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IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN BOB FRANKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in mourning the passing of Congressman Bob Franks and to celebrate a life well lived.

I would like to yield to my good friend and colleague, LEONARD LANCE, for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. LANCE. Thank you, Congressman SMITH.

Mr. Speaker, I join several of my colleagues this evening to pay tribute to Robert D. Franks, a former New Jersey Member of the House of Representatives whose compassion rightfully earned him praise and respect from both sides of the political aisle. Bob died late in the evening on Friday, April 9. He was 58 years old.

Bob's death at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan was caused by an aggressive sarcoma which was diagnosed in February. He was surrounded by his wonderful wife, Fran; their three young and beautiful daughters, Sara, Kelly, and Abigail; his mother, June; his sister, Judy; brother-in-law, Jeremy; and niece, Mary Hannah.

Bob was a brilliant political tactician and a natural candidate.

Born in Hackensack, he had been deeply involved in politics since his youth serving as State chairman of the New Jersey Teenage Republicans and going door-to-door as a 13-year-old in 1964 in suburban Chicago, where his family was then living, for Charles H. Percy's campaign for Governor.

Mr. Franks was graduated from DePauw University in Indiana in 1973. And after receiving a law degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, he directed campaigns for Governor and Congress in New Jersey before being elected as a State assemblyman in 1979, representing Union County for 13 years.

Congressman Bob Franks served twice as Republican State committee chairman and helped bring the Republican Party to veto-proof majorities in both Houses of our State legislature.

Elected to Congress in November 1992, Bob Franks was a fiscal conservative who served on the House Transportation Committee and was known as a tireless advocate for New Jersey's transportation sector. In the fall of 1994, Bob helped bring Republicans into the majority by championing congressional reform measures.

But while Bob Franks relished the game of politics, he was also respected for his willingness to work with the opposing party. Former New Jersey Governor Tom Kean said, "He loved the sport of politics, but he also thought politics was there for better government."

Bob was pragmatic, but he stood on principle. I think that State Senator Kevin O'Toole may have said it best when he said of Bob Franks that he "combined being a policy wonk and a politician, that resulted in one incredibly well-armed and extraordinarily effective elected official."

Bob lost a close United States Senate race in 2000 but won the hearts of all Jerseyans with the tenacity of his campaign. He was serving as president of the Health Care Institute of New Jersey at the time of his death, and he was a relentless and compassionate champion for New Jersey's health care industry and the patients it served.

Bob was a good friend to me, a trusted colleague, and a mentor. He dedicated his entire public life to making New Jersey a better place for all of its residents. His work ethic, his values, his relentless optimism, and his unshakable good humor will be greatly missed by all of us who knew him. And he stands as a shining example of public service not only in the State of New Jersey my colleagues and I represent, but across the United States.

As we mourn his loss, we celebrate his great life; and to his beloved wife, Fran, and their beautiful daughters we extend our deepest sympathy. A person, really, who furthered the American tradition of public service and certainly known and loved by the residents of New Jersey.

Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my friend for his very powerful testimonial to our late colleague.

Mr. Speaker, for Bob's surviving wife, Fran and their three daughters, Kelly, Sara, and Abigail, his mother, June; and sister, Judy; and the rest of the family, this is a tragic season of excruciating loss and bereavement. While Bob Franks was a politician's politician in the best sense of that concept, he was husband, father, son, and brother first. Nothing compared to his love for and devotion to his family.

For everyone who has ever had the privilege of knowing him and calling him "friend," Bob epitomized noble public service. He was honest, hard-working, extraordinarily effective, and absolutely determined to make a positive difference for his constituents, the State, and the Nation. An indomitable optimist, Bob was ever gracious and stubbornly kind to all, even with those with whom he disagreed. He treated all with respect, civility, and empathy.

I know my colleagues on the floor today will attest to the fact that Bob Franks was enthusiastic almost to a fault and always greeted you with a great big smile, firm handshake, and warm greeting—a reflection of his great big heart. You usually left any conversation with Bob, well, smiling.

Bob Franks devoted 21 years of his life to elected public service—13 years in the New Jersey Assembly, 8 years as a Member of Congress, and he served 4 years as State GOP chairman. In both Trenton and Washington, Bob was a

consistent, powerful voice for a limited government and reduced taxes.

