

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise a sensational basketball team from my district. Saint Peter's University is a small, exceptional school in Jersey City, New Jersey.

This year, Coach Shaheen Holloway's Peacocks became the first 15th seed to reach the Elite Eight of the men's NCAA basketball tournament.

In the first round, the Peacocks shocked the world when they upset Kentucky, the number 2 seed and college basketball powerhouse. They did it again when they beat Murray State and Purdue to get to the Elite Eight.

I was honored to watch the comeback victory over Purdue in the Sweet Sixteen. I did it as a Congressman and proud parent of two Saint Peter's graduates, my sons, Donald III and Jack.

Saint Peter's University will be remembered as one of the most successful teams in the NCAA tournament history, and I am extremely proud to have it in my district.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FOREIGN POLICY BLUNDERS

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, once again, the President of the United States made a terrible foreign policy blunder when he embarrassingly said that Vladimir Putin cannot remain in power.

Almost immediately, the White House communications team did everything they could to save face and walk back the President's remarks. Thankfully, the Secretary of State issued a statement clarifying the President's comments, saying that the U.S. has no strategy of regime change in Russia.

Unfortunately, it was too little, too late, as Moscow was quick to seize on the President's gaffe to embolden Putin's undeniably false message that Russia is the one under attack.

Mistakes like these directly undermine Ukrainian efforts to protect their sovereignty and stall momentum for peace. President Biden's actions have been misguided from the onset of this war. He has failed to deter Russia, and he was late to give Ukraine the military assistance it so badly needed.

The world expects clear and resolute leadership from the Oval Office. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like there is a chance of that anytime soon.

HONORING OHIO TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DAY

(Mr. CAREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAREY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Ohio Tuskegee Airmen Day.

Most know the Tuskegee Airmen as the first Black pilots in the military

who overcame the headwinds of segregation and racism to achieve unparalleled success during World War II, flying nearly 1,600 missions and destroying over 260 enemy aircraft.

What you may not know is their success continued after the war, both militarily and culturally, in Lockbourne, Ohio.

In 1946, the Tuskegee Airmen arrived at the Lockbourne Army Air Force Base, where they operated the first and only Army Air Force base under the command of Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.

Segregation continued to hinder their opportunities off base, but Lockbourne overcame and was lauded as the best managed base in the Air Force. Their work led President Harry Truman to issue an executive order in 1948 that desegregated the military and mandated equal opportunity and treatment.

I am proud to represent an area of such historical significance and to honor the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

HOPE FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to hope for peace in Ukraine.

Estimates vary, but perhaps over 20,000 people have died in this war already.

Recently, both President Biden and Senator GRAHAM have weighed in on what they feel should happen to Vladimir Putin. Obviously, their language could delay the end of the war and heighten tensions at the peace talks.

Have they cleared their comments with the Ukrainian people, who lose more people every day the war goes on?

Both President Biden and Senator GRAHAM got press from these remarks, and some politicians just care about that.

I encourage all Senators and the President of the United States to remember that they are in the big leagues now, and their careless remarks to get a little bit more press can cost Ukrainian and Russian lives.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SERGEANT AT ARMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 28, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, following consultation with the Office of Attending Physician, I write to provide you further notification that the public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 remains in effect.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. WALKER,
Sergeant at Arms.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the extension, pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 8, and effective March 31, 2022, of the "covered period" designated on January 4, 2021.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DONALD EDWIN YOUNG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

□ 1845

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues on this House floor and remember our good friend, the dedicated dean of the House, Congressman Don Young, from the great State of Alaska.

Don had a fire in him. He exuded joy in everything he did. And when he walked into a room, you knew he was there.

Don was passionate in his desire to serve the people of Alaska, and for almost 50 years, he did just that. Don loved this House and chaired two of our key committees, Natural Resources and Transportation.

As a freshman, yes, I, like, so many new members, sat mistakenly in his seat. The big bear growled me away.

Once during a vote series, I voted "no" on a Don Young bill building roads in Alaska and walked out of the Chamber. Three minutes later, the whip team is texting me. Representative ANN WAGNER is texting me: Don Young is screaming your name on the House floor. He wants to know why you voted "no". I went to dinner.

The next morning, I found him and asked if he still needed me. He asked why I was a "no". I told him, and he smiled with that great big smile and asked if I could vote for his Alaskan fishing bill the next week. I said, yes, you bet, Mr. Chairman. You bet.

I would like to extend my condolences to Anne, his children, and all who loved him. Don was a great man who will not be forgotten. May his life of service be an example to us all.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

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

Madam Speaker, there is so much I would like to say about my friend, Don Young. And some of you are probably wondering how could Don Young, the crusty, old conservative from Alaska be friends with a liberal Democrat from California like JARED HUFFMAN, an environmental radical.

Well, it wasn't because we agreed on Arctic drilling. It wasn't because we agreed on the Endangered Species Act or so many other things. We fought about those things.

In fact, I will always remember our colleague, MIKE LEVIN's, first Natural Resource Committee hearing. Don Young was shaking his fist at me, saying that he wanted to go out in the hall to settle our differences, and MIKE couldn't believe it. And I told him that was nothing. That was tame by Don Young standards. You should have seen him last year.

Don didn't actually wink when he did these things, but he didn't need to because we both knew that the next time I saw him, we would be laughing about it, having a glass of Chardonnay.

Believe it or not, we did find some things to work on. We had a mutual love of fishing and salmon. We found lots of legislation to do together on those subjects.

We both represent a lot of Indian country. We found common cause there. We worked together on national and international wildlife conservation. Now, he wanted to conserve wildlife so he could kill it. I wanted to conserve it so I could admire it generally, but we found common cause, and we did a lot of good work together.

I will always remember that when I met with Don in his office, I would be sure to bring a bottle of Chardonnay from my district because it was Anne's favorite and because in the odd years, when Don was actually drinking, he liked it too.

I am so glad that in addition to getting to serve for almost 10 years with this legend of the House, I got to have a lot of fun with him. I got to play paddle ball in the gym. I got to travel with him and Anne to Europe. I got to go fishing.

In fact, I went to his fishing tournament in Alaska last year. I was the only Democrat there. My reward was Don put me on his boat with Karl Rove, and I spent about 9 hours on the water with Don Young and Karl Rove. That is an experience I will never forget. And it too was an awful lot of fun, just like everything with Don Young.

So with Don Young gone, I have no doubt there are going to be plenty of other people around here that I will find things to fight about with. It is the other part that I will miss, and I think the institution will miss.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from California.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and neighbor across the Sabine River for having this special order honoring Representative Young.

We are here to honor the dean of our House, Congressman Don Young. For nearly half a century, Don devoted his life to serving the people of Alaska and our Nation, starting his long career in Congress just 4 years after we landed an astronaut on the surface of the moon. A staggering thought.

"North to the Future" is the motto of our 49th State. It is meant to represent Alaska as the land of promise. Throughout 10 different administrations, multiple wars and conflicts, national tragedies, the invention of the worldwide web, September the 11th, and much more, Don never stopped trying to spread the motto of his home State to the rest of our Nation because he saw America as a land of promise.

He understood the need to learn from our successes and our failures, adapt and push forward boldly, and bold he was. I will miss his fiery personality, his fearlessness, and his unique ability to get bills expedited if he concluded that they were taking too long.

I share Don's fierce love for Alaska and the great outdoors, and I routinely visited his great State to hunt and fish over many years. If you have seen Alaska's breathtaking terrain and wildlife, you will never wonder why Don adored that State so much. He stood by his State through the thick and the thin.

It was an honor to walk with him in these sacred Halls, to serve alongside of him in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, to hear the wisdom that he gleaned throughout his many years in Congress, and to call him my friend.

God threw away the mold after he created Don Young. History will remember him fondly, as it very well should. Anne and his children are in my prayers.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) that served on both the National Resources Committee and the House Transportation Committee with Congressman Young.

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the dean of the House and my friend, Congressman Don Young.

The great State of Alaska and the Eighth Congressional District of Minnesota, which I have the honor of representing here in Congress, have many shared similarities and qualities.

