

of Cyprus. Not one country other than Turkey recognized the occupied section as its own nation. Turkey simply will not be able to join the European Union without finally conceding this land back to its rightful owners.

I strongly urge the European Union foreign ministers to send a strong message to Turkey that it must comply with promises it made before the accession talks began. They can do this by passing Commissioner Rehn's recommendations next week and not allowing Turkey to renegotiate issues concerning Cyprus.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE LANE EVANS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to pay special tribute to our beloved colleague from Illinois, Congressman LANE EVANS.

Truly, LANE has been a man for others throughout his entire life; a patriot, a marine, someone who began his career after serving in Vietnam as a marine as a legal aid lawyer. He was always there for others. He truly is a beloved Member of this House, probably one of our most humble Members, and yet heroic throughout his service; a very, very strong human being.

I was privileged to be elected with LANE back in 1982 as we became classmates in the 98th Congress of that year. It was quite a large class, over 60 new Members at that time. I can remember meeting him at the very beginning, another son of the working class of people who came here to make a difference.

LANE ultimately became a leader in veterans affairs, a leader in fighting for better jobs with wages and pensions that people can depend upon, and taking on causes that were close to his heart, obviously representing rural Illinois. He cochaired the Ethanol Caucus long before we had the kind of attention paid to it today.

But in his capacity on the Veterans Affairs' Committee where he served from the very beginning, he was successful in spearheading efforts to pass legislation to compensate Vietnam veterans for diseases linked to exposure to Agent Orange.

I can remember the debate in those days back in the 1980s when the scientists would come up and say, Well, you know, we can't really prove why those cancers are caused, all these soft tissue cancers related to Agent Orange. The committee, with LANE's leadership and personal experience, came to conclude that there is a difference between doing what is morally right and what is scientifically provable, and LANE EVANS always stood for what is morally right.

Many words come to mind when I think of LANE: his honesty, his trustworthiness, his likability. He was a man of his word, a really good human being, and a good humored human being. He always had a joke. He was kind to all of us, intelligent, persevering and very, very unselfish.

He won passage of a law that delivers health and compensation benefits to children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange who were born with spinal bifida, a crippling birth defect. It represented the first time children of veterans received that benefit. And he led efforts to expand services to women veterans and pushed for increased help for veterans suffering from PTSD, posttraumatic stress disorder, and crafted legislation to direct services to the large numbers of homeless veterans.

I can remember his efforts to set up the storefront homeless centers all across our country so that homeless veterans would feel comfortable. Many of them were not going into the traditional veterans facilities. He understood that. He played a leadership role in helping us to recognize the health needs of First Gulf War Syndrome.

In 1995, he rose to become ranking member on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and he was the chief House sponsor of legislation to ban the use of anti-personnel land mines. He knew a lot about that, having been a veteran himself.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership, Congressman EVANS in 1990 was awarded the Vietnam Veterans of America first annual President's Award for Outstanding Achievement, and then in 1994 he received the AMVETS Silver Helmet Award, called the Oscar of veterans honors.

LANE is the son of a firefighter and a nurse and has been a tireless advocate and champion of the rights and needs of working Americans, from fighting for higher minimum wage, to seeking affordable health care for all Americans, to protecting good jobs at good wages in Illinois and throughout our country. Throughout our two decades here, that has been a monumental struggle, and he never let up on his persevering efforts.

I want to thank the people of Illinois tonight for sending such a great human being to this Congress.

Eight years ago, LANE EVANS contracted Parkinson's disease. As he has

served with us and we have sat by him and worked with him, he never complained once. We watched him as it became more difficult for him to smile and to lift his arms and to come here to the floor, and he has done that through his 24th year.

I can remember when he started the basketball games over at Georgetown to raise money for philanthropic causes here in the Capitol for the needy. He was always helping others, and he did not pay that much attention to himself. In fighting Parkinson's disease, which he is still fighting, he became a model to all of us on what the words "Semper Fidelis" mean.

