

God bless you, JOHN. Thank you.

Mr. SCALISE. As you can see, Madam Speaker, these are tough jobs, these are tough times, but when you come up to Congress, you don't just come up here to fight for the things you believe in. That is clearly why you run. We all have a deep love for this country. We all have a deep set of beliefs that we come to try to advocate for. But we all know, in a job like this, you can't do it alone. You need to work with other people. You need to find allies, people who want to help join you in that cause to advance the things you believe in. And along that way, Madam Speaker, you truly do make deep friendships.

I remember, I was a new Member in a special election. I came in towards the tail end of a Congress in 2008 with only 6 months left in the term. I didn't really know anybody here. I was trying to find my way, in fact, trying to find a place to live. I was living with one of my college roommates who works up here in D.C. They had a baby on the way, and I was staying in the baby's room, so I knew I had a few weeks left before I had to find another place to live.

So I asked my colleague right over there, I asked Jim McCrery, the Congressman from Louisiana, I said: Jim, I am looking for a place. What do you do to find a place around here?

He said: Well, you know, JOHN SHIMKUS has an opening at his town house.

I said: Who is JOHN SHIMKUS?

I didn't know JOHN. And he literally pointed, and JOHN was right there in the well of the House during a vote series. So all the Members of Congress were joined together, and he points JOHN out.

I walked down, and I introduced myself to JOHN. I said: I heard you have an opening at your town house. I just came here, and I am looking for a place to stay.

He said: Why don't you come by later tonight.

And that, Madam Speaker, started an incredible friendship.

That next day, I called my wife, Jennifer, that night and I said: I think I found a place to live."

That next day I moved in. I didn't really know KEVIN BRADY, and next thing you know, I am rooming with these gentlemen and getting to know people who became dear friends.

And again, in a job like this, you work really hard advocating for the things that you ran on back home. You are fighting for the people in your district. I am honored to represent southeast Louisiana. But you are also working with some incredible people, and you get to meet incredible people along the way. JOHN SHIMKUS is truly, as KEVIN said, one of those true, genuine people, somebody you can entrust the things that you want to share with only a few people.

Close friendships do form up here. You don't hear about that a lot, yet we were able to form such a deep friendship, somebody you can trust.

As KEVIN said, JOHN went to West Point. He is an Army guy, so he was the drill sergeant in the town house. And when JOHN says something, you back your brother's play.

In fact, the second day I was in the town house, JOHN said: Steve, tomorrow you have got to get up at 6 in the morning, and we are going out to play baseball.

I didn't know about the tradition between the Democrats and Republicans. I guess I have JOHN to blame.

JOHN said: You have got to come out for the baseball team.

I hadn't played baseball in over 25 years. I didn't even have a glove, and yet, next thing you know, the next morning I am up playing baseball. And, boy, what a start of, again, an ability to generate even more friendships, to forge friendships with people on both sides of the aisle, some that you work with on a regular basis, some that you are not always working with, but people you get to form a deep friendship with.

And that is really what makes Congress work. It is not the things that you see on the nightly news, the big fights that go on between the parties and sometimes within the parties, but it is the day-to-day grind where people do come together and find common ground to advance the things that they believe in to make this a greater nation. And JOHN SHIMKUS has done that on so many fronts. I got to see it.

Yes, he is the first one up. He is reading his Bible. He is writing down verses. But when it is time to leave, he starts to whistle. And you don't need an alarm clock. When JOHN starts to whistle, that means it is time to go to work.

And, again, he is just a person who wakes up and goes to work for the people of southern Illinois and the United States of America, just like he served our country in the military. For 24 years, he served this great Nation.

We are a better nation because JOHN SHIMKUS has been a Member of this wonderful body, the people's House. This is really where people come together.

I started this morning in Philadelphia. I had some meetings there, and I actually, on my way out, passed by Independence Hall. You never can see that enough. I got to see the Liberty Bell this morning. I got to go see the chamber where George Washington sat as they signed the Declaration of Independence, where they wrote the Constitution of the United States, right next door, the chamber where Congress met for 10 years when they were building this beautiful building, where they actually passed the Bill of Rights.

