

conversations on any subject, from sports, to theater, literature, art, and photography—he had a feel for life and a keen way of listening to others. Moreover, a very likable man able to focus in on the simple aspect of human interaction—the handshake, the greeting, and a smile. Most of all, he was great fun, always able to use self-deprecating humor and weave stories of life, history and literature from his unique perspective. That perspective was usually made clearer or more fuzzy depending on what we ordered from the top shelf. He was above all genuine, not without his faults, but his virtue far surpassed what he would call his inconsistencies. He was great company: engaging, quick-witted, and loved a good laugh.

The funeral was in the ancestral neighborhood of his grandparents and where his father, Tom, and his mother, Grace, are buried in an old Irish cemetery. The center of which was the Church of St. Michael the Archangel built by the Irish who lived in the area. The wooden beams, the stained-glass window, the tiled floor, wooden confessional, all works of art in their own right.

Before the funeral began, I had the opportunity to talk with Owen, Jeremy's son who was my press secretary, and present him with a flag flown over the United States Capitol in his father's honor. I also spoke with his uncle, United States Senator Chris Dodd, whom I had been a district coordinator for in his 1980 run for the Senate and when I came to the Congress in 1998 he took me under his wing and always gave wise counsel and stellar advice. He told me he was going through Jeremy's belongings and came across this poem that Jeremy was very fond of. He then thanked me for being there and gave me this poem called "The Dash."

It is my honor to introduce it and include it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This poem, written by Linda Ellis, aptly describes Jeremy, his family, his father, his brother U.S. Senator Dodd, his son Owen, and the entire Dodd family: a family that was an exemplary example of public service, love of country, ever committed to making a more perfect union and being defined by their accomplishments between "The Dash."

In Loving Memory of a Man Who Took the Road Less Traveled:

Old Saybrook—Jeremy (Jerry) Murphy Dodd, 82, died peacefully on November 27, 2020, due to complications from Alzheimer's disease. Jerry leaves his loving and only son, Owen M. Dodd, his former spouse Barbara M. Dodd and his four siblings Thomas J. Dodd his spouse Mary O'Neil Dodd, Mary Carolyn Dodd, Senator Christopher J. Dodd and his spouse Jackie Clegg-Dodd, Nicholas Owen Dodd, and his loving friend, Joanne Hoyer. He also leaves behind eleven nieces and nephews and an extensive loving family. In addition, Jerry joins his late sister, Martha Dodd-Buonanno. Jerry is the third child of the six children born of Mary Grace and Senator Thomas J. Dodd. He was born in New Haven, CT, on September 23, 1938, amid the New England Hurricane—one of the most destructive and deadliest hurricanes to make land-fall in Connecticut. Raised in the Nutmeg State, he called home in North Stonington, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and West Hartford. He graduated from the Cheshire Academy and then served in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Coastguard where he was honorably discharged from both services. He then went on to study at Mexico City College, Mexico City, Mexico earning his bachelor's in history. After graduating in 1962, as a fluent

Spanish speaker, he hitchhiked through Central and South America during a time of political upheaval and great transition in the region. This momentous time was influential in shaping Jerry's worldview especially as it pertained to helping those who need it the most. Upon returning to the United States, he found his passion in life, photography. Jerry would study photography under the famous photographer John W. Doscher at the Doscher Country School of Photography in Vermont and would go on to take the portraits of Depression Era photographer Walker Evans and the renowned ornithologist and painter, Roger Tory Peterson. Jerry's innate photographic talent focused on families, portraiture, and legal photography, where he excelled and was in high demand across the state. Later in his life, he devoted his time to social work. He worked with community service programs that were committed to the rehabilitation of formerly incarcerated persons as he believed firmly in providing a second chance for people. He believed deeply in his work and it came from a belief of a higher-good where one should work towards something larger than oneself. Jerry was a lover of life who cherished animals, hiking in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and sailing on the Connecticut River in his wooden boat, Mrs. Jones. He was a voracious reader and lover of history who understood that we all have a story to tell, and he was eager to hear the histories of those he met throughout his life. His indelible humor was contagious to others, and his magnetic personality was a complete joy to be around. He has truly left the world and its inhabitants better than where he found them. There will be a private ceremony at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Pawcatuck, Rhode Island on December 7, 2020, where he will be laid to rest next to his mother and father in the Dodd Family plot.

