

In San Luis Obispo, Cambria GRAMMAR School was built to handle 200 students. They now have eight portables in its playground space with 345 students. Students who are kindergartners, the youngest of all, have been moved to a nearby middle school and they are housed in a small portable with a small fenced-in playground.

I spent 20 years as a school nurse in the Santa Barbara School District, and I have seen firsthand the damage that deteriorating classrooms have. The students cannot thrive academically if they are learning in overcrowded and crumbling buildings. This is the most crucial time in their lives for learning and we have an opportunity to do something about this.

Madam Speaker, I supported the America's Better Classrooms Act, a strong bipartisan measure, 225 cosponsors. It would have provided approximately \$25 billion in interest-free funds to State and local governments so that school construction and modernization projects could occur. Such funding would help schools like Peabody, Oakley and Cambria Grammar Schools to make improvements in classrooms, playgrounds and would help reduce class sizes.

I believe here in Congress we must set our standards high to ensure that all children have the right start. All children deserve to have safe, clean, modern school environments to be part of each day.

So, Madam Speaker, this 106th Congress is coming to an end, but our students have a lifetime of learning ahead. They need our help now. I believe we can still act and must act to pass comprehensive school construction legislation in this session of Congress.

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INDIANA LOSING TWO GREAT REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, Indiana is losing two great Representatives when this session ends: the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH).

I think I can speak for all Members when I say that this is not only a loss for Indiana, it is a loss for this body. Both of them are intelligent, hard working Members of Congress. Both of them have remained true to their principles, and both are dedicated to upholding the honor of this House and to the American people.

I had the pleasure of serving with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He has the distinction, and I know of no other Member that can make this claim, of attending every single meeting of that committee. But when one looks at where

the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) came from and what he accomplished before he came to Congress, that is not surprising.

When one compares the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH), there are a lot of comparisons. Both of them are down-to-earth people. They are common guys. They are non-presumptuous. They are easy to meet, courteous.

It may come as some surprise to the Members of this body that both of them, in their educational backgrounds, they excel. They do not try to impress one with their IQ or their intelligence.

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) graduated with distinction from Indiana University and his J.D. degree, Cum Laude, from Indiana University.

Now, I know the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) better. I knew Ruthie. My wife Linda and I knew their daughter Ellie, who was born in 1997. But it was not until sometime later that I discovered that he came from a small farming town, Kendallville, in Indiana, and that he worked in a foundry to save money for his college education. That university was Yale University. He is a Yale University graduate.

He worked in the White House under Ronald Reagan. He was asked by this House to chair the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction. Now, on that subcommittee, I think one of his greatest accomplishments was spearheading efforts to strengthen laws that protect the environment and health and safety.

At the same time, he did away with a lot of silly, unnecessary, down right stupid regulations. One required every paving crew to work in a heavy shirt and long pants on Indiana roads, even if it were over 100 degrees. He was able to work to eliminate laws like that.

Whether it is the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE), former Eagle Scout, going back to work in Indiana or the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH), hopefully the next Governor of Indiana, they are going to be missed in this body.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BILL ARCHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) is recognized for 60 min-

utes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to rise in really celebration of a career of probably one of the most respected Members of this great body, and I am speaking of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER).

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) came to this House back in 1970 after having served a short term in the Texas House of Representatives. But I think he really came into his own in 1994 when he became the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means after serving for several years as the Ranking Republican Member.

If there is one person in this body that I really try to as much as I possibly can to pattern myself after, my conduct and how I vote and how I view things, it would be the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER). He has such a high moral standard that he sticks to himself.

His ability to listen to the Members and his ability of inclusion on the Committee on Ways and Means, it is sort of a rare thing that one sees that there is a coming together, because we see tax policy different, the two political parties.

But under his leadership, he was a key player in getting the 1997 balanced budget with tax relief signed into law. That tax cut was the first tax cut in 16 years. That shows his ability to work with the administration.

I know that, on many occasions, he has gone down and has met with President Clinton on a number of things, some of which bear fruit and others that have not.

I would like to just tick off a few of the accomplishments that the Committee on Ways and Means has done under his leadership. He shifted the burden of proof off the taxpayer and onto the Internal Revenue Service. That does not sound like much. But under our form of law, the taxpayer had the burden of proof, which just does not seem to be fair under our sense of justice.

Under the leadership of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), we changed that. We gave taxpayers 74 new rights and protections in their dealings with the Internal Revenue Service. We created an independent oversight agency to oversee the Internal Revenue Service.

We gave new protections for innocent spouses. This is where, particularly in a case of a divorce, where the Internal Revenue Service would go back after, usually, the wife who just signed the return that her husband put in front of her; and they would go after her for things that were in the tax return that were stated wrong, fraudulently or in error. Now they have new rights, which is something that was very important.

It prevents the IRS from seizing homes without a court order. It seems peculiar that the IRS could have done this without court orders, but now they have to have a court order; and that is the right thing to do.

