

Rich Cummings, Mike Dracker, Matt Oliver, Eric Fletcher, Tom DiStasio, Steve Kuhns, Matt Rainbow, Brian Dushatinski, Peter Paris, Mark Callahan, Leon Saddler, Stephen Pride, Kevin Didio, Kris Estabrook, Matt Wilson and Bill Urciuoli were all instrumental components of this CBA powerhouse.

Throughout the 2004 season, the team overcame fatigue, injury, sweltering August heat, and a rigorous schedule, to complete an unblemished record of 13 wins and 0 losses, truly exemplifying the definition of a champion.

I commend Christian Brothers Academy's 2004 football team for their hard work and perseverance and congratulate them on a perfect season. You have set the standard for future Purple and Gold teams.

Congratulations to the Champs.

HONORING TEENA M. BOREK

### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 6, 2004*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I would like to rise in order to honor Teena M. Borek—the 2004 Woman of the Year in Agriculture. She is a pioneer in the agriculture industry and an incredible example to young women throughout America.

When her husband tragically died in 1980, Teena decided to run their farm and became the only female vegetable farmer in Miami-Dade County. Impressively, she was able to successfully run the farm while raising two young toddlers, who are now both involved in agriculture.

In the late 1980s, Teena Borek played a large role in bringing needed computer technology to farms and worked with the Community Bank of Florida to ensure that appropriate financing mechanisms were in place to increase access to this important technology. Not surprisingly, Borek Farms was the first Homestead vegetable farm to use a computer.

Using her knowledge from when she first handled the books at Borek Farms, Teena also helped implement an accounting program for farms that is still in use today.

Her achievements in advancing agricultural crops is also unparalleled. Teena became the first Miami-Dade County farmer to use the linear irrigation system and Borek Farms had the first commercially grown Florida 7862 tomato.

One of her greatest achievements, however, is the impact she has had on young women. As a female pioneer in Florida agriculture, she has paved a path for young women in an industry that has largely been dominated by men. Currently, she is serving as the second female President of the Dade County Farm Bureau and has mentored many young women, including the current executive director of the Farm Bureau.

I have had the honor of visiting with Teena and learning about the many achievements she has made for Florida's agriculture industry. After getting to know her and better understand the work of Steven Borek Farms, it seems clear that Teena's contribution to Florida agriculture will be understood well beyond our lifetime.

She may be most recognized for her work in Miami-Dade County, but her achievements have impacted the entire state of Florida.

While advancing the entire industry through technological expansion, she paved the path for generations of women hoping to enter the industry.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Teena M. Borek on being named the 2004 Woman of the Year in Agriculture by the Florida Farm Bureau.

### CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO RALPH CERNY

### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 6, 2004*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has made remarkable contributions to the health of the people of northern Michigan. Ralph Cerny is retiring from his position as CEO of the Munson Medical Center in Traverse City on December 31st, closing a long career dedicated to providing his community with quality health care. Mr. Cerny's 38 years as a hospital administrator and community leader serve as a shining example of his profession.

In 1964, Ralph Cerny graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. The year before, he actually had his first experience at Munson Medical Center, working as a summer intern. From Cornell University, Ralph went on to study Hospital Administration at the University of Michigan, where he not only earned a Master's degree, but also met his wife, Maureen.

After graduating from U of M in 1966, Ralph began his career as an Associate Administrator at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He remained there for seven years, but in 1973, he returned to Michigan as the CEO of the Memorial Medical Center of West Michigan in Ludington.

In 1985, the long-time CEO of Munson Medical Center, Jack Bay, asked Ralph to move north and join Munson as Chief Operating Officer. He accepted, and began a 19 year tenure that saw Munson grow into a nationally-recognized hospital and health care provider at the center of a regional network of community-based hospitals.

In his eight years as COO, and eleven years as CEO, Munson Medical Center has created a cardiovascular program that has been recognized on four occasions for superior clinical and operational performance; opened a new South Tower for patient care, opened a new ambulatory surgery center; and initiated an air ambulance service. This excellence has not gone unnoticed either. Munson received the National Quality Health Care Award in 2000 and was named one of the Nation's Top 100 hospitals six times.

In short, Mr. Speaker, Ralph's leadership has had a lasting impact on the quality of care at Munson Medical Center, and on the quality of life in the Grand Traverse Region. I worked closely with Ralph Cerny and the Munson Medical family, and I have seen firsthand his dedication to his work and to his community.

