

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA).

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

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. ANDREWS

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to a close personal friend, a mentor, a dedicated public servant and a respected attorney, Robert E. "Bob" Andrews of Gainesville, Georgia.

Bob was many things to many people: a devoted husband who was always concerned about Katherine's welfare; a proud father whose home and office were decorated with pictures of his children; a decorated war hero who remained a patriot in the defense of freedom; a skilled attorney whose advice and counsel were sought by many; a legislator who brought leadership and insight to the Georgia General Assembly. But, above all, he was a caring and compassionate southern gentleman.

Bob Andrews was a man of faith. His faith in God was the earnest money for his blessings of family, friends and health. His faith in himself was the manifestation of a purpose-centered life.

Bob liked to laugh. He could always tell a funny story from his early years as a practicing attorney when the courtroom was the focal point for community entertainment. It was in that environment that he honed his skills in cross-examination and oral argument.

Bob was a true student of the law, who loved and respected its discipline. His library table was always piled high with appellate reports that reflected his meticulous attention to the details of his profession. He valued knowledge, political dialogue and common courtesy.

Bob Andrews was a kind person. In a profession that is often noted for its viciousness, Bob was an attorney whose most severe rebuke of someone would come when he would wrinkle up his nose and simply say, "He just should not have done that."

As the passage of years and declining of health took its toll on his mobility, he never lost his sharp mind, except on one occasion when I visited him for a second time at the hospital. I commented that this was a different room than on my prior visit. Bob laughed and said that all hospital rooms looked the same to him.

I am thankful that he did not have to spend more time there.

The psalmist described a blessed man, in part, is one who is like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth fruit in his season. Bob Andrews was a blessed man who, in turn, blessed us as he shared the fruits of his labor and allowed us to learn and grow in the shade of his branches.

If God allows lawyers into heaven, and I believe he does, Bob Andrews is there regaling the saints with his exploits and humorous commentary on his passage through this life; and God must be smiling as he listens to a good man who did his best.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ENERGY PLAN FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for half the time until midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, what a day we have had here in the House. We have talked about energy policy. And having an energy bill come to the floor of this House is something that we have waited for for quite a period of time.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) and our colleagues on the Committee on Energy and Commerce. As we have had this occur today, it has been quite an effort. Our Energy Committee, last week we talked about it earlier in the week and we talked about it the past week. We had about a third of the Democrats in the House join us in voting that bill out of committee last week. They did it because it is a good bill. And they did it because it is time for us to have an energy bill, and it is the right step in the right way at this point in time.

I know that we have some across the aisle, many who are going to follow the liberal leadership there and walk in lockstep with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), but I think we are going to see more of the House Democrats join us to make this energy bill a reality for the American people.

I would like to remind my colleagues that over the last few weeks we have seen quite a bit of bipartisan support on some of our legislation. We had 122 Democrats vote with us on the continuity of government bill, 50 Democrats voted with us on the class action bill, 73 Democrats voted with the Republicans on bankruptcy reform, and 42 supported our repeal of the death tax and the REAL I.D. Act.

So we look forward tomorrow to having our Democrat colleagues from across the aisle join us as we move forward on our Nation's energy policy.

We have several Members who have joined us tonight to talk about energy and to talk about energy policy. One of those is the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), and I would like to yield some time to the gentleman to talk with us about the energy bill. I also want to thank the gentleman for the wonderful leadership that he has shown on this bill.

At this point, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

I think this week and this day and tomorrow are probably two of the most important days to the youth of our country because we are discussing an energy bill, an energy bill that might just lay out what their future might be. If I had a youngster who was a sophomore in high school, a junior or maybe a senior, I would be very concerned about their future if we do not solve our energy problems.