We are all honored to be a part of this special place where people of all walks of life come together. And you meet people of different backgrounds, you work with people of different backgrounds, and you work to make this a better country. And you just hope, you just pray, as you are praying to God for

strength, for wisdom, for guidance, as we all do, that whenever you leave—we all leave this job; hopefully, you leave on your own terms—if you look back, you can say that you left your mark, you made this a better country.

JOHN SHIMKUS, you left your mark. You get to leave on your own terms. You get to go home with Karen and enjoy your life in southern Illinois. You have earned this opportunity to have a new chapter in your life because you can look back and say, for 24 years, you served here in this great body and made this a better institution and made this a better country because of your service.

Thank you, JOHN, for this opportunity to get to know you so well.

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, although I was unable to join in person tonight, I want to lend my voice to the chorus of colleagues assembling to honor JOHN SHIMKUS' service in Congress. I thank JOHN for his friendship, and commitment to public service. I wish him nothing but health and happiness for himself and his family during his upcoming retirement from Congress.

JOHN came to Washington one term before I did. We had offices next to each other on the fifth floor of the Cannon Building. As most members and staff know, most of the elevators in Cannon do not go to the fifth floor, making those offices not the most desirable real estate. But JOHN and I not only stayed there as Freshman members, but we stayed a few terms, enjoying the larger offices and the somewhat quieter halls. JOHN and I, as well as our staff, got along well, especially Cathy Hurwit, my long time Chief of Staff and Craig Roberts, JOHN's then and current Chief.

Though there were issues on which JOHN and I disagreed, we had the opportunity to work closely together on issues affecting our state. The Illinois Delegation had a tradition of monthly bipartisan lunches. The agendas focused on issues specific to Illinois. Often we would agree to support legislation, funding or projects that could help all our constituents and benefit our state. Illinois was one of the few delegations that was able to work so smoothly together, and JOHN was a leader in that effort.

JOHN and I both earned positions on the prestigious Energy and Commerce Committee. I saw up close how passionately JOHN fought for his beliefs and constituents. His tone was always positive, even as he disagreed with other members. I have enjoyed serving with him on the Committee all these years.

JOHN SHIMKUS is well liked on both sides of the aisle. Why? Because JOHN SHIMKUS is a kind man, a smart man, and a gentleman. We have been able to debate without spite, collaborate, and sometimes find common ground. This is how collegiality and compromise work, and I wish we could bottle it and send it around the halls of Congress.

JOHN will be missed here. I hope he enjoys every extra moment he's earned with Karen, David, Joshua, and Daniel.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SHIMKUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the

gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, at this point, I will go over to the other side of the aisle to yield to my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) to offer his comments.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

JOHN, it is an honor and pleasure to be here with our colleagues to salute you and thank you for the tremendous service that you have provided not only to people of your congressional district, but the people of this Nation.

It is very obvious that you are much loved and appreciated and respected by your colleagues in this House. It is also humbling to know that you have brought a good name to politics, and you have reminded us by your very actions and your deeply rooted beliefs in the various issues that you tackle that it is not only okay, but it is essential to have differences in this House; and it is to share those differences in a respectable way, which you have always done so as to build the best product.

So I think this evening we salute your integrity and your humility, which oftentimes is what I think drives your personality to be able to achieve and to have this driving force to accomplish on behalf of the people. I appreciate the opportunity to participate this evening, and I will try not to undermine JOHN SHIMKUS' sterling conservative credentials by joining in this discussion this evening.

For 6 years, I have served as the ranking member to Mr. SHIMKUS' subcommittee chair. In the past 2 years, we have switched roles. But during all of that time, we have disagreed on many occasions. In fact, we are disagreeing right now, but that doesn't stop me from coming here this evening to just share my respect with others for you and the tremendous performance you have put forth on behalf of the Republic.

But as I have found, you have been tremendously accessible, very open-minded and fair, always looking for a way for us to achieve and to build that compromise. It has been a great partnership, even if we didn't see eye to eye on everything.

I will always appreciate that we would work together to try to find common ground on issues where we thought we could agree. I am proud of our bipartisan work on brownfields, where we reauthorized and improved that program. Certainly, the drinking water infrastructure efforts that we made is essential for our communities. We made some great improvements to both of those programs, and it would not have been possible without your leadership, JOHN.

And while we have had some different perspectives on TSCA, I believe it is fair to say that Representative SHIMKUS has done some undeniably monumental work on chemical safety for this country.