In the assembly, he was elected twice by his peers to serve as conference leader. Among his notable achievements, he wrote the State law creating the transportation trust fund.

In Congress, he served with distinction as chairman of the Economic Development, Public Buildings, Hazardous Materials, and Pipeline Transportation Subcommittee.

A master strategist, Bob pushed hard to expand the economy, create jobs in the private sector, pass tax cuts, enact welfare reform, and ensure that our military was second to none.

As cochair of the Missing and Exploited Children Caucus, Bob helped win passage of legislation to protect our children from Internet predators and impose life imprisonment for persons convicted of killing a child. A true friend of law enforcement, Bob took the lead in 1998 and won passage of a congressional resolution demanding the Clinton administration undertake the extradition of cop killer Joanne Chesimard, a fugitive who fled to Cuba after being convicted of murdering New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster in May of 1973.

Bob helped create the bipartisan Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition to maximize both regions' political clout in Congress and played the leading role in promoting fair electrical power policy in New Jersey.

As my colleague, LEONARD, noted a moment ago, he ran for the United States Senate. He lost. He ran for Governor, and he lost that, too. But you would never know that from talking to Bob. He was always upbeat and very positive.

After leaving the Hill, Bob served as the president of the Health Care Institute of New Jersey, a trade association for the research-based pharmaceutical and medical technology industry in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, New Jersey, on Saturday, Governor Chris Christie was joined in moving remembrance by several former Governors, including Governor Jon Corzine, Christie Todd Whitman, and Tom Kean, as well as the three godfathers to Bob and Fran's kids, Roger Bodman, Alfred Fasola, and Congressman John Kasich.

Governor Chris Christie spoke eloquently at the memorial service and told those assembled, "Bob Franks' life was grand and glorious. As Fran and his daughters know better than anyone, what Bob cared first and foremost about, despite all of the passions in his life, was family . . . no matter whether we were talking about politics or business, because it was something he knew full well: the demands of a public life, the demands of a private life, and the rewards of paying attention to both."

Governor Christie went on to say, "Bob Franks was enthusiastic in everything I saw him do. Whether it was

rooting for the Indianapolis Colts—something that I still do not fully understand from a guy from New Jersey—whether it was some of the deepest and most significant policy issues that have faced our country for over the last 25 years, or whether it was counseling and encouraging even the smallest of potential leaders for our State.” Always that enthusiastic Bob Franks.

The Governor went on to say, “The loss that each of us feel from Bob’s death is significant in the life of our State, significant in the life of our country, because he served so ably and so well . . . In the end, I think, that’s what we all hope for out of our public officials: that they care deeply, that they think deeply, that they act passionately with the ability to inspire. He checked all the boxes.”

Governor Corzine said, in brief part, that this was a “celebration of a great life, a good man, a very good man, someone that all of us, as you have heard, believed in, learned from, and grew from.

“A man of credible character, conviction, courage, but probably the most defining thing that any of us can say about Bob is he was a man who loved. He loved politics, loved all of his friends, the folks who are here, but most of all, most notably he loved his family.”

Governor Tom Kean said, “Politics for Bob was an honorable profession which meant responsibility and opportunity for achievement and very much an exciting adventure. After all, what is the use of living,” Governor Kean went on to say, “if not to strive for great causes and perhaps make this muddled world of ours a little better place. Bob did that. He cared about that.”

“We are all better people for having known Bob,” he went on. “I think of him smiling. I think of his cheerfulness. I think of his enthusiasm, and today,” Governor Kean concluded, “I envy the angels.”

Governor Christie Todd Whitman said, “You know a lot of people who are involved in the rough-and-tumble of politics get characterized as either being really good at the political side of it, the background, the fierce fighting, or they’re the policy wonks, that’s what they care about. Bob was both. He was a fierce, fierce partisan. He was a Republican. He never made it personal, because he always knew it was about policy, about doing right by the people of the State. And that’s what made him such a special person.”

