

in Washington and, therefore, unable to vote on that day. My wife Kasey and I became the proud parents of a baby girl, 7 pound, 2 ounce, 21-inch baby girl. This is our second child.

Had I been here, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted no on rollcall vote 541, yes on rollcall vote 542, and yes on rollcall vote 543.

Also, Mr. Speaker, if I may, on Thursday, October 26 of this year, yesterday, I again was not able to be in Washington and, therefore, unable to vote because I was picking up my wife Kasey and our newborn baby and taking them both back home from the hospital.

Had I been present, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted no on rollcall vote 553, yes on rollcall vote 554, no on rollcall vote 555, no on rollcall vote 556, no on rollcall vote 557, no on rollcall vote 558, no on rollcall vote 559, no on rollcall vote 560, yes on rollcall vote 561, and no on rollcall vote 562.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CROWLEY. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentleman, I want to congratulate Kasey, I want to congratulate the new arrival, Kenzie; is that correct?

Mr. CROWLEY. Kenzie, yes.

Mr. HOYER. Seven pounds, two ounces, I understand, of beautiful baby girl. As the father of three young women myself, I know the joy of having a daughter. And, of course, I know the gentleman's son well, and he is going to be blessed with his sister.

I want to say that I am sure there is not a person in this Chamber or an American anywhere who does not think the gentleman made the right judgment. Congratulations to you.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I want to just say that she will be eligible for dating when she is 40 years of age. So I thank all my colleagues very, very much.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, I would advise him that that is a good theory, but it does not work out in practice.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO BUFFY WICKS

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a valued member of my staff here in Washington, Ms. Buffy Wicks, on her completion of the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. just last Sunday, a marathon which raised millions of dollars for AIDS research.

Although almost 18,000 people took part in this marathon, my wife and I

were watching very carefully Buffy's accomplishment. She committed to raising at least \$1,600, and did not surprise me one bit that she exceeded that goal. She is an intelligent and principled young lady who is an asset to my office and our community. Her dedication to raising money for AIDS follows her commitment to the causes of peace as a graduate student in Peace Research at the University of Oslo, to the American Civil Liberties Union, and to progressive congressional candidates.

I join each and every member of my own staff in saying congratulations on a job well done. Buffy, we are proud of you.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW YORK YANKEES AND NEW YORK METS

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as a Bronx boy born and bred, and as someone who represents Bronx, New York, I want to congratulate the New York Yankees, the World Champions of 2000, for their wonderful season and, therefore, their victory in the World Series yesterday.

When I was growing up, I lived within walking distance from Yankee Stadium. I remember the old teams with Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris, and these Yankees certainly winning the World Series three years in a row shows they are truly champions.

I also want to congratulate the New York Mets for a wonderful, wonderful season and for being the winners of the National League. The subway series, and I went to as many World Series games as I could go to, really has made all of us as New Yorkers proud. In fact, my cap, which says "Subway Series" and has the number 4 train and the number 7 train on it, is something, again, that makes New York very, very, very proud. Not since the 1950s, when I was just a little boy, have we had a subway series in New York, and I have never seen such electricity coming from the city.

So we are all really winners; the New York Mets, the New York Yankees, two great phenomenal teams. I am proud to be a New Yorker, and I say again congratulations to the World Champion New York Yankees and to the National League Champions, the New York Mets.

#### FOND FAREWELL

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the privilege of having the floor to address my colleagues, and I stand here out of respect and great admira-

tion and affection for Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle.

Six years ago, when I came first upon the floor of this hallowed institution, I was eyewitness to a moment rare in the history of our Republic. After 40 years of one-party rule, the opposing party came to power. In 50 congressional elections over as many years the House of Representatives had changed hands only eight times and, yes, as a result of each time, the fabric of our democracy was indeed strengthened, strengthened not by mere change of political party alone but by the collective act of ordinary citizens who cared enough to let their will be exercised at the ballot box.

It was a change of power made ever more amazing when cast against a world where such occurrences even in this most sophisticated of ages are too often marked by bloody violence. No blood was shed, thankfully, for ours is a freedom made whole by the sacrifices of generations of Americans who at a tender age put their Nation ahead of themselves.

