

that the poor, beleaguered American taxpayer, the forgotten man in all of this, is doomed to pay even higher prices of energy.

This is not good news, not good news at all.

Mr. LATTA. Something else at play in the hands in the last few weeks is called a hurricane, by not having diversification in this country and not having our fields dispersed around this country where we can get oil and natural gas. Everything had to be shut down in the gulf. Not only is everything shut down in the gulf, but we also then lost refineries. We haven't had new refineries built in almost three decades in this country.

So we don't take care of ourselves. The problem has been in this country, we say, you other countries take care of us, we'll pay for this oil. It's not too expensive.

But boy, I tell you, the chickens have come home to roost by now because by watching what's happening in the gulf and still knowing that we can't get the production up in the gulf, they're saying we might be out for another seven to eight days and maybe a little bit longer before we get back up. But at the same time, when I left Bowling Green this morning, I filled up the car. It was \$3.79 a gallon. That was before there was a spike of \$16.37. So when I get home, gas will probably be over \$4 a gallon again, and people are going to say, wait a minute, what are we going to do.

One of the things I did this morning was I was at our senior center in Wood County at their Meals on Wheels, the kitchen where they make the meals. They send out about 750 per day from that place. The problem is this: These folks are out there, a lot of the volunteers are saying, wait, I can't afford to volunteer my time anymore because I can't afford the gasoline.

We've got volunteer firemen around this country, they're out there. We have all these people that do so much greatness for this country by being volunteers that are being shut off from doing it, not because they don't want to do it, because they can't afford the price of a gallon of gasoline.

One of the bills I've introduced recently is to say, let's take that 14 cents for the volunteers that drive that Meals on Wheels vehicle, or their own personal use, and get that up to the business expense.

That's the problem we have. It's not taking care of ourselves. It's only having a very small area that we're going to get our oil from in this country. It's having overreliance, like 70 percent, on other countries that bring us the oil and the resources that we need when we should be taking care of them ourselves.

Mrs. BACHMANN. You're dead on when you talk about the hurricane, dealing with Hurricane Ike recently, and the devastation that ensued in the gulf coast region, and then also we look on the international front what's happening.

Russia invaded Georgia not too long ago, and of course, we know that a big part of that invasion had to do with controlling oil. I mean, it was only a few months ago that we saw newspaper accounts. It almost seemed humorous because there was a Russian-made submarine that traveled under the arctic region and planted a Russian flag at the bottom of the Arctic Sea and said, We take this Arctic Sea for Russia.

Well, as if the Americans hadn't been there years prior and had made claims, but it makes sense because just several weeks later the U.S. Geological Survey released a report that stated there's an estimated 90 billion, 90 billion barrels of oil that are under the Arctic Sea. There are tremendous international pressures right now and particularly with Russia making very aggressive incursions in the Arctic and also in Georgia. This makes the United States even more vulnerable.

But again, great news is on the horizon. We have the answer right here in our border. The problem has been the Democrat-controlled Congress has said "no" to American energy production.

Mr. LATTA. Well, I want to thank the gentlelady for her time this evening and for her expertise and all of the work that she's done.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE MIKE McNULTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Special Order in honor of the retirement of Representative MIKE McNULTY.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a bittersweet moment for me and for all of the members of the New York State delegation specifically and the Members of the House of Representatives in its entirety because our good friend, and my best friend in the Congress, MIKE McNULTY, after 20 years of laboring in the vineyards here in Washington, getting on a flight every single week, coming down to Washington, going back home, representing the people of his district so diligently, will be leaving us at the end of this, his tenth Congress.

He is going to be sorely missed. They said, people don't have friends in Washington. This is truly an outstanding misstatement in the case of MIKE McNULTY. He has friends galore on both sides of the aisle that he has met and kept and maintained close relationships with throughout his entire political career, which is not just the 20 years that he has spent here with us.

At the age of 22, MIKE entered politics, one of the youngest mayors in the history of anyplace in America. He went from the supervisor of Green Island to the mayor thereof, represented those people for so many years before being elected to the New York State Assembly, and proudly served as their assemblyman before coming here.

We have many members of the delegation who wish to speak, some of whom are here tonight, Mr. Speaker. I will fill in and continue some of my remarks, but I want to get some of them up to the microphone at this late hour. I guess we will start with Mr. HINCHEY, if you are prepared to start us off.

Mr. HINCHEY. Well, I thank you very much, and I very much appreciate your taking the time and providing us with the opportunity to say a few things about our close friend and ally MIKE McNULTY, someone with whom we have worked for a long time, and I say that myself because MIKE and I have been working together first in the State legislature in Albany since 1982, and I think about 6 years later, 1988 he was elected to the Congress of the United States. And I'm happy to say that I was very envious about the fact that he left Albany and came to Washington, and I tried to follow him. It took me a few years to do it, but in 1993, I came down here and I've been serving with him ever since, both of us here in this Congress.

He's an extraordinary man, someone with a very remarkable history. He started out in public office because of his strong desire to serve other people as the town supervisor in Green Island. At the age of 22, he was elected to be the town supervisor, and when he was elected at that age, he was the youngest town supervisor elected in any town in the State of New York.

