

budget. It is very disappointing, and I am hoping the President will study the Democratic framework and work with us to actually invest in and rebuild our country in a way that we can all be proud of.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, there are so many things we need to talk about.

First of all, that \$200 billion is simply repurposing existing programs, and they are laid out here. The highway fund, \$122 billion reduced, transferred over to his new program, which is really, really strange. He calls it \$100 billion of innovation.

Who is going to determine what is innovative? Who is going to determine what is going to be funded?

A whole new administrative and serious chaos is going to occur—TIGER grants, gone, Amtrak. Mr. PAYNE was just talking about Amtrak and the importance here in the Northeast corridor.

I am from California, but I have got to tell you, I care a great deal about Amtrak because that is how I like to get from Washington to New York City. That is the best way to do it. Airplanes are fine, but, actually, Amtrak is just faster if you want to get downtown to downtown.

But not to worry. He is going to privatize Reagan and Dulles. And you think that is going to work out well for us? Oh, if you want to pay more money, yes. Rural air service.

Army Corps of Engineers, extremely important to us on the West Coast, in my district. I have quite possibly the highest flood potential of any place outside of New Orleans, and we depend upon this, and yet they are going to cut it by \$10 billion.

It goes on and on and on. This is just the beginning of what is proposed. It is a massive shell game. The money is under this shell. No, the money is under that shell. It is the same money back and forth.

We need a real program, and I am so pleased that you and your colleagues put together a real trillion-dollar program. It is solid. It is foundational. And what an opportunity was missed in this wonderful Christmas gift that the President gave to whom? The top 1 percent and American corporations.

Ponder this for a moment: For every 1 percent reduction in the Federal corporate tax rate, it is \$100 billion.

Corporations and the Chamber of Commerce were saying from 35 take it down to 25 percent. No. Our Republican colleagues and the President went all the way to 21 percent. Let's see, 25, 21, 4—4 percentage points. That is \$400 billion over 10 years.

Think of the possibilities if, instead of that money flowing to corporations who apparently are going to use that money for stock buybacks and dividends, not for new investments—oh, excuse me. They did say they had increased the wages. Do a careful study. Most of those wage increases are in States and localities that have increased the minimum wage.

So \$400 billion right there. Could it have been used? Yes. Foreign earnings? Mr. DELANEY, 40 Democrats, 40 Republicans put on the floor a proposal to repatriate those foreign earnings back here to the United States, very low tax rate, far lower than what is in the tax bill if that money was going into an infrastructure bank, into investments, real investments in America.

Mr. Speaker, I know Mr. CICILLINE has worked long and hard on this. I would like to hear more. I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out that the President proposed and the Republicans passed a tax scam that rewarded the wealthiest people in this country and the biggest corporations. Eighty-three percent of that tax cut went to the top 1 percent.

It created a debt of \$1.5 trillion plus interest—over \$2 trillion—for the next generation. Can you imagine if, instead of a giveaway to people who didn't need it, that money were invested in rebuilding our country? You could create 16 million good-paying jobs. You could create an incredible power for our economy so we can move goods and services and information to rebuild the economy.

But then you think about the willingness to give away that amount of money to the top 1 percent, 83 percent of the tax cut, if, instead, you had invested it in this urgent priority that impacts the daily lives of every single American, what a difference it would have made.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) for the many, many years that he has worked on this issue and underscoring every week the importance of investing in products made in America, and now making sure that, as we rebuild America, that we focus on products and innovative materials that are made here in the USA.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, Mr. CICILLINE seems to have prompted some energy and excitement for Mr. PAYNE. It seems as though he wanted to jump in and say a few more words. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to thank both of my colleagues and Mr. PRICE for really showing a youngster at this how to engage the American people.

And these issues, Mr. Speaker, are critical to Americans across the Nation. And, yes, there is a swath that does not have these issues to worry about, but there are people every single day who need to have us address these issues in the manner in which we are speaking.

Everyone is not well off. Everyone is not able to buy for themselves. Everyone is not the owner of a golf course. Everyone is not the President of an LLC.

There are hardworking people. There are people who need jobs. Reinvesting in infrastructure will put Americans to

work, will give all Americans the quality of life that they deserve in this Nation if they are willing to work for it, and we understand that. But give them the opportunity to work for it.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, there are so many things that we are going to talk about over the next several months.

