



Juanita Millender-McDonald
LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
CALIFORNIA



MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
AND OTHER TRIBUTES

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD  1938–2007

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Juanita Millender-McDonald

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Memorial Addresses and Other Tributes

HELD IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AND SENATE
OF THE UNITED STATES
TOGETHER WITH MEMORIAL SERVICES
IN HONOR OF

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

Late a Representative from California

One Hundred Tenth Congress
First Session



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of the
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BIOGRAPHY

A recent *Washington Times* article reported a University of California study citing Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD as one of the five most effective Members of Congress given her ability to reach across the aisle to effectively move bipartisan legislation. As the first African American woman in history to hold the distinguished positions of ranking member and chairperson on the powerful Committee on House Administration, she oversaw the operation of the House of Representatives; the Library of Congress; the Smithsonian Institute; the National Zoo; and all Federal elections.

This position extended the many firsts the Congresswoman had amassed since arriving on the political stage. She was the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council; the first to hold the position of chairwoman for two powerful California State Assembly committees (Insurance, and Revenue and Taxation) in her first term. She was the first African American woman to give the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address, and the first to be named honorary curator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach.

Additionally, MILLENDER-MCDONALD was the first Democratic chairperson of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to lead the women on two groundbreaking meetings, the first with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to talk about the plight of women globally, and the other with the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange to develop strategies for increasing women's investments and net worth.

She convened the first meeting between women Members of Congress and Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg, the only women to serve on the High Court, to discuss issues of national importance to women. She also led a delegation of 27 women to meet with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, taking the Families First Agenda to 35 States across the Nation, another first.

In recognition of women who served our country in uniform during wartime, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD initiated the first annual Memorial Day Tribute to

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Women in the Military at the Women’s Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, and she led the fight to secure \$15 million for the maintenance of the memorial. She also secured \$50 million for counseling services for our returning men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 1997, a *Glamour* magazine survey identified Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD as “one of eleven women who will change the world.” Bold initiatives have been her trademark—from the historic move in bringing CIA Director John Deutch to Watts to address allegations of covert involvement in drug trafficking in South Central Los Angeles; to a “sit-in” at former Senator Jesse Helms’ office which forced the confirmation of former Senator Carol Mosley Braun as Ambassador to New Zealand and Fiji Island.

In her role as ranking member of the Committee on House Administration, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD investigated widespread voting irregularities and voter disenfranchisement and called for a hearing in Ohio, the first election reform field hearing in congressional history. Additionally, she spoke out against genocide in Cambodia, Darfur and other regions of the world where human rights were in danger or ignored, and worked with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Ambassador John Miller on human trafficking and women’s rights issues globally.

Her stellar performance on transportation issues resulted in her becoming one of the most respected voices on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where she secured billions of dollars for her region and California. In 2005, she played a key role in the crafting and ultimate House passage of the 6-year Transportation Reauthorization Act (TEA-LU), the largest public works legislation in our Nation’s history.

Her list of landmark legislation includes:

- the Projects of National and Regional Significance—a \$1.8 billion program to address national transportation arteries congestion and mitigation;
- the historic Alameda Corridor initiative in the 1990s;
- the Mother-to-Child HIV/AIDS Transmission Act—legislation the President has established as his \$15 billion African AIDS initiative;
- legislation to increase diabetes research in minority and female populations;
- the American-Asian Justice Act to allow foreign-born children of former and current American servicemen to be united with their American families;

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- the Freedmen’s Bureau Preservation Act of 2000, which directs the National Archives to preserve the records of former African American slaves for future generations to trace their family history;
- the Prohibition Against Alcohol Trafficking Act (PAAT Act) to end the sale of alcohol to minors via the internet.
- legislation that directs the Secretary of Education to study and report to Congress of the troubling dropout rate among Latino, Native American, American Samoan, and African American high school students;
- legislation to secure \$2 million to reduce the backlog of equal employment opportunity complaints, including sexual harassment allegations of female air traffic controllers;
- the Anti-terrorism/Port Security Act of 2003;
- the Terrorist Threat to Public Transportation Assessment Act of 2001;
- the Child Safety Lock on Firearms Act;
- the Date Rape and Violence Act; and
- Sexual Trafficking.