These things, among the others, were the first overhaul of the Internal Revenue Service since 1952.

Human resources, he steered the welfare and health care reforms into law. I had the great privilege of working with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) on welfare reform. We have done unbelievable things. We have cut the roles in half in this country, and in doing so, not just by shoving people off the roles, but giving them pride in themselves to raise their own self-esteem and expectations that we have of them and they have of themselves.

So many of these people have now become the role models for their kids, and that is terribly important. Eight million former beneficiaries are now working and have gained their independence. What a wonderful thing that is.

Child poverty now is at an all-time low. Out-of-wedlock birth rate plateaued and now is declining for the first time in an entire generation and longer.

Prisoners are no longer receiving welfare checks. That is something that is hard to believe, that welfare checks were being paid to prisoners, but that is what was happening. We put a stop to that. Taxpayers have saved \$30 billion.

His goal was to preserve Social Security. The Archer-Shaw bill was a perfect example of trying to work with inclusion. All the hearings that we had, listening to our Democrat colleagues, we incorporated into the bill their concerns through the hearing process.

I would think that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), probably one of his great disappointments is that we did not get the bipartisan support and the support from the White House that we felt we were promised. But I am confident in the next Congress that we will save Social Security. That plan that we will adopt may not have the name of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) on it, but it certainly will have his spirit and the result of the good works.

Beginning in the year 2012, we are looking at a \$120 trillion deficit in Social Security. One tries to think how many zeros are in 120 trillion. Just think of it this way, it is 36 times the amount of the national debt. We talk so much in this Chamber about getting rid of the national debt, and we have a projection out there by the Social Security Administration of an amount equal to 36 times, 36 times the national debt. That will be just over 60 years beginning in the year 2015. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) tried to change that. Mainly because of his good works, we will be able to reverse that in the next Congress.

He sponsored the bill and led the fight for the PNTR for China. As a conservative, he was the right man to lead that. I think that it is certainly a great accomplishment for which we can be proud.

When he took over the Committee on Ways and Means as chair, he actually

looked at our staff and reduced the staff by one-third. This is something that I think is really totally innate, the extent of that reduction in this Congress.

The example of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) is everywhere, I think, in what he was able to accomplish, particularly during his time as chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. He certainly will be missed, but his good works will be enjoyed by the American people for generations to come.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHAW. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) bringing this special order honoring the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER). The gentleman from Florida has already gone over his legacy, and what a legacy it is.

I happen to have the district that is next to the district of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), and I have known the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) for many, many years. In fact, he does not particularly like for me to tell people how long I have known him, but back when I was going to the University of Houston, my senior year in 1970, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) was running for Congress for the first time. At that time, it was the first campaign that I had ever worked in. I never met him. I did not meet him for another 20 years. But I saw a man that I wanted to work for, a man of great integrity, a wonderful conservative, a man of principle, a man that stood for principle.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) was running as a Republican. Back in Texas in the late 1960s and early 1970s, they did not elect Republicans, they shot them. To run as a Republican was pretty near a death sentence if one really wanted to get elected. But the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) stood up. He ran as a Republican. His district saw his great worth, and they elected him.

He has served with such distinction. Even when he served in the minority for so long, the majority would come to him for advice on tax policy and the tax code. Then when he took over as Chairman of the committee, most Members, particularly those that are not as senior do not remember, but the Committee on Ways and Means carried, I think, about 70 percent of the Contract with America.

They drove that legislation and did an outstanding job in telling the American people that we were going to do it. We showed them that we were going to do the Contract with America, and we did it under the Committee on Ways and Means and, most importantly, the leadership of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER.)

It was hard to do because we were fought every step of the way in everything we were going to try to do. Most

people do not see it this way, but it is true. The shutdown of the government was caused by the President of the United States because he was opposed to balancing the budget. Yet, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) stood there, and stood there with great, great strength in order to carry that out, and finally signed in 1997 the Balanced Budget Act.

Along with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), the most important thing that I have ever done in my career and many of our careers was welfare reform. We found a system that had failed. It had failed because of its liberal approach. It had failed the people on the welfare system. It had destroyed families by being dependent on the government.

Yet, with the President fighting us every step of the way, we passed that legislation, and now we are reaping the benefits. Families are coming back together. Fathers are moving back in with the mothers of their children. Children are looking up to their parents as role models because they are receiving a paycheck. All of this is due to the will and the stamina and the distinction of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER).

Let me just say on a personal note, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) is one of the finest men I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Because he is strong in his faith in God, his wife Sharon, whom he dearly loves, at his side, a very extensive family, he has been a role model that they have modeled themselves after. His children are role models in themselves to their own children. His legacy is truly his family.

Being the role model that he is, a man that shows integrity works, shows that being principled works, shows that if one loves one's family and holds them together, it truly works.