The President did a good thing by putting the infrastructure program on the front burner. Now, obviously, from what I have said this last hour and my colleagues, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. PRICE, the proposal doesn't fly. It is not a solid proposal that will solve the problems of America in a way that is good for the people you just talked about, the working men and women and the families of America.

But we can work together on this, the program that the Democrats have put out, A Better Deal for America, an infrastructure plan that includes all of the elements. We haven't talked about broadband and the availability of broadband in rural areas, which I happen to represent, high-speed internet, but that is also a problem in the urban areas.

We have a common interest in a good, solid infrastructure plan. Unfortunately, we are looking at the deficit hawks returning. They disappeared last November and December when the tax bill went through. In fact, the President's budget contemplates a \$1 trillion deficit each and every year for the next 10 years.

So where's the money?

Well, \$1.5 trillion wound up in the top 1 percent and for the American corporations and the LLCs and golf courses, as you said. That is money that could have been used for the infrastructure, building the foundation for economic growth, educating, reeducating, teaching the skills.

Now, the President mentioned that in his address on infrastructure, and good. But where's the money? Show me the money.

Well, it is a shell game. It ends one program, starts a new one. Administrative chaos will ensue. We need real, solid investment, and we can do it. The proposals are there.

And we are going to talk about this every week, every day, every community meeting. We are going to talk about the tax scam and where the money went. We are going to talk about the wealthy getting wealthier. We will talk about income inequality and the way in which it invests, it actually creates more. And we are going to talk about the great missed opportunities: education, highways, water systems, sanitation systems, ports, multimodal. That is what we need to do.

Mr. Speaker, I am losing my voice, and I yield back the balance of my time.

IN HONOR OF RAYMOND SIMS
BAUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAST). Under the Speaker's announced

policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, this is a tough night for those of us on the Energy and Commerce Committee. We come to the floor tonight to pay honor to our staff director Ray Baum, who passed away after a valiant multiyear fight with cancer.

He left this world on February 9, unexpectedly in many respects. He left before we were ready, but not before he filled us with love and grace and kindness, shared his intellect and his great humor.

I got to know Ray in 1988. I know you don't know this is actually me on the right here. I had hair. I was younger. This is Ray here. We were both elected to the legislature.

And I don't know about you all, but oftentimes you meet people and you don't remember 30 years later or whatever where you first met them. With Ray, I absolutely remember the minute I met him.

Then-State Representative Bob Brogoitti from La Grande decided not to run and was announcing that pretty late in the process. I happened to be in Salem at the capitol when he brought this young attorney out of La Grande, Ray Baum, into the capitol and said: I am going to announce I am not running, and he is my guy to replace me.

Well, Ray and I both were first-time candidates in 1988; he in La Grande in northeast Oregon, and I in Hood River, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler Counties and part of Wasco. We both ran in the seats that our fathers had held and, in different eras, both been defeated. His dad already had the votes to be speaker of the house, he just didn't quite get reelected in his seat.

And we both won in 1988. We served together in the Oregon Legislature, became fast friends. The Republican leader of the house looked at the two of us and dubbed us the "pabulum twins" after the baby food. We certainly outgrew that over time.

But we became very good friends. We shared a lot of time together, legislated a lot together. We had a terrific experience. We both really, really were committed to public service.

Ray was a member of the bar. From 1983 to 2003, he practiced law with his brother David in La Grande.

As I said, he was elected to the Oregon Legislature in 1988 and served through 1997. I became majority leader when Republicans took the house in 1990 and served in that role until I went over to the senate. He followed me as the house majority leader for the '95 session.

And then an interesting thing happened. He left the legislature, and Democratic Governors, knowing what a great leader he was and how well he got along with people, decided to appoint him to the Public Utility Commission in Oregon. It is a three-member commission appointed by the Governor, and he was the lone Republican.

In 2003, he and the family moved to Salem. He accepted this position as a commissioner for the Oregon Public Utility Commission, where he was until 2011.

In 2010, the Governor appointed him as chairman, as a Republican, of the Public Utility Commission with the other two Democrats, and they always kept the consumer in mind. He was always about good, fair public policy.