Our former Budget Committee chairman here in the House, John Kasich, who was godfather to one of Bob and Fran’s children, summed it up well when he said, “Our friendship was forged in the battles of trying to improve America. That’s what it’s all about. It was never about politics. It was always about what we could do to make the world a better place for our children and their children . . . I don’t think I’ve ever met a more insightful

man than Bob Franks. He could look at something that everybody else saw and he would see it differently. He could see twists in it. He could take advantage of it and move the ball forward.

“How about his cutting-edge humor? Always a little cutting-edge humor no matter where you were. Sometimes Bob was even good at gallows humor. You know, when there was not even a speck of light shining in the room, Bob could make us all laugh. He’d remove the pressure. He’d have a little quip, and we’d all get the belly laugh going. It would happen when there was no humor in sight.”

And on loyalty, John said, “You know what the kids today say, ‘You got my back.’ Well, Bob Franks had your back. He didn’t care if you were a Republican or a Democrat, a liberal or a conservative. It didn’t mean anything. When you were his friend, he had your back.”

John Kasich concluded, “I would like to call him a foxhole guy. And I measure people, ‘Are they a foxhole guy.’ In other words, can I get into a foxhole with this guy in the middle of the worst battle you can imagine and know not only would he not jump out of that foxhole to run and preserve himself, but he would jump outta that foxhole and fight to help you. Oh, he was a great foxhole guy,” he said.

John said, “In all of the years that I’ve known him, I’ve never heard him say a bad thing about anybody,” and I know Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and others in our delegation can back that up a hundred percent. And finally Kasich said, “There is no question he left the world a better place.”

So, Mr. Speaker, there is no question Bob Franks left New Jersey, he left the Nation and the world a better place, and we will deeply miss him.

I would like to yield to my good friend and colleague, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

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Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman, the dean of the New Jersey congressional delegation, for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, last Saturday morning I joined the New Jersey family at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as we honored the life of former Congressman Bob Franks and comforted his wife, Fran, and their three young daughters.

As others did last Saturday, I rise in tribute to my longtime friend and our colleague, Bob Franks. New Jersey is a better place to live, work and raise a family, because for nearly his entire adult life, Bob Franks selflessly served our beloved State. It was a pleasure to serve with him for many years in the New Jersey State Assembly in Trenton and then in this very Chamber in the House of Representatives.

From those shared experiences, and there were many, I know the people in New Jersey have lost an energetic and intelligent advocate, and I have lost a

dear and trusted friend. It’s a tragic fact of life that many of us in New Jersey have spent a great deal of time of late talking about Bob Franks these past few days. I am struck that in those conversations certain common themes recur.

Bob Franks was authentic. He was patriotic. He was keen. Bob Franks was always optimistic. He was astute in every way. He was humorous. He was honorable, a true son of New Jersey.

Bob Franks always built others up, mentored to young people, always encouraging them to enter public service.

Bob Franks was trusted and never would break his word. He was always warm and sincere. He absolutely loved politics. And even in this rough and tumble world he always had a good word for men and women in the political arena, whether they were Republicans or Democrats or none of the above.

Bob Franks was tireless with unbridled enthusiasm. You were lucky to be on his team or on his side, that broad trademark smile, a good and decent man, irrepressible, full of life and love for his family, first and foremost. That’s why we all were shocked 12 days ago when the news came that God had called him home at such a young age.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Franks loved public service. He loved the New Jersey Assembly and his service in Congress. He loved his family, our Nation, New Jersey and his constituents in that order, and he loved all these things with a passion that exceeded the most energetic enthusiasts.

I will never forget his work ethic, his valuable service, and his enduring friendship. We have lost a great man who stood for principles and who lived a life in which we could all learn.

May the tributes and prayers of so many of our colleagues here today be a source of strength with wife Fran and their daughters, Kelly, Sara and Abigail. Our hearts break, along with theirs, but our memories will always remain bright.

And when we recall that trademark smile, we will all remember this favorite son of New Jersey, Bobby Franks.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for his very eloquent statement, and we will all miss Bobby Franks.

Remarks from current and present elected officials who spoke at the April 17, 2010 memorial service for former U.S. Congressman and former N.J. Assemblyman Bob Franks, who died April 9, 2010. The service took place at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark NJ.:

NEW JERSEY GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE

Bob Franks’ life was grand and glorious as Fran and his daughters know better than anyone, what Bob cared first and foremost about despite all of the passions in his life was family.

