

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to commend Civic Ventures, along with Purpose Prize, the Atlantic Philanthropies, and the John Templeton Foundation, for their vision and generosity in creating this important stimulus for expanding citizen initiative for public good. The Purpose Prize joins Experience Corps as an important innovation by Civic Ventures, a nonprofit organization dedicated to generating ideas and programs to help society achieve the greatest return on the experience of older adults. I believe these programs will help transform society's view of aging, and lead to better investments in America's greatest untapped resource, which are experienced and engaged older adults.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to Wilson Goode, and wish him continued success.

IN MEMORY OF MONROE
SWEETLAND

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER
OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the life of Monroe Sweetland, along with my colleagues TOM LANTOS, ANNA ESHOO, and many other of Monroe's California friends.

The most important Oregonian most people have never heard of passed away earlier this month. Even though I knew Monroe would soon be leaving us, and even had quite a lucid farewell conversation with him shortly before, it's still hard to believe that he is gone.

Here's a man whose lifespan of active political life stretched from the Hoover administration to George Bush the second. Monroe engaged in every single important political debate of our times from economics to foreign-policy to civil rights: He was in Indonesia, during the year of living dangerously; was one of the most powerful men in Oregon during the Truman administration as a Democratic national committeeman for a Democratic administration when every elected leader was Republican; and, he had tremendous influence on appointments and policy decisions from judicial appointments and personnel decisions to policy direction. He was a journalist, an educator, and a politician but most of all a passionate advocate for making the world a better place.

From the time I first met Monroe Sweetland as a college student directing Oregon's campaign to lower the voting age, he was a steady presence in my political life and development. He always provided me good, sound advice, gentle but firm encouragement and tremendous support.

He knew everyone who had made a difference in his party for three quarters of a century. Monroe earned the respect and affection of principled opponents, including Senator Mark Hatfield who defeated Monroe when they ran against each other for Oregon Secretary of State in 1956. It was great to hear and feel the respect these two Oregon giants had for one another, and one hopes that someday that can come back into fashion.

As recently as 1998, Monroe ran for the State Senate mounting a close campaign against Verne Duncan, a longtime incumbent. To the end, Monroe conducted his campaign, as his entire career, with civility and affection, being able to point out differences with precision and civility that made people feel good about politics.

Most of all, Monroe was tireless and effective. He was gentle and kind but resolute in what he believed in. He was a fierce partisan fighting for his party, his candidates, and his country but never approaching, let alone crossing the line in the 37 years that I knew him. He was unstinting in his beliefs but never cruel or unkind in his judgments.

The sadness on his passing is tempered by the knowledge of his rich and full life and that thousands of Oregonians and people around the country are the better for his friendship and his life's work.

HONORING MR. CHARLES BARNES,
OF IDAHO, FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF IDAHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a speech I have long dreaded but knew would one day come. It is a speech many of us in this body have had to deliver from time-to-time—one that none of us likes to give but one that is entirely necessary and right.

The speech I am talking about is one that announces the retirement of a trusted staffer and ally, someone who has worked with me since my election to Congress and served the people of Idaho's Second Congressional District with distinction, class, and a sincerity matched by none.

That staffer is a gentleman named Charley Barnes. Charley has worked in my Twin Falls office for the past 8 years handling all of my agriculture outreach efforts and working day-in and day-out with the farmers and ranchers of Idaho to make sure their Government is effectively serving them.

When I first got to Washington, I was immediately awarded a seat on the House Agriculture Committee. While this assignment was a great honor and of immense importance to the people of my district, it was not an assignment that played to my greatest expertise. So I knew from the start that I was going to need exceptional staff to guide me through my duties on the committee and the re-write of the farm bill. And thank god I had Charley Barnes by my side to help me out.

I am proud of the farm bill we produced in 2002 and believe it has been perhaps the best farm bill this Congress has ever written. While I can't claim that Charley wrote the farm bill, he provided advice and counsel to me that was critical to my work as a member of the committee.

But Charley's service to the Second District went well beyond the re-write of the farm bill or preparing me for a few committee hearings.

When the farmers of Idaho's Second Congressional District were devastated by drought

and disease, Charley was there to lend a helping hand and push his own boss to support disaster assistance payments that kept farmers out of bankruptcy and the economy of small, rural towns alive.

When the Federal Government mistakenly sprayed a product called OUST on private land, killing the sugar beets, wheat, and potatoes of Idaho farmers, Charley was there to witness the damage, organize the Idaho congressional delegation, and push the BLM and USDA to compensate farmers for their loss. Idaho's farmers are still fighting this battle, but they have a great friend and advocate in Charley Barnes.

When the USDA tried to penalize Idaho's sugar farmers for their wrongful participation in a program for which they were told they qualified, Charley was there to argue against punishing these farmers. Charley made an impassioned defense of these producers, and in the end, Charley was proven right. USDA relented and Idaho's sugar farmers saw firsthand the value of a forceful advocate like Charley Barnes.

And when a farmer in my district is facing an appeal before the USDA over an issue where the farmer believes he had done nothing wrong, more often than not that farmer will see Charley Barnes attend that appeal, offer words of encouragement, and stand beside them for the duration of the hearing.

Charley Barnes doesn't see his work in my office as just another job. He sees his role in my office as an advocate for agriculture, an advocate for farmers and ranchers, an advocate for rural communities, and most importantly, an advocate for rural families.

Charley Barnes isn't just a congressional staffer, he's a farmer, a businessman, a husband, a father, and a very good friend.

Everyone who has ever met Charley Barnes is better off for having known him. The people of the Second District are better off for having been served by Charley Barnes. And I am a better Congressman today than I was 8 years ago because I had the good sense to hire, and learn from, Charley Barnes.

I know I speak for everyone in my office when I say that we are going to miss Charley's day-to-day presence in the office. But this is not goodbye, because we are going to be calling on Charley from time-to-time for some good advice, some constructive criticism, and a nudge in the right direction.

As he settles into retirement, and a well-deserved break from the daily grind of a long and distinguished career, I wish Charley well in all of his future endeavors and offer my sincere gratitude for all his hard work, great advice, and dedication to the people of Idaho.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LUBBOCK
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Lubbock Christian University on reaching the milestone of its 50th anniversary. LCU was established in 1957 with a mission