

In 1959, John was appointed by Florida Governor Leroy Collins to complete his father's term as Santa Rosa County Sheriff, and in 1962, John was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. John and Christina moved to Gulf Breeze, Florida, with their family in 1964 to begin their business, John Broxson and Associates, Inc., an Independent Insurance agency and real-estate brokerage company. Committed to public service, John also served in other various roles to include, Florida State Senator and Santa Rosa County Commissioner.

Both John and Christina have lived a life of service to God and country, while raising five children: Sylvia, Bob, Cheryl, Bart, and Angela. John and Christina are loving and devoted parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is my pleasure to join John and Christina Broxson; their children; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and the entire Broxson family in celebration of their sixty years of marriage. My wife, Vicki, and I wish John and Christina many more years of happiness and all of God's blessings.

CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, several years ago, they sent us to a civility conference because they didn't think that Democrats and Republicans were getting along well enough in the Congress, and I have never forgotten something our first speaker said.

David McCullough, the great historian, told a story about a Russian visitor who came up into the House gallery in 1948 and watched for a while, and then he went out and shook his head and he said, "The House is a strange place." He said, "A man stands up and says absolutely nothing, no one pays any attention, and then everyone disagrees."

They say there is a little bit of truth in the best humor, and I guess there is some truth in that humor. But David McCullough was kind enough to go on from there and say, but if he had a chance to live his life over again and he could choose what he wanted to do, he would choose to be a member of that wild and raucous bunch known as the United States House of Representatives.

I think today, because of some of the television talk shows, that many people around the country think that we all dislike each other or that we hate each other at times, or that Democrats and Republicans just don't get along at all. But that is not true at all, and I think for the great, great majority of Members, all of us get along really well with everyone, regardless of party, and all of us consider it a great privilege and honor to serve in the United States House of Representatives.

We are losing many, many good Members from both sides of the aisle this year because of retirements, running for other offices, or for all sorts of reasons, and there are many other Members, both Democrat and Republican, who are good friends of mine who are leaving to whom I should pay tribute. But I rise tonight

to pay special tribute to a very special man, and that is Congressman Jim Oberstar from Minnesota.

In my entire 22 years in this Congress, I have served on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. I had a couple of chances in my early years to move to other committees, and I think people were surprised that I didn't take either one of those offers. But I enjoyed serving on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, originally called the Public Works and Transportation Committee, in part because it was considered to be the most bipartisan, or nonpartisan, committee probably in the Congress. It was often said that there is no such thing as a Republican highway or a Democratic highway; and on many, many things people on both sides of the aisle on that committee worked together to help build America.

Certainly, Congressman Oberstar was one of the great leaders of that committee through his entire time in the Congress. Jim Oberstar served for 11 years on the committee staff, rising to the position of staff director. He then began his service in the House and continued to serve for the past 36 years.

It is an astounding figure to think that a man worked on this one committee for 47 years of his life, but he has done so with great honor and distinction. In fact, I think almost everybody knows that there is no one in the Congress and probably never has been anyone in the history of the Congress who has known transportation issues and understood them and worked on them longer and harder and with more effectiveness than Jim Oberstar has.

At one point, he was chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee. In 1994, after the election, the Republicans took control and I had the honor of becoming the chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, and I served for 6 years in that position, which was the maximum allowable on our side.

When I took over as chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, I had frequently heard Jim Oberstar referred to as "Mr. Aviation." So I went to him and asked for his help, and he helped me and guided me and gave me advice that to this day I appreciate very much, and he did that in a very kind and humble way.

Then, of course, in the last 4 years, he reached the pinnacle and became chairman of that committee, a committee that he loves. He has been a great chairman, and I think he has tried to help everyone on both sides of the aisle.

So I just wanted to rise and pay tribute to a man that I consider to be a great American and a great Member of Congress, Congressman James Oberstar.

JIM OBERSTAR

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, what an honor it is for me to convene this special order for our friend and colleague—Minnesota's longest serving Member of Congress and my predecessor in representing our state's Eighth Congressional District. . . . A giant of a man—the

truly great former Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Jim Oberstar.

We can all take comfort—and some pleasure as well—in knowing that Jim was well aware of the respect and esteem we ALL had for him—Republicans, Democrats, liberals and conservatives.

That was evident when he quietly entered this chamber in January of last year—for the first time as a former Congressman.