#### THE DASH

(By Linda Ellis)

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning . . . to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars . . . the house . . . the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile . . . remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

## HONORING IOWA'S ELECTION POLL WORKERS AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing each and every one of the volunteer poll workers who helped with this general election as our Iowans of the Week.

Iowans have long prided ourselves on how we engage the democratic process. For us, that means a lot more than simply casting a ballot every so often: it means really getting to know candidates and elected officials, attending town halls to ask questions and voice opinions, keeping up with the news, encouraging our friends and neighbors to get involved, and consistently turning out to vote. To boil it down, Iowans believe participation is key when it comes to government and politics.

As positive cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in Iowa, state and county election officials had to find a way for Americans to cast their ballots safely, reliably, and on time. I'm proud to say they did so successfully, and that feat required more than 10,000 everyday citizens to step up and participate as volunteer poll workers throughout early voting and on Election Day.

These volunteers took time away from work, school, and home during the week and on weekends to give back to their communities. While they came to the table with their own political beliefs and values, they all worked together in a nonpartisan way to make the day run smoothly. As the risks of COVID-19 kept many older volunteers at home this year, Iowa saw more high school students and young adults sign up to fill the gaps. For weeks prior to November 3rd, individual county election offices planned and held dozens of trainings for volunteers to learn the ropes of being a precinct election official. On Election Day these volunteers staffed more than 1,600 precinct voting locations across the state, many working fifteen-hour shifts from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. to make sure every Iowan who wanted to could cast a ballot.

While working early voting sites and election day locations, they wore personal protective equipment like masks, face shields, and gloves and continually wiped down voting machines and frequently touched surfaces to ensure their neighbors could participate with minimal risk. They made sure Iowans visiting the polls had masks and hand sanitizer, knew where to go and what to do once they got there, and made sure the environment was safe and welcoming for all.

Elections that are free, fair, safe, and secure are the foundation of our nation's democracy. Maintaining that standard requires consistency, careful planning, and ongoing collaboration each cycle. I would be remiss if I did not thank election officials at the state and county levels for their tireless work to make the 2020 general election run smoothly across our state. The amount of work that goes on behind the scenes by these individuals is staggering. I also want to commend everyone who made their voices heard by casting a ballot this fall; their participation is how we move society forward.

Finally, I'd like to again extend my gratitude to the thousands of volunteer poll workers in central and southwest Iowa who stepped up to serve their communities and our democracy. They have performed an essential civic duty to ensure their neighbors could safely participate in record numbers, and they did so while dealing with a global pandemic. Their efforts and dedication are a true reflection of Iowa values, and I'm proud to name them Iowans of the Week.

#### 2020 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENT THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2020*

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, today, December 10th, International Human Rights Day, at 7:00 AM Eastern Time, the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in Oslo, Norway to the World Food Program (WFP) for its outstanding humanitarian work to feed the world's hungriest and most vulnerable people.

The World Food Program is the largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security internationally, providing aid to nearly 100 million people in 88 countries last year alone.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began wreaking havoc on people's lives, livelihoods and economic security, WFP has redoubled its efforts to address global hunger and failing food systems. Last month, WFP executive director David Beasley warned of the potential for famine of Biblical proportions if the world failed to provide support now to the those currently made most vulnerable by the pandemic and its associated economic shocks, climate change, natural disaster, war and conflict.

I have had the privilege of seeing WFP operations up close and personal in various regions of the world. I was in eastern Chad on the border of Sudan visiting Sudanese refugee camps in 2007 when Janjaweed militias crossed the border and attacked two villages. WFP and many humanitarian aid groups swung into immediate action, providing safety, food, water and emergency medical care to hundreds of villagers made homeless in hours.

In Colombia, I've seen WFP provide nourishing meals in schools for the children of families internally displaced by violence. And in Ethiopia I visited health centers serving individuals and families ravaged by HIV/AIDS that could provide food for their patients thanks to WFP and its local partners.