From 2005 to 2011, he served as the State chair of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. From 2008 to 2010, he served as chairman of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Telecommunications Committee. So he rose up in the ranks of the national organization to which he belonged.

He was an incredible family man. Those of us who knew him knew it was all about his wife, Kristine, and all about their children, Rachael and Wyatt and Alexis and Mary and Andrew and Elizabeth. His kids and his 10 grandchildren, they were the light of his life.

□ 2030

He had twin callings, if you will: his family life—an incredible father, grandfather, and husband—and public servant. He was asked about that all the time.

He said about his wonderful wife, Kristine: "She has been a great example of service to others. Her charity never ends. She supported me in my pursuit of politics and put up with my 'public service impairment.'"

He was all about public service, and it showed. In the work we did on the Energy and Commerce Committee, I remember calling him when I became chairman of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee. We interacted over the years on telecom policy, given his national roles.

I said: Ray, they are going to make me chair of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee. I am going to need your help.

He said: Oh, yeah, yeah. Sure. Just call me. Whatever. Yeah, that is fine.

I said: No. Ray, I am going to need your help.

He said: Well, I can come back from time to time.

I said: No. Ray, I am going to need you here in Washington.

He said: Oh, oh. I don't think Kristine would go for that.

Well, their kids were out of the house at that point, and as fate would have it, she said: Actually, I think that would be fun. I think that would be a nice change.

That shocked him. So he came back and served as a senior counsel, a special adviser on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and on the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, and he played a big role.

Then, our mutual friend, Gordon Smith, with whom we had both served in the State legislature and who now is president and CEO of the National As-

sociation of Broadcasters, lured him away for, I think, all of about 9 months. And as much as he enjoyed fighting the fight for broadcasters, which was my background, he really loved public service.

When I became chairman of the committee, he actually reached out to me and asked: Hey, you know, what are you going to do with that position?

I was delighted that he had an interest in coming back to public service, and he loved it.

You heard from our colleagues earlier tonight during 1 minutes, ANNA ESHOO and FRANK PALLONE, the top Democrats on the committee, who loved Ray and still do. He was just one of those rare human beings.

I talked about his great intellect and I talked about his friendship. But what I haven't talked about is what I would call his "Rayisms," these funny little sayings that he always used that I think found their way into our vocabulary and speech without us even knowing. His constant reminder was: "The fun never stops. The fun never stops." And he would use that along the way. Generally, when things were going off the rails, he would say: "The fun never stops." And he would also say: "Thanks for coming out today."

We all heard that on a regular basis. And on Fridays, he would go around to the staff and he would say: "You know, you have been doing such a great job, why don't you take the next couple of days off?" Saturday and Sunday, of course. He would say: "Remember to come back in the morning."

He was, as I said, cursed, as he would describe it, with a public service impediment. He was very faithful, had deep faith, and was very active in the Mormon church—he and Kristine both. And he would joke that he was the only Mormon ever to oversee the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. He was a member of that, too, along the way.

I want to share a couple of things. Before I do, let's get this picture off of here because I am aging in place. This is Ray with Senator CORY GARDNER from Colorado, and he was on the Energy and Commerce Committee, and ANNA ESHOO, and some of the great staff we have worked with over the years on the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, where he just really thrived and got a lot done. I think about the work that we passed in a bipartisan way to free up spectrum and all.

When he was diagnosed with prostate cancer several years ago and it had migrated, tragically, into his bones, I forget who gave him the hats, but we knew he was going to lose his hair. So somebody came back with a different set of hats to cover up the loss of hair. Now, there is nothing wrong with losing your hair, I might say just as an aside, but he tried them all on; and I think you get the spirit of Ray: "The fun never stops."

I want to share a couple of comments, and then I know I have got

some terrific colleagues here who want to share with the body and with our friends who are watching.

Speaker PAUL RYAN tweeted out when he learned of Ray's passing last week: "Ray Baum was a kindhearted man with a deep commitment to public service. The whole House mourns his passing. Please keep Ray's wife, Kristine, and their family in your prayers."

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said: "I had the pleasure to work with him over the past few years and was impressed by his keen intellect, fundamental kindness, and passion for advancing the public interest. He was a good man and I will miss him."

Commissioner Michael O'Rielly said: "More than a colleague, Ray was a wonderful individual with an endearing smile."

