

just to get an audience with just a great man, a great human being, to get advice, to get direction, to get support. He always made you feel as if he was interested in your point of view.

He asked me what books I read. When I told him, he said, I want to read that book, and he did. He made you feel like you were making a contribution.

The greatness of Jack Murtha—aside from being a great husband and father and war hero and devoted representative of the people of Johnstown and his congressional district—part of his greatness was his expectations, his expectations about what it meant to be an American, someone committed to equal justice, equal opportunity, and integrity. His integrity was unquestioned and unquestionable.

I just hope that we remember, Madam Speaker, when we think of this great, gracious, generous, gentle giant, Jack Murtha, we remember not only his expectations for himself, but we remember his expectations for each of us. He had it of his staff, he had it of his committee members, he had it of all of his colleagues of the House that we behave as true American patriots and leave America stronger, freer, more just, and a greater Nation—as great as he believed America to be. He demanded greatness from all of us and that we pass on that legacy for our country, our fellow countrymen and women, for generations to come.

Thank you, Mr. Murtha, for all you have done for us, and we hope to repay all that you have done for us by giving back to our country and creating the kind of country that you fought so hard to make.

We will never forget you, sir. Thank you. God bless you.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, some people may wonder why I am standing here tonight, because almost everyone who's spoken before me knew Jack Murtha longer and better than I did.

But one of the things that I want to share with everyone who cares about Jack is my first meeting in his office, because Jack came to the door and greeted me, and as we were walking in, I looked up on the wall of his office and I saw that famous photograph that Joe Rosenthal took of the flag-raising on Iwo Jima, and it was signed by Joe Rosenthal. And I stopped the chairman, and I pointed it out to him, and I told him that my father landed at Iwo Jima the same days that those flags were raised. And in that instant, Jack Murtha became my friend for life.

And we talked about the photograph, and I showed him that over the shoulder of those Marines on Mount

Suribachi, you could see down on the shoreline on Green Beach LST-808, which was the landing ship tank that dropped my dad off on Iwo Jima 65 years ago yesterday.

And after that moment, any time I had a question or a concern or a problem that affected the men and women in my district or my State that served this country in uniform, I knew where to go, and I went to Jack Murtha.

And one of the amazing things about how all of this unfolded is Jack and I had talked about this year being the 65th anniversary of the invasion of Iwo Jima, and we talked about going there together. And unfortunately, because of his tragic loss of life, we never had that opportunity.

And I think about that because my dad died 29 years ago, and so many things about him were like Jack. He landed as an 18-year-old farm boy from Iowa, and he saw horrible things in war. Like Jack, he saw one of his good friends vaporized by a shell burst, and I have read the story of that account by the commanding officer of the core artillery that my dad served under, Colonel John Letcher.

One of the things that I did recently was I got a chance to tape the veteran's history interview of my cousin, Richard Braley, who, like my dad, was a Marine and served in Vietnam as an officer, just like Jack Murtha. And one of the things that is so special about people like my dad and my cousin and Jack Murtha is you never forget and you're always faithful.

So when my dad died 29 years ago, one of the most emotional things that happened was when my cousin flew all the way back from Hawaii so that someone would be at that small rural cemetery where he was buried to play taps, and he played it on his trumpet. And then he came up to me at the very end with tears in his eyes, and he said, I wonder if you could help. I brought this with me and I would like to put it in the casket. And I looked down and in his hand he had a small silver medallion with the words "Semper Fidelis" on it.

And when I heard these stories about Jack Murtha all afternoon long, one of the other things that reminded me of was how mad my mother used to get when my dad would stop and pick up hitchhikers, because she didn't think it was safe for him to be doing that. And I think my dad and Jack Murtha realized after the hell that they had lived through on the battlefield, that the rest of their lives was gravy.

And as I was listening here to all of these amazing stories about Jack, I was thinking to myself, I wish my father had lived to meet Jack.

