

THE PLIGHT OF BLACK FARMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, over the last 9 years I have come to this floor to talk about the plight of rural America. I have talked about farmers, including small farmers, disadvantaged farmers and minority farmers.

Today, I rise again to talk about the plight of the black farmers who have suffered a saga of mistreatment, discrimination and benign neglect. I would say that both the problems, as well as their possibilities, really transcend region, transcend race. It encompasses a wide array of individuals that go beyond just black Americans but includes Hispanics, includes Asian, includes Indian Americans and women as well.

This issue also affects the disabled. A wheelchair-bound white male in Michigan has felt the sting of unfair discriminatory practices on the part of the Agriculture Department and contacted the Agriculture Department, who are there to serve; and indeed, all who are involved in farming as a way of life are affected by the mistreatment and by the lost opportunities that the black farmers would have.

All farmers are affected by changes and forces that have been experienced in this new world order or this new economy of the world. There are several factors that have caused small farmers to decline or to accelerate the decline of these small producers. They include globalization of commerce, economies of scale, limited access to capital and technological advances. The existence of worldwide markets for all commodities, not just agriculture, but all commodities, are feeling this, have created unique market forces and pressures that producers of the past did not have to compete against.

American's producers have to cope with the substantially larger and less accommodating world market in which to sell their merchandise and their commodities, with competitors who play by sometime significantly different rules.

In 1992, when we first started looking at farmers and the demise of farmers, we saw the landscape was very different, and we compared the landscape as it was in 1920, when we had over 6 million farms in the United States. Things have changed obviously. Close to one-sixth of those farmers were really in North Carolina; 926,000 small farmers were in North Carolina.

When we looked at it again in 1992, the landscape was very different. For only 1 percent of 1.9 million farmers in the United States were then operated by African Americans. Since the 2000 census, that decline has even gone further. At that time, it was only 18,816 farmers. That is a paltry number of African Americans when we consider that we represent more than 13 percent of the total population.

In my home State of North Carolina, there has been a 64 percent decline in minority farmers just over the last 15 years, from 6,996 farms in 1978 to 2,498 farms, again when we measured from this time in 1992. There are several reasons why a number of minorities and limited resource farmers indeed are declining so rapidly, but the one that has been documented time and time again is the discrimination in the credit extended by the Department of Agriculture, the very agency established by the U.S. Government to accommodate and to assist the special needs of all farmers and ranchers.

The issue was first raised in 1968 when the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights established that the USDA discriminated both in internal employee actions and external program delivery activities. An ensuing USDA employee focus group that was established in 1970 again reported that USDA was callous in their institutional attitude and demeanor regarding civil rights and equal opportunity.

In 1982, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights examined the issue yet again and published the report called The Decline of the Black Farmers in America. The Commission concluded that there were widespread prejudicial practices in loan approval, loan servicing, farm management assistance as administered by then what we used to call the Farmers Home Administration.

However, as no improvement was forthcoming, indeed my friend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) had a report. I want to tell my colleagues that this saga has been going on. In fact, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) in his operational committee, as he chaired it, had a report and he called it The Minority Farmer: A Disappearing Resource. Well, we have an obligation then. We should do better.

Mr. Speaker, I will be coming to this floor more than once again to raise a consciousness that we cannot have this benign neglect, this mistreatment and this discrimination.

□ 1800

TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11 TRAGEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRUCCI). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), in continuing to read the names of those who fell in the tragedy on September 11, and I would do so now.

Kevin Marlo; Jose J. Marrero; Fred Marrone; Constance Marshall; Shelley A. Marshall; John Marshall; Daniel Marshall; James Martello; Michael A. Marti; Teresa M. Martin; Peter C. Martin; Karen Martin; William J. Martin; Brian E. Martineau; Waleska Martinez;