These are the values that Don and I shared to fight for our way of life, to promote the responsible use of our abundant natural resources, and to provide for our children and grandchildren infrastructure built to last.

This made working alongside the dean such a pleasure and an honor. We served together on the Natural Resources and Transportation Committees, and I will never forget the countless times he helped me out through the kindness of his heart.

Since first being elected to office in 1973, Don picked up a range of helpful tips, funny stories, and congressional experience that he was never shy about sharing.

His wife, Anne, along with the rest of his family, are in my prayers. Don's legacy of service will never be forgotten, and he will always be remembered as a titan for the people of Alaska and our great Nation. May he rest in peace.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana for leading this tonight. I really appreciate it.

There is so much that could be said about that. I think the really personal things about Don Young are what I would like to reflect around this place.

When I first got here almost 10 years ago, we had kind of a common kinship in that we are both actually from northern California. He was born in a town near Meridian, California, not far from Yuba City, which is my back yard too, part of a rice farming outfit there.

I knew his brother Doug from Woodland, part of Republican politics there. Both these guys are obviously characters.

So, for Don, though, you could tell he was just a pillar, just being around him. Of course, his portrait is on the wall in the committee room and such, his work on transportation, but it is the small things that really make a difference; his warmth, him and his wife Anne, for me and my staff that would be around him at various events going on around the district.

We talk a lot about that chair over there, right. And so I sat in the chair, not because I didn't know, because I did know, and I wanted to see what would happen.

So I am sitting there, and he walks in. I got this thumb on my ear here. He grabbed it, and I said oh, I guess it is time for me to go. Sir, I am just warming the chair up because you are from Alaska. You need the chair warm for you. He bought that, but I got right out of there too.

Now, just recently, I think it was last Wednesday, you know, he was in a wheelchair recently due to issues and such. And so we were heading to the elevator over here. And most of the time you might yield to that and let somebody with that issue going on have the elevator to themselves. Not this group.

Me and about four other guys, we all piled in there with him because we all wanted to be with Don Young, even just for a short elevator ride and see what he was going to say and what kind of things were going to go on.

That is the man we all love and are going to miss terribly and whose sweet

wife, Anne, God bless you. It has just been a pleasure knowing and being with you here.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST).

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding.

You know, a lot of people are saying a lot of things here about Don tonight as we are talking about his life and his service.

Now, let's put it in perspective. Many of the people in this House, whenever he first came in, many weren't even born. In my case, I was in seventh grade, never knowing that I would meet somebody like Don Young.

When I first came into this great assembly, there was a gruff, noisy person that sat back in that chair that we have talked about all along, yelling about this and talking about that, and I just wondered who he was.

After serving with him on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, getting to know him, I realized that that gruff and that noise, let me explain something to you, has a heart that was bigger than the noise ever could be. The kindness that he didn't want to show when you were around him for just a little bit, you understood.

But, also, what is so great is the amount of us that were able to tap into his knowledge of the institution, of the things that he has seen; ten Presidents, nine Speakers, someone said over 2,000 Members that have come through that have served with Don Young.

Anytime someone has been in a position that long, the knowledge that they gain and the way that they can deliver for their district is amazing.

This last week when we found out Don passed—unfortunately, in the world of social media, you put things out, and you put it out as positive as possible. But there was one person that responded in a statement, when I said he was there 50 years, well, that is why we should have term limits.

Really? Don Young had term limits. Every 2 years. He went back to the people of Alaska, and the people of Alaska spoke every 2 years.

Why did they do that? They did that because they had a great Representative that knew and understood and loved the State that he represented.

Now, think about this. He sat in this House when he could have moved on to the Senate. It was the same run. He could have been Governor, but he chose to stay in this House because he believed in this House and the job he was doing for the people of Alaska. He served them well.

I was blessed by the fact that I got to go and participate in the fundraiser that his first wife had put together, and that is a fishing tournament that allows for that money to be given to the native children of Alaska that are in need.

After that, he married Anne. And to Anne and the family, his first love was

his family, and we thank them for giving him to us, not only the ones that serve here today but the ones that have served over the past 50 years, and to this Nation that will be forever grateful for a man who stood up, told the truth, and used this institution to make this Nation better.

□ 1900

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening with a heavy but grateful heart, heavy with the grief that comes from losing a friend but very grateful for having such a friend and colleague as Don Young.

Congressman Don Young was truly an iconic figure in the history of the United States House of Representatives. Serving the great State of Alaska for three-quarters of its existence as a State, Don was determined to do all that he could for the people he both served and loved.

One of my favorite memories of Don was at the beginning of my second term in our organizational meeting, and he was in disagreement with our Speaker. He said, "You may be the Speaker, but I am Don Young."

This House will not be the same. There may be Members who will sit in his chair, but there will never be another that can take his place. There was and is only one Don Young. My colleagues and I extend our deepest sympathy to his family and his wife, Anne. We will all miss him.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, Don Young of Alaska was a fixture in this House. He was the kind of fixture that didn't just look pretty, because that wasn't his thing. He added immeasurably to everything else here.

He and I have been on the Natural Resources Committee for years together, ever since I have been here. Since I ticked off Republican leaders over the years, I was not going to end up being the chairman, so I got to sit by him for years. That has been a real pleasure.

He was a practical man and understood the contribution that he was making, and it was truly a massive contribution to this country, to Alaska, to the people of America. You never had to wonder where he stood, and I loved that about him. He didn't pull punches. He told you what he thought, and he didn't require a lot of words to do that.

His laugh was contagious, but so was his love for America. He dedicated his life to making this a better place for all of us. He loved Alaska, he loved Alaskan people, and if someone tried to tell him that, gee, the Tribal folks in Alaska would be better off if you never drilled, he wouldn't have any of it. He would get upset at that point, tell them they didn't know. He had lived

with those people, he had been there, he knew.

Don Young was a survivor, and though we bid farewell to his remains today, his spirit will survive as long as there is a Capitol.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Don Young was my friend. Years ago, before I entered Congress to serve my country at this level, as a police officer I was called upon to address the annual gathering of the Alaskan State Troopers. I will always remember, as our plane entered Alaska, the mountains rose from the Earth, and I had never witnessed such magnificent splendor of the Lord's creation. It was awe inspiring. Frightening even.

A couple of years later I met Don Young, and I understood more both about Alaska and creation and, by extension, I understood more about all children of God.

Don Young, his spirit, his voice echoed through this Chamber, and every day that I sat next to him for over 5 years I recalled the Scripture that came to my mind when I felt and saw those magnificent mountains arising from the Earth. I recalled the Scripture advised us in Micah, said, "Hear ye now the Lord saith; Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice." This Chamber has echoed the voice of Don Young for five decades, and now he has gone to his reward.

May I say to you, Don, you are the mountain of Alaska, you have been a dear and honored friend. You will be missed, loved, respected, and your memory shall always be honored. I am a better man, having known you. I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), for leading this Special Order.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. I thank my friend from Louisiana for his heartfelt message.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to my good friend, Representative Don Young.

The House of Representatives has been home to many unique individuals throughout its history, perhaps none more memorable than my colleague and friend, Representative Don Young.

His office walls are adorned with various mounted animals, and a 10-foot grizzly pelt, a homage to his favorite place, Alaska. For 49 years, Representative Young dutifully served his beloved Alaska, fiercely advocating for his home and the constituents he proudly served.

When I first came to Congress, Don was among the first to welcome me and show me the ropes. This Chamber is far quieter without his boisterous laugh. It is dimmer without his smiling face. We will miss this unforgettable giant, and I will miss my friend.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST).

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, dammit, I am going to miss my friend Don Young. My other close friend, Representative HIGGINS and I, we sat next to him pretty much every single day for nearly the last 6 years, and I can tell everybody that for every story that you have heard about bears and bear traps and snowshoeing and dog sledding and Iditarods and eagles and hunting and everything else that you heard about him, there are a dozen stories that you have not heard but you wish you heard. They were that good.

He was resilient. He was a mountain of a man, as you have heard from everybody. He was a fearless friend, and the only thing that he loved more than his country and his State of Alaska was his family and his wife, Anne, and that all encompassed just one of the most incredible men I have ever had the honor of knowing.