Our fellow citizens cherish this vibrant and living democracy that manifests itself each day in the august halls of this Congress. It is they who witness a collection in this body of individuals who give hope to the powerless, promise to the forgotten, and justice to the ignored.

With recorded history dating back some 5,000 years, two centuries of the House of Representatives seems somewhat like a relatively new experience and a somewhat new endeavor. However, relatively few have been honored to come to this place to give their vote and their voice for their communities. Since first convened in 1789, fewer than 10,000 people have had the privilege of representing their fellow Americans. It is in that context alone that I stand here humbled and privileged to have been a Member of this august house.

While the focus too often is on the partisan battles that many Americans mistakenly believe consume all our time and energy, the good news is this: that it is truly a deliberative body. As Speaker O'Neill said, when he first took the gavel, "The House is greater than any of us. Its greatness is the product of 435 human beings contending with extraordinary problems." He was right then and he would be right today.

As an institution, we have much for which to be proud. Members of the House really do spend most of their time, I believe, engaged in a quest for solutions to some of the most vexing questions of our day: health care for the uninsured, drugs on our streets, children left behind because of failing schools or the absence of a strong guiding hand, families overwhelmed as they balance their home life and their jobs in search of adequate safe, affordable day care for their children, these and

other domestic challenges; to goals more global, matters that ensure our national security and which promote freedom and democracy throughout the world.

Each of us approaches these needs from different vantage points and with distinct opinions. In this the greatest experiment in governing the world has ever known, we do in fact endeavor in this democracy to work together, to find common ground in benefit of all Americans.

Looking over my past three terms, I take comfort in the accomplishments that came together because we all worked together; an end to deficit spending, the advent of surpluses and a balanced Federal budget, welfare reform, a new Telecommunications Act, updating the depression era statutes that govern the financial services sector, the Kennedy-Kassebaum initiative that made health insurance portable, and an expanded opportunity to make sure that every child is covered with health care.

The economy of our Nation has turned around from looming deficits in the hundreds of billions of dollars to today's surpluses of similar amounts. Our economic engine is roaring, our fiscal health better than ever, and our future is so very full of promise. It is humbling to be a part of guiding bipartisan policies that delivered our Nation its healthiest economy ever.

For me, it has always been about championing the interest of the folks at home, like so many of my colleagues. I cherish our Main Street businesses or, as my father used to say, those down-street merchants; whether it is the mom and pop grocery store, or the travel agency around the block, these small businesses are revitalizing our communities, creating jobs, and ensuring long-term prosperity for us all. The \$26 million made possible by Congress is revitalizing the older downtown areas of my own home county of Suffolk in New York.

I am proud to have given voice to the needs of our children. My priorities have included families desperate to locate safe, affordable day care, better schools with fewer students in the class and after-school programs like the ones promoted by the Police Athletic League, and the nurturing of those who give so much to those who have lost one or both of their parents, drugs or neglect. I am reminded of the good work, for example, of the people at Little Flower Children's Services located in Brooklyn and Wading River, New York. This is a special place that will always remain close to my heart.

I am appreciative, most of all, of the bipartisan support we get for a healthier, cleaner environment, the Army Corps dollars that have fixed up Long Island's coastline, protected our fishing industry and made sure that for the first time we have ongoing efforts

in the Federal Government to preserve open spaces and areas that are feeling the pressures of development like those on Long Island. The expanded Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge and, of course, the Otis Pike Preserve at Calverton, named after my former predecessor and long-time colleague of most of us, 18 years in the House, Otis Pike, is testament that this Congress has worked hard in a bipartisan way to preserve open spaces, and for that I am most grateful.

I take with me a sense of satisfaction for having taken up the cause of senior citizens and our veterans, and I look for great things to come from future Congresses in that regard because we all do try to stay very close to that very important World War II generation, and I have worked hard during my term to develop close relationships with those folks as well.

Successes achieved over the last several years are not mine alone. Clearly, as we all know, one of our best assets here on Capitol Hill is the dedicated, hard working staff, a loyal staff, that assists both myself and other Members of Congress. And I think particularly of those folks who serve on the Committee on Appropriations and are doing yeomen's work as I speak right now; those on the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Small Business and, of course, my special friends over at the Helsinki Commission.

