

JOHN grew up in a two-bedroom house in Reading, with JOHN sharing one bedroom with three brothers, while his sister had the other. His parents slept on the pull-out couch.

Although his father would later build a three-bedroom addition to the house, JOHN still had to share a single bathroom with his 11 brothers and sisters. So he learned how to manage conflict early in his life.

Also, as the second oldest, he had to help his parents out not only around the house with his younger brothers and sisters, but also with the family business.

At age 8, JOHN began to work at Andy's Bar, starting by mopping floors. Later he would wait on tables. In doing so, JOHN learned the value of a dollar and the importance of hard work.

JOHN attended Moeller High School, as we have mentioned a few times this evening, and he played linebacker for future Notre Dame Head Coach Gerry Faust at Moeller. Playing in the GCL for Coach Faust, JOHN learned that you can achieve any goal in life if you are willing to work hard and to make the necessary sacrifices.

As hard as it is for a LaSalle Lancer like myself to praise a Moeller Crusader, it is clear to me that JOHN learned that lesson well, and his life and career are a testament to that message.

After graduating from high school in 1968, JOHN enlisted in the Navy while America was heavily involved in Vietnam. He was later honorably discharged due to a bad back, an injury he had suffered as a teenager working at the family bar.

After holding several entry-level jobs, JOHN then set his sights on a college degree. With the encouragement of William Smith, a professor at Xavier University and high school football referee who was mentoring him about refereeing local sports, JOHN decided to attend Xavier.

Throughout his time at Xavier University, JOHN juggled numerous jobs, although his primary job was as a janitor for a Reading company. His hard work paid off, and he graduated from Xavier in 1977, becoming the first person in his family to graduate from college.

But his work as a janitor had another more important reward. He met his wife of 42 years, Debbie, who worked in the accounting department at the same company. They would marry in 1973, the same year my wife and I were married, and raised two daughters, Lindsay and Tricia, and now a grandson, Alistair. My wife and I also have two children, a daughter and a son, and one grandson so far.

After graduating from Xavier, JOHN was hired as a salesman for a small packaging and plastics company. Through hard work and determination, he steadily worked his way up the company ladder, ultimately serving as president of the company. He resigned from that position when he was elected to Congress in 1990.

In that job, JOHN learned what it takes to survive in a small business and he learned all too well how difficult it is for small businesses to deal with the regulatory and tax burdens imposed by the government. He brought that understanding to Washington, where he has fought for smaller, less-intrusive government.

JOHN got his start in politics by getting involved in his local homeowners association. That experience led him to run for Township Trustee in Butler County's Union Township, now called West Chester Township, in part, to distinguish it from 27 other Union Townships in Ohio, including one in my district, where he served from 1981 to 1984.

In 1984, he was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives, where Republicans were heavily outnumbered by Democrats at the time. In 1990, he won a four-person Republican primary for Ohio's Eighth Congressional District.

Although his victory was somewhat surprising in local political circles at the time, looking back now, it is more surprising that he wasn't the favorite.

Upon his election to Congress, JOHN became a member of the so-called Gang of Seven, a group of Republicans who regularly battled with congressional leadership. Sounds like something around here in modern times.

The Gang of Seven played a pivotal role in exposing the House Bank and post office scandals.

Early on in his congressional career, JOHN also worked closely with Newt Gingrich and helped to draft the Contract with America, a set of principles to which Republican candidates from all over the country agreed, including myself.

It was those principles that propelled the Republican wave in 1994 and led to the first Republican majority in the House of Representatives in 40 years.

Throughout his time in Congress, JOHN has advocated commonsense reforms in the House and in the broader government. In addition to fighting to close the House Bank as part of the Contract with America, he also pushed for the requirement that Congress live by the same rules it imposes on the rest of the American people.

Later, to help promote transparency in the appropriations process, JOHN enacted the first ban on earmarks in the House.

Although he will be remembered for many things, these reforms may have the most enduring impact on the credibility and integrity of this institution, the House of Representatives, the people's House.

However, knowing JOHN like I know him, I would guess that his fondest memory will be Pope Francis' visit to Washington and his address to Congress right here in this very room. It was truly a historic and monumental event, as Pope Francis became the first sitting pontiff to address a joint session of Congress ever.

Millions of Americans, myself included, were moved by the Pope's mes-

sage about a spiritual path to a better future, particularly his call on all of us to strengthen our families, protect the sanctity of life, and help the less fortunate among us.

It was an amazing moment for this House and this country, and it wouldn't have been possible without Speaker JOHN BOEHNER. I know it has been one of his top goals since he was in the Republican leadership back in the nineties, and I think it is a fitting finale to a very distinguished career.

Ultimately, I hope that JOHN BOEHNER is remembered like he would say, as a regular guy who rose from humble beginnings to become the leader of the people's House, as a leader who never stopped believing that the American people can overcome any obstacles, and as a crusader who fought for a smaller, less-intrusive, and more accountable government.

Of course, I will always remember him as a friend.

Thank you, JOHN, for your service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0013

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STIVERS) at 12 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1314, ENSURING TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS THE RIGHT TO APPEAL ACT

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-315) on the resolution (H. Res. 495) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1314) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ROSKAM (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for October 26 and today on account of a matter requiring his personal attention in the 6th Congressional District of Illinois.

Mr. TAKAI (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for October 26 and today.