My friend, Don Young, we are going to miss you, and may you rest in peace, my friend.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. I thank my friend from Florida.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to stand in this Chamber tonight and to pay tribute to one of the longest serving and I think one of the most effective Members to ever stand in this Chamber. Don Young was not just the longest-serving Member, he was also a mentor and a friend; and he is someone who will be dearly missed.

Outside of Don's service as a legislator, just sitting and talking with him and hearing the stories of his life, he told me one time about running a 100-mile trap line in the remote part of Alaska, and it was like I was speaking to some character out of a novel or out of an Outdoor Life magazine article. He seemed to have done everything.

It is the stories that I think we are going to remember from Don. He passed very great legislation that had to do with everything from fisheries to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. He was behind that. But everybody who knew Don will remember the stories. We asked some of Don's former staff members if they could share stories, and I have got many pages, too many to read, just treasures here.

I want to share one story from David Whaley, who was a staff member for Don. He says one of my favorite Don Young stories is about the original Magnuson-Stevens Act, then known as the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, or FCMA. The legislation extended U.S. jurisdiction over fisheries out to 200 miles. Many people have heard the story about the House passing the bill first and doing all the heavy lifting, and then the Senators getting all the credit. But not many people know that both the State Department and the Department of Defense were opposed to extending our jurisdiction out to 200 miles.

In the old days, if the President was flying to a Member's district, the Member would often be offered a ride on Air Force One back to the district. After both the House and the Senate had passed the FCMA, President Ford was flying somewhere that required a refueling stop in Anchorage, so Congressman Young was offered a ride.

As it happened, the Secretary of State was also on board. After they took off, the President asked Congressman Young into his office on the plane and had the Congressman debate the merits of the legislation with the Secretary of State. Congressman Young then got off the plane in Anchorage not knowing what the President was going to do. As we all know, the President signed the bill, and that is a story of how Don Young out-debated Henry Kissinger.

What a remarkable career, what a remarkable man. I got the privilege on my first trip to Alaska with Don to be on a fishing boat with him for the day, and the only thing I regret is that we didn't have a video camera recording all the stories. Those are things that I will cherish about Don.

But I want to share a personal story that Don shared with me out here on the House floor. A former member from Arkansas named Jay Dickey, who Don thought the world of, was always telling people about his friend Jesus, and after Jay died, Don just caught me on the floor and he said, "I want you to know something. Your predecessor told me about his friend Jesus," and he said, "And I put my trust in him, and some day I am going to go see him." I thought about the Scripture in Romans that says if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. That wasn't the conversation I was expecting to have with Don Young that day, but I am glad he had that conversation because I know some day I am going to see Don again. That is the way Don was. He told stories that gave encouragement, he told stories that were reassuring, and that was probably the most reassuring story that Don ever shared with me.

We are going to miss him, but we can learn from his example. I again thank the gentleman from Louisiana for hosting this Special Order.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished majority leader of the House.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Louisiana, GARRET GRAVES, for yielding. I thank him for taking this Special Order for a special person.

Now, I must say I am not going to have any funny stories about Don, although funny stories there are. Nor can I say that I ever fished with Don, because I didn't. Nor did I ever hunt with Don. I didn't. But I served 41 years with Don Young, and I got to know him very

well: As a friend, as a Member of this House, as a fellow American; and, yes, incidentally as a Republican and a Democrat because neither Don nor I proceeded in our relationship on the basis of our party affiliation but on the basis of common ideals, common objectives, and common love for this country.

□ 1915

I am honored to join my colleagues in paying tribute to my friend Don Young, who represented the State of Alaska in this House for 49 years.

Don was one of three people who were senior to me in this House. There are two Republicans, Mr. SMITH and Mr. ROGERS, who I think both have the same seniority, so maybe they are co-deans of the House. But I am the senior Democrat in the House, and therefore, I had a long time to work with, to know, and to grow in respect for a crusty curmudgeon who could be as tough as nails but could also be as nice as you would hope a fellow colleague to be.

As a matter of fact, I was here working as—I wasn't an intern because I was getting paid. I was at Georgetown Law School working when Alaska became a State. When Alaska and Hawaii became States, they became States together. The theory was that Alaska would be a Democrat State and Hawaii would be a Republican State. I use that analogy because who knows what we are going to be 10 years from now or 20 years from now, so making decisions on a partisan basis probably is not what we ought to be doing.

But Don loved Alaska, and as the junior Senator from Alaska said today at the memorial service held for Don as he lay in state, an honor few Americans get—less than 50 Americans. Don Young got that honor.

Many, of course, have commented on the sudden and unexpected nature of his passing. Surely, however, death had to take him by surprise because if he had seen death coming, death would not have stood a chance.

Don Young was ferocious. He was ferocious for his constituents, for whom he felt a sacred responsibility and delivered so much over his 25 terms in office. He said, "I will defend my State to the dying breath," and that he did.

When he was taken from us, Don was on his way home from legislative session, headed back to meet with his constituents and make sure they knew how he was fighting for them in Washington.

Don was ferocious, but he also was gentle. Those who got to know him saw that behind that often-prickly facade was a tender and warm-hearted man who cared about his country and cared about his colleagues. He cared most of all about his family.

The love he felt for his family, for his constituents, and for the institution was as enormous as the State he represented.

I particularly was close to Don and fond of Don because he loved this institution. I love this institution. It is one

of the unique institutions of the world where the only way you can get here is for your neighbors to choose you. Nobody can appoint you. No Governor can appoint you. No President can appoint you. No majority here can appoint you. You come here because your neighbors respect you. And Don's neighbors 25 times over almost 50 years got the opportunity to say: DON YOUNG, we trust you, and we want you to go to Washington to represent us.

There is only one Member of Congress from Alaska. They have two Senators but only one Representative. What an honor for all of us to be selected by our neighbors to represent and articulate their voice in the Halls of this Congress.

I respected Don, and he respected me. On many occasions, we stood and worked together on behalf of this institution and on behalf of the Members of this institution.

Don had a passion, as we all know, for decorum, known for tapping his cane and urging whoever sat in the chair to call the vote. "Regular order" would come from the seat at the back of the Chamber because he felt that the Chair was not bringing the vote to a close soon enough. And he was right. It didn't mean that the Chair closed the vote because we were waiting for other people to come because they were late—but never Don Young. When the bell rang, Don Young answered the call. He never sat in the corner. He was always ready for the fight. He was always ready for the challenge.

When votes were called, we weren't always on the same side. That is what is written here. We were very rarely on the same side, but we were always on the same side when it came to Members, this institution, and the American people.

In fact, just because we were on opposite sides, it did not mean that we were on opposite sides from a personal standpoint. I hope all of us could learn that lesson. We are all chosen by our neighbors, as I said, to be here. For that reason alone, we ought to respect one another.

I don't mean that everybody does things that ought to be respected all the time; they don't. But it is important to understand, particularly now as Putin is testing whether democracies can work. Xi, the leader of China, and Putin wrote a 5,000-page paper just about 6 weeks ago. Their premise was democracies cannot succeed because they cannot come together, and they cannot make decisions in a timely fashion.

Don Young was somebody you could go to in a very collegial fashion, and if you disagreed, you disagreed with honor on each side. But if you agreed, you joined hands to accomplish the objectives of that agreement.

I always knew that Don believed he was doing the best he could for those he served, and he spoke and voted with his convictions. Whenever, as I have just said, we found common ground and

common cause, it was a pleasure working with him and knowing that I had alongside me someone so fiercely devoted to getting a job done on behalf of his people and on behalf of our country.

It says here that now Don is at rest. The good Lord is saying, if that is rest, I am in real trouble because that guy is not stopping. He is still punching. He is still fighting. He is still yelling out "regular order."

We are better for having known him and served with him.

I join in offering his wife, Anne—who I hugged and gave a kiss to earlier today. I said how much I grieved his loss and shared her love for this extraordinary man. His daughters will miss him. Their families will miss him. We will miss him. And this institution will miss him.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, Don Young served in this Chamber for nearly five decades, for nearly 50 years. Prior to that, he was a teacher, a trapper, a gold miner, a boat captain, a legislator—an incredible background for somebody to serve in this Chamber, such a diverse background and diverse experiences.

