

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Michigan). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

RESTORATION OF THE U.S. CAPITOL DOME

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to draw attention to the excellent work that the Architect of the Capitol has been doing in repairing and restoring the dome of our Capitol Building. I was recently briefed with an update on the progress they are making about halfway through the project. I am very impressed so far with the work.

Starting last June, they installed 52 miles worth of scaffolding at 25 layers around the dome. It only touches the dome at three areas so that the weight-bearing structures do not affect and damage the dome.

I am glad to know, also, that part of the repair devices come from California. In order to repair the cracks that they have in the iron structure that happens over the years, a company from Turlock, California, devised a drill and self-tapping mechanism here that requires no welding, no cornices, none of the complications you get with cast iron, therefore making repair of the dome effective and very good for the long term.

They have removed 12 layers of paint and will put on three new good layers to make the dome gleam. We have some really excellent folks, 100 people in construction at any one time, helping to make our dome gleam. That is something we can all be proud of in our country, which is what I think this Capitol symbolizes: the greatness of the United States of America.

So my hat is off to the great work of the Architect of the Capitol in restoring our dome.

REMEMBERING PHILIP SCHOLZ

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember and honor Philip Scholz of Pleasanton, California, who died last year saving another person from an oncoming train.

In January 2014, Philip saw someone on the Caltrain commuter tracks. He reached out to try and help save this person. Both were tragically struck by the train, and while the other man suffered injuries, he survived, and we lost Philip.

Originally from Washington State, Phil attended college in the bay area at Santa Clara University. At the time of his death, he and his wife had lived in Pleasanton, my Congressional district, for over 10 years.

Phil was not just a hero for the way that he saved this man's life; that is how he lived every day. Phil loved to hike, play organized sports, and rescue animals. He was also a regular blood donor and constantly put others before himself.

His wife and friends have honored his memory by creating the Philip Scholz Memorial Foundation to support the interests and causes in which Phil believed, such as donating to the Valley Humane Society of Pleasanton.

Earlier this year, Phil was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, given to recognize those who have risked their lives to save others, and given to fewer than 10,000 people since 1904.

Both the memorial foundation and this award are fitting tributes for such a courageous man. Hopefully, they serve to remind us of Phil's example and inspire others as well.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ANDRE IGUODALA

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andre Iguodala, an Illinois native who was named the Most Valuable Player while playing for the Golden State Warriors in the 2015 NBA Championship series.

Mr. Iguodala's basketball career began in Illinois' 13th District. As a student at Lanphier High School in Springfield, Andre led his team to the State championship game in his senior year and went on to play for the University of Arizona. After graduation, Andre began his professional basketball career in the NBA.

Before his appearance this year in the NBA Finals, Andre proudly represented America as a member of the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team in London. He contributed to the team's efforts that ultimately earned them a Gold Medal.

This year, Andre proved to be an important contributor to the Warriors' 2015 NBA Finals success. He was a crucial part in helping to earn the team the NBA championship title, and he was awarded the MVP award with a resounding vote of 7-4.

I am proud to recognize Andre Iguodala and his many accomplishments and his dedication to basketball from his time as a youth in Springfield, Illinois, until now.

Congratulations, Andre. Congratulations to all the Warriors fans. And congratulations to those in Springfield who continue to look up to you every single day.

THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, 730 days; 17,520 hours; 1,051,200 minutes; 2 full years since the Supreme Court ruled section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 unconstitutional; 2 full years without voter protections and full access to the ballot box.

Since the ruling, many Americans in States like Ohio have been subjected to restrictive voter registration requirements, paying costly fees for State IDs or waiting in line for hours on election day.

Legislation to restore the VRA and strengthen the right to vote have been offered, but the majority has refused to take them up. It is clear Congress has dropped the ball.

Two years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act is too long. The clock is ticking. It is time to restore the VRA.

WE NEED A COMMONSENSE SOLUTION

(Mr. LIPINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, Americans are appalled by the murder of Kate Steinle by a man who had been deported five times and was wanted by ICE but was let free.

In Chicago, Denny McCain was killed by a drunk driver who had a prior felony and who was in our country illegally. ICE issued a detainer, but the defendant was let out on bail and disappeared.

Donald Trump is wrong. Most immigrants to America are upstanding people who come to our country to work hard, but policies that permit these travesties should be stopped.

Unfortunately, we are not being offered a commonsense solution. We are offered the polarizing choices that we either do nothing or we harm the very institutions and citizens we are trying to protect.

What we need to do is stop local policies that ignore ICE detainers and let criminals go who are in our country illegally. I know this commonsense solution will anger people on both sides, but ask local police. They want to focus on those who have committed crimes in their communities. It is just common sense.

