

aply eulogized him at his funeral. As Paula Franzese, a law professor there put it: "None of us will ever forget Peter Rodino because of the way he made us feel. He made us believe."

So today the House remembers Congressman Peter Rodino, a lover of the Constitution and the law, who meant so much to this body and the Nation, particularly at a time of great turmoil.

Those of us who knew him lost a great friend, New Jersey lost a favorite son and the Nation lost a tremendous but humble statesman.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and service to our country of former Congressman Peter Rodino, one of the nation's finest public servants. I am honored to have served with such a remarkable American, and am humbled to have called him my colleague and friend.

From the streets of his beloved Newark, to North Africa and Italy during World War II, to our Nation's capital, Peter Rodino spent his life selflessly striving to help, protect, and serve others, all the while doing so with the utmost dignity and humility.

During his twenty terms in the House of Representatives from 1949 to 1989, Peter Rodino championed his convictions on civil rights and equal opportunity, no matter what the cost, and was a key sponsor of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Mr. Speaker, it was his tenure as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee presiding over the Watergate Impeachment hearings that thrust Peter Rodino into the limelight. During this contentious time in which political tensions ran high, his restraint and sensibility quelled unchecked passions on both sides as he served as model of decorum for all. His profound words on the subject, uttered in 1974, still ring true today, and contain the type of foresight that only true leaders possess: "Whatever the result, whatever we learn or conclude, let us now proceed with such care and decency and thoroughness and honor that the vast majority of American people, and their children after them, will say: That was the right course. There was no other way."

One of my fondest memories of Peter, Mr. Speaker, was the evening my wife Annette and I spent with him at one of the annual Gymnasium Dinners during the time that he was still serving as a Member of Congress. It was an evening that we will never forget as he reminisced about his extraordinary political career and his personal recollections of Watergate.

Mr. Speaker, as public servants let us always remember his words as the highest example of leadership and integrity.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, this Nation and the great State of New Jersey has lost one of its foremost public servants. Congressman Peter Rodino was a man who truly honored the law, and when the country called on him in time of crisis, Mr. Rodino rose to greatness. I will always remember Peter Rodino for faithfully honoring the values that brought him to prominence in our Nation's history: honesty, humility, patience, and service.

Peter Rodino represented the district of New Jersey in which he lived his whole life. Born in Newark, he worked his way through law school and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1941. He was awarded the Bronze Star for valor during World War II. He continued to serve his

country in the House, elected to the 81st Congress in 1949. He served for 40 years, retiring in 1989, and turning his seat over to my friend, the Honorable DONALD PAYNE.

Most of us will remember Peter Rodino for his superb leadership of the House Judiciary Committee during the Nixon Impeachment Hearings. His patient and deliberative style gave the proceedings real credibility, and helped to hold the country together at a time of great upheaval. His reverence to the Constitution ensured that the painful and difficult hearings proceeded as our forefathers had envisioned. Peter Rodino was called upon by his country in time of crisis, and he rose to the challenge.

Peter Rodino will be sorely missed. In an age of bitter partisanship, Mr. Rodino was a calming voice. He guided the country through one of its darkest periods in recent history, and did so with grace and humility. Mr. Rodino's legacy of service to his country and his fellow man will surely be remembered for years to come.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor to pay tribute to former judiciary chairman Peter Rodino, he was a champion of civil rights and a beacon of justice during his 40 year tenure in Congress and his 16 years as a Seton Hall Professor of Law.

Mr. Rodino was most famous for his handling of the Watergate crisis. All sides—including Democrats, Republicans, and even the national press—hailed Rodino for the fair and just hand he used to guide the impeachment hearings. During this period of crisis, his courage and wisdom provided the foundation of strong leadership that gave Members the confidence to do what was right, even if it meant crossing party lines. The issue became one of preserving the sanctity of the system, rather than preserving the reputation of an individual. Throughout the process, Rodino's commitment to the system never wavered.

The son of Italian immigrants, Peter Rodino came of age in Newark, New Jersey. After leaving high school, Congressman Rodino endured 10 years of menial jobs while studying late into the night for a law degree at New Jersey Law School. In 1938 his patience and dedication was rewarded when he joined a local law firm. He put his newly found career on hiatus when he chose to defend his Nation against injustice in World War II. Mr. Rodino's strong character and determination earned him not only a Bronze star, but also a Knight of Order of Crown from Italy—a token of national gratitude for a soldier's accomplishments. Upon return he decided to run for Congress. Although his first attempt failed, his perseverance and strong work ethic served him well, and he was elected to Congress in 1948.

