

Things went wrong. The two little girls, Taylor Ann and Riley Grace, were born alive and lived only a couple of hours until their little hearts quit beating.

And so we were going through that same grief at about the same time that Joyce and her family were going through the grief of losing Jack Murtha.

I lost a friend, Congress lost a powerful legislator. He didn't speak on the floor very often. He was never boisterous. You never saw him—well, seldom—shouting and waving his arms, but he knew what was going on. And he affected what was happening in the legislation.

Some of our colleagues used to joke that he would sit back in this corner while I sat back in that corner so that between the two of us, we could watch everything that was happening in the House Chamber at any given time. Well, there might have been something to that, but it was a good relationship.

So I, again, I express my condolences. My own sadness of losing this friend, of losing this great American. And Mr. Speaker, I think Jack has left an emptiness that probably will not be filled for a long time, if ever. And I think those on the House floor, as we proceed with appropriations bills in the future, will recognize that without Jack Murtha here, things are a lot different.

So God bless the family.

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

(Mr. LEWIS of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE JACK P. MURTHA

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a friend and mourn and share the loss not just to the Murtha family, the State of Pennsylvania, but to the entire Nation, and certainly every man and woman wearing a uniform.

I was proud to know Jack Murtha, proud to serve in the U.S. Congress with Jack Murtha. He was a bipartisan guy. He was a knowledgeable guy. He was a hardworking guy.

The military budget in appropriations is over \$500 billion. It is a very thick bill. You have to know airplanes from submarines, from tanks to battleships. Jack Murtha knew that, and he would study it very deeply.

Jack Murtha, though, beyond being a professional Congressman, taught this Chamber many things.

For one thing, I learned as a guy who came up through some partisan battles and some nonpartisan battles that the

Murtha-McDade relationship almost cast a certain circle around the State of Pennsylvania that made it a special place, that the Pennsylvania delegation had something that the other States did not have, and that was two great leaders—Republican and Democrat—who kind of set the tone not just for the entire State but for the rest of us to see how things could be. And indeed, the Pennsylvania delegation has still had great fellowship because of that legacy.

It was also reflected in his relationship with BILL YOUNG. I can't tell you what a joy it has been for all Members of Congress who come and often see the battles that are so epitomized on the talk shows and the name calling and so forth, and you think that is Congress. And then you go into a committee room and you see BILL YOUNG and Jack Murtha working together, not always agreeing but always affectionate and always having great respect for what the other one had to say.

And indeed, I can tell you as somebody who served here 18 years, sometimes you couldn't tell who was chairman. They were that close and that united and that focused on what was best for the troops. What a great relationship. And again, what a great example for the rest of us.

Jack Murtha was an old-school guy. He liked to have his bill done in a hurry. In fact, the chairman, Mr. OBEY is there, and he knows while it was one of the largest bills, it was also one of the fastest bills to be passed so many times. He knew exactly where he wanted to go long before the hearing started.

I remember I had an amendment that had to do with electronic verification of social security numbers for people working on Federal contracts. The chairman didn't like it. And I remember Mr. Murtha—I submitted it, I worked the committee, the subcommittee very carefully, and he said, "Kingston, we're not going to do that." That was it. That was my hearing. And when he said that, you knew that was it. The curtain was closed. The case was over.

And this same chairman could turn around and say to you, you've got a problem in Hinesville, Georgia, little old Hinesville, Georgia, a speck on the map, that because it's the home of Fort Stewart, the 3rd Infantry was expecting two more brigades, went out and built a lot of roads and schools and infrastructure in preparation for another brigade.

And then the Pentagon made a turn and decided not to send it to them. And who stood up for Hinesville, Georgia? Jack Murtha. Who did I go to and say, Look, if we're going to make this happen, we've got to do something to help these people because the Pentagon has done them wrong. They stood tall for the military but now the military has let them down. We're not going to let that happen. And Jack Murtha pulled through. Not just on that issue but time and time again.

Jack Murtha loved the United States of America. Jack Murtha loved the military. Jack Murtha loved the soldiers. He stood up not just for them, but for their families over and over again.

Congress has lost a great leader, as has the State and the United States of America. But the American soldiers have lost a true friend and a passionate guy who would do anything for the man and woman in uniform.

I say God bless Jack Murtha and his memory and everything he has done for the United States of America.

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

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. SHUSTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. MURTHA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I echo the sentiments of my colleagues here today and want to add my voice in tribute to Jack Murtha—our colleague, my chairman, and my friend.

For nearly his entire adult life, Jack Murtha selflessly served his beloved Nation—first in uniform as a decorated combat marine and later as an elected representative from my neighboring State of Pennsylvania.

We all know by now that he was the first Vietnam War combat veteran elected to Congress. And while many of us followed him to Congress, he rose to become chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense. I've had the honor of serving with him on the subcommittee for over 10 years.

In our dealings over the years, Jack and I did not always agree on policy decisions. But I always respected his undeniable dedication and his refreshing candor.

And there is no doubt that he cared most deeply about the men and women of America's military and their families. He understood their challenges and their anxieties. And what he did not understand, he actively sought to learn in trips to Defense Department facilities, forward operating bases, and military medical centers across the world.

He served our men and women in uniform diligently and daily in countless

ways. He worked each week to improve their quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Murtha loved Congress. He loved Pennsylvania, he loved his constituents, he loved the military, and he loved all of these things with a passion that exceeded the most ardent enthusiast.

But fundamentally, Jack Murtha was a Marine—with all of the distinguishing attributes and characteristics that brings. As a former member of the United States Army, I recall the statement of one Army general, “There are only two kinds of people who understand Marines: Marines and the enemy. Everyone else has a secondhand opinion.”