First one member spotted him—then another and another—and within a few seconds everyone was standing, cheering, and applauding spontaneously.

It was a truly unforgettable moment—a gesture I haven't seen in this historic place since Hubert Humphrey addressed a joint session of Congress shortly before he passed away some 36 years ago.

When I think of Jim Oberstar, four big words come to mind. The first word is accomplishment.

He was the son of a miner who grew up in a little House in Chisholm, Minnesota—whose career in public service and as a leader on the Transportation Committee touched every great city, every town, and every small community in our great nation

With a road—a bridge—a park—a harbor—an airport—a public building. Tens of millions of people have a better, safer quality of life thanks to Jim Oberstar.

And those accomplishments were genuinely bipartisan in nature.

As Chairman, Jim believed a good idea is a good idea regardless of who proposes it.

So Committee debates were wide open, with plenty of give and take. If you had an idea, Jim made sure it was heard and debated—and that it received an up or down vote after all was said and done.

The second big word that applies to Jim is work—hard work.

Regardless of how early you showed up—you couldn't arrive early enough to beat Jim to the office every morning. And his light was always the last one to go out after the rest of us had left for the night.

Of course, Jim didn't worry about DC traffic.

This man, who presided over hundreds of billions of dollars in transportation projects—and who understood more about the intricacies of transportation policies than most of the rest of us combined—just wove through the traffic jams riding his bike to work every morning.

And by the way, thanks to Jim's "Safe Routes to School" program, millions of kids are walking and biking to work every day across our nation.

The third word for Jim is intellect. To paraphrase President Kennedy—Thomas Jefferson was the smartest American to ever dine alone—except perhaps when Jim Oberstar was grabbing a bite to eat in the Rayburn cafeteria.

Jim was simply brilliant. He spoke six languages fluently—from French to Creole to that strange combination of Finnish and English we call "Range Speak" up north on Minnesota's Iron Range.

There was no detail too small—and no vision too grand—for Jim to comprehend—and then articulate in a manner everyone else could understand as well.

Last but not least—when I think of Jim, I think of home.

Home on the range. Minnesota's Iron Range and Minnesota's Eighth District.

Jim loved our great northland—our lakes—our timberlands—our great mining industry—the port of Duluth—Superior National Forest and the beautiful Boundary Waters.

His heart was always back there—as well as here in this Chamber and in this House he loved so well.

We loved him dearly. We will miss him terribly. And we will do our best to carry on in his great work in a spirit of bipartisan respect and decency.

HONORING PENNSYLVANIA STATE
TROOPER JOSEPH J. SEPP, JR.

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the exemplary service of Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Joseph J. Sepp, Jr. Trooper Sepp gave his life while defending his community on November 10, 2002.

Trooper Sepp was born on August 23, 1968 in Wilksburg and raised in Windber. He graduated from Windber Area High School in 1986 and the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in 1991. He joined the Pennsylvania State Police on February 24, 1992, fulfilling his lifelong dream of serving as a State trooper.

Trooper Sepp was shot while chasing a suspect at high speed in Ebensburg. He died thirty-eight hours later on November 10, 2002. More than 1,200 law enforcement officers from across the nation attended his funeral at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church in Windber.

Trooper Sepp is survived by his wife Jenny and their children Joey, Andy, and Amanda Jo. He is also survived by his sister Tina and parents Joseph and Lana Gay Sepp.

Mr. Speaker, we name our buildings, bridges, and monuments after those who have served and sacrificed for our community in extraordinary ways. It is fitting that the bridge carrying 17th Street over State Route 56 will now be named the Joseph Sepp Memorial Bridge.

I join all Western Pennsylvanians in honoring Joseph J. Sepp, Jr., a State trooper who gave his life to protect and serve his community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 10-20-30
ACT OF 2014

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the 10-20-30 Act of 2014.

It is no secret that there are major disagreements among the two political parties over the role that the federal government should play in fighting poverty and confronting many other national challenges. These disagreements, put simply, come down to a question of federal resources: I believe that we should target more resources to impoverished communities than

the proposed Republican budgets allocate, and I believe we can do so efficiently and effectively.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to work through some of these disagreements last year as a member of the Budget Conference Committee, and the deal that resulted, while not 100 percent of what either side wanted, was a reasonable compromise on federal spending through the end of the next fiscal year that I was proud to support.