Jose Martinez; Edward J. Martinez; Betsy Martinez; Robert Martinez; Lizie Martinez-Calderon; Paul Richard Martini; Joseph Mascali; Bernard Mascarenhas; Stephen Masi; Ada L. Mason; Nicholas "Nick" Massa; Patricia A. Massari; Michael Massaroli; Philip W. Mastrandrea; Rudolph Mastrocinque; Joseph Mathai; Charles William Mathers; William A. Mathesen; Margaret Elaine Mattic; Marcello Mattricciano; Dean E. Mattson; Robert D. Mattson; Walter Matuza; Choi "Irene" Mau; Timothy Maude; Charles J. Mauro; Nancy T. Mauro; Dorothy Mauro; Charles A. Mauro; Robert J. Maxwell; Renee May; Tyrone May; Keithroy Maynard; Robert J. Mayo; Kathy Mazza; Edward Mazzella, Jr.; Jennifer Mazzotta; Kaaria Mbaya; James J. McAlary; Brian McAleese; Patricia A. McAneney; Colin Richard McArthur; John McAvoy; Kenneth M. McBrayer; Michael Justin McCabe; Brendan F. McCabe; Charlie McCabe; Robert McCallum;

And I would encourage my colleagues to contact our colleague, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), to help us read the names of those who fell in the tragedy on September 11.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN EDWARD P. BOLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) is recognized for 30 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate having this time in order to speak about our great beloved, departed colleague from the State of Massachusetts, Edward Patrick Boland. He served in this institution for 36 years. He was elected in 1952; he served until 1988.

He loved this institution, and this institution loved him. He arrived in 1952, with his best pal, Tip O'Neill, another freshman Congressman coming from the eastern part of the State. They were roommates for 24 years here in Washington, really only staying here on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and immediately returning to their home districts after the close of business on Thursdays.

And that is how it went in their little apartment over all those years until Tip was elected Speaker and brought Millie down. However, it had been preceded just a couple of years before that by Eddie breaking his long years of bachelorhood and marrying Mary Egan, a marriage that produced four beautiful children that were, without question, the pride and joy of his life.

Now, for those that knew Eddie, he still and for always will be thought of as a legislative giant, as someone who motored around on the floor of the House like the Energizer Bunny, moving at the speed of sound from deal to

deal to deal to deal as he worked his legislative magic. And whether the Member was Democrat or Republican, Eddie Boland was universally respected.

When, in 1977, Tip O'Neill decided that it was necessary to create a Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, by definition that job required someone who could keep secrets, someone who could be trusted with the greatest intelligence which our country has, that which protects the national security, the health and well-being of every American, out of the entire institution, Tip selected Eddie Boland to be the first chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Because he was someone that every Member, Democrat and Republican, would trust.

And so, without question, as the 20th century's legislative history is written, he will be looked back upon as someone who was the quintessential public servant, elected as a State representative when Roosevelt was President. He served in World War II, was elected and served in Congress in the Korean War, in the Vietnam War, and all the way through to the point where not only was the Reagan era ending but the George Bush, Sr., administration was about to begin. What a legacy that he leaves to this country, to his family.

So we in the Massachusetts delegation, without question, will miss him; but we know so too will all of his colleagues, all of his constituents, and all who came to know him in this great country.

I would like to turn now to the gentleman who succeeded Eddie in the United States Congress in his seat in Springfield, and, in fact, was Eddie's choice to carry on the political and spiritual legacy that he brought to the Congress from the City of Springfield, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), who is the dean of the Massachusetts delegation, for organizing this Special Order as we pause in remembrance of my friend and former Congressman, Edward P. Boland.

Congressman Boland came here in the midst of the Eisenhower landslide; and he won that first race, I believe, by 5,000 votes. And for 36 years he served here virtually, but with a couple of exceptions, without challenge. What I think is ironic about the Boland legacy, beyond the kindness that he exhibited time and again, was the affection that he held for this old House. He revered his service in this institution, respected it, and believed time and again that this was one of the best jobs that anybody could ever hope to hold.

Eddie Boland came from Springfield's Hungry Hill. He was the child of Irish immigrants. For 50 years, 50 years, he was elected. Think of it, at least 25 elections, and at the end of those 25 elections he could say, at retirement,

he was undefeated and untied. What a remarkable legacy indeed that was.

But there are projects across this country that bear his imprint. Because of his relationship with John Kennedy and the fact that he was on the plane with President Kennedy, or at that time Senator Kennedy, as they returned from Los Angeles after having secured the Democratic nomination in 1960, he was devoted to the Apollo program and, indeed, remained, until his last days, one of its great champions.