This summer as I had many discussion with Bob about lots of different topics he would always end each of those conversations we had whether it was in person or over the telephone, by asking me, in fact imploring me, ‘You’re spending time with Mary

Pat, right?' have you gone to some of the kids baseball games?' It was the way he ended each and everyone of those conversations, no matter whether we were talking about politics or business because it was something he knew full well: the demands of a public life, the demands of a private life, and the rewards of paying attention to both.

Bob Franks' smile is the thing I will remember most, about him. When he saw you his face immediately lit up, and in turn he lit up the room. His enthusiasm was mentioned just before. And he was enthusiastic in everything I saw him do. Whether it was rooting for the Indianapolis Colts—something that still do not fully understand, from a guy from NJ—whether it was some of the deepest and most significant policy issues that have faced our country over the last 25 years, or whether it was counseling and encouraging even the smallest of potential leaders for our state, I speak about that last part from personal experience. I met Bob Franks in July of 1995 I was a first-term Freeholder who had just run for the General Assembly, and had come in sixth out of six. And in the aftermath of that primary, I received a call from Congressman Franks' office. And the person on the staff said, 'The Congressman would like to know if you'd like to come by his district office Friday for lunch. He'd like to speak to you.'

And I immediately said yes, of course. I thought to myself 'It must be losers' week at Bob Franks' office. And I went there that day to have lunch with Bob Franks. I had no idea what the agenda was and I had no idea why I was going there. For an hour and 45 minutes Bob Franks sat with me to dissect why I had lost the race, why I had done so poorly, what I wanted to do with my future and how he thought was the best way to get there. I want to emphasize with you: I had never met him. He saw something in me in that campaign that obviously no one who voted did. And he implored me at the end of the meeting to not give up, not give up on a public life. He encouraged me to continue to fight. It will be the enduring gift that Bob Franks gave to me. And if you look around this cathedral today, there are literally hundreds of people who can say exactly the same thing. It's just a different date and a different time and a different challenge that was before them in that stage of their life. And it was Bob Franks who patted them on the back. It was Bob Franks who got in their face and told them not to quit. It was Bob Franks who by his example showed them that in fact anything was possible if you were willing to work hard enough, listen enough, and care deeply enough about making your community a better place.

The loss that each of us will feel from Bob's death is significant—significant in the life of our state, significant in the life of our country, because he served so ably and so well because of that enthusiasm, that fire and that ability to inspire others. In the end, I think, that's what we all hope for out of our public officials: that they care deeply, that they think deeply, that they act passionately with the ability to inspire. He checked all the boxes. And the loss we feel is minuscule compared to the loss that his family feels. Because for all that he did for us, he was much, much more for them. This summer, the last time I met with Bob before I became governor, he said to me as I was leaving the meeting, 'Don't worry about what happens—whether you win or you lose. Winning would be great, but even if you lose, I can tell you from personal experience. Life will get better.' He told me 'I have felt that the last couple of years out of public life, because it has allowed me to get even closer to Fran and to the girls. And so Bob provided hope from either end of the spectrum for

whatever was going to happen to you and your life. I know that the legacy he leaves is sitting here in this cathedral this morning and the circles that go out from here, because Bob Franks did what every leader aspires to do: and this is to inspire others.

He has certainly inspired me. God bless you, Fran and the girls. And God Bless Bob for a life well spent.

FORMER GOV. JON CORZINE

I feel like a little loner up here. I'm not just sure how I identify, but I am thrilled to be here.

Fran, I could not be more privileged or honored, to stand and say some words in celebration of a great life, of a good man, a very good man, someone that all of us, as you have heard, believed in, learned from, grew from.

A man of credible character, conviction, courage, but probably the most defining thing that I think any of us can say about Bob is that he is a man who loved. He loved politics, loved all of his friends, the folks who are here, but most of all, most notably he loved his family. Fran, Sara, Abby and Kelly—a remarkable, remarkable testimony to his humanity and care. There was no pure, nor more poignant view of love than to have a conversation with Bob about his wife and his daughters.

