

he is a good politician; because of the strong sense of morality and values that motivate him.

DAVID, you have been an inspiration to all of us. My wife says that you are her second favorite Congressman. I am not sure who the first one is, to tell you the truth, but we are going to miss you very much and the people of Michigan are very lucky to have you.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, like the gentleman from Vermont, I was in my office watching C-Span. I looked at all these bright faces down here in the front rows, DAVID BONIOR's staff and DAVID sitting down here, as well, and I could see him so I knew he was not gone; but I did want to come over and say a few things about DAVE BONIOR.

First of all, DAVID, I just want to thank you for all you have done for me. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate having been part of the whip organization and having the chance to work with Members here on the floor to make sure that the right thing gets done on particular pieces of legislation.

For those who do not know all the details, the whip organization is really a way of bringing information to other Members so that they are voting with good information and not necessarily bad information, that they have complete information. DAVID has done this job extraordinarily well for many years.

But beyond that, I have to say, this is a city, not alone in the country, but this is a city where people's faces can turn and their votes can turn to those who have money and to those who have power. But not with DAVID BONIOR. Because DAVID BONIOR in the House of Representatives has been what I think the Founding Fathers expected of a Representative, that he would represent all of the people all of the time and not be diverted by special interests. I cannot think of anyone in this Congress who has consistently day after day after day, in a long legislative career, kept the people in his district right in the forefront of his mind. He has not forgotten them ever in terms of what he does here and what we do here.

□ 1230

So I think it is a remarkable career and he is a remarkable human being.

As I have gotten to know DAVID over the last 5 years here, several things have struck me. One is that he treats everyone the same, which is, as I said, not common in this place, and that he is receptive to information and to people from all walks of life.

But the other thing I have noticed is you know where DAVID BONIOR comes from. He comes from Michigan, and in many respects my image of Michigan is shaped by you, DAVID, because I know how important working men and women who have had to join unions in order to get ahead, to have decent wages and decent benefits, have been to

your State. Yet I know your State has such incredible diversity, with aspects of the new economy as well, with the service economy, as well as the manufacturing economy, and you seem to have somehow captured all of those threads.

I know from your remarks before the Democratic Caucus yesterday that you also have appreciation for the outdoors. I come from Maine, and this is real important to me. But I know how much you have walked around the State, how much time you spend on your own, getting away from this hurly-burly, in order to renew yourself so that you can do the best thing, day-to-day, for the people who sent you here to the House and who I believe will send you to the Governor's mansion in Michigan.

I cannot help but think that, to me, you have always been someone who has Michigan in his bones, Michigan in his blood, and Michigan in his dreams, and I know that you will be a fabulous governor for the people of Michigan. Thank you very much.

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to speak out of order for 5 minutes.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to recount the full Congressional career of DAVE BONIOR, because he continues to build on that record, but I would like to speak for a moment about the way that he does the job of whip, the job he is leaving within the House now.

We all know that there is a strong competitive streak in DAVE BONIOR. We have seen it on the baseball field, we have seen it in close votes, but we also see that in everything he does he exudes decency and civility.

Civility has been talked about so much in this House in recent years. When I say DAVE BONIOR exudes civility, I mean that it is really contagious. And when I look at his staff, some of his staff here with him today, I know that they would agree with me that they do their jobs better and probably would agree that they are better people because of their association with DAVE BONIOR and the way he does his job, which helps them do their job, and helps all of us here in Congress do our job.

It is a remarkable ability that DAVE BONIOR has to improve the performance of everyone round them so that competition does not mean meanness, and it does not lead to a lack of civility.

The way you do the job as whip, DAVE BONIOR, is a model for every public servant. We will talk about all you have done in your Congressional will career later after we are congratulating you for your election as Governor. But, for now, I want to thank you for what you have done for each of us individually here in the House of Representatives.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I was sitting in my office planning to do some work before I drive back to Indianapolis, and saw this very special man was being praised today, a man who is worthy of praise, a hero who has earned his medal of honor, if you will.

DAVID BONIOR knew JULIA CARSON before JULIA CARSON knew DAVID BONIOR. When I first declared my candidacy for this august body, he was one of the first people who obviously believed that I was going to get elected and came out to Indiana to do what he could with his resources and his brain power.

Even beyond that, DAVID BONIOR has struck me as the perfect illustration of family values. A lot of us get up to the microphone, and we tap dance about family values and we waive the flag and my country tis of Thee and God bless America. But DAVID BONIOR has never missed the mark in terms of what is great and good and right for the American family and the United States of America. He is a gentleman's gentleman, he is a politician's politician, he is a family man par excellence.

I do not want to look at him because I am going to cry, but I love DAVID BONIOR and I want to tell you that.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I, like JULIA CARSON, was sitting in my office and I heard the tribute, and I wanted to come over for just a couple of seconds and highlight I think DAVE's contributions to this institution, but, most importantly, to the American family.

DAVID BONIOR's sense of America is community, and what he means by community is a place where nobody is ever to be abandoned and nobody is ever to be left behind.

One of the best speeches I ever heard on this House floor came the night that DAVID led us in opposition to the NAFTA treaty, when he raised the question for all of us here that night of what the Edmond Pettis Bridge meant to a generation of Americans, and what it meant to cross that bridge, what it meant to have a sense of justice and fairness and equity in this life, a catholic sense of justice; fairness, equity, the notion that you just cannot walk by the poor, that you just cannot abandoned them and turn your back, that government is there in the end to help them.