When the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) imposed mandatory flood insurance premiums on the elderly and low-income residents throughout the South Bay and South Central regions, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD went to work securing \$50 million in Federal funding to alleviate those costs to residents and businesses in the 37th District.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD also secured \$2 million in Federal funding for the first Urban Telemedicine Project in the Nation for public housing tenants that focus on eye disease detection, prevention and treatment; initiated the first outreach to Africans in the diaspora during the 2000 census campaign; coordinated the first “Women Across America” Count 2000 and facilitated the rollout of California Count 2000; initiated the first re-enactment of the 19th Amendment on the floor of the California State Legislature during the 75th anniversary of women’s suffrage.

Hailed by national leaders for her creative leadership, she passed a resolution proclaiming a national “Dr. Dorothy Height Day” and received over 100 proclamations from mayors across the country paying special tribute to this pre-eminent social and civil rights leader.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She served on the Harbor College Foundation, the Southern Christian

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Leadership Conference Board of Directors, and the board of trustees of Second Baptist Church, Los Angeles. She was founder and executive director of the League of African American Women, an organization of 40 African American women's groups, and the founder of the Young Advocates, a political leadership-training program for African Americans between the ages of 18 and 35.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Redlands, a master's degree in educational administration from California State University, Los Angeles, and teaching and administration credentials from the California State University system. She was married to James McDonald, Jr., and they were the proud parents and grandparents of five adult children and five grandchildren.

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
AND
OTHER TRIBUTES
FOR
JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

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Proceedings in the House of Representatives

MONDAY, *April 23, 2007*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise to announce the death of our friend and colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD of California. She died, we are informed, peacefully at home with her family after a battle with cancer.

JUANITA holds a special place in history. She is the first African American woman to chair a full committee in the U.S. House. She also worked tirelessly against genocide and human trafficking, and for women's rights. Prior to coming to Congress, she exemplified a leadership role as a teacher, city council member, and California State Assemblywoman.

She was only 68 years young, a vibrant Member of Congress, and a good friend. Our sympathy goes to her husband James, five adult children, and five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence to honor her at this time.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 328) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 328

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, a Representative from the State of California.

Resolved, That a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of applicable accounts of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. Dreier), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to our most distinguished Speaker, Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank our dear friend, Congresswoman Watson, for bringing us together around this very sad and necessary resolution today.

On behalf of all Members of Congress, I rise to pay tribute to Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, who has just passed away. I offer deepest sympathy to her family, who loved her so dearly, her husband James McDonald, Jr., her five children and her five grandchildren.

As the first African American to chair a committee in Congress, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a trailblazer, always advocating for the full participation of all Americans in the success and prosperity of our country. She was a strong defender of the right of every eligible voter to have full access to the polls and a tireless proponent of fair elections that ensured that every vote would be counted.

As chair of the House Administration Committee, Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's deep commitment to diversity was manifested in her actions when hiring and contracting within the House of Representatives. She enjoyed her role as the "mayor of Capitol Hill," and was known for asking tourists in elevators, "Are you finding everything OK," and listening closely to their response.

After her family, the people of California's 37th District were always first and foremost in Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's mind and her work here in Congress. She saw it as a priority to make sure they had every opportunity. She worked to strengthen the economy and jobs there, and she saw it as a priority to secure the two ports adjacent to her district.

Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was an advocate for justice around the world. She spoke out forcefully against the genocide in Darfur and was a powerful advocate for the rights of women everywhere. As a former cochairwoman of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, she worked for gender equity here at home and throughout the world.

The loss of Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD is a personal one for many of us here. She was always opti-

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mistic and determined to make a difference. The dignity with which she faced her illness was an indication of the determination with which she always served the people of our country.

We have all lost an effective leader and spokesperson, and many of us have lost a dear friend. When we look around this Chamber, it is almost impossible to imagine it without JUANITA here fighting the fight, and doing so looking magnificent. The dignity, the grace, the beauty, the thoughtfulness that she brought to the tasks at hand were a model for others. Young people would come to the Capitol and observe her in action and learn from her.

We also learned from her how to have dignity at the end of life. Many of us knew that she had had bouts with illness, but we really didn't know how serious it was. As her daughter Valerie said to me last night, "She said I want to make all of these arrangements so that I can go home."

I hope it is a comfort to Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD's family and friends that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time. Many of us will travel to California to say goodbye to JUANITA, if I may speak to her in that familiar way. It has been an honor to call her colleague, I know we all agree on that, and for many of us it was a privilege also to call her friend.