□ 1900

REMEMBERING FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE JIM WRIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of the great leaders that stood tall here in Washington, D.C., and back home in Texas, James "Jim" Claude Wright, Jr., who passed away recently, back in May, at the age of 92.

And, Mr. Speaker, I am sad to announce that his wife Betty just died on July 15, just last week. So the family has been through a lot.

We have a lot of really nice stories to tell about Speaker Wright and how he has influenced so many people.

I want to begin by yielding to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our minority whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Jim Wright would have been proud of MARC VEASEY. He would have said MARC VEASEY is in the Jim Wright tradition. I am going to speak a bit about that.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about a Mr. Speaker, to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a man who served this House and our country with distinction as a Member, as majority leader, and as Speaker.

Jim Wright was a man of principle and great political skill, and he relied on both during his 34 years in Congress. I have now served 34 years in Congress, and for part of that 34 years, I had the honor of serving with Jim Wright.

Just 2 years after he was first elected to represent Texas' 12th Congressional District, Jim stuck to his principles and refused to sign the Southern Manifesto, opposing desegregation, as so many of his southern colleagues did.

It was a risk, of course, Mr. Speaker, politically, but he put his belief in equal opportunity ahead of what was politically popular among his constituents at the time.

When he voted for the Civil Rights Act of 1957, it was a further sign of his courage, of his conviction, and of his adherence to the principles that have made our country so great and so respected.

In spite of breaking with many of his southern conservative Democratic colleagues on that issue, he forged friendships with them based on mutual respect and good old-fashioned camaraderie, just as he did with Members from other parts of the country and across party lines.

Jim was elected majority leader in 1976, and he was serving in that capacity when I came to Congress in 1981. Today, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to sit in the same office, H-148 in the Capitol Building, just a few feet from this floor, where Jim Wright sat as the majority leader.

If you look up toward the ceiling in one corner of our office suite, you can still see the great seal of the State of Texas painted on the wall. Emblazoned in the center of that seal is the proud lone star of Texas.

Sam Rayburn may have been one of those stars, Lyndon Johnson may have been one of those stars, and many other Texans may have been one of those stars. But in our office, that lone star stands for Speaker Jim Wright.

In many ways, Jim was that lone star who stood out at the center of our party in this House, a leader who knew how to bring Members together by inspiring them to follow his example.

He never wavered in his mission to bring Democrats and Republicans together and replace partisan divisions with cooperation, comity, and—yes—compromise, which is in such little supply on this floor right now.

Jim was an extraordinary person. He was someone who refused to take "no" for an answer and seemed destined to serve his community and his country.

Mr. Speaker, at age 10, he tried hard to join the Boy Scouts, even though he was 2 years shy of the minimum age to participate.

At 13, Jim lied and said he was 16 in order to enter a boxing tournament. Now, there are some 13-year-olds who can empathize with that. And, Mr. Speaker, he almost won that competition.

In high school, his classmates wrote in his class of 1939 yearbook that Jim would likely be serving in Congress by 1955. How prescient his classmates were, for he won his first congressional election in 1954.

While in college at the University of Texas, Jim learned that the attack on Pearl Harbor had occurred. Without hesitation, he decided to drop out the next day and join the Army Air Corps.

Jim flew more than 300 combat hours over the South Pacific. He flew, as my stepfather did, in the battles that were fought in the Pacific to combat those who had attacked Pearl Harbor. He was decorated for his distinguished service.

Those of us who served with Jim in the House saw the same determined spirit he demonstrated in the Army as he applied himself to serving the people of Texas' 12th District.

I had the opportunity to be at Jim Wright's funeral on May 11 of this year.

On the day of his assassination, in the last speech of his life, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy visited what he called "Jim Wright's city" and praised the Congressman by saying, "I don't know of any city that is better represented in the Congress of the United States than Fort Worth," Texas.

I can remember the year after Jim Wright was elected Speaker of the House that I had the opportunity of chairing and emceeding a dinner that was held in Fort Worth, one of the biggest ever held there.

I will echo, therefore, that sentiment. I can think of few who served in the Congress who will be remembered as fondly by those they served with than Jim Wright, by his constituents, by his colleagues, and by his family. He loved this institution dearly.

His family and those who served with him, like me, will miss him. A grateful

Nation thanks him for a lifetime of service to us all.

And I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. HOYER, I thank you very much. I appreciate those very kind words about Speaker Wright, and everyone in Fort Worth and the metroplex will appreciate those kind words as well.

I also would like to recognize Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI. She is another Member of Congress who also served with Speaker Wright, someone that she was also very fond of. She had the opportunity to talk with Speaker Wright a couple of years before his passing when she was down in Fort Worth.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me on this very special Special Order.