We recall in this institution his wisdom as it related to the Boland amendment and Nicaragua. He saved this country from a disastrous journey had we proceeded with military support for Nicaragua. Today, Mr. Speaker, with the exception of Cuba, every government in Central and South America is freely elected. His impact on housing programs because of his subcommittee chairmanship at VA-HUD happens to be profound.

But there was another side of Congressman Boland, and I think my colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), and others in the delegation again hold it in highest regard. Congressman Boland only talked to reporters from the hometown newspaper. In 36 years in this institution, Congressman Boland had one fund-raiser, and really was upset that he had to go to it. He thought that the only allegiance he owed to anyone was to those people back in the Second District of Massachusetts.

And here is an even more compelling statistic, given the modern nature of Congress. Congressman Boland held one press conference in 36 years to announce he was retiring; and he did it on Hungry Hill, where 36 years before he had announced he was running, without a press conference at that time.

It is remarkable that his legacy could have been as pervasive as it was, given the fact that by nature he was fairly shy and really did not care for the limelight and did not care for the national attention that his years in Congress and the Boland amendment and the housing programs that he championed brought him as they were put in front of the American people.

It is the honor of a lifetime to have known him. I attended one day this remarkable Christmas luncheon that he had every year after he retired, which many of the people that had elected him State representative 50 years before all attended faithfully. At one of those luncheons, the fellow he defeated, I believe in 1934, for State representative from Hungry Hill, was there. And when asked why he was there, he simply pointed out that a half century before Eddie Boland had retired him from public life. And with that graciousness Boland simply smiled and laughed, and they had a wonderful moment of friendship and harmony again.

I am struck by that service, I am struck by the legacy, but I would like to take all of the young Members that

have come to this Congress during the last 2 years and say to them: you should understand the reverence that Eddie Boland held for service in this institution. He really believed that this was one of the great arbiters of fairness in American life. He really believed that this institution was courageous and visionary in the manner in which it proceeded. But not only did he feel strongly about this institution, he was a believer in the Federal Government of the United States.

I am going to close on this note, because while people understood him and his legacy and the programs he championed, one of the footnotes that occurred in his obituary that few people ever knew, because he never called attention to it, Eddie Boland marched in Selma, Alabama, to bring about an end to much of the unfairness that had been institutionalized in American life. He was patriotic, he was kind, he was impeccably decent.

He has a wonderful wife in Mary Egan, and to hear his son's remarkable testimony to his father at the funeral, his son Edward, his daughter Martha, daughter Kathleen, and son Michael. What a great family. And I would be remiss as I close if I did not mention one of the great eulogies that I have ever heard that came from former judge and my friend, Daniel M. Keyes, who was Eddie Boland's friend for 70 years.

We will miss him in this institution; we miss him in Massachusetts. A great friend was Congressman Eddie Boland.

Mr. MARKEY. Let me now yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), whose congressional district abuts the district of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) and then Congressman Boland, so he knew him very well.

Mr. OLVER. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I am very pleased to be able to join my colleagues, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), from the second district, and the successor to Edward P. Boland, and the dean of our delegation, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), from the eastern part of the State.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Congressman Edward Boland, who represented the Second Congressional District of Massachusetts for nearly 4 decades. Let me start by giving my deepest sympathy to Mary Boland and the Boland children for their loss of a husband and a father.

I first met Congressman Eddie Boland in 1968. He had already served more than 15 years and was a force in the Congress. I, by contrast, was making my first run for political office as a Massachusetts State representative in a district that partly overlapped Eddie Boland's Second Congressional District.

□ 1815

My first and most lasting impression of Ed Boland was his booming voice. He

was speaking at an event in Granby, and I was certain that he could be heard all of the way to South Hadley. Over time I learned that Congressman Ed Boland was not just heard, but attention was paid when he spoke. He was heard all the way down the hall to the Senate. He was heard by Presidents at the White House. He was even heard at the Pentagon.

This modest man with a towering voice commanded towering respect here in Washington, and he was a towering presence in the political life of western Massachusetts. Eddie Boland provides even now a model for Members of this House of Representatives to follow.

Eddie Boland was known equally for his ability to tackle the most complex issues of the day, and his willingness to show simple kindness to anyone around him who needed his help. He rose to national prominence on a number of issues, particularly his authorship of the Boland amendments restricting U.S. involvement in the conflict in Nicaragua. Yet the people of the Second Congressional District remained his foremost concern throughout his long and distinguished career.