His district and this Chamber are losing a great Representative, and Yucca Mountain is losing a frequent visitor.

JOHN, I congratulate you on your retirement. I wish you and Karen the very best as you go forward. You have displayed to me tremendous qualities of character when you speak of your family, the love you have for them. It is just apparent in your face when you talk about them. You are so proud of that partnership you have with Karen and of the children, the offspring that you have created.

It is also very evident that you have enjoyed service to this country, not only in this House, but as a member of the New York delegation, I am proud to say that we adopt you as a West Point cadet and that you have shown your strength and your valor and your courage to be a strong element that you have contributed to this country.

I thank you for your integrity. I thank you for your deeply rooted faith that has made a lot of our partnership work. You are guided with that humble spirit to serve your Creator through the gifts you have been endowed.

Thank you for being such a great friend, thank you for being such a great work partner, and thank you for the success that we have achieved together, and I hope there is more to come in the ensuing days and weeks that you will be here.

So, congratulations, my friend. Know that you made your mark and that you have earned many stars after your name.

God bless.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you, Mr. TONKO, for your comments. I felt a little JOHN SHIMKUS-y here. I was getting a little impatient. I thought we were running out of time. So I am going ask my colleagues to please try to limit your comments to a maximum of 2 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), my good friend and fellow Illinoisan.

Mr. LAHOOD. Thank you, Congressman DAVIS, for yielding.

It is a pleasure to be here tonight with my colleagues to honor JOHN SHIMKUS. I obviously echo the remarks of everyone who spoke before me.

We have heard about JOHN's service, obviously his service at West Point and his service to the Army, 28 years serving us in the military, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. But as the newest member of the Republican delegation, coming in 5 years ago, I just want to comment on what JOHN SHIMKUS has meant to me as a new Member coming in on a special election in September of 2015.

JOHN is the head of our delegation, was there for me, as he has been for so many of us here in the Congress. JOHN's friendship, his mentorship, his example that he has set for us has been invaluable. He really has set the gold standard for being a legislator, and my colleagues have talked about that.

He showed the importance of good constituent service, being a cheer-

leader for your district, and making the Federal Government work for the people that you represent. JOHN has been in Congress for all the right reasons and, as has been articulated by my colleagues, shown how much he cares for his family, his faith, and the constituents he represents in southern Illinois.

JOHN, you are going to leave an indelible mark here in the Congress on the work you did on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and in the people's House here. Illinois and this country owe you a sincere thanks for your selfless service, not only to Congress, but to the Army.

□ 2115

We will miss you in the Illinois delegation, but we know that Karen and your three sons will be happy to have you home.

Madam Speaker, I also want to mention, putting Congressman DAVIS aside, JOHN has hired very good staff in his time in Congress, and I mean that. If you look at the people that have worked for JOHN SHIMKUS that have come through his organization, they are people that have gone on to do great things back in Illinois and here in Washington, D.C., and that is another testament to JOHN SHIMKUS and his team.

Madam Speaker, I have to give a shout out to Craig Roberts, his longtime staffer. He and JOHN have done a remarkable job leading this delegation and doing so much for their district and the people of Illinois.

So, JOHN, I want to congratulate you on a well-earned retirement and thank you for everything you have done for me and our country, and Congress is a better place because of your service.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman LAHOOD for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), my colleague, who has known JOHN SHIMKUS since before he was even elected.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. DAVIS for yielding.

You know, that is true, I have known JOHN SHIMKUS since he was actually a treasurer in Madison County, where he was the one that held the spot after it had been 10 years since a Republican had held the spot, and he took that.

I was a State legislator, and I kept hearing about this guy, JOHN SHIMKUS from Madison County. I actually came to know him as I ran for State representative. And then all of a sudden, they said he is going to run for Congress, and I thought, what a wonderful thing.

You know, each one of us in our districts when we see that and as we are local elected officials, we think, oh, that is going to be good, but we didn't realize how great it would be.

At this time, when we would like to joke with JOHN because we love him, the reality is he has served his district well. He hasn't just served his district

well. He has served the State well, he has served the Nation well, and he has made differences in the world.

I would like to harass him about the fact that he is an Army guy, as a Marine, but the reality is that he served well in the Army as well.

He is a man of integrity. He is a man of faith. He loves his family. And, really, that is what our Nation is about.

He is going to be missed terribly in this body.