I thank you for affording me the opportunity to visit with Speaker Wright, as you mentioned, in just the recent past. On a number of occasions and visits to Texas, I have had the privilege of basking in his glow, because that is what we did here in the Congress of the United States.

When Jim Wright was the Speaker of the House, I had the privilege to serve under his leadership for a short period of time because I was a new Member at the time.

And when he would come to this floor, to this well, to speak as the Speaker of the House, his oratory was just so compelling. People would stop what they were doing to listen to what Jim Wright had to say and how he said it.

In some ways, that was of another era that hearkened back to how the business or the work of Congress was conducted, where people would come and actually listen to the debate.

He was a man of great oratorical skill, of course, a legislative master, but he was also a person of great courage and a person of great principle.

Tonight we gather on the floor to honor the memory of this great Speaker of the House. From the service that earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross in World War II to leadership that defined his 34 years in the House, Jim Wright exemplified commitment to the bright future of America's families.

He was a great patriot. He was one of America's most distinguished and dedicated public servants, a person known for deep courage, brilliant eloquence, and a complete mastery of the legislative process.

Wright's strong, decisive leadership built an indelible legacy of progress not only in his beloved State of Texas, but around the world.

Jim Wright championed investing in our infrastructure. Jim Wright had been a member of the Transportation Committee. He helped forge a path to peace in Central America.

For that, I will always be grateful to him for his brilliance, for his leadership, and especially for his courage. It

was hard to do. Jim Wright sought prosperity for every hard-working family.

Speaker Wright was a patriot who held the respect of friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Even after he left the House, Wright continued to contribute to building a better future for our country by sharing his wisdom with the new generation of leaders, as professor at Texas Christian University.

When Jim Wright was presented the gavel in 1987, becoming the Speaker of the 100th Congress, he spoke of the enduring promise of our Constitution and of the sacred responsibility it entrusts the Members of the House. He said:

We are its custodians. Those men of principle and vision who penned the deed to freedom had in mind a very special place for the Congress. Ours is a creative and dynamic role. We alone can legislate. Only we can appropriate. We are expected to initiate, to innovate, to see the obstacles on the road ahead, and to chart a path around them for our Nation.

He went on to say:

Let us, with gratitude for the privilege that is ours, ask Almighty God that He shall grant to each of us a portion of the vision to see the right; the courage to stand for the right; the honesty to admit human error; and the love that binds our Nation and our people together, to the end that we may continue to be not the envy of the world but an inspiration to the world—and an instrument of His peace.

Mr. Speaker, 28 years later, Jim Wright's prayer for bravery and humility still speaks to us through the decades. He was indeed a person who had the vision to see the right and the courage to stand for the right. And, for that, we are enormously grateful.

Speaker Jim Wright never stopped serving our country, and his achievements will stand forever as a living monument to his determined vision and legislative ability.

I learned a lot from Jim Wright in the short period of time that I served with him in Congress, and from time to time I share those lessons with newer Members of Congress, but also with great humor.

We hope it is a comfort to Speaker Wright's family, friends, students, and colleagues that so many of us share their grief and some come to the floor to join with them in celebrating his memory.

May his legacy long keep watch over the House he led, and may it challenge all of us to do more and do better on behalf of America's hard-working families.

Thank you to Jim Wright's family for sharing him with all of us. It was an honor to serve with him. It was even a bigger privilege to call him friend.

I will miss that I will not be seeing him from time to time in Texas. I always invited him to the Congress for any special occasion we had. And on one or two occasions, he did accept, and that was an honor for this House.

I thank the gentleman for yielding and for calling this Special Order.

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Mr. VEASEY. Leader PELOSI, I appreciate those kind words about Speaker Wright, and I know that his family will appreciate everything that you have to share. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I do want to add to my remarks because I was so taken by speaking about Jim Wright; but on the occasions I did see him in Texas, on the most recent occasions, he expressed the pride he took in your service in the Congress.

Congratulations to you, Congressman VEASEY, for carrying on that beautiful legacy.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize, from the 30th Congressional District in Texas, the gentlewoman from Dallas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, who also was very well acquainted and was a good friend of Speaker Wright's and has some great stories about things that she shared with Speaker Wright over the years.

Now, I would like to welcome and yield to the gentlewoman from the 30th Congressional District from Dallas, Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the former Speaker of the House, James "Jim" Wright, who passed away on Wednesday, May 6, at age 92 of this year.

Speaker Wright served in Congress for more than three decades and left an indelible legacy as chairman of the House Public Works Committee that is now named the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

He was elected by his peers as Speaker in 1987. He was born in Fort Worth, Texas, the son of a traveling salesman. He was educated at Weatherford College and the University of Texas at Austin. He dedicated his life to serving the public. He bravely served in the United States Army Air Force during World War II and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for flying combat missions in the South Pacific.