Gordon Smith at the NAB said: "In the time he spent working at NAB, he was to everyone a delight. We will miss his everyday greeting: 'It's nice to have you out today!' His zest for life, his creative legislative mind, his infectious humor, his love for others, and his determined work ethic as he battled cancer, these were an inspiration to all."

We both served with a guy in Oregon named Peter Courtney. I think he probably holds the record for the longest-serving State legislator, a Democrat from outside the Salem area. And I know he holds the record for the longest presidency of the Oregon State Senate. He said: "Ray taught me a lot about how to work with the other party; how to disagree and still get things done."

Former State Senator David Nelson from Pendleton said: "He had a great sense of humor and a great mind, a quick mind. He was a consensus builder."

Don't we need more of those in this process?

Former Union County Commissioner, Democrat John Howard, said: "When he took a position on an issue, people listened. Whether they were Democrat or Republican, people valued his opinion."

People just on Facebook wrote:

"Ray Baum served the people of northeastern Oregon with distinction."
"Ray was a wonderful person who set a great example."

"Being blessed to have been neighbors for a number of years with Ray and his family, chukar hunting on the breaks of the Snake River will never be the same."

"Ray was one of the finest persons I have ever encountered in Oregon politics. Top-notch selfless person."

One of Ray's assistants, Drew McDowell, said: "One of my first days here was a very rainy morning, and Ray walks in without skipping a beat and says, 'Sure is a nice day for a duck.' I knew right then he was the type of guy that could brighten up a rainy day."

A.T. Johnson from the Energy Subcommittee said: "One of the last legis-

lative victories came from the health team—providing FDA help for our soldiers and other servicemembers. When I think of Ray, I really do think of the happy soldier—fighting for others, fighting his own battle, and doing it with joy and grace."

Jennifer Sherman, press secretary, said: "Ray loved returning to Utah to visit with his family, particularly when there was a new grandchild to be welcomed."—Did I say there were 10?—"And when Ray returned to D.C., he made the focus of his daily walk-and-talk about the newest little one, to show off the latest photos"—how proud he was—"or to tell us what his grandkids were up to while he was hard at work in D.C. It was always clear that his heart was in Utah and Oregon with his loved ones."

It is hard to stand here and pay tribute, not because I don't feel all that for Ray, but because I probably spent most of the last 4 years in wonderful denial, just believing that Ray would somehow muscle through it and be with us.

I would say, being chairman of the committee, I get one of those passes from time to time that allows a senior staffer on the floor. I think there were a lot of Members who, for a long time, wondered what district he represented because he just interacted with Members here in a way I have never seen, including with the leader and the Speaker.

He would corral them. He would cajole them, work them on our issues and the committee's issues, and always did it with such a smile and such a wonderful way: big heart, big brain, incredible mentor for young and old alike. For young staff and old Members, he was a friend. He will be missed. He will not be forgotten. His imprint is all over the State of Oregon and, now, all around the country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), the chairman of the Environment Subcommittee.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I can't beat the chairman's long years of friendship and devotion and service with Ray. But we are down here to make sure that we remind the American people that most of us know that we are only as good as the people we have around us. That is why I wanted to come down and join my colleagues to talk about our former Republican staff director of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ray Baum.

Now, I don't have the long years that Chairman WALDEN has, but I do remember Ray coming to the city in 2011, as was noted, to be the senior policy adviser of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which I was fortunate to serve on. Right away, I personally noticed there was something different, and this is before I really knew Ray very well. But it all made sense when you found out that he had served in elected office and he had been reelected.

He served as the majority leader, and then he moved on to the public utilities commission. We love our staff and we love the people who devote everything. But we all know, as elected officials, that really the crucible of what we do is election and standing in front of voters and being held accountable and responding to them.

So to particularly have a staff director, or what I would call a chief of staff, the person who is trying to keep the trains running on time, it is all important, but one who knows the trials and tribulations of serving in elected office is very, very helpful. I think the chairman mentioned that when he talked about Ray being on the floor, being able to talk to Members and people in the leadership alike, understanding when our colleagues were struggling.

I think the tributes earlier this evening by Ranking Member PALLONE and Congresswoman ESHOO also highlighted the fact that he had a great relationship across the aisle, which is critical in getting that bipartisan consensus to really move bills on the floor.

