

in the auto factory—a job that exposed him to toxins that ultimately killed him. My father died when I was 8 years old.

Today, the Michigan legislature approved right-to-work legislation, intending to roll back the clock on our labor laws. We cannot allow this to happen. Right-to-work is wrong for workers, and it must be stopped.

#### WE GOT HERE BY SPENDING TOO MUCH, NOT TAXING TOO LITTLE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, “The last thing you want to do is to raise taxes in the middle of a recession because that would put businesses in a further hole.” That was President Obama in 2009. But that was then and this is now. President Obama now says he wants to save us all by raising taxes on a few Americans. But the idea is flawed. One, the plan only funds the government for a few days. Then what’s the plan, Mr. President? Two, according to the Senate Budget Committee, 75 percent of the new taxes will go towards spending, not deficit reduction.

This plan won’t work to solve our economic woes. The problem is the government just spends too much. Where’s the plan to cut spending? There isn’t one. We got here by spending too much, not taxing too little. After all, “the last thing you do in a recession is raise taxes”—quoting the President.

And that’s just the way it is.

#### RECOGNIZING DEPARTING MEMBERS OF THE OHIO DELEGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINZINGER). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIBERI. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials for the RECORD on the topic of the Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, tonight, we from Ohio would like to recognize and thank for their service five departing Members from the Ohio delegation. Congressmen STEVE AUSTRIA, DENNIS KUCINICH, STEVE LATOURETTE, JEAN SCHMIDT, and BETTY SUTTON will end their service with us at the end of this year. Over the next hour we would like to, as Republicans and Democrats, thank them for their service.

I would first like to recognize my colleague from central Ohio, Congressman STEVE STIVERS, for his remarks.

Mr. STIVERS. I would like to thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would like to say a few things about our five departing colleagues, who have given great service to our country. I want to thank them on behalf of the people of the 15th District for their incredible service and talk a little bit about each one.

I’ll start with Congressman STEVE LATOURETTE, whose service in Congress has really been incredible, and he’s been a role model for many of us who are younger. He’s been a great mentor. He’s not afraid to stand up for what he believes in. He knows that we’ve got to work together as Republicans and Democrats to solve our Nation’s problems. He’s an illustration of what a good Member of Congress should be—someone who’s always thinking about their constituents.

STEVE LATOURETTE had been a mainstay of Congress, and it won’t be the same here without him, especially on transportation issues. I’d like to just thank him for his support, as I had a transportation bill earlier in this Congress. He was very helpful. I had a plan to try to fund transportation projects differently, and he sat down with me and worked me through the process and helped me sit down with the folks at the Congressional Budget Office and folks in leadership to sell my idea. That bill passed the House with bipartisan support, with 20 Democrats voting for it and a lot of Republicans voting for it. I know I couldn’t have gotten that done without Congressman LATOURETTE. I’m sorry to see him retire. But he’s leaving behind a legacy of outstanding service, and he’s been an incredible Member of Congress, and I know there are great things in his future.

The gentlelady to my left, Congresswoman SCHMIDT, I grew up in her district. My family lives in her district, and they really appreciate her hard work and constituent service. She’s a runner. She runs marathons in her spare time, but she runs her office like a marathon. She’s always working for the people of her district, the Second District. It’s been incredible just to watch her advocacy for important things in all of her district. We share some territory down in southern Ohio now. She’s been a leader on the uranium enrichment plant in Piketon and what it can do for our country, for safety in our nuclear arsenal, and for what it can do as an economic driver in southern Ohio. On behalf of the people of southern and central Ohio, I want to thank the gentlelady for her work on that. She’s left a legacy that’s really going to make a difference in the future.

The Congressman from the Seventh District, Congressman AUSTRIA, and I served as State senators together. He got up here a couple of years before I did in 2008, back when my race was still in a recount. We came up to orientation together, and he showed a willingness and an interest to run for leader-

ship of the class, to be the president of the class. I worked hard as his campaign manager. He got elected class president that year, and he went on to give great service to this class in Congress. He’s also been a leader on the Appropriations Committee for these 2 years.

I’ve seen him work on some tough issues in the State senate, and I know he’s got great things in his future. I’m certainly sorry to see him retire. I’m proud of his service, and I’m happy to call him a friend. I’m looking forward to what is next in his life. And I know he’s going to do great things.

Also, our Members from the other side of the aisle, Congresswoman SUTTON and Congressman KUCINICH have really worked hard, and I appreciate all their work and efforts. DENNIS KUCINICH is really a man who sticks up for his principles. I certainly respect him for that. He’s willing to stand up for what he believes is right when nobody in this institution will. I really respect him for that. He’s also become a good friend. He’s a really nice fellow. I want to thank him for his service and wish him great luck in his future.

Congresswoman BETTY SUTTON, I really appreciate her service back to her time on the city council and the Summit County Council and the State legislature. She’s advocated for her constituents. I just want to thank her for her service.

I think it’s important that we as Republicans and Democrats work together on the issues that are facing our country, and I want to thank these Members for their service to our country and thank them for everything that they’ve done for the people of Ohio. And as a grateful coworker, I want to say: job well done.

□ 1910

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a privilege to recognize one of the more famous members of our delegation because he is the Speaker of the House. Our leader, Mr. BOEHNER, is recognized.

Mr. BOEHNER. Let me thank my colleague for yielding.

I have proudly represented the people of the Eighth Congressional District of Ohio now for 22 years. During that time, our State delegation has had a long line of great leaders and great legislators here in the Congress.

Tonight, I want to recognize the careers and the service of five departing members from the Ohio delegation, each of whom in their own way exemplify the type of leadership for which our great State has long been known.