Goodbye, my friend.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, let me begin by expressing my appreciation to both of my California colleagues, Ms. Watson and Speaker Pelosi, for their very thoughtful words, and, obviously I would, as all of my colleagues I know want to do, associate ourselves with the very thoughtful remarks offered by Speaker Pelosi.

Madam Speaker, this is a very sad time for me personally, for a number of reasons. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was my friend and my neighbor. And she was my neighbor not only in California representing an adjoining congressional district, but my neighbor right here on Capitol Hill. We were next-door neighbors. So, Madam Speaker, I have to say that I had the privilege of spending a great deal of time with JUANITA.

As Speaker Pelosi said in her statement that she released yesterday, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD truly was a trailblazer. She was an individual who showed amazing commitment throughout her entire life to her beliefs, and I was very

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happy that she as a Democrat and I as a Republican were able to work together and find areas of agreement.

I have to say one of the biggest challenges that we face in Southern California, and I know my California colleague Ms. Watson understands this very well, is the area of transportation. The gridlock challenge, as is the case with many metropolitan areas around the country, is particularly bad in the Los Angeles area. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD served on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and worked tirelessly to try and focus on those challenges, the difficulties that we faced.

There was one particular project that I was pleased to work with JUANITA on, and that was something known as the Alameda Corridor Project.

A huge percentage of all of the goods going to and from the United States, exports and imports, come through the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. JUANITA represented large parts of Long Beach, and she understood the importance of international trade. So she was one of those in the vanguard in the quest to deal with construction of the Alameda Corridor, which allowed those goods to move from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to the rest of the United States and, similarly, goods exported from America. I am very happy to see the distinguished chair of the Transportation Committee, Mr. Oberstar, nodding in agreement. He knows how important this issue is, and he worked very closely with JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD and all of us who have been involved on that issue. I know she championed it with great enthusiasm.

I also would like to say she was a very proud alumna of the University of Redlands. She went to the University of Redlands at age 40 and got her degree. One of the reasons I am proud to point that out is that the distinguished former chairman, now ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations, Mr. Lewis, has specifically asked me to raise this issue.

As I said, we were neighbors. As Speaker Pelosi correctly pointed out, while a number of us knew that JUANITA had not been well, very few knew of the seriousness of her illness. I remember standing with my two California colleagues, Ms. Watson and Mrs. Napolitano, just last week, and we talked about making a video that we were going to provide for JUANITA because we knew she had not been well.

So her passing has come as a great shock to every single one of us. She is the first woman to ever chair the Com-

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mittee on House Administration. She was a trailblazer on so many issues. Her passing is a loss to my State of California, to this institution, and to the entire country.

Madam Speaker, at this point I am going to ask unanimous consent that my California colleague, Mr. Calvert, be able to manage the time from this point forward, and with that I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I call on the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. Kilpatrick), the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, for 3 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding me this time.

Today is the first day of the rest of our lives. I stand here to pay tribute to my friend, my sister, chairwoman, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD. I was asked earlier by an interviewer: "How would she like us to remember her?" A leader, a fighter, a mother, a grandmother, excellence bar none, first class, no shortcuts.

To Jim and Valerie and to the rest of the family, to the grandchildren, just know you have her blood and you can do anything. No limits; be the best.

As chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, we are honored to have had her with us to teach us and show us the way. JUANITA has been special in this body, rising from mayor pro tempore, city councilperson, the first African American woman to chair the House Women's Caucus, and over the last 11 years serving in this body, a special friend to me personally. We many times talked about our families.

So my sister, JUANITA, as you take your rest with the spirit of God, we know you will watch over us and make sure that we do our due. We know the family knows you are with them forever.

To Jim, it's OK, we're here for you and we always will be.

So let us continue to rejoice. He makes no mistakes. We now have extra protection in heaven.

On behalf of the entire body of the CBC, we are both remorseful and reflective on the life and legacy of Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD.

We are praying with and for her family and dear friends during this season of grief.

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Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD should be celebrated for her abounding commitment to service and advocacy. During her seven-term tenure as the eloquent voice of the 37th Congressional District, including Long Beach, the industrial suburbs of Carson and Compton and parts of South Central Los Angeles.