Subsequently, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1946. He served as mayor of Weatherford, Texas, from 1950 to 1954; and he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1954. He was reelected 16 times.

Speaker Wright was a visionary who served the people of Fort Worth and this Nation well. He is deserving of this tribute. Because of his leadership, the House experienced one of the most prolific periods.

Speaker Wright demonstrated his skill as a political leader and a master legislator by shepherding extraordinarily complex legislation through the House. He understood that the business of legislating and good politics required good skill in the art of compromise.

Speaker Wright never backed down from a challenge. Even after leaving of-

fice, he continued to serve the public diligently. I was always able to consult with Speaker Wright, and I will always cherish those memories.

He was the author of the Wright amendment at the time the Dallas/Fort Worth airport was built. When it came time for it to change, only Speaker Wright, even in retirement, was able to get it loose in the Senate so that we could get it passed in the House as well.

Our country has lost one of its finest statesman; and I have lost a very close personal friend whose wisdom, dignity, and knowledge of the legislative process was unquestionably enviable.

He is among the most influential speakers in the history of the House of Representatives. Jim Wright is really an unforgettable public servant and leader. A man fueled by passion and concern for others, he set the bar high for his successors.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his wife, Betty, who was deceased just recently, and four children.

I stand today to honor former Speaker of the House Jim Wright and thank him for his work in the service of the people of Texas and throughout the Nation. He has left a powerful legacy that will live for generations.

I want to thank my colleague, Congressman VEASEY, for having the leadership and the vision for waiting for a while to be able to sponsor this hour in tribute to Speaker Wright.

SPEAKER JIM WRIGHT

December 22, 1922–May 6, 2015

Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and Distinguished Lecturer at TCU, died Wednesday, May 6, 2015, in Fort Worth.

Jim Wright was born on December 22, 1922, to James Claude and Marie Lyster Wright. His childhood years were spent in Oklahoma and Texas during and after the Depression but for the remainder of his life he referred to both Weatherford and Fort Worth as home. This period in his life had a strong impact on his later legislative priorities. He finished his primary education by age 16 and soon thereafter enrolled in Weatherford College and the University of Texas in Austin. In his senior year, Pearl Harbor called many of the young men his age to enlist in the military and to serve their country. Wright enlisted in the Army Air Corps at age 19 and in 1943 flew the first of five legs in the South Pacific movement of the 380th Heavy Bomb Group as a bombardier. During World War II, men painted a personal name on the exterior of their aircraft and Wright's group flew nightly raids from Australia to nearby Japanese bases in a B-24 Liberator Bomber known as Gus's Bus.

Soon after enlisting, Jim married his college sweetheart, Mary Ethlyn Lemons, on December 25, 1942. They were married for 28 years and had five children: James C. III; Virginia; Kay; Parker Stephen and Alicia Marie. Mary Ethlyn and Parker Stephen preceded him in death. He married Betty Hay in November 1972 and they lived together in Washington, D.C. and later Fort Worth. Betty was his love and companion for 42 years. In addition to Betty and these children, he is survived by 15 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and his sister, Betty Lee Wright.

Wright returned from the war and at age 23 was elected to the Texas State Legislature

as one of the youngest men to ever serve in that body. He subsequently served as mayor of Weatherford and worked in his father's rural economic development business as an advertising agent for National Trades Day. In November of 1954 Wright was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Texas' 12th Congressional District. In Congress, he served on the Public Works Committee, Budget Committee and beginning in 1977 as the majority leader for the Democrats in Congress. In 1987, his colleagues elected him to be Speaker of The House. He had many lasting influences in Fort Worth, including infrastructure projects such as DFW Airport, veterans' programs and environmental projects.

After World War II, Wright referred to Congress as a heady place to be, where members of both political parties cooperated to make America a world leader and to build and support a strong middle-class. He said, "We'd had to cast aside the restraining remnants of local chauvinisms, ethnic schisms, religious bigotry, and regional mistrusts. In the words of our pledge of allegiance, we were becoming more nearly 'one nation, indivisible.'" He loved the institution.

One of the most fulfilling days in Wright's political career came on Nov. 22, 1963, when President John F. Kennedy visited Fort Worth to meet and speak to residents. And less than two hours after speaking in Fort Worth, it became one of the most tragic in all of history when President Kennedy was shot. The whiplash of that day's emotion haunted Jim as one of the happiest then one of the saddest moments in his lifetime. Before leaving Fort Worth, President Kennedy said, "I know of no other city in the United States that is better represented in the Congress of the United States than Fort Worth."