So from the very beginning, when he first became involved in public life and working on behalf of the general public, he started off in a very remarkable way.

After being town supervisor, he was elected mayor, and then as I said, he was elected to the State Assembly in Albany and served there in a very, very envious sort of way, a remarkable kind of way, one that made us all pay attention to him. He was a very, very strong leader in Albany, New York, in the State Assembly.

But then when he came down here to Washington, he started off in something else that was even more dramatic. Shortly after he was elected and came here, he became a member of the Ways and Means Committee, one of the most important and significant committees here in this Congress. And as a member of that committee, he has done an extraordinary job.

He is now chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, and he has done a very wonderful piece of work, strengthening Social Security, protecting Social Security, protecting it from people like the President of the United States who in 2005 wanted to

privatize Social Security. And if you think about the economic consequences that we're experiencing today as a result of the huge declines in financial institutions, you can imagine what the Social Security system would look like if it hadn't been for people like MIKE McNULTY standing up and defending Social Security and making sure that it wasn't privatized and that it remains strong and went on to the people of our country.

One of the ways in which MIKE has served here is to be the acting Speaker of this Congress, this House of Representatives, and he did so I think probably more than anyone else that I know of, all the time that he spent there and doing that leadership position in such an exemplary way.

So he is someone who has set an example for all of us, from the first time he was elected to be town supervisor, then as mayor, then as a member of the State legislature, and then coming here to serve in this House of Representatives and to do it in a very remarkable way.

He's also a person who has demonstrated what it's like to be a strong family man. He is married to Nancy Ann Lazzaro, and he and she have been married now for 37 years. MIKE and Nancy have four daughters: Michele, Angela who's often called Jody, Nancy and Maria. They have five grandchildren: Lola Madelon and Daniel Patrick Sovie, and Teigin Michele, Elijah Michael, and Morgyn Jean Legault. A wonderful family, and I can only say how happy I am to have served with him, both in Albany and here in this Congress of the United States.

□ 2130

He has been here for 20 years. And I must say that I'm sorry he is leaving, but I understand that he feels the responsibility to spend a little more time at home. And that is something, again, that I admire in him, again, for the leadership that he is providing.

So I must say, Mr. Speaker, that this gentleman from the State of New York has set a wonderful example for anyone who wishes to serve the people of their communities, their State, and their country by the example that he has set in all of those areas.

MICHAEL, I thank you. I thank you for everything that you've done. I thank you for your friendship, for your leadership, and for the example that you have set for all of us to hopefully follow and be as good in our service as you have been in yours. Thank you, MICHAEL, for everything that you've done.

I yield back the time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. We're indebted to Congressman MAURICE HINCHEY, known to most of us as "Mo," for his remarks about our good friend, MIKE.

And now, representing our downstate constituencies, the gentleman from New York representing the Seventh Congressional District, the chief deputy whip of the House, JOE CROWLEY, a member of the Committee on Foreign

Affairs, Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. CROWLEY. I want to thank my good friend, Congressman ACKERMAN, for holding this Special Order this evening.

It's late; it's 9:30. And I want to thank all my colleagues from New York who are here on the floor right now. I would venture to say that if it was a little earlier, MICHAEL, we would have every New Yorker here this evening. And, who knows, before the evening is out, we may just have that, or close to it. But it's only a reflection of the time of the evening we're doing this Special Order, MICHAEL, and not a reflection upon you because I think the heartfelt appreciation of all your colleagues will be made known to you at some point. But we, from the New York delegation, want to take this opportunity to let you know what you know already, how special you are to all of us.

I have known MIKE McNULTY—although you may not know this—for 24 years. In fact, MIKE was present in the Chamber when I was sworn in as a freshman member of the New York State Assembly. He was there as backup to swear me in in case Dick Connor didn't show or Stan Lundine, who was then the Lieutenant Governor, who was going to come in. Both did make it, but MIKE was there as well.

I didn't really know MIKE at the time, but MIKE is an institutional guy, and being one of the local legislators, was there to make sure that the legislature performed in a ceremonial way as well, as it did in terms of an efficient way in terms of doing the people's business. And MIKE has a great appreciation for the history of the New York State legislature and the House of Representatives as well.

I have traveled the world with MIKE McNULTY. My first trip with MIKE McNULTY—he may not remember this—was not to what he may be thinking as Ireland, but it was actually Israel some 21, 22 years ago. And what a great trip that was, both of our first exposure to the Holy Land and to Israel and to experience that together, not only Jerusalem, but Galilee and all the important places from an historical and a religious aspect that I know he appreciated tremendously.

And that brings me to another issue, and that is international again, it is Ireland. There are many people in the Democratic and Republican Caucus who take their rightful place in terms of their input in bringing peace with justice—and we continue in that vein—to northern Ireland, the whole island of Ireland. But MIKE McNULTY takes second seat to no one on that issue. From his days in the legislature in his support of the McBride principles—and MIKE McNULTY was there when Sean McBride came to the New York legislature and addressed the New York Assembly. It was there, when the New York Senate refused to even let him on the floor of the Senate, but MIKE,

through his moral suasion, was able really to accommodate Sean McBride on the floor of the House of the State Assembly, along with his colleagues, and how historic that was, the champion of the McBride principles MIKE McNULTY was in the New York State legislature.

