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11/6/74

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE BOB SIKES

I AM VERY PLEASED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TRIBUTE TO MY OLD FRIEND AND FORMER  
COLLEAGUE, REPRESENTATIVE BOB SIKES.

BOB WAS ALREADY A FOUR-YEAR VETERAN IN CONGRESS  
WHEN I FIRST CAME TO CAPITOL HILL IN 1949 -- AND IN THE YEARS  
THAT FOLLOWED WE FORMED A LASTING ATTACHMENT BASED ON MUTUAL  
FRIENDSHIP AND TRUST.

I HAVE WORKED WITH HIM ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE AND  
ON COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE. I HAVE CONSULTED WITH HIM ON  
LEGISLATION. BUT, MOST OF ALL, I HAVE LEARNED A LOT FROM HIM.

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON OF ALL IS ONE THAT I HAVE  
TRIED TO APPLY THROUGHOUT MY OWN CAREER -- THAT PARTISAN  
POLITICS SHOULD STOP AT THE WATER'S EDGE.

NO ONE HAS WORKED LONGER AND HARDER FOR A RESPONSIBLE  
BI-PARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY THAN BOB SIKES, OR FOR A STRONG,  
BALANCED NATIONAL DEFENSE POLICY TO BACK IT UP.

AND FOR THAT ALONE, AMONG HIS MANY OTHER  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS, HE HAS EARNED THE GRATITUDE NOT ONLY OF HIS  
OWN CONSTITUENTS, BUT ALL AMERICANS -- OF THIS AND FUTURE  
GENERATIONS. CONGRATULATIONS, BOB, ON THIS SPECIAL EVENING.  
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

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