While Ralph will be missed at Munson, he has more than earned this retirement. As much as he has given to his career, Ralph has always had time for his family, and I know he looks forward to spending more time with his wife Maureen, their three sons Tim, Tyler,

and Ryan, and their five grandchildren. I also suspect he will spend more time indulging in two of his favorite pastimes: golf and downhill skiing.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph Cerny's commitment to his family, his community, health care, and Munson Medical Center serves as an example to all of us. I ask the House to join me in honoring him, thanking him for his service, and wishing him well in his retirement.

### HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE HAS BROAD JURISDICTION OVER "CONGRESSIONAL CONTINUITY"

### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 6, 2004*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on May 4, 2004, I introduced House Resolution 623. This was a one-line resolution which stated: ". . . That the House of Representatives should address issues relating to the potential incapacity of its Members." I did this to make an important jurisdictional point.

The resolution, which was referred solely to the Committee on House Administration, served to highlight the committee's jurisdiction over how to deal with the status of incapacitated Members, and, by implication, more broadly with certain other matters relating to the continuity of Congress. The committee already has principal jurisdiction over the conduct of congressional and Presidential elections, the qualifications and credentials of House Members, and administrative control over the internal operations of the House, including Chamber security.

I would hope that in the 109th Congress, our committee, where I serve as the ranking minority member, will more forcefully exercise the authority it has to address a range of issues which threaten the ability of Congress to function in the event of a national catastrophe. We need to develop specific, and constitutional, proposals to address the potential absence of incapacitated Members. If the only effective way is through a constitutional amendment, as I suspect it is, then that argument should be clearly made.

Much attention in the 108th Congress has gone to other committees, such as Rules and Judiciary, which have specialized roles in considering certain types of continuity measures. If a proposal is introduced as a House rule, it will be referred to the Rules Committee; if it is a constitutional amendment, it will go to Judiciary. The Rules Committee held a useful hearing this year on incapacity, but its ability to deal with elements of the issue beyond changes to the rules of the House is limited.

This Congress has been a huge disappointment because of its failure to effectively address many issues involving the stability of our structure of Government, deficiencies brought to the forefront by the September 11 attacks, as well as a disturbing tendency to paper over controversies with legislation which fails to substantively address the problem.

For example, the House earlier this year rejected a constitutional amendment offered by Representative BAIRD of Washington which would have reconstituted the House quickly through temporary appointments, pending special elections, if a large number of Members

were killed. I had introduced an alternate version of the proposal, H.J. Res. 89. Members opposed to the concept—which is admittedly extremely controversial—refused to allow real hearings and debate, preferring instead to misrepresent the various proposals which were introduced and to mock the sponsors. Even though prospects for passage of such an amendment at the time were extremely slim, a substantial debate would have served to educate the Congress and the American people on the importance of these issues, and perhaps provided impetus in a search for alternatives.

Instead, the House passed, but the Senate subsequently killed, H.R. 2844, the “Continuity of Representation Act”, which created an unrealistically fast, unfair, undemocratic and unworkable scheme to fill vacant House seats through a mandatory national 45-day special election period. This bill was referred principally to the House Administration Committee, where I was able to point out its many flaws.

Neither House passed simple legislation which would have corrected an oversight in the legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security in 2002, which failed to place the supposedly critical new Cabinet officer somewhere—anywhere—in the statutory line of succession to the Presidency.

Though hearings were held, neither House addressed significant issues of Presidential succession, such as the role of the Speaker and President pro tempore and lame duck Cabinet members in the succession lineup, and the ability of some officials to “bump” others serving as acting President under the current Federal statute.

The House is apparently planning to paper over its failure to effectively address congressional continuity by passing a blatantly unconstitutional new House rule when the 109th Congress convenes. It would pretend that a rump group of Members, acting with a “provisional quorum,” could exercise the full powers of the House even though a majority of the membership might still be alive but unable to reach the place the House was meeting in a timely manner.

The proposal pretends to address the problem of incapacitated Members by effectively ignoring it, and by allowing the Speaker to deprive them and other absent Members of their constitutional authority by adopting an unprecedented and radical procedure to declare a quorum present when it clearly isn't. The proposed rule would ignore the explicit constitutional prohibition against less than a majority of the Members of the House taking any action except to adjourn, or to compel the attendance of absent Members. It would also demolish the century-old precedent, based on the Constitution, that a quorum of the House consists of a majority of the membership chosen, sworn and living.

It is likely that this unconstitutional proposal will be shoehorned into House Resolution 5, the traditional opening-day resolution through which the House adopts its rules, to be considered on January 4, 2005. Parliamentary practices in effect at that time would allow only one hour of debate on the resolution, no matter how numerous or how controversial the rules changes contained within it might be. At a minimum, the House should debate the provisional quorum issue separately, following hearings by the Rules Committee through which Members could better inform them-

selves, I would hope, of the truly dangerous ramifications of this idea.