My colleagues, we all know our greatest asset is clearly the talented people that make this place successful; the staff, the committee staff, the personal staffs, the doorkeepers, the Capitol Police, the wonderful people who work late into the night to clean our offices, those people who are maintaining these historic buildings, and I would like to also recognize people who are very important to all of us on both sides of the aisle, I call them the nurturers, the people in our cloakrooms, particularly Helen and Pat in the Republican cloakroom, and Rhonda and Ella in the Democratic cloakroom. They take care of us each and every day and make our jobs a lot easier.

To the people who have worked in my own office, especially over the last year and a half, I thank them for the sacrifices that they have made and the dedication that they have brought to the people of the First District of New York. These individuals have made us all proud and these successes clearly are their successes. It would take a little more time than I have now to mention all of the wonderful staff who have been devoted to me and who have really sacrificed so much, but they know who they are, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart for the sacrifices they have made.

And a special note, of course, to my Chief of Staff David Williams, who left a secure job to come over and help me,

and he did yeomen's work, for which I am forever grateful.

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I want to take a moment, if I might, to appreciate my colleagues indulging me just a minute further here. I want to thank those many wonderful colleagues on both sides of the aisle, for it has been a special privilege for me to serve in this House and to represent the area where I was born and raised and grew up.

To have known such talented Members of Congress and to have their friendship and their guiding hand and most of all their kindness, I am forever grateful. I must mention, of course, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the Speaker of the House, who has been a good and decent man and who has a very, very tough job.

I also note, with fondness, my good friend the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) for his counsel, for his friendship and most of all for his belief in me. I am forever grateful. And to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) whose fairness and seasoned leadership has always inspired me.

I am particularly appreciative of the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), my friend, and the former chairman, Bob Livingston. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) have served as special friends to me. And I could get myself in trouble by going on and on and on. But I do want to make special recognition of my friend, the gentleman from the New York delegation (Mr. RANGEL), the dean of our delegation, who has been just a tremendous leader. And we have great things yet to come from him, as well as my good friend the gentleman from the Bronx, New York (Mr. ENGEL), the gentleman from Nassau County, New York (Mr. KING), the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN), the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY), and all my friends in the delegation who have really made my service here that much more enjoyable. We come to this place from every corner of America. We seek to influence and we, in turn, are influenced.

Among the many, two who have come to this chamber and who have left a living example that endures as impressions for me are the gentleman from Missouri, the late Mr. Emerson, and the gentleman from Minnesota, the late Mr. Vento. From opposite parties, they worked to reach across the aisle to build friendships, dialogue, to find common ground with an adversary relationship. And as the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) reminds us about her late husband, and this applies equally to so to the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. Vento, they put people before politics and ideas before ideology.

Mr. Vento and Mr. Emerson have left us now. But their humanitarianism, their decency, their gentle and giving ways leave a lasting legacy on which to build greater civility in this House.

Though it is unlikely that I will be here in the 107th Congress, I leave this place holding each and every one of you, Democrat, Republican, and Independent, in the highest esteem, understanding we come at this awesome responsibility with respect for this most sacred institution and the best interest of this Nation at heart.

I thank you my friends, my colleagues. It has been a great run. May God bless each and every one of you, and may God bless our Nation.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FORBES. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from New York for yielding to me. I would not forgive myself if at this time I did not say what was in my heart.

I have had the honor and privilege of serving in this body now for six terms, for 12 years. And I look forward to coming back to the new Congress. I have had many colleagues and have enormous respect for so many people, but I want the gentleman from New York (Mr. FORBES) to know that there is no one for whom I have more respect than he. And I know this personally because the gentleman and I are good friends and we have spent a lot of time together.

Many, many times in life we are called to do certain things and we never quite know how we are going to react to them when we are called upon. Many people act of principle and some people do not, frankly, because they fear what the consequences might be.

I want to tell the gentleman that I have seen him to be a man of principle and to not worry about what consequences might be but to do what he thinks right in his heart. I have seen the gentleman make decisions, some agonizing decisions and some that lesser people might not have made.

So I just want to tell the gentleman that I personally am enormously proud of him. I know the people of the First District of New York have been served tremendously well by him in Congress. And people in the First District ought to know that, in my opinion, there is no one finer, there is no one who works harder, there is no one who has been more effective than the gentleman from New York (Mr. FORBES), representing that district, representing all the people of New York, and representing the people of the United States.