As a former educator and recipient of a myriad of distinctions, including:

- First African American woman to chair a full committee in the U.S. House of Representatives;
- First African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council;
- First African American woman to render the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address;
- First to be named honorary curator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach; and
- First Democratic chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD made certain to pave the way for her firsts to not be the last for African Americans and Americans across the globe.

Therefore, the CBC will continue to carry on the work of Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD as we change course, confront crises, and continue the legacy.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. Daniel E. Lungren).

Mr. LUNGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of our departed colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, with whom I only had the privilege of serving for the last 3 years, but who was an office mate, had the office just down the hall from me my first 2 years back here this time around; and then I had the proud honor of serving on the Committee on House Administration with her.

More than that, she represented a portion of my hometown of Long Beach, and we would often talk about our mutual interests in some of the people and institutions there, particularly my love for Long Beach Memorial Hospital in my hometown.

In every conversation I had with her, in every dealing I had with her, she was very gracious, very generous of spirit, always upbeat. I was surprised to hear of her illness and

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surprised to hear of her passing because in every conversation I had with her, she never gave an indication that she was in pain or suffering or in any way challenged by this illness.

She seemed to radiate a fulfillment in being in this House and the work she did. I know she was very proud of the people she represented, her constituents, and I know she was proud of the communities she represented. And I know she was proud of the firsts she represented, both here in the Congress and in the California Legislature.

This place is a tough place. We battle oftentimes over ideas and we battle over ideology, and yet the human aspect of this place is forgotten by many who look out or look upon us from the outside, but it is always here. And I always enjoyed every encounter I had with JUANITA. She was a pleasure to work with. She was someone who took great pride in our State of California, and I think she will be someone who will be sorely missed in this House.

It is my pleasure to stand here and say goodbye, JUANITA. I enjoyed working with you. You will be missed.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, with pleasure I yield 3 minutes to Ms. Barbara Lee from California.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise this evening to offer my condolences to the family of our beloved JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, to her husband, Jim, to her children, to her grandchildren, her sisters, and to her entire family. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time.

I am reminded of the very many moments we shared together and how precious, fun, and engaging they were. I met JUANITA over the telephone when I called to congratulate her for, as the underdog, winning the primary for the California Assembly in 1993 where I was then serving.

Even in that first phone conversation, she conveyed such a strong sense of purpose and focus, yet a deep message of sisterhood and optimism about the future. Of course, JUANITA won the general election and came to the California Legislature where she demonstrated her keen intellect and her bipartisan legislative abilities as chair of the Revenue and Taxation Committee and as chair of the Assembly Insurance Committee.

JUANITA, her husband, Jim, and her sister participated in a delegation which I organized to five countries in Africa.

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Her commitment to the continent and to diplomacy was recognized by all.

JUANITA, though, recognized the challenges which I personally faced as the organizer and leader of a delegation, most of whose members had never been to Africa. In the most sensitive and loving manner, she presented me with a beautiful Namibian wallet and passport carrier to shore me up and to help me out, and I carry it to this day. You know it was beautiful and well-made. JUANITA had a keen sense of style, if you remember how beautiful and elegant JUANITA was always dressed.

She was a woman of distinction and class which brought her many compliments, but she was also a woman of substance, with a keen intellect, big heart, and a passionate sense of justice.

She worked on many issues relating to the empowerment of women, HIV/AIDS, orphans, a host of issues which history will record as improving the lives of millions. Her annual AIDS walk was a source of pride and joy as she shared with us the dos and the don'ts on how to put our own together so we could replicate her success in our own communities.

JUANITA was a giving person who shared her wisdom with her friends and colleagues, and I will always remember her actions during the Bill Clinton impeachment era where she organized a group of women to go to the White House and meet with Mrs. Clinton in a show of support. It was moments like these when you knew you were in the presence of a risk-taker and a giant of a woman.

JUANITA was a loving wife and mother and grandmother and sister. Oftentimes she brought her beautiful grandchildren to the House floor to give them a sense of her work and a sense of Congress, and to show them off. I am deeply grateful to JUANITA and to her family.

As the Scriptures say, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant."

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Last week, as for many of us, I first heard about JUANITA's illness. That is surprising because there is a group of us on both sides of the aisle who fly back and forth to California every week. I know there is a lot of talk about partisanship nowadays, but we have a pretty close group. Many times we sit next to each other on the airplane, and we talk about parents and children and golf or whatever. And JUANITA was al-

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ways a delight to be with, always had a positive attitude, always someone you looked forward to seeing.