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And so I am more than pleased to be here in honor of BILL ARCHER.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida, one, for taking this time to honor our colleague and our leader on the Committee on Ways and Means, the chairman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER).

I came to the House in 1978 and moved to the Committee on Ways and Means in 1983. My predecessor from my district in Bakersfield was a Congressman by the name of Bill Ketchum, who was a member of the Committee on Ways and Means during his tenure in Congress. I already knew BILL ARCHER by reputation through Bill Ketchum before I came to Congress.

BILL ARCHER has provided an extremely important institutional link to an earlier period of this body when there was a different tone, a different civility and, more importantly, a different approach to work product. The

thing that I will remember most about BILL ARCHER is that oftentimes we know a person as an individual and a person as a Member, and the way in which they conduct their business as a Member and the way in which they deal with various other personal aspects as a person are often different. I do not know of anyone else who follows a course in which his professional action is paralleled by his personal action.

Any time I have been in a closed room with the gentleman from Texas, and we have had to reconcile a difference, the reconciliation takes the course of what is the right policy; what is the appropriate action, not what is in it for me, this is necessary for my constituents. It served him well as a compass, but it has not always provided a smooth road. Because oftentimes he stood in the way of someone wanting to get something from a personal or a district point of view, and sometimes that individual's discretion was clouded by the desire to obtain a particular end and what that gentleman was going to do to comply, to the Tax Code, and to policy by doing it. This institution has been well served by BILL ARCHER many, many times behind closed doors when his resolute determination to do what is right has prevailed.

Sometimes when one winds up being in the majority, and obviously I served with BILL ARCHER in the minority for almost 16 years, and I think we get to know a person more when they are not able to do something, and the way in which they conduct themselves when they cannot do it, than when they are in a position of authority and they are able to do it. The civil manner in which BILL ARCHER presented his arguments, the determination, the preparation, is once again a model that all of us can remember and would be a model for all of us to adhere to.

When he became chairman, and Republicans became the majority, he carried that over to the conduct on the full committee. Those of us who are returning, and we have a very high level of confidence that we will be returning to a Republican majority House and majority control of the Committee on Ways and Means, though BILL ARCHER will not be with us physically, he will always be with us in spirit because there will come a time behind closed doors when we have a difficult choice to make, and the response should be, and will be, well, what would BILL ARCHER do. I hope that will be our guiding philosophy even when BILL ARCHER will no longer be in the room.

We wish him well, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to the enjoyment and the time he will have to spend with Sharon and the family, but that time will be taken away from his colleagues and the leadership he has provided us. He will be sorely missed by those of us who served with him as individuals; he will be much more sorely missed by this institution in terms of the way he conducted his public responsibilities.

I thank the gentleman from Florida once again for taking this opportunity for us to remember the real meaning of BILL ARCHER. Do as BILL ARCHER would do.

Mr. SHAW. I thank the gentleman for those very fine remarks.

In just a moment I will be yielding back the time, the balance of which I understand will be claimed by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) to conclude this special order, but I would like to just point out a couple of extra things about BILL ARCHER which are tremendously important.

When I first went on the Committee on Ways and Means, the first thing they would do when they started marking up a tax bill was to close the doors. I can tell my colleagues that those sessions went a lot quicker and there were not as many speeches made, but he opened that process, which I think was a very good thing to do.

Also, I would like to, just from a personal standpoint, mention what great friends that he and Sharon have been to Emily and to me. In Congress we do make some friends that last a lifetime, and our relationship with the Archer's has been a very, very special one, and one that both Emily and I certainly treasure. After hours, many, many times we have gotten together for dinner or have gone various places. I know that they have shown a keen interest in conservation on the continent of Africa. One such trip, which was not a taxpayers' expense trip. I must say, was deep back in this Congo, where it took better than a day to get back where we were going. Then we would walk for miles and miles and miles through the forest. I can tell my colleagues that I believe that 70-year-old man can walk further than I can. He absolutely is in great shape. I can attribute that, I think, to the time that he spends on a tractor doing other various other things at his farm out in Virginia, which I know he and his wife dearly, dearly love. Her love for animals is something that is, I think, really, really quite incredible.

But I look forward to seeing more of BILL ARCHER. I have an idea that his days in government are not entirely behind him. He has so much yet to offer, and I look forward to working with him in the years ahead in other capacities.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). The balance of the pending hour is reallocated to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON).

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, there are several of us that have remarks about BILL ARCHER, and I will begin.

I hope BILL and Sharon ARCHER are watching this program, because I do not believe anybody has said so many nice words to him to his face. We always say things behind people's backs, and it is easier to say things in public many times than it is in private. I think we all have felt these things, but

it is many times embarrassing to say them on a one-to-one basis.

So, BILL, if you are listening, I do not want you to inhale all this stuff, but we really do believe it and want to express our appreciation and what you mean to us.