So, LANE EVANS, I want to thank you on behalf of the people of Ohio and on behalf of your colleagues here in the House. You truly have been a worthy servant and it has been an honor to serve by your side. We wish you Godspeed, and we thank you so very much for making us better by knowing you.

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the distinguished career of my good friend and colleague, Congressman LANE EVANS. LANE is retiring at the end of this Congress, and the House of Representatives will miss his leadership and untiring support of our nation's veterans.

LANE has devoted most of his entire professional life to service to the United States of America. He grew up in the heart of the district he represents, entering the Marines out of high school and serving in Vietnam. When he returned, he went to college and earned his law degree at Georgetown, and was elected to Congress in 1982.

Since then, he has made a tremendous impact on issues of national importance, such as agent orange compensation for affected veterans, investigating Gulf War illness, and the effort to ban land mines. While never seeking the spotlight, our veterans, military retirees and active duty service personnel know they have not had a greater advocate in Congress than LANE EVANS. LANE was awarded the Vietnam Veterans of America's first annual President's Award for Outstanding Achievement in 1990 and he received the AMVETS's Silver Helmet Award in 1994, known as the "Oscar" of veterans honors.

At the same time, LANE has always defended the rights of working men and women, protecting the ability to collectively bargain while opposing unfair trade deals that have sent good paying jobs overseas. He has been a leader on environmental issues and a friend of the family farmer. Above all, LANE has been a steady presence for the issues he believes in and the constituents he represents.

Over the last several years, LANE also gained prominence for his ongoing battle with Parkinson's disease. The dignity with which he has faced this disease has inspired many, and helped educate the public about the disease. Not many people know how painful the disease can be, and you would never know it from LANE, as he has faced this ordeal with the same courage and determination he went to war and served in Congress.

Madam Speaker, what I appreciate most about LANE is his consistency. Whenever LANE

was needed, he was there. His service to our country has been profound and I wish him the best as he prepares for this next chapter in his life. I am honored to call him my friend.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in joining my colleagues tonight in recognizing the service of LANE EVANS. LANE is one of those people who came to Congress willing to work and not very interested in getting much attention or claiming much credit. All the work he did demonstrated his beliefs that we are here not to make a name for ourselves, but to make life better for the people who make this country strong. He was an advocate for the American worker and an advocate for the American Veteran. Since 1995 when LANE became Ranking Member of the House Committee Veterans Affairs, no one has tried harder to honor our obligations to those who have served our Country in uniform. Like the lighthouses on the Great Lakes, LANE has been a beacon of wisdom. When you follow LANE EVANS, you know you are going in the right direction.

In addition, he is just a first rate human being. I wish him well and offer my sincere gratitude for his service.

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a dear friend and colleague, Congressman LANE EVANS.

I've gotten to know LANE through our work as co-chairs of the Congressional Working Group on Parkinson's Disease. He is a deeply dedicated, kind, and courageous person who I admire and who I will truly miss.

For the past 24 years, Congressman EVANS has been a champion of veterans and Parkinson's issues on Capitol Hill and a great friend to both communities. Earlier this week, I was proud to see a bill passed that included a program, Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers, PADRECCs, conceived and created by LANE. By working with the former and current VA Administration, Representative EVANS helped to establish these Centers that serve American veterans battling Parkinson's disease.

As a former Marine, Ranking Member on the VA Committee, and person battling Parkinson's disease, Representative LANE EVANS has a strong sense of mission about providing the highest standards of care for both constituencies. Though I am sad to see LANE go, I am encouraged by his commitment to help others and make a difference in people's lives. I hope to continue his legacy while working with the Working Group on Parkinson's Disease to find a cure for this terrible disease.

This body is losing a true patriot, but we can all agree, LANE, that we are proud to know you, proud to have served with you, and are proud to honor you today.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my colleague and good friend from Illinois, Mr. LANE EVANS.