And then it suddenly dawned on me that he probably has.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the family of Jack Murtha and to pay tribute to him. As a relatively new Member of this body, I knew Jack Murtha only briefly, but I am so grateful even for that.

One day very early in my tenure here in Congress, I needed some guidance on a military issue, and everyone told me I needed to speak directly with Mr. Murtha. I have to admit I was just a little bit intimidated. It wasn't just his size and the boom of his voice and his upright carriage, but I knew he knew stuff and that he could guide me. But to my great surprise, Mr. Murtha was so wonderful to me. His advice was sage, his generosity was unlimited, his inquiry was precise, and his kindness and gentleness were truly genuine. And from that moment forward, I am honored to have been guided by his good counsel.

I can still see on occasion when I sit in the Speaker's chair a twinkle from his eye, and when it got a little rough, a little bit of a nod from that back corner.

On a personal note, Jack Murtha remembered that I grew up in a military family, and he asked me about my father's and my brother's service and my experiences growing up. And I talked to him about being a candy striper and reading to our service men and women at veterans' hospitals.

And I know that he cared deeply about our servicemembers and about their families and about the special obligation that we owe to them. He understood more than so many the call to service and the importance for political leaders to carry that at the forefront of all of our decisions on questions of war and peace. And his passion was so evident. And I know that my family and all of our servicemembers and their family members are so much better off because of Jack Murtha's service in this body, his service to our Nation, his commitment to them and to their service.

And so I am really grateful, Jack, to have even had just a moment in time with you, and I only hope that in my service here in the United States Congress, I can carry myself forward with the kind of honor and duty and courage with which you served.

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#### REMEMBERING CHAIRMAN JACK MURTHA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, my heart ached so much last week when I heard that the chairman, and that's what I called Jack Murtha, Mr. Chairman, that he had passed on. My father served in the Congress for 26 years. I

have been here for 15 years. So that means for 41 years Jack Murtha, Mr. Chairman, has been part of our life, of the Walter Jones family.

I wanted to come to the floor tonight because I could not go to bed knowing that this tribute would be held to honor a great man. I have the privilege of having Camp Lejeune Marine Base and Cherry Point Marine Air Station in the Third District of North Carolina. To the chairman, the Marines were a part of his heart, because he was a marine.

The many times that I would go to that corner that so many people have made reference to, and I would stand in line because I am a Republican, and that didn't matter to him. What mattered to him was that I was a person, like the chairman, who cared. As has been said many times before me tonight, it didn't matter which party you were in. What was good for America, what was good for the military, that's what he stood for.

I would stand and wait my time, and he would say, Walter, what do you need? I would go up and take my turn and say, Mr. Chairman, our marines down in Camp Lejeune are having many problems with PTSD and TBI, and there are not enough psychiatrists to help. This was the last time I spoke to him. He said, Well, why don't we get together. Why don't we have a meeting.

So in the little room downstairs, I guess, on the first floor, the basement, in his room, we would go in, and I would talk to him about the needs of the marines, and the marines loved him. I had a couple in my room tonight when this started and they were saying, We've lost a great friend.

But tonight, for me personally, it was to come down here and say, Mr. Chairman, thank you. Thank you for having the time for a person that's no more than a foot soldier in the Congress. I am talking about myself. It didn't matter who you were, what position you held in the Republican Party or the Democratic Party, it was a matter of his heart. His heart was what can I do to help you. What does your district need? What do your marines need? And he would always find time to talk to you.

So, tonight, I wanted to come down for just a few minutes to say to the family that are here tonight that he was a great man, he was a patriot, and he is the kind of man that America needs to remember with great respect and also to thank him for being a man of humility.

I have always said that Christ was a man of humility, and he got so much accomplished because he was a man of humility. Chairman Murtha was a man of humility. He had great power, but he did not flex the muscles of power. He walked and he worked with humility.

