

gentlewoman has been deeply involved in those issues with us.

Mr. Speaker, we should all aspire to be such a champion of economic and social justice.

DAVID, I am very, very proud to have served in this Congress with you. I am very proud to be your friend, and I know that you are going to do great things for the people of Michigan and for the people of this Nation.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Ms PELOSI. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, this is not a eulogy. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is alive and well, I am happy to say. But I must take this opportunity as we end this session of Congress and his career as the Democratic whip, recognizing he will continue to serve his district and our country in Congress next year, I want to say that knowing the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) personally and professionally has been one of the tremendous rewards of all of my years in public service, whether that be in Texas or here in the Nation's Capital.

Many Americans may not know the name DAVID BONIOR, but millions of decent working families across America are living a better life today, making higher wages. Even those living at the bottom of the economic rung on minimum wage, have a higher minimum wage today than they would have had had it not been for one person's passionate commitment to working families and their opportunity to have a decent life for their children, and that is the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

DAVID BONIOR, I am convinced, will be the next Governor of Michigan. While I do not know all of the voters of that great State, I have to believe that they recognize integrity and decency when they see it.

What I have seen for 5 years working under the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) as the chief deputy whip is the epitome of decency and integrity. For anyone who might be cynical about our democratic process in America, I wish they could have seen up close and firsthand what I have seen in the person I call my friend, DAVID BONIOR.

His accomplishments are too numerous to mention in this brief time today, but they are well earned. They are significant. But I would conclude my remarks with two thoughts. It is not the tremendous accomplishments of making the difference for working families of America, and there is a list of specific achievements that I will ultimately respect the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for, and although they are tremendously important, it is the kind of person that he is, the kind of human being he is, so honest, treating everyone as we would want others to treat us.

I would just conclude with this thought. Winston Churchill, during

some of the darkest hours of World War II, spoke to the British people and the world when he said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." By that high standard, DAVID BONIOR has lived and will continue to live an extraordinarily successful life. His passion, his decency and his integrity will be a model for future public servants for generations to come, and I am honored to be his friend and his colleague.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in honoring the service of DAVID BONIOR, his vision, his knowledge, his effectiveness, his energy, his integrity, his experience, indeed the people of Michigan are very blessed to have him as their future Governor.

I also want to acknowledge his very experienced staff who have served this Congress so well, the staff of DAVID BONIOR. I know that others will speak today about DAVID and his staff, but I wanted to be sure to acknowledge their considerable contributions to this body as well.

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to speak out of order for 5 minutes and to revise and extend her remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I come this afternoon to say thank you to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR). Ten years ago I first came to this institution, and at this very place I was given the honor of seconding the nomination of DAVID BONIOR for whip. I have served with him for 10 years. I have known him for 14 years. I learned from him as a mentor. I learned the skills of serving as a whip with him. I learned the battle for economic and social justice in Central America with him.

He comes from the earth, he comes from a family of working-class Americans, the way so many of us come to this institution. And he came here and he accomplished good public policy for the great people of this Nation. And in all that time, and in all that time, he never faltered. He never was afraid to stand up. He has never been afraid to championing the cause of the people of this country. And because of that tenacity and that brutal effectiveness, he has changed the lives of people in this country.

No one has fought harder for worker standards, for minimum wage, for those things that help people to live their lives because he understands their lives. He is a peaceful veteran, and, like myself, a Catholic who cares about life in its broader sense. His sense of integrity, his sense of honesty and his soul will be missed in this institution.

He will go on to do wonderful things, and we are all here for you, DAVID. We will stand with you and do what you want and try to help you be the next Governor of Michigan. To you and to

Judy and to your family, we wish you the best.

There have been folks who have tried to demonize DAVID BONIOR, but his genuineness comes through, and they cannot do it. His gentle strength will prevail. It prevailed in what he did before he came here, it prevailed here, and it will prevail as he serves as Governor of the State of Michigan. God bless DAVID BONIOR, and I thank the gentleman for all that he has given to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

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Ms. WOOLSEY. DAVID, what am I going to do without you? Good grief. I have been here 8 years. After we lost the House in 1994, dithering, all of us, frustrated, all of us, I got a call from one of my sons. All of my kids tell me what I should be doing here because they are smart and they care. My son said, "Mother, I hope you're listening to DAVE BONIOR." I said, "Well, yeah, what are you saying?" And he said, "He's the only one that's saying anything."

So I started listening more closely, because I knew the background and what you brought to us all along, but I listened to your message, and it became very important to me to get on your team, to be part of it. Thank you for putting me on the whip organization so I can do what I do best, which is rally and push and nudge and count. It has been a pleasure working for you.

Thank you very much. I have learned more from you than you will ever know.

My nice constituents worry about me here because they think it is kind of a mean place and a lot of them will say, "How can you stand to work with all those people?" And I say, "Uh-uh, I get to work with DAVE BONIOR." They go, oh, yeah, there are good people there too; among others, of course.

Thank you again. I miss you already. Our loss is Michigan's gain for sure.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with deep regret that DAVID BONIOR is leaving this institution. I arrived here about 9 years ago. It was in a special election. But I think of all the people I have met, DAVID BONIOR was the kindest person I met. What I have learned over the years of working here is, this is a tough institution; and to survive and to be into leadership, you have got to have tough skin, but you have also got to have a kind and soft heart.

The wonderful thing about DAVID BONIOR is how much he gives of himself to everybody else's problem. He will come to your district. And when he sees a wrong, he is out there trying to right it, whether it is in the fields of farm workers in California, whether it is in the stockyards, wherever it may be in the United States, where men and women are suffering or are not having

a fair wage, a fair treatment in their workplace, DAVID BONIOR is the first to be there to understand the problem and the first on the floor to talk about righting that wrong.