One of the founding members of the Irish Legislative Society—I know he is still a frequent visitor to their meetings, I know how much it means to him. But MIKE and I also had the chance to travel to Ireland on two occasions. Probably the most special occasion was with former President Clinton in year 2000 as he was ending his term as President. And we were there for the Thank You Tour, the Farewell Tour. And what a great opportunity that was for both of us to be in our ancestral homeland to see America so appreciated by another country for what we did to bring peace and justice to northern Ireland. We continue in that vein, and we will do so in MIKE's honor.

MIKE has been no stranger to trials and tribulations himself. On a personal level, he has known physical difficulties. And whenever we see MICHAEL struggle, we all say, thank you, God, that I don't have that. And MIKE has carried that for not only himself, but for all of us and for any person who has known a disability in this country. He has done it in a quiet and a dignified way, and it's something that I want him to know I've always admired you for, MICHAEL.

He has also known the loss of a brother, a brother who was killed during the Vietnam War. But MICHAEL has taken every ounce of anger and frustration and he has channeled it for the betterment of our country. We can all take a lesson, a page out of MICHAEL McNULTY's life. And if we could all do just a little bit of what MIKE McNULTY has done with the channeling of his own life experiences, we would all be a better Nation for it.

And I would just say lastly about MIKE—and I know my other colleagues want to speak as well—but I had the great honor this year to serve as the third member of the Ways and Means; there's CHARLIE RANGEL, there's MIKE McNULTY, downstate and upstate, and now JOE CROWLEY. But MIKE welcomed me to the committee.

And there is a certain decorum that goes on in the committee, a certain way of doing things. It has its own Sergeant at Arms, its own little way of life. And knowing that MIKE McNULTY was on the committee was of great comfort to me—not that I'm afraid of new beginnings, but it was a little challenging at first. I don't serve on the subcommittee that MIKE serves as chair on, but MICHAEL knows that I've sat in on a number of his hearings this year and last year and got to see MICHAEL in action as he asked piercing questions of people who came before the committee.

MIKE McNULTY was always prepared. MIKE McNULTY was not caught off

guard too often. MIKE McNULTY was always prepared when it came to his committee work, but also when it came to votes on the floor. MIKE was always thoughtful about every position he took. He wasn't someone you just could come up to and say, MIKE, I need your vote. It was, well, let me tell you why I'm not voting that way, or let me tell you why I'm supporting you. That's the kind of legislator MIKE McNULTY was—from Green Island, New York.

And I know MIKE's dad and his family are incredibly proud of the career that MIKE McNULTY has had, serving both in the House of Representatives and the State Assembly and as Mayor of Green Island, that MIKE's career is not over. It is a new beginning for MIKE McNULTY, maybe it's going back to his hometown, maybe it's going back to the Capitol region that he has served so well all these years. MIKE has many, many, many more years of contributions to make both to the State of New York and to our country.

MIKE, I love you. You are a great man. And you will always be my friend. So thank you for your years of service.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Now from the 24th Congressional District of the Empire State whose constituents are contiguous to MIKE's—also a MIKE—MIKE ARCURI.

Mr. ARCURI. I'm here tonight, I rise to honor MIKE McNULTY.

You know, I think I'm probably one of the only ones that remembers MIKE way back. I was a college student at University of Albany when MIKE was representing the Village of Green Island as mayor. And I can remember listening to the news and hearing not only about MIKE, but about his entire family that served the Albany area for so many years with distinction. And I can't even tell you how great an honor it was when I finally was able to meet him, and then to serve with him here.

But I want to talk about my experience with MIKE McNULTY in a little different way. I'm one of the new Members, one of the three new members of the New York delegation. And being a new Member, obviously, you look for people to get advice. And MIKE, being the Dean of the Upstate delegation, I naturally turned to him. And so many times I would sit down next to him and ask him questions. And I can't tell you how many times he would turn to me and say, well, MIKE, I think you might want to handle it this way, or think about it this way. And there was one time in particular when we were dealing with an issue that was difficult and I was a little bit concerned about it. And MIKE sat down and said, MIKE, really, you will see that it will work out, just think it through and handle it. And I don't think 2 days passed when exactly the advice that he gave me went exactly the way he said it would go, and the issue worked out.

And it wasn't just the fact that MIKE is always there to give freshman Members like myself advice, it's not only

the quality of the advice that he gives, but the way that he gives the advice, in a patient way, in an understanding way, never forgetting what it's like to be new, never forgetting what it's like to not be completely familiar with the procedure, and just having the patience of a brother, of an older brother sitting down and explaining things. And that means a lot, MIKE. It has meant a lot to me, and I know it has meant a lot to the other freshmen.

What you have done for this institution, for the State of New York is incredible. And it's an honor to not only have been able to know you, but to have been able to have served with you.

So congratulations and good luck to MIKE McNULTY, the consummate gentleman from New York.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to advise our colleagues—and just put MIKE McNULTY on the alert because he never gets caught off guard—that when we all finish, we are going to ask him to honor us by saying a few words, if he would.