We want to joke about the fact that he is quitting. But you know what? He didn't quit. He stood up. He stood up in tough times. He stood up in good times. But the people of this Nation are better because this man has served in Congress.

He is a close friend. You can hear that with the people that are talking here.

He is a father who loves his children. He is a husband that loves his wife. He is a man that loves his God. Who could ask for anything more?

JOHN, thank you.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY), my colleague.

Madam Speaker, if it takes us up, you know, I am going to start actually asking for time.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman DAVIS for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank JOHN SHIMKUS and wish him the very best in his retirement.

Now, JOHN, you may not remember this, but 4 years ago when I joined this Congress, I said I would like to come and meet you, so you invited me to your office. You could not pronounce my name. Few people can. I said, Just call me RAJA. My last name allows me to get on a first-name basis with everybody in this place.

From that point forward, we developed a relationship, a friendship, to the point where very recently, I came to him and asked him to cosponsor a piece of legislation, and he just said, "Put me on it," without even asking me what I was asking him to cosponsor.

It was moving to me, because he trusted me, and it was based on a friendship rooted on shared values. Even though we may not be in the same party, we are all Americans, and that is something that I deeply cherish about our relationship.

Now, as a wise man once said, we can find common ground only by moving to a higher ground, only by moving to a higher ground.

Working with JOHN proved to me that we can ascend to higher heights, but only if we try.

JOHN SHIMKUS represents the epitome of a legislator who tries to ascend to higher ground every day.

Madam Speaker, I thank JOHN and his excellent staff, including his longtime chief, Craig Roberts, for their incredible devoted service to their family, to their community, and to their country.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY for his comments tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), a good friend of Congressman SHIMKUS and all of us.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman DAVIS for yielding.

To Karen Shimkus and the family, thank you for sharing JOHN with all of us for so many years. Thank you for your warmth and friendship as well.

I am told that JOHN is a big fan of the movie "Tombstone." As the former chairman of the committee, now ranking member of the committee, there are a couple of great quotes out of "Tombstone" that I think sum up for many of us who have the pleasure to serve with him and see his passion for his district, see his passion for his community, see his passion for good policy. One of them would be when Kurt Russell said: "Tell him the law is coming. You tell 'em I'm coming and hell's coming with me."

When you want somebody at your side fighting for a cause, that sums up JOHN SHIMKUS.

Russell also said: "You called down thunder. Well, now you've got it."

As we have tackled these issues and we have watched JOHN stand up for the people that sent him here, we know that he is by their side. And he not only brings the passion, but he brings the intellect and he brings deep principle to every fight.

So, JOHN, we wish you and Karen and the family well.

God speed in your next endeavor, my friend.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. WALDEN for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY), sticking with the Energy and Commerce Committee that Mr. SHIMKUS has served on since he got to Congress in 1996.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. DAVIS for yielding.

I rise tonight to honor my friend, JOHN SHIMKUS. Ten years ago, JOHN took me under his wing and was my mentor to get started in this, and I can't tell you how much I have learned from being around JOHN.

Now, in Scotland, "McKinley" means "stubborn" in Gaelic.

I have wondered, what does "Shimkus" mean in Lithuanian? Now, I have got to think, the only thing I can think of, trying to shake this out, is it must mean "persistence," because I have never met a person as persistent as JOHN SHIMKUS. He personifies the trait.

Think about what he has done in his 24 years here in Congress. Just most recently, his relentless focus in leading on the Brownfields legislation, or the fly ash legislation, or his love of TSCA.

So, JOHN, you have made a difference. You have impacted many of us in our careers. You will never know how

many lives you have touched and the hundreds of thousands of jobs that through your legislation you have helped create in America. I think we all owe you a debt of gratitude for that.

So thank you for being a friend, thank you for being a great American.

Thank you, Karen, for sharing him with us.

It has been an honor to work with you, and I wish you the best in the years to come.

God bless you.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. MCKINLEY for his comments tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), another leader on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I thank JOHN for his service to the Congress, his service to the country. And JOHN's life has been all about service from West Point, to the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserves.

For 15 years, it has been my high privilege to serve with JOHN on the Energy and Commerce Committee. You can tell by the number of members of the Energy and Commerce Committee who are here tonight just the impact he has had on that committee.

