

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll to ascertain a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business to pay tribute to the recently deceased comptroller of the State of Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MARYLAND COMPTROLLER LOUIS GOLDSTEIN

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, and to all who are with us in the proceedings today, I rise with melancholy to pay tribute to a great Marylander who passed away over this weekend, our beloved and endeared comptroller, Louie Goldstein. Louie, indeed, was a Maryland treasure—and he was—to the State, and the State treasured him. Like all Marylanders, I will miss Louie Goldstein and mourn his passing. As Maryland's comptroller, he always stood steadfast sentry over the State purse. He helped make sure that the economy was booming, and he fought for the economy of our State. He fought for the State to have a triple-A bond rating. He also was out there absolutely on the side of his constituents.

It is hard to believe that the State tax collector was the most popular elected official in the State. This man collected the State taxes for 40 years. And every tax season he would say "Don't delay. File today." He crisscrossed the State often going close to 100,000 miles reaching out to rotaries, senior citizen clubs, and League of Women Voters gatherings always talking about the State's economy, what the tax dollars went for, and he was beloved.

He ran a tight ship, and Maryland benefited from it for more than 39 years. In his 10 terms as the comptroller, he always made sure that Maryland kept its triple-A bond rating, which was an indication of our fiscal soundness.

As the State's tax collector, he prided himself on getting tax returns back quickly and efficiently to Marylanders. There was no IRS-type heavy hand on Louie Goldstein's watch.

We always knew that the tax collector's office was run efficiently, fairly, and a taxpayer could get a hearing and get their refund early and on time.

Louie was a man of the old school. He was a gentleman. His word was his bond. He believed in high-tech and reach-out politics. But also he was a very shrewd businessman. Under his very folksy style in which he would

reach out and always had a laugh and a word of encouragement, he also knew the power of high-tech. He came from an era of pen and paper. He would joke about himself, and was maybe even a stylist. But quickly he saw the power and utility of new technology and worked diligently to bring high-tech efficiency to the comptroller's office.

Under his leadership, Maryland was the first State to computerize its tax records. At the time of his death, he was working on a system that would allow Marylanders to file their taxes electronically.

He also realized the magnitude of the Year 2000 problem. He got a jump-start on fixing it.

Imagine an 85-year-old comptroller who had served 10 terms doing the job, had more new ideas and was more farsighted than many of the young people who want to come into government. He was reshaping Maryland's computers so they would be ready by 1999.

Now, anyone who met him knew there was much more to Louie Goldstein than his position as comptroller. When he came up to you, he would shake your hand, give you his trademark little imitation gold coin that said "God bless you, real good." He radiated warmth that was truly genuine. Louie was a tremendous public speaker and, unlike most politicians, people looked forward to his southern Maryland accent. However, when other politicians found out he was scheduled to speak, they always got a little nervous, including yours truly.

Louie Goldstein was a dedicated Democrat and worked tirelessly for a Democratic "Team Maryland," but would work on a bipartisan basis for fiscal soundness and business attraction to the State.

Early on, he campaigned for me. He knocked on doors, and he believed in me, when I was a little upstart politician before I got to be one of the fortunate 100. All Maryland Democrats owe Louie Goldstein a debt of gratitude for showing us how to stay in touch with constituents, whether it was at a church supper or in a business boardroom.

Louie Goldstein was tremendously warm and kind. He loved to laugh and loved to be on the sunny side of life. I am proud to call him a friend, a colleague, and a mentor. There was and will be no one like him. We will find a successor, but we will never find a replacement, nor should we seek one. He was unique in Maryland politics, and I think he was unique in American history.

On the day of his death, he was in five different parades, came home, read the Declaration of Independence to his gathered family, as he had done for so many years, took a swim, and then God called him to glory.

We salute him. As Louie would say to one and all, I say to him, "Louie, God bless you, real good."

I ask unanimous consent that the Baltimore Sun tributes to Louie Goldstein be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the articles were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Baltimore Sun, July 4, 1998]

LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN, 1913-1998

What can you write about Louis L. Goldstein that hasn't been recorded numerous times during his 60-year career in public service?

He was truly a legend in his own time, the best-known and best-liked Maryland politician of the last four decades.

Call him "Mr. Maryland." Or as one speaker put it at a fund-raiser last year, our "state fossil." Up until his death last night at age 85, Mr. Goldstein could—and did—run lesser-aged politicians ragged on the campaign trail and in the hallways of state government.

Voters elected Louie Goldstein state comptroller a record 10 times. His love of people and his perpetual optimism made him one of the few tax collectors in America who drew cheers, not jeers, from constituents.

But Mr. Goldstein was far more than a popular campaigner. He ran one of the best tax-collection departments in the nation, receiving awards for keeping his office on the cutting edge of technology. His latest success: A vast increase in computerized tax filings this year.

It was on the Board of Public Works, though, that Mr. Goldstein may have performed his greatest service. This largely unknown panel—the governor, the comptroller and the state treasurer—holds immense power over billions of dollars of state contracts.

It was Mr. Goldstein who acted as board skeptic, grilling bureaucrats mercilessly on the merits of projects. What a ferocious fiscal watchdog he was! He poured over voluminous reports to the point where he knew as much about them as those making the presentations.

Often, proposals were pulled even before the public hearing—after Mr. Goldstein had brutally dissected the plan at the panel's pre-board sessions.

Given the immense power granted the governor in Maryland, the need for checks and balances is critical. Louis L. Goldstein performed that role brilliantly. But he did so with a smile on his face and a keen understanding of the benefits of government when it is made to work in favor of the best interests of its citizens.

God bless Louie Goldstein, real good.

[From the Baltimore Sun, July 5, 1998]

"THERE WILL BE NO ONE LIKE HIM"

(By William F. Zorzi Jr.)

Louis Lazarus Goldstein was the total package: indefatigable campaigner, skilled financial watchdog and accessible public servant, a 40-year incumbent who was unbeatable by challengers of either party.

It seemed as if he had been comptroller of Maryland's treasury forever. When Goldstein was first elected in 1958, Dwight D. Eisenhower was president, J. Millard Tawes was stepping up to be governor and the Baltimore Colts were still a month away from winning their first national championship.

When he died Friday night after a heart attack at his Calvert County home, a chapter of Maryland's history was closed. A career ended that stretched back 60 years, to when he was first elected to the House of Delegates.

Goldstein, a Democrat who was 85, helped usher Maryland government into the modern era, overseeing the computerization of the state's tax and payroll systems. He fought