When Eddie Boland passed away last week, everyone in the Pioneer Valley lost a friend. On behalf of the people of the First Congressional District, I rise to say "thank you" one last time to Congressman Edward Boland for his work and his service.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for participating in this special order, and now I yield to the minority whip designee, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), who knew Ed Boland well.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman for calling this special order and congratulate him. I congratulate because this is a wonderful occasion when we in the House who served with Ed Boland can come together and talk about him and the wonderful contribution he made to our country.

I felt a special responsibility to come to the floor, not only because it was a privilege to serve with Eddie, but also as the senior Democrat on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I know full well what his great contribution was to our country. The gentleman referenced that in his remarks very beautifully, and I want to speak to that for a bit.

I do so bringing some of the appreciation from the staff of the Intelligence Committee, as well as many Members who have served on that committee over time. We serve in the Edward P. Boland Room in the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

For over 50 years, 36 in this House, Eddie Boland represented the people of western Massachusetts with uncommon dedication and effectiveness. He believed deeply in the capacity of government to be a positive force in people's lives and in the duty of those in government to do everything within their power to ensure that result.

It has been said that he treated his constituents the same way as he treated his friends. That explains not only his success at the polls, but the high regard with which he was held. His career was a testament to the fact that politics, when practiced by people of great skill and commitment, is both an art and a high calling.

Eddie served with distinction on the Committee on Appropriations, and was the committee's second most senior Democrat for many years. He was a long-time chairman of what was then the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs and Independent Agencies, now known as VA-HUD. I doubt that there are many communities in the United States who have not benefited from his programs that he promoted on the subcommittee. Veterans hospitals and clinics, projects to improve the quality of air and water, affordable housing for the poor, the elderly and disabled, efforts to reinvigorate the Nation's cities and to explore the universe of which we are a part, were among the activities made national priorities by the appropriations measures he crafted. It is impossible to calculate all of the ways in which those programs made fuller and more secure the lives of the people of our country.

Had Eddie Boland's service been measured only by his work on the Committee on Appropriations, it would have been deemed highly successful. As has been mentioned by the distinguished dean of the Massachusetts delegation earlier, in 1977 Speaker Tip O'Neill asked Eddie to be the first chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Tip's reasoning was simple. The leader of that committee would have to be someone people could trust, as the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) said, someone who could keep a secret.

Eddie Boland's integrity was unsassable. The committee's reputation for keeping secret matters secret is due in large part to the standard established during the 8 years he served as chairman. That is an incredibly long time to be chairman of the Committee on Intelligence.

Although not one to seek fame, he did not shrink from taking on a popular President in a most public way when the U.S. intelligence agencies unwisely, in his judgment, became involved in a civil war in Nicaragua. Later when questions arose as to whether laws restricting the activities of those agencies had been violated, he was among the small number of Members of the House selected to determine the truth. Even in the highly charged atmosphere that surrounded that investigation, when legislation bearing his name was central to the inquiry, he was not interested in publicity, but sought only to do the job entrusted to him by the House.

Despite his many accomplishments in Washington, Eddie took his greatest joy and was most proud of his family back home in Springfield. His wife,

Mary, and their children, Martha, Edward, Jr., Kathleen, and Michael were the focus of his life, each though he started late in life to acquire that magnificent and beautiful family. Many of us saw him with his family at the funeral of Congressman Joe Moakley, another esteemed Member of this Congress, and it gave us a chance to say hello to Eddie, and little did we know that it would be good-bye. But we reported to our colleagues in the House that Eddie was still as sharp as a tack and enjoying his beautiful family. Our condolences go out to Mary and the children.

That is why he left here, to spend more time with his family at a very important time in their lives. His devotion to them says as much about the man he was as does his distinguished service in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, although I only served for a short time with Eddie Boland, I directly followed him onto the Committee on Appropriations and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, so I know well how well-respected he was by his colleagues and by the people in the executive branch. He was one of the quiet, hard-working Members so essential to the conduct of the business of the House. His service enriched the Nation, and will always be a source of great pride for his family. Anyone who served with him will always treasure the privilege of calling him "colleague."

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me to participate in this special order.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for participating.