It is always hard to say good-bye to somebody, particularly somebody for whom you have such respect. I am not a tax lawyer. I am far from it. And one of the great courses I have ever taken, when I came to this place, was from BILL ARCHER in terms of tax law. I do not consider myself a great tax expert now, but whatever I have learned, I have learned from BILL ARCHER in a very solid and sort of relaxed way trying to explain the intricacies.

One of the things which I, as a sort of historian, have been interested in is his background, talking about institutional memory. Here is a fellow who was here when Wilbur Mills was here. Here was a fellow who was here when Russell Long was here. Those great titans of finance in our government gave him, obviously, a bedrock and an understanding of what the whole place was about in the thrust of the Committee on Ways and Means. I think all of us here who are on the Committee on Ways and Means are very humble about this. It is an extraordinarily important committee. One hundred percent of the revenues and 60 percent of the cost of the government goes through this committee.

When one is involved in these sessions with BILL, one understands not only the functional parts but also the historic parts. He has always led that way, so tremendously.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) was talking about welfare reform and was rather casual about it, I thought. Frankly, I think one of the most extraordinary pieces of legislation, I will say one of the top five pieces of legislation that I have seen since I have been here, is the welfare reform. That was BILL ARCHER and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW). The gentleman from Florida is very sort of modest about this whole thing.

I think another thing is their concept, which never went anyplace, and it is too bad because it is a great concept, and it may someday, is the concept of the Social Security System. They had a plan to fix it, and there would be an element of pain but not as much if we did nothing at all. He was always on the forefront of things like that.

One of the great things I think about BILL ARCHER is that he was never arrogant. Here was a man who had been in the minority for a long time and all of a sudden he was thrust in the position of chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. Under those circumstances, after having been dying for years of not being able to be heard then suddenly being in the chairmanship, the way he conducted meetings, the way he was polite, the way he was respectful of people's opinions, both the people on the committee and also those people

who were testifying, is really an example in statesmanship.

There is something about this man that I think is important, particularly in the stressful days that we are going through. He never carried too heavy a pack. In other words, he always could sort of sense the humor and the perspective and the importance of this place and, as a result, was a great example to all of us. I can remember taking a trip, all of us have taken trips with BILL ARCHER, and on those congressional delegation trips many times we see a person in full flower, particularly when he was with his beloved wife, Sharon. Wonderful human beings. The type of people that, although I do not live in Texas, I would like to say, gee, I am so proud to have that person represent me. That was the type of person he was.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, as we come together on this floor, not to engage in the great debates and the differences that oftentimes define us, but to speak with a united voice in honor of our chairman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), who has decided, after three decades of meritorious service, to leave our midst for private life, although I have a feeling that he may be summoned to other duties in future days.

Mention was made earlier of BILL's lovely bride Sharon and the menagerie of animals they keep in the Archer household. I would note with some pride, Mr. Speaker, that the Archer family cat is from the Sixth Congressional District of Arizona, having been picked up there by one of the Archer children during their time at Northern Arizona University. So I feel a kinship with the critters in the Archer household.

And from time to time being described as one of the more animalistic members of the Committee on Ways and Means when tempers flare, when the debate is joined, I must say, Mr. Speaker, I look with great respect on the unique ability of BILL ARCHER to disagree without being disagreeable. That is a remarkable gift. Because time and again when we come to this well or when we meet in full committee, there are honest disagreements and policy differences passionately held.

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The true mark of service and leadership for our chairman, Mr. Speaker, is his remarkable ability to deal in an affable, evenhanded fashion with every Member of the Committee, with every issue that may be contentious in nature, with every disagreement in such an agreeable fashion. It is a gift that escapes many of us, truth be told.

So the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) the man leaves a legacy of

kindness and civility, of unpretentiousness in a city where egos can clash, where, Mr. Speaker, if truth be told, most everyone who runs for public office and the euphemism of the new century has a healthy dose of self-esteem. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) stands as a modest man of incredible abilities.

The public policy side of the ledger demonstrates this and has been enumerated by speakers who have preceded me, including my good friend from New York.

Welfare reform can be looked upon as a bipartisan accomplishment driven by the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the first meaningful tax relief in almost a decade and a half under the chairmanship of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) and at times, even as recently as yesterday, when a sense of principle motivates him, there is no debate. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) disagreed with many of us yesterday and cast a vote based on his firm and unwavering ideals.

Our other friend the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) mentioned times "behind closed doors." And while those phrases are used as figures of speech, "in the dark of night," "behind closed doors," the fact is that we must sit down from time to time away from the roar of the grease paint, the smell of the crowd, and try to deal with policy.

And I do not believe I am violating any confidences. I believe, Mr. Speaker, were the chairman here today he would freely admit to all, as he did to us privately, his test for how to do this job in the people's House, a test that may have in fact been magnified given the role he played as chairman of arguably the most powerful legislative committee in the greatest Constitution republic this world has seen. He said quite simply it is this, I made a promise to myself that, with every vote I would take, I would be able to sleep at night and I would remain true to my convictions.