The people of Michigan are so fortunate to have this person in elective office. I hope they have the good wisdom to select him as governor because he is going to be a great leader in this country as a governor, as he was a Member of the House of Representatives. He rose to a leadership position. Who knows, if he were staying here, he could have been Speaker of the House, perhaps Vice President of the country, and maybe those days will still come.

But this is truly one of the great Members serving in a great institution at a great time in our history. This institution is going to suffer with his leaving, but the people of Michigan I hope will have the great wisdom to keep him in the public limelight and keep him in public office by electing him as their governor.

(By unanimous consent, Ms. KAPTUR was allowed to speak out of order for 5 minutes.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say what a joy it has been in my life for 19 years to be able to work with the great gentleman from the State of Michigan, DAVE BONIOR. There must be something in the water of Lake Michigan and Lake Erie to produce the Phil Harts of this country and the Dave Boniors. I want to thank the Wolverine State for sending this incredibly decent human being here to the Congress of the United States.

There are many things I like about DAVE BONIOR. The first thing I like is his wife. I think Judy is just so incredible and what a great partnership they do have. But I like the way that he treats her. I like the way he treats the Members. I watch the way he treats people, always with great love and with affection and with such great passion for the work that he does.

We have had so many fights here that deal with economic justice domestically and internationally. DAVE BONIOR has always been at the head of that line. He has always been leading us. I can remember during the great fight on the rules that would govern trade in the Americas, as he stood here and he talked about what would happen to working people on this continent in the factories and on the farms, I was sitting out there with tears in my eyes; and I thought, how could he have the strength and the intestinal fortitude, knowing what is going to happen, to stand there and to be such a strong advocate and to maintain his passion and his composure. That was a point in my career where I could not have done that.

I hope that from him I have learned how to do that better, and I thank him

for what he is, because what he is has kept other Members here and running for office because of his beliefs and his unwillingness to change who he is and who he represents and how he loves people, that it is still possible to be here and to carry those values so close to your heart. In fact, they are his heart.

I just want to say from the Buckeye State, always a competitor to those to the north, that we deeply, deeply appreciate your service to the people of our country and the world. We appreciate your service as a spokesman for those who have no voice or who have less voice. You have never wavered, you have always been a gentleman, you have always been a leader, you have always been a scholar.

It has been my deep privilege to serve with you, Congressman DAVE BONIOR of Michigan. May you be Michigan's next governor. I only wish I could vote for you. God bless you.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the wonderful thing about being a junior Member is that all the large issues are thoroughly addressed by others. I just want to focus briefly for one moment on how DAVE BONIOR has treated fellow Members and me.

I have seen him defend others with whom he deeply disagrees. I have seen his gentle guidance on sensitive votes. And I also wanted to share just briefly how well he treated me as a very new Member of Congress. With a name that starts with W, I was definitely last in my class. Yet he spent a chunk of time with me early on when it was just of benefit to me and clearly of no benefit to him.

But we spent some time together. I learned many, many things, but I want to mention three specific things that he said to me: There is a small lunchroom where you should share food with other Members and get to know them. Be sure to get some exercise. And there is a spiritual piece to being here and you should pay attention to that, also.

It took me 6 months to eat lunch with any regularity. After being here for 3 years, I think I am finally getting to the exercise piece. And I am working hard toward the spiritual piece. I tell this story because I think that it is an allegory for DAVE as he goes on to the governor's race and far beyond, because as we are eating lunch or getting exercise or becoming more spiritual, for DAVE BONIOR, for this country as a whole, it is always the case that the best is yet to be, the best of life for which the rest was meant.

Thank you, DAVE, for treating everyone, large, small and in the middle with grace and with dignity. Thank you very, very much.

(By unanimous consent, Ms. WOOLSEY was allowed to speak out of order for 5 minutes.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, we have people here who make a very major contribution. There are partisan differences in this body, too many to my judgment, but when a person here is retiring from an important post and still going to make some contributions here, no doubt, I think he ought to be recognized for the extraordinary public service that he has provided here.

I admire DAVE BONIOR for the kind of person he is as well as for his effectiveness. I was thinking just yesterday, if I might say to the gentleman from Michigan, about you and the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. EVANS, because to your credit some years ago, you helped Mr. Cavanaugh and I, two Nebraskans, deauthorize the O'Neill project, which made it possible for us to subsequently declare the Niobrara River as a scenic river. It is the most appreciated ecological feature in the State of Nebraska by its citizens today.

So we actually owe you a debt of gratitude in Nebraska. You stepped up and helped John Cavanaugh and this Member at that time, along with Mr. EVANS. I want to commend you for your public service, but also thank you, as a Nebraskan, for what you did to preserve part of our natural heritage.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I was watching C-Span and I heard all these fine words about DAVE BONIOR. I thought, "My God, something has happened. He's dead. What a shame."

I came down here, he looks very good and the only thing that is happening to him is, he is going to be governor of the great State of Michigan and certainly while it is our loss, it is Michigan's gain.

In this institution, given all of the political and economic and financial pressures that are on all the Members, it is very difficult to hold out a moral compass, to be very sure that the values that you are fighting for are what you believe. It is doubly difficult to do that year after year. The first year you could do it and the second year, but after many years, it becomes harder and harder to do.

I think on virtually every issue affecting the lives of working people, whether it is helping people join unions and fight for their dignity there, whether it is developing a sane trade policy which protects the needs of American workers or raising the minimum wage or affordable housing or all the things that millions and millions of working families need, year after year, right up here, at this podium, DAVE BONIOR has been leading the fight. We are very proud of him, not just because