Wright's accomplishments as a U.S. Congressman were many. Among his proudest memories he would recall legislation creating the Clean Water Act, interstate highway system, benefits for returning veterans, and the honor he felt as a witness and participant to creating peace. He visited the Middle East, facilitating the initial meeting that led to the accord between Israel and Egypt in 1977; and in ending the internal strife in Nicaragua in 1988 by leading a compromise to end the U.S.-financed war between the Sandinista Government and the Contras. In foreign affairs, Wright enjoyed the role of bipartisanship and peacemaker, and Nicaragua was perhaps the most difficult of all bipartisan efforts. To the surprise of an increasingly partisan group of legislators wanting to overthrow the Nicaraguan government, his approach led to an end to U.S.-financed weapons and to constructive talks among the Nicaraguan leaders and eventually to democratically-held elections.

His success led a similar group of partisan legislators to file ethics charges against him, and even though the initial charges against him were dropped for lack of evidence, the persistence of what had become an increasingly partisan and combative Legislative Branch led to his resignation. In his resignation speech he said, "When vengeance becomes more desirable than vindication, harsh personal attacks on one another's motives, one another's character, drown out the quiet logic of serious debate on important issues, things that we ought to be involved ourselves in. Surely, that's unworthy of our institution, unworthy of our American political process. All of us in both parties must resolve to bring this period of mindless cannibalism to an end. There's been enough of it." To Jim's constant dismay, he did not live long enough to see the end or even a diminished attack by partisan efforts.

After returning to Fort Worth, Wright put his official office papers with the TCU Li-

brary and for more than 20 years, he taught at TCU a course on "Congress and the Presidents." His intention to keep the classes small was not possible and his classes continued to grow by registering interested students. In December 2010, his eyesight had become an insurmountable challenge as a teacher and he retired.

Jim Wright approached life with an eager and courageous mission in each pursuit. He had the balance of knowledge, intuition, direction and wisdom that comes from experience. His ability to forgive and move on was amazing, and his desire to overcome was persistent. When he loved he did it with all his heart and he loved this lifetime. Horace Greeley had a quote that Wright used—"and fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings, those who cheer today may curse tomorrow, only one thing endures: character."

Well done, Jim Wright, your character endures and you will be forever remembered.

—After a private conversation

with Dad in 2013

Ginger

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman from the 30th District, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, for her very kind words about Speaker Wright. He was very fond of you and appreciated your leadership in an area that he excelled in, which was transportation. I just want to thank you for your kind words.

Now, I would like to recognize from Houston, Texas, the distinguished gentlewoman, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who would also like to have a few words about Speaker Jim Wright.

So many Texans that served with Jim Wright and those who didn't have the opportunity to serve with him really appreciated his style and everything that he stood for. He was such a statesman.

You can tell how his influence was felt because so many individuals like SHEILA, so many other people that knew the Speaker reached out to me after his death and wanted to send condolences to his friends and his family, and she was just thankful that he was so influential in SHEILA JACKSON LEE's life as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be here with my colleagues from all over the Nation, Leader PELOSI, Whip HOYER, and my colleague as well, Congressman JOHNSON from Dallas.

We all gathered at the funeral of Speaker Wright, and it was almost like a reunion of family members from the many political persons, public servants who not only through the years have known Speaker Wright, but really, those who came to honor him because of the iconic role that he played in the history of Texas and the history of America.

We are excited that he was a Speaker that cared about people and cared about Members. He, as was indicated, was born in Fort Worth, loved Fort Worth, and never wanted to leave Fort Worth.

I think it is interesting that he was the son of a professional boxer who

turned tailor. After the attack in Pearl Harbor in December 1941, he left college to enlist in the United States Army and flew combat missions in the South Pacific, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and Legion of Merit. He was of the Greatest Generation.

He served in the Texas House. From his hometown of Weatherford, he became the mayor for his boyhood home. He served in that post for 4 years, from 1950 to 1954, before his first congressional victory.

Speaker Wright had a way with words. He was an eloquent speaker. He was a disciple of House Speaker Sam Rayburn, a fellow Texan. He was also a disciple of another Texan, Lyndon B. Johnson, who served in the Senate during Wright's initial years in Congress before becoming Vice President in 1961.

He was in the Presidential motorcade on November 22, 1963, when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. To describe the depth of sadness that engulfed us that day defies vocabulary, he once said, recalling how the friendly mood of the Dallas crowds turned to sheer terror and horror. It was that day that his friend, Lyndon B. Johnson, became the President of the United States.

He worked hard for the people of Fort Worth. He was a person of deep courage, brilliance, eloquence, and complete mastery of the legislative process. He was decisive and strong, and he handled his Texas Members.