So said the gentleman from Texas (Chairman ARCHER). His actions have never wavered from that simple test. And as recently as yesterday, at a time of contentiousness again, he held firm. We may not agree on every issue, but we can all agree, Mr. Speaker, that the actions of our chairman are indeed special.

Many others join us to share their reminiscences. I would simply say this again to reiterate. I am not at all certain that our chairman is headed for retirement. I think he is so valuable in so many different ways that there are those who may follow us into Government service who may cast a keen eye toward his talents. But for now in this role, as we prepare to conclude the 106th Congress, we do not say farewell, we simply say, Mr. Chairman, we will try to follow your example and we expect to see you again in other endeavors of public service. Because your wis-

dom, your unpretentiousness, your good common sense, and your grace under pressure are things that we cannot leave simply to retirement.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NUSSLE).

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that character can be best defined by doing the right thing when no one is looking. I love that phrase. Because around here in Washington, D.C., particularly in Congress, there are a lot of people looking out there and it is easy to play to the camera and it is easy to play for the politics and everything else and there is often very few moments in time when we get to be on our own or dealing maybe one on one with a colleague.

I have had that opportunity with our chairman. And I have to report to my colleagues that he is a man of very high character. I have never seen him do what I could refer to as the wrong thing, infuriating as that might be at times. I tried to coax him into violating maybe some of his own principles, maybe some of his views, political or personal views, on a couple of different items. And he beat me every single time. But he was always fair about it, even though he was tough. He was always forthright, and he always gave me a heads-up. And I respect him for that.

I just come here today to say that, while there are a lot of people who are leaving this particular Congress, he is one who ranks up there as one of the ones that I will miss the most.

Around here in Washington and Congress, many people come and go it seems. The beauty of our system is that, almost like sticking your finger in a pool of water, as soon as it removes, it fills in. There will be a new chairman. There will be another representative from his district in Texas. But the ripples on the water that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) has left for freedom in this country will ripple on for a very long time. And for that I am grateful. I know his family is grateful. All of America should be grateful.

I bid him adieu.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH).

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in paying tribute to a man whose retirement announcement was one of the things that I most dreaded in this Congress.

When I came to Congress and came to the Committee on Ways and Means in 1994, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) was a beacon. We had just taken control. Revolution was in the air. And we were facing an enormous task of moving, as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) noted, 70 percent of

the Contract with America through our committee and doing it right. We could not have done it without leadership of the character and quality of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER).

He has been noted by other speakers for his extraordinary civility in an institution where that is an increasingly rare element.

I would like to say that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) has always struck me for his stoicism, his strong principle, and the fact that when it comes to principle, he has been absolutely unyielding. And yet, at the same time, Mr. Speaker, he has always been a superb legislative tactician. He has been courageous and articulate every time he has risen on the floor of this House.

This chamber has become kind of hushed, because the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) always has something extraordinary to say and the expertise to back it up. He is one of those Members who brings to this body true intellectual rigor. He has a profound understanding of the Tax Code, and that has really been the hallmark of his term as chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

It is notable that he opposed the 1986 Tax Code when it passed, and with good reason, and every criticism that he made of that Code has been proven true. He has consistently advocated its replacement, and perhaps this body will some day have the courage to take up his challenge and pull the current Code out by the roots.

Yet, he has been involved in other issues, as well. I became aware that he was a leading advocate of raising the earnings limit for persons with disabilities and carried that issue in a number of Congresses. He has consistently defended the prerogatives of the House Committee on Ways and Means, the oldest committee in this body, and one that has always risen above the partisan zephyrs that have troubled other committees.

He has preserved the traditions of the Committee on Ways and Means very much in the tradition of the giants who have chaired that committee in this body, like John Randolph of Roanoke, William McKinley, and in our memory, Wilbur Mills. We will miss the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER). His shoes will be impossible to fill.

But like Nathaniel Macon in the 19th century, he has decided that he is at a stage in his life when he would like to move on and do something else. We respect that. We wish him and Sharon well. We will miss him sorely in future Congresses. He has been for me an inspiration and has been a source, I think, of great institutional memory and stability.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from New York for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, one of my most vivid memories as a new Member of Congress

was my first meeting with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) after I had only been in Washington a couple of days. I went to see the gentleman because he was a member of what was then called the Committee on Committees, which now is called the Steering Committee, which makes committee assignments.

I was interested in serving on two committees, the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Science. My first choice was the Committee on the Judiciary because it had subcommittees dealing with crime and another one that oversaw immigration policy. At the time, it was not thought possible to serve on both committees at the same time, even though that was my hope.

Well, a few days later, while the Committee on Committees was meeting, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) called me and told me that he thought that if I changed the order of my preference from Judiciary first and Science second to Science first and Judiciary second, we could "throw a long pass" and perhaps connect so that I would be on both.