I was in a meeting with him last year at the White House, and he stood up and said to President Biden: I need a picture with you. I have had a picture with nine other Presidents, and I need one with you.

I mean, just think about that, with nine other Presidents that he worked with, that he served with. The history there is unbelievable.

Everybody in this Chamber has a Don Young story. Everybody has an interaction that is incredibly memorable.

One of them that I won't forget is when we were at the White House and a bill was being signed into law that opened up the energy production in Alaska in an area—I think he told me he had been working on this for 30 years. He was so excited about it, and he turned around, looks back, and says: What I lack in intelligence, I make up for in perseverance.

Thirty years to get something done, but he wasn't going to stop.

There are so many stories about Don Young and that famous knife. That knife has been pulled out and involved in so many stories across that 50 years. I will bet that everybody in this Chamber has a story about that knife.

I believe there have been over 2,170 Members of the House who served with Don Young, and I think that all of them have a story of the knife.

I was standing in the back of the Cannon Caucus Room during a Conference meeting where there was a heated discussion about changes in indirect spending, and Don Young took it to the back of the room with the then-Speaker of the House, John Boehner. Don is right up in Speaker Boehner's face. I think that this is covered in

Speaker Boehner's book. He got right up in his face, and he is yelling at him. Don takes that knife out—and to be clear, it was not open—but he had that knife right at the Speaker's neck. The Speaker's security detail starts walking in, and Boehner looks at them, and he is like, no, he is harmless.

There are so many stories, and they are all true—so many more. But I also want to say that while many people view this and believe this is the Don Young, the Don Young with the scowl that is portrayed in the media, I think this is the Don Young that so many of us actually know.

Don Young would swear. He would scream. He would yell. He would have his growls and his scowl. But this is the Don Young that we knew. He was a grizzly bear on the outside, but Don Young was a teddy bear on the inside.

I have been subjected to the yelling and the screaming and cursing and everything else, and I finally realized after years that I could just go to him and say, "Don, shut up," and he would just make that face and start chuckling, the biggest teddy bear of a man.

There is a lot more to Don Young.

This is Don Young and Congressman George Miller, who was the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee. This was in the late nineties.

Don Young actually enacted 123 pieces of legislation, one of the most successful legislators to ever serve in this body.

This picture was taken after years of negotiation among these folks. This is Congressman Chris John of Louisiana, as well as the famous Congressman John Dingell of Michigan and Congressman Billy Tauzin of Louisiana. This was landmark conservation legislation that these guys worked on.

Don recognized the art of the deal. He recognized when you could actually get something done working together with other people. I will say it again, with 123 bills signed into law, Don was an amazing legislator.

He was also tough as nails. Something that people don't know, and I will go ahead and violate his HIPAA privacy here: Don Young was scheduled to have back surgery this week. He goes to the doctor, "I have been having back pain," and folks will remember him walking around with a cane. He goes and gets a back X-ray and an MRI. He had a broken back. He had a broken back and was walking around, continuing to do his job fighting for the people of Alaska with a broken back. Don, I will say it again, was tough as nails.

Madam Speaker, to the citizens of Alaska, I would like to tell you that Don Young absolutely bled for your State. He fought for it; he defended it; and he bled for the State of Alaska. I will tell you that I know this because I worked for him. I had the honor of working for Chairman Young on the Transportation Committee, and it was always Alaska first.

There is a huge alumni class of hundreds and hundreds of people. I would tease Don all the time that I was the only person that was able to overcome the stigma of Don Young and make something of myself. I said that in jest, I want to be clear to the hundreds of Don Young alumni who are out there that is a phenomenal group of people.

Some people advocate for term limits in this body, and I agree. I think that term limits should happen. I think that some people when they are here for 2 weeks it is pretty clear that they should be term-limited.

But I will also tell you that Don Young, after nearly five decades fighting for the State of Alaska, he shouldn't have been subjected to term limits. He fought for that State every single day.

□ 1930

On the Wednesday before his death, he and I stood right over on the side of this Chamber, he was in his wheelchair, and we had a conversation. He was talking about the House versus the Senate. He was talking about how in the Senate, his senators had to work together and figure it out.

He talked about how, for Alaska, he was the people's voice. He was the only one. He was the people's voice. There was no delegation to fight with or negotiate with. It was Don—a State that is nearly one-fifth the size of the Continental United States; three times the State of Texas. Take that, Texas.

Many people believe that the fact that Alaska has one Member of Congress is because of a pesky little thing called the Census, or counting population, or the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, I submit to this body that the reason the State of Alaska has just one Member is because all you needed was Don Young.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentlewoman from the State of California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman GRAVES for arranging this special tribute to a devoted patriot, a serious legislator, and endearing colleague and friend, the dean of the House, Congressman Don Young. I thank Mr. GRAVES for his leadership in putting this together. I am pleased to join our distinguished Democratic leader, Mr. HOYER, who is still here on the floor now for this.

Madam Speaker, this morning, Congress had the sad and official honor of welcoming Congressman Young back to the Capitol to lie in state in Statuary Hall. As Speaker, it was my solemn privilege to join in paying tribute to this legendary leader, as his historic public service brought luster to the Congress and to the country.

It was always clear that Don was passionate about his position and his patriotism, and about working in this institution to make a difference.

As an Army veteran, he was a force for ensuring our servicemembers, veterans, and military families got the care they earned;

As a former teacher and passionate advocate for quality education for all of our Nation's children; and

As a champion for Alaska—as Congressman GRAVES pointed out, and Mr. HOYER as well—he was relentless in delivering investments to his beloved home State, especially lifting up Native communities in honor of his late wife, Lu.

When Don became dean in December 2017, he said right here on the House floor: I love this body. I believe in this body. My heart is in the House.

He loved the House and the House loved him. Indeed, Don Young was an institution in the House of Representatives. As was said this morning, 49 years for the 49th State, The Last Frontier, which he loved; Alaska.

While a committed conservative, he was more than willing to work across party lines if it meant delivering for his beloved home State of Alaska. And as dean, he cherished the duty to bring Members together and to defend the dignity and integrity of this institution.

I, myself, was personally honored to be sworn in as Speaker two times by the distinguished dean, Don Young, in 2019 and 2021.

As dean, he cherished his duty to bring Members together, as I said. Despite political differences, many of us on the other side of the aisle enjoyed close personal friendships with him built on our shared reverence and respect for this institution.

His salmon dinners were legendary. His personality was similarly legendary.

While we are devastated by the loss of our dear friend and colleague, each of us has a duty to honor his unending love for the House and the towering legacy he leaves behind.

Again, I call to attention the fact that George Miller, who served with him wrote—it is online in The Hill—an article he wrote with John Lawrence as opinion contributors. But George Miller and Don Young were back and forth, chair and ranking member, on the Interior Committee and the Committee on Natural Resources. You have to read it because any one sentence taken out of context, you might not appreciate, but let me just read what he said at the end: "Saying you miss Don Young doesn't mean he was right all the time or that he was invariably wrong; it means the House is diminished by his loss. He was a great Congressman and a great friend; Alaska was fortunate to have him."

May it be a comfort to his beloved wife, Anne, his dear children, Dawn and Joni, and his 20-some darling grandchildren that so many in the Congress and the country mourn their loss.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the statement of George Miller and John A. Lawrence.

DON YOUNG: A CONSERVATIVE WHO BELIEVED IN THE HOUSE

(By George Miller and John A. Lawrence)

Don Young, the Alaska congressman who died on March 18 at 88 and who is lying in state today, was a hard-nosed, in-your-face, unapologetic, old-line conservative. An ardent hunter and gun advocate, the walls of his legendary Rayburn building office looked like the workplace of an over-active taxidermist: covered in heads, hides and horns of the creatures that had the misfortune to cross paths with this former teacher, trapper and river boat captain. A descendent of the early conservationist movement that preserved open lands and wildlife so he could drill and graze on the former and shoot the latter, he had no patience with public land purists who demanded minimal human intrusions on the natural ecosystem. It is fair to say he was much more Safari Club than Sierra Club.