A strong advocate of racial equality, he was a driving force behind the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Another accomplishment in the long list of Mr. Rodino's notable achievements was sponsoring the bill that made Columbus Day a national holiday to commemorate the contribution of Italian Americans in the founding of our great Nation. Mr. Rodino also contributed to the legislation that made Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday.

Though Mr. Rodino will be remembered for so much more than the Watergate crisis, it was undoubtedly his greatest moment. Rodino allowed a moderate central group of both Democrats and Republicans to develop the

case for impeachment, preventing it from turning it into any type of political ploy. Just last year, Mr. Rodino gave an interview stating that there are lessons to be learned from Watergate, namely the extent of Government corruption. Mr. Rodino understood that it was the duty of Congress to rein in any administration or individual that was not adhering to the principles of justice.

It is with great respect and admiration that I offer my condolences to Mr. Rodino's wife, Joy, and their family. Mr. Rodino is survived by two children, Margaret Stanziale and Peter W. Rodino III, three grandchildren, Carla Prunty, Maria Stanziale and Talia Rodino, and twin great-grandchildren, Annabel and Charlotte Prunty. When asked about her husband, Joy says, "He was so ahead of his time. He lived civil rights. He lived equality. In his life, he didn't see color, he didn't see sex. He just went for the equality of the person." Former Representative Rodino was a man that I was proud to have worked with and honored to call friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the late Peter Rodino. He was a pioneer for justice in our country and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

CONTINUING THE TRIBUTE TO PETER RODINO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), for making the arrangements for this evening and for everyone who has joined in this testimonial to the work of Peter Rodino.

I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN), who has served on the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding to me. I want to first thank my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), for leading this wonderful effort that serves a lot of different purposes, not just to acknowledge the life and works of Peter Rodino but, as I will mention in a few moments, really sets an example, shows Peter Rodino as an example of the kind of heroic action that any human being is capable of but, in particular, any new American is capable of, or any American from humble circumstances.

After all, Peter Rodino was the child of immigrants, living and growing up in poverty in New Jersey and, as was said before, his ascension to chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary was not something that people might have guessed would happen when he was born in Newark.

But what did he do with that historic opportunity and what came forth? What came forth from Peter Rodino was a gentleness, but firmness, scholarship, great intelligence; I believe, having grown up around many Italian-Americans in my life, a reflection of

the Italian-American culture and heritage for honoring one another, respecting one another, living by a code of fairness and decency, and that is the way he approached the great task that was set before him; whether or not this sitting President of the United States was going to be impeached, with a Committee on the Judiciary equally divided, with a country uncertain as to what the consequences would be if the President was impeached.

Yet, because of his extraordinary ability, his extraordinary dignity and fairness, and capacity to bring people together and to touch people, he achieved consensus.

□ 2145

It was a unanimous decision ultimately to impeach Nixon. I had the unique opportunity, well, when I first saw him was on television when I was in college, and I watched the Watergate hearings, the impeachment hearings. And I was so incredibly proud to be an American, to see how this gentleman, a true gentleman was going to lead this committee step by step in the most fair and judicious process to find the truth. And that is what they did. And that is what he did.

Who would have thought that several decades later, the grandson of immigrants would make it to Congress, and find myself on the House Judiciary Committee faced with a sitting president being brought up on charges that would have called for his impairment and removal?

But, that is what happened in the effort to remove President Clinton from office. I called Congressman Rodino, asked if I could speak with him. He was incredibly gracious, as you might imagine. And he said, "Sure, come on over to my office." He had an office in the law school in Newark.

And he showed me some of his memorabilia and we went over some of the allegations. And we were in some agreement about what the Constitution meant when it said that the only elected official elected by the people of the United States, all of the people, the President, could only be removed by an act of treason, bribery, or a high crime or misdemeanor.

And when we weighed the allegations against President Clinton, we kept in mind all that we thought those words meant when they were written by the founders of our country and the drafters of our Constitution. But in the end he said, STEVE, be fair, keep an open mind, and do what you believe is right. And I did.