I decided to leave it up to the Texas quarterback (Mr. ARCHER) and so put my committee assignments, and there is nothing more important to a new Member, in his hands. A couple of hours later he called back and said that I had been appointed to both. It was obviously thanks to his strong arm and steady aim.

It is obvious to any Member of Congress who has ever worked with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) that his strong arm and steady aim has been a characteristic he has always displayed. Whether it is giving Americans tax relief or ensuring the long-term solvency of Social Security or revamping the Internal Revenue Service, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) has as often as not completed that long pass.

One other characteristic needs to be mentioned, and that is that he not only has a strong record and steady hand, but he also plays fair and throws straight with his colleague. He tells us the truth. We know we can rely on what he tells us and what he really thinks about any issue or any piece of legislation. His consistent record of doing what is best for the American people, being straightforward in his dealings with others, and doing what he thinks is right are attributes that anyone in public life should aspire to.

Mr. Speaker, the good thinking and good judgment of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) will be missed, but he will always remain an example of an ideal congressman to us all.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, my friend and associate.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New

York (Mr. HOUGHTON) for conducting this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to a legislator who has been one of the more remarkable and outstanding Members of this body, a gentleman whose impending departure is going to be a genuine loss to the Congress and to our Nation.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) first came to the House 2 years before I entered the House, initially being elected from his hometown of Houston, Texas, in 1970.

From his earliest days as a Member of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) dedicated himself to the need to reform our outdated tax codes and made it his highest priority as the chairman of our House Committee on Ways and Means.

In fact, many Americans would have been unaware of the injustice of the marriage penalty or the death tax were it not for the research and diligence that the gentleman put into spotlighting these inequities.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) first sought election to the House when his incumbent Congressman, a young man by the name of George Bush, decided to vacate his seat to seek election to the Senate.

He is so beloved by his constituency, which he represents so meritoriously, that he has never been reelected to his congressional seat by less than a three-to-one margin. His 30 years of service to this body and to his constituents guaranteed that his shoes are going to be difficult to fill and he is certainly going to be long-missed. However, his years of service underscore that a long, healthy, and relaxing retirement is warranted and fully earned.

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To BILL ARCHER and to his lovely wife, Sharon, to their five children and two stepchildren, we extend our best wishes for a happy retirement together, with hopes they will often return to visit us.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), another distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for having this special order.

You know, it is hard to imagine this place without BILL ARCHER. He will be very much missed; by me, by Members of this Congress from both sides of the aisle, by the Committee on Ways and Means, arguably the most powerful committee in Congress, that he has shepherded with such skill, and by this institution, by the House, as a body.

Let us be frank here. Not all of us will leave such a void. Not all of us will have such a remarkable legacy.

What is it about BILL ARCHER? He is a very special person. I have learned a lot from him. He is a principled, fierce advocate of limited government, and

yet no one I know has deeper respect for public service.

I remember once being at an event where BILL ARCHER was asked to speak. Without notes he stood up and recited from memory Teddy Roosevelt's great statement, in which he said, "The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena," and BILL ARCHER feels that in his heart. He has respect for all of us as Members of Congress, in part because of that respect for public service.

He is firm, he is tough, he is also exceedingly polite. Who in this chamber has not been greeted at one point by BILL ARCHER with a smile, extending his hand saying, how are you? Even as Chairman, BILL ARCHER has been very careful not to demand loyalty from members of the Committee on Ways and Means. He rarely asks anybody for anything, and yet I know nobody who is more loyal than BILL ARCHER.

Leader DICK ARMEY reminded me recently of a song that BILL ARCHER is fond of. One day here on the floor things were tough on an issue, I was having a difficult time as a relatively junior Member of Congress, and BILL ARCHER took me aside and told me about a song he used to cite to his kids to instill in them a sense of loyalty and brotherly love. It is a song about two combatants in the Civil War, one on the side of the North, one on the side of the South. One goes down on the Gray side of the line. The one on the Blue side of the line says something like, did you think I would leave you dying, when there is room on my horse for two?

He sung that song to his boys so that they would have brotherly love, but it goes to what BILL ARCHER believes, which is there is nothing more important than personal loyalty.

BILL ARCHER will be succeeded in Congress and in that district in Houston where he gets something like 80 percent of the vote, and he will be succeeded at the Committee on Ways and Means as Chairman, but nobody will replace BILL ARCHER. We are going to miss him, the Committee on Ways and Means will miss him, and this institution will miss him.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), distinguished Majority Leader.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding. Let me thank the gentleman from New York for taking this time.

Every now and then I think in our lives we ought to take time. We ought to just pause and reflect about the good people we are privileged to know, the good people with whom we are privileged to work.

In my life, in all the years, either in academics or here, never has there been more such a fine person I have been privileged to know and with whom to work than BILL ARCHER. He has been, for all of us, a source of encouragement, of optimism. On some oc-

casions when we needed it, what should I say, Dutch uncle-ish criticism, critique and so forth. But BILL ARCHER is an interesting fellow in the way that he could give you the kind of critique you may need at a moment, and, at the same time, make you feel encouraged by it.