One of the great things about Eddie Boland was that he lived such a long life. He passed away at 90. The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is now one of the few Members who served with him because he left 13 years ago. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for holding this special order so we can pay tribute to Eddie Boland. I want to mention a small episode.

There was a time when many of us were involved in trying to end the violence in Latin America, in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and elsewhere. It was a struggle that was consuming those individuals and those countries. It was an uphill struggle.

Finally, justice came, and in the case of El Salvador, a democratic government has been established and a series of elections have been held; but that was not the history of the region and that country at the time when I served in this Congress with Mr. Boland.

I always thought that the reason that justice came to Central America in large part was because the generals in El Salvador made a huge mistake and the intelligence community in this country made a huge mistake.

The generals in El Salvador made a huge mistake in lying to Joe Moakley

about their involvement in the killing of the Jesuits at the university. From that day forward, because he recognized the lie when it was uttered, and I was with him on the trip to Latin America to investigate that, Mr. Moakley recognized that lie the minute it was presented on that military base by those generals. He pursued it along with our now-colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN) for many, many months until that lie unraveled and we realized the incredible role that the Government of El Salvador played in the murder of those Jesuits and its military.

Eddie Boland, while he did not agree with us necessarily on the policy in Latin America or what some of us were trying to achieve, believed that the laws of the land were the laws of the land. When he later found out the involvement of the intelligence agency in Latin America and when it became clear that they were fudging the laws, we passed the Boland amendment that made it very clear that having Eddie Boland stand before this Congress and support the Boland amendment and having this Congress pass the Boland amendment as he did in his role as the chairman of the Intelligence Committee changed the dynamics and changed people's attitude to what was taking place in Central America and the deep involvement of this country in really horrific events and abuses of human rights in those countries.

Mr. Speaker, I think we owe him a great debt of gratitude because he insisted that people not play fast and loose with the laws of this country, that this country not be involved in the abuse of human rights of the people in El Salvador; and we all should thank him very much and remember him for that important role that he played on behalf of humanity who, without Eddie Boland, would not have had a champion of that stature to bring about that kind of change.

I thank Eddie Boland for his service to this country.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I just want to mention that we serve, those of us on the Intelligence Committee, serve in the Edward P. Boland Room upstairs, and while Members have the opportunity to come to the floor to express their condolences as well as their commendations of Mr. Boland, I want to extend the condolences also of the staff of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, especially Mike Sheehy, the Democratic counsel to the staff, who served Mr. Boland so very well for so many years, and mourns his death, and knows more about his contributions than many.

I thank the gentleman for allowing me that further remark.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) very much. When a younger Member is advocating for an

idea, you look around the institution to find somebody who everybody respects who as we say in the Catholic Church, would place their imprimatur, their blessing, on the idea.

As the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) knows, when Mr. Boland put his blessing in terms of what our relationship should be with the Government of Nicaragua, at that point people could disagree with Eddie Boland, but they knew they would be wrong because he would never take anything other than the most honest position.

Let me conclude the special order by recognizing the only other member with the exception of myself who served in the Massachusetts congressional delegation with Eddie Boland, the Congressman from the city of Newton, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) for taking this special order to give us a chance to express our sympathy to Mary Boland and their children, and express our admiration for a man who really had an extraordinary, distinguished legislative career.

I am a great follower of parliamentary and legislative history. It is something that I read to relax, reading about the British parliament and other parliamentary bodies. I do not think it is sufficiently appreciated what an important role a leading institutionalist plays in making democracy function. Among other things, that is what Eddie Boland exemplified.

□ 1830

He was an elected official, a man who came up through the political ranks, was always deeply rooted in the community from which he came, who was always in constant touch at all levels with the people he represented, and who took to Washington their mandate and built on it. He was at the same time their Representative and someone who transcended what might be the narrowing aspects of being a Representative.

As previous speakers have said, he confounded some stereotypes. He was not by his manner, by his political background, by his general place in the world of the political culture the kind of man who people would have expected to have been leading an assault on a Presidential foreign policy. We have a tradition of deferring to Presidents in foreign policy, indeed excessively, it seems to me, in many cases because legitimate differences ought to be articulated.