And it was a once in a lifetime experience to have been in his company, because as I mentioned earlier, he was one of those people, you know, they say one person can change the world, one person can make a difference in the world. He really was that kind of a person. True of humble origins, but with a dignity and intelligence and a wisdom and a courtesy and kindness that had him rise above even in the dif-

ficult circumstances to lead his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do what was right.

And I think it is an example for everyone in America, whether your family has been here for a long time or your family just got here, that there is a place for everyone in America. And there may come a time when you will be called upon, maybe not in the impeachment hearings, but in your own home, in your own neighborhood, in your own town, in the States in this country to be ready to lead the way Peter Rodino led, with courage and with wisdom, and that you too can make the world better as one human being like Peter Rodino.

I want to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to Chairman Rodino's wife, Joy, and his children and grandchildren, his legacy will live on. His example will live on. And I believe, thanks to the gentleman from New Jersey (Congressman PAYNE) and the others who have spoken, and I hope that his example will inspire every American to rise to the highest levels of their own ethics and integrity, even when faced with partisan issues of the most challenging sort, just like Peter Rodino.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentleman for those good words. Peter Rodino offered many of us kindness and generous, wise counsel, and that is why we are here tonight, not just celebrating one aspect of his career, but the totality of this career of this great public servant.

And I would now like to recognize my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for bringing us together tonight. This is a deed worth repeating. And we honor a man who honored everyone regardless of what they looked like, how they cooked their food, or what ethnicity, what religion they professed. He could be considered a rare person, but, a person for our time, a person who we can look to throughout this great institution because he believed in this institution, Peter Rodino.

So to his wife, Joy, to all America, in this time of reality TV, it is time for us to deal with reality. Peter Rodino understood that we are all born equal. And that governments exist to protect and defend that equality. Governments do not give us our rights, governments do not give us our freedoms. They basically guarantee those rights and those freedoms. If we understand that, Alexander Hamilton said, we will understand the very basis of this great, great Nation.

William Livingston, David Brearly, William Paterson, and Jonathan Dayton were the ratifiers of the Constitution from the State of New Jersey in 1787, September 17. They were the original ratifiers from the State of New Jersey of the Constitution. I would add to that list, and there are many people we would probably add to the list down through the years of those who ratified

and reratified the greatest document that the world has ever known with regard to governments.

So in many ways, Peter Rodino was a ratifier of the Constitution. I come here tonight not to speak of impeachments, Peter Rodino was more than a figure in a snapshot of history during a period of time when we impeached the President. No, he was bigger than that before he was on the Judiciary Committee, and before those articles of impeachment were examined. He believed in the equality of everybody in this House. He respected people for who they were, their character, as Martin Luther King said, their character, we are already joined together by the character in each individual.

This common ground, we feel and we sense with each other. And when I hear what goes on on the floor of this House since I have been here, January of 1997, I said God, do we need a Peter Rodino. Do we need somebody from Newark, New Jersey or Patterson, New Jersey, or Los Angeles, California? Do we need someone to bring sensibility, to bring us together even when we disagree.

The integrity of this institution was a goal while he served in this House. Congressman Rodino was the son of an Italian immigrant, and I often remember the words of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), our good friend telling us when, as he grew up in Alabama, and he fed the chickens, he remembered when he was 3 and 4 years old feeding the chickens, if someone were to stop him at that moment and say some day you will be in the United States Congress, he would have turned and said, you are crazy, or when he was beaten on the bridge, if we froze it in time, do you know some day you are going to be the Congressman from the State of Georgia, he would have thought he was crazy.

This is the reality of America. And Peter Rodino is a reflection of that and all of us should remember not that we say words tonight to soothe the hearts of those who knew him closest, but that we remember that in this House, this House that can become so cantankerous, this House that can become so treacherous, that we remember a person who rose above it all, who was a guidepost, who was a beacon, a lighthouse for finite men and women.

He was a beacon. He never questioned anyone's patriotism. He was not a man who while religious, was religiously self righteous. He never played ethnic politics on this floor or any floor. His voice is needed now more than ever. Many have gone back to what he wrote and what he said. Many go back to his words, which are so soothing, sweet words of charity from a person of immigrants who came to the floor of this House.