I have again enormous respect for all of my colleagues, but I think that all of us in life walk a very difficult task and there are times that we have decisions to make.

Let me just say to my friend, you have always in my estimation made the right decision, not the right decision for you personally perhaps, but the right decision for the country, the right decision for your constituent, and just doing what is right.

So it has been a privilege to be your colleague. It is an even bigger privilege to be your friend. And we will continue to be friends. I want to tell you that my career in Congress has certainly been enriched by working with you and in walking the walk with you. I wish Godspeed to you and Barbara and your children and children to be and all good things and I know life is going to treat you well, because you have certainly treated life well and treated the people whom you have touched very well.

So Godspeed, my friend. I know you may not be here next year, but we have not heard the end of you yet. I love you, and I wish you the best.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FORBES. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The gentleman is recognized. But it might be noted that the Chair has been very lenient with the time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, let me just say that I have a tremendous admiration for the gentleman from New York (Mr. FORBES).

I think one thing in particular deserves comment. We have on fairly rare occasions in this House seen people across the aisle walk from one side of the aisle to the other. People have done it for all sorts of motives. And I am not going to comment on the motives of anybody, except to say that I am not sure if the history of this body ever records someone going from the majority to the minority party and from the situation of a safe reelection to guarantee a difficult reelection and a situation in which one can ascribe no conceivable political motive other than conviction of principle. And for that, I think that whatever one thinks of either of the parties, one must admire greatly the very deliberate undertaking of political risk for no reason other than matters of principle.

We see too little of that in any legislative body and in public life generally. I certainly want to say that the gentleman has my great admiration for his actions and for his motives in those actions and also for his service in this House, which for the last 6 years has been very honorable.

I have had my eye on the gentleman since we first debated some TV show in the House gallery 5 or 6 years ago, and it has been a pleasure to serve and I look forward to working with you in other walks for many years to come.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FORBES. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, as the dean of the New York State Delegation, let me say to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FORBES) you are a class act no matter what party label that you have had, working with you in the delegation, always the first thing that you had as a priority was what was good for our State. And so, coming over to the Democratic side, we did not have to find out who you were. You were a quality Member there.

And so, from what I hear, there is a life outside of the Congress and I am confident that God would bless you with good fortune for you and Barbara. And you can count on our friendship in the delegation and I might say on both sides of that aisle to guide and support you in whatever you decide.

Godspeed.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FORBES. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is recognized. Again, this is with great latitude from the Chair.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I wanted to join my colleagues in saluting the gentleman from New York (Mr. FORBES).

I have known Michael since he has been here, and I can tell my colleagues that this is a man with great courage.

I can think of several issues. But I can remember several years ago, it was 1996 I believe, when I introduced the school modernization bill. And now Republicans and Democrats, everyone, is talking about school modernization. But the gentleman was one of the four people at that point that were willing to sign to be part of the effort. You were a leader on school modernization because you understand how very important that issue was for his constituency.

There are a lot of people who talk about it, who talk about a whole lot of issues, but the gentleman was the kind of person that would stand up for what he believes is right. And I think that was a perfect example. And whether it is school modernization or the Long Island Sound or health care, you were always there to get support for, to speak out for, to make sure that you were doing the best you could to fight for your constituents.

Long Island Sound is an issue that I know you care passionately about, and you can be proud of the fact that you took a very important role in working hard to make the progress that has taken place in Long Island Sound. Now we have a lot more work to do certainly in dealing with the lobsters and the lobster men. You were right there on the front line.

It has been such a pleasure for me to know you, to work with you. And I know that you will continue to make your mark no matter where you choose to make it and you and your wife Barbara and your family will continue to

thrive and to grow and to make a difference.

Frankly, that is why we are here in this Congress. That is why we are here in this great country of ours. We all try in some small way to make life better, to make our community better and our Nation better. And I know, just as the gentleman is willing to stand up for what he believes, to take the positions that you did in this Congress, you will continue to stand up for your beliefs, your concerns, your passion and make a difference in this life.

You are a person with character. You are a person who really, truly is committed to making this a better world. I am delighted to salute you and to thank you for all you have done, and I look forward to continuing to work with you and keeping in touch with you.

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FORBES. I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota.

