

million to a company that took all of the people off the ballot that were not even felons.

In this recent election with this latest Governor, what did he do? They did away with Sunday voting because African Americans and others vote on Sunday.

So our work is cut out for us. The legislature for the first time put together a program that clearly lays out what we need to do to move forward. So I urge my colleagues to move forward in making sure that we reinstate section 4 of the Voting Rights Act.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I stand here today to remark on the Supreme Court's terrible decision to roll back one of the most effective safeguards to Americans' fundamental right to vote. The Court's decision ignores the current reality that voter suppression is alive and well in the United States. We saw indisputable evidence of its presence just last year. We saw attempts to implement discriminatory and unnecessary voter ID laws. We saw attempts to shorten early vote periods that have had a significant impact on minority voters.

The ball is now in Congress' court. The Senate Judiciary Committee is already taking action to restore essential protections for minority voters, and I call on Speaker BOEHNER to exercise true leadership in the House.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is our watch, and we must guard our rights for ourselves and for generations yet unborn. We must act swiftly and decisively in a bipartisan manner as we did in 2006 to create a new formula to ensure that the Voting Rights Act can continue to be a powerful tool to protect voters from discrimination.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 19. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

HONORING JOHN DINGELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2013, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOYER. 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.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1910

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and honored to rise tonight to lead a Special Order which honors a great American, a great colleague, and a great legislator whose service to this country and to this institution have been unmatched. It is appropriate that we rise tonight—appropriate particularly in light of the action that was taken and has been discussed today on the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Speaker, let me observe tangentially that the gentleman from Texas said something about cramming something down somebody's throat—the Voting Rights Act. I will remind my colleagues that it was passed 388-23 in this House and 98-0 in the Senate in 2006.

Let me say we honor a man tonight who not only voted for the Voting Rights Act in 1965, but has voted for every reauthorization of that act since that time. JOHN DINGELL came to Congress as a Member in 1955, winning a special election to fill the seat held by his father, John Dingell, Sr., who himself served from 1933-1955. JOHN DINGELL and his father have represented the people of southeastern Michigan in this House for eight decades. What an extraordinary testimony to the faith of their voters and the constancy and loyalty of their representation.

But very frankly, ladies and gentlemen, JOHN's story in Congress actually began earlier than 1955. It really began in 1938, which is to say JOHN DINGELL, a year before I was born, and I'm one of the older Members. He came here as a young House page. We don't have the pages anymore, but nearly all of us remember seeing the pages, wide-eyed, sitting along the desk up front, sitting in the back, listening to speeches and watching floor proceedings as they waited to carry messages. That was JOHN DINGELL three-quarters of a century ago. The House of Representatives has been part of his life, and he has been part of it, for 75 years.

On December 8, 1941, a day that will live in infamy, 15-year-old JOHN DINGELL was in this Chamber as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stood at the rostrum and asked Congress to declare war against Japan, whose forces had just attacked Pearl Harbor on that day to which he referred as a "day that will live in infamy." President Roosevelt spoke these words:

With the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph.

Throughout his time in this House, as a page, as the son of a Congressman, as a Member himself, as a committee chairman, and as a leader on issues of national importance, JOHN DINGELL has taught us, who have served with him, that America's triumph is only inevitable if we bring to bear the unbounded determination of which President Roosevelt spoke.

In JOHN DINGELL's record 57 years and 188 days as a Member of Congress, he has approached our greatest challenges with his own unrivaled determination. In every Congress, for half a century, he continued his father's work of introducing legislation to expand health care coverage to all Americans, even in the many years when no one thought it possible to do so. But JOHN DINGELL stuck with it.

He stuck with it and eventually had the opportunity to help shape and vote for the Affordable Care Act, which will extend to millions and millions of Americans access to affordable, quality health care. Millions of Americans owe JOHN DINGELL a debt of gratitude for his faithfulness and the advocacy of their best interest.

JOHN, in fact, was presiding over this House when it enacted Medicare in 1965. I told you he voted for the Voting Rights Act in 1965, but he presided over the adoption of Medicare. And he helped write the Endangered Species Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the 1990 Clean Air Act, among many historic pieces of legislation that he has authored, fought for, and seen adopted.

But JOHN has done more in this Chamber than shepherd key legislation to passage. He has been an unwavering voice for the working families and small business owners not just of southeastern Michigan, but of all America. He has been a giant in promoting and preserving the great American automobile industry and the millions of jobs that rely on it. He has been a mentor and a friend to me and so many current and former Members of the House.

My colleagues, JOHN DINGELL is a living link to an era when bipartisan compromise was a practiced reality, not just a slogan, not just something we say we're going to do, but something that was actually done. Members looked to JOHN DINGELL for his quick wit, his tenacious spirit, his extraordinary knowledge of legislation, and of the history of this House, and, yes, his warm heart.

JOHN loves this House and has always worked to preserve its collegiality and its good order. His unrivaled skill as a legislator is matched by his sense of decency, his integrity, and his devotion to country. And he has never lost that determination that was sparked as FDR called our Nation to arms and to service. JOHN DINGELL took up arms. He served in the United States Army from 1944-1946 as a second lieutenant

who prepared to take part in the first wave of a planned invasion of Japan. Fortunately, that invasion did not occur; but JOHN DINGELL, as always, was ready, willing, and able.