Now that we have determined how much the federal government will spend, we must determine how to spend it most effectively. It is on this latter question—how to allocate finite federal resources to get the most “bang for the buck”—that I believe we may be able to find more common ground to make real strides in combating persistent poverty in America. The 10-20-30 Act is a bill that members of both parties should support.

Mr. Speaker, there are currently 488 persistent poverty counties in America—so defined because 20 percent of the population has lived below the poverty line for the past 30 years or more. They are diverse, including Appalachian communities in states like Kentucky and West Virginia, Native American communities in states like Alaska and South Dakota, Latino communities in states like Arizona and Texas, African American communities in states like South Carolina, Mississippi, and Alabama. They are urban communities in the Northeast, and rural in America's heartland. 139 of these counties are represented in this august body by Democrats, 331 by Republicans, and 18 are split between the two parties. Combating persistent poverty should matter to all of us, regardless of party, geography, or race.

In early 2009, when we were putting together the Recovery Act, I proposed language to require at least 10 percent of funds in the rural development account to be directed to projects in these persistent poverty counties. This requirement was enacted into law. In light of the definition of persistent poverty counties as having at least 20 percent poverty rates over 30 years, this provision became known as the 10-20-30 initiative.

This provision bore dividends, as economic development projects proliferated in persistent poverty counties across the country. The Recovery Act funded a total of 4,655 projects in persistent poverty counties, totaling nearly \$1.7 billion. I saw firsthand the positive effects of these projects in South Carolina. Projects were undertaken and jobs created that would have otherwise gone lacking. Among these investments was a \$5.8 million grant and \$2 million loan to construct 51 miles of water lines in the Britton's Neck community in Marion County. In Lowndes County, Mississippi, \$17.5 million was spent to install a water line, elevated tank, and two wastewater pump stations, providing potable water to Mississippians and creating badly needed construction jobs. The Wellborn Special Utility District in Brazos County, Texas, received a \$538,000 loan to construct more than 9 miles of new water distribution lines and connect over 60 households to a new water source.

The legislation I am introducing today would expand 10-20-30 to other federal agencies. In 2011, I joined with our former Republican colleague, then-Representative Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri, to introduce an amendment to the Continuing Resolution that would have contin-

ued 10-20-30 for rural development and expanded it to 11 additional accounts throughout the federal government affecting economic development, education, job training, health, justice, the environment, and more. This bill would apply 10-20-30 to these accounts for the next 10 years.

I want to make two things clear about the 10-20-30 Act. First: It would not—I repeat, would not—add one dime to the deficit. It would simply allocate resources from funds already authorized or appropriated. Second: it would be no remedy for an inadequate budget. If we cut spending on economic development programs as much as some advocate, allocating 10 percent of this reduced amount to persistent poverty counties would be wholly insufficient to addressing the great need in these areas.

Over the past 30 years, the national economy has risen and fallen multiple times. During each economic downturn, while we have been rightly focused on getting economy as a whole back on track, we have not given adequate attention to these communities that are suffering from chronic distress and Depression-era levels of joblessness. As a result, they have suffered even in good economic times. The 10-20-30 Act of 2014 would create a mechanism to address this deprivation in times of want and in times of plenty, in times of federal investment and in times of fiscal austerity.

I published an article on 10-20-30 in the most recent issue of the Harvard Journal on Legislation. I discuss the history of our nation's efforts to address chronic poverty and more fully lay out the case for broadly implementing 10-20-30 in a bipartisan fashion. I look forward to working together to pass the 10-20-30 Act to lessen the scourge of persistent poverty in these distressed communities.

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL DAY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA
(TAIWAN)

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to commemorate the National Day of the Republic of China, commonly known as Taiwan. National Day is on October 10, when the people of Taiwan will celebrate the birth of their country. I am proud to memorialize this significant milestone here in Congress in tribute to the great spirit and pride of the people of Taiwan, our close friend and ally. The alliance between Taiwan and the United States is strong but I believe it is time to take even bolder steps to improve and enrich our cooperation on a range of important issues that confront both of our nations.

Already our 12th-largest trading partner, we should be acting aggressively to enhance our economic relationship with Taiwan in ways that will benefit both our nations. A Bilateral Investment Agreement with Taiwan is long overdue and I urge the Administration to conclude negotiations in an expeditious manner so that our two nations can sign an agreement as soon as possible. In addition to bolstering Taiwan's economic strength, there is much