Others have spoken about that smile, but the thought and site of those girls, all those girls brought a joy and a light that I don't think I've seen in the passions that I've seen in other people anytime in life. You know, I'm probably like a lot of you. I have more pictures of Bob Franks' girls than I have of my own grandkids, because you couldn't have a meeting, a breakfast, a beer or anything else with Bob where he didn't share a picture and a posting on how the girls were doing. It meant so much to him. A special part of when you had that posting was that smile that was there as he talked about it. It was always, always there. Everybody else has said it. It was the most winning smile anyone could imagine. And almost never saw him not smile, except for a couple of occasions. Anytime the Giants were playing the Colts he had his game face on. I'm like Gov. Christie; I don't know where in the heck he got that view from, but that's the way it is.

And then there were the days when we were running against each other for the United States Senate.

It wasn't always smiles. Neither of us were smiling while the ads were running. In fact, I remember sitting on stage one night down at Rider College, I think it was, before a debate, we were getting mic-ed up. And he did smile, and we laughed, and we teased each other about the theater and maybe even a little bit about the B.S. that comes as you go through that process. And then he proceeded over the next 90 minutes to absolutely take me apart on healthcare, early childhood education and anything else, and the only time I saw him smile was when he dubbed me 'Mr. Universal' in that night. Some of you remember that. It stuck, and I definitely remember him smiling at me that night. I actually was frowning.

Anyone who followed Bob's career knew that once he found a winning argument, he knew how to stick with it. I must have heard that phrase, 'Mr. Universal' a million times over the next six weeks. Message, message, message. When it came to politics, Bob knew it as well or better than anyone. And he demonstrated a remarkable talent in that campaign, because he took \$6 million and made it something that was worth a lot more. And he showed what a pro could do.

There was also something about that campaign that he and I actually grew to respect each other. You heard Congressman Kasich

say that mutual respect is an important ingredient in our public life. Bob really believed that two people could be of principles—sometimes of different views but principled—but they didn't have to be disagreeable, as we often hear.

And after that campaign and over the years, we grew into an easy friendship based on that perspective, developed over time. We are occasional parishioners at Chuck's church, we were commiseraters over breakfast or over a beer. I did a lot with him as we supported the NJ National Guard. He did so much to support our troops that were in Iraq. And he fought for the things he believed in in political life in a lot of ways, but most of all even for a Democrat he became one of those people who offered guidance, offered perspective, offered counsel. He was true to the words that he would be a friend. Of course we had to sneak him in and out of Drumthwacket, and then we had to meet in the wine cellar for breakfast in Summit, Grand Summit Hotel. I was never sure whose reputation we were defending, his or mine.

And then there were those moments at Christ's Church when we both showed up at the same time. Bob and his family on the right side. Of course, I was on the left side. We both fell into a pattern of rolling our eyes when Chuck would tell some miserable jokes about politics, which was all too frequent.

It was almost a paradox because Bob was such a wonderful human being. You always wonder sometimes why he was in politics. People always trump politics in his life. He was a happy warrior. He had a passion for service and a strong sense of responsibility for community. But most importantly, as you heard others say, he loved his family. I know this is an unspeakable time for the Franks family, for Fran and the girls. There is nothing fair or right about losing Bob.

I was reminded of a Winston Churchill phrase upon hearing of the death of Harry Hopkins. He said "a strong, bright fierce flame has burned out of a frail body." Churchill was making clear we should never confuse the body and the soul. The strong, bright, fierce flame of Bob's soul lives in those three beautiful, beautiful girls, Abby, Sara and Kelly. His generosity and spirit, his love of people and life, his sense of purpose, justice, and oh, that smile, always that smile, will be with his girls, always. And with all of us as well.

God bless Bob, his family and thank you for the life he has lived.

GOV. CHRISTIE TODD WHITMAN

Fran, Kelly, Sara, Abby, I hope you get a chance at some point to stand up and just absorb this room.

Everyone here is a friend, or an admirer, a support of someone Bob mentored. They are here out of love. They are here out of love for Bob and what he stood for, and here for you, for the family. You know a lot of people who are involved in the rough-and-tumble of politics get characterized as either being really good at the political side of it, the background, the fierce fighting, or they're the policy wonks, that's what they care about. Bob was both. He was a fierce, fierce partisan. He was a Republican. He never made it personal, because he always knew it was about policy, about doing right by the people of the state. And that's what made him such a special person.