He championed the causes of Texas. He believed in the goodness of America, and he was a great achiever. He loved the Boy Scouts. As I indicated, his father was a boxer, and he started out doing that as well.

I come today to honor him as a great American and to add to this tribute that he served with President Lyndon Baines Johnson when the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act were passed.

He was a friend of one of my predecessors, the Honorable Barbara Jordan. They served together. They knew each other. They were strong Texans, but they loved America.

I know that, as we look to promoting his legacy, besides caring about this institution and loving America and honoring our men and women in the United States military, I know that it is also time, in his name, to bring forward the Voting Rights Act reauthorization that will, again, restore and invest in the rights of people to vote and will capture what he understood to be the right way to handle America's business, and as well, it captures his friend's vision, the Honorable Barbara Jordan, who, in fact, wrote the language to add Texas to the Voting Rights Act.

I thank you, Congressman, for having this very special Special Order for us to thank a dear friend who, again, I salute tonight as a great American.

To his family, thank you so very much for sharing Jim Wright—Speaker

Wright—a great Texan and a great American, with all of us.

Mr. Speaker, today, we mourn the loss of one of America's most distinguished and dedicated public servants: Speaker Jim Wright.

From the service that earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross in World War II to the leadership that defined his 34 years in the House, Jim Wright exemplified commitment to the future of America's families.

Jim Wright represented Fort Worth in Congress for 34 years. Jim Wright was a peace-maker, local politician and international leader and a consummate Democrat who offered his hand for bipartisanship.

Jim Wright worked for the people of Fort Worth, whether it was winning a bomber contract for a Fort Worth defense contractor or helping an individual with their Social Security.

Speaker Wright was a person of deep courage, brilliant eloquence, and complete mastery of the legislative process.

Speaker Wright's strong, decisive leadership built an indelible legacy of progress, not only in his beloved state of Texas, but around the world.

Speaker Wright championed prosperity for every working family, and helped lead the way to peace to Central America.

After he left the House, Wright continued to share his wisdom with new generations of leaders as a professor at Texas Christian University.

Jim Wright was an achiever. When he was 10 years old, he tried to join the Boy Scouts, two years ahead of the minimum age.

As a 13-year-old boxer, he told officials he was 16 in order to enter an AAU tournament, where he won two bouts and lost the third in a close decision.

Jim Wright became hooked on history and decided to become a congressman while he was sidelined from high school football by a knee injury.

Jim Wright was 23 when he started his political career when he was elected to the Texas Legislature.

He never stopped serving our country, and his achievements will stand forever as a living monument to his determined vision and legendary ability.

We hope it is a comfort to Speaker Wright's family, friends, students and colleagues that so many join them in grieving and honoring such a wonderful man. Today we bury a favorite son of Texas.

Speaker Wright was a man who loved his country and today we mourn his loss. He was the Speaker of the House in Congress and a humble man.

During the funeral many spoke to his ability to forgive and the words of his great-granddaughter will always stay with me which was that when we leave the funeral today she wanted us to think of hope over despair and prosperity over scarcity.

If the Congress can begin to turn its attention to these philosophies America will be a better nation.

We should always pay tribute to those who helped make Texas great. Speaker Wright has left us with a remarkable story.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Houston, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, for sharing so many great stories and fond memories of Speaker Jim Wright.

I would like to add a few words of my own. Jim Wright was very influential

to me. When I was elected into the State legislature in 2004 was when I really started to get to know him well. I had known him previous to that when I was an aide for United States Congressman Martin Frost, who was also from Fort Worth.

Once I got into the State legislature, I got to know him even more, and I realized very quickly what a great storyteller he was. Speaker Wright had some amazing stories from people that he had met over the years, people that influenced him in his life.

So many people always wonder how he became the great orator that he was. There were so many stories that I heard early on about before the House had C-SPAN—now, we can watch coverage of the House of Representatives 24 hours a day, thanks to technology—but Speaker Wright was such a great orator that, before C-SPAN came into effect, you heard stories about staffers coming to fill the galleries so they could come and hear this man from Fort Worth, Texas, come in and give speeches because they were so amazing.

I asked him: How did you become the great orator that you were when you were in the U.S. House of Representatives and that you still are today? Even, unfortunately, with the oral cancer that he had—his speech had been hampered, but it was still amazing, the wisdom and the knowledge that he shared.

As you have heard from so many speakers tonight, boxing was a very important part of life. He loved boxing. It was something that he watched over the years. When he was growing up in Weatherford, Texas, that was one of the ways how young boys and men distinguished themselves, was their boxing skills on the street.