Now, from the distinguished gentleman from the 18th Congressional District, chairman of the Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations and Related Programs of the Committee on Appropriations and Homeland Security, NITA LOWEY.

Mrs. LOWEY. And I want to thank you, my friend from New York, for organizing this Special Order.

I think, frankly, it would have been more appropriate if we had organized it in the Chinese restaurant down the street because I know that there have been many special hours where Mr. ACKERMAN and Mr. McNULTY and those of us that were lucky to join you really had wonderful evenings together, talking about the Congress, talking about life in general, and families.

I want to rise today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the accomplishments of my good friend, Representative MIKE McNULTY.

I didn't know you for all the 39 years of dedicated public service, but since you've been here, we've worked closely together, and I consider you a really good friend. MIKE's exemplary commitment has earned the admiration of constituents and colleagues alike.

And MIKE and I had a very special relationship. I do remember when it came time to get committees—and in those days, MIKE McNULTY and I were fortunate to be asked to be on both Ways and Means and Appropriations. And the gentleman that MIKE was knew that appropriations was my first choice. And MIKE was generous enough—and perhaps wise enough—to choose the outstanding Ways and Means Committee. But I do remember those discussions, and I remember how gracious and elegant you were.

I also remember, MIKE McNULTY, the time when I was exploring running for the Senate. And I had traveled a bit around New York and I met quite a few people. And no matter what, and no matter who was the opposition, every

time I would come to the floor MIKE said, "I'm with you. I'm with you." MIKE is the kind of friend who, when he's with you, he's with you, and you can always count on MIKE McNULTY.

I also remember—and perhaps I won't discuss it on the floor today—that MIKE McNULTY and my husband have had a very special relationship. We've had some good times together. And MIKE would always say, "So, where's Steve? Where's Steve? We have some business to do today." And I'll remember those times, and I do hope we get to share many more.

MIKE, I also remember what a special experience it was for us both to get blessed by the Pope. And I remember very clearly MIKE McNULTY and others who have had that experience before said, fill your pockets, fill your pockets with rosary beads. And boy, I filled my pockets so that I still have draws of them left, MIKE McNULTY. So if there's anyone special that needs a little bit of blessing from our special trip with the Pope, I would be very happy to share it with you.

□ 2145

Now, when I look back at MICHAEL's background—a graduate of the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., MIKE began his career by serving as the youngest town supervisor in New York.

It's hard to believe that after 8 short years as town supervisor you were elected mayor of the Village of Green Island, New York, that you served until 1977 when you were elected to represent New York's 106th Assembly District, that in the New York legislature you served as the chairman of the assembly's Democratic study group, and that you chaired the subcommittees on alcoholism and corrections and transportation capital improvements. Later, you were appointed to the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, an administrative review commission. In 1988, the same year I was elected, you were elected to represent New York's 23rd Congressional District in the United States Congress. In 1992, you were elected to represent New York's 21st Congressional District, which includes Albany, Montgomery, Schenectady, and Schoharie Counties with almost 80 percent of the vote.

I don't know how you did that. I've never gotten 80 percent of the vote, MICHAEL.

You were reelected for your 10th term in the United States House of Representatives in 2006, serving on the Armed Services Committee, the Small Business Committee, the International Relations Committee, the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. You're currently serving on the Ways and Means Committee for the 15th year on which you chair the Subcommittee on Social Security.

Again, you've been such a tireless advocate for seniors. You championed the needs of hardworking families as a member of the Labor and Working Families Caucus, and you've really balanced your distinguished career with an equally impressive family life.

We've talked about your wife of 37 years. Now I've been married 47 years, MICHAEL, so I wish you good luck and success for the future when you'll be spending a lot more time with family—with Nancy and your four daughters: Michele, Angela, Nancy, and Maria, and with your five grandchildren. I have eight, so they can continue to work on that. They are Lola, Daniel, Teigin, Elijah, and Morgyn.

We've had such wonderful times together. I have such enormous respect for you. You're a real gentleman. You're a hard worker. You're the kind of person who I am proud to have as a friend and who I am proud to serve with in this Congress.

I want to congratulate you on your very successful career in public service and on your unparalleled devotion to your constituents. There is a lot more work to be done, so even though you're going home to be with family and friends, I know that all of the many challenges that we all face together will continue to attract you and will compel you to continue your great career in public service.

So thank you, my friend. I look forward to continuing to work with you and to keeping in touch with you. You're very, very special, and we all love you.

Thank you.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Thank you very much, NITA.

It's not quite Green Island, but the gentleman from Long Island would like to say a few words about being a member of the MIKE McNULTY fan club, STEVE ISRAEL, a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. ISRAEL. Thank you. I would like to thank my friend and dear colleague, Mr. ACKERMAN, for the time.

I actually rise to demand equal time, Mr. McNULTY. The gentlewoman from New York talked about having Chinese food for dinner from time to time. The gentlemen from New York—Mr. ACKERMAN, MIKE McNULTY and I—have shared some Italian food also at various Italian restaurants in Washington, D.C., and I think that they deserve as much time as Chinese food.