I will tell you, JOHN, one of my fondest memories is in March 2011 after Harry Reid had shut down the project that was to be long-term nuclear storage out at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. I still have a piece of rock that the Yucca mucker kicked up and the tailings when we walked into that enormous man-made cavern out there.

But your passion for that issue has not dimmed over the years, and I will just promise you that we will take it up and carry on in the Congresses to come.

I thank you very much for the privilege of having known you.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BURGESS for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), another Energy and Commerce member.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today to honor my good friend and fellow midwesterner, our colleague, Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS.

I had the absolute honor of serving with him also on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

His 24 years of serving this body has had a tremendous impact on our country, as we have heard, but personally, his role on the steering committee had a critical impact on my own career, from which I am retiring from Congress this year as well.

I thank him for fighting for me, because for the first time ever, two Hoosiers made it to the Energy and Commerce Committee, which was unprecedented, in myself and Dr. BUCHSON.

So the reputation of the E&C, he has led the way in working both sides of the aisle, as we have seen, to create bipartisan legislation that he crafted to help all Americans. He was instrumental in designating 911 as the universal emergency number. I am a former teacher and the mom of a teacher; he ensured that schools have the appropriate lifesaving equipment to keep students safe.

As a proud Lithuanian descendant—and I might say, he is a rock star in Lithuania, and I was there once with he and Karen in Lithuania—his support for our staunch ally has been critical to our two countries' really important relationship.

There are just so many things to mention.

This body is going to miss him and his patriotic passion dearly, but I wish JOHN and Karen really an incredible retirement of love and a lot of music.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Mrs. BROOKS for her comments tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), another E&C member.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much. I appreciate my friend for yielding.

JOHN, we are going to miss you.

You probably don't remember this, because you talk to a lot of folks, but even before I got here, one of the first persons I talked with was you in your office. I can still remember. One of the things I was talking about was, How do I get on E&C? I hadn't even gotten elected yet. But you were very gracious to talk with me that afternoon, and I will never forget it.

One of the things I know about you is this: you have got your priorities right in life, and it is the way you build things. It is your God, your family, and your country. You always, always show that to the rest of us. It was something you believed in.

Again, we all have such great respect for you.

Also, serving on committee with you and when you were chairing the Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee, one of the things you were passionate about is making sure things got done.

And TSCA, when we were talking about getting things done, no one thought it was going to get done. You got it done.

The other thing you were working on that we have still got to get done is when we talk about Yucca Mountain. I will never forget when you took a group of us out there to Yucca. Again, it is something that you believed in, but it is something that we have to do. So that is your legacy.

For all your years of service now here in the House, but also to your country in the Army, I think it really comes back to something my dad taught me. Dad was in public service for 36 years. He said: "Always remember, there are two types of people that

get into this: those who want to be a politician and those who want to be a public servant." And this is how he defined it: A politician sees how much they can take from the people they represent for their own benefit, while public servants see how much they can give back to the people they represent.

So all I can say is we are going to miss you. You have been a great leader on committee, you have been a great leader in this House.

I wish all the best to you and your family, because I know we talked through the years about how our families are doing, but I can't thank you enough for your service to this country and to this House.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. LATTA for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), another E&C member.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

I am here tonight to honor Mr. SHIMKUS. I call him Mr. SHIMKUS because that is how a junior West Point cadet refers to a senior West Point cadet.

One of the most insulting things I get here in Washington, people ask me often: "Were you at West Point with JOHN SHIMKUS?"

I always say: "Do I look like I could have been at West Point when JOHN SHIMKUS was there?"

□ 2130

We are not that far apart, the Class of '80 and the Class '87. But he is passionate about his country.

I serve on the NATO committee with him. I am going to tell one quick story. It is really more about passion for his family.

One year, we were visiting our allies. We were visiting in Holland, and JOHN went on a mission to find some kind of horn. I forget the name of the horn, but it is a Dutch horn. He went to a village. He went to somebody's home. This thing wasn't easy to find, but he said: I have to find it because my wife wants it. My wife always wants a unique musical instrument from some country that I visit.

It wasn't like, "I have to get this for my wife." He was passionate about getting it. This thing was as big as half of this table, and he had to carry it back.

When he started telling people why he was doing it, you could just see the passion in his face. He goes: My wife—who is here with us tonight—my wife, she teaches music, and when she teaches this kind of music, this history, she gets these instruments out that I collect. She goes through them, and she teaches the history of the country where this music is from.