Tonight I close by saying, Mr. Chairman, thank you for taking the time for all of us. You were a man that probably slept well at night because you were

overworked, but you are in a better place now, and I am sure God is listening to whatever advice you might have to make America a better country.

I thank you for giving me this time to say thank you and goodbye, and America will miss you, and the Jones family will miss you, also.

#### HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN "JACK" MURTHA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, to whom God has given much, much is expected. We are truly blessed that we have had the opportunity to work and serve with Mr. Murtha.

Now, I have my Mr. Murtha story. I was able to get Mr. Murtha to come to my district, Jacksonville, Florida, the Third Congressional District, which is a military district, but I knew that when he came that I would only have one shot. So I wanted to make sure I covered everything he needed to see in my district.

We started out at the marine base, we went to the port, we went to Cecil Field, we went to Shands Hospital where we had the proton beam. Well, they had tried to get a proton beam in his area. I took the doctor in my area, so he was very shocked when he came to Jacksonville and found out that not only did I have the proton beam in Jacksonville, I had his doctor from his area.

Then I had a reception scheduled for him, and, of course, he said, I don't work this hard. You have shown me everything that you want to develop in your district. Of course, the point is, he came, he saw, and we were able to get the services that the military people needed in my area.

I will never forget, when I went to Normandy, and we had a visitors center, and they had just opened the visitors center there. It was a tribute to all of the people that had served and died in Normandy. And they had no place to go, it was all the crosses, but it was a center that Mr. Murtha and the chairman of Appropriations had gotten funded. Yes, it was an earmark, it was an earmark and a tribute to the people that had served this country. I will never forget how proud I was to go to that visitors center. That should be Mr. Murtha's name on that visitors center in Normandy because he did so much.

In closing, I want to say we always sing the song "God Bless America," and, yes, God blessed America because of Mr. Murtha. In closing, the scripture, Paul, he has fought a good fight and he has finished the course, but it is left up to us now to continue to work, to continue to work for our veterans, to continue to work for the military. This is the kind of tribute that we should pay to Mr. Murtha. The work is not finished.

God did bless America with giving us the example of Mr. Murtha.

I was extremely saddened to hear about the passing of my close colleague and dear friend, Congressman John Murtha, Chairman of the Defense Appropriations subcommittee. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1974, Rep. Murtha dedicated his life to serving his country, both in the military and in Congress. A former Marine, he was the first Vietnam combat Veteran elected to Congress.

Ever since I came to Washington, Congressman Murtha and I had always had a very close relationship; in part, because my district, Florida's third, has a strong military presence, and because of our joint efforts in the arena of veterans affairs. Considered by most to be one of the most influential Democrats in the House, he was an expert and a leader on issues concerning Defense, the military, and our nation's veterans. Deeply respected by Republicans and Democrats alike, Congressman Murtha's leadership and institutional knowledge of all aspects of our nation's security policy will be greatly missed, as will his charm and leadership within the Democratic party. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Congressman's wife, Joyce, and the entire Murtha family.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MURTHA

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

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, out of respect for Jack, I will be very brief. Great American, great patriot, but for me he was a friend. He was my buddy.

The truth is, he was my buddy not because we shared a philosophical view—we probably disagreed on more than we agreed on—but because we respected each other. In my world, the best thing you can say about anybody is he didn't forget where he came from. Jack never forgot. He represented working men and women to the utmost. Even when we disagreed, his motivation was pure.

He was the epitome of a politician. He liked helping people. I disdain politicians who think that we won't or that we shouldn't help people. That's what we are here for. Jack knew that from the day he got here to the day he left. He was my friend. I'm going to miss him. I think America will miss him, but I will miss him.

Jack, I will tell you that I am not looking forward to it, but when my day comes I'm going to be looking you up. My hope is that you'll be up there with a whole bunch of the good old boys and hopefully you'll welcome me then as you welcomed me when I got here.

I'm going to miss you, Jack.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

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