Mr. Speaker, it is a rule, a practice, a custom, and a tradition of this Chamber that we refer to each other as the "gentleman" or as the "gentlewoman." No Member of this body more deserves the title of "gentleman" than the gentleman from New York, MIKE McNULTY. He is a gentleman in every true sense of the word.

MIKE and GARY ACKERMAN and I often sit together on the floor of this Chamber during votes. Sitting with MIKE is like sitting on an island of civility and of decency in turbulent and shark-infested waters. That's not to say that MIKE doesn't fight for his principles. He fights for his principles but not by shoving people out of the way and not with sharp elbows but with a quiet and respected determination. He has been doing that for 20 years.

Now, some Members of this body, having been here for 20 years, might

grow jaded. They may begin to take it for granted. They may start to forget just what a glorious place this is but not MIKE. He was recently quoted in the Congressional Quarterly as saying, "Especially at night when the Capitol is lit up, I still pinch myself. It is an honor to serve here."

Nothing makes MIKE McNULTY prouder than serving here in this Capitol except for maybe one thing, and that is his family. I've had the privilege of meeting members of his family here in Washington and when I visited Albany. When he introduces them to any of his colleagues, I can't think of anybody prouder than MIKE McNULTY.

With always a gentle smile, with always a glint in his eye, his constituents have had a remarkable treasure representing them in Washington. I know they will miss him in Washington, but they gain him and his leadership at home.

Mr. Speaker, one of my favorite poets in the world is Rudyard Kipling, and one of my favorite poems of Kipling's is "If." In that poem, he writes:

"If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you, if you can trust yourself when all men doubt you . . ." and then he goes on, "If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch, if neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you; if all men count with you but none too much, if you can fill the unforgiving minute with 60-seconds' worth of distance run, yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, and—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!"

We all know that MIKE McNULTY is a great man, but more than that, Mr. Speaker, he is a gentleman who still pinches himself even late at night, under a gloriously lit dome, that has been made better and brighter for his presence here and for the work he will continue to do for our country.

I yield back my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I just want to remind the gentleman that he is still alive. Thank you very much, Mr. ISRAEL, for that eloquence.

Now, one of the newer members of our delegation, a celebrity in his own right, is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, on Transportation and Infrastructure, on the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, and on Veterans' Affairs, the Honorable JOHN HALL.

Mr. HALL of New York. Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my distinguished colleague from New York, Congressman MIKE McNULTY.

After nearly 40 years of public service, Congressman McNULTY is retiring, and he will be sorely missed. I will resist the suggestion of one of our fellow New York delegation members to sing that he's still the one, but I will say that, at the age of 22, he was elected to serve as supervisor of Green Island,

making him at the time the youngest supervisor in New York. Since, he has served as mayor, as assemblyman and, for the last 20 years, as a Member of Congress. While his role may have changed, his dedication to fighting for the interests of New York's capital region have remained constant.

MIKE is known as a worker. I've observed that in the short time that I've been here. As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, he has worked to make sure that our seniors receive the benefits that they need in economic times where that effort is even more important than ever and when we can see how important it was that he was there to help protect against privatizing that Social Security.

I have only been honored to serve one term in this body with MIKE, but have already been impressed by the spirit of cooperation and of teamwork that he brings to the New York delegation. In addition to "gentleman," I would add the word "statesman."

Some of us get more excited about issues. That doesn't mean that you care more or less about them, but MIKE's temperament has impressed me in its evenness and in its equanimity. I think that we could use a good dose of that from time to time here because we on both sides of the aisle and even in our own caucus have strong feelings about the issues, about the critical, important and immediate issues that we face.

So I will be sad that at the end of this session and that at the end of this term we'll be saying goodbye to Congressman McNULTY, but I'm glad that he is here now, this week especially and as we go forward through the rest of this term, to help us deal with the serious issues we have on our plate and that the country is facing in these difficult times with the thoughtfulness, with the work ethic and with the equanimity and level-headedness that he brings to the Congress.

I wish you, Congressman McNULTY, the best of luck and good times as you retire from the House to return home to your family and to your district. It has been an honor to serve with you.

I yield back.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, I'm not addressing the Speaker as I should because it's quite unusual for those of us here on the floor who are controlling the time to get a request from the Speaker pro tem who wishes to step down from the chair in order to address the House.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege and pleasure to yield some time to the representative from the Fourth District of Pennsylvania, a member of the House Committee on Small Business, of the Committee on Education and Labor and of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Speaker pro tem, Congressman JASON ALTMIRE.

Mr. ALTMIRE. I thank the gentleman from New York.

I know it is somewhat unusual to come down from the chair, but I did

not want our colleagues to think nor certainly the American people watching tonight to think that New York has a monopoly on the MIKE McNULTY fan club, because I certainly count myself as does, I'm sure, every Member of this House in that group.

I've told MICHAEL before that I was a staffer on Capitol Hill in the early 1990s, and people always ask now and asked even then "Why is it so infrequent that you see large groups of people in the Chamber? You know, you seem to be speaking. There's not a lot of people there." It's because people are back in their offices, and they're watching it on TV. At the staff level, you do the same thing. You pay attention to what's happening on the House floor.