He was a true gentleman, in every sense of the word. He honored the profession. He loved it. He had that smile. He lit up a room. But because he really cared. There was nothing fake about it. He wasn't putting it on. He loved and cared about everything. Of course we know he loved and cared most about his family. I can remember, Kelly, how many

times did we get together at events. Your father and I would be talking about strategy or something and then all of the sudden your mom and you would walk into the room and then that was it. Forget the rest of it. It was his girls, the people he cared about the most. It was always first and foremost. But it was because he cared about all of it, all of us, what he was doing.

His legacy, the people he mentored, all of that is important. We are remembering it here today and people care about it. But his real legacy is his family. And while each of you might not be able to turn around and see him sitting next to you with that sparkle in his eyes, he's there. He's in your hearts, he's the angels on your shoulder. He will always be there with you and for you. And he set an example, that is unmatched, and you are very very lucky to have had him. We are all very lucky to have had him, but though for all too short a period. It just reminds us all to take those special people and special moments and bring them close to our heart and never let that flame die. You know, Bob's flame is going to live on forever.

Thank you for letting me be part of today.

GOVERNOR TOM KEAN

This has been quite a week. I have not been to an event all week long, of any kind, where Bob hasn't been mentioned. Where there hasn't been some remarks, where there hasn't been some longing, been some discussion, public and private. And now to culminate in this.

I think I counted seven former governors here today. I see our two United States Senators, I see the Congressional delegation. I see the legislature out there members of county government, and all of you who Bob touched in some way or another. But Fran, for you and your girls, June, for that remarkable young man that you brought up, we are here today. We come to pound on your heart with love.

I remember that first time that I met Bob. There were two of us running, myself, a fellow called Phil Cottonbacker, and we're both in our early thirties. And in some ways we really didn't know what we were doing, but we were doing our best, knocking on doors, trying to meet people. And then one day, Bob came, out of Summit High School. And I remember because that's the first time I saw that smile we're all talking about. That's when I saw the cheerfulness. That's when I saw the optimism. He already knew as much about politics as I did, maybe more. I learned something else about Bob. Bob was a pied piper, because first Bob came to volunteer, then he brought a friend, then he brought two friends, then three and four friends. Soon we had 10 people from Bob's class, knocking on doors, going to supermarkets, passing out literature, pressing envelopes, whatever we needed, because Bob made it fun. Bob made it fun for other people. Bob was sometimes, I think, you know, meeting Bob was like opening a bottle of fine champagne. Everything, everything was good at that point.

Well, we won that election and Bob and I stayed in touch. And it came a number of years later—I'm going to talk about three basic incidents in my life Bob touched. I was trying to decide whether to run for governor. I'd lost once already in a primary. My family was not terribly enthusiastic about the prospect. I knew there were other strong candidates in the field. I knew that one of them had much more money than we would ever be able to spend. I knew that another one had much more party support than I would ever get. And so the serious question was whether to take this one on. Well it wasn't a serious question to Bob. Not at all. Bob was on the phone. Bob was there in person. Bob was run-

ning around the state. Bob was doing whatever it took, and he would never let me for a minute even consider the possibility, that I wasn't going to run. He basically beat on my door until I finally declared. And once I declared, the campaign was basically run out of Bob's car for a while. I mean he became my first campaign manager. People would call me from different parts of the state who I'd never heard of, saying 'You know, I'd like to support you for governor.' I'd say 'That's wonderful. You like my ideas?' They'd say 'No, I like Bob Franks.'

And, of course, Bob brought a number of assets, because not only did he bring that wonderful enthusiasm and excitement and all of that, he brought Al Fasola and Roger Bodman. And once you had Al Fasola, and Roger Bodman and Bob Franks, it didn't matter who had the money, it didn't matter who had the political support—I think we ended up with four county chairmen out of 21. It didn't matter. You were going to win, because you had the best. And Bob was such an important part of that and our whole campaign with that enthusiasm. He got people in the legislature to defy their own county organizations and their own county parties and come out and endorse me, and those of you in politics know how tough that is for anybody to do. He was a remarkable. And I'll say it here: I don't know if I would have run or not, but I certainly would not have been elected if it were not for the efforts of Bob Franks.