We have been very fortunate to serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee. We have, I would argue, an almost unparalleled record of success, bipartisan, major votes, because either we work together or we have staff directors who are able to keep us focused on the prize, and that is, getting by in so that there are not hugely contentious votes on the floor. They are large bipartisan majorities which are not spoken of very much in Washington today or covered because they just are not newsworthy enough.

Chairman WALDEN mentioned Ray's great love, which is his family and public service. But I think there is a third one that would call someone from the West Coast to Washington, D.C. I think a lot of us were able to observe and appreciate this relationship between the staff director and the chairman that went over decades: trust, loyalty, and support; so much that, as Ray continued to fight through this challenge, something that kept him going was the fact that he loved this institution.

He loved his Members that he was responsible for—that is all of us on the committee—but he loved Chairman GREG WALDEN and he wanted him to succeed. I think that is a great tribute to remember.

So I am here just to thank Kristine, his wife, and the children who were named Rachael, Wyatt, Alexis, Mary, Andrew, and Elizabeth. I want them to know, Mr. Speaker, that we appreciate the sacrifice they gave to allow Ray to be part of this institution.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very kind and thoughtful remarks and his tribute to a really great public servant. I think he hit the nail on the head. Ray's having served and having gone through elections gave him that perspective. And having come from a rural part of America, like a lot of us do—in fact,

my district encompasses where he is from—it gives you a different perspective as well about some of the issues that sometimes get lost otherwise. I thank the gentleman for coming and for sharing.

I know we have some other Members here who I think wanted to make some comments. I don't know who would like to go next. Maybe the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), who also was a public utilities commissioner—if I have the right title for whatever it is in North Dakota—public service commissioner. The gentleman knew Ray from that era and got to put up with him here, as I would kindly say.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

□ 2045

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, let me, at the outset, as Chairman SHIMKUS did, express how special it was to watch a chairman and a staff director work, I think I daresay, as peers, as a team. That is very unusual in a place where titles seem to matter more than they ought to and more than they do other places.

I did have the opportunity to know Ray a little bit when I was on the North Dakota Public Service Commission, and he served on the Oregon Public Utility Commission. In fact, our terms mirrored exactly one with the other.

A lot has been said about Ray's commitment to service, and I think it is undeniable. I think of the things he could have done and probably could have made a lot more money doing, but he chose, instead, to serve people. He serves as a testimony, frankly, in many respects. This opportunity we have tonight to pay tribute to Ray and his memory is a furtherance of his testimony, that we here, even in Washington, D.C.—yes, even here in the swamp; yes, for all the people who watch us wondering if there is any decency among us, we really are a family. So our tribute tonight is testimony to that because it is really testimony to his life. He served as such a great example to all of us.

A lot has been said about Ray's sense of humor. Until you get to know him, he could make you off guard a little bit every now and then. I always appreciated, though, that Ray had an ability to take a serious moment seriously, take a serious issue seriously, but never take us too seriously. He allowed us to sort of gain perspective because he had such a good perspective. Oftentimes, it was his ability to make us laugh and to find the humorous anecdote in a moment.

He was always calm. We can use a lot more calm. Maybe people don't know this, but each of us has really big, important issues that are absolutely life-changing and life-affecting and the most important thing in the world to us. Then we bring them to the greater good, to the larger group, and Ray had

an ability to boil it down and, again, put it in perspective for each of us individually as well as all of us collectively. That is why he was such a great leader for all of us, the ability to balance intellect with humor, to be funny without being frivolous, being respectful while also joking with us, cajoling us, as the chairman said, with everybody from the Speaker to the Sergeant at Arms, to the freshman class. He had a tremendous ability.

So, Mr. Speaker, to Chairman WALDEN, Kristine, and the family, we are all part of your family tonight. We all are hurting, and we all are mourning. It is hard to sugarcoat it. This thing called death is awful, this awful disease called cancer. Ray had the opportunity to serve with us in a committee that works to try and eradicate diseases. He was very helpful as we worked on important legislation to do exactly that, things like 21st Century Cures and other healthcare legislation.

