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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
the ON COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE. *on Appropriations where we served together for many years*
1 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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