Eddie Boland, as the gentleman from Massachusetts and the gentleman from California just said, did a great deal to legitimize the notion that in a democratic society, elected officials had not only the right but the duty to speak out if they thought the President was pursuing gravely mistaken foreign policies. The fact that Ed Boland did

that and did that with his dignity and with his respect for this institution and with all of the cultural attributes that he brought to the job really did, as the gentleman said, give it the imprimatur, or did give it a legitimacy.

What that meant was this. It meant we could argue it on the merits. Too often when we are dealing with an issue like this, there is a whole set of deferences, a whole set of attitudes that interfere. Ed Boland's stature in this institution was justifiably of sufficient weight so that when he spoke on that issue, he overcame those deferences and we got to the merits, and he did a great service. He was also, of course, defending the prerogatives of the elected legislature against the executive, and in that also he was carrying on in the tradition of great parliamentarians.

Finally, as someone who has been concerned with housing policy since I got here, I want to acknowledge his great leadership as subcommittee Chair in terms of recognizing the obligation of this very wealthy country to do something about the housing needs of the people. We look back now to the days of Ed Boland's chairmanship of the appropriations subcommittee dealing with HUD as golden days when we in fact did far more to meet vital social needs than we are doing today, unfortunately. And there are a lot of reasons for that. But Ed Boland's committed and passionate advocacy, and you can be passionate without making a lot of noise, you can be passionate by having an unstinting, unyielding determination to do the right thing; and that is what he had.

As my friend from Massachusetts has said, he and I are the last two Members who served with Ed Boland and know just what integrity he brought to this job and just to what extent he exemplified what an elected representative of the people ought to be in a functioning democracy. I thank the gentleman for giving me the opportunity to say this.

Mr. MARKEY. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, and I thank all of the Members who have participated in this Special Order.

We will keep this part of the RECORD open so that any other Members who wish to do so may enter their own statement.

Eddie Boland's career ended the way it began. He worked tirelessly in order to make the world a better place. I am proud to have known him. I am proud to have worked with him. I am proud to have served with him in this institution that he loved so much. I am proud to have called him my friend. His service to this country will never be forgotten. Our condolences to his wife, Mary, and his children.

May Eddie Boland rest in peace.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of public service and passing of Congressman Edward "Eddie" P. Boland. Congressman Boland was a humble statesman who moved legislative mountains and earned the respect of his colleagues with

a polite manner and solemn regard for this body.

He received his education from Springfield's Bay Path Institute and Boston College Law School. The son of an Irish immigrant railroad worker, he would later establish himself as a community leader. Boland began his life of public service at the age of twenty-three when elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Later, he was elected as the Hampden County register of deeds. In 1942, he enlisted in the Army to fight tyranny in the Pacific theater of World War II and was promoted to captain.

In 1952, Eddie Boland won election to Massachusetts' second congressional district seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his 36 years in the House, Congressman Boland became the Chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and of the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. Developing the necessary trust between his committee and the intelligence community and an acceptance of the need for Congressional oversight were hallmarks of his Chairmanship. Furthermore he was a steadfast advocate for individual's privacy rights and providing informative but discreet intelligence information to the public. Among this most notable legislative achievements was passage of the Boland amendments which restricted the use of U.S. funds by Nicaragua's Contra rebels and lay at the heart of the "Iran-Contra" scandal.

Although Congressman Boland rose to become a figure of national prominence, he never lost sight of his modest beginnings in the Hungry Hill district of Springfield, Massachusetts. Congressman Edward P. Boland is survived by his wife Mary Egan, and four children. His legacy to our nation is a model of leadership born from quiet dignity and integrity.

AIRLINE SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for the balance of the hour, approximately 28 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor this evening to comment on what I believe is a major, major step forward in our national security and, that is, the imminent passage of our airline security bill. Our conferees, we have been told, have been successful in ironing out a bill that I think is a real major step forward in several respects. I would like to talk about two of those ways that this bill is really going to advance Americans' sense of security and hopefully instill a fair measure of confidence in airline travel.

