

be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE WEEKS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor George Weeks, who is retiring as a political columnist from The Detroit News, where he has written for over 20 years. George has been the premiere political columnist for Michigan for over two decades.

George Weeks was born in 1932 in Traverse City, MI. A graduate of Traverse City High School in 1950, Weeks stayed close to home, earning his undergraduate degree in journalism from Michigan State University just 4 years later.

George Weeks spent the first 15 years of his journalism career at United Press International, working as a Lansing staff correspondent and later Bureau chief, Detroit Bureau radio and news editor, diplomatic correspondent, and Washington foreign editor. He also entered public service as press secretary, special counsel, and executive secretary for Michigan Governor William G. Milliken, who later remarked of Weeks's character and credibility as the chief reason Weeks was able to seamlessly move from journalism to public service and back.

In 1981, Weeks resumed his studies as a Kennedy Fellow at the prestigious Harvard University Institute of Politics. However, Weeks's love for on-the-record journalism brought him back to print as a political columnist for the Detroit News in 1983, where he remained until his retirement. During that time he freelanced many articles and has written several books on Michigan. Weeks was honored for his 40 years as journalist, historian, and public servant with a well-deserved place in the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, for over 20 years, George Weeks brought a keen eye, a sharp wit and a unique perspective to Michigan and national politics. His work will be greatly missed by the people of Michigan.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF GEORGE WEEKS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, George Weeks, on the occasion of his retirement from the Detroit News after 22 years of distinguished service.

A long-time Michigan resident, George graduated from Traverse City High School in 1950. He then earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in 1954. In 1981, George returned to the academic world at the Harvard University Institute of Politics as a Kennedy Fellow.

George began his journalism career at United Press International in 1954. During his

15 years there his duties included Lansing staff correspondent, Detroit Bureau radio and news editor, Lansing Bureau Chief, diplomatic correspondent and Washington foreign editor. In 1969 George began his career in the staff of Governor William G. Milliken as press secretary and later became Milliken's chief of staff. After 14 years in public service, George resumed his journalism career, becoming a political columnist for The Detroit News.

Over the span of his career, George has covered the White House, State Department and Pentagon, was a panelist on "Meet the Press," and was a member of the White House Correspondents Association, the State Department Correspondents Association and Overseas Writers. He is also a recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award of MSU's College of Communications Arts and an inductee into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame. A noted author, George has published "Stewards of the State: The Governors of Michigan," "Sleeping Bear: Its Lore, Legends and First People," "Sleeping Bear: Yesterday and Today," and co-authored "Michigan: Visions of Our Past."

His many accomplishments serve as a lasting example of excellence in journalism. Michigan has been well-served by George Weeks, his insight and knowledge of Michigan politics will be deeply missed.

I would like to thank George for his dedicated service both to the Detroit News and the Michigan community. As he enters his retirement years, I would ask that my colleagues join with Deborah and I to wish him and his wife, Mollie, a very happy, healthy and relaxing future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE WEEKS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. George Weeks, a long-time political journalist for the Detroit News, who is set to retire from writing his weekly column. Mr. Weeks has had a long and illustrious career as a journalist—evidenced by his induction into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 1996. However, his accolades and accomplishments are by no means limited to the field of journalism.

Mr. Weeks not only reported political news, but helped make some of it himself. He served as press secretary and chief of staff for Governor William G. Milliken for 14 years. Mr. Weeks used the expertise he gained in Governor Milliken's office to earn the position of a Kennedy Fellow at Harvard University.

Mr. Weeks, a native of Traverse City, MI, is a true Michigander—an expert, not only in Michigan politics, but in Michigan culture and history as well. I would like to extend my thanks to him for all of his good work and wish him well in his retirement. The Wolverine State is better off for the contributions of George Weeks.

HONORING GEORGE WEEKS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Weeks as he retires as a columnist for The Detroit News.

George Weeks has seen it all. No one knows more about the issues that are important to Michigan than him. He's been around politics and government longer than most people I know, and as such, like few others, he can be counted on to provide insight and perspective on the news of the day. He not only tells readers what the news is, but he tells them what it means.

George began his journalism career with United Press International, covering the White House, Foggy Bottom and Capitol Hill. He rose to the post UPI's top foreign editor. After his work in Washington, George exchanged the U.S. Capitol for the State Capitol upon becoming UPI's Lansing bureau chief. Recognizing his talent, he was soon tapped by Gov. William Milliken to serve as his press secretary and rounded out his service to the administration as the governor's chief of staff.

Since that time, George has ably served The Detroit News as its political columnist. George's passion for Michigan, the Great Lakes and the environment in general is evident in every column he writes. A workhorse and not a showboat, George effectively brings attention to the most important issue facing our Nation, without making the story about himself. He has always conducted himself with the utmost dignity and integrity and it has been a pleasure to work with him.

With great pleasure I join my colleagues in honoring George Weeks, a great journalist.

HONORING DETROIT NEWS COLUMNIST GEORGE WEEKS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Detroit News columnist George Weeks upon his retirement.

George Weeks, who with the support of his wife, Mollie, covered Michigan politics for the Detroit News since 1984 with depth, integrity and fairness. George Weeks is a rare professional who during his career was able to seamlessly transition from reporting on politics to serving in government to returning to his original craft.

After initially serving his country in the U.S. Army, George Weeks launched his career in journalism by working for United Press International in Lansing and Detroit. He would later become UPI's diplomatic correspondent and Washington foreign editor, positions that took him to regions spanning the globe.

He began his service in government as the press secretary to Michigan Governor William G. Milliken in 1969, and later rose to become the governor's executive secretary. In 1984, he returned to the fourth estate when he became a columnist for the Detroit News with a

much broader perspective and insight into politics and government.