Congressman KUCINICH has been a passionate advocate for his community. While we haven’t always agreed, I respect his courage, his passion, and his commitment to his constituents.

Congressman STEVE AUSTRIA has worked tirelessly on military and veterans issues that are so important to the people we both serve. Steve, for your efforts on behalf of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the community, and the people of southwest Ohio,

you deserve a great deal of thanks and applause for your work.

Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT blazed the trail as the first woman elected to represent her southern Ohio district. She has served in this Chamber with a deep commitment to her principles and her faith, and I wish her the very best of luck.

Congresswoman BETTY SUTTON sits on the other side of the aisle, but we've always been able to disagree without being disagreeable. Like me, she served in the Ohio House before serving our State here in the Congress. I respect her for her straightforward nature and willingness to fight for her priorities and those of her constituents.

Finally, my friend and close colleague, STEVE LATOURETTE. Now, Steve and I have known each other for a long time. Steve, you've always done things your way; you're truly one of a kind. It really is not going to be the same around here without my good friend, STEVE LATOURETTE, but our friendship will continue; and I'm grateful for the relationship that we've had.

Each of these Representatives focused on different issues and led in their own way, but what they all have in common is a love for Ohio and an unwavering dedication to their constituents. So I'm honored to have worked with each of you, and on behalf of the people of our beloved State, I want to thank you for your service.

Mr. TIBERI. I would now like to recognize the gentleman from Urbana, Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for putting this hour together where we can recognize five outstanding Buckeyes for their service to their districts and to our great State.

I want to start first with the two gentladies—truly gentladies, poise and grace and passion that they bring to this process. I have appreciated that. I have appreciated BETTY's tireless advocacy for the families that she represents in her district. For JEANNIE and her unbelievable commitment to the sanctity of human life, I respect that tremendously and appreciate that. That's going to be missed around these Halls.

Then to the two Steves. STEVE AUSTRIA, I had the privilege of serving with him in the State senate, outstanding American. He's done a great job representing his district. And then of course STEVE LATOURETTE as well. As I like to call them "Stevie Wonder Austria," "Stevie Wonder LaTourette," both great guys who have served their districts with the kind of commitment that you want in a Representative.

Then, finally, my good friend—we use that term a lot around here, but in this situation it's actually true. DENNIS KUCINICH is a good friend. We have had the privilege of working on a subcommittee together. I've said this back home in our district—it's no secret that I'm a pretty conservative guy and DENNIS is not a very conservative guy,

and yet I tell people that we're good friends.

Here is a guy who truly comes to this process with this idea: get your best hole, take your best shot, fight for the things you believe in. That's the way this process should work; that's how Representatives should behave; and DENNIS has done that just as good as anybody, and I respect that tremendously.

So we're losing five wonderful people, but they're going to continue to do great things for our State and continue in some form of public service, I'm sure. So I just want to say thank you and best of luck.

Mr. TIBERI. The next gentleman is not a member of the Ohio delegation, but an honorary member of the Ohio delegation. I certainly enjoy working with him on the Ways and Means Committee; he's a delightful man to work with. The former chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. RANGEL, is recognized.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Well, I thank you for this opportunity. It's always difficult when Members' political careers are interrupted. We're going to miss BETTY SUTTON on our side, and of course we're going to miss Mr. KUCINICH for all the great work he's done.

I remember, Congressman LATOURETTE, when your former Member, Lou Stokes, was on the floor and he demonstrated his friendship in a way that certainly most Members on both sides will never forget. And Mr. AUSTRIA is leaving.

One of the main reasons why I did come to the floor is because of JEAN SCHMIDT. When I first heard that she was defeated, they told me that her opponent had said that I endorsed her and that's the reason she lost the race. So I wanted to make it abundantly clear that while I did not endorse her politically, I certainly would have said what a nice lady she has been in being kind and gentle and Republican at the same time, and I thought that was quite an achievement.

Ms. SCHMIDT has managed to disagree with so many of the differences we have in policy; and yet the first thing that you would ever see on her face is a smile, asking you how you are feeling and having a genuine concern about that. I personally will miss you and miss the greetings that we had for each other and sharing each other's family experiences. It's really a classic example in showing what this great body used to be and what it can become when people can just take a few minutes and realize that we may all come from different political philosophies, but we are still the brothers and sisters and children of God.

I also want to thank Judge FUDGE for giving me this great opportunity in speaking with her great Buckeye delegation. Thank you so much.

Mr. TIBERI. I would now like to recognize one of our new Members who is

returning for his second term from northeast Ohio, Mr. JIM RENACCI.

Mr. RENACCI. I want to thank my colleague for yielding time.

As a Representative of the 16th District of Ohio, I really want to thank each one of the departing Members for their service to not only the State of Ohio, but our country.

First, STEVE AUSTRIA, he has become a friend. As a new Member getting to know the House of Representatives, STEVE has become a good friend, a tireless advocate for Ohio and his district, but even more important, an advocate for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base during the BRAC process. He also fought to keep KC-135s at Rickenbacker Air and National Guard Base and the C-27Js at the ANG base in Mansfield. That's not just important for Ohio, but also for national security. I want to thank him for his service, and best of luck.

The next individual, DENNIS KUCINICH. DENNIS has been a true steward for northeast Ohio. While we don't agree on some of the issues, I have always considered DENNIS a very close friend. He has often offered to help me over the past 2 years when it comes to northeast Ohio. I have genuinely enjoyed our discussions, many times traveling back and forth from Washington, D.C., to Cleveland. I will miss serving with DENNIS and wish him the best of luck going forward.