LANE has always served his country with honor. From 1969 to 1971, he served in Vietnam in the U.S. Marine Corps, and as they say, "once a marine, always a marine." When he was elected to Congress in 1982, he immediately worked to make sure veterans were given the benefits that they deserve, and he has fought to bring up issues that would go unknown if it was not for his voice. For almost a quarter of a century in Congress, LANE has been a champion of America's veterans, and his passion for this cause will truly be missed.

LANE and I were able to develop a friendship that transcended politics. We worked together on many issues as members of the House Armed Services Committee. Serving others, especially his constituents, was something LANE did exceedingly well. I was able to see this firsthand when I traveled to his district in 2004. I was impressed, but not shocked, by the large amount of people who showed up at an event he hosted, which certainly speaks to how well-liked and respected he is in the 17th district of Illinois. Serving with LANE has truly been an amazing and educational experience.

Unfortunately, LANE has had to battle Parkinson's Disease since 1995. In his fight against this debilitating disease, he has yet again shown courage and perseverance that proved to everyone that he was not going to easily give up. LANE has also been a great partner in the effort to advance stem cell research, which is a matter of great importance to me. This effort will continue so that patients with spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's Disease and other conditions will benefit from this research in the future.

LANE, thank you for making a difference. While you will be missed in the halls of Congress, I wish you the very best in the next chapter of your life.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the service of a highly effective and respected 24-year Member of Congress, on the occasion of his departure. I am grateful that I have been able to serve with Congressman LANE EVANS, who has long been a champion of working people and will always be remembered as a special champion of our Nation's veterans. The American people and our veterans are particularly fortunate indeed that Congressman EVANS served as ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, beginning in 1995.

I associate myself with the remarks of my colleagues, who have spoken of LANE'S many accomplishments during his tenure here. He has adroitly used his legislative skills and concern to the benefit and well-being of the American people during his entire service, but his single-minded concentration on veterans' issues made that in many ways his very own issue. LANE'S experience in the Marine Corps, his service in Vietnam, and the affects of military service on the families of enlisted men and women never left LANE EVANS.

Over the course of his career, Congressman EVANS led a successful effort to pass legislation compensating Vietnam veterans for diseases linked to Agent Orange exposure, secured passage of legislation that provides health and compensation benefits for children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange, and co-sponsored legislation to ban the use of anti-personnel landmines which kill and maim people worldwide. It is no wonder that Congressman EVANS was named the recipient of the Vietnam Veterans of America's first annual Presidents Award for Outstanding Achievement, as well as the prestigious AMVET Silver Helmet Award.

I am pleased and proud to have served with Congressman LANE EVANS. I am certain that constituents and family are especially proud of his many accomplishments. LANE goes home with the best wishes and gratitude of Republicans and Democrats alike in this House.

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Congressman LANE EVANS, who is retiring after serving this institution honorably for 24 years.

As Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Rep. EVANS has served not only his 17th District constituents, but he has also been the voice for veterans nationwide. As a Marine and Vietnam veteran, Rep. EVANS had a deep and abiding understanding of veterans' issues and a keen sense of the unique issues affecting Vietnam veterans, like Agent Orange. He has been a tireless advocate for improving veterans' health care and benefits and was not afraid to challenge the Veterans Administration if he thought they were short-changing veterans' programs, particularly VA services for homeless veterans.

He shone a bright light on the horrific problems of antipersonnel land mines and authored the first law prohibiting the export of landmines which ultimately led to the awarding of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines. His legacy on landmines has saved countless lives around the globe.

It is with a heavy heart that I bid farewell to Rep. LANE EVANS, one of the most dedicated and principled public servants that I have ever had the privilege to serve with. Semper Fi.

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and colleague, Congressman LANE EVANS, for his service in the House of Representatives and his dedication to the people of the 17th district of Illinois and veterans around the nation.

Congressman EVANS has served honorably in this chamber for eleven terms, and leaves with a long record of unwavering advocacy for his constituency and the welfare of the American public.