When I got there, there were a lot of problems. We were in a debt point, in a recession as we are now. We had a billion dollar deficit, had a legislature of the other party, both houses, and it was difficult. It was very, very difficult. But there in my office, would be Bob. And Bob would come it, with that smile, that cheerfulness and that optimism, showing me how we could do it, how we could get something done. He would bring in not only Republicans but Democrats. He would tell me 'Have you talked to this assemblyman, or that senator? You know he's the other party, but he's really a good person, and you can talk to them about issues.' And we did that.

We put together some of those coalitions. But always, always in the background was Bob, who cared so much, who wanted to see it done right, who did it himself, always the right way. You know he was always positive. He was never down. He loved his colleagues in both his parties. He could be partisan, but never negative, never nasty in any way at all. He cared so much. The bottom line I think, that not only did he love politics, but he cared so much about people. He loved them: individuals, peoples who touched his life and he came back and touched theirs in a very, very important way.

Politics for Bob was an honorable profession which meant responsibility and opportunity for achievement and very much an exciting adventure. After all, what is the use of living, if not to strive for great causes and perhaps make this muddled world of ours a little better place. Bob did that. He cared about that.

The Reverend mentioned St. Paul, when he was in that prison. He wrote something else. He wrote to his best friend, he wrote a note. He wrote to Timothy. He wrote these letters, these words, I think most of you know, to Timothy. He said:

'I have fought the good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith.'

Bob could have spoken those words. Fran, you and the girls ought to be so proud, June you ought to be so very proud. We are all better people for having known Bob. I think of him smiling, I think of his cheerfulness, I think of his enthusiasm, and today, I envy the angels.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN JOHN KASICH

Look around. It's amazing today, isn't it? You know, on the wall of Bob's house is a poster of Bobby Kennedy who would be surprised? He was a man of great passion, just like Bob. I remember as a young man, one young girl holding a sign as Bobby Kennedy passed by, and the sign said: "Bring Us Together." Bob Franks has brought us together, hasn't he? And not just the people at the top. He's brought so many of his young protégés here today who have grown from young into almost middle-aged men. Bob was a truly remarkable man and our friendship was forged in the battles of trying to improve America. That's what it was all about. It was never about the politics. It was always about what we could do to make the world a little better place for our children and their children.

Last week I sat down with some of the people who were on this team. We went through thick and thin, through government shut-downs, and criticisms and blowups and yelling and all wonderful debate that sometimes accompanies politics when it isn't personal. It's part of life, it's part of what makes this republic special. And we listed a couple of things that we wanted to think about Bob, and I wanted to tell you about Bob.

First of all, insightful. I don't think I ever met a more insightful man than Bob Franks. He could look at something that everybody else saw and he would always see it differently. He could see the twist in it. He could take advantage of it to move the ball downfield. How about his cutting-edge humor? Always a little cutting-edge humor no matter where you were. Sometimes Bob was even good at gallows humor. You know when there was not even a speck of light shining in the room, Bob could make us all laugh. He'd remove the pressure. He'd have the little quip, and we'd all get the belly laugh going. It would happen when there was no humor in sight.

Loyalty. You know kids today say 'You got my back?' Bob Franks had your back. He didn't care if you were a Republican or a Democrat, a liberal or a conservative. It didn't mean anything. When you were his friend, he had your back. And he exemplified exactly what we mean by that term.

Friendly. Well he's known for that smile. Some said earlier, he walked into a room and lit it up. And that was exactly right, because he had that 100 megawatt smile that sort of transmitted a sense of strength. He had a sense that things are going to be OK, things are going to be good. Things can be really great.

Bob never attacked anybody else. In all the years I knew him I never heard him say a bad thing about anybody. He was smart. And what made him so smart is that he understood that the key to life was not the divisions that exist between people, but the friendships that potentially could be developed. And he was a smart of a guy as I ever met and he transferred on to these three angels down here [gestures to Franks' daughters] because they're as smart as can be.

Great strategist? Didn't want to be up against him, did you? Nobody wanted to be up against Bob when he got into strategy, and frankly, think about what a great general he would have been in the military. He could have sat in that tent and figured how to take advantage of every opportunity. And that's exactly what he did working with me to do something that hadn't been done in about 40 years.

