

of the White House. While he presided over the Committee, our budgets have gone from perennial deficits to annual surpluses.

His steadfast leadership of the House Budget Committee has educated many of our constituents across the country on the budget process and its effects on us all. We owe a great debt of appreciation to JOHN for his dedication to this effort and for the positive outcome which has resulted. The impacts a balanced federal budget have on our economy and our ability to prosper individually and as a nation are truly the result of this dedication.

And JOHN has accomplished this with his own special flair. Who else could negotiate budget numbers with the White House one day and start a book signing tour the next, run for President, and hang out with rock stars.

Now JOHN embarks on a new phase of his life. I am certain that it will be as rewarding as his congressional career has been. As a husband and father of twins, JOHN will have many important projects of both a personal and professional nature.

JOHN, as you leave this institution for other endeavors, we wish much success and happiness to you, your wife Karen, and your beautiful twin daughters, Reece and Emma.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BOB WEYGAND ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to talk just a few minutes about BOB WEYGAND, a good friend of mine here in the House and a great Representative for the Second District of Rhode Island. I know that many of my colleagues share my sadness that he will be leaving the House of Representatives. As my colleagues know, he is running for the United States Senate.

The gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND) is no stranger to public service. He began his public service in 1978 when he became a member of the East Providence Planning Board and became its chairman in 1979. In 1984 he was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives, representing at that time District 84. He was also named the Legislator of the Year in 1988. BOB stayed in the General Assembly until 1993, serving on a number of committees, including the House Corporations Committee on which he was the chairman.

It was during his time as a State representative that BOB helped to write

Rhode Island's land use laws which have been recognized nationally as state of the art with respect to land planning and the most progressive and forward thinking types of laws in this country.

BOB was elected lieutenant governor of Rhode Island in 1992 and he was the chairman of the Long Term Coordination Council and he authored legislation to protect the elderly and to improve access for long-term health care.

The gentleman from Rhode Island was elected to the U.S. House, to this House, in 1996. He came in on January 7, 1997, the same day that I came to this House Chamber. We soon became good friends. As a Member of the Congress, BOB was chosen as our freshman president his first year here. The gentleman from Rhode Island serves on the House Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

He is a landscape architect by trade. That is why he has worked so hard as one of the cochairman of the Livable Communities Caucus that we have here in the House. He has brought to Congress a new way to look at our communities and our physical environment, and I have had the opportunity to work with him over and over again in the caucus where we look at the land use planning of many of our cities.

Those who know BOB well know he is a man of honesty and integrity, and I am proud to call him my friend.

□ 2230

These qualities are probably best exemplified in his role in uncovering an extensive corruption operation in the city of Pawtucket in 1991. You see *Bob* was a landscape architect, and he had won a contract for that city to redo a general open space, a park, if you will, and one of the things that happened is when he went in to see the mayor to work on this project, the mayor had a little scheme of how he might divide up the funds.

Now, most of us having won a project like that might turn away and say to the mayor, thank you very much, I do not really need this after all, let me just forget I have ever met you, but not BOB. BOB actually picked up the phone that night and called the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

BOB subsequently worked with them in conducting an elaborate undercover operation. Mr. Speaker, he wore a wire for many months putting his family, his wife, Fran, and their three children at great danger, but he felt it was im-

portant that he get the information. And because of what he did, putting away corrupt public officials in Rhode Island, BOB won the FBI's Award for Exceptional Public Service, the first time that that was awarded to a private citizen. It is a prestigious honor. He also was recognized with the Rhode Island Distinguished Service Star.

I know that as he leaves the House to pursue the opportunity to represent all Rhode Islanders, that his friends and colleagues thank him for the work that he has done here and wish him well in the future.

Mr. Speaker, Rhode Island will be very, very happy to have a great Senator when they elect BOB WEYGAND on November 7.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the career of one of Rhode Island's dedicated public officials, Representative BOB WEYGAND. BOB is being honored tonight with this special order as he gets ready to leave the House of Representatives after two terms of public service.

BOB is a life-time Rhode Island resident and proud graduate of the University of Rhode Island. Since his appointment to the East Providence Planning Board in 1978 he has served R.I. in varying capacities, including as a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives and as R.I.'s Lieutenant Governor.

BOB's career accomplishments include the areas of small business, and senior citizens, in particular. He proudly served our State as a presidential delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business and at the White House Conference on Aging. He has served the people of the Second District of Rhode Island well over the past four years. BOB currently sits on the Banking and Financial Services Committee and the Budget Committee. He has fought in the Congress for proposals to bring down the cost of prescription drugs for seniors. He has sponsored a bill to protect our Nation's seniors from criminal scams. BOB has also been a staunch advocate for FDA regulation of tobacco products and for programs to prevent children from smoking.

Again, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to Congressman WEYGAND this evening. I wish BOB, his wife Fran and their three children the very best in the future.

GENERAL LEAVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBURN). Without objection, all Members may revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the special order of the gentleman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ).

There was no objection.