

disadvantaged, a women's rights advocate, a friend of animals, and a businesswoman, as well as a wife and mother. I knew her best because of her love of politics. She exemplified for me that motto that we often see on bumper stickers that says, think globally, act locally.

She commented incessantly on international and national issues, but she understood that the best way she could influence public policy was by working in New Jersey for candidates and causes in which she believed. But Sharon did not just work herself. She had an incredible ability to get others involved.

At her funeral service last Sunday, I was talking about politics with a group of people and one person said that he had little interest in running for office. If Sharon were present, she would have talked to that man and encouraged him to participate for the future of his local community, for the state and for the country. She would know how to get him involved.

Sharon was above all a friend to me and everyone else that she could help in difficult times. She suffered for two years from a brain tumor, and she refused to give up. She wanted to help others who were afflicted by the same disorder.

Last summer my father-in-law was diagnosed with brain cancer, and every time I spoke to Sharon she asked me about him and wanted to help. She suggested literature, hospitals, methods of treatment, and just general information on how our family could deal with the problem and all this while she suffered so much herself.

Sharon Portman will be remembered by me and others for a long time because she served as such a wonderful example of what helping others is all about.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. TOWNS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. TOWNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE FIRST 6 MONTHS OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I stayed late tonight to tell the American people that we have come a long way in the first 6 months of this new Congress. We came here realizing that this nation was \$4.8 trillion in debt, \$19,000 for every man, woman, and child in the United States of America. For a family of five like mine, the nation faces a \$95,000 debt. In our district, the income, the average income is about \$32,000 a year and to do nothing but pay the interest on that federal debt, the families in my district will be saddled with the payment of over \$6,000 a year, \$6,000 a year out of a \$32,000 average household income going to do nothing but pay the interest on the federal debt.

We came here, the 104th Congress, realizing that something had to be done about it. And after 6 months, I am happy to tell you that something has started. We have a long way to go but we have taken a lot of steps in the right direction.

First, we have passed a seven-year balanced budget plan that at least is going to stop the continued growth of this debt that seems to be endless when we start looking at it and how big the numbers are. Although we have passed that, we have done some other things that I think are equally significant. We have talked about budgets that go even further than the seven-year plan.

Out of my office we introduced a plan that would have balanced the budget in five years, and for the first time out here in Washington we started talking about paying off the debt. Our plan included a repayment plan so that in a 30-year period of time we could have repaid the entire federal debt.

It did a third thing as we produced this plan on the floor of the House about 3 months ago, our first 6 months in office. For the first time we did not use the Social Security surplus as part of the computations to balance the budget. That is a significant step forward for this country.

Our plan would have balanced the budget in five years, paid off the debt in 30 years, and not used the Social Security trust fund to do it. It is important the American people understand that the Social Security system every year collects more money in taxes than what it pays back out to our senior citizens in benefits and those extra monies that are selected should be set aside and our budget plan would have done just that.

In addition to the budget plans that were debated here, we also had introduced by my good friend from New York a plan that actually would have balanced the budget in five years. The specific cuts were laid out item for item that would have gotten us to a balanced budget in a five-year period of

time. This bill is still pending in the House of Representatives and still may pass during this term of Congress. It is my hope and my desire that we see our way clear to actually passing those cuts that get us to a balanced budget in five years instead of seven.

The best news of all is that the people that are here right now in this Congress realize that government cannot keep doing for people what people ought to be doing for themselves. It is with that note that I would conclude this evening. We have got a great start, folks. We have a long ways to go. I am happy to tell you that the first 6 months have been successful, and I look forward to continued successes here in this Congress.

DRUG INTERDICTION STRATEGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH] is recognized for 30 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON].

NOVEMBER'S ELECTION

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight basically to commend something that has happened in this House, and that was the election that took place back in November, because you know it brought 73 new Republican faces to this Congress that have literally changed this Congress.

I can recall last year, the year before, the year before that, when very few of us even talked about a balanced budget. The real problem facing this Nation being the national deficit that is literally turning this country into a sea of red ink and is threatening our children and our grandchildren.

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Mr. Speaker, when I look at what has happened now, when we brought the budgets to the floor of this Congress, all the alternatives this year were with a balanced budget. Even the liberals were forced to come on this floor and offer a balanced budget. Theirs decimated the defense budget, it ruined our foreign policy. Nevertheless, every vote that was taken was on a balanced budget. Now we even have the President of the United States talking about doing it sometime into the next century, which is not satisfactory.

Mr. Speaker, what we were debating was this. Here is a 1,700-page document that is a legislative encyclopedia containing more than 500 specific spending reform proposals, as the gentleman from Wisconsin, MARK NEUMANN, has spoken to earlier. It contains more than \$900 billion in budget savings over 5 years, itemized program by program in a format that is so easily transformed into other individual bills or amendments.

The bill is not intended to be used in total but as a resource document that