Congresswoman SCHMIDT also, when I got here 2 years ago, was someone who I knew that I could turn to. She's been a great leader for her district and someone who has really stepped up when it comes to energy issues in the Ohio delegation, specifically on re-enriching uranium. Our Navy relies on uranium, and JEAN made it a point to fight for a domestic source of materials that power our aircraft carriers and submarines. Without a faithful and reliable source of fuel, the Navy would not be able to fully protect the American homeland or protect power abroad. But not only that, JEAN has been a voice of fiscal responsibility during her time in Congress, and I wish her the best going forward.

My colleague, BETTY SUTTON. I want to thank BETTY SUTTON for her service to Ohio and our Nation.

□ 1920

Over the last year, we had a hard-fought and extremely competitive campaign. Throughout it, she maintained a level of professionalism and integrity not often seen in American politics. I want to thank her for her service, and I wish her the best of luck with her future endeavors.

Last, but not least, my friend, STEVE LATOURETTE, has been a friend, a guide, a trusted confidante and someone whom I have looked to as a mentor. He and I both strongly supported a couple of issues: development of fuel cell technology through the Solid State Energy Conversion Alliance program. This technology will increase

the efficient use of our Nation's natural resources, reduce dependence on foreign oil, and enhance energy security. I will miss working alongside him on this issue.

He has always been available if needed for advice or even as a sounding board. His answers have always represented what he believes to be best for me, regardless of his own position on an issue. For that, I was really appreciative. And the rest of Congress are really, we are losing an intelligent, thoughtful, and highly motivated public servant, one who always puts his constituents first.

While it will be sad to see him go, I wish him luck in his future endeavors. I truly thank him sincerely for his 18 years of service to Ohio and America.

Mr. TIBERI. It's a real pleasure to recognize the dean of our delegation, the pride of Toledo, Ms. MARCY KAPTUR.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank you very much, Congressman TIBERI, for spearheading this Special Order to honor those in our delegation who have served with us so honorably these many years.

I was reflecting and listening to our colleagues that, with the departure of these wonderful, wonderful Americans who call Ohio their home, Ohio will lose over a half a century of seniority as they move on to other pursuits. On top of the seniority that was lost when Ralph Regula retired and Dave Hobson and Lou Stokes, we really have a rebuilding job to do in Ohio to gain footing here and to make sure that the needs of Ohio are met. So as these very able Ohioans leave, they take with them great knowledge and great dexterity in this institution, but we have to be conscious of our added responsibilities as they leave.

I want to say to my two sisters, to BETTY SUTTON, who has been a true champion on the middle class during her 6 years of service here, without question her voice has been heard and will be heard again. She has dedicated her life to public service and the betterment of the lives of Ohioans and all Americans. And what makes her service particularly poignant, I think, she is a very highly educated woman, but she is very, very proud of her working-class roots, her blue-collar roots, and it is not surprising that she was a tireless advocate for working men and women in her service here.

The Cash for Clunkers legislation that gave our economy a much-needed shot in the arm was championed by her. And at every turn, she fought for her convictions that everyone should have access to work, to health care, that we had to grow our economy and create jobs so the middle class could be strengthened and those who want to get into it would have that ladder of opportunity up. She always kept our Nation's servicemen and -women preeminent in her mind. I can tell you, I will miss her so very, very much.

Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT, who I'm glad is on the floor with us tonight,

was first elected in 2005 and has been an absolutely totally dedicated Representative to her district, to our State, and to the country. I have admired her dedication and her ability to reach across the aisle. I have admired very much her work on new energy systems in all sectors, not picking any favorites necessarily, but trying to help America meet its chief strategic vulnerability, and that is our continued reliance on imported sources of energy. I know how hard she has fought for our troops, both here as a Member and back home, always recognizing their contributions to our country.

And I will miss her. I will miss seeing her, I will miss working with her, and I obviously wish her, on behalf of our side of the delegation, the very best that life can offer and a very beautiful holiday season. I know we have not heard the last of JEAN SCHMIDT. I know that she has much more to give.

To my colleague, DENNIS KUCINICH from Cleveland, we certainly admire his passion and conviction on issues. One doesn't doubt where he stands when DENNIS takes a position. He believes in it, and he believes in the people he represents, and they surely need voice. He has never lost focus on that during his tenure, and I know that all of us will be watching as he makes his way forward. I know that he will be active in the political realm as he so chooses. And we thank him for his great service to the State of Ohio as a Member of Congress, but before that, as well, in service to the State legislature and as mayor of Cleveland. He has had a very illustrious career and many, many accomplishments to show for that service.

I want to say to STEVE LATOURETTE a personal thank-you for the years that we've served together, but also for our work on the Appropriations Committee, the full committee, as well as the subcommittee that we share, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development. Our part of Ohio, in fact all of Ohio, which has more urban areas than any other State in the Union, needs the attention of this committee, and STEVE completely dedicated himself to that so honorably. He's been a commonsense Congressman and an able partner on the many issues that we're able to work on together. We fought against bank bonuses after Wall Street collapsed. We worked together to save the auto industry to ensure that auto dealers got a fair deal, saving thousands of jobs, and to make sure, in the end, Ohio got her fair share.

I will hope that his work in the future will allow him to be a champion for the greater Cleveland area and northeastern Ohio, but for our whole State because of his great acumen and his abilities to work with people of all persuasions. I know how Lake Erie and the entire Great Lakes system has benefited from his years of service, and we have to pick up that mantle and carry it forward for him.

