

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DAVID R. BROWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening with deep respect, and with profound sadness in paying tribute to one of the greatest environmentalists of our time, Mr. David R. Brower, who passed away on Sunday, November 5, at his home in Berkeley, California.

Mr. Brower's distinguished career of dedication and commitment to the preservation of our environment spanned more than fifty years.

As a young man, Dave Brower fell in love with our planet, which he called Earth Island.

He served as the executive director of the Sierra Club in 1952, and later, founded two important environmental organizations, the Friends of the Earth and the John Muir Institute for Environmental Studies.

In addition, in 1982, he founded Earth Island Institute, an organization that promotes protection and conservation of wilderness around the world.

During his lifetime, he led hard fought fights to establish numerous national parks and seashores, including Point Reyes in northern California, the Northern Cascades, and the California Redwoods.

Among these accomplishments, in the 1960's, Mr. Brower's activism was instrumental in preventing the construction of two major dams in the Grand Canyon.

He was also successful in stopping plans to build dams at the Green River in Utah that would have seriously altered the landscape of the Dinosaur National Monument.

Furthermore, Mr. Brower played a crucial role in the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which preserved millions of acres of public land so that its natural conditions will remain for future generations to enjoy.

Mr. Brower's strong conviction and foresight did not come without personal sacrifice.

He took many hard stances for environmental protection that he believed would benefit humanity, sometimes against his colleagues, and many times against governmental agencies. And these sacrifices make Mr. Brower truly heroic.

The death of Mr. Brower is a great loss to our nation. I, along with Mr. Brower's immediate family, friends, admirers and supporters, feel this monumental loss.

But as we mourn his death, we also remember the legacy of hope and inspiration David left behind for us as a true leader in conservation.

His passion for preserving our planet's remaining wilderness, our national parks, and seashores is a remarkable model of how one

person can mobilize people's consciousness to change and to better our lives and our world.

I cannot fully express enough gratitude for the contributions David Brower has made to our society and to the viability of our planet, but I can say that he literally changed the world for the better.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the late Mr. Brower's wife Anne, his four children Kenneth, Robert, Barbara, and John, his grandchildren, his friends, and supporters throughout the world.

To Mr. Brower—May the Earth receive you with the love and compassion that you gave it, and may God Bless You.

ENJOYING SERVICE AS MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, because it is one of my last opportunities as a Member of this body to address my colleagues about whatever I might want to, and today I particularly want to say how much I have enjoyed my service as a messenger over the last 20 years. What a great honor and privilege it has been to have been a Member of this body.

I made many friends. I fought many battles on the floor of this House, and I would like to believe that my service will be left as very constructive. We had lots of things that happened in my tenure in serving the eighth district of Florida and prior to that, the fifth district; but we actually closed during that period of time nearly 40,000 cases for constituents in casework; nearly 400 high school interns came to Washington, D.C. to meet the Members of Congress, visit the House floor, attend congressional hearings and tour historic monuments, memorials, under my intern program; 422 high school students have received nominations during those years for my office to the Nation's military academies; 199 have received appointments; 15 senior interns participated in the Congressional Senior Intern Program to gain a firsthand look at how our government works and to provide valuable opinions on important issues; 8 High School pages have participated in the Congressional Page Program; 19 congressional art competitions have led to 19 works of high school art students hanging in the halls of this Congress.

I am proud of all of those. I am certainly proud of the staff work that has been done both personal staff and committee staff on my behalf and on the behalf of my constituents in the Nation over these years.

I can stand before you today and site legislative accomplishments and specifics; I am not going to do that. I look ahead more than I look back. I always have, and when one door closes another

one opens. And I think that is what this Nation is about.

It is our young people that is what it is about. It is about the next generation, that is why we all serve in public life, that is why I served, that is what I am most proud of.

The contributions each of us make as we pass may be a small contribution now, but that can grow much greater later. And it is the duty, I think, of every American to participate in the electoral process and in the process of governance. Sometimes it may be in public office, sometimes it may be being no more than voting, but I hope that most young people who come forward in the near term will participate much more vigorously, getting involved in elections, being participants in their communities and community activities and in many other ways.

When they do so, I would like to believe that they will look at the next few years as pivotal years. We are the greatest free Nation in the history of the world. Our Founding Fathers gave us a Constitution with its checks and balances that make us like no other Nation. We have opportunities for everyone. Equal opportunities, if you just take advantage of them.

We are not perfect. Nobody is, but when you look around the world, you will see what a great Nation we have and what a great government we have.

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In our institutions, I think that better government, not bigger government should rule the day; that when decisions can be made at the local level of government, that is where they should be made: the city level, the county level, the State level, the local school boards. Only as a last resort does Washington do it and only, of course, under certain constitutional circumstances.

I think that is the guiding principle that our Founding Fathers gave us, and it is one that I hope we all will cherish into the future. I believe that, in the nearer term, to make that more meaningful for all of us, there are several things that need to be done. I have to leave that to my colleagues in the next Congress since I will not be here for that.

One of those is, of course, principled in the idea of choice. I happen to believe that choices should be maximized for individuals. The government should be not making decisions for us, especially in Washington, where we can make them for ourselves. Whether that is in the realm of education, whether that is in the realm of Medicare or Social Security or whatever it is, the more choices that we can give to people to make them themselves rather than government making those decisions, rather than the government being our parent, if you will, the better off we will all be.