So it is combined. You could see JOHN's passion for history, his wife's passion for music, and his passion for his family.

Then, finally, he may not remember this, but I was standing with him one

of the preopening nights of the Bible Museum, and I remember being with him when he saw Martin Luther's Bible that is there. He just looked at it. I could see him just speechless because of, the great Lutheran that he is, his love of the Word of God and the love of his God.

It shows a common theme tonight. JOHN is passionate about his country, through West Point and his service to the Army and the NATO committee, and passionate about his family.

It is just unmistakable. It is just there. It is in his face. His face shows everything he is thinking. When he talks about his wife, you can certainly see it.

When I was standing there with him, he was passionate about his God. Duty, honor, country is learned at West Point, but country, family, and God, that is so important.

Thank you, JOHN, for your service. We are going to miss you.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH), another E&C member.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, we have heard a lot of great comments about JOHN. I was not officially a mentee, but when I first got to the Energy and Commerce Committee, he immediately started giving me pointers and guidance. We would talk about issues, and we would talk about how you do things and how sometimes it is frustrating around here, as we all know.

I appreciate very much all the help that you gave me and the guidance that you gave me through the years. I am going to miss you deeply on the committee. I appreciate all of your service.

I could talk about all the things that all the other people have, but I am going to point something out that I realized as I was sitting here.

Every Member of Congress, by nature, is a political junkie, and, unfortunately, the time to celebrate your service overlaps with a Presidential debate. So it will get higher ratings in the reruns than it will get in the prime time, first edition.

But when you stop to think about it, think about all the Members of Congress who stayed here, who wanted to say something positive about you, about your service, your commitment to your family, to your God, and to your country, we are all here missing that big event because we love JOHN SHIMKUS.

So, God bless you. Godspeed on the work that you have to do further.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for brief remarks.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my colleague, my friend, and fellow pitcher on the Congressional Baseball Team.

In fact, in 2018, after watching my colleague JOHN SHIMKUS pitch for an

inning, I followed him on to the mound. After watching him for an entire inning, I still, Madam Speaker, cannot throw the ball straight.

But in all seriousness, it is a privilege to serve with a man with such great character and commitment to service.

In fact, JOHN, you are the epitome of a servant leader. I imagine this is how you were when you were a soldier, when you were a teacher, a local leader. That is certainly who you are in this Chamber, and it has made all the difference.

I am reminded of the scripture in Philippians that says: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourself.

That is who you are, JOHN, and that is the value and the trait that has made this country what it is today. I pray that we will have more leaders follow you in your ilk.

It is an honor to be your friend. I am grateful for your friendship, and I wish you blessings and Godspeed in all your future endeavors.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I can attest, sometimes the gentleman cannot throw the pitch straight. My shin feels that. But I thank the gentleman for his kind words.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), the newest member of the SHIMKUS slumlord era at his townhouse.

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank my good friend, roommate, and colleague, Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS, for his 24 years of dedicated service in the United States House of Representatives.

JOHN began his life of commitment to our country when he enrolled at the prestigious West Point Academy. Following graduation from West Point, JOHN served 5 years in the Army and then entered the Army Reserves.

Much like his time in the military, JOHN's service in Congress has been defined by his steadfast approach to leadership and integrity.

When I was elected to Congress almost 2 years ago, I was grateful to have JOHN, not only as my guide but also as a roommate and friend. It has been a great privilege to live in the legendary Shimkus townhouse, where there were only two requirements: that I had to pay the rent on time and that I had to make sure the freezer was stocked with Dairy Queen Dilly Bars.

I will always be thankful for the many late-night conversations after a hard day's work, where he and I had the chance to discuss not only policy and legislation but also about our lives and families.

Serving in Congress often means spending a lot of time away from family and loved ones, so I want to thank JOHN's wife, Karen, and his three sons, David, Joshua, and Daniel, for allowing their father, JOHN, to serve for 24 long years. I know they will be happy to

have him closer to home, and our loss is their gain.

Madam Speaker, this entire body will miss JOHN, and I am sure his constituency is thankful for his years of service. I know I am.

That is the conclusion of my official remarks, but I want to talk off the cuff for a couple of minutes.