Finally, for STEVE AUSTRIA, what a joy to work with STEVE AUSTRIA,

whether it was on Wright Pat, whether it was on the concerns of central Ohio, such a gentleman, so strong and steady, such a voice for his constituents over the last 4 years that he has served. I wish that he could have served longer. I have enjoyed the opportunities I've had to work with him, though not always on shared committees.

I just want to thank Congressman TIBERI for bringing us together tonight to pay tribute to all of these great Ohioans—BETTY SUTTON, JEAN SCHMIDT, DENNIS KUCINICH, STEVE AUSTRIA, and STEVE LATOURETTE—all of whom have made enormous contributions to our State, and I thank you for allowing me to add my words of appreciation to all of you.

Mr. TIBERI. I would like to recognize the gentleman who represents the district that borders Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Kentucky from northwestern Ohio to southern Ohio, the gentleman from Marietta, BILL JOHNSON, a new Member of our Congress who just got reelected to a second term.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. I thank you for yielding.

As a fledgling new Member of Congress in January of 2011, I realized right away that I had an awful lot to learn. And so many of our Ohio delegation reached out to me and gave me an arm around the shoulder, a nudge on the arm saying, Hey, we can work these things out; just hang in there. I've gotten to know each of our five departing Members from the Ohio delegation in their own unique way.

I remember very early on leading up to the 2010 election coming to Washington to meet with some folks, and it was the first time that I met with JEAN SCHMIDT. JEAN graciously invited me into her office. We sat down. We talked about issues that are important to the people of her district. Her district borders my district, and we have a lot of common interests about that. We sat for an hour or more, and she gave me great insight into the kind of work that I would be doing, and I'm so appreciative of that.

□ 1930

After coming to Washington and beginning to sit on the Foreign Affairs Committee, I sat right next to JEAN. I saw her passion for fiscal issues, spending, issues around the sanctity of human life, around human rights. I saw how she went about the business of not only representing the people of her district, but representing the values that Americans stand for. To Congresswoman SCHMIDT, I just want to say: JEAN, it has been a pleasure working with you. I agree that we haven't seen the last of you. I've enjoyed spending our days at the Bible study on Thursday mornings, and I wish you the very best in your future endeavors. I look forward to seeing you often.

To STEVE AUSTRIA, STEVE is another one that reached out. As a 26½-year

veteran of the Air Force, Wright-Paterson Air Force Base—it is important to the State of Ohio, that is true—but it's important to the Air Force and it's important to our Nation. And I've appreciated the work that STEVE has done there. STEVE might not realize this, but he trained many of the staff that I have today. I'm very pleased with the staff that I have here in Washington. Many of those that serve with me today serving the Sixth District of Ohio came through STEVE AUSTRIA's office where they learned and where they saw the value of hard work in STEVE AUSTRIA. I appreciate so much what STEVE has done for our delegation.

To DENNIS KUCINICH, I had seen DENNIS many times on television prior to being elected myself. I have seen the interviews. DENNIS was a known leader and political figure in the State of Ohio. People told me early on that you don't have to agree with everything that DENNIS says, but one thing you will find out about DENNIS is that he loves the people that he represents and he represents them well. You can learn a lot from DENNIS KUCINICH about constituent services.

In the days since I've been here, one thing I've learned about DENNIS as well is that he is always a gentleman. No matter what the issue, no matter what the crisis of the moment might be, DENNIS would remain calm and would remain poised in the conversations that we've had, even though not necessarily agreeing on the issues, but certainly raising very valid points and doing so in a manner that befits the office. I want to thank DENNIS for that.

To Congresswoman BETTY SUTTON, I did not get a chance to work with BETTY that often. We traveled back and forth on the same flights every now and then to Ohio. We served on the Natural Resources Committee together, but not on the same subcommittee. So I did not get a chance to spend an awful lot of time with BETTY. But like so many of the other comments that you've heard, she represented her district well. She did it in a very professional manner. I want to thank her for her many years of service.

STEVE LATOURETTE, what can you really say about STEVE LATOURETTE? I never once went to STEVE and asked him a question and he said, Hey, can you come back and see me later? I don't have time. He was always willing to stop what he was doing and say, What can I do to help? What do you need to talk about? No matter what the issue, you could always count on STEVE LATOURETTE being a voice of reason. I had, from time to time throughout my Air Force career, those rare leaders who could see beneath the fog and the friction of the battle to see clearly what the issues were. STEVE LATOURETTE possesses that ability. He took me under his wing. He shared with me his wealth of knowledge about the legislative process, helped guide me through some really difficult issues

here on the floor. He's so very well respected. One thing I admire most about STEVE is it's so obvious that he is so respected by both sides of the aisle. That's a lesson that I think many of us could learn and take home. I can assure you that STEVE LATOURETTE is going to be missed.

I wish all of our departing Members from Ohio Godspeed, many blessings, and I've enjoyed serving with each and every one of you.

Mr. TIBERI. Thank you.

It's a real pleasure to recognize the gentle lady who represents the bulk of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, soon Akron and some of Summit County, as well, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, a neighbor to Mr. LATOURETTE and Mr. KUCINICH.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you very much.

I rise to pay tribute today to my faithful Ohio colleagues who will be leaving our ranks at the end of this Congress. Three of them represent districts that border mine, and all will be missed by our delegation.

At the beginning of 2011, I pulled together a long list, with my friend Mr. RENACCI, of our delegation for dinner. This experience showed everyone who attended that we can work and play together, despite our party affiliations. This isn't true of all delegations. Simply put, it is because of the people who make up the Ohio delegation. Those departing will be deeply missed. I will miss their collective experience, their outstanding wit, and unrivaled passion in serving the people of Ohio. Their departure will truly be a loss to the region, our State, and the Nation.