I was deeply saddened to hear of JUANITA's sudden passing. I was sitting at home writing a note to her this weekend; and, unfortunately, that note can't be delivered. But I hope she is listening right now as we state our condolences to her family and to her friends.

It has certainly been an honor for me to have worked with her for the last 11 years that she served in Congress. She was a faithful representative of her district.

I worked with her specifically on the C-17 factory in Long Beach, CA, where they make the great C-17 aircraft, and she was a champion for that. She worked for the employees that worked at that plant to make sure that the aircraft which is doing a wonderful job for our country continues to be manufactured in Long Beach, CA. As a matter of fact, the last conversation I had with her was about what we can do to keep that going.

There are no words I can use to convey the sense of loss when a colleague passes. She was a champion, and a champion for California. Our delegation will miss her very much. We will miss her smile.

I join all of my colleagues in supporting this bereavement resolution and extend my sympathies to her families and friends. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a patriot who faithfully served her country. Her contributions and commitment will not be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to give 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Zoe Lofgren).

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD touched our lives in different ways. I chair the California Democratic delegation, and I can tell you that our delegation is literally heartbroken over the loss of JUANITA.

We meet every Wednesday as a delegation to sort through the issues that face us not just as a Congress but as a State. And although we know JUANITA for her leadership in the Nation, those of us in California are very proud of the special things she did for our State.

There will be an empty spot at our meeting every Wednesday.

She was a trailblazer, as has been mentioned, a first so often: the first California African American woman to chair

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two committees in the California Assembly; the chairperson of the House Administration Committee. But when I think of JUANITA, I think of someone who had tremendous dignity, tremendous style, tremendous poise. She knew that she was a first, and it was important to her that she accomplish these firsts with an eye to being a role model for young people around the country and, indeed, around the world.

As chair of the Committee on House Administration, where I also serve, she worked so diligently to make sure that every vote would be counted, that all Americans would be treated fairly and without discrimination, and she was so happy to provide that leadership as chairwoman of the committee. It is so unfair that we have lost her from that position so prematurely.

Today, we mourn the passing of a great American, but we also celebrate the legacy of public service that she leaves behind. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD left this Chamber as she entered it, with poise and spirit, fighting for those who could not fight for themselves.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her husband, her five children, her grandchildren, and we mourn her passing, not just today but every day.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from California (Mr. Doolittle).

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I was, like many of my colleagues, shocked and deeply saddened to hear the news about JUANITA. Grace Napolitano had just brought by a nice card for Members to sign on Friday, I think it was, and here I realize that she has passed away. I just had no idea.

It was my privilege to serve with her on the House Administration Committee when she was the ranking member, and JUANITA was a passionate advocate for her ideas and her beliefs. Sometimes she and I would argue with each other, but it was never with any personal disagreement. I liked her, I thought highly of her, and would just like to join with my colleagues in acknowledging her fine service here in the House of Representatives, her dedication to California, and her desire to make a difference.

I always admired her love and devotion to family, and I join with my colleagues in saying that I will miss her, and I am very sorry that this has happened.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. Capps).

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Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague Diane Watson for her leadership in gathering us together, and I rise with my colleagues to extend my condolences, heartfelt, from this body to the family, to the friends, to the constituents of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

This is a somber hour because we are, as my colleague, the dean of our California delegation, mentioned, we are heart-sick over this loss, and maybe it is because JUANITA was such a striking presence, so dynamic, so poised and articulate. When she entered a room, you knew she was there; and now, today, as we gather so soon after we heard of her death, just yesterday, walking through the doors of the Capitol, I thought it is not the same place now because she is not going to be there, wearing something striking, something beautiful, and with her elegance and grace.

We will miss her. We will always miss her. She served in this place, as she served her community and her family and her city council and the State legislature, with such distinction, with passion and with dedication for the benefit of her community and with enormous patriotism.

This talented public servant was a champion for several years, including fighting HIV/AIDS, improving women's health, encouraging women in business, protecting voting rights, stopping the genocide in Darfur. As I mention these issues, I think to myself her charge to us this evening would be to stop the sweet talk about her and get busy and solve these problems. That is the best thing we can do in her memory, in her name.

