It's great to see you all here tonight to honor my great friend El Cederberg on his birthday.

It's nice we can attend each other's birthday celebrations.

In fact, it's getting to be something of a tradition between us.

Last year, El gave me an unusual gift for my birthday which the newspapers made a lot out of. It's a table lamp with a built-in planter that actually turns on just with a touch of a leaf of the plant. I still can't figure out how it works.

But what El didn't tell me is that if you don't talk nice to the plant -- it will blow a fuse!

Seriously, El has been a friend for a long time -- and we have been close since his first day in the Congress 24 years ago.
He has stood for fiscal responsibility all those years -- and that makes him a man after my own heart. He is a patriot, a statesman, a master of the legislative process, a public servant of the highest order. The Tenth District of Michigan and the United States of America are fortunate to have a man of his caliber and his dedication in public life. I hope he continues that outstanding career of service for many more years. And both for his birthday tonight and for election night next November, I wish El Cederburg many happy returns.

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