DENNIS KUCINICH is one of the most enduring public servants in Cleveland history. From city council to what we used to call "boy mayor," to a Member of Congress, DENNIS has represented the city of Cleveland and its citizens with undeniable zeal and passion. First elected to Congress in 1996, DENNIS KUCINICH is the kind of fighter you want on your team, be it fighting for labor rights or against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He left his mark for being fiery, outspoken, and incorruptible, and the city of Cleveland loves him for it. DENNIS was proud to champion liberal causes even when being liberal wasn't popular. He is bright and unflappable in his convictions, traits that earned him admiration from citizens throughout the Nation. Congress will not be the same without him.

BETTY SUTTON is a leader who has and will undoubtedly continue to make a difference in northeast Ohio. She ran for city council during her first year of law school and won. She is the youngest woman to ever serve in the Ohio State House. She fought hard for the middle class by representing unions and their members as a labor attorney. BETTY played a critical role in the passage of the Nation's health care reform bill. She championed the Cash for Clunkers program, helping thousands of Americans afford new cars and helping to revive the economy with this

successful program. BETTY has been unwavering in her support of America's veterans of all generations. Notably, she always found time in her schedule to greet World War II veterans from Ohio visiting our Nation's Capital. BETTY's congressional service to Ohio and the Nation will be missed.

STEVE LATOURETTE. July 30, 2012, was not only a sad day for the State of Ohio and the Ohio delegation, but it was a sad day for all reasonable, level-headed Americans. July 30 marked the day that STEVE LATOURETTE, my good friend, announced his retirement from Congress. STEVE is and always will be a champion for all of northeast Ohio. The impact he made on his district and the State cannot be disputed. He is hard-working and easy to work with. STEVE is a master of bipartisanship. He wrote the book on working across the aisle. He and I recently introduced the Restore Our Neighborhoods Act, and we are working together to ensure this bill is included in an end-of-the-year bill. We need more Members of Congress like STEVE. He is one of the few Members I could always rely on to be objective. He was one of only seven House Republicans to vote against defunding NPR. He was only one of two House Republicans who voted against holding Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress. Words cannot begin to describe the void STEVE's departure will create. We're going to miss him.

JEAN SCHMIDT. I know Congresswoman SCHMIDT is exceptional. To be the first woman elected to represent southern Ohio in Congress is quite a feat; and to be a grandmother and still run marathons is something that I don't know that anyone else could do.

□ 1940

Although we have not always agreed on policy, we can agree on the importance of promoting female athletes and women in general, and we agree on family values. JEAN understands the importance of representing all of the people and all of the parts of her district. We will miss her kindness and her sincerity.

Good luck, my friend.

And STEVE AUSTRIA, he is one of the five that I did not get an opportunity to know very well, but I have watched him. He has an impressive track record. He served both in the State house and the senate, serving as the majority whip in the senate. He was the first first-generation Filipino to become a Congressman. STEVE quickly shot up the ranks to serve on the Appropriations Committee and helped bring much-needed funding to the State of Ohio and to our military installments. He is a principled man, deciding not to run for a third term because he did not want to leave his Beaver Creek home of 20 years as a result of redistricting.

As I have watched him, I know him to be a gentleman. I can tell by a person's demeanor what kind of person he is, and he always carries himself with dignity and respect.

I am sorry that I did not get an opportunity to know you better.

I will close by saying that this House is better and stronger because all of you served here.

Mr. TIBERI. It is a real pleasure to introduce the gentleman of whom you were just speaking, Congresswoman FUDGE, one of the five Members who will not be back with us next year, Mr. STEVE AUSTRIA, who I had the pleasure of having a district next to.

Mr. AUSTRIA. I thank the gentleman.

I want to first thank the Ohio delegation for taking time this evening to recognize the departing members of the Ohio delegation; and to those Members on both sides of the aisle who have supported me and helped me throughout my 4 years of Congress, I thank you.

To those departing Members, for your service and your commitment to the Buckeye State, you will be missed. You've done a great job. I've had the distinct opportunity to work with many of you in the State legislature as well as in Congress, and I thank you for your service, and I especially thank those Members who have given me advice and helped me and supported me through this last year.

As the Members who are here on the floor today know, as well as many of the folks back in Ohio, the Seventh Congressional District that I represent was eliminated with redistricting. This has been a tough year. To those Members who have given me advice, encouragement, and sometimes just that pat on the back to keep going through these challenging times, I thank you for that, and your friendship will always be remembered.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve in Congress and to represent the eight counties and the residents of those eight counties that I represent in the Seventh Congressional District; to be blessed with a family and friends and a great staff who have supported and stayed with me during this past year; and to serve in this fine institution with so many good people—and there are good people here in Congress. I will miss serving in Congress, but the friendships that I have made here in Washington and throughout my district will be forever.

It was my father who first introduced me to politics and government. My father came to this country from the Philippines, and he came here to live the American Dream. He became a legal citizen, and he was so proud of that. He met my mother. They got married. They raised a family—nine kids and now 28 grandkids. God bless my mother who is still alive. He started his own business. He always gave back to his community, and he always believed in making this place he called “home” a better place for his children

and grandchildren to live. I think if he were alive today—and I'm sure he's looking down from heaven somewhere—he'd be very proud of his oldest son, who, to my knowledge, is the first first-generation Filipino American to serve in the United States Congress.

I am proud to be part of the Asian American community. This has been a job for the past 14 years, in having served in the State legislature for 10 years and now in Congress for 4 years, that I have taken very seriously. I've tried to give it my all—100 percent—and have dedicated my life to it. I want to thank my family for all of the sacrifices that they have made to allow me to be the best Congressman that I could be.