She knew where the challenges lay in our country, in the way we go to the polls and the fairness of our elections, the availability of the opportunity to vote for every single American. She was not content. It is not solved yet and we have to do this in her honor.

The genocide in Darfur, until that is a thing of the past, we cannot rest. We have got to do this now for JUANITA.

HIV and AIDS and all of the other things she cared about, now we have an increased motivation, and that is how we can turn our sorrow into something positive, the way she did with her life.

We have heard from our colleagues this evening, and we will hear many things, but in particular, I want to speak today as I follow in her footsteps as cochair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. During the 107th Congress, she was cochair of the Caucus for Women's Issues, serving ably with Congresswoman Judy Biggert.

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Under their leadership, the Women’s Caucus initiated the first annual Memorial Day tribute to women in the military at the Women’s Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Now this event, thanks to JUANITA, has become an annual tradition and highlights the caucus’ strong commitment to supporting our brave women in uniform. I know JUANITA will be proud of us as we continue in this tradition.

As cochair of that caucus, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD also convened the first meeting between women Members of Congress and the Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O’Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg in order to discuss issues of national importance to women, especially in the judicial area.

On a personal moment, I will never forget the first time I met with my colleague, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD. It was during a very difficult moment in my life after the passing of my husband Walter. The first thing I knew she was there in my district with every single one of her staff members to help me to succeed him in office. It was a very rainy time, and there they all were, walking precincts in my district, and that was how I met JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

She made a special effort to reach out to me and to my family in ways that were very meaningful to me. She shared with me that her father was a preacher like mine was, so we had that kind of bond as well. And I know it has been mentioned how ferociously she worked on issues like the C-17 and the Alameda Corridor, but if you ever flew with her in her service on the Transportation Committee, you knew very well that she wanted that airline to work for, not her, but for all of us Members and all of the passengers, and she made sure whatever flight we were on was going to be on time to the best of her ability.

These are stories that I am not going to ever forget and I want to be grateful for her kindness to me, and pledge during that very challenging time in my life, she was there for me, and now we reach out to her family members. All of us are going to miss our colleague and our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

It just appeared, such a wonderful picture of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD in her local paper, the *Los Angeles Sentinel*, and ironically, it is dated Thursday, April 22, and that was when she took leave. And who would have known at the paper in her community that just a few days later she would be gone. But I think it would be befitting her to have

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this entered in the *Congressional Record* in memory of JUANITA.

[From the *Los Angeles Sentinel*, April 19, 2007]

CONGRESSWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD WILL TAKE FOUR TO SIX WEEKS OFF TO SEEK TREATMENT FOR CANCER

(By Yussuf J. Simmonds)

Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD is taking a leave of absence until May 25 in order to seek proper care and spend quality time with her family after being diagnosed with cancer.

It had been rumored for some time that her health was troubling especially since she had been placed on the "prayer list" at her local church, Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles. However, she has always been a fighter for the community and now the community stands ready to return her hard work and efforts on its behalf with prayer and best wishes.

MCDONALD is currently serving her seventh term in Congress representing the 37th Congressional District, which includes parts of Carson, Compton, Long Beach, Los Angeles and Signal Hill. Presently, she is the chairwoman of the House Administration Committee, the first Black woman to hold that position. As chairwoman, she has investigated the voting irregularities and disenfranchisement in Ohio, which was the first election reform field hearing in Congressional history.

Glamour Magazine recently dubbed her as "one of the eleven women who will change the world" and a recent news report cited her as one of the five most effective members of Congress because of her ability to reach across party lines to effectively move bipartisan legislation.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee, the vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and the representative of the 9th Congressional District of California, extended warm greetings to her colleague and offered these words of comfort.

"Our prayers are with Congresswoman MCDONALD and her family. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope that her leadership and courage will soon be back with us in the nation's capital," Lee said.

Councilman Isadore Hall of Compton's Fourth District was touched when he received word of her health concerns.

"Right now we are holding her up in deep prayer and hoping for a speedy recovery," said Hall. "Certainly her presence will be missed, but we know she has competent staff who will be able to move swiftly with the agenda she has set for the community."

This is not the first time that MCDONALD has faced health issues. In 2005, she underwent major surgery for an unknown illness. Last year, her son, R. Keith McDonald, requested a furlough from his 41-month prison sentence for political corruption charges in order to see to her condition at the time.