I just want to thank you for your faithful leadership, your Bible verses that you give to me every day, and the roommates. That means a lot to me.

I want to thank you for mentoring me these past couple of years. I couldn't have had a better mentor.

Congressman SHIMKUS, you are a leader that we all look up to. Thank you.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), another member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for bringing us all together to honor and celebrate a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, my friend and colleague who has led in so many different ways.

I am privileged to have had the opportunity to serve with the Congressman from Illinois now for 10 years on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. When I think about JOHN, I think about someone who is a true legislator. He is the one who digs in and does the tough job of legislating, knowing the issues, being prepared, and figuring out how to actually solve big problems.

So you think about the fact that he led in modernizing the Toxic Substance Control Act. He has led on lowering fuel costs for hardworking families all across this country. It was JOHN SHIMKUS who led in bringing the 911 emergency system into the 21st century.

Time and time again, it has been Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS who is leading to get big things done in order to improve people's lives and secure our future as Americans.

I want to say, more than anything, we are going to miss you. We are going to miss your leadership. We are going to miss your example as a true legislator.

For the people of Illinois, for my colleagues on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and for the people's House, know that you have made a difference. I want to say thanks for your leadership.

I want to wish you all the best, and I just want to say thanks to everyone for pulling us together tonight.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, Mr. SHIMKUS is always one of the guys I enjoyed the most around here. We didn't get to hang out a lot or share any of the same committees, but he is always an upbeat and friendly fellow to get along with around here.

I didn't want tonight to go by without at least saying something to you about how I appreciate you and enjoy you. You take on really difficult issues.

The education you have helped provide me and other Members on the situation down at Yucca Mountain is appreciated, the battle on that, because that is extremely important to get a handle on how we deal with that issue around the country, which hadn't been handled very well. You are a true leader on that, and I thank you for that.

Many, many blessings in your next endeavor. As a friend, I am glad to be here tonight with you.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I can't tell you how privileged I am to be here tonight, to be able to stand at this podium and recognize my fellow colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize somebody who I worked for, for 16 years.

I was talking to my wife, Shannon, about what I wanted to say about JOHN tonight because I really couldn't think of anything really nice to say, after 16 years. She reminded me that I wouldn't be here without his mentorship. I wouldn't be able to have this privilege to serve in this institution with you, Madam Speaker, and with everybody who crowded the floor tonight to honor our friend, Mr. SHIMKUS.

She reminded me, you probably—his wife, Karen, who I am not supposed to recognize in the gallery, so I am not. I don't want to be chastised later.

But his wife, Karen, probably doesn't know this, but I am probably their fourth son. This is somebody who taught me to be a good worker, taught me that being on time matters, taught me that helping others is a privilege.

I can't say thank you enough to this man because I would not be serving in this great institution without you and your mentorship, your friendship, and your leadership. It wasn't without some hiccups, let me tell you. I am sure he wanted to fire me a few times, and I think he told me that a few times.

But I prevailed. You know why? Because we had a great team. And a great team is built with the leadership of somebody who gives people opportunities to not just survive in a workplace but to excel.

I can remember that I hadn't thought about running for Congress in a very long time when I got a call in 2012 one day when there was an opportunity to put my name into the mix to run for this office. In typical JOHN SHIMKUS fashion—and his wife Karen could probably attest to this—JOHN called me and said: Hey, have you ever thought about running for Congress?

And I said: Well, I guess maybe because I really enjoy watching you.

He said: Well, if there is ever a time to think about it, now is the time.

Okay. In typical JOHN SHIMKUS fashion, he is like: All right, I have to go. Call Craig—Craig Roberts, his chief of staff, the godfather of my three kids.

What a team. What a team. The entire Shimkus team, including my

chief of staff since I got here who worked with me on the Shimkus campaign, in the Shimkus office, and is now my staff director on the committee that I am blessed to run, the House Administration Committee. What a legacy this guy leaves in this institution.

People will not understand the importance of JOHN SHIMKUS serving as a Member of the House of Representatives until they look back in history and realize some of the things that our colleagues actually talked about tonight.

If you were in an emergency anywhere in this great Nation, and you have a cell phone that is a lot more ubiquitous today than it ever was when this guy came to Congress in the dark ages of 1996, you can dial 911 and know that it is going to get routed to your local emergency services center.