So beyond any NAIF, beyond the Italian American Members in the Congress of the United States, he is a man who we should continue to honor, not by speaking his words or his name necessarily, by reflecting his character

and upholding the integrity of this institution.

He believed in the common man, and he believed in the integrity of each person. And he believed in parity. He believed in the person who was downtrodden. He provides a message for our own party. He does, Mr. Speaker. He should be a model for our own party. We should be here to do the work of the downtrodden, of the least of these, of the voices. Then, then the meaning of Peter Rodino will be known throughout the United States of America.

What a hero. Joy, we join you in saying farewell, farewell to our station master, to our leader, God bless you all for coming here tonight.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentleman for putting in context much of Peter Rodino's life and interpreting the message for us even today.

You know, I am told that Chairman Rodino prayed that the Judiciary Committee could exonerate Nixon, but he discovered that the evidence allowed nothing other than the articles of impeachment.

□ 2200

He was not vindictive. He was dutiful. And it was important that he did not go into this with a blood thirst, but with actually a deep love for the country.

I now would like to recognize another of my colleagues from New Jersey, from a neighboring district, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I also thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for allowing us all to be here tonight to share some thoughts about Congressman Peter Rodino.

I listened to all the debate and all the comments by my colleagues tonight, and basically everyone I think did a very good job in explaining the significance of Peter Rodino's life. And as I sat here, though, and I was going through some of the obituaries and comments that were made after Congressman Rodino died, I saw a section of one article that was in the Bergen Record which kind of summed up the way I feel about Peter Rodino. And I just wanted to, if I could read, a couple of paragraphs from this article in the Bergen Record on May 17 of this year and then maybe comment a little more on it. It was written by Mike Kelly.

It starts out by saying: "It was personal with Peter Rodino. Yes, he was a Congressman for 40 years. Yes, he shepherded all the major civil rights bills through Congress in the 1960s. Yes, he was responsible for the 'under God' line in the Pledge of Allegiance and championing Columbus Day as a national holiday. And, yes, he brought a grandfather steady calm to the Watergate crisis 31 years ago when he headed the House Judiciary Committee that brought Articles of Impeachment against President Richard Nixon.

"But there was more. Or as Paula Franzese, the Seton Hall law professor

who eulogized him, put it: 'None of us will ever forget Peter Rodino because of the way he made us feel. He made us believe.'"

And I just wanted to comment a little bit about that personal aspect of Peter Rodino and what it meant to me. Because I think many of us have, of course, talked about all of the great things he accomplished, and they were great; but I really remembered him as someone who cared, someone with a heart, someone who was willing to reach out to, in my case back in 1988, someone who was running for Congress and running for office as a Congressman for the first time.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) knows that the two of us ran in 1988 at the same time, and we both came to Congress at the same time as freshmen, and I knew Congressman Rodino because he was just leaving then. It was his last year in Congress, and it was about to be our first year after he left.

I remember, I guess it was about 6 months or so before the election, I, of course, had known about Peter Rodino and watched the impeachment trials at the time. But it was suggested by some of the Italian-Americans who were friends of mine, who lived in the Long Branch area where I grew up but who had previously lived in Newark or in the north ward or in various parts of Essex County, that I give Congressman Rodino a call because he could give me some advice about running for election.

I know that Peter Rodino used to spend his summers down in Long Branch. I think he actually lived in West Long Branch, if I am not mistaken. I used to see him from time to time up at the shore at various restaurants or different places around. So I called him up and said, Congressman, I would like to run for Congress and it was a contested race. I was running in a district that leaned Republican at the time, and a lot of people thought I was not going to win. And he gave me advice that first day, made me feel that it was possible to win, gave me ideas about who to call to help me out for advice, for fund-raising, to organize leading up to election day.

And for the next 6 months leading up to the campaign which I, of course, won, he was constantly available. He would call me up from time to time and say, well, I understand this is happening and I can give you some advice about what to do. And then within a couple of days after I won, he called me and congratulated me. And I had the chance to come down, the gentleman knows, because I was actually elected in a special election so I actually had a chance to come down and be a Congressman the next day after I was elected. And I saw Congressman Rodino and even in those couple months or so before I was finally sworn in in January when I served a special term, he was constantly giving me advice about how to set up the office, how to go about hiring people, all these little things.