JOHN DINGELL, my colleagues, as all of you know, has served America and its people for most of his life. But it is not the length of his service that we honor alone. It is even more importantly the quality of his service, the depth of his commitment, and the strength of his character that we honor tonight, and JOHN DINGELL who we honor always.

We are all better Representatives because of his example. I congratulate my friend on 75 years—75 years—in the House of Representatives, 57 of them as a Member. JOHN DINGELL has, with diligence, faithfulness, extraordinary skill and judgment, courage and fidelity to God and country, lived up to President Roosevelt's words. He has served with unbounded determination, and he has led a triumphant life. What an example for us all.

A triumphant life not because he won every fight, but because he never gave up. He never was unfaithful to his oath of office. He was never unfaithful to his pledge to support working men and women and, yes, everybody in this country.

My colleagues, JOHN DINGELL today is much like Tennyson's Ulysses who said:

We are not now that strength which in old days moved heaven and Earth. That which we are, we are; on equal temper of heroic hearts, made weak by time and fate, but strong in will to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

JOHN DINGELL, he pledged to his people when first elected to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

□ 1920

And he has, indeed, done all of those. He has kept the faith, and we expect him to be keeping the faith for years to come, for that is the spirit of my friend, my colleague, a great legislator, a great American, JOHN DINGELL of Michigan.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield back so Mr. BARROW can have the remaining balance of my time.

HONORING JOHN DINGELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Representative JOHN DINGELL, who, this month became the longest-serving Member of Congress in our Nation's history.

Representative DINGELL has taught literally thousands of Members of Congress how to do good things for the people we represent, a legacy he continues to build in his 30th term in the people's House.

I've had the honor to serve with Mr. DINGELL on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. As we all know, oftentimes our schedules don't allow us to stick around for an entire committee meeting, but I always make it a point to stay until Mr. DINGELL is finished. He is such a skilled cross-examiner that, by the time he's finished, we've heard the only questions that are worth asking, and we've got the only answers we're ever likely to get.

JOHN DINGELL's ability to reach across the aisle and find compromise is the cure for what ails this place, and I only hope that thousands more will get the opportunity to learn from the master.

I congratulate Mr. DINGELL on this historic milestone and for his over 57 years of service to our country.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Well, Mr. DINGELL, there are many aspects of life that I could comment on, for example, friendship.

Our families have known each other well over 75 years, going back to the relationship between your father and some of my relatives. It's been a long time. And I could talk about the friendship between yourself and your wife, Debbie, and our family for part of that time.

I could also talk about your accomplishments, and there have been so many. I remember when I first came, how we worked to clean up the Rouge River; and without your efforts, I think today it would be more like it was than it now is.

We could talk about health care and your historical role. We could talk about broader issues of clean water and clean air. We could talk about your devotion to the auto industry of this country and what would have happened all these years except for your dedication. And there are more accomplishments that I could talk about.

But instead, let me just say a few words about what struck me as you spoke a few weeks ago—was it?—as we were celebrating your tenure. And you spoke at some length. The rumor is that Debbie, a few times, said, cut it a bit shorter, but you went on; and the reason I think you did is what I want to speak about.

You began to talk about your years here, not in terms of the number of years, but what you have seen about this institution. And I think all of us who were there were glad that you continued to talk, because you've been here 55 years as a Member, and you've seen the changes, you've seen how there was a greater sense of working together in this place.

You saw and were a key part of sure differences and, with you, sometimes sharp questioning, but there was a greater feel of common purpose in this unparalleled institution, and you spoke how we have lost some of it.

So that's really what I wanted to focus on, because if anybody can speak

about the need for all of us who work here and all of us who are Members here, if there's anybody who can remind us of how the importance of this institution should determine how we relate to each other, it's JOHN DINGELL.

And I must confess, as I listened to your words, I felt that there had been something lost and that you reminded us it was vital that we regain. And it was interesting, you didn't really want to talk about anything else except your love for Debbie and this institution.

So you, in a sense, are Mr. Institution. And your belief in it, your belief in our need to remind ourselves as to how we must try to work together, how we must try to relate, how we must try to take our basic principles—and you really have them—to use them not as a wall, but as an opportunity to proceed.

So we owe you a lot. Your constituents owe you a lot, though you'll deny it. But all of us, I think, owe you immensely for the years you have served here, for your dedication, for your honesty, and for your reminding people in this institution why it was founded.

In that sense, I think you are the exemplar of what sparked this creation in its first place. Keep going, keep reminding, and I hope we'll begin to follow better than we have.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Members, I rise tonight to honor a man that I'm proud to call a good friend and a mentor, JOHN DINGELL. Recently, JOHN became the longest-serving Member of the Congress, serving for 57 years, 5 months, and 26 days, surpassing the service record of the late Senator Robert C. Byrd.

JOHN has a storied career in the House of Representatives, and you'll hear a lot about that tonight and already have. He has served with 11 Presidents, congressional icons like Speaker Sam Rayburn from Texas, and had the opportunity to vote on landmark legislation like the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

He is the ultimate legislator for both Michigan and for America. He's also played an integral part in groundbreaking legislation, like the creation of the Medicare program, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Air Act, just to name a few.

I always think of him as chairman, though. Since 1996 I've been fortunate to serve on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, with JOHN as our committee leader for much of that time. While most associate JOHN's leadership on the committee with his tenacious government watchdog activities, I saw a leader that did not fall victim to the partisan politics that define