We are all going to miss BILL. I would like to share two observations in particular. We talk about how we related to him, what he meant to us as a colleague, fellow Members of Congress.

I would like to reflect for a moment on what he has meant to so many of the young people that have come through here. My observation has been all too many times, people come to Washington a young idealist and leave an old cynic. BILL ARCHER has beaten the odds on that one. He came here a young idealist, and he is leaving here as a not so young idealist.

But I think it was because of the relationship he was able to have with young people. I have seen that in my own Chief of Staff David Hobbs, who many of us see now as a competent and able person here, who had his beginning here on BILL ARCHER's staff. A Texas boy, graduate of the University of Texas, graduate of the Lyndon Baines Johnson School at the University of Texas, who admired BILL ARCHER and came here and was privileged to come here and got his early training here.

David was the first hire I made when I came here in 1985. For all these years I always said to David, I know you really love BILL ARCHER more than me. He never denied it. A couple of months ago, BILL ARCHER pointed out to me, "You know, your Chief of Staff really loves me more than he does you." I said, "BILL, I don't blame him. I love you more than I do me."

So he had a big influence. I know there are probably thousands of stories of that kind of influence on young people who managed to come here and find their youthful idealism appreciated.

So, Mr. HOUGHTON, if I could end with this observation, it is an observation I made last Thursday with the Texas delegation at lunch. We had a great privilege to be in the majority. For many of us we felt it was something of a miracle in 1994 when we won the majority. We have had an opportunity to do things that many of us never thought possible.

But when I look on the reflection of it, there is nothing that I have experienced in the majority in the United States House of Representatives that has warmed my heart more nor given me greater reason for optimism about this great land than seeing my friend BILL ARCHER be Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. I believe it was the only job he ever wanted in this Congress, and, believe me, BILL, few people will ever be able to say with greater accuracy and conviction, I got to do the only job I ever wanted in Congress, and I did it to the best of my ability, and have people say, in a cho-

rus of response, and no one, Mr. Chairman, could have done it better.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the assistant majority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me and for taking the time today to honor the tremendous service of Chairman ARCHER.

I very well remember the first meeting I had with him as a freshman. It is easy for me to remember that, because it was not that long ago. But he quickly responded to my request to come over and talk to him about a piece of the Tax Code that affected colleges and universities.

I spent 4 years as a university president. I felt very comfortable about that part of the Tax Code. I went over and I found out, of course, in significant detail that the Chairman knew more about that very, very small part of the Tax Code than I did. But we had a great discussion. At the end of our great discussion, he had not changed his mind.

He felt strongly that he saw this Tax Code and the way it affected Americans headed in a consistent direction; that was the direction toward greater simplicity, a direction toward greater fairness, a direction where he thought that American families would benefit more universally from the Tax Code, and trying to eliminate those parts of the code that only benefitted a few, instead of benefiting many. He has been consistent, he has been strong. He has devoted himself to an IRS that works better, to a Tax Code that is hopefully fairer and more easily understood.

I know as he leaves here, he leaves here understanding there is still a lot of work to be done in that regard, and there will be work for Congresses to come to be done. But he has advanced the cause of a fairer, simpler Tax Code.

He has been consistent in his approach to every Member. His door has been open, from the lowest freshman on the totem pole to every other member in this conference. He would take time to explain to you his point of view, even though on your point of view, by others, it could have easily been argued quickly, well, you have only been here for a short period of time, or you do not understand the last generation and how this debate has gone on. But in fact Chairman ARCHER was always willing to take time to explain that debate, explain how we got to where we were, and his vision for where we yet could go.

I am hopeful that his service to America is nowhere near over. His legacy in this Congress will last for a long time, Mr. Speaker, but I think he has so much more to offer. I hope to see him willing to do that, and to continue to make the kind of significant contributions that he has made for a generation now in this Congress.

He has stuck with his commitment that this would be the time when he should leave the Congress, a mark that he set half a dozen years ago; that he

has decided to, absolutely, as he has done in every other instance, keep his commitments.

This is the committed time in his mind to leave the Congress. I hope it is not a committed time in his mind to not be available to further service to Americans, because he has a lot of service, a lot of wisdom, a lot of history, a lot of heritage yet to share.

I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and for taking the time today to recognize the great work and commitment of Chairman BILL ARCHER from Texas.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I just have a few brief words at the end. I think our side is done. I think we have expressed our feelings. But I would just like to say one more thing.

WILLIAM ARCHER's example, not what he has done, because what he has done is very significant, his example is one of the finest I have ever seen, and he represents the greatest, I think, the greatest characteristic that this country has to offer.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, the legacy of BILL ARCHER is a gift of responsible government to the American people in a great diversity of actions.

Many times I have heard the cry for a national industrial policy. In truth, the tax code is the nation's industrial policy. BILL's "steady as you go" leadership has made our code far better than it would have been without his strong role of participation.