Don was not a subtle personality, as many discovered throughout his career. If he was unhappy with your criticisms or bored with your speechifying, he might pull out his hunting knife and hold it to your throat or jam it into the dais next to you at a hearing. The chief proponent of logging old forests and drilling the fragile coast, he was a hero to his Alaska constituents who sent him to Congress longer than any other sitting member, but a desecrating exploiter of the public's resources to environmentalists, especially those in the other 49 states.

But if Don was a throwback to an earlier age of gruff, sharp-elbow politics, he also retained that era's deep love for the House in which he spent the bulk of his life, where he chaired two committees and served as Dean—and where it was not considered an act of treachery or political suicide to reach across the aisle.

There is often a tendency when someone dies to sand off the hard edges and portray the recently departed as something of a saint. Don would be the first to acknowledge he was no saint, and he'd be furious with anyone who tried to sand off his rough edges. He would bellow like a wounded grizzly when he made concessions on the Tongass forest or the Alaska Lands law, but once the deal was struck in the negotiations, he would go out on the floor and defend the work product of his committee.

Even so, Don remained a pariah to most national environmental activists for promoting projects like the Trans-Alaska pipeline or drilling in the Arctic Wilderness (both issues on which we strongly disagreed with him), and many of his own colleagues were angry with him for pushing through the \$400-million Gravina Island "bridge to nowhere" that became a paradigm of congressional pork and provoked Congress to ban earmarks. But the people who worked on those projects and would have driven on that bridge (it was cancelled in 2005) were Don Young's constituents, and he was doing what congresspeople have done since time immemorial: taking care of the district. And it's worth noting that the House, after a decade of prohibition, has resurrected—with greater transparency—earmarks as a crucial way of securing the votes to pass legislation.

Because he was very much his own man and did not suffer fools (or anyone else, for that matter) lightly, Don was skeptical of the new breed of hyper-partisans who emerged halfway through his long tenure in the House. Back in 1994, he was one of just a handful of Republicans who refused to embrace Newt Gingrich's "Contract With America," a collection of half-baked, rhetorical broadsides against the Democratic majority under which he had always served. Asked why he declined to embrace the campaign

document, he matter-of-factly declared, “Because it’s a crock of shit.”

Later in the decade, Don unexpectedly joined with leading environmentalists to support the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) that offered up vast lands for both hunting and backpacking but also included greater protections for landowners and restrained federal land acquisitions. Down at the White House, plying the bill’s key sponsors with Diet Cokes as they happily missed floor votes, Bill Clinton professed his commitment to the bill to a delegation that included Republicans like Young who had just voted to impeach him. When Young left the West Wing after a couple of hours, he marveled, “No president has spent that much time with me since Nixon” three decades earlier.

Don helped build a stunning bipartisan coalition for CARA that passed the House with over 300 votes but stalled in the Senate. When asked why he could not get the bill past the upper house, he blamed “those crazy, god-damned right-wing bastards.” When he was reminded “Don, you’re a crazy right-wing bastard, you know,” he answered, “That’s true, but I know how to cut a deal.”

The House Don Young leaves behind is one where knowing how to cut a bipartisan deal is a much more difficult challenge than in his glory days, wielding the gavel at the Resources and Transportation committees. His departure marks one more loss of the kind of people who were willing to take tough stands and live with the fallout, good or bad, because it was vastly better than gridlock and cheap shot sniping.

Saying you’ll miss Don Young doesn’t mean he was right all the time or that he was invariably wrong; it means the House is diminished by his loss. He was a great congressman and a great friend; Alaska was fortunate to have him.

Ms. PELOSI, Madam Speaker, frequently we will say at a service, “I mourn with you.” We are all mourning in the House with Anne, Dawn, and Joni because we have all lost a dear, dear friend, and we are praying for them at this sad time. He was a blessing to our country. May Congressman Don Young forever rest in peace.

When I asked George Miller this morning, what word would you use to describe Don Young. He said: He was amazing. He shouted over the phone: He was amazing.

And how appropriate that the family had suggested “Amazing Grace” as the song to be sung at his service earlier today as he laid in state in Statuary Hall.

Yes, Don Young. Amazing. “Amazing Grace.”

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I want to give tribute to Don’s wife Anne and to his daughters, Joni and Dawn, his sister, but his family goes well beyond that. I have a number of statements from former alumni of the Don Young staffer world that submitted statements.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD several statements written by former staffers of Congressman Don Young: Michael Henry, Pamela Day, C.J. Zane, Sherrie Slick, Duncan Smith, Zack Brown, Jerry Hood, Jim Coon, Sophia Varnasidis, Lisa Pittman, Colin Chapman, Holly Lyons, David Schaffer, Jason Suslavich.

MICHAEL HENRY

STAFFER TO DEAN DONALD EDWIN YOUNG (R-AK)—PERSONAL OFFICE

(June 1996–November 1997)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

(November 1997–January 2000)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(January 2000–November 2002)

Since the world lost the Dean of the House of Representatives, Congressman for all Alaska, husband to Anne, father to Joni and Dawn, friend and mentor, Don Young, I have been asked several times to share a story or memory. How do you sum up a person so impactful to your life, such a big personality and titan legislator? I have been frozen, unable to share much to encapsulate the man so important to so many, including my family.

What keeps returning to my mind is the dichotomy of Don Young. He was both gruff and held as large a heart as anyone I have ever met. He was strategic in what he did and said and will be remembered for what appeared as gaffs. He lived without bias and will be remembered for straight forward opinions. And he lived every day on his own terms and was one of the most selfless people I have ever met. Which is why no one version of Don Young could ever sum the totality of his complex personality.

While our society is unlikely to allow another trapper turned tugboat captain turn into a prolific legislator, we should cherish the brash honesty that accompanied his sincere caring and steadfast loyalty. While like all of us, I’m sure he would choose to handle many situations differently with the benefit of hindsight, I’m not sure he held any regrets. And for those who disliked, Don Young for the caricature he was made into, I will say it is that emotion which has fueled the love the rest of us hold for the Dean of the North. Nobody likes to be disliked, but that energy became part of his lore and so many fiercely loyal to him.

One thing that wasn’t complicated about Don Young was his proficiency as a legislator. The numbers simply do not lie. And, with his passing, we owe him the reflection of what he truly was—one of the greatest legislators our country will ever know. Don Young was the original sponsor of 123 bills signed into Law by 10 Presidents—8 more bills signed into law than the “Lion of the Senate”, Ted Kennedy advanced during his similar time in the Congress. And while that statistic makes clear his importance to the legislative branch of government, it was one I don’t recall him ever boasting about.

Don Young was far prouder of his service to the people’s body, the House of Representatives. Which spanned nearly 50 years. He routinely spoke about the 10 Presidents he worked with and the 2,178 Members of the House of Representatives he served with. It was the people and the relationships that mattered to him, not how many votes he made (or missed), getting the better of an opponent at a hearing or the deference that was paid to him everywhere he went. He appreciated a good deal and a real connection to the people involved. He loved his colleagues and everyone he met with. These were the people, as he liked to reflect, who taught him something new every day. And that’s what kept him in Congress for so long—new issues that accompany each Congress and the recalibration that comes with an ever-evolving body.

As I try to bring a story to close my reflection on Congressman Don Young, my Chairman on two full Committees, House Committee on Resources and Transportation and Infrastructure, I am drawn to the fact that

one of the greatest negotiations of his career occurred during the time I worked for him. It was a negotiation that had him to working, and often arguing, with Republicans as forcefully as Democrats. And ably navigating the Senate as well as a formidable President Bill Clinton. At one point, his dutiful staffer (me) added in a relatively junior Congressman Richard Pombo (R-CA) to a high-level negotiation. Some of us were concerned that Chairman Young needed a conservative backstop so as not to give too much to the Democrats as we pursued a deal. The result was his getting his way with all the various factions and the crafting the most significant conservation legislation of the time. Unfortunately, this bill was not one of the 123 Don Young sponsored that became law, but nonetheless, one of his greatest legislative achievements. Even though the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) was controversial on the left and right, he won a vote of 315 in the House. That is legislating and that is what Don Young did best.