We are all better for having known Ray. Tonight we are just a little bit sad about it to say the least. God bless Kristine, the kids, and the grandbabies. I thank the chairman for his friendship, to Ray, and the way that was transferred—not just transferred, but aggregated, and in a dynamic way for all of us, he served as such a great example.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CRAMER. I appreciate his coming down here tonight and sharing his thoughts. I think he really summed it up well.

Now the chairman of the Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee, BOB LATTA, who was the vice-chair of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee when I chaired that. Ray was a big part of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee and ended up as the staff director. I thank BOB for coming down to share his comments tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Ray Baum. I thank the chairman for having this tonight because I think it is very, very important to honor his life.

I was recently asked when I was back home what I liked best about being a Member of Congress. It is always one of those questions I think people think about, well, you are going to think about all the things you do down here. It is not really about being a Member of Congress down here. It is about the people you get to know, the people you get to know at home, and it is also about the people you get to know here.

There are a lot of times that you don't always get to meet someone like Ray, somebody who has that great public service instilled in him. You meet these thousands of people, but you always had some people that stand out; and that is Ray.

If I could, I would like to quote what the chairman said in his release when Ray passed: "Ray dedicated his life to

public service, first as an elected official and then as an adviser on Capitol Hill.

Our committee, the people of Oregon, and our country are better off because of Ray's selfless service. Ray will be deeply missed, but he will not be forgotten. The Energy and Commerce Committee will strive to honor Ray's legacy of decency and kindness through our work, and, more importantly, by following the example Ray set through the graciousness and honor he showed every day."

You heard Chairman SHIMKUS say the same thing.

You have to get things done around this place, and if you are always going to sit in one corner and fold your arms and say, "I am not going to listen to anybody else," it is not going to get done.

But that was not Ray. He reached out, as the chairman mentioned and as Chairman SHIMKUS also mentioned, that it is important to reach out to work with people. I think that it was demonstrated by the pieces of legislation that we got out.

Last year, he was an instrumental part of working with me and getting out the SELF DRIVE Act. We have a lot of pieces of legislation that come through, but the staff kept track. They said that we had over 300 meetings with staff and with Members in getting that bill out. It was a bill that wasn't a Republican bill, and it wasn't a Democrat bill. It was a bill that everyone worked together on.

I think it was important because Ray had a big hand in that. I sat through a lot of meetings, and the staff sat through a lot more than I did when you think about those 300. He was a guiding hand and a very calm hand to get that bill out.

When you think about a piece of legislation of that magnitude, when that bill came up for a committee vote, and not only for the chairman's work, that bill went out 54-0, which is amazing for a bill of that size and that magnitude and what it meant.

He was instrumental, I know when we sat down with our friends over in the Senate in an early meeting talking about what they would be doing, but he was very, very involved in it. But he was a very calming voice.

I wasn't privileged to know Ray when he began his long and distinguished public career service out in Oregon, but, again, I got to know him through his work on the committee. One of the things that I think I can say is he was an incredible person to work with. He was a gentleman, and he took time to listen and to analyze a problem. Around this place, that doesn't happen all the time. Sometimes you jump out there first, and then you think: What am I going to say? But Ray was one of those individuals who really made sure that he was always prepared. He was ready to go forward, and he was willing to listen.

I will never forget, years ago, I had a professor in college who said: You always remember that God gave you two ears and one mouth; if I have to explain that to you, you are going to have a hard time understanding what you have to do more of. But that was listening, and Ray listened.

He always gave you a straight answer. That is always important because it is tough when you are working on legislation and you are working on something, and you have to get an answer from somebody, and they say: Well, let me think about that.

But Ray wasn't that way. He would sit down with you. He would work with you. He would be up in my office; I would be down in his office. He was always there to listen. He was always giving a recommendation, and the end result was he was somebody who you could trust.

I also know this, he had the respect of the Energy and Commerce Committee members. He also had the respect of the staff, Republicans and Democrats alike.

He was kind, and he was thoughtful, too. Sometimes you hear staff say that there are folks around here who don't treat them very well. He wasn't one of those individuals.

He is going to be missed; and it is not often that you are privileged to meet someone like him or to work with someone like him of his caliber and one who always believed in putting public service above self.

To his wife and family, you are in my prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WALDEN for this opportunity.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman both for his wonderful words about Ray and also his terrific record of public service here in this institution.