Many Members of Congress have family members back home who are making tremendous sacrifices, and I thank you for those sacrifices to allow the Members of Congress to serve our government.

I also must recognize and thank my staff. You see, when I started my service in Congress, I was very blessed with a great staff that I inherited from my predecessor, Congressman Dave Hobson. Most have gone on to bigger and better things, but I am also blessed to end my service here with a very dedicated and committed staff who are dedicated to helping our constituents back in our district—whether they be veterans, whether they be seniors, whether they be hardworking Americans—and having a positive impact on their lives. There is a loyalty that this staff has given to our district. It is a very committed staff both in D.C. and back in the district; and most of the staff, actually, have stayed with me until the very end.

To our staff, to our team, you are the best.

To the freshman class of the 111th Congress that I came in with—in particular, our Republican members of the freshman class—I want to thank you for your service and the friendships and the support that we've had throughout the years.

I came in in 2008. It was a tough year for Republicans, and I was the only Republican in Ohio to win an open seat. Then, in 2010, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle experienced, I think, the same thing. We had a small Republican class that came in—22 members. It was a very talented class, a class that showed great leadership and was very vibrant, and I believe that they will be part of the future of this Congress as far as leadership. It was a great honor to be elected by my Republican peers and my freshman class as our class President. The freshman class of the 111th Congress was a special group of friends on both sides of the aisle that will be remembered forever.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, which I've had the honor to represent for the last 4 years. As I mentioned, this district was elimi-

nated because of redistricting in Ohio; but it's a district with great history and one with great integrity, and it has had great leaders. It has been represented by leaders such as Congressman Dave Hobson, known as “Uncle Dave” here on the Hill and back home for the great work he has done in Washington and throughout the State of Ohio; by former Senator and now Attorney General Mike DeWine, a personal friend who continues to lead our great State of Ohio; Congressman Bud Brown and Joyce Brown and his father, Clarence Brown, who also served in the United States Congress. The list goes on and on. To follow these great leaders and to have the opportunity to serve behind my mentors has been a great honor.

When I'm here in Washington, I often walk through the Halls of the Capitol at night when there are very few people around. I can tell you the history, the tradition, the integrity of this Capitol is still there, and it speaks to you at night. Often as I walk through the Halls of the Capitol or am traveling throughout the district, folks will come up to me and remind me that, when one door closes, another opens and that God has a plan for all of us.

So as I begin the next chapter of my life with my wife of 26 years, Eileen, and our three boys—Brian, Kevin, and Eric—I will take this great experience, the knowledge, and the memories here in Congress with me into the future. I always will remember the advice my father gave to me when I ran for my first office nearly 25 years ago—a local precinct, a county central committee—which is: always do the right thing.

To the new Members who are here, I would encourage you to continue to do the right thing.

And to our members of the Ohio delegation, never forget our men and women who are serving in our military and our veterans and the sacrifices that they are making and continue to make for our country and for our freedoms.

May God bless this great country. It has been a privilege to serve you in Congress. Thank you.

Mr. TIBERI. Thank you, STEVE AUSTRIA. It has been a real pleasure working with you.

I got to know STEVE when he came to the Ohio legislature, actually. I was in the Ohio House, and he soon left and went to the Ohio Senate, and then rejoined us here in 2008. We always used to joke around that STEVE AUSTRIA was going to be a heck of a lot less maintenance than Dave Hobson, his predecessor; and he certainly was.

We've enjoyed working with you. You've been a great member of the Appropriations Committee. You have continued to serve the people of Ohio well. You had a great career in the Ohio Senate, and you helped pass some pretty critical legislation, including the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act. So we wish you well. We wish you and Eileen and your three boys much success in the future.

It is a real pleasure to introduce another departing Member who also was in the legislature before she came here. Unfortunately, I didn't have an opportunity to serve with her; she came just as I was leaving.

□ 1950

When I think of JEAN SCHMIDT, and it has been said before, I think of her faith and I think of marathons because she is an amazing marathon runner. She just completed her 97th marathon in October. And she's obviously a really proud grandma to two young grandsons, and it is a pleasure to recognize the gentlelady from southwestern Ohio.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Thank you, Congressman TIBERI, my great friend from central Ohio.

I just want to say a few things today. First, I want to say good-bye, not just to this Chamber, but to the good friends who are leaving with me.

BETTY SUTTON from northern Ohio. You know, politically we disagree just about on everything, but we also have something very common together: softball. She, like I, joined an all-female softball team. She's a good player. She can actually throw the ball from third to first without having it hop in between. And her tenacity helped us not lose as readily as we usually do when we play the women of the press. BETTY has fought tirelessly for her district. She has represented it well, and she will be missed.

DENNIS KUCINICH. You know, a lot has been said about DENNIS. He is a man of conviction, and he's a man who's not afraid to be a voice in the wilderness. And all too often we don't agree with DENNIS, but we always understand where his passion comes from, and it comes from his deep faith and the fact that he really believes in America, just as the rest of us do. But on a personal note, DENNIS has become a good friend of mine. We share a deep conviction about obesity in our Nation and ways to conquer it. Who knows, maybe on the outside we will work together to try to find solutions to that.

To STEVE AUSTRIA, who just stood at this podium, I got to know STEVE in the State legislature. While we didn't really work together on bills, we actually went to Arizona to watch Ohio State win its national championship. It was there that I really got to know STEVE and his wife on a personal level. It was there that he shared with me his dream to one day serve in this Congress, and I'm so glad he was able to let that dream come true.