Throughout his tenure, Congressman EVANS has been a staunch supporter of our Nation's servicemen and women, serving on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee since 1983. His ten years as ranking member have earned him the admiration and respect of every major veteran service organization.

A former Marine, Congressman EVANS is acutely aware to the needs of our men and women in uniform, and has advanced several important pieces of legislation which provide our servicemen and women with the proper care they are due.

Acting as one of the strongest voices for Desert Storm veterans, Congressman EVANS succeeded in raising awareness of the important specialized treatment returning veterans required, and ultimately enabled them to receive this life-saving care.

Congressman EVANS has also provided dedicated service to the troops currently serving our Nation in harms way, providing vigorous oversight of our military's spending and readiness as a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Madam Speaker, LANE EVANS has provided twenty four years of steadfast and honorable service to this great Nation, and I am proud to call him my colleague and friend. I would like to thank him for his career of service, and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to a great American, a colleague and most importantly, a friend. LANE

EVANS has served this body with his full heart and soul for the past 24 years and for his service and friendship I thank him so much.

LANE is an amazing man in every sense of the word. His tireless work as Ranking Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee has set the bar for which future Chairmen should strive to achieve. As a young Marine serving in Vietnam, he saw firsthand the rigors of war and it helped him to realize that our soldiers must be treated for all the symptoms of war and that some of the worst battle scars are visible but below the surface. His fight to get fair treatment for those suffering from Agent Orange in Vietnam ensured he would be one of the first to recognize and push for treatment of Gulf War Syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Physical and mental health were not the only fights that he entered into on behalf of Veterans. He also led the battle to get equitable treatment for female veterans and worked tirelessly to combat the plight of homeless veterans across America. His work to ensure a high quality of life for those who have served us with honor will be one of his most noted legacies in this body.

LANE, I thank you for your friendship, your leadership and all of your service to our Nation. I know you have forever left your mark on your Nation, the House of Representatives, and all the veterans who have received better treatment because of your work.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to enclose with my statement the remarks of my predecessor and friend who also served this body with his full heart and soul, the Honorable Andy Jacobs, former Congressman for the 10th Congressional District of Indiana.

DECEMBER 8, 2006.

Hon. LANE EVANS, MC,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LANE: The time has come for me to put on paper what I have fervently entertained in my mind through the years of our acquaintance.

To begin, you are one of my authentic heroes. British Lord Chesterton said, "Sometimes it takes less courage to die for one's country than to tell her the truth." On many more than one occasion you have displayed that greater courage in the profoundly patriotic performance of your chores as a member of Congress, service quite literally "above and beyond the call of duty."

In your effective opposition to the mindless, gratuitous and vicarious militarism of some national leaders, you have helped save the lives of hapless public spirited young Americans. Thus, you have done God's work most nobly.

For the young Americans who have been forced into unnecessary permanent combat disability, you have been a major national factor in achieving justice in terms of veterans' benefits.

You have also given our Nation bright lessons of prudence with the public purse. Thank you for being my friend and friend to all peace-loving freedom-loving Americans.

Sincerely,

ANDY JACOBS, JR.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague and treasured friend, LANE EVANS. As the 109th Congress comes to an end so, too, does the remarkable 24-year tenure in the House of Rep-

resentatives of one of the bravest and most decent members to have served in this body.

I had the privilege of working in LANE EVANS' first campaign in 1982. At the time LANE declared his candidacy, he was considered a sacrificial lamb running against a well-entrenched Republican incumbent. His was a pipe dream—except to the many labor union workers, consumer and civil rights activists, and ordinary residents of this western Illinois district who saw something special in this young, legal assistance attorney.

When the incumbent lost his primary election to a State Representative from the far right wing of the party, LANE EVANS' campaign gained momentum and this young Democrat became the Congressman, the first Democrat to do so since the Civil War.