He told me that, one day, his dad told him that while it was great that he was able to distinguish himself with his fists through boxing, that if he really wanted to improve himself and improve his lot in life, that he would learn how to be a great orator, that he would learn what the anatomy of a great speech was all about; so Jim Wright, at a very early age, decided that he was going to learn how he could become a better speaker, and there are so many stories like that.

I went to his office right before I was sworn in, in 2012, and I asked him to just share some of that wisdom with me as an incoming new Member of Congress. He told me so many stories that day. One of them related to boxing.

Many of you know Larry Hagman from "I Dream of Jeannie" and from the TV series "Dallas." Some of you may know that Larry Hagman's mother is Mary Martin of Peter Pan fame. Mary Martin was actually from Weatherford, Texas, and she knew Jim Wright and knew Speaker Wright's family.

I said: Larry Hagman told a friend of mine that he ran into that you taught him how to box; is that true?

Speaker Wright began to tell me the story about his mother thought that

maybe he needed to get back to his Texas roots and have a little bit more Texas upbringing in him, and so she sent him back to Weatherford, Texas, with his dad; and Speaker Wright taught him how to box. That was how Larry Hagman learned how to become a boxer.

One of the areas that Speaker Wright—and NANCY PELOSI talked about it a lot—how he was a big influence in my life and so many others' lives—and I would be remiss if I did not mention some of the former Members that also he was very influential in their lives.

Congressman Martin Frost, who was the ranking member of the Rules Committee, Speaker Wright was very, very influential in getting him on the Rules Committee his freshman year in office.

□ 1930

Also Secretary Pete Geren, a former Member of Congress and Secretary of the Army and Air Force, again, Speaker Wright was very influential early on in his career. Pete Geren was actually Speaker Wright's successor in Congress, and that was also very important to him.

Many people know that Speaker Wright was known as a very strong Democrat. He was someone that loved the Democratic Party, that was very proud of his Democratic roots and had a very strong relationship with organized labor in Tarrant County. When you talk to people that are longtime employees at Lockheed Martin, at General Motors, at American Airlines, the things that he did with transportation, all of those things were very, very important for who he became.

In addition to that, he also learned a lot from some of the failures and mistakes that he made. He told me that his first term in the State legislature, that it was not easy, that he didn't get along with the speaker of the house in the State legislature.

When he was elected here, he wanted to make sure that he got along with Sam Rayburn when he was elected to Congress. He told me: Marc, I have learned my lesson from when I was in the State legislature, and I really wanted to be on the Foreign Affairs Committee because that was what was really happening back in the 1950s when I first got elected. With the cold war going on, I wanted to be on that committee. It was something very important to me. Speaker Rayburn put me on the Public Works Committee—which is now the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

He said, That ended up that was a mistake that I made because that committee ended up really making my career. It is hard to think that I would have become majority leader and Speaker of the House had I not been on the Public Works Committee—which is where Speaker Rayburn put him.

Again, in addition to being that strong, strong Democrat that he was, I can tell you that bipartisanship was

something that he was very fond of because he talked a lot after his career in Congress about how bipartisanship helped make this country strong and about how it helped make him a better Member of Congress.

If you go and look in the archives of the Star-Telegram from just a couple of months ago after he passed, you will notice the remarks that were given from a very bipartisan group of people in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. ROGER WILLIAMS, also from Fort Worth, he was quoted in the Star-Telegram; KAY GRANGER, former mayor of Fort Worth, was also quoted in the Star-Telegram—about how Speaker Wright did so many great things for Fort Worth.

One of the areas that he liked to talk about was the Voting Rights Act and how important voting rights were to him and also Eisenhower and the free-ways. He told us a great story about how he and a few other Congressmen went to Eisenhower about getting the interstate highway bill passed and how President Eisenhower said, Let's get the votes; let's get it done—and how they came together in a bipartisan way in order to get that legislation done.

My favorite story that he told me about is the importance of bipartisanship. I asked him: Mr. Speaker, I am going to be a new Member of Congress, and so many people talk about how Congress is broken and they don't work together.

I said: Do you have any theories on why that is?

He said: That is a very good question. When I was in Congress, we spent a lot of time getting to know one another. We spent a lot more time in Congress than we do today.

He said: I want to tell you a story. One time, I told my daughter, I want you to go get a job—and this was before he was majority leader—I want you to go and get a job, and I do not want you to use my name. Whatever you do, do not use my name. She came home that evening and she said, Daddy, I found a job. He was like, Oh, great, where did you find a job? She said, I got a job in the minority leader's office.

Speaker Wright, a great storyteller that he was, he said: I just exploded, and I said, What, you got a job at the minority leader's office? Did you tell them who I was? She said, Dad, you told me not to use your name.