The first is that our efforts have been successful to make sure that 100 percent of the checked baggage that goes into the belly of our airplanes in fact will be screened for explosive devices. This is a major step forward to give the traveling public the assurance that any bag that is going to go into the luggage compartment of an airplane, we are going to be assured, does not have an explosive device in it. Given the nature

of the threat, it is high time that the U.S. Congress has passed such a measure. We are told now that our conferees in both parties, in the House and Senate, have agreed on a measure that will set a deadline for the actual implementation of 100 percent screening for checked baggage. We also are told that we are going to have interim measures while we get to that 100 percent use by mechanical devices, by some of the sophisticated machinery, to be assured that we cannot see a plane taken down out of the sky.

This has been the result of a lot of effort here in Congress, but I want to pay a real congratulatory note to two gentlemen who have been working for over a decade now to achieve that end, and those gentlemen are Bob Monetti and George Williams, two gentlemen each of whom lost a son in the Lockerbie bombing in Scotland in 1988. Bob Monetti, who lost his son Rick, a Syracuse student, in that bombing and Mr. Monetti since then has been working with the community of families that lost members in the Lockerbie bombing to try to get this Chamber, the U.S. House, and the Senate, to pass a provision to assure that that type of tragedy cannot happen again.

I have met Mr. Monetti; he is a great leader in this regard and has been a conscience of his community to see to it that the House of Representatives would act. I have also met Mr. George Williams, who lost his son Geordie, an American soldier, Mr. Williams, a proud Marine. I really want to thank Mr. Williams for his efforts to make sure that the U.S. Congress would finally act to see to it that other family members do not have to suffer a loss that they have done. I think it is a real mark of tribute to these families that they have hung in this effort for over 10 years to see to it that the Congress would finally act.

Now in the next day or two, we will be voting on a provision that will finally achieve their goal of having 100 percent screening. I want to thank Mr. Monetti and Mr. Williams and all of the Lockerbie families for their efforts to educate us in Congress about the need for this. I hope they take some measure of satisfaction. I know Rick and Geordie would be real proud of their fathers when this bill passes, as we were of them.

I also want to thank some of our co-sponsors, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), a Democrat, who has insisted on this; the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), a Republican. The gentleman from Connecticut has been a great, great leader on many reform efforts. He has been instrumental in convincing some of the leadership on the Republican side of the aisle in including this measure in the eventual airline security bill. I consider this a bipartisan success through the efforts of the gentleman from Connecticut and several other Republicans, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and others on our side of the aisle

who have gotten this in. We are happy that we have finally achieved this end, that we can now tell Americans that they will be able to have the peace of mind when they get on an airplane that we are not going to have explosives in the belly of the airplane.

There are a couple of things we hope that both our conferees, if this has not been totally finalized, and our friends at the FAA and the Department of Transportation need to be attentive to, and, that is, that we need to very quickly evaluate the screening devices for various types of technology to make sure that we use the most effective, the fastest, the most efficient, the most cost-effective means of screening this baggage. We brought to the Cannon House Office Building last week some new technology that we hope that the FAA will look at very closely when we choose which types of screening machines to use. We want the FAA to be very open in its assessment so we have the fair opportunity to assess all of the technologies, and there are several types of machines that use several types of technology to determine whether there is an explosive device in a bag. We are going to be working diligently with the FAA to make sure that they have a fair evaluation process to decide which type of technology to implement throughout our Nation's airports. In doing that, we are going to be very insistent that we fully mobilize the industrialized base of the United States.

Some time ago, the FAA talked about getting this done in 10 years or more, to get enough machines in our airports to get this done. We are not going to wait that long. We need to do the same kind of industrialization and mobilization that happened in World War II. We built about 10 or 12,000 B-24s in World War II when we fully mobilized our industrial base. We have got to do the same thing with these machines. We need a couple of thousand of them, and we need to find the licensing and a contractual way to fully engage the manufacturers of this country to get this done right away. We are going to be very insistent on that. We look forward to working with our agencies to make sure we make this decision promptly and in a way that gets the best technology into our airports.

The other aspect of this bill that we are very, very pleased about is that it will have a quantum leap forward in the quality of screening of the individuals who screen passengers when they go through these screening gates heading for their airplanes. We have had such a litany of failure. We have had such a disastrous experience with private companies, low-bid contractors, who have allowed these types of failures to occur. Now we have finally agreed and our conferees have agreed to essentially ensure that we will have Federal employees who, in fact, will man these stations in the next 2 years. We are very happy that that assurance will be given to the traveling public. It