In the wars in Syria, Yemen, Sudan and South Sudan, the deliveries of food and related services provided by WFP are often the only source of nourishment for civilian populations trapped in conflict zones, forcibly displaced inside their countries, or forced to flee to neighboring nations for safety.

I am very proud that the United States is the largest donor to WFP operations world-wide, and that USDA, USAID and our own Food for Peace Program are among WFP's most reliable and effective partners. The U.S. provides food grown by America's own farmers, ready-to-eat meals, cash assistance, support for school feeding programs, and nutritious food products tailored for the very young and espe-

cially for infants and young children suffering from malnutrition and undernutrition.

Many of us cannot imagine the range and scale of WFP's global mission. It includes 17,000 staff worldwide, works in some 80 countries, and has more than 20 ships, 90 planes, and 5,600 trucks on the move on any given day. It certainly has some of the most generous and dedicated local staff that I have ever met and works with a broad range of local, national and international NGOs and partners to combat global hunger and food insecurity.

I will never forget those days when I have been with WFP in the field. I give my warmest congratulations to David Beasley, and the extraordinary local and international WFP staff, for being awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize. May they carry on their noble mission until the day comes when no child, no man or woman goes to bed hungry and every household in the world is secure in the knowledge that there will always be food on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately prevented from traveling and unable to make votes on December 9, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 8900 and H.R. 5758.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOINT CENTER FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2020*

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Founded and chartered in 1970 as the first of its kind, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies has since served as America's chief Black think tank inside the beltway. Though diverse in their research and advocacy, the Joint Center has remained a consistent presence in the application and advancement of empirical-based policies supporting strategies to advance Black America.

Madam Speaker, it is common that any resolution addressing the disproportionate impact of a policy on the Black community introduced in this chamber cites a study conducted by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Even I, along with countless Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) colleagues have referenced their reports when legislating and communicating with my constituents. The Joint Center plays a critical role in keeping our leaders properly informed and educated on the issues that Black Americans face daily.

Just last year, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies was credited for several efforts to achieve diversity in the workforce. Among them include bringing increased

awareness to congressional staff diversity, culminating with the establishment of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in the U.S. House of Representatives; encouraging companies to consider the future of their work through a racial equity lens, resulting in companies like McKinsey & Company. Another example of the fruition of their work would be The Atlantic and the National Skills Coalition releasing, 'The Future of Work' reports and hosting listening sessions. Over the last five decades, they have successfully convened leaders of major cities to discuss workforce modernization in Black communities.

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies' work is more relevant and necessary now than ever before. In the face of a crisis disproportionately affecting Black Americans' health outcomes and economic security encompassed by a global pandemic, we must push for a national agenda with viable solutions that address the systemic racism that prompted these inequities.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies for their successes over the years, let us also reaffirm our commitment as a body to working alongside them and others to advance noble ideas and policies that promote the Black community.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT PUBLIC TRANSIT IS A NATIONAL PRIORITY WHICH REQUIRES FUNDING EQUAL TO THE LEVEL OF HIGHWAY FUNDING

**HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2020*

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution declaring that public transit is a national priority which requires funding equal to the level of highway funding along with my colleagues HAKEEM JEFFRIES from New York and AYANNA PRESSLEY from Massachusetts.

Joining us in this introduction are 30 other members from across the country and dozens of organizations invested in ensuring we build a more just, equitable, and sustainable transportation system in America.

The near 40-year precedent of an "80-20" split between highway and transit funding does not reflect our citizens, businesses, and communities' needs for safe, reliable, and convenient public transportation. The split underfunds transit needs leaving too many reliant on deteriorating transit systems with infrequent, inconvenient, and unreliable service.

The 80-20 split was agreed to in 1982, when 1 cent of a 5 cent gas tax increase was dedicated to transit. But since 2008, over \$144 billion in taxpayer dollars have supplemented gas tax revenues for highway and transit spending. The user fee is not working as intended, yet the 80-20 funding split persists.

Transit is an essential lifeline for the over one million rural households without a car and millions of Americans of color disproportionately reliant on public transit. 2.8 million essential workers and millions more rely on transit to access their jobs, food, and health care.

In Chicago, CTA trains and Pace Buses are the arteries of our city and they've kept our