As a very young staffer, beginning in 1991, I learned about the House, and I learned about the procedures of the House by watching what was going on. In those days when the Democrats had control of Congress before the 14 years that they lost it, no one served in the chair more than Mr. McNULTY. We enjoyed watching him, and I learned so much as a young staffer about this institution by watching Mr. McNULTY in the chair.

I just could not sit without thinking of the great, pleasant irony for me that, on this night when we're honoring Mr. McNULTY, I was actually in the chair.

So I wanted to come down and tell you that the spirit of Mr. McNULTY is certainly going to live in this Chamber for a very, very long time and that the legacy lives on through his many legislative accomplishments and through, I'm sure, the countless—they have to number in the thousands—number of constituent services that you've provided over the years, the countless accomplishments. The spirit will remain within each of us who has had the honor to serve with him.

So I did just want to take a few minutes to say, A, it's not just New York that holds you in high esteem tonight but that I'm a better person for having known Mr. McNULTY and that I know I'm a better House Member for having known him. So I thank Mr. McNULTY.

I would yield my time back to Mr. ACKERMAN. Thank you for the opportunity.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if I can use some of the remaining time, this is a very fast-moving place. There are a lot of people who have been pretty hard-charging around here over the 26 years that I've been here and certainly over the history of the Congress, and we'll remember a lot of them because they're loud and boisterous, thundering; some people would say "eloquent" when referring to some, but all too often, we don't notice the quiet heroes who make all of the difference, who come here to our Nation's Capital, not for self-aggrandizement but unashamedly to full time represent only and exclusively the

interests of the people who sent them here. Such a person is our friend MIKE McNULTY.

You'll forgive us, Mr. Speaker, for having the braggadocio as New Yorkers, as we're supposed to have, I'm told, to be ever so proud of MIKE McNULTY and of all that he represents and will always represent.

□ 2200

I was going to read a good part of his biography, much of which has been alluded to by some of our Members here, but I think I will bypass that, because those are all historical notes, and just talk about MIKE for a couple of minutes.

MIKE is truly one of the heroes to anybody who has ever met him. Much has been made of the fact that he was the youngest town supervisor, mayor, at the time of his election some 39 years ago, and has been in public service for his entire life. But it is not just being the youngest, but being one of the best, being one of the most humane, being one of the most compassionate. And I must say as a fellow Eagle Scout, I have always been in awe of MIKE because he became an Eagle Scout at the age of 12, not something very easily accomplished.

If you know anything about MIKE, you know that is even more extraordinary, because when MIKE was born in 1947 to Mr. and Mrs. Jack McNulty of Green Island, they were so very, very proud of MIKE, as they were of their other children, having great hopes and aspirations that he would be able to achieve and accomplish and make his mark on the world. And then when he was 2 years old they found out that he had the scourge of our time, of our generation, that he had polio, that he was not able to walk.

What a challenge that is for a family. What a challenge that is for a young man, not to be able to run around with his friends and grow up in the same way and do the same kinds of things with such ease that other people have. And yet MIKE persevered and made a full recovery.

I daresay that there are probably not too many people in the House except those who are close to MIKE that even knew that he had polio. And those accomplishments, not just the physical accomplishments of being able to get past that, but of being able to contribute to our society, to make a mark and to make a difference, without bringing any of the baggage that so many of us would probably bring to our careers and the rest of our lives. Not a note of bitterness, not a mark of anger, not a sign of why me, but always what can I do to help you, what can I do to contribute to society.

I try to think of words, as we all have, that would describe MIKE. I go back to the time we were Boy Scouts, in very different places, and he is the embodiment of trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, at least with

the taxpayers' money, brave, clean and reverent. He is all of the above.

He is a man of great integrity, respected in this House by everybody. I don't know a person of the 435 Members of this House who doesn't truly hold MIKE McNULTY in the highest of esteem. And he is very different in his approach to his job than so many other people that we can think of, presently and historically, people to whom we subscribe sharp elbows, as the word is; people who would push other people out of the way to get in front of the cameras, to beat them to the microphone, to get out a press release, to claim credit for something. MIKE has always been content just to get the job done, absent the big lights and the big crowds.

This is a place of show horses and showboats, and among this crowd, MIKE is a workhorse and a work boat. People would be absolutely astonished to know that it has been MIKE McNULTY for these years who has often fought on their behalf successfully to maintain Social Security, something that in a few years hopefully he is going to enjoy for many, many, many years to come, and the work he has done on so many other things without taking credit. MIKE is about not taking credit. And in a place where there is very little of that going around, he is virtuous and a virtuoso.

One of the newspapers on Capitol Hill does this story every once in awhile about the Obscure Caucus. Well, MIKE is the chairman, as they always call him, of the Obscure Caucus. Not because of lack of contribution, but because of lack of spotlight; because of diligent work; because of doing his homework; because of always being prepared, for always being effective, for always getting things done. He is the quiet man around here, a very quiet guy, very respectful.

