless and hold dear each day they had the pleasure of his company. Our prayers are with all of you. Walter, we loved you. You will be missed.

THE DEBT, THE DEFICIT, AND
SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McCOLLUM). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY OF LATE HONORABLE
WALTER CAPPS

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also begin this night by expressing my condolences to the family of our colleague, Mr. Capps. I cannot count how many times my wife has said to me that she hopes that our 24 years of marriage will allow other folks around us to see that it is all right to find the right person in your life and to spend your entire life together. We also have 3 kids, and I am sure listening this evening, that Mr. Capps certainly provided a role model for many, many, many people not only in California but all across America. Married to the same woman for 37 years is something that many people should look to in this Nation for a role model. Again I cannot count how many times my wife Sue has said, "Let's hope people see that it is all right to be married to the same person," that that is the way things should be. Again, my condolences to their family and to the kids that are involved here.

Mr. Speaker, this evening I had reserved the hour primarily to talk about some budget matters. I guess last week we had a situation develop in our district where we were in dire need of some help from some folks. I gave my parents a call. My mom and dad said, well, we are going to be there instantaneously. They said they were going to drop everything they were doing.

So to start tonight rather than start on the budget stuff, I thought I would talk about a matter that is of the utmost importance not only to my parents but to other seniors like them all across America. It is an issue that has almost been put on the back burner out here in Washington and many different fronts, and that is Social Security. I thought I would start tonight by talking a little bit about what is happening in Social Security and then go to a solution as what we need to do about it, first, what is happening in Social Security.

I know many senior citizens rely on Social Security all across this great Nation of ours. The Social Security system in 1983 was set up so that it started collecting more money than what it pays out to seniors in benefits. The idea with Social Security was they would collect this extra money, put it aside in a savings account and then when the baby boom generation hit retirement, they would go to the savings account, get the money they need and still make good on the payments to our senior citizens. So it is kind of like you do in your own house where when you have got extra money coming in you put it in a savings account. Then when you overdraw your checkbook you go