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to express my appreciation for the Speaker's latitude in allowing us to reflect briefly upon the service of the gentleman from New York (Mr. FORBES) here.

As your term comes to a close, let me just indicate that I, for one, certainly am going to continue to think about the example of strength and counsel that you have shown during your time here.

I think that the fundamental thing our constituents expect of us as we stand and ask for their vote and then take their trust and come to Congress to represent their interests is that we act out of the courage of our convictions and we stand by our beliefs. And in the course of now four terms, I cannot recall an example where I have seen someone exercise the courage of their convictions in the way you have. Obviously putting yourself at tremendous political risk and irrespective of the consequences, you did it because in your heart you felt it was what you had to do.

Our constituents can expect no finer performance of our responsibilities than how you have exhibited, and your example is going to be reflected upon by so many of us for a long time to come.

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the comments of my colleagues.

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#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGBERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE EDWARD A. PEASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of what I believe to be one of Indiana's greatest, and that is Representative ED PEASE. ED PEASE is not just a public official, he is an outstanding public servant.

I have known ED PEASE for many years. As a matter of fact, I have known him longer than I have any other member of the Indiana Congressional delegation. We had the pleasure of serving with him in the Indiana State Senate between 1980 and 1990 and in the House of Representatives here in Congress since 1996.

Although we hardly ever vote alike, and certainly do not look alike, and do not happen to belong to the same political party, some people may refer to us as the odd couple, because we do think a lot about a lot of things in terms of values and principles. I wanted to stand here today and give ED PEASE, wherever he is, a standing ovation for outstanding public service.

Members on both sides of the aisle were saddened to learn of Mr. PEASE's retirement that he announced in April of this year. He has always been a thoughtful lawmaker. His neighbor-to-neighbor politics have served Indiana's Seventh District extremely well. He has been a sincere leader in the House, and will be missed by both sides.

This sincerity was illustrated when confronted by the press about his retirement, Congressman PEASE replied, "I ask only that you remember that you elected me to exercise my best judgment, and I do so no less in this decision."

Many, however, still feel that Mr. PEASE's tenure in the House was too short, and it is not hard to understand why. Mr. PEASE was often called upon to lead this House as Speaker of the House pro tempore, and his parliamentary skills and strong reputation for fairness have proved invaluable in times of heated debate.

ED PEASE worked tirelessly on matters affecting his fellow Hoosiers, including Indiana's return of Federal fuel tax dollars. One of his proudest moments came when he secured a 92 percent return on the fuel tax dollars for the State of Indiana.

I will miss Congressman PEASE immensely, and know that this body is the poorer as a result of his departure. I realize that there have been happenstances that have occurred to him during his membership here which undoubtedly will deter his interest in continuing his membership in this august body, but I am often reminded of a little phrase that we had to master when we were building our typing skills in school, and that was about all

good men coming to the aid of the party. Certainly ED PEASE has come not only to the aid of his party, but he has come to the aid of the State of Indiana, and certainly the United States Congress.

I would close in reminding my distinguished colleague, wherever he is at this moment, that there was a very wise poet that wrote many years ago, for every drop of rain that falls, a flower grows; and that somewhere in the darkest night, a candle glows.

Despite the adverse incidents of Mr. PEASE's experience here in Washington, D.C., as a Member of the House of Representatives, that rain that has fallen certainly will provide a flower to grow for many years to come, and he will certainly be a light, not only for the citizens of the State of Indiana, but for this country as well.

I know that whatever Congressman PEASE chooses to do next, he will continue his service to the country with the same attributes that he displayed in the House of Representatives.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the special order just given.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

#### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION VERSUS TAX BREAKS

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to continue my call for this Congress to pass real school construction legislation without further delay. We have missed opportunity after missed opportunity, and it is time to stop playing partisan games and pass a meaningful bill to address this urgent priority.

Madam Speaker, as a Congressman from the Second Congressional District of North Carolina, I represent an area of the country that has undergone tremendous growth in recent years. In communities throughout my county and my district, our schools are bursting at the seams. The same can be said for this country. Our local communities are struggling to provide resources to build new schools and to get our children out of trailers and to fix up rundown school buildings.

Throughout my district, students in overflowing schools are being packed in trailers that are years old and long past their use. As an example, in Franklin County, 55 trailers; in Granville County, 16; Harnett County, 41;