I mention that because when I read the Bergen Record today and it said it was personal with Peter Rodino, that was a side of him that I think was so important, how he was willing to help people. He helped his constituents. He helped a freshman Congressman. He helped someone like me who was trying to run.

Whenever you talked to his constituents or people who knew Peter Rodino, that is what they would always say. They would always say you could call him up, he would be there for you, you could ask for his advice, you could ask him to do a favor, and he would always be there. I just admired him so much for that because although we all think of ourselves as doing constituent service and helping people and that is why we come down here, here was this very powerful chairman of the committee who had served in Congress for 40 years, who had been exalted, if you will, because of so many of his activities; and yet he was willing to spend the time with me.

I cannot yield back without saying another thing. I know that he was a person who cared about everyone regardless of what their racial or ethnic background was. But I have to say that Italian-Americans in New Jersey were very proud of Peter Rodino. He was always involved with all the Italian organizations. And I guess it sort of went back to what some of my colleagues said before which is that as Italian-Americans growing up, people would make bad associations and think that if you are an Italian-American you must be involved in something shady or something of that nature. And because Peter Rodino was such an honest person and was such a clean person and was so above corruption, Italian-Americans really admired him even more so because he stood really for what was best as Italian-Americans, family, service to the community, and really looking to always look out for the little guy. That was his M.O.

So I am very proud to be here tonight. I think that my colleagues really summed up in many ways what his life was about and why he was important to all of us on a personal level as well as a national icon.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentleman for those fine comments. There are some words running through the discussion tonight that we hear over and over again: fairness, dignity, patience, caution, incorruptibility, judiciousness, courtesy, strength, a sense of duty. Those are some of the words that I think can describe Peter Rodino who gave so much to this country over the years and from whom we can draw so much even today.

Now I would like to recognize the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for helping to continue this tribute, and I thank my colleague and friend, the

gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), for convening us at the very beginning.

I rise tonight as an admirer, someone who watched from afar as a law student and did not for a moment think that ultimately I would wind up as a Member of the United States Congress and then to serve on the Committee on the Judiciary where Peter Rodino gave his all and gave his service. So my words are to come and express my admiration, to thank him for his life and his works.

For those of you who were in Congress, many of whom we have heard from today, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), that world was a separate world from those of us who looked from afar at this thing called impeachment. We understood there was a democracy and a Constitution, but we did not understand the intimate parts of what might happen through the process of an impeachment. But then this very calm and distinguished gentleman rose to the forefront of the national landscape as the media focused intensely on the hearing room.

There sitting was Chairman Rodino, someone who had a balanced temperament and seemingly gave comfort not only to the Nation but to the world. As law students, we remained glued to the whole series of Watergate hearings, all the processes in the Committee on the Judiciary.

I happen to represent the 18th Congressional District in Texas and all eyes were on a young woman by the name of Barbara Jordan. It seemed that the chairman and this young lawyer from Texas, now a Member of Congress, worked hand in glove together. Congresswoman Jordan would make mention, as I have heard the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) say, that they were on the bottom tier, row. They were freshmen. They were the new members of the committee. But my understanding was that there was not one single member, Democratic or Republican, that the chairman did not make feel part of this very serious and grave process.

We heard my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), state that the chairman prayed that there might not be a conviction or that there would be a vindication of the President. That showed the temperament of this chairman. But he led the committee in that way by allowing dissent on both sides of the aisle, by allowing a full hearing, by making sure that all the witnesses were able to be heard extensively and over an extended period of time.

And so although I know that there are many personal anecdotal stories that have been told tonight, I want the Rodino family to know that for this law student who looked in horror at this process, tried to make sense of this constitutional proceeding, con-

cerned about the survival of this Nation, that there could not have been a better teacher, a better leader than Chairman Rodino who guided us through a real constitutional crisis.

I think even then studying law it became more real to me, and I admired both the law and the process and the Constitution more as I watched our government go through it and survive it and as I have watched in admiration the Honorable Barbara Jordan and so many others that worked so well by reaching out and working with the chairman in an orderly fashion.

Who could have done it but this very well-tempered and kind gentleman from New Jersey, a man who started serving in 1949, at a time that America was heavily segregated, and he rose as an easterner to fight for the civil rights of all people as a strong advocate for racial justice in America, a man of many talents, and a man who might have been considered ordinary coming from an immigrant's background. But yet he rose for these extraordinary times. A man ordinary, but becoming extraordinary in himself and leading his Nation in an extraordinary way.