To my good friend, STEVE LATOURETTE, you know, when you come as a special election, you don't get this orientation that people get when they come as a class. You get elected and you're thrown on the floor and you're there to vote. I was put on his committee called Transportation, and I didn't know a whole lot about it, but STEVE LATOURETTE shepherded me through it; and not just on that, on

other issues critical to Ohio and critical to our Nation. He gave me great advice. He was a wonderful mentor, and he will be missed in this body.

I don't know whether this is going to be my good-bye speech or not, but I just want to say what an honor it has been to serve in Congress. I came from a background where I truly represent the American Dream. My father grew up in poverty. He didn't have an education, but he believed in himself and he believed in hard work. And he married a woman with a college education—unheard of for a man of that background—and together they instilled in me a couple of really wonderful values. The first is to love God. The second is to love your country. The third is to believe in yourself because we are Americans, and as Americans, we cannot just dream something but work hard to make that a reality.

I never thought that I would serve in this wonderful body, but through a special election, I was able to come here, and it has been a privilege to represent the Second District of Ohio. I truly believe it is the best district in the Nation because of its diversity. One of the communities I represent is one of the wealthiest in the country. Several others are the poorest in the country. But the fabric that weaves through the Ohio River Valley is one that shows me that these people, whether they are rich or poor, are deep, loving people of not just America but of our God.

We are a community that believes in the sanctity of life. We are a community that believes in the right to carry. We are a community that believes in fiscal responsibility. And it was easy for me to carry that message here because, like so many people in the Second Congressional District, I believe in those things, too.

Parting is sweet sorrow. Nobody knows what tomorrow will bring, but I can tell you this: Tomorrow there will be people here championing the cause of America and the American spirit, and I only hope that we are blessed as a Nation to continue to be the beacon of hope and freedom in the world.

Toward that end, I wish all of my departing Members and all of those coming in and all of those that are remaining, Godspeed. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

Mr. TIBERI. Thank you, JEAN. We wish you and Peter well in the next door, in the next chapter.

Five—five departing Ohioans, and I get to go last. It's been an honor to serve with all five of them. They leave a big void, Mr. Speaker. STEVE AUSTRIA, JEAN SCHMIDT, BETTY SUTTON—much has been said about all of these five.

I actually knew BETTY before I knew the other four. She and I were part of the freshman class of the Ohio class of Representatives in 1992, and we served 8 years together in the Ohio House. Obviously different political parties, but you knew right away that BETTY was bright, tenacious, and she was a fighter

for her beliefs. We rarely agreed on issues. We got to see each other again when she got elected in 2006 to replace SHERROD BROWN, who got elected to the U.S. Senate.

I know her career's not over. It began in the Barberton City Council, Summit County Council, and the 8 years she served in the House. I know she is going to continue to serve in some capacity, and I wish her and her husband, Doug, the best as they move on to the next chapter of their life.

DENNIS KUCINICH, I first knew DENNIS, he didn't know me, when he was the boy mayor of Cleveland and I was growing up in Columbus. He obviously made a lot of headlines around the State as mayor. I still call him "Mayor" today. I first got to know DENNIS when he was in the legislature of the Ohio Senate and I was in the Ohio House in the early 1990s. He then got elected to Congress in 1996. I got to know DENNIS better when I was elected here.

And obviously, a lot has been said about DENNIS. A lot has been said about DENNIS, about his passion. The wilderness comment was perfect, JEAN. He obviously is a man who will continue his mission in other ways. He ran for President. He wasn't shy about it. He has strong beliefs, beliefs that are different than mine, but again, someone you could call a friend.

And finally, last but not least, the man who has a different quality than the rest of the four, and what I mean by that, he was the only one of the five who wasn't a legislator before he came to Congress, he was a prosecutor, STEVE LATOURETTE. And ironically, if you talk to Members of the House, they would say he was a legislator's legislator even though he was never a legislator before he got here, which is amazing.

STEVE LATOURETTE is a contrast in so many different ways, and you heard so much about him here tonight in terms of the work he did in such a bipartisan way. But he could be as partisan as they came. In fact, as I think of memories from down on the floor, back in—I don't know what year it was—2007 or 2008, maybe it was 2009 or 2010, STEVE came up with this game show idea about the lack of substantive work that we were doing on the House floor when we were in the minority and the Democrats were in the majority.

□ 2000

And it was funny, but, boy, was it pointed, and it could be absolutely true.

But then again, you just never know where STEVE was going to be. You could be on the House floor and here he is defending Jim Traficant on the House floor, a Republican defending a Democrat. And if you ever need a lawyer, you want STEVE LATOURETTE to be your lawyer because he gave an incredible performance that one time.

But he was a guy that was our dean. He was our dean of our delegation because everybody could go to STEVE

with an issue. Whether it was an appropriations issue, whether it was an internal issue, whether it was an issue for Ohio, he's a guy who would give great advice, and he would work to get an answer for the problem.

So whether it was the Appropriations Committee or—the Transportation Committee, where he served much of his career, was an area where he knew more about transportation, and transportation issues, then anybody in this town. He was just a walking encyclopedia on transportation issues.

It's pretty hard for a Buckeye to talk about a University of Michigan graduate this way, Mr. Speaker, but it's going to be a big void for this House for all five, but especially for STEVE LATOURETTE, who has really given his heart and his soul for 18 years to trying to make this body and our Nation a better place for our kids and for our grandkids.