In the first campaign, LANE spent lots of time with his young volunteers. After all, he wasn't much older than they. He sported a Beatle-like bowl hair cut that he maintained until rather recently, resisting all good-natured recommendations for a style update. He was modest, unassuming, friendly, and also inspiring. He showed a humble respect for each and every voter, addressing them in the soft-spoken, sincere manner that he never lost. The quiet strength that came from being a United States Marine during the Vietnam era always shone through.

From the first day and throughout his career in the House, LANE EVANS remained true to his core progressive beliefs. The working and retired men and women of his district and the veterans throughout the nation could always count on LANE EVANS being there for them—no excuses, no exceptions. Environmentalists named him an "Environmental Hero."

There were those who encouraged LANE to trim his positions in order to ensure his reelection. In the end, his consistency proved to be a great asset, appreciated by his constituents who always knew exactly where he stood and who trusted that LANE would not bend with the changes in the polls.

As the Ranking Democrat of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, LANE EVANS is recognized as the leading advocate of veterans in Congress, responsible for legislation to compensate veterans and their families for the effects of Agent Orange, help Persian Gulf and women veterans, and those now returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The veterans' service organizations have honored Lane with their highest awards.

LANE EVANS has always been a leader in the fight for universal health care. Parkinson's disease has forced him to end his productive service in the House. Even now, however, he acknowledges how fortunate he is to be able to afford the best care, while so many Americans are not. He has become an advocate for expanding funding for research into the cure for Parkinson's and many other diseases that might benefit from government-funded embryonic stem cell research. As in all things at all times, LANE EVANS is handling this newest challenge with courage and dignity.

On a personal note, LANE EVANS has been a close and dear friend to me and my husband, Bob Creamer, since that very first campaign in 1982. That friendship, through thick and thin, has been and will always be so precious to us. We are grateful to LANE for being

such an important part of our lives. We love him very much.

LANE EVANS will be sorely missed on a day-to-day basis in this House of Representatives, but his legacy will ever be reflected in the improved lives of the veterans of the United States and all the working families who will continue to benefit from his outstanding service.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I join the people of Illinois and the people of this country in celebrating the tremendous service of my dear colleague and friend Congressman LANE EVANS.

Congressman EVANS was a native of Rock Island, IL. Drawing on his first-hand experience a U.S. Marine Veteran in Vietnam, Congressman EVANS has fought hard to bring to light the experience for our veterans in the Persian Gulf War. His experience served him well on the Armed Services Committee. He worked to increase funding and to expand and build new veteran clinics across America. Before coming to Congress, Evans fought as a lawyer for working families and the poor in Rock Island. In Congress, in addition to fighting for veterans he also fought for the Environment. In fact, he was named an "Environmental Hero" by the League of Conservation Voters and he was awarded the Conservationist of the Year in 1995 by the Illinois Sierra Club.

My most fond memories of Rep. EVANS were when LANE invited me to participate in the Homecourt Basketball Tournament. Homecourt Charity Basketball Game features members of Congress playing against the Georgetown Law School Faculty to raise money for the Homeless Legal Center. In 2000, Mervyn L. Jones II, my son, age 16, began playing on our team. He has played in every game since 2000. Mervyn and LANE have gotten to know each other well and he and I will miss our annual games under the leadership of LANE EVANS. LANE was the manager and former Rep. Carrie Meek and I were the coaches. Upon Rep. Meek's retirement I took on the coaching responsibilities. I am committed to keeping the LANE EVANS Homecourt Basketball tradition alive.

I will truly miss my friend and colleague, LANE EVANS' presence on the hill and on the Basketball Court. I pray that God will continue to bless LANE EVANS and his family.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2300

TRIBUTE TO LANE EVANS

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague from Illinois, LANE EVANS, and recognize his long, distinguished career in public service.

From his time in the U.S. Marine Corps to nearly a quarter century in the House of Representatives, LANE has always put his country first, and now with his retirement at the end of the