

agreement has been negotiated and before Congress takes its final vote on the deal, I plan to carefully scrutinize the agreement to ensure that it strikes a balance I can support.

HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Mr. Tim Friedman's 30 years of dedicated service in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Democratic Cloakroom.

Now 30 years may seem like a long time, but really it's only 6 in "Tim Years." That is to say, six World Series wins resulting in rings for the Yankees. I have to wonder if Tim's retirement may have something to do with the prospect of Barry Sullivan's Boston Red Sox winning a few more World Series' and narrowing the Yankees' lead in titles.

Now safe at home—quite literally—I can publicly disclose how I caused one blemish on Tim's otherwise perfect congressional record. The March Madness NCAA basketball tournament bracket was overseen by Tim for years, and he ran a tight ship. You were in by the deadline, or you were out of the pool—except for this one time.

On a late flight home I realized that I had forgotten to put my entry in for the congressional NCAA pool. As soon as I returned to D.C., I petitioned the court of last resort, Tim Friedman, believing my cause was virtually hopeless, but imagining myself shooting that desperate last second three-pointer to win the big game.

To my complete surprise, Tim allowed my desperate shot to count, and he allowed me to slip in my late entry. Even with his charity, I still managed to go 0 and out in the Big Dance! Still, I'll never forget his wisdom for letting me in, and my folly for believing I could handicap the results.

Tim's sports enthusiasm—near-fanaticism, really—will be sorely missed around the Cloakroom. More than that, however, we will miss Tim Friedman's smile, his warmth and his gracious humanity. We hear a lot about world-class athletes. Tim Friedman is a world-class human being.

It has been my distinct pleasure to work with him, an honor to know such a genuine and goodhearted man, and a sad but proud moment for me to say goodbye and best wishes.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF AL BROUNSTEIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the beautiful and inspirational life of a true American icon. Al Brounstein, a longtime leader in California's Napa Valley and producer of some of the world's finest wines for over 30 years, passed away on June 26.

While Al's name may not be easily recognized in these halls of Congress, millions of the constituents we represent have benefited from the extraordinary quality, high standards and international recognition he has brought to the American wine industry.

Al Brounstein's single vineyard Diamond Creek cabernets have set the industry standard for quality and enduring structure for more than three decades. National and international wine critics have long credited Diamond Creek's unmatched success with Al's pioneering efforts in bringing the French tradition of "Terroir" to our shores. But to those of us who have had the pleasure of getting to know Al, it is at best naive to ignore the fact that more than any other single ingredient, Al's character was responsible for the works of art he bottled. The land and the climate were only a part. It was Al. Or as I like to call it: It was the Napa Valley tradition of "Al'oir."

I had the honor and extreme pleasure of knowing Al and his wonderful wife Boots for many years. While the world outside of our valley may have known him for his wine, those fortunate enough to be a part of his community knew him for his sense of humor, his love of life, his loyal friendship and his heroic, 23-year battle against a debilitating neurological disease.

Mr. Speaker, I know I am not the first and I certainly will not be the last public official to express his disappointment over a newspaper account. But I was angered to read a recently printed report regarding Al, stating he had passed away after "losing his battle with Parkinson's." Those of us who knew Al well know that he did not "lose" one darn thing to Parkinson's. Parkinson's may have picked the fight, but it was Al who ended up kicking its backside.

Al fought it with a sense of humor and a wry wit that remains unmatched. He also fought it with his commitment and tireless efforts that raised millions of dollars to fund research for a cure.

Mr. Speaker, if there is one disease in our modern time that knows it was in a fight, it is Parkinson's and it has Al's boot prints all over it. Every time he refused to complain about his illness, it took a kick. Every time he created another original painting that would be auctioned for research, it took a kick. And every time he tried to put his visitors at ease by shrugging off his tremors with a funny quip, he gave it another swift kick.

All of us were so very proud of Al and Boots when he was recognized for his leadership in this field by winning the "Buddy" Award for Enduring Spirit at the Annual Morris K. Udall National Awards Ceremony just a few years ago.

And Al's vision went far beyond making great wine and fighting disease. He had an equally unbridled vision and passion to make friends with nearly everyone he met. And, like his wine, he just did not simply make them, he nurtured and cared for them.

Mr. Speaker, nearly a thousand of these very special friends are gathered today at the Culinary Institute of America to celebrate Al's remarkable life. They represent diverse backgrounds and many uncommon occupations brought together by one common influence.

Al liked to refer to the famous budwood he creatively brought into California from France to start his vineyard as "suitcase clones." Whether you knew him as a salesman in his

early days or as a vintner, artist neighbor, national spokesman or loving family member, we all carry a little of Al with us today. We, in a sense, could be considered his budwood. And we, in a sense, have a responsibility to spread the spirit and vitality that defined this American icon.

Al has encouraged us to be proud of what we do, focus on what matters, strive for quality, and always remember that we are all part of something that is much larger than ourselves.

Like his wines, the powerful concentration of his vision and the enduring structure of his character will continue to last for a very long time through the lives he has touched.

TRIBUTE TO THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF BRODHEAD, WISCONSIN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the sesquicentennial celebration of the city of Brodhead, Wisconsin. I am indeed fortunate to represent such a great city.

Brodhead is a proud and progressive community of 3,200 found in the beautiful countryside of southern Wisconsin. This peaceful city offers several unique tourist attractions. The most notable is the 23-mile long Sugar River Bike Trail, which includes a ride under the National Award Winning Clarence Covered Bridge replica constructed by the Brodhead Jaycees. Brodhead sponsors an annual festival in honor of the bridge, Covered Bridge Days, which features a tractor pull and flea market.

The city was formally founded during the spring of 1856, and named in honor of engineer Edward Brodhead, who was the mastermind behind the Milwaukee and Minnesota Railroad. Only a year later the infamous Brodhead Band was founded. The bandwagon was pulled by six horses and traveled far to Freeport, Illinois, for the Lincoln-Douglas debate. They even enlisted in the Civil War and marched in the Grand Review in Washington at the end of the war.

Residents point to the Half-Way Tree as their city's most recognized feature. The bur oak tree is located south of the city, and marks the halfway point from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. It is believed that Native Americans planted the tree purposefully there in the 19th century.

Brodhead's rich history in manufacturing and industry has and continues to provide the city with a solid economic foundation. Most recently, Stoughton Trailers, Kuhn Knight, Inc., and Woodbridge Corporation have helped to contribute to Brodhead's prosperity.

The celebration for this momentous milestone will start on August 11 with an opening ceremony followed by a city-wide street dance. The residents of Brodhead will continue to commemorate 150 years through the weekend, finishing on August 13 with tractor pulls and fireworks. The festivities' theme of "Pride in the Past, Faith in the Future" is a perfect representation of all that this wonderful city encompasses. The people of Brodhead