I did smile when PHIL ENGLISH mentioned President McKinley, who represented my home county of Stark as a congressman, as one of BILL's distinguished predecessors as chairman of Ways and Means. McKinley was a dedicated protectionist, however, in his last speech in Buffalo, he repudiated this policy. I think BILL would have liked the reformed McKinley rather than the congressional McKinley.

The people of this nation are in your debt for dedicated service for them.

My best to you BILL and Sharon for good health and many fruitful years of happiness.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, it is quite possible I have known BILL ARCHER longer than anyone in this Chamber. We met for the first time 30 years ago at a Lincoln Day festival. BILL was serving in the Texas State legislature at the time. I was told by mutual acquaintances that BILL was a strong conservative of unwavering principles, and that he would soon be elected to Congress. They were right on both counts.

In fact, the only time I have known of BILL wavering occurred about three years before we first met. BILL found it necessary to correct a mistake he had grown up with. He switched from the Democratic to Republican parties.

I have had the great honor and pleasure to sit next to BILL for 25 years now on the Ways and Means Committee. We have fought many fights together. We saw the power of the Committee exercised first-hand under Wilbur Mills. We experienced the curious mix of Chicago-style politics applied to national policy under Danny Rostenkowski. We celebrated the 1981 tax cut together, the effects of which are still being felt in today's prosperity. And we suffered through the lost opportunities of the 1986 Tax Reform Act and the disastrous 1990 and 1993 tax increases.

BILL ARCHER has been a forceful and effective Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee through some of its most difficult years. These are partisan times, and, sadly, this partisanship has infected the work of the Committee all too often. Through it all, BILL has kept to his principles, and kept his sense of humor.

BILL ARCHER knows as well as anyone in the United States what is wrong with our tax system. And he sees all-too-well the unfortunate trends of recent years, such as the increasing use of tax credits and the use of the tax system as an alternative to spending. He has fought valiantly to resist these trends while building a fire for fundamental tax reform.

Unfortunately, BILL's legacy will not be the enactment of fundamental tax reform. But it will be the laying of the groundwork for the reforms to come. And they will come. Each of us must stand on the shoulders of those who preceded us. The Ways and Means Committee, and tax policy generally, will be standing on firm and principled ground years from now thanks to BILL's leadership.

To quote Winston Churchill speaking of Lord Halifax:

The fortunes of mankind in its tremendous journeys are principally decided for good or ill—but mainly for good, for the path is upward—by its greatest men and its greatest episodes.

BILL ARCHER has participated in, and in some cases presided over, some of the Ways and Means Committee's greatest episodes. By virtue of his unbending adherence to principle and fairness in the most tempestuous of times, he is also, in my opinion, one of its greatest men.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 117. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM L. CLAY, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, when this body ends this session, and I re-

main hopeful that it will, this august body is going to lose one of its most productive and innovative Members, WILLIAM L. CLAY, Sr.

BILL CLAY became a Member of this body in 1969, over 30 years ago. He came here as a young man, by his own admission, filled with a bit of anger. BILL CLAY had grown up in a system that gave very little respect to his skills, to his dreams, to his aspirations, and he had fought as a young man in order to make sure that opportunities would be open for people such as him. So, when he got here, he was filled with all kinds of anxieties.

To get a good feel for who and what BILL CLAY is, one should read his book, *Just Permanent Interests*. I have on occasion read various parts of that book. In fact, I have a choice of the three or four copies that people have made gifts to me of, and I keep one of them in each one of my places of abode, one here in Washington and one at home in the district. And every now and then as we encounter various things here on this floor and in our political interactions, I go to a part of that book in order to get a sense of some of the history that BILL CLAY has been a part of and some of the emotions that he experienced when he first arrived here.

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Mr. Speaker, I have been able to learn a lot from his experiences. And so when I arrived here, I sat with him, and we exchanged some of our great love of history. I am going to miss that when he leaves after next month.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of us will miss his wit and his wisdom. He is full of both; but for the wit, sometimes we would not have a good appreciation for the wisdom. So I want to say to BILL CLAY and others who are joining me today how much we appreciate him, not just as a Member of the Congress, but his personal friendship and interaction.

I suspect that I have had dinner with him more often than he would like. And, of course, I do not know, but I think he has enjoyed every one of them, because I have yet to be successful in getting him to pick up a tab for any of those dinners.

BILL CLAY has been a great guy. He has been a mentor to so many of us, and I consider it really a high part of my being here to be able to say to my children and grandchildren that I served here in this body for 8 years with him, and that we became fast friends, and that because of that friendship and because of that service together, I am a better person today than I was when I got here. I thank him for it.

I want to say to you, BILL, thank you for all that you have meant to me personally. Thank you for what you meant to my family. Thank you for what you have meant to those of us who have had the honor of serving with you.

Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of controlling the remainder of the time for