So I thank you for allowing me to share my admiration and appreciation for Peter Rodino and as well his family, and to thank him for the kindness that he showed a young Congresswoman from Texas, the honorable Barbara Jordan, and the way he guided us through a constitutional crisis. I also thank him for his early commitment for racial justice, for his commitment to the 1965 Voter Rights Acts, the 1964 Civil Rights Acts, leveled to the creation of southern districts, one of which was the 18th Congressional District in Texas. Many others sprung up across the South because of his willingness and his passion to lead.

Might I also thank him very much for his continuing abilities to teach. For although he could have left Congress and done many other things, I know that the students whom he taught law to over the years are forever grateful that they were able to have this giant amongst them. This giant, the calm and even-handed spirit was able to do so much.

I also want to thank him and make note of the fact that as he stayed in Congress, he never wavered from being out front on immigration issues. It might have been very popular during those times, but he was a person who believed in reforming immigration and understanding its value to America and to Americans.

□ 2215

So I say to the family, thank you for allowing him to serve, thank you for allowing those of us who were just students of the law to watch the law operate and practice. Might I just say that in his loss may we all commit ourselves to guiding ourselves and doing the business of this House the way the chairman did it during the most troubling times.

Might I say to my Committee on the Judiciary colleagues chairman, ranking members and all of us, could we do as well as this chairman of that committee during those very tumultuous times?

To my friend that passed, as I call on my friend for his leadership, might you rest in peace and might your family know that you are a great patriot, a great American, and you have laid down a marker in the United States Congress that all of us can be grateful for and grateful to be able to implement and to follow. May God bless you as you rest in peace. May God bless America and your family.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about former Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee Peter Rodino. As a body, we have gathered to commemorate his life and his works, but as an individual I personally appreciate being able to share in the honor, because of his life and his works. Although Chairman Rodino is well known for his seminal work in the Nixon impeachment, he was also a primary advocate for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act (1965). Given his work in both racial equality in the United States, and the presidential impeachment, it is clear to see that his heart was forever committed to justice and truth.

During the most difficult times of the Civil Rights movement he was one of the few leaders able to stand up and fight for a better America—against a sea of bigotry and racial prejudices. As a Congressional leader willing to look past racial politics he was at the forefront of the struggle for civil rights. Wanting to fulfill this country's standing as a democratic nation, he was also willing to bring to justice those leading our country.

It is also important for me to mention that Chairman Rodino was a man of integrity and humility who served our nation with great dignity and honor. By conducting the Watergate impeachment hearings with fairness, he ensured that the rule of law prevailed during one of the gravest Constitutional crises in our history. All Americans will be forever grateful for his courage and defense of the Constitution.

In closing, while Chairman Rodino is most renowned for the service he rendered during the Watergate impeachment hearings, he also left a lasting imprint as a distinguished Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and author of significant legislation, ranging from civil rights to immigration reform to protecting consumers.

It gives me great pleasure to speak on the life of such a great leader.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her words from the perspective of the Committee on the Judiciary and joining us in paying tribute to the Honorable Peter Rodino.

Representative Rodino served the United States and the people of New Jersey faithfully, and that is a good word to use, for 40 years, and we mourn his loss and celebrate his contributions, and try to extract lessons for today for ourselves, for America, from his service.

He was relatively unknown to the public outside of New Jersey before the Watergate hearings, which led to the

resignation of the President. His professionalism and fairness and dedication to the rule of law characterized what he did, and he was able to demonstrate throughout those hearings the characteristics that thrust him into the kind of prominence that he neither sought nor coveted.

The genius of the American government, as created by our founders over 200 years ago, is that our government is self-correcting. It is a self-correcting system, and Peter Rodino, who carried a copy of the Constitution with him every day of his professional life, understood that. At a critical time, he helped that ingenious machine, that ingenious mechanism work. It does not work by itself. It works if we make it work. It works if we believe it works.

Peter Rodino served as the chair of the House Judiciary Committee during one of the most disappointing and politically divisive times in our history. As we have heard tonight, he was tasked with the unenviable job of officiating the Nation's second impeachment hearings of a sitting U.S. President. It was not obvious that he would get that job.

