

shortly before I was elected House Democratic whip. George helped to take our staff to the next level, shaping and leading our office.

George loves sports analogies, so let me say that first in the whip's office and then in the leader's office, George recruited the best talent, ran creative plays and always knew how to put points on the board.

In the Democratic leader's office, George has been an innovative leader. He established a structure for reaching out beyond the Beltway; he built the strongest, most innovative Internet operation on the Hill; he has rolled up his sleeves with the policy staff; and he has helped shape our message to the American people. He is a gifted leader who gives staff guidance, but also room to grow. Young people in particular enjoyed working with him. He is both father figure and friend.

Throughout his career, George has largely worked behind the scenes. He is interested in accomplishments, not credit. He is strictly a shirt-and-tie kind of man, except when he is caught escaping to the golf course. And George has a comprehensive understanding of the rules of the House, and a keen sense of the Members. He has tutored so many Members, including me, on the intricacies of parliamentary procedure. He has earned the respect of Members and staff on both sides of the aisle.

For someone who seems to know everything about the House of Representatives, George is a remarkably well-rounded person. He has a wonderful family. He is a loyal Dodgers fan. He loves golf, and he is a maestro with orchids. He is a connoisseur of wines and an expert on vineyards.

Before his career on Capitol Hill, George held an assortment of jobs that reflect his unique spirit, including working as a baker, a short-order cook and a railroad brakeman.

Above all, though, George was and is a Californian at heart. That is why this goodbye is bittersweet for me; bitter because I will miss his unparalleled knowledge as well as his warmth and good humor, sweet because I know he will relish his return to the great Golden State of California. As a Californian for more than 36 years, I completely understand and share his desire to live in this country's most beautiful and most invigorating State.

George and his family, his wife Mel and his two sons, will be moving to the area of Santa Barbara not far from where the movie *Sideways*, a love letter to wine, was filmed, where he can enjoy the reds and the whites and get back to his golf game that I understand has suffered in recent years due to lack of attention.

He will always spend well-deserved time with his family. Again, I want to take the opportunity to thank George's wonderful wife Mel and his fine two sons, Curt and Casey, for sharing their father with us. It is hard to balance family life with work on Capitol Hill.

We all appreciate the sacrifices that the Crawford family has made.

I know that so many colleagues on both sides of the aisle join me in wishing George luck in the next phase of his career, and many happy years with his beloved family in California.

With deep gratitude, respect, and affection, thank you, George, George Crawford, for your 24 years of service to the House of Representatives.

#### CAFTA IS NOT GOOD FOR THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am back on the floor tonight to speak in opposition to CAFTA.

First I want to talk about my State of North Carolina. Of course I was not here in the Congress when the Congress passed NAFTA about 1992, and it was in effect in 1993. But let me tell you briefly what happened to North Carolina. First of all, we lost approximately 200,000 jobs in about a 10- to 12-year period of time. We also as a Nation lost about 2.5 million jobs.

CAFTA is the ugly cousin of NAFTA. That is all you can say about it. NAFTA and CAFTA are cousins, and actually CAFTA is about 85 percent of what NAFTA is. So therefore, I hate to say it, but CAFTA is the ugly cousin.

Let me also say that during that period of time, that prior to NAFTA, we had a surplus with Mexico, and now we have a deficit with Mexico. So now let me also share with you, Mr. Speaker, that prior to NAFTA, and then since NAFTA, we have had a 350 percent increase of illegal aliens coming to America since NAFTA became the law of the land. It did nothing to keep the Mexican workers down in Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to take just a few minutes of my time, I know it is very limited, to tell you that last night on the floor of the House, I submitted completely for the RECORD, from the countries of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, elected officials of those countries asked me last week at the interfaith conference of Protestants, Catholics, and a Jewish rabbi who are opposed to CAFTA to submit this, and I was glad to do it, so I submitted this for the RECORD in its entirety, but tonight for the last 2 or 3 minutes of my time, I want to read just certain points of what those people in the Central American countries are saying.

We know what it is doing to American workers, which is not good for the American workers, but let me share this with you very quickly. First of all, these are some points they made in this letter. These are elected officials from these Central American countries that said no to CAFTA.

First of all, let me read this: CAFTA will only lead to more social instability in the region as more medium

and small farmers will lose their livelihoods and become part of the poor population numbers. CAFTA will only lead to more migration to the United States as more people are unable to make a living working in the rural areas and the job perspectives in the cities do not improve.

The 20 million people who are currently poor and those that will be further displaced will turn to immigration to the United States as the only solution to their economic problems.

Again, this is from the elected leaders of these countries that have asked me to submit this, and they have written every Member of Congress; not just me, but everyone else.

Two or three other points very quickly. These seven elected officials as legislative representatives of the region, who represent a diverse perspective of political views, we respectfully ask you to vote no on CAFTA. In addition, they say that the opposition keeps growing all throughout the region, because this treaty threatens to weaken the already vulnerable democratic institutions that were created during the long conflicts of the 1980s.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, and then I will close, CAFTA is a bad trade deal because it puts the interests of international corporations ahead of the welfare of the working poor and the poor in Central America. If CAFTA is approved, this social instability that CAFTA supporters like to use as a reason for approving this agreement will come not from the outside forces, but from the pressures created by the millions of displaced workers who will fall further into poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I must say tonight in closing that we in this Congress should do what is right for the American people, and that is to defeat CAFTA and go back to the negotiating table and do what is right for the American workers and do what is right for the people in Central America, and then we will do what the Bible says, and that is to help each and every one that needs to be helped.

God bless America. Thank you.

#### CAFTA IS BAD FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, if one was to look at this chart, and the black bars represent the extraordinary growth in the United States trade deficit over the last 14 years, and you see you are digging yourself a hole for the American people, for the future of the American economy, of over \$600 billion in 1 year. This year we are going to eclipse that. We are headed toward \$2 billion a day of foreign borrowing.

Now, most people say, well, Alan Greenspan says that is great. They are willing to lend us money. Shows how strong our economy is. But what Alan Greenspan and the other pointy-headed