□ 2145

But before JOHN SHIMKUS got to Congress, that didn't happen. The things that we take for granted today were started by people who served in this institution years before us. If we don't

understand their legacy and we don't understand the history that they brought to all of us and to our Nation to make sure that lives are saved, then we will never know their true impact.

I personally know JOHN SHIMKUS' true impact because he impacted my life greatly. He has known me since before I became a parent of now a 23 year old and two 20 year olds. These children look to him as somebody who mentored their dad.

JOHN SHIMKUS. I know I don't have a lot of time left tonight, and I have got probably a couple of months left to harass him a little bit in other speeches. But coming here to the U.S. House of Representatives and being able to get to know my friend's roommates, his friends and now colleagues, it would not have happened without the gentleman. He has made me not just a Member of this privileged institution, he has made me a better person, he has made me a better dad, he has made me a better husband, and he has made this institution in the United States of America a better place for every single citizen in this country.

Godspeed to you, Mr. SHIMKUS, in your retirement. Godspeed to Karen. I love you both.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of personal reasons.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and 11 a.m. for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at 9 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 first and second quarters of 2020, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2020

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
Travel to Colombia, Peru, El Salvador, Honduras—January 17–24, 2020											
Katy Quinn	1/17	1/18	El Salvador		207.45						207.45
	1/18	1/20	Honduras		548.00						548.00
	1/20	1/22	Peru		711.00						711.00
	1/22	1/24	Colombia		646.82						646.82
Commercial airfare							3,410.93				3,410.93
Mark Morehouse	1/17	1/18	El Salvador		207.45						207.45
	1/18	1/20	Honduras		548.00						548.00
	1/20	1/22	Peru		711.00						711.00
	1/22	1/24	Colombia		646.82						646.82
Commercial airfare							3,410.93				3,410.93
Brian Garrett	1/17	1/18	El Salvador		207.45						207.45
	1/18	1/20	Honduras		548.00						548.00
	1/20	1/22	Peru		711.00						711.00
	1/22	1/24	Colombia		646.82						646.82
Commercial airfare							3,410.93				3,410.93
Chidi Blyden	1/17	1/18	El Salvador		207.45						207.45
	1/18	1/20	Honduras		548.00						548.00
	1/20	1/22	Peru		711.00						711.00
	1/22	1/24	Colombia		646.82						646.82
Commercial airfare							3,410.93				3,410.93
Travel to Germany, Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia with STAFFDEL Leggieri—January 19–25, 2020											
Jessica Carroll	1/20	1/22	Djibouti		762.00						762.00
	1/22	1/23	Kenya		299.00						299.00
	1/23	1/24	Ethiopia		533.81						533.81
Commercial airfare							10,623.82				10,623.82
Travel to Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia—January 17–25, 2020											
Hon. Seth Moulton	1/17	1/21	Vietnam		706.00						706.00
	1/21	1/22	Cambodia		236.00						236.00
	1/22	1/24	Thailand		461.47						461.47
Commercial airfare							13,270.35				13,270.35
Hon. Jim Banks	1/19	1/21	Vietnam		320.00						320.00
	1/21	1/22	Cambodia		236.00						236.00
	1/22	1/24	Thailand		461.47						461.47
Commercial airfare							13,406.15				13,406.15
Laura Rauch	1/17	1/21	Vietnam		706.00						706.00
	1/21	1/22	Cambodia		236.00						236.00
	1/22	1/24	Thailand		461.47						461.47
Commercial airfare							13,666.95				13,666.95
Eric Snelgrove	1/19	1/21	Vietnam		320.00						320.00
	1/21	1/22	Cambodia		236.00						236.00
	1/22	1/24	Thailand		461.47						461.47
Commercial airfare							13,532.95				13,532.95
Travel to Indonesia, Singapore—January 18–24, 2020											
Shannon Green	1/19	1/22	Indonesia		1,065.00						1,065.00
	1/22	1/24	Singapore		814.00						814.00
Craig Greene	1/19	1/22	Indonesia		1,065.00						1,065.00
	1/22	1/24	Singapore		814.00						814.00
Jason Schmid	1/19	1/22	Indonesia		1,065.00						1,065.00
	1/22	1/24	Singapore		814.00						814.00
Bess Dopkeen	1/19	1/22	Indonesia		1,065.00						1,065.00
	1/22	1/24	Singapore		814.00						814.00