Oh, he loved his family. Gov. Christie's right. My conversations were always 'Mr. Chairman, how's the family. How's the girls'. I'd said 'Chairman, how's your family?' It always started that way. Kinda always ended that way.

God, did he love his friends. Roger Bodman, Al Fasola. Oh, and Laura. Ah, he just loved you to pieces. And of course he so loved his family, and so loved Fran and those sweet girls. Saw Kelly yesterday, that she gave me a big hug. And through the gate, they were in the back yard, I got a chance to see Sara and Abbey really for the first time. Little angels, and a tribute to Fran and to Bob.

Of course he loved his Colts. Governor, I could never figure it out either. I mean that Colt thing was just unbelievable.

He could give you bad news, couldn't he governor? He could give you bad news but in such a way that you could accept it. He gave more bad news more of the time than I can even believe! But I heard it, and I accepted it because he had that special something. When he gave you a little bad news, you knew that he had your back. You knew that he was right with you.

You could never be mad at Bob Franks. That was impossible. No matter what he did to you, you loved him. You never go upset with him. I guess it was always because you knew he had your back.

What a listener Bob was. You know, it was one of the things that many of us have to do better. Bob could reply and understand because he listened. He listened intently to anything you had to say.

I liked to call him a foxhole guy. And I measure people 'Are they a foxhole guy.' In other words can I get into a foxhole with this guy in the middle of the worst battle you can imagine and know not only would he not jump out of that foxhole to run and preserve himself, but he would jump out of that foxhole and fight to help you. Oh, he was a great foxhole guy.

Friendship. Today in the age of a media culture, fleeting, situational, conditional, tattered—not with Bob. His friendship had nothing to do with situations and conditions, he would be friend to you through thick and thin. And frankly when we think about it we can learn so much about what character and principle and tenacity is when we study the life of Bob Franks.

There is no question he left the world a better place. Earlier today in the private ceremony, I wish you all could have heard the testimonies to Bob. And under all of them was a deep and abiding love and a sense that he made everybody better because he believed in them. He made this world a much better place. He inspires us. And I was inspired this morning listening to the testimony of his dearest friends and family and the young people that he raised. They're going to leave their mark on the world and they're leaving it right now as one of the top aides to the governor of the State of New Jersey. Yeah, I'm going to miss Bob. I'm going to miss those calls. But you know I'm going to remember this day, the testimonies this morning, and this crowd, which is all about how great his life was and about how many lives he impacted and affected in a real way.

You know, Reverend, the Lord gives us a big promise. I've never known the Lord, as I've studied it, to break his promises. Fran, he promises in the next life, no more tears, no more heartache, no more broken relationships, no more war, no more death, and only

happiness and fulfillment to be put under the wings of the Lord.

I believe it. That's where Bob's today. God, Bless you Bob. We love you, we miss you. We'll see you soon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my special order today.

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

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today until 4 p.m.

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

- Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. DEUTCH, for 5 minutes, today.
- Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for 5 minutes, today.
- Ms. BERKLEY, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. KLEIN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. ISRAEL, for 5 minutes, today.
- Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. WEINER, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, for 5 minutes, today.
- Ms. SCHWARTZ, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.
- Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. BRIGHT, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. MARSHALL, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. GARAMENDI, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. QUIGLEY, for 5 minutes, today.
- Ms. CHU, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. SMITH of Washington, for 5 minutes, today.
- Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today. (The following Members (at the request of Mr. BARTLETT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

- Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, April 28.
- Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, April 28.
- Mr. WESTMORELAND, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, April 28.
- Mr. FORBES, for 5 minutes, April 22.
- Mr. BARTLETT, for 5 minutes, today. (The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)
- Mr. ETHERIDGE, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. FILNER, and to include therein extraneous material, notwithstanding the fact that it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost \$2,533.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4360. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs blind rehabilitation center in Long Beach, California, as the "Major Charles Robert Soltes, Jr., O.D. Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 22, 2010, at 10 a.m.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to Public Law 111-139, Mr. SPRATT hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of the House amendment to S. 1963, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF THE STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO S. 1963

(By fiscal year, in millions of dollars)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2010-2015	2010-2020
NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (-) IN THE DEFICIT													
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Congressional Budget Office.