The speed in how fast legislators are forgotten is off putting, but Don Young’s legacy is secure. He was the best boss hundreds of staff could have dreamed to have. He empowered us to be creative. He was mostly supportive, even after a blunder. He always took the time to help us get better and never begrudged any the opportunity to grow outside his office with a career move. He spent every day with a servant’s heart. He worked to make the institution of Congress better and came to work each day seeking opportunities for Alaskans. We are all a less with his loss.

PAMELA DAY

TEAM DY

(2003–2020)

CHIEF OF STAFF

(2009–2020)

When I was hired by Congressman Don Young back in 2003, I had no idea that I would call him “Boss” for the next 17 years. I also didn’t know that when you joined “Team DY,” you instantly inherited dozens, if not hundreds, of new family members. Because when you worked for Congressman Young, you were indeed treated like family, and even after you left the office and moved on to your next job opportunity, you never truly left. The Don Young alumni network is vast and full of great people who have gone on to do impressive things, but we all know that we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Congressman Young for taking a chance on us and giving us the opportunity of our lives to do something important—work with him and represent Alaskans.

I was his only female Chief of Staff and the longest to serve in that position, 12 years. When I would tell people who didn’t know him that I was his Chief, they would look at me and wonder how I could stay in that position for so long. It was a tough job, but the truth is, he was a great boss. He was loyal to a fault. He trusted staff to do the jobs they were hired to do. He believed that he always had the best staff on the Hill and was always gracious when one of us would tell him it was time to move on. He never held anyone back and was genuinely happy for staffers who left because he knew that we would always be there for him. And in the days since his passing, that is exactly what has happened. We’ve all been there for each other. Once a DY staffer, always a DY staffer.

The Congressman had wonderful press staff over the years, but he was his own best public relations department. There has been much written about his gruff exterior and, at times, cantankerous demeanor, but if you actually had the chance to meet him in person then you know that wasn’t who he truly

was. I can't count the number of times constituents who had never met him came to DC for a meeting, nervous about sitting across from this giant personality and asking for his help. If you were an Alaskan in DC, you met with him; he always made time for them. They would be taken aback when he jovially swung open his door and bellowed, "Who do we have here?" followed by a big smile, handshake, and photo opportunity in front of the giant Alaska map. During meetings, he would share stories, compare notes about who was related to who and if he knew their relatives (most times he did), and then turn the floor over to them to make their presentation. He loved learning something new every day. He listened intently and asked thoughtful questions before signing copies of that picture that was taken just moments before and thanking them for coming in to see him. But my favorite memory of working for him is what would happen after the meeting. Almost inevitably, as they left the office and headed down the hall, someone would say, "wow—he's so different in real life!"

Alaskans will vote to send someone new to Washington to represent them, but no one will ever replace Congressman Young. He was one of a kind in every way possible.

I want Alaskans to know that he loved Alaska. He loved fighting for Alaska. And he never forgot what a truly awesome gift and responsibility it was to be the Congressman for All Alaska.

C.J. ZANE

DY CHIEF OF STAFF

(1980–1992)

FORMER STATE STAFFER

Many people who know and love Don Young know that he was obsessively "on time" for meetings and following the "schedule" whether in DC or traveling around Alaska. I was once traveling in Alaska with Mr. Young and his wife Lu as we did a series of stops in remote communities via small aircraft (flown by long-time Young friend Paul Hagland), which is the way a lot of Alaskans get from place to place. We were on a tight schedule and Don was getting really impatient because Lu and I were not plane-side ready to go. We were each using the restroom in a small building near the runway. When we emerged and approached the plane Don growled about our being late. Lu said forcefully (as she could do), "Damn it Young, you just relax, we Have To Have Time To Take Care Of Our Bodily Functions!!" Needless to say, Mr. Young knew when he was bested in an argument and needless to say the rest of community visits went well and we're more or less on time, but everyone had time to go to the bathroom and there were no "accidents" on the plane. Even Don's vaunted punctuality had to yield to the reality of the situation and to the strength of his beloved wife Lu.

SHERRIE SLICK

SPECIAL STAFF ASSISTANT, KETCHIKAN, ALASKA
CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE (25 YEARS)

SENATORS STEVENS, FRANK MURKOWSKI, LISA
MURKOWSKI, AND CONGRESSMAN YOUNG

C.J. Zane and Congressman Don Young interviewed me and with the support of Senator Ted Stevens and Senator Frank Murkowski, hired me in 1987 to work in the Ketchikan Congressional Office. Subsequently working for Senator Lisa Murkowski. I retired after 25 years of service to the delegation. Congressional Record Volume 158 (2012) Part 7.

I have forgotten exactly what bill Congressman Young was addressing in Congress which had to do with the fishing in Alaska, but as he encouraged his vote, it was being

televised and I had it on TV in the office. All of a sudden Congressman Young pounded loudly with his palm on the podium and raised his voice with some strong language to emphasize the importance of support for this bill which would support our fishing industry and the economy of Alaska.

Immediately my 2 phone lines began to light up in the office. Calls from people who had been watching the proceedings:

The first call I caught was an elderly lady. In a very soft and polite voice she asked me to thank Mr. Young for his work for Alaska but please convey to the Congressman her wishes that he return his manner of little more decorum in his passion introducing his bills. The second call was from a gruff, deep, loud voice: "I just watched Congressman Young fighting for fishermen and the industry . . . thank him and tell him to continue to give them 'hell' and keep up his passion in the good fight for the people and success Alaska."

Illustrating that Congressman Don Young could be could brash and boisterous or gentle and kind . . . but he was recognized as always being a strong, dependable ambassador for Alaska.

DUNCAN SMITH

TEAM DY

(10 years)

I was one of the few lawyers Congressman Young ever hired. I was his committee counsel on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee when he was Ranking Member on the Coast Guard Subcommittee. We had a good laugh when he received a Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alaska. It was my pleasure to serve with him. May he rest in peace.

ZACK BROWN

DY COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

(2019–2022)

In the days since his passing, we have rightfully celebrated Congressman Young's incredible accomplishments and recalled his larger-than-life personality. Specifically, much has been said about the gruff demeanor he was known for in the press. I came on to run Congressman Young's press operations over three years ago. Back then, all I knew about the Congressman was his reputation for being cantankerous and eccentric. Admittedly, he himself was responsible for some parts of this reputation, but the full picture has never been understood.

Here is the truth: Don Young did indeed run hot, but not because of anger or meanness. No, Don Young ran hot because of his warmth, generosity, love of his staff, and relentless passion for Alaska. "Team DY" was and always will be a family, no matter what era of his career we served in. Growing up, I never knew my grandfathers. It is appropriate then that at the helm of this family was Congressman Young—a man of great maturity, wisdom, and grit who always had your back. Through him, I learned how to take on life with his independent spirit and unyielding authenticity. Team DY laughed, celebrated, and stood together on behalf of Alaska. Congressman Young was with us every step of the way, working just as hard as we did. The frequent downtime in between votes, meetings, and travels across the state gave us treasured time with the boss we loved. Over the years, this bond between the Congressman and his staff only grew stronger, and his loyalty to us underscored just how much our team meant to him.

Like so many others, the Congressman took a chance on me and changed my life. He empowered me to always improve myself and be there for those around me. He truly meant the world to me, and I will never let

anyone forget the work he did for those around him. I was with him at the end, and it has been difficult to process everything that happened. In the hours and days after he passed, I felt enormous grief and anger over my chance presence on-site as he left this earth. But as I have had time to reflect, I now see this as a blessing. The Congressman always trusted us to do the jobs we were hired to do. On his final day on this earth, it was a tremendous honor to support this incredible man at the end of his life, and to put the skills he taught me to use by being there for Anne and getting him back to the institution he loved. That was my final assignment from the Congressman, and I hope I made him proud. I'll miss this irreplaceable man dearly. I take comfort knowing that his indomitable spirit and unrelenting optimism will always be my North Star.