He is very religious, loves his church and its values that he holds very dearly. He doesn't wear them on his sleeve, but it is something that is very important to him. But so is respect for everybody else and their beliefs.

I remember traveling up to Albany once to one of the major synagogues in that town to participate, and MIKE being the Man of the Year. The Rabbi told me MIKE goes to synagogue on the Jewish High Holidays. He is given a place of honor, a seat of his own. It doesn't violate the gift rule.

He is the kind of person that we all want our kids to grow up to be, somebody who is respectable and respectful.

I traveled with him to Ethiopia with our dear friend Mickey Leland. MIKE didn't flinch. It didn't concern him that it was a lot more strenuous a trip for the Sub-Sahara region of the dark continent than it would be for most anybody else. He didn't blink. We flew in small planes, in and out, up in the Gandhara region, participating in the saving and rescue of the Ethiopian Jewish community that fled to Israel.

His work for the Irish people is legendary. His work for all people is admired by each and every one of us.

His family loves him, and there is not a conversation that I have ever had with MIKE that he doesn't mention my kids by name. I mentioned his children, his wife, Nancy, their great marriage, his five grandchildren of whom he is so proud and who I always see winding up in the newspapers upstate, as we call it, in pictures. These are his grandchildren, pictures with presidents and VIPs and movie stars, and every once in awhile they let MIKE get into the picture.

MIKE is going to be leaving Congress, and we are going to miss him. But he is going to go home to Nancy and the kids and the grandchildren and Big Jack, as his father is called. MIKE has been in public life for I think four different decades. His dad, Big Jack, has been in public life for seven. He still gets around, so proud of MIKE, and MIKE is so proud of him.

You know, there is a song, and I won't sing it here because it is against the rules and we certainly have previous speakers that sing a lot better than I do, but this song, the words of which are "climb every mountain, ford every stream; follow every rainbow, until you find your dream."

MIKE has shared his dream here with his friends and the American people, and now he follows his rainbow home, home in Albany, where he also served as speaker pro tem, chaired the New York State Assembly probably more than anybody in anyone's recent memory, as he did here during the early years when Democrats controlled the House; doing that not just because he knew the rules of the House better than anybody else, but because he thought it was his job to let other Members go home after putting in a full day's work, and he was willing to shoulder the responsibility, as you do tonight, Mr. Speaker, in keeping the House open while other Members prepare for tomorrow's day's work.

So, MIKE, as you follow that rainbow back to Nancy and the kids, knowing that you have a long career of some other kind, I hope, many offers I am sure, will come in, you are a quiet prize that the public will not allow to leave their midst. We are all going to miss you, buddy. I am going to miss you especially. Thank you for your service here, which ends this session, and thank you for your friendship, which will endure forever.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to coax the recalcitrant, reticent, quiet Mr. McNULTY to the microphone.

Mr. McNULTY. I thank my friend. And for anyone who is listening tonight, you have seen ample demonstration of why I am such a grateful person, all of these wonderful friends. No one could have a better friend in the world than GARY ACKERMAN. And I want to thank him, and Representatives LOWEY, HINCHEY, CROWLEY, ARCURI, ISRAEL and HALL for the many

kind things that they have said tonight about me and the members of my family.

I want to thank, of course, all of the members of the New York delegation, and also my dear friend the Speaker pro tem, my buddy, Jason, for his very kind words. I shall always be grateful for having been a member of our State delegation, chaired by CHARLIE RANGEL. I am grateful to all of my Democratic colleagues.

I am grateful to all of my Republican colleagues, especially JIMMY WALSH, who is a classmate of mine in the class of 1988, along with NITA LOWEY, and JIM is also retiring this year.

I am grateful to all of those with whom I have served through the years, all of the Speakers, from Jim Wright to NANCY PELOSI, and all of the Republican leaders, from Bob Michel to JOHN BOEHNER. And I am grateful to all of the staff of this great institution for the wonderful work that they do for us each and every day.

I have been truly blessed in my life. Paralyzed by polio in 1949, God eventually granted me a near complete recovery. And just look at my life since then. I have been blessed with a large and loving family, many wonderful friends, and a career that I have thoroughly enjoyed for 39 years, as town supervisor, as mayor. And as one of my colleagues back home said, and it is true, there is nothing more special than being elected mayor of your hometown.

□ 2215

Then to go to the New York State Assembly for 6 years, and then 20 years here in the United States Congress, and Steve is right, when I am walking outside and I see the dome lit up at night, I still pinch myself that I am here, MIKE McNULTY, an average guy, from Green Island, New York, population 2,500. When I was a young public official, I had a dream. This was it, my dream came true.

I am especially grateful to my family, as others have pointed out, my wife of 37 years, Nancy; and our daughters, Michele, Angela, Nancy and Maria. I am especially grateful to them for the many sacrifices that they made so that I could pursue this career in public life, and all those of you who have families know what I am talking about. Thank you to our grandchildren, Teigin and Elijah, Lola, Morgyn and Daniel, for the joy they bring to us each and every day.

I send out a special message of love to Teigin tonight. She is in the hospital, and, hopefully, she will be right back in action very soon.