The judge granted him a six-month release but again, there was no official comment from MCDONALD on her condition then and there is no comment now if either incident is related to her current situation.

Dr. William Epps, pastor of Second Baptist Church where MCDONALD is a parishioner, relayed his thoughtfulness by saying that he stays "in touch with her weekly" and that "I'm keeping her in prayer for strength as she faces her health."

She reportedly will maintain a limited schedule particularly in her district and this apparently will be to expedite her recovery process. She has re-

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quested respect for her privacy at present and all of her constituents have offered their prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Ehlers).

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I first met JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which is a wonderful committee, and I am sure the current Chair would agree with that. There is a great diversity of tasks there, and I came to know her at that committee.

I was amazed at Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD in a number of ways. You just heard the previous speaker talk about her grace and elegance. That was apparent from the moment you saw her and talked to her.

She and I became rather good friends because it happened that her father was a pastor, and my father was also a pastor. There is a special bond between preachers' kids or PKs as they are called, and we used to jokingly discuss the need to develop a PK caucus in the Congress so that we could address major issues of the times, particularly those with a moral or human content to them.

Our friendship continued over the years, and I have to confess, I was continually amazed at new things I discovered in JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

First of all, just imagine being born African American in 1938 in Alabama and becoming the first African American woman to chair a committee in the Congress. That is a long and difficult road, and she traversed that road, once again, with elegance and grace.

After having five children, she went back to school, received a bachelor's degree and then became a teacher. She later went back to school again and obtained a master's degree, showing amazing persistence and drive to do that. She then entered the political arena, became the mayor pro tempore of the city in her district, and then later the State Assembly, and then the Congress.

So she had considerable drive and interests in serving others, and that stood out from the moment you first met her.

But I found it interesting, too, on a personal relationship, she was a good friend of mine but a very private person, and I was dismayed recently to find out that she had cancer because she had never discussed this with me and never alluded to it in our discussions. I knew something was wrong,

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but I did not know what. I wish I had known so I could have offered her more comfort and help.

We have had our amusing moments as well. One time she insisted in talking far past her limit in our committee when I was chairman, and I gaveled her out of order, which she refused to admit and kept talking. So I gaveled louder and she kept talking, and I gaveled louder yet, until she could no longer speak. She was not pleased with that. But when she became the chairwoman, I called her to congratulate her and I said, "Now, I fully expect you to gavel me out of order every opportunity you get," and that was the type of relationship we had.

In spite of our differences of party, in spite of occasional differences in perspective and differences in how we should accomplish things in this Congress, we remained good friends throughout. And I think because of that, together, we were able to accomplish a great deal in that committee this past year, and we were continuing to do that this year under her leadership.

We have lost a good friend. We have lost a good compatriot. We have lost a good Member of Congress. It is not easy to deal with that type of loss, and our comfort is that she is in a better place, that she has served our country well. She has served her people well. I am sure as a teacher she served her students well. I think she has left the Congress a better place because of her having been here and with the example that she set for us.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to Mr. Oberstar of Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, it was shortly after the election in which JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was elected to the Congress, that she called on my office. I was the ranking member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

She came to see me about service on our committee. I had learned a little about her background, and I was surprised. I thought she would be more interested in Judiciary or International Relations, but when I asked why she wanted to serve on this nuts and bolts committee, she said, "Well, I have the Alameda Corridor in my district." And if I heard Alameda Corridor from her once, I heard it 50 times. It was incessant; it was a refrain; it was a passionate advocacy. I, of course, did support her candidacy for the committee.

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Then, when the assignments were given out, she came calling again, and said, “I want to know more about what this committee does. What are all these responsibilities? What does this subcommittee’s work mean on public buildings and grounds and economic development?”

When I laid out the picture that this committee has jurisdiction over 367 million square feet of Federal civilian office space, she was excited. Well, there are things we can do here.

It was just such a delight to see a new Member enthused about the work of the committee and wanting to understand it.

Over the years, I have watched, as many of our colleagues have, as have the gentleman from Michigan and the gentleman from California (Mr. Dreier) who spoke so warmly and touching earlier, Members come in, and they scratch and claw to get a committee assignment. Then they get on a committee, and they scratch and claw to get their subcommittee assignments. Then when you are there presiding or working, for so many years as the ranking member, you turn around, and where are they? You don’t see them again. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD showed up for work, every time.