I know we have a couple other Members who have come down tonight. I think this really speaks volumes about the impact that Ray had on all of us that so many Members of Congress are coming down tonight at this hour to pay tribute and to say thanks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH). MORGAN GRIFFITH is a terrific member of our committee. He is the vice-chair of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. I thank the gentleman for coming down.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for giving me this opportunity.

Unlike Mr. WALDEN, who met him back in 1988, I did not have the opportunity to fall within Ray's orbit until he became the staff director at the Energy and Commerce Committee about 13 months ago that I got to know him. I didn't serve on the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, so I never had any opportunity to work with him.

I found him absolutely delightful to work with, extremely intelligent, always caring about the issues, pas-

sionate about his work, his honesty, and his forthrightness. You could always go and talk with him.

Then I was particularly struck when it became clear that he was well aware of the severity of his illness and how he handled that, Mr. Speaker, with courage and grace.

But knowing that the Energy and Commerce Committee would be handling and involved with the great issues of the day, he and I had several conversations about how he wanted to continue working and spending time, helping Chairman WALDEN on these issues, helping the committee, and helping our great country.

So to his wife, Kristine, and their children, I thank them for sharing their great American husband, father, and citizen servant. We will all miss Ray Baum.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Morgan for those comments.

He always maintained such a wonderful sense of humor about his own predicament knowing that there was a timeline. He had been given 3 to 5 years because of the bone cancer. He went through the treatments and held up very, very well. But I know on more than one occasion he looked at me.

I said: How are you doing, Ray?
He said: Well, I am doing all right. But, hey, nobody has gotten out of here alive yet.

He would always take the edge off. When you were feeling bad about him, he somehow would relieve that tension.

Mr. GRIFFITH. He certainly did. It was remarkable and memorable. I will certainly always remember that great attitude and just all his other great attributes that we heard about tonight.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER). BUDDY CARTER is a distinguished member of our committee. He worked with him on a lot of different issues, healthcare, and different things. I thank BUDDY for coming down tonight.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for not only doing this but allowing me to be a part of it.

Mr. Speaker, I am a relatively new member of the committee, as the chairman is aware. I have only served on it for about 13 months now. I have only been in Congress for 3 years. One of the most frequent questions that I get asked when I go back home is: What is the most surprising thing that you have discovered since you have become a Member of Congress?

I tell them the truth: The most surprising thing is also the most encouraging thing, and that is that there really are a lot of good people in Congress. There are a lot of people serving in Congress, a lot of good people who work with staff and work as staff, who are good people who truly want to do the right thing and who truly want to move this country forward.

Yes, that is somewhat surprising. But more than anything, it is encouraging.

Sometimes I feel like as Members that we get kind of a bad rap, that we are dysfunctional, that we don't get along, and that we are not getting anything done. I get frustrated by that.

But I think about people like Ray Baum, and I think: If they only knew somebody like this, somebody who is truly dedicated, who is truly trying to do the right thing and to move this country forward, then they would understand better.

You are not going to see that on the news. This is not going to be reported that, oh, we have lost one of the good guys. That is not what sells papers. That is not what drives up ratings. But it is what keeps us going.

I really appreciate Chairman WALDEN's friendship with Ray and his earlier going over the history because that is important. I really appreciate the opportunity to add just a few words about, again, one of the good guys.

In our lives, there are people and places that we remember. I know that I will always remember Ray. He helped me when I became a Member. It is tough being the new guy on the block, the low man on the totem pole, but he was a great help to me and a great help to the committee. We need more people like Ray Baum. We need more people like that up here. He was really one of the good ones.

I thank Chairman WALDEN for giving me this opportunity to do this tonight. This is special, and I want to just offer my thoughts and prayers to the family and to the friends. He was indeed a good man.

□ 2100

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CARTER for those wonderful words. I know Ray had such great respect for the gentleman from Georgia and other colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the committee. The working relationships that he developed were almost unlike any other staffer I have ever known, because he really wasn't a staffer. It is kind of a funny thing. It is not like he thought of himself as a Member or anything. He was just Ray. He didn't let barriers keep him from helping people succeed.

I just think for Oregon, my home State, he was kind of the sixth Congressman. The only thing he lacked was a voting card. People knew when Ray was speaking, he was speaking on my behalf. We could double up on Northwest issues, whether it was the Columbia River Treaty, rural telecom issues, or energy grid issues.