Most observers expected these potentially vitriolic proceedings to be characterized by partisanship and animosity and grandstanding. Peter Rodino did none of that. He would have none of that. He brought an honest and workmanlike demeanor to this difficult job. As the son of a workman, maybe workmanlike is the right word here.

Peter Rodino led a bipartisan group of lawmakers to approve three articles of impeachment in July of 1974, and the conduct of his Judiciary Committee really was a silver lining in a dark cloud.

Tonight, we have heard words like "unlikely" or "improbable" and "unexpected" hero. Well, maybe a better word is "untested" in the public forum, but we should not forget what sort of person this was. He had enlisted in the Army, served in north Africa and received a rare battlefield promotion to captain. He was no slouch. Earning the Bronze Star, he came home and practiced law and then ran for Congress.

It is important to understand that he did not just suddenly rise to the occasion. He had studied and he had thought, but even he recognized that when he was given the gavel for the impeachment hearings, he was not yet ready. He said he had not even questioned a witness in direct examination in 30 years because he had been serving in the legislature, but typical of his workmanlike manner, he studied. He read this enormous Watergate record. It was already enormous by that time. Three times over he read the history of the impeachment and the trial of President Andrew Johnson. He studied the writings of the political philosophers, all this in preparation for the impeachment hearings. In fact, he worked himself to exhaustion.

He hired a staff of 105, including some bright young lawyers, and he began to

steel himself so that when the pressure came to modify the hearings, to accelerate the pace, to show a little partisanship, he never backed down. He knew where he was, and it is, I think rightly, what he will be remembered for best.

His political legacy extends far beyond that tumultuous time. He worked tirelessly and successfully to defeat ill-advised constitutional amendments that would have criminalized abortions or disallowed organized school prayer or prohibited school integration through busing. He fought tirelessly for civil rights for all Americans. He was one of the main congressional sponsors of civil rights legislation and principal author of fair employment practices legislation. He was instrumental in extending the Voting Rights Act. The impact of this legislation that he participated in is enormous.

We should not forget his representation, the representation he brought to the people of New Jersey's 10th District. Despite evolving demographics and four decades of social change, it was a tough time in Newark. Peter Rodino's dedication to his constituents never faltered. It was not by accident that he was reelected through 40 years.

Since his death, Peter Rodino has received some of the attention he deserves. We are tonight remembering the way he guided Congress and the country through a tremendously difficult period in our political history.

Even until recently, into his nineties, he remained active at Seton Hall, looking after the interests of students and, yes, the citizens of New Jersey. We all frequently got phone calls from him suggesting this or that that would be beneficial to the people.

Tonight especially I think serves as a reminder that our self-correcting system of government works because Americans believe it does and because Americans rise to the occasion, each occasion.

We may think that Peter Rodino lived in a different era and his life has little relevance, his service has little relevance for us today, but perhaps the lesson is that we, that all Americans, are called or will be called to do our civic duty.

Peter Rodino prepared himself for that, accepted the duty unflinchingly, distinguished himself, distinguished this body, distinguished America through his service. It is right that we should recognize him tonight.

To close, I would like to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), my colleague who put this together for this evening and to whom we also owe gratitude.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from New Jersey for leading the second hour for the Special Order for Congressman Peter Rodino. Congressman Rodino would have enjoyed talking to him. He was an intellectual himself. He would have encouraged the gentleman to continue to push for science and technology and to

try to improve our natural habitat and preserve it. So I thank the gentleman very much.

Let me thank the speaker who has conducted this Special Order in such a dignified manner and the appreciation of us for having the second hour because it is very rare in this place that people stay to express themselves. Most Members are very busy, especially those in leadership, but to have the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our minority leader, take time and express her appreciation for having served with Mr. Rodino; to see the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our minority whip, come and spend time; to hear the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the dean of the Congressional Black Caucus and actually second longest-serving Democrat in the House, who so eloquently described those days on that committee; to hear the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), ranking member for the Committee on Ways and Means; and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and on and on I think certainly says it all.

Mr. Rodino was the right man at the right place at the right time. Let me, as we conclude, just say that he was just a gentle person, running up Aqueduct Alley, living in the area near the old first ward. I lived several blocks away from that while he served in World War II, where I was a student at the school right near there, where he attended St. Lucy's Church, with Father Grenada or Monsignor Grenada, who is still there, and the McKinley School that he went to in elementary in World War I still looks the same. Nothing has been done to the school. I passed it recently.

