voters of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VONOVICH, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. GRAHAM, to be the con- 
feres on the part of the Senate.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER, pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour 
debates. The Chair will alternate rec-
rkognition between the parties, with each 
party limited to not to exceed 30 min-
utes, and each Member except the ma-
jority leader, the minority leader or the
minority whip limited to not to ex-
ced 5 minutes.
The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 min-
utes.

REPUBLICAN CONGRESS HAS 
WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR 
AMERICA

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in this 
pivotal election, the American people 
will look back and forget about who works harder for their country. 
Shakespeare wrote, “What’s past is prologue.” And I believe no other phrase can quite describe both the 
achievements of the Republican Congress and its vision for America’s fu-
ture.

In 1995 when Republicans took over 
here in the House of Representatives, 
one of the first orders of business for 
the new Republican majority was to 
declare that it was going to comply and be bound by the same laws with 
which all Americans are forced to com-
y.

We reformed the bloated, inefficient 
welfare system which held captive many Americans who only wanted a 
better life for their families. Providing a 
work-incentive program for both individual and businesses, the Repub-
lican-led Congress succeeded in drop-
ning the welfare rolls to the lowest 
level in history. Congress extended 
health insurance for millions of uninsured chil-
ren, giving them the proper care and 
attention that they deserve. The Repub-
licans passed legislation making it harder for health insurance port-
able to qualify. Americans who only want a better life for their families. Providing for better 
fiber-quality.

The Republican Congress enhanced 
criminal penalties for sexual crimes 
against children and established a na-
tionwide tracking system for sexual predators. We also enhanced pun-
ishment for white-collar crime. We boosted 
education by increasing funding, and giving 
local school districts and States the 
flexibility to use Federal funds to 
best meet the needs of children.

For seniors, Mr. Speaker, we passed legislation ending the Social Security 
earnings limit test which unfairly pe-
nealized senior citizens for simply try-
to make a living. The House also 
mitted to roll back the 1993 Clinton-
Gore tax on Social Security benefits.

This represents a bleak future of Social Security. Because of the sub-
stantial tax increase on American 
workers, the FICA tax increase in 1983, 
there is now more money coming into Social Security than is needed to pay out benefits. And again a reminder that Social Security is a pay-as-you-go program. Current workers pay in their 
tax and it is almost immediately sent 
out to current beneficiaries.

Because of the tax increase in 1983, an extra surplus is coming in from the 
higher tax. After 2015, we go into a bleak future of somehow coming up 
with the funding necessary to pay ben-
}
Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, last March I passed an amendment to raise the minimum wage $1 over 2 years, from $5.15 to $6.15. The minimum wage increase was then rolled in with a tax cut.

I voted for that tax cut because I believe if the boss cannot afford the wage increase, the boss will end up laying off some of the people on the bottom end of the ladder that are the very people we want to help the most. The bottom line is, what good is a pay raise if someone loses their job? Beam me up.

But let me say this: Any final agreement that does not both raise the minimum wage $1 over 2 years and also give help to the companies and employers who hire our people will be a failure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back all the politics of class warfare at the White House.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER DISTRICT DIRECTOR AND FRIEND, JOHN J. MCGUIRE

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

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 16, John J. McGuire, my former district director in Syracuse, New York, and close personal friend, died after a long battle with brain cancer.

John served as an integral part of my staff since my election to Congress in 1988. Prior to that time, he served as a compliance officer for 11 years with the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor in Syracuse.

John McGuire, a former Marine, was a highly decorated disabled American veteran. He is a past recipient of the Veterans Service Award from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, four Special Achievement Awards and the Federal Distinguished Career Award.

After serving as a sergeant in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, John taught English both here in the United States and in the Balkans.

With John’s death earlier this week, his wife and children lost a terrific husband and father; and I lost a neighbor, a close adviser, and a loyal friend. The Central New York community lost a tireless worker and community advocate, and the entire nation lost a dedicated public servant and true American patriot. He will certainly be missed but never forgotten.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 835, ESTUARIES AND CLEAN WATERS ACT OF 2000

Mr. BOEHLERT submitted the following conference report and statement on the Senate bill (S. 835) to encourage the restoration of estuary habitat through more efficient project financing and enhanced coordination of Federal and non-Federal restoration programs, and for other purposes:

Mr. TRAFICANT. I rise in support of the conference report on S. 835, the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000. This bill represents a first step toward saving America’s estuaries and maintaining the quality of our fresh and saltwater ecosystems.

The national estuarine system is a vital component of our nation’s coastal waters. It performs a number of valuable ecological services including flood protection, pollution control, and coastal habitat for marine life.

Estuaries are also critical economic resources. They support a broad range of industries including fishing, aquaculture, and tourism. In fact, the nation’s estuaries generate billions of dollars in economic activity annually.

However, our estuaries are under threat from a variety of sources. Pollution, habitat destruction, and overfishing have led to the degradation of many estuarine areas. This is particularly true in the Northeast and the Southeast, where the majority of the nation’s population and economic activity reside.

S. 835 provides a comprehensive approach to the restoration of our estuaries. It includes provisions to establish a National Estuarine Reserve System, to establish an Estuary Management Institute, and to provide funding for research, monitoring, and restoration activities.

I am particularly pleased to see the inclusion of provisions to enhance the use of innovative financial tools, such as bond financing and private/public partnerships, to support estuarine restoration.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and to work together to ensure that our estuaries are protected and preserved for future generations.