He said that he immediately picked up the phone; he called Gerald Ford up, and he said, Gerald, I need to apologize to you. I want you to know that my daughter has accepted a job in your office, and she is to report to your office first thing in the morning and apologize and say that she cannot accept the job.

He said that Gerald Ford said to him: Jim, if your daughter wants to work here, it won't be any problem at all.

He said: Marc, can you imagine that happening today?

It really stopped and gave me pause just about how much things have really, really changed.

Speaker Wright was an amazing person, a person of great wisdom, intelligence, humility. He would talk about how he lost the Senate race and it was fine for him to lose that special election for the U.S. Senate because things ended up working out for him in the U.S. House of Representatives. He could actually find humor even in something that was a big defeat for him.

I just wanted to thank him, and I am so thankful that our paths crossed and that he was such an influence to me and so many others. I can tell you that the city that I am from, Fort Worth, Texas, that the city is the great city that it is today because of the work and the statesmanship of Jim Wright.

His legacy continues to live on through so many others that continue to serve in Congress today that are in other positions in office and in business.

Mr. Speaker, I am just very, very grateful and very blessed that I knew Speaker James Claude "Jim" Wright.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a great American and a great Texan, former Speaker of the House Jim Wright.

Speaker Wright served our nation over five decades, first as a B-24 bombardier in the Pacific during World War II, where he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. Returning home to Texas, Speaker Wright was elected to the Texas State Legislature and then as Mayor of Weatherford.

In 1954, Jim Wright would be elected to Congress, where he would serve for the next 34 years, 10 years as Majority Leader, and Speaker of the House from 1987 to 1989.

In Congress, Jim Wright was known for his hard work on behalf of the 12th District, centered in Fort Worth, Texas. Through his work on the House Public Works Committee, then-Rep. Wright secured important improvements to the Trinity River flood control and the revival of the Fort Worth stockyards area and become an important advocate for the local defense industry.

As Speaker, Jim Wright guided the passage of significant legislation, including amendments to the Clean Water Act, the 1987 highway bill and expanded education benefits for military personnel.

After leaving Congress, Speaker Wright said that his biggest achievement was sponsoring the bipartisan peace accord between the Sandinista government and the contras in Nicaragua, which had been fighting for a decade.

Speaker Wright passed away on May 6, 2015, in his hometown of Fort Worth, at the age of 92. The passing of Speaker Wright is the end of an era in Texas politics. He was among the last of our great state's legislative giants, who learned his trade from fellow Texans, Lyndon Johnson and Sam Rayburn.

Speaker Wright was a leader dedicated to bettering our country, and he will be sorely and dearly missed by his family, friends, and this Congress.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF DODD-FRANK ACT

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

uary 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of us who are gathered for a very important discussion tonight regarding the fifth anniversary of the Dodd-Frank Act.

Before we do, there is another important anniversary that needs to be recognized in America today. For that, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF GENE AND KATHY SHIMKUS

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give thanks to God and publicly celebrate the 65th wedding anniversary of my mom and dad, Gene and Kathy Shimkus.

Dad was raised by his grandparents, Charles Frederick and Dorothea Heinicke. He has been a lifetime member at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School. Mom was raised in State Park, just down the road from Collinsville, by Harvey and Myrtle Mondy.

They are both graduates of Collinsville High School, dad in 1946 and mom in 1949. Dad started working for the telephone company in high school, and mom worked as a telephone operator.

Mom and dad got married on July 22, 1950, 65 years ago today. Dad was drafted during the Korean war and left for Korea. On August 3, 1951, their first child, Bill, was born. Dad returned from the war and continued to work for the telephone company and then various telephone companies as the industry changed. Using the GI Bill, he also received his associate's degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Mom started her career and one that she has kept throughout known time as mother and now matriarch of the family. From here, the family grew as Dorothy, Joan, Helen, Jean, Jana, and I were born. The kids grew up to become a pastor, teacher, healthcare worker, CPA, and even a politician.

Bill now lives in the Northwest and is married to Bette. They have three children, Matthew, Maria, and Emily. Dorothy has two boys, Terry and Dusty. Joan is married to Bernie and has two children, Niki and Tim. Karen and I are married with sons David, Joshua, and Daniel. Helen is married to Pat and lives in Tennessee. They have two daughters, Jennifer and Katelyn. Jean has two sons, Adam and Gene, as well as a daughter, Elizabeth. Jana is married to Chris. There are nine great-grandchildren.

In an era where everything seems to be disposable, it is helpful and uplifting to see something that has lasted. For things to last, you have to work at it.

Thank you, Mom and Dad, for teaching us about life. We have survived the good and the bad and, for the most part, have done it united as a family. The Shimkus clan will celebrate this accomplishment through this weekend by just spending time together.