JERRY HOOD

DIRECTOR OF STATE AFFAIRS

(2006–2009)

Our friendship spanned more than four decades. He was truly a legend in his own time. He accomplished much. You can travel the entire State of Alaska and everywhere you look you will see his accomplishments. Don's fingerprints are in every nook and cranny of the state. He loved Alaska but I will let others tell you of all he did, and there is much to tell.

If I could describe Don Young in one word it would be: LOYAL. Yes, LOYAL in all caps. He was LOYAL to a fault. Once he gave you his loyalty it was forever. He never gave up on you even though you may have let him down. And sometimes that loyalty didn't serve him well. However, Don Young didn't expect loyalty in return for his. You see, that's the kind of guy he was. He was LOYAL to his state. He was LOYAL to Alaskans, he was LOYAL to his friends and he was LOYAL to his family. I can assure you that every decision he ever made was first and foremost made in the best interests of Alaska and its citizens. Alaska is a much better place because of Congressman Don Young.

He spoke his mind. He told you what he thought. He never broke with his values. He was true to himself from the first day he took the oath until the day he died. Some say that Washington changed Don but I can tell you that up until Friday, March 18th, he was the same man as the guy I first met in 1976. There aren't many politicians over the course of history you can say that about. But then, he was one of a kind.

He went out the way he wanted. In the saddle.

My fondest memories of Don were the times when we were able to steal an hour or two fishing on the Naknek River. Just the two of us. Our favorite cigars, fishing poles in hand and for a few moments in time—just relaxing. We were fishing. We certainly weren't catching. But we didn't care. Farewell my old friend. I will miss you terribly.

JIM COON

STAFF DIRECTOR, AVIATION SUBCOMMITTEE,
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COM-
MITTEE

(2004–2012)

A former Transportation & Infrastructure Aviation Subcommittee Staff Director under Chairman Young, I recall several mornings when he would call me from his office. I knew he had someone with him because he always had you on the speaker phone—and when he did this he almost always had constituents from Alaska with him.

He would call and start out very nice, how's your morning, did you get your beauty sleep, etc., and then on the turn of a dime in his most powerful and loud voice he would

say—"that bill you are working on for me, I don't want to see the word in that bill, not on time, do you hear me!!! And if I see it, there will be hell to pay. Have a nice day!" It was poetic.

SOPHIA A. VARNASIDIS
RESOURCES COMMITTEE STAFF
(2004-2017)

I had stopped by Rep. Young's office to DY's Chief of Staff, Pamela Day, as I would often do at the end of the work day early in 2009. Rep. Doc Hastings had just taken over as Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee, which DY held the previous Congress. DY came into Pam's office, sat down next to me and said "how you doing" young lady? They taking care of you over there?" To which I answered, "yes, of course" and thanked him for asking. He then chatted with us for a bit, and left for the evening.

I still makes me tear-up thinking about the kindness he showed me in that moment. He lost his Ranking Membership, and yet was concerned his staff that was held over under new leadership were taken care of. I went through 4 changes of leadership in my 13 years at Natural Resources, but DY was singular in his love for his staff. Invited us over to his home for Kentucky Derby viewing, threw the biggest Christmas parties, and stayed to hold court and tell stories in his office for hours. His personality was bigger than life, but so was his heart. The media loved to cover him in his more animated moments, but his real friends and those who worked for him knew him to be fiercely loyal, and a caring and kind soul. The true King in the North. May his memory be eternal.

LISA PITTMAN
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL, COMMITTEE ON
RESOURCES
(1995-2001)
CHIEF COUNSEL
(2001-2020)

DY's first wife, Mrs. Lu Young, attended the first Committee on Resources markup chaired by DY and sat in the back row. Halfway through, she sent a note up to the Chairman. We were a little nervous about what she might say. Mrs. Young may have been petite, but she was fierce and thoroughly had the big gruff Don Young wrapped around her little finger. The note, which he opened in front of me (I sat to his immediate left during markups) said "Smile more." And he did.

Don Young was also instrumental in the House rules change that allowed certain votes to be postponed and then voted in series in committee. Like many other non-exclusive committees, the Committee on Resources' members served on multiple committees and given scheduling demands often had to be in two places at once. Maintaining quorums and vote margins was increasing difficult. DY successfully argued to the Parliamentarian, House leadership and the Rules Committee that if the Speaker could allow such action on the Floor, the practice should be allowed in committee. As one of the most active committees in the House, the Committee on Resources certainly took advantage of the rule to produce more substantive bills for the floor than just about any other committee. And staff had fewer heart attacks.

Finally, DY taught me to always bring at least three copies of any remarks/talking points staff had prepared for him to the House Floor. I'd usually hand him one when he first reached the chamber and settled back in the unofficial Don Young seat on the aisle in the last row of the right rear of the chamber. Somehow he inevitably managed

to misplace it before our bill was called up (no doubt distracted by the many Members who stopped by to talk to him). He'd often signal me to give me another copy before we began. I keep the third in the front of my Floor notebook for when he ambled down the aisle to take his place at the manager's table, sometimes with the talking points out of order or missing a page. It didn't really matter much anyway—he rarely followed the script and often spoke more eloquently from the heart than any words typed out by staff.

COLIN CHAPMAN
CHIEF OF STAFF
(1997-2002)

A story from my tenure as Chief of Staff, 1997-2002 on the mischievous side of Chairman Young: In the late nineties and early 2000's, the Alaska delegation was at one of its highest points as far as seniority and power was concerned. The House and the Senate were controlled by the Republicans. All three members of the delegation, Rep. Young, Sen. Stevens, and Sen. Frank Murkowski, had 20 or more years of seniority. They were each Chairman of powerful committees. They were each, in their own right, a powerful Member of Congress that liked to control legislation and have things done THEIR WAY! And they each had the strong, sometimes combustible, personality you might expect of a Senior Member of Congress with Alaskan heritage.

In public, the Alaska delegation created and performed as a united front. But the delegation meetings—That was a different story . . . In the late 90's, the delegation was working on opening Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), an ongoing battle that replayed Congress after Congress. I remember one delegation meeting where ANWR was the primary discussion topic. The delegation was trying to decide how to best move the legislation, and as always, the Senate side strategy was the sticking point. Sen. Murkowski wanted to move the legislation via the committee of jurisdiction, Energy & Natural Resources, which he just happened to Chair. Sen Stevens wanted to move it via an Appropriations and Reconciliation process, a route that he controlled as Chairman of Appropriations. Don Young's position was for the Senate to pull their heads out of the . . . sand, pass the bill in whichever way they could, and he would get it done on the House side.

At one particular meeting, held on Sen Stevens' turf in his Capitol hideaway office, Chairman Young and Chairman Murkowski were present at the appointed time with their Chiefs of Staff. Stevens was late. After about 15 minutes of waiting, the Junior Senator was getting antsy. He had explained his plan for the ENR Committee while waiting and why his committee was the best option. After about 20 minutes of waiting, Sen. Stevens waltzed into the room. Effusively apologizing for being late and launching into his plan of why the Appropriation route was so much better than the ENR route. Having just listened to the 15 minute ENR pitch, Chairman Young knew that nothing would get accomplished at this meeting because the Senate delegation's path forward was still unclear.

Mr. Young, who was standing in between the two Senators, popped off a comment about how the one Senator thought the other Senator didn't have a clue what he was talking about. This launched the two Senators into a heated personal argument. DY looked at me, chuckled, and said, "Let's go Colin, my work here is done . . ." As we left, DY was still chuckling to himself and commented about how much fun it was to light the fuse and walk out of the room.

As always, the delegation circled the wagons and pushed forward with a united front.

The ANWR fight wasn't successful that year, but Chairman Young did eventually see it through!

HOLLY WOODRUFF LYONS

My favorite memory of Chairman Young was during my first year-and-a-half as a Committee staffer. I have to admit I was initially a bit intimidated by Chairman Young. However, that all changed in 2003. In October of that year, a toy gun was brought to the House Offices by a staffer as part of a Halloween costume. It set off a security scare and the Capitol was locked down for several hours as the police looked for the "gun".