What was also touching was when another committee assignment conflicted, she would come in, sit down, be checked in, look at the committee agenda and the information, then she would come over and say would you please hold me excused, I have to go to another committee because something else is happening. You don’t see that happening very often, the conscientiousness that she displayed about her service in the Congress. She took it seriously, learned it well.

When we were crafting the TEA-LU legislation, she wanted to be a part of shaping the minority business enterprise provisions. She was on the floor to advocate for them. Her whole career was one of dedication to service, but she was a person, a mother, a wife, a human being, warm and caring. When she walked into a room and offered that smile, clouds parted, lights went on and JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was there for us.

She will always be in my heart, in our hearts.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my colleague from American Samoa (Mr. Faleomavaega).

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the distinguished gentleman from California, my colleague, for extending me time from his part and recognizing the fact that we have so many

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on this side of the aisle to offer their remarks, especially in honoring Ms. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Madam Speaker, like all my colleagues in attendance this evening in this Chamber, we were all surprised and shocked to learn of the untimely death of our distinguished gentlelady from the great State of California, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Some of you may be surprised to know that when I was serving as Lieutenant Governor some 24 years ago, I knew JUANITA. She was a dear friend, but she was serving at that time as a member of the city council in the city of Carson, CA. We collaborated often in addressing the economic and social needs of the members of my Samoan community living in the cities of Carson, Compton and even Long Beach. Next thing I learned, JUANITA was elected as a member of the California State Assembly, and then finally she was elected as a Member of Congress.

JUANITA was passionate about the needs of the poor and the destitute. I know our Samoan community throughout the Los Angeles area all mourn the loss of this great and gentle lady. She truly was a dear friend to me, and members of the Samoan community are going to feel the loss of her presence. She lived life to the fullest. I know we are here to celebrate her life, although we also mourn her absence from the halls of this great institution.

On behalf of our Samoan community throughout the Los Angeles area, we convey our deepest sympathies and condolences to JUANITA, her husband, and all the members of her family. I recall the Good Book, and it is my sincere hope that they may all be comforted with our Savior's promise, "Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

I may also say in our Samoan culture, when someone passes away, we don't say that the person has died. We just simply say, "Be well in your voyage." And I would like to say this in my language, JUANITA, *Ia manuia lau faigamalaga*. God bless.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. Jackson-Lee).

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 additional minute to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. Jackson-Lee).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 3 minutes.

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Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentlelady from California (Ms. Watson) for her dedicated commitment and Mr. Calvert, two Californians who have come together on this sad but really commemorative time.

Madam Speaker, I want to lift my voice a little bit, because there are some things that we say in the church about home-going services or memorials. They are, in fact, a celebration of life. I clearly believe that as I have listened to my colleagues, and as I will continue to listen to my colleagues, we really are celebrating JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD's life. We are celebrating our friendship and how we care for her, how she cared for us.

My first remarks are that our mayor has fallen, the mayor of our city, the city of Congress, the comings and goings of Members and staff, traffic and various personnel, law enforcement. This was her love, as she first started as a ranking member of the House Administration Committee and then had the honor of being appointed by the new Speaker of the House, a woman, to be the chairwoman of the House Administration Committee.

But I do want to say, before I comment further, that JUANITA had a bigger smile when she was around her husband, Jim, her five children and her grandchildren. She sparkled when she brought her grandchildren to the floor of the House and made sure that everybody knew those beautiful and lovely children who, in fact, seemed to have a very strong and proud bond with their grandmother. They were proud of this regal woman who came to the floor of the House as a Member of the U.S. Congress.

JUANITA was a doer, and she used to often speak of her beginnings with a Baptist father, preacher, a close-knit family, and her deep roots in Birmingham, AL, knowing what a segregated South was all about, a segregated America. Though she fought against it, she didn't let it bring her down, discourage her. Off she went to California, and she became a true daughter of California, with all of the attributes that great State allows you to have.

She did things to make life better. She had a great sense of hope and spirit about her women's march against AIDS, and each year the numbers kept growing up and up and up. She would tell me, coming back, thousands of women marched against HIV/AIDS to find a cure, to stop the devastation in women. We were so proud when, for the