

He is a national treasure and we need him now more than ever.

Best wishes JOHN DINGELL. I am proud to be your colleague—prouder yet to be your friend. God bless you.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, thank you, Mr. CONYERS, for the opportunity to stand and recognize one of the finest men to ever serve in the United States Congress.

JOHN DINGELL can be and has been described using a wide variety of adjectives—ranging anywhere from fierce and intimidating to kind and charming and just about everywhere in between. This man has been leaving vivid impressions on those of us he has worked with during his 50 years as a United States Congressman.

Whether one may have come to enjoy the deeply intellectual candor associated with his great knowledge of issues spanning from health care to the environment to labor; or whether one may have become a victim of his witty tongue lashings he has been known to dole out to his opposition or to those testifying before him—either way, these individuals have more than likely walked away from these scenarios respecting Mr. JOHN DINGELL all the more.

Mr. DINGELL is the Dean of the House because he has spent 50 years working diligently to fight for those who may not be able to fight for themselves. He has fought for vulnerable people and worthy causes with an iron first. He has defended large companies even when allies have criticized him because those companies sustain the jobs his constituents depend on to feed their families. He has stood up for unpopular ideas based on righteous values. He has led wars for universal causes in order to see the eventual acceptance of a fair ideal.

The people of southeast Michigan continue to elect JOHN DINGELL to serve and represent them and many others across the country in Congress because he is a good man. He is a shining example as to why term limits are not wise in governance. Consumers would have a hard time investing in a company where a new set of untrained professionals were ushered in to run a major corporation just as their predecessors finally obtained the necessary skills and experiences to truly excel on their behalf.

Each term JOHN DINGELL has brought with him another two years of valuable experiences that help him craft better legislation, provide deeper insight, and mentor his colleagues to be more prepared to lead.

Mr. Speaker, I have the proud privilege of not only standing beside Mr. DINGELL as a friend and colleague from the great state of Michigan, but I am honored to have found his mentorship in our last 6 terms in Congress as some of the most profound advice I could have received.

Congressman DINGELL spent nearly 2 decades heading the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation. There he uncovered unparallel fraud and deceptions of companies and government agencies. He drilled witnesses and experts in order to obtain the answers necessary to protect the American people. JOHN DINGELL spent his years on that subcommittee with an unwavering, fiery commitment to do the right thing.

When Congressman JOHN DINGELL, Jr. was inaugurated after winning a special election to succeed his late father, who had served in the

House of Representatives since 1932, he told his new colleagues "if I can be half the man my father was, I shall feel I am a great success."

As the new ranking Democrat on the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee where the great JOHN DINGELL accomplished some of the most memorable and most remarkable feats on behalf of the American people, I declare that if I can do half the job JOHN DINGELL has done during his tenure in Congress, I shall feel I am too am a great success.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank Mr. JOHN DINGELL of Michigan for being a great leader, example, servant, mentor, and friend. Mr. DINGELL and the work he has done in the last 50 years in the United State Congress will be remembered, valued and respected for as long as this great country stands united.

Mr. CONYERS. If it pleases the House, I would like to invite the object of our affection this evening and through the last few weeks to make a closing comment, and I would yield now to the Dean of the House of Representatives, the honorable JOHN DINGELL.

EXPRESSING THANKS TO FELLOW MEMBERS FOR THEIR REMARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank my good friend and colleague from Michigan, JOHN CONYERS, my dear friend of long standing, for his gracious kindness in this Special Order tonight, and I thank all of my good friends and colleagues who have participated in that. I am deeply grateful, and I am very proud of the friendship that they show me and that I have for them and the kindness that they have shown me throughout these years I have had the privilege of serving in this body.

I want to say that I have been uniquely blessed. Not only have I had the privilege of serving wonderful people in the southeast corner of Michigan, people who are uniquely loyal, decent and good, hardworking and patriotic, who believe in their country and who work to make it better and who raise good kids and who are concerned not just about their well-being but about the country and its future, I have also been uniquely blessed in having an extraordinary staff which has stood loyally by me and which has provided me the basis of knowing how to be a good and effective Congressman.

I have had one unique and special blessing, and that is a beautiful woman who has stood by my side all of these years, the lovely Deborah, who has worked with me, worked for me, worked with and for the people that I have the honor to serve and who is much loved in Michigan and here in Washington, whose good works and whose talents are extraordinary and whose decency and loyalty are absolutely unique.

I want to say how proud I am to have served in the Congress. I am proud of my colleagues and grateful to them for their words, and I repeat my thanks to my good friend from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and to my other colleagues who have been so gracious to me today, to the Speaker and to the minority leader for their gracious remarks, for the resolution which this body passed and for the privilege of serving with all of my dear friends and colleagues.

I have only good memories of having served in this institution, and I think if there is one characteristic about the service that I have had here it is with what blinding speed those 50 years have gone by and how many wonderful human beings I have known and served with: Members of Congress, members of the staff, people who work in and around the Congress, lobbyists, the constituents that I have had the privilege of serving and the people in the executive branch. We are fortunate, indeed, that we have men and women who will do the things that my colleagues have done here in terms of coming to Washington to serve.

I cannot tell my colleagues how proud I am of them or how grateful I am to them and the appreciation which I feel for all of them, including not just my friend Mr. CONYERS, but I look at my good friend Mr. KILDEE and the gentlewoman from Texas who was so gracious earlier.

It has been a singular privilege for me to be here. This is a wonderful institution. It belongs to the people. They deserve the best we can give, and it is a wonderful institution. I salute my colleagues for what they do. I express to them my respect and admiration and affection and also my gratitude to them for what it is they do.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again express my affection, my respect and my gratitude to those who have participated in this Special Order, including my very special friend Mr. CONYERS.

Thank you.

PEAK OIL PRODUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank Congressman DINGELL for his many years of service to his country. Sometimes there is a young person who is very bright and well-achieved. And it is said of them that they are wise beyond their years. Congressman DINGELL has served 50 years in the Congress. Before that, he served in World War II. Matter of fact, he is just about a year younger than I, so obviously he is not a really young person. I can truly say of Congressman DINGELL that he, too, is wise beyond his years.

As a matter of fact, the subject I am going to talk about tonight is better