Another thing I am going to say about DAVID, in an institution that really troubles me, because many of the people that have gotten here on both sides of the aisle, they have run this institution into the ground day in and day out with their diatribes on what has always been wrong, and then they abandon in the next breath term limits, they abandoned the line item

veto, they abandon things like disturbing the Constitution based upon every whim that moves along.

Not DAVID BONIOR. DAVID BONIOR believed in something, and for too many people that have come to this institution for the last few years, their beliefs are bland. Their beliefs are based upon the emotion of the moment, there is no long-held view of anything.

It has been an honor for me to serve with DAVID, and, most importantly, I supported you when you ran for these jobs and was glad to do it. The manner in which you carried yourself day in and day out, you could be as fierce a partisan as there was, but you loved this institution, and, most importantly, you loved the community that we call the American family.

Thanks for all the good things you did, DAVE.

(Mr. FRANK asked and was given permission to speak out of order for 5 minutes.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, I will begin by yielding to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD).

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me to speak on this.

Mr. FRANK. I will yield to the gentleman to speak anywhere he wishes, other than Guam.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I wanted to take the time to pay tribute to DAVID BONIOR. In a way this is great, because, you know, you get to see all your friends. You do not have to wait until you pass away. This is a terrific opportunity to pay honor to our friend here.

But I have an office with a very not-so-eloquent title of Non-voting Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. It is always a curiosity to me, because he is the whip. He is supposed to count votes, and he knows I do not matter in that count. But it is really a mark of his approach to politics and his commitment to every member of the caucus that he has taken the time and the energy to support me in the various projects that I have had.

When I first decided to run for this office, he received me very well and he took the time to try to understand some of the issues and some of the unique circumstances that we deal with. For a long time, and it is a mark of the high regard and the approach that DAVID has taken over the years, for a long time I thought I was the only one that had a special relationship with him, but, as it turns out, he has got hundreds of these special relationships, and that is really a mark and a testimony to the terrific job that you have done.

Mr. Speaker, despite all the trials and tribulations here, when people ask me who are some of the Members that you really admire, certainly he comes to mind.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I just want to make two points.

First of all, recently we did have a real eulogy for a Member who passed away, our late colleague Joe Moakley, and the outpouring of affection and respect for Joe Moakley was very impressive. I am in a position to tell you, as someone who was a neighbor to Joe Moakley's district, there was no one in this business that he admired more than DAVID BONIOR.

One of the things Joe Moakley made his goal was when DAVE BONIOR ran for whip was to get Massachusetts Members to vote for him. So let me just past on that if Joe Moakley was still with us, you would be hearing from him his enormous respect and admiration for DAVID BONIOR.

I want to thank him for one other thing. I am a great believer in free speech. I generally vote against it when we start telling adults what they can read and what pictures they can show of each other. But if I was going to amend the Constitution, I would make it illegal to use the words "pragmatism" and "idealism" as if they were in opposition to each other.

The notion that the world should be divided between people who have a strong set of values and people who are effective is really a disaster morally. In fact, the more you are committed to a set of ideals, the more you are morally obligated to be effective in implementing those ideals. Otherwise, they are just something you put on in the morning to make yourself feel good. They do not do anybody else any good.

I know of nobody else in politics who better exemplifies that synthesis. I know of nobody else who is equally a passionate idealist in politics because he has a vision of the world that he wants to have implemented, which would be a fairer and kinder and better world for people who are in need in various ways, and who, at the same time, understands that that gives him the obligation to be as effective as possible; fair but tough; understanding the rules and abiding by the rules; but putting everything every ounce of energy into it. And for his exemplifying that merger of pragmatism and idealism, for understanding that a tough-minded approach to political reality in fact is a necessary compliment to a commitment to a set of values you want to implement, I want to join in honoring DAVID BONIOR and thank him for what he has shown us.

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to speak out of order for 5 minutes.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, I was actually over in my office and did not know that this was happening today. But I have had the honor to serve five terms in this

House and served with DAVID for many years as part of the whip operation, and for somebody who comes from Texas and sounds like I do, to get to know DAVID and to appreciate him and to realize he is a very low-keyed individual, but, as someone said earlier, very competitive, because I also have had the opportunity to play basketball with him, and not just try and pass or defeat legislation. So he is competitive, but he is very low-keyed.

Typically if I have something to say, I am not only out there and in your face, but DAVID is very quiet about it. So I appreciate that, and I think a lot of us could emulate what he does.

But working with him for these 9 years, I appreciate not only his inward strength, but also his dedication to the issues. It helps having, even though, again, a very urban district in Houston, and DAVID being from Michigan, having a lot of blue collar workers, some of the same demands are in Michigan on the economy as we have in Houston, Texas, a very industrialized district.

So I just appreciate, DAVE, your work here in the House. Like say, I have only seen you the last five terms, but the American people and the people of Michigan owe you a debt of gratitude for your work here in the House.

Obviously, if it does any good for somebody who sounds like me to come up and knock doors in Michigan, I will be up there.

So, DAVID, obviously we will be serving with you for the next year. But not only as our whip, but also just as a person, we will miss you, and I know I will too. Thank you, DAVE.

□ 1245

(Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey asked and was given permission to speak out of order for 5 minutes.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I guess I did not think any Members looked at their screens in the office, at least after we adjourn, but I too was looking at the screen and I saw the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) come and say that he was looking at his screen and saw that there was a program, so to speak, being held. I fussed at my scheduler, who was out to lunch, because I did not know about this, but I am so glad that I was listening.

I too want to simply add to what has already been said about a person that I have just respected for as long as I have been here in the House. I think that first connection, as I am from the 10th Congressional District too, of New Jersey, but I knew there had to be something good about the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR). We had the same number. And then looking at his high school achievements, I tried to play a little ball and I see where DAVE