

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to retiring University of Florida president John Lombardi. Dr. Lombardi is departing his post today after a decade of service to our university, its students and the surrounding community. Dr. Lombardi's tenure was marked by his dedication to a mission of shaping the University of Florida into the world-class institution it has become today.

As a member of the Florida State Legislature, I had the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with Dr. Lombardi as he worked with the legislature to ensure the university obtained the resources it needed to serve Florida's students and develop its reputation as a quality research institution. I have always been impressed by his tireless efforts on behalf of the university to raise academic standards and student performance and expand opportunities for the entire university community.

Dr. Lombardi's commitment, however, extended beyond the boundaries of his campus, as the entire State of Florida has benefited from his years of service. The constituents of the Second Congressional District, in particular, have profited from Dr. Lombardi's support of the land grant university's concept of a "People's" university through its Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Dr. Lombardi recognized the campus' critical role in developing research, teaching and extension programs to serve Florida's agricultural community.

Most impressive, however, has been Dr. Lombardi's devotion to the University of Florida's most important resource—its students. At a time when higher education institutions are bursting at the seams, Lombardi has always put the needs of his students first, and as a result, he has earned the affection of the entire student body.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District, I would like to thank Dr. Lombardi and send him best wishes for all his future endeavors. We will not forget the many ways he has made the University and the State of Florida a better place.

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

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. JOHN LOMBARDI, PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

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

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to pay tribute to President John Lombardi on his last day as President of the University of Florida.

From the very first day that John Lombardi became President of the University of Florida, about 10 years ago, he demonstrated a vision and a passion that would be very difficult to duplicate. He arrived in a 1985 GMC red

pickup truck, and it became quite clear immediately that this was a very special person who could relate just as effectively with the students as he did with the academics and the administrators.

He truly believed in the greatness of the university and he had a very unique style of communication that allowed him to spread his vision that, notwithstanding the tremendous reputation the University of Florida had, it was far ahead of its reputation.

John Lombardi's style of communication was unique; professional, honest, direct and at times blunt, but he said what many people wanted to hear and he took the university through a great deal of progress in a very short period of time. As the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. THURMAN) has elaborated, research dollars increased by double the amount they were when he arrived; the academic credentials of the student body increased dramatically. One statistic I will quote, which is a little daunting for us, the entering freshman at the University of Florida now is a 3.90.

Dr. Lombardi also shepherded through the creation of three very nationally well-known centers, the UF Brain Institute, the Engineering Research Center for Particle Science, and the National High Magnetic Laboratory, which is under the auspices of the University of Florida, Florida State University and Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The 1990s has not been the easiest decade to manage a university. But John Lombardi's creativity and resourcefulness helped the University of Florida thrive in a time of shrinking budgets and bulging enrollments. He created a money management system that gave his deans and directors more control and flexibility of their own budgets. The deans thrived under this system, saving more than \$6.7 million in 1996 and 1997, and \$12 million the next year. They took those savings and put them directly into student services.

In addition to all these achievements, Dr. Lombardi taught us something very important. Something that helps us answer the question, how do we define success in any major State university, not just in Gainesville, Florida? We define success by the value we add to the students that enter the university and ultimately leave there. John Lombardi never lost sight of the fact that a university is only as great as each and every one of its students that attend there.

He made a point of doing something that not enough university presidents do today. He spent a great deal of time with the students. Whether it was cheering the many University of Florida sports' teams on to victory, or marching with the student band with his clarinet, Dr. Lombardi showed the students how much he cared about them and their University.

Now, Dr. Lombardi, starting tomorrow, is returning to his first love;

teaching. He will be teaching history again, and his students will be very lucky to have him there. But this is our opportunity tonight to thank him for his courageous leadership and for his example in the years to come as the University of Florida prospers under his tremendous stewardship.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. John Lombardi, the outgoing President of my alma mater, the University of Florida.

Dr. Lombardi leaves his distinguished position today after a proud decade of immeasurable service. During this period, he was instrumental in promoting the University of Florida's reputation as one of the premier public universities in the United States. However, even as he prepares to leave this position, his commitment to education remains unabated. Dr. Lombardi plans to return to the classroom as a professor in the University's history department. Such dedication is typical of Dr. Lombardi, as evidenced by his record of accomplishments and achievements as the President of the University of Florida.

Complete enumeration of Dr. Lombardi's accomplishments would take days, so I will focus on a few accomplishments that I believe best portray Dr. Lombardi's tenure.

Foremost among the accomplishments during the Lombardi years is the creation of the University of Florida Brain Institute. This institute focuses on brain and spinal cord research and treatment, and is recognized internationally for its faculty, clinicians, students, and staff. Dr. Lombardi oversaw the creation of this institute, and construction of a six-story, \$60 million building to house this comprehensive center devoted entirely to neuroscience.

Under Dr. Lombardi, the University has also increased the availability of combined degree programs for undergraduates who want to earn both a Bachelors and a Masters degree in five or six years. These programs have proven to be very popular with students seeking to take advantage of the university's curricular depth during a five or six year experience.

Also underway, as a direct result of Dr. Lombardi's vision and leadership, is the Graduate Growth Initiative. This initiative to increase the graduate student population to approximately 25% of the entire student body has resulted in growing numbers of graduate students, and proven to be an important asset in support of the University's research agenda.

Dr. Lombardi will be missed as President of the University of Florida. I wish him the best of luck in his return to the classroom, and commend him for his dedicated service to the University of Florida.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE BUDGET

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Washington has hit the point on the political calendar when Congress and