She was so proud to be here, standing right there in that spot at the beginning of this Congress, holding my hand when I stood up and voted to elect the first woman to serve as the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. That was a very special moment for me, for the country and for Teigin. So I have special thoughts for Teigin tonight.

I am grateful to the others that you have mentioned, my mom and dad, and all of those who went before us, all the members of my family and to Frank and Lola Lazzaro, all the members of Nancy's great family, for their steadfast support all through the years.

As I look back on my life, I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead, but up to this point, I just have to acknowledge how much has been given to me. I have to acknowledge all of the lucky breaks that I have had in my life and in my career.

In thankfulness and gratitude for that, I have tried, to the best of my ability, to give back. I shall always endeavor for the rest of my life to live according to the fundamental principle that life is to give, not to take.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as Mike prepares to wrap up this part of his career, return home at the top of his game, under his own terms, under his own steam, we wish him Godspeed. We will be up to visit. Can't say that we are drinking buddies, Mike, but we are certainly eating buddies, take-out in good restaurants up your way.

Come down here and back into the city. We will be putting together a group of guys and gals just to hang out.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my colleague and dear friend Representative MIKE McNULTY on his upcoming retirement, and compliment his two decades of honorable service in the House, and nearly 40 years serving in elected office. His absence from the House will be felt, and I wish him happiness and success for the future and the successes it is sure to bring.

For 20 years Congressman McNULTY has served his New York district with integrity and the utmost concern for his constituents and their communities. In his nearly 40 years serving those communities, MICHAEL has always advocated for intelligent and just solutions to the issues that touch his constituent's lives. As a mayor and New York State Legislator, Congressman McNULTY advocated for improvements in substance-abuse education and prevention and fought for his communities' infrastructure and economic improvements. As a member of the House he has continued this advocacy on not only local issues, but humanitarian as well. He has been a leader on issues of human rights, hunger, poverty, and international affairs. In 2006, MIKE was re-elected with nearly 78 percent of the vote, a well-deserved affirmation by his constituents of a job and career well done.

Congressman McNULTY is a fairminded and level-headed individual who brought a wealth of experience and insight to his seat as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security. His character is one of deliberate and thoughtful decision making, based on insight and a true understanding of his district and our country. He is an ever dependable friend and a colleague I greatly respect.

I had the opportunity to serve last year with MIKE as a Helsinki Commissioner, and visited Kyiv, working to further address continued humanitarian issues there. His work, our discussions and the successes we walked away with were exemplary of his high level of understanding and his personal attention to the challenges that the people of the region continue to face.

While I know that Congressman McNULTY will be greatly missed by his colleagues here, I also know that his character and passion for a better world will only lend itself to continued service and continued good work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Congressman McNULTY, and wishing him our best for his future.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend and colleague, Mike McNULTY (NY-21), who is retiring after 10 terms in Congress.

With nearly 40 years in elective public office, MIKE has served his community as a local leader, a member of the state legislature, and its representative in Congress.

During his Congressional service, I have been privileged to work by his side on the Ways and Means Committee. On our Committee, MIKE can always be counted on to stand up for the interests of working families, senior citizens, and people with disabilities.

Most recently, as Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, MIKE has been a leader in protecting Social Security from Republican attempts to privatize it. He's also initiated improvements to the program as well. For example, in this Congress, Chairman McNULTY was able to secure \$150 million in additional funding for the Social Security Administration to lessen the backlog of cases and better serve beneficiaries.

While MIKE has never been one to reach for the headlines, when it came to speak up for seniors and the middle class, MIKE's voice was always heard loud and clear. We will miss MIKE's friendship and his steady leadership in Congress. The people of upstate New York are losing an outstanding representative, and we are all grateful for his lifetime of service to his community and our Nation.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we yield back.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PEARCE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and until 2 p.m. tomorrow on account of traveling in New Mexico on business.

Mr. POE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of recovery efforts following Hurricane Ike.

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 Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LYNCH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, September 26.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, September 26.

Mr. SALI, for 5 minutes, September 23.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today, September 23, 24 and 25.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, September 23, 24, 25 and 26.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 531. An act to repeal section 10(f) of Public Law 93-531, commonly known as the "Bennett Freeze", to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2608. An act to amend section 402 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide, in fiscal years 2009 through 2011, extensions of supplemental security income for refugees, asylees, and certain other humanitarian immigrants, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to collect unemployment compensation debts resulting from fraud.

H.R. 5551. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to implement the increase provided under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2008, in the amount of funds made available for the compensation of attorneys representing indigent defendants in the District of Columbia courts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5893. An act to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 996. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to expand passenger facility fee eligibility for certain noise compatibility projects.

S. 2339. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Alpena, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

S. 3406. An act to restore the intent and protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 23, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the fourth quarter of 2007, the first and second quarters of 2008, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, KAY A. KING, PH.D., HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 27 AND JULY 8, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Kay A. King, Ph.D.	6/27	6/29	Nigeria		648.00		(3)				648.00
	6/29	7/01	Zambia		745.00						745.00
	7/01	7/06	South Africa		1,401.00						1,401.00
	7/06	7/07	Liberia		140.00						140.00
Committee total					2,934.00						2,934.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.