Mr. Speaker, I plan to urge further action on congressional continuity issues in the new year, to work with my colleagues on the Committee on House Administration to assert our own jurisdiction more effectively and to push the other relevant committees to do the same. We need both more effective action, and better internal cooperation, to accomplish these goals.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING  
REPRESENTATIVE CAL DOOLEY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 6, 2004*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity tonight to join with my fellow members of the New Democrat Coalition in paying tribute to Representative CAL DOOLEY of California, who is retiring from Congress at the end of this year.

As the Almanac of American Politics 2004 edition described CAL: “The congressman from the 20th District is CAL DOOLEY, a Democrat first elected in 1990. He is a farmer, growing cotton, alfalfa and walnuts, as his great-grandfather did before him. In 1987 he became a staffer for Tulare state Senator Rose Ann Vuich. In 1990, he ran for Congress in a more Republican-leaning district. Luck was with him: The incumbent had accepted contributions from S&L operator Charles Keating and interceded on his behalf with regulators. DOOLEY won with a solid 55%. . . . DOOLEY's endurance has been partly a testimonial to his moderate voting record, which is the most conservative of California Democrats. On the Agriculture and Resources committees, he tended to district interests. He was one of three committee Democrats to vote for RICHARD POMBO's guest worker bill, and he supported lifting the ban on food sales to Cuba. He has co-chaired the Congressional Beef Caucus, the Western Water Caucus and the Biotechnology Caucus. He strongly backed PNTR with China and he worked closely with neighboring Congressman and Ways and Means Committee chairman BILL THOMAS to get Democratic votes for trade promotion authority in 2001 and 2002. . . . He sided with most Democrats in opposing the increased work requirements in the Republicans' welfare bill. DOOLEY is active on local issues, including flood control projects, increased dam capacity, and additional funds for farm workers. . . .”

Most importantly, CAL DOOLEY was one of the founders and original co-chairs of the House New Democrat Coalition, which Politics in America's 2004 edition described as “a growing group of moderate, pro-business lawmakers who say they seek bipartisan solutions. . . . It is a measure of DOOLEY's reputation as a leader of centrist Democrats—he co-founded the New Democrat Coalition in 1997 along with Virginia's JAMES P. MORAN and former Indiana Rep. TIM ROEMER—that his name was floated, during the disputed 2000 presidential election, as a potential appointee to either a Bush or a Gore administration.”

Mr. Speaker, CAL DOOLEY has been a friend and mentor of mine during the past 6 years I

have served in Congress. As a fellow member of Congress who has sought bipartisan solutions to the many difficult issues we have faced in this body, he has offered me wise counsel on many occasions and his leadership of the New Democrat Coalition in the House Democratic Caucus provided important leadership to all members of our Caucus. The people of CAL DOOLEY's California congressional district have been very well served by his 14 years of representing them in Congress and I know they join with me and his colleagues in this body in wishing him all the best as he pursues a new career in the private sector. He will be missed in the halls of Congress. But CAL DOOLEY will not be forgotten.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN AMO  
HOUGHTON AND CONGRESSMAN  
JACK QUINN

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 19, 2004*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I address the House tonight to extend my best wishes and a fond farewell to my good friends and colleagues in the New York Congressional Delegation, Congressmen JACK QUINN and AMO HOUGHTON.

Beyond the insight, experience and professionalism these gentlemen brought to this body, they represented the very essence of what it means to represent New York State in Congress. They were loyal to their constituencies, and their voters were in turn loyal to them. Their policy expertise transcended ideological lines, and they understood that, in our corner of the world, good people are good people, regardless of party affiliation. People voted for them year-in and year out on account of who they were as people, and how hard they worked for Buffalo, Rochester, Corning and the Southern Tier. JACK and AMO have nearly 30 years' worth of experience in Washington between them, and, though none of us like the fact that they are leaving us, we are all grateful to have been the beneficiaries of their good humor, wisdom, graciousness and friendship.

The U.S. Congress, New York State and our country are better off for having been represented by these two gentlemen. I've had the privilege of serving with JACK and AMO for a long time and feel fortunate to consider them good friends. It is my hope the other members of this body from New York and beyond recognize and applaud their service, friendship, and loyalty to those who have worked beside them along the way.

I know I will miss JACK QUINN and AMO HOUGHTON when the gavel falls to begin the 109th Congress; but I join my colleagues in wishing them the absolute best for whatever comes next. I take comfort, though in knowing that departure from this House will not signal the termination of their public service. Nor will it be the end of their involvement in the lives of the people they represented so well, for so many years.

So as we depart for the year and bring an end to the 108th Congress, I once again say good-bye and thank you to JACK and AMO while wishing them the very best for the future.