It really didn't matter who you were or what you were about or if you had an "R" or a "D" by your name with respect to STEVE. If he believed in your cause, he was your partner, and he was going to do everything within his power to make sure that cause, that issue was going to be solved. He didn't always win, but he surely went down swinging every time he took that cause up.

This place will not be as good as it has been without STEVE LATOURETTE, JEAN SCHMIDT, STEVE AUSTRIA, DENNIS KUCINICH, and BETTY SUTTON.

Mr. Speaker, it has been great knowing these folks. I am pretty sure that all of them we will see again in one capacity or another. I know, STEVE, that we will see you and Jen and Henry and Emma soon.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I think our hour is up. We have no more speakers. It's been a pleasure. It's been a privilege, an honor to serve with all five of these men and women.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### THE IMPENDING FISCAL CLIFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. We're going to spend a good portion of this hour talking about something that is on everybody's mind, the fiscal cliff. Oh my goodness, the fiscal cliff is now just, well, 20 days away. So what are we going to do?

Some have suggested that we really have to deal with entitlements, and I'm here to agree that we can and we should deal with entitlements. Certainly, two of those issues, which I really don't think we ought to call entitlements, but they happen to be fundamental programs here in America for Americans, should be dealt with. One that some people want to put on the

table really doesn't deal with the deficit at all, and that's Social Security.

So before we even get into this discussion tonight, let's just understand, for anybody that cares to take on this issue, that in dealing with the fiscal cliff, Social Security is not the problem. The deficit is not caused by Social Security. Social Security has never been and in its present form will not be part of the deficit issue. It's separate and apart. It is a special program, has its own source of revenue, has its own trust fund, and frankly, is not even running a deficit at all and has not run a deficit.

So let's put Social Security to the side and say, yes, in the years ahead, maybe even next year, but probably 3 to 4 years out, Social Security will be dealt with, as it must, because we will have to make adjustments. But that is really not the debate about the deficit, sequestration, or the fiscal cliff.

Coming back to the fiscal cliff, let's take up one of the very big programs, and I'm not talking here about the Department of Defense, which is one of the major expenditure items, but that's not the subject for tonight. Tonight the subject is Medicare and Medicaid.

The Medicare program is a big one, and it certainly is a program that is expensive. It's a program that, over the years, has grown on the average faster than inflation. But, in the last 2 years, that's not the case, and we'll discuss that in more detail later. In fact, Medicare has fallen below the general rate of health care inflation.

Let's talk about what we can do about Medicare. Instead of saying what we ought not do, we're going to start this discussion, at least my portion of it, talking about what we can do. And the President has put out several ideas that deserve the attention of the 435 Members of this House and the 100 Senators, because there are things that really can be done immediately to significantly reduce the cost of Medicare.

Just in listening to my colleagues here on the floor discuss the departure of some extraordinary Members from the Ohio delegation, I came across an article in one of the local Hill newspapers, and this article says, "GAO hits Medicare and Medicaid wasteful spending." Turns out that the GAO just issued a report, came out just this week, that Medicare had, in their estimation, \$28 billion in fraud and wasteful spending in the year 2011—\$28 billion. And in Medicaid, some \$21 billion.

Now, the President has suggested that one of the things we ought to do to reform the Medicare system and the Medicaid system is go after waste, fraud, and abuse. Well, there you have, what, 50-plus billion dollars of annual fraud, waste, and expenditure in the Medicare system. That goes a long way to solving the Medicare problem. And we ought to do that. And, in fact, a lot of that was done in the Affordable Health Care Act, and systems were put in place and they're working today.

But there's even more that can be done, according to the GAO. And if

we're going to start dealing with Medicare, why don't we start right there with that issue and perhaps some \$50 billion, or if you want to be a little conservative, let's just say 40 or \$30 billion that we can reduce immediately.

By the way, this is going to take a few Federal employees to do that. Interestingly, in the Affordable Health Care Act there was a provision that added several thousand, a couple of thousand employees to the IRS for the specific purpose of going after Medicare and Medicaid fraud. Well, they were added, and then our Republican colleagues, in a fit of—well, just in a fit, decided that they would somehow save a lot of money by eliminating the men and women that were supposed to be hired to go after fraud.

□ 2010

They tried to do it. Fortunately, they were not successful.

I'm going to just name a couple of other ways in which we can reduce the cost of Medicare, and then I want to turn to my colleague from Illinois to expand on some of these issues.

Very quickly, how about drugs? Would you believe that the Federal Government has no power to negotiate the price of drugs for seniors in the Medicare program? It's true. Congress passed a law back in the 2003-2004 period that denied the Federal Government the ability to negotiate prices. We could save a pile of money right there.

There's some other things we can do—and some of this is already underway. We could penalize hospitals that have high infection rates; readmission to hospitals. Well, the Affordable Health Care Act is already doing that. And it's having an effect. We could also deal with the issues that occur with unnecessary payments. We can reform the system in the way in which payments are made so that they are more efficient and more effective. And those have been proposed by the President.

In fact, there are many, many things that can be done to significantly reduce the cost of Medicare without doing the onerous, damaging proposals that have been made by many of our colleagues on the Republican side, such as increasing the age to 67 when you could apply for Medicare—and we'll discuss that in much more detail in a few moments—and such as going after the privatization of Medicare.

Some really bad ideas are out there. And we don't need those bad ideas. What we need are some really good, solid ideas.

Let me turn to my colleague from Illinois, JAN SCHAKOWSKY. This is a woman who's been deeply involved in this issue. She was on the Simpson-Bowles Committee. That's not the formal name but that's how we know it—the Simpson-Bowles Committee. And she's focused specifically on Social Security and Medicare. She's joining us tonight with extraordinary background and information on this.