Barringer High School, the same high school I attended a few years after Congressman Rodino did, then he moved up to 205 Grafton Avenue. It was an address we all remember, because when I got old enough to carry petitions around, I remember that address being on the petitions so we knew where to turn them in.

We knew Tony Serrantos who worked for him for decades. As a matter of fact, when I came and replaced Mr. Rodino, I brought Mr. Serrantos into my office to run my office for the first term that I served in Congress. It was funny, because Mr. Serrantos kept Mr. Rodino's picture up in his office, like he should have. It took him almost the end of the second year before he found a little place in the corner in the dark for a small picture of me.

So there was really the great love for Mr. Rodino and Joe Benuchi, who became the postmaster, and when Mr. Rodino was brought down with Colonel Kelly, who was then Democratic county chairman, preceding Chairman Dennis Carey, these were days that the clubs on First Avenue, the Capa Soleus and other clubs, that were political clubs that Mr. Rodino felt as comfortable in those clubs, as he would in

the basement of a Baptist church where the NCAAAP, Newark branch, would be meeting.

So the Rodino auxiliary group, women who were at the funeral, who wanted the press to know that they were the Peter Rodino Ladies Auxiliary, they were so proud. They served him so long.

□ 2230

Mr. Speaker, as we conclude, it was really the right time. Elizabeth Holtzman was important because in the redistricting in 1972, she defeated Mannie Celler who was then chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. She did not serve long in Congress. However, Mr. Rodino then took the chairmanship of that committee and moved it through the impeachment proceedings.

As it was said at the funeral that was attended by Monsignor Shering, president of Seton Hall University, Monsignor Joseph Grenada, and the great eulogy that was given by Ms. Paula Franzese who talked from her heart, and the president, dean of the law school, Patrick Hobbs, all of us were there. Even our law professor Mr. McQuade, Acting Governor Richard Codey, Senator SARBANES and Elizabeth Holtzman all came out to show their respect.

There was legislation like the Simpson-Rodino Act, which paved the way for immigrants to have a better future back in 1986, one of the last important pieces of legislation that Mr. Rodino passed.

So as we conclude here, I mentioned the beautiful Cathedral of St. Lucy where the funeral was held, to all of us who remember the Congressman for so many years. He was proud of being a member of the Columbian Society. He was inducted into the Knights of Malta, and he wore on his lapel that symbol for decades. He was so proud of his heritage.

Once again, let me say what an extraordinary night it has been to have several hours expire even as I speak now. Let me once again thank all of the Members who participated. It is a great day for the Rodino family, but it is also a great day for America for us to remember one of the true heroes of this land, the late Congressman, Peter W. Rodino, Jr.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. HERSETH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 21 on account of business in the district.

Ms. GRANGER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. SOUDER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending a Base Realignment and Closure Commission meeting in St. Louis, Missouri.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MENENDEZ) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURTON of Indiana) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, June 27.

Mr. PEARCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and June 21, 22, 23, and 24.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 21, 2005, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2423. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research — Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program — Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers — received June 1, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2424. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (RIN: 1820-ZA36) received June 1, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2425. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received June 7, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2426. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Alaksa Plaice in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 050605D] received June 6, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2427. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Commercial Shark Management Measures [Docket No. 0503003056-5108-02; I.D. 020205F] (RIN: 0648-AT07) received June 7, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. LEWIS of California: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2985. A bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes (Rept. 109-139).

Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GINGREY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 330. Resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 10) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States (Rept. 109-140).

Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. PUTNAM: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 331. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2475) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes (Rept. 109-141).

Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 2986. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to allow a participant in the military Survivor Benefit Plan who has designated an insurable interest beneficiary under that plan to designate a new beneficiary upon the death of the previously designated beneficiary; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 2987. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the deduction for State and local income and property taxes under the alternative minimum tax; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. BUYER, and Mr. EVERETT):

H.R. 2988. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a demonstration project for the improvement of business practices of the Veterans Health Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. TANNER, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. KUHLL of New York, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SKELTON, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. RENZI):

H.R. 2989. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase, extend, and make permanent the above-the-line deduction for certain expenses of elementary and