

## **April 4**

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in shock and sympathy at the loss, the death of John Adler, and send my sympathy and condolences to Shelley and the family.

I won't recount his many accomplishments or paint a full picture of John Adler, a truly wonderful public servant. I hope there will be occasion for the testimonial and memorial here at another time. But I do want to express to his many friends and many admirers sympathy and condolences.

John Adler was dedicated to the service of the people of New Jersey. And you will hear again and again, if you didn't know John, about his wonderful cheerfulness and humor that he showed in good times and in bad.

A good friend to many of us, a friend to the people of New Jersey--a real loss.

## **April 6**

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. *Lance*) and my other colleague from New Jersey (Mr. *Pallone*) for setting aside this time.

Too young, too soon, not fair, not explicable in a larger sense. It is with great sadness that we come to the floor tonight to honor the life of a fine colleague and a friend, a dedicated public servant to the State of New Jersey, John Adler.

John was dedicated to the service of the people of New Jersey. His devotion to New Jersey led him to run for and win a congressional seat in 2008, as you heard from our colleague, Mr. *Lance*

While John ultimately was not returned to this body for this session of Congress, his legacy of public service will indeed live on. No doubt he would have continued to find ways to improve the lives of New Jerseyans.

Sharing not only a State but also a hallway in the Longworth Office Building with John, I had an opportunity to get to know him fairly well. He was a wonderful colleague. I will miss, as we all will, his cheerful demeanor and wonderful sense of humor that he brought to all of his work. A sense of humor, a good spirit in good times and in bad. And I will miss his wisdom and his sharp political insight and his policy knowledge.

Today, during a memorial at his funeral in New Jersey, there were several comments made, and I would like to read a few. His law school roommate and best man commented that John Adler really did believe that worrying was just a waste of time. He believed that any setback was an opportunity for something good to happen.

Friends remembered that after he had been defeated but Congress was still in session for another 2 months, he continued diligently to work here in Congress. As they said, he wanted to make sure that he made it to all of the caucus meetings on time. He wanted to continue to make the right votes for the people of New Jersey.

His brother-in-law commented that playing knowledge games against John was like playing against Google. He recalled John's near-brush with "Jeopardy" fame that fizzled after the former Congressman paid, out of his own pocket, to fly for a taping to the television program. He made it to the makeup room, and one of the functionaries asked in a formal sense whether John knew anyone who worked for ABC. And John said, Well, yes, he thought one of his law school classmates had taken a job with a station. And the producers said that was it; he couldn't participate.

Said his brother-in-law: You mean you flew all the way out to California on your own dime? Why on Earth would you tell them that? And John replied, because I didn't want to lie.

Shelley, John's wife, is an accomplished, lovely person. And there is every indication that their sons are as bright and public spirited as their parents. This is a real loss for many of us, as well as for the people of New Jersey.

I ask that the Members of the House join me in extending our sympathy and condolences to John's family and friends and his many admirers.