I happened to be on the Floor with a few other T&I Members and staff as we had a bill on the schedule. Chairman Young was with us. There was quite a bit of confusion that day and things were already tense in the post-9/11 world. I will never forget how Chairman Young chose to come over and sit with his staff. He spent the time entertaining us while providing a calm, steady and unflappable example. He regaled us with one story after another of his time on the Hill. These stories, as you can imagine, were both funny and amazing, but I will not repeat them here. He also shared with us his knowledge of the House Floor by pointing out things in the Chamber and sharing interesting historical facts. He literally had a captive audience, but we did not feel like hostages. After that day, I was no longer intimidated by the Chairman. He always commanded respect, but I had seen his fun and friendly side. (The soft side of the grizzly bear, so to speak.)

DAVID SCHAFFER
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE STAFFER
(1984-2004)

A passage from the book "After: How America Confronted the September 12 Era" by Steven Brill, which illustrates Chairman Young's no-nonsense approach to his position as Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair, in the wake of 9/11:

"But he (Staff Director Schaffer) was also a stickler for legislative procedure, which means hearings and debate, and more hearings and more debate, and drafts and redrafts before anything important is allowed to pass. So he was shocked on Monday when is boss, Congressman Don Young, the burly Alaska Republican who chaired the Transportation Committee, told him that they had to pass a bill within a day or two. When he protested that something this important and unprecedented, not to mention expensive, never moved that fast, Young thundered, 'We're at war, we have to do this now.'"

JASON SUSLAVICH
DY-CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE STAFFER
(2008-2015)

While Don Young focused on transportation and resource development, he was also a diehard champion of missile defense. In fact, what many do not know the leading role that Don played in locating our homeland missile defenses in Alaska. In 1995, the Clinton Administration adopted a national intelligence estimate (NIE) which made one very startling conclusion—namely that U.S. homeland would not face the threat of a missile attack until at least 2010. Absurdly, the NIE arrived at this conclusion by excluding threats to Alaska and Hawaii, as if only the contiguous forty-eight states needed protection.

Learning of this critical policy failure, Don jumped into action and introduced the "The All-American Resolution." This important legislation expressed Congress' view that "any missile defense system deployed to protect the United States against the threat

of ballistic missile attack should include protection for Alaska, Hawaii, the territories and the commonwealths of the United States on the same basis as the contiguous States." Language from this resolution was soon adopted into National Defense Authorization (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 1999 and enacted into law. This language helped to set the stage for the U.S. to withdraw from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, thereby allowing us to build our nation's first homeland missile defense system at Fort Greely, Alaska—a location which would protect ALL fifty states.

From that point on, Don continued to strongly support missile defense. He fought for defense budgets that were driven by strategy, not defense strategies that were driven budgets. For decades, he ensured critical military construction for our missile defense systems—located at Fort Greely, Clear Air Force Station, and Eareckson Air Station—expeditiously passed the House and were fully funded.

Then in 2017, amidst a resurgent North Korean threat, Don Young again championed our cause. He—along with Senator Dan Sullivan (the bill's original author)—sponsored the "Advancing America's Missile Defense Act of 2017" and led the charge to include it into the House's FY 2018 NDAA. Critically, this bill authorized an increase to our nation's Ground-based Interceptor capacity by 50% and it laid the groundwork for the construction of a new missile field at Fort Greely—Missile Field 4—to house that added capacity. During the debate on his amendment, the Congressman stated,

"I believe this reckless and calculated behavior by the North Korean regime speaks volumes to the importance of the strategically placed U.S. missile defense capabilities, including the Ground-based interceptors at Fort Greely, AK and other elements of the nation's ballistic missile defense system. These forces guard this nation and are the first responders against weapons of mass destruction."

He was right then and his words ring even more true today.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today is a solemn day.

Today, in the National Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol, we paid tribute to the Dean of the House of Representatives, the late Congressman Don Young. And how fitting is it for Congressman Young to lie in state in National Statuary Hall. Much like this hall, Don Young is an icon—a pillar—in the history of the House of Representatives.

Longevity as an elected official isn't a given—it has to be earned. And for 49 straight years, Don Young earned the honor of representing Alaska in Congress, which he considered the privilege of a lifetime. Congressman Young loved Alaska, and Alaska loved him. By the end of his tenure, not only was he the longest-serving politician in Alaska's history, but also the longest-serving Republican Member of the House of Representatives in U.S. history.

Now, you may not think that a nurse from Texas and a frontiersman from Alaska would have a lot in common. And for the most part, you'd be right. But that never stopped us from working together when it meant the betterment of our constituents. We partnered on legislation that provided Pell Grants to Gold Star Families. We led an annual letter advocating for increased funding for the Innovative Ap-

proaches to Literacy (IAL) program. We spent long days and late nights together in the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee hearings. The list goes on and on.

We also had the opportunity to travel the world together on CODELs. He sponsored valuable and worthwhile trips that I never hesitated to sign up for. And the farther away we got from Washington, the closer we became.

My thoughts and prayers are with his beloved wife, Anne, with whom I had the pleasure of getting to know over the years, as well as his children, grandchildren, and all those who loved him. He will be dearly missed.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Congressman for all of Alaska, the 45th Dean of the House, and my mentor and friend—Representative Don Young.

Don was a soldier, a riverboat captain, and a teacher—but his true calling was serving and representing the good people of Alaska.

Throughout his 49 years in Congress, he was an icon and mentor to countless Members. When I first arrived here, Don was one of the first Members I met. In the short time I had with him, he taught me so much about the House and about being a true servant.

Don's love of his family and the people of Alaska was rivaled only by his love of the land itself. He took countless members and staff to his beloved state to show them the pristine natural wonder of his state.

This summer he was going to take me on a working trip to Alaska—and one of my great regrets in this body will forever be never getting to go with him.

Rest in peace, my friend.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2954.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

WOMEN OF THE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to give all members 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, this night, and this Women's History Month, together with my colleagues in the Pro-Choice Caucus, I rise in support of the women of the reproductive rights movement. Women who stood

up, spoke out, and reached out to protect the rights of women in this country to determine whether and when to become parents. Of course, this work required and requires to this day, a broad, bold coalition of people, people whose work has necessitated tremendous sacrifice and has resulted in tremendous progress.

Some of them were denied access to contraception, abortion care, and healthcare, and agreed to become the face of legal challenges. Some of them were strategists who shaped the arguments that became the fabric of legal protections for reproductive rights.

Some of them were healthcare providers who saw the tragic consequences of the denial of those rights. As a lawyer, I have known some of their names through the landmark cases that bear them—Griswold v. Connecticut, Roe v. Wade, and more.

Tonight, we celebrate them, we celebrate their courage, their commitment, and their purpose in articulating, advocating, and ensuring the rights to equality, privacy, and dignity that their work represents.

Before yielding to my colleagues who are here this evening in person and in spirit, I will start with one of them who holds a special place in this work and in my own life. As a woman from Texas, it has always been a source of great pride that some fearless Texas women have been leaders in this fight.

In the late 1960s, a group of Texas women came together to challenge our State's ban on abortion. They found as their lawyer and lifelong advocate, a young woman named Sarah Weddington, who is pictured here behind me. A recent law school graduate, Sarah Weddington was working for the University of Texas at that time. Perhaps not surprisingly, although she had good grades and a law degree, she had a hard time finding a job in a law firm. But she was working to help people solve their problems in Austin, and this group knew she would be a good advocate.

I heard her tell the story once that when the group came to see her, they told her that they thought the best way to deal with the law was to challenge the law itself. She said that she had a law degree, but she really hadn't practiced in Federal court before. She wasn't a courtroom lawyer, and she hadn't handled a case like this one. So she told them she thought they should get someone with more experience.

She recalled to us they asked her, Well, what would you charge us to do this lawsuit?

And she said, Oh, I will do it for free.

And they said, You are our lawyer.

And that is how she got the case.

Sarah called her law school classmate, Linda Coffee, and they agreed to work on the case together. Many UT law students and professors helped Sarah and Linda with the case. They heard from women, of course, and from doctors who treated women who had had complications from illegal abortions and women who had died from illegal abortions.