George Weeks is respected by his readers and his peers alike for his unique perspective on state, national and international affairs, and was recognized for his work when he was inducted into the ranks of the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame nearly a decade ago.

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known that on this 8th day of February in 2006, that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the contributions and achievements of George Weeks as he writes the next chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WEEKS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Weeks, a distinguished resident of my district and a man whose home number is rung by American Presidents, U.S. Senators and Representatives, Governors, state legislators and local officials alike. As Michigan's foremost political columnist, a mention in George's tri-weekly submissions is courted by candidates for reasons far beyond the sheer volume of his readership. In a career that has spanned 5 decades and nearly as many continents, George's work epitomizes the fairness preached in j-schools across the country. It is no surprise that his praise is sought by both Republicans and Democrats, and it is certainly no surprise that George was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame long before his retirement. Michigan politics has been well served by this honored scribe. As George enters "retirement," and the Detroit News loses its Glen Arbor Bureau, his commentary will be missed, but his work will long be remembered.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District, I extend best wishes to George and Mollie Weeks and sincerely thank them for their service to the great state of Michigan.

CONGRATULATING DETROIT NEWS COLUMNIST GEORGE WEEKS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a man who can be rightly described as a Michigan institution—George Weeks, who recently announced his retirement from his post as key political columnist for the Detroit News.

Since December 1983, George kept his readers well informed about federal, state and local political events in Michigan. Prior to that, George served the people of Michigan in his role as press secretary and, later, chief of staff to Governor William G. Milliken, beginning in 1969. During this time, he also worked as a consultant for the National Governors' Association. Before working for Governor Milliken, George had a successful 14-year career with United Press International, serving as a cor-

respondent and bureau chief in Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Washington.

A native of Traverse City and a journalism graduate of Michigan State University, George is a very deserving 1996 inductee of the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

I have known George Weeks professionally for many years, dating back to when I served in the Michigan Legislature in the 1980s and early 1990s. George is the only reporter that I ever dealt with who had a higher opinion of my ability than I did, and I greatly appreciate his superb insight. Seriously though, I have always found George to be eminently careful and thoughtful in his reporting and writing, and he is one of the finest journalists I have known.

I wish George all the best as he moves into this new phase of his career and life, but all of us who were his readers and the subjects of his writing will be the poorer for it.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. GEORGE WEEKS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. George Weeks on 40 years of outstanding service to the residents of Michigan and to the institution of American journalism.

Mr. Weeks has dedicated his life to reporting in an honest, trustworthy, and professional manner. His commitment to quality journalism and public service has been a valuable asset to the greater Detroit community and to the State of Michigan.

George Weeks' fearless pursuit of excellence has touched the lives of many. His distinctive ability, combined with his genuine concern for the community, has set the standard for journalists and public servants to come.

Although I may not have personally agreed with every commentary, Mr. Weeks has always provided unique insight and clarity on political issues and current events. His ability to communicate and his true devotion to his readers have been incredible assets to our area. His presence in our papers will be sincerely missed.

Today I rise to thank George Weeks for his lifetime of service and dedication to our community, to congratulate him on his many accomplishments, and to wish him the best in his well-earned retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WEEKS, A MICHIGAN JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of George Weeks, who is retiring after more than a quarter century of serving the people of Michigan as their journalistic eyes and ears on the comings and goings of their elected officials.

George Weeks is well-known and highly regarded in Michigan where, as a journalist, au-

thor of several books, and columnist, he has chronicled the actions of Michigan leaders in local, state and federal government.

During his career, George served in Michigan and in Washington, DC for 14 years as a reporter, bureau chief, and foreign correspondent for United Press International (UPI). In Washington, he covered the White House, State Department and Pentagon, and was a panelist on radio and television shows, including NBC's "Meet the Press."

From his days as a Michigan State University (MSU) student working as a stringer for both The Detroit News and UPI, George's career has spanned the terms of at least 7 U.S. Presidents and 5 Michigan Governors. In fact, George interrupted his journalistic career to work as press secretary and later Chief of Staff for Michigan Governor William Milliken.

Thankfully, George's love of journalism brought him back to The Detroit News as a columnist where he has become a Michigan icon, writing about politics as well as state and federal issues with insight and historical perspective. His commitment to quality journalism has made him a highly respected favorite with readers across the state.

The good news for Michigan readers and admirers of George is that while he may be stepping down as a regular Detroit News columnist, he still plans on writing occasional columns and also will be taking time to pursue some of his other writing interests.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring George Weeks for the role model he is to young journalists just starting out, and for his integrity and commitment as a leader in his chosen field. He is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF COLUMNIST GEORGE WEEKS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a journalistic legend and a valued Michigan native, columnist Mr. George Weeks. This long time newsman, acclaimed author and Michigan historian has epitomized the ability to provoke thought and challenge ideology through his interviews and written works.

Born in 1932 in Traverse City, Michigan, a city I proudly represented for 8 of my 14 years in Congress, Mr. Weeks was exposed to the beauty of northern Michigan and the values of rural America. After graduating from Traverse City High School in 1950, Mr. Weeks attended and graduated from Michigan State University (MSU). He spent 18 months as an Army officer before beginning his lengthy career in journalism and politics.

His career in news began in 1954 when he took a job as the Lansing staff correspondent for United Press International (UPI). In the 14 years he spent with UPI, he also served as the Detroit Bureau radio and news editor, Lansing Bureau chief, diplomatic correspondent, and Washington foreign editor. While in Washington DC, Mr. Weeks became a member of the White House Correspondents Association, the State Department Correspondents Association and Overseas Writers. His coverage