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Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Jr.,
Fifth District - Michigan.

June 20, 1955

Mr. Speaker -

It is my sad duty to report to the members of the House of Representatives that funeral services were held last Thursday afternoon for the Honorable Bartel J. Jonkman who served in this body from 1940 until 1948. Mr. Jonkman died on Monday, June 13th, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, at the age of 71.

Barney Jonkman unselfishly and sincerely gave most of his life to public service. Upon graduation from the University of Michigan Law School in 1914, he was appointed Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Kent County, Michigan, in which capacity he served until 1920.

Mr. Jonkman was elected Prosecuting Attorney of his home county in 1929 and served until 1936. The Honorable Fred N. Searl, now Circuit Judge in Kent County acted as Mr. Jonkman's chief assistant. Last Monday Mr. Searl said, "It was my privilege to serve with Mr. Jonkman during the five years of his service as Prosecuting Attorney. He conducted that office with courage, integrity and good judgment, and had the respect and affection of all who served with him."



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In 1940 the voters of the Fifth District selected Barney Jonkman to represent them in Congress. This was at a special election called to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Rep. Carl E. Mapes. While in Congress Barney was an active member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and traveled extensively in Europe and South America. He went to Alaska in 1947 to inspect the Alcan Highway project.

At an early date Rep. Jonkman was conscious of the dangers of communistic influence in our government. As a one man subcommittee he was active in the investigation of communists in the State Department. Speaking of these years of service, Judge Searl said, "As Representative in Congress, he served this district and the nation well during the difficult war years. Bartel Jonkman was a fine citizen and public officer."

Mr. Jonkman was a charter member of the Sherman Street, Christian Reformed Church where the funeral services were held on Thursday.

Mr. Speaker, to the widow and to Mr. Jonkman's three daughters, and to the other members of his devoted family, we extend our personal sympathy.

Michigan has lost a fine citizen.

Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks, I include editorials from three Fifth District newspapers on the passing of Bartel J. Jonkman. They are from the Holland



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Sentinel, The Grand Rapids Herald, and the Grand Rapids Press.