My secondhand opinion is that I am honored to have served with Jack Murtha. I will never forget his enduring friendship. May the tributes and prayers of so many of our colleagues this afternoon here today be a source of strength to his wife, Joyce, and to his family.

Semper Fi, Jack Murtha.

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor our friend and one of the outstanding Members of this House, Jack Murtha, who represented Pennsylvania’s 12th district, and to remember his devotion to his work in this Congress, his strength of character, and his hard-fought efforts for his district in Pennsylvania and our country.

Additionally, I feel privileged to have called Jack my friend, and I know that many other Members in this Chamber feel the same way.

As first votes were called this week and Members gathered on the House floor, it was very apparent to most of us that someone was missing. I walked in on Monday almost expecting to see Jack seated in the far chair in the Pennsylvania corner as I had seen since I had first joined Congress 25 years ago.

While Jack is no longer with us, his spirit will live in this Chamber and in the Halls of Congress. For now, the chair will remain empty, as he could never be replaced.

Jack left us too soon. But his legacy will surely live as a symbol of the great work that one man can do and is something that we can all strive to achieve. He will be sorely missed by all of his fellow colleagues, his friends, and definitely, the Pennsylvania delegation.

Mr. Chairman, I’d like to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN).

Mr. HOLDEN. I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today we pay tribute to our departed friend and colleague, Jack

Murtha. Over 17 years ago, I heard Jack say that his great-grandmother told him he was put on this Earth to make a difference—and boy did he make a difference.

He loved his country and served it with distinction at many levels. He served in the United States Marine Corps stateside during the Korean War. When the Vietnam War broke out, he volunteered to go back and served in Vietnam and received two Purple Hearts.

He was the first Vietnam veteran elected to the United States Congress. He was the longest-serving Member in the history of the Congress from Pennsylvania to serve in the House of Representatives, and as Mr. YOUNG mentioned during his remarks, he never forgot the men and women in uniform and made sure that they had the tools to do the job that they do so well. And our returning veterans as well, he was always at the forefront of making sure they had the proper care and treatment and visited them so many times at our military hospitals.

But he also cared so much about all of us. Everybody in this body has an example where Jack helped them. And he helped me so many times over the years, but there is just one that I want to share with everyone today.

After the redistricting of 2000 and after the 2002 election, I found myself serving in a district that was 60 percent new to me, and I inherited one of the best medical facilities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—and actually in the entire country—the Penn State Milton Hershey Medical Center. And after meeting with the leaders at the Penn State Milton facility and seeing the quality of care that they provide, he said, “There’s one thing that we’re missing. We’re missing a cancer research and treatment institute.”

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People that we serve, when they are diagnosed, all too often have to go to Philadelphia or Pittsburgh or Baltimore for care. We need to have a facility for literally millions of central Pennsylvanians, and we, Penn State, are willing to put up more than our fair share or more than the majority of the cost, but we are about \$35 million short of getting there.

I went to see Jack. I brought him to Hershey. He looked around at the quality of care that was provided, made an agreement and said, it won’t happen in 1 year or 2 years, but it will happen. We, the Federal Government, will be a partner and the people of central Pennsylvania no longer will have to travel to Philadelphia or Pittsburgh or Baltimore.

I am proud to say today that as a result of Jack’s efforts and his desire to help me, we have the best quality cancer care in central Pennsylvania. All of us could cite incidents like that where Jack cared about Members and did things to affect the quality of life for their constituents.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go to Joyce and Donna and Patrick and John and so many of Jack’s former staffers and current staffers that are with us today.

Jack, we miss you dearly.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce Mr. MIKE DOYLE. Before he speaks a word, he was commissioned as the jokester of the Pennsylvania Corner purposely to keep Jack in his good spirits during his presence there.

Mr. DOYLE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I rise to honor the memory of my mentor and my dear friend, Congressman Jack Murtha. This is a tough day for all of us in the Pennsylvania delegation. Our State has lost its 800-pound gorilla and our dear, dear friend.

Jack Murtha personified the people of western Pennsylvania, tough, hard-working, salt of the Earth. He loved his family. They always came first, his beautiful wife, Joyce, to whom he was married for over 50 years, his three children, his grandchildren. Family always came first to Jack Murtha.

He loved his country, and he most especially loved the men and women who wore the uniform of the United States of America. He was their champion. There wasn’t any Member in this body who fought harder for those troops than Jack Murtha did.

He loved this institution too. I remember he especially was helpful to new Members. When I got elected in 1994, Jack took me under his wing and one day he sat me right back there in the Pennsylvania Corner, right next to his chair, and he said, I am going to give you two pieces of advice. He says, number one, sit here on the floor and learn the rules and the procedure, because if you master the rules and the procedure of the House, someday you’re going to get a chance to offer a bill, and the people that understand the rules will always win.

He said, secondly, find out what you are passionate about and be the best person you can be in that field. Be the person that other people come to and ask for advice on that issue.

I never forgot that advice. Sixteen years later, every day, we still come over to that corner, and those of us who were smart enough would come over there to seek Jack’s counsel. He didn’t just do it for the members of the Pennsylvania delegation, he did it for anyone who was smart enough to come back there and introduce themselves to Jack and seek his counsel. It didn’t matter what their party affiliation was either.

Much has been said about Jack’s ability to work across the aisle. He truly did. When he chaired the Defense appropriations committee, it didn’t matter to him what your party was. What mattered to him is that you had something that was going to be good for the troops and good for the country, and if you had a good idea, Jack was willing to help you turn that idea into reality.