

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 gentleman 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.

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, I just wanted to join all of my colleagues as we give our thanks to Jack and Jack's family. I am a new Member of Congress, and I didn't get to know Jack Murtha until the fall of 2008 when I was running for Congress. Jack came down to Cincinnati and we visited the VA hospital. We sat down with some veterans and we sat down with the staff of the VA hospital and started talking about PTSD and the PTSD program that we had in Cincinnati.

Jack had such a sincere interest, and he exuded care for those veterans. He wanted to see that what we were doing in Cincinnati was replicated across the country.

Every time I went to Jack and asked for something, every time I approached him, he was open. As I talked to or as I listened to the Members here tonight, there seems to be an underlying theme: We didn't go and Jack asked us for things. Every time you approached Jack Murtha, he was asking what he could do for you. What a great Congressman. What a great dad.

Jack was the type of guy that in his district, he was always asking that question: What can I do for you? And that's the right question. We had perhaps the greatest challenge that we faced in Cincinnati this year, on a jobs program. It was the Joint Strike Fighter, the competitive engine program.

I happened to be the Congressman for the district for GE—Aviation where that engine is made. We were worried. We were worried that we were going to lose a thousand jobs. Now I know it to be a good program. I know it to be a cost-saving program, but the President, the administration, sometimes thinks a little differently about that program.

So I went to Jack, and I said, Jack, I'm really worried about this. This is a lot of jobs in Cincinnati. I believe this is the right thing to do for the country. Without hesitation, he just looked me in the eye and he said, Steve, don't worry about it, we'll take care of it.

I knew that it was taken care of, because I had Jack's word. He was that type of guy. He had that kind of strength and that kind of authority. Every time you approached him, he was always asking what he could do for you.

This House was a great place because of Jack Murtha, and we are a lesser body because of his loss. I lost my father a little over a year ago, and he was a lot like Jack. I hope the two of them have gotten to know each other since Jack's passing, because he reminded me a lot of my dad.

You will be greatly missed, Jack. I thank your family, and I thank your community for sharing you with us and the American people for so long.

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I will be brief. I have been tied up most of the afternoon and never thought I would have an opportunity to come down and join in this special order to our friend and our colleague, Jack Murtha. I am very pleased and heartened by all of the outpouring of Members who have come down here for the last few hours, and it has also given me an opportunity to say a few things about my friend, Jack Murtha.

Jack would be embarrassed about all of the attention being shown to him tonight, but for those of us who knew and love and respected Jack Murtha, it's been an especially hard week, especially those of us who hang out, as we say, in the Pennsylvania Corner. When we always look on the corner to see Jack there, we see a folded American flag. I guess it's appropriate for Jack's service to his country, not only as a soldier, but also as a Member of this House of Representatives.

If you want to know more about Jack Murtha, his courage, his love for this country, I would urge you to read the book that he wrote, "From Vietnam to 9/11: On the Front Lines of National Security." He really traced the history of this country, policy and military involvement of this country since Vietnam to September 11. It is written by a true patriot who lived it and urged all of us to also see the world and our commitment and our dedication to the men and women in uniform through the eyes of Jack Murtha in a book.

I said it's been a hard week, and I think everything that needs to be said about Jack Murtha has probably been said. I am thankful for having known him, and I am thankful for the opportunity of being able to come down here tonight and just say a few words and to express our love and condolences for Joyce and the entire Murtha family.

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, one of the qualities, of, I think, a great person is that they don't see themselves as great. They really see themselves as ordinary.

If they value something about themselves, it's that being ordinary allows them to do generous and good things for other people. Jack Murtha was a huge figure for those of us who were in my class, the class of 2006. People may remember that the big debate that year was about the war in Iraq.

I ran as a person who was opposed to that war, and I remember during the campaign being very dispirited wondering where we were going. Then a voice rose out of Washington, and it was a Vietnam veteran, it was a combat decorated marine, it was the chair of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, it was a man who had the highest credentials as an advocate for the military. That voice, of course, was Jack Murtha.

□ 1930

And he stood up and he said that this war was wrong. He said that his vote was a mistake.

What attracted me, I think my classmates, and all of my colleagues who have been speaking to this man, Jack Murtha, was his generosity—he was always wondering what could he do for you today—his integrity, but he also had a quality of incredible strength. You gravitated to Jack because he was a strong man, strong in his convictions, strong in his will to carry on, and yet with the strength of a person who had the strength of mind and was willing to experience and analyze what was going on. When he came to his conclusion about Iraq, it was through the eyes of the soldier on the ground in assessing what was going on and why.

Even as he changed his policy position on Iraq, no one was a stronger supporter of the troops getting what they needed to be safe and getting what they needed to be taken care of when they got home. And what he understood and he began to teach this Congress and this country was that if we respect the valor of these men and women who are willing to subordinate their own judgment to take an oath of allegiance to the flag of the Commander in Chief and to report for duty when and where ordered by the President, then Congress and he, Jack Murtha, had a solemn responsibility to do every single thing in his body, mind, heart, and soul to provide those soldiers with a policy that was worthy of the sacrifice they were willing to make.

Like I think everybody here in Congress, when Jack would ask what Jack could do for me, I oftentimes had an answer. But the first time he asked me that question was the first day of my experience here in Congress. I said to Jack, I understand that you go out and visit the troops often at Bethesda and at Walter Reed. And he told me he did. He usually went alone, almost always went alone, always quietly, never any press, never any entourage. I asked him if in the course of my 2 years in Congress sometime he would take me to go with him, and it turned out that the next day he did.

I will never forget going through the Bethesda Naval Hospital with Jack Murtha and seeing how, when he talked to our troops who suffered incredible injuries, he had that same directness, that same pride, that same confidence in engaging these soldiers—What happened? How did it happen? Was it an