It was really a twofor for the price of one. Well, maybe 1½. Ray had that ability to reach across the aisle, reach across any divide, and close the gap and make us better people.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just say that Ray was one of those people, as I said in the beginning, who left before we were ready, but not before he filled us with love, kindness, grace, and shared his wit and humor—some humor better than others.

It was just good to have Ray. God bless him on his journey. God bless Kristine, his brother and sister and their families, and his kids and grandkids. He touched our lives. He left us better than he found us—this country, this State—and we are all indebted to him and so appreciative that we got to know him and work side by side with him.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and February 14 on account of family medical reasons.

Mr. STIVERS (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and February 14 on account of his duties with the Ohio National Guard.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 582. An Act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1301. An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1892. An Act to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 96. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among the areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 1438. An act to redesignate the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in the State of Missouri as the "Gateway Arch National Park".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2017, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2017

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. K. Michael Conaway	10/05	10/08	Canada		1,017.00		477.05				1,494.05
Hon. David Rouzer	10/05	10/08	Canada		1,017.00		919.27				1,936.27
Hon. John Faso	10/05	10/08	Canada		1,017.00		477.05				1,494.05
Hon. Ted Yoho	10/05	10/08	Canada		1,017.00		1,710.86				2,727.86
Dr. Bart Fischer	10/05	10/08	Canada		1,017.00		477.05				1,494.05
Matthew Mackenzie	10/05	10/08	Canada		1,017.00		904.90				1,921.90
Jackie Barber	10/05	10/08	Canada		1,017.00		904.90				1,921.90
Hon. Darren Soto	10/13	10/15	Italy		261.12		(³)				261.12
	10/15	10/18	India		1,062.50		(³)				1,062.50
	10/18	10/20	South Korea		704.18		(³)				704.18
Hon. Glenn "GT" Thompson	10/27	10/28	Estonia		252.46		(³)				252.46
	10/28	10/31	Czech Republic		1,423.48		(³)				1,423.48
Committee total					10,822.74		5,871.08				16,693.82

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2017

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Andrew Cooper	10/16	10/18	Guatemala		395.00		1,177.32		127.88		
	10/18	10/20	Honduras		631.60				127.90		
					1,026.60		1,177.32		255.78		2,459.70
Pamilyn Miller	10/16	10/18	Guatemala		395.00		1,177.32		127.88		
	10/18	10/20	Honduras		631.60				127.90		
					1,026.60		1,177.32		255.78		2,459.70
Justin Masucci	10/16	10/18	Guatemala		395.00		1,177.32		127.88		
	10/18	10/20	Honduras		631.60				127.90		
					1,026.60		1,177.32		255.78		2,459.70
Maureen Holohan	10/15	10/16	Italy		393.88		4,322.74		14.81		
	10/17	10/18	Belgium		869.00		633.33		248.00		
	10/19	10/20	Luxembourg		370.72		138.37		133.77		
					1,633.60		5,094.44		396.58		7,124.62
Hon. Charles W. Dent	10/15	10/16	Italy		393.88		4,144.66		248.00		
	10/17	10/18	Belgium		869.00		178.08		127.44		
	10/19	10/20	Luxembourg		370.72		633.33		6.33		
					1,633.60		4,956.07		381.77		6,971.44
Matt Washington	10/15	10/16	Italy		393.88		4,144.66		258.58		
	10/17	10/18	Belgium		869.00		33.48		127.44		
	10/19	10/20	Luxembourg		370.72		811.41		6.33		
					1,633.60		4,989.55		392.35		7,015.50
Sarah Young	10/15	10/16	Italy		393.88		4,144.66		45.52		
	10/17	10/18	Belgium		869.00		160.00		375.44		
	10/19	10/20	Luxembourg		370.72		811.41		6.33		
					1,633.60		5,116.07		427.29		7,176.96
Hon. Debbie Wasserman Schultz	10/15	10/16	Italy		393.88		14,531.06		375.44		
	10/17	10/18	Belgium		869.00		178.08		6.33		
	10/19	10/20	Luxembourg		370.72		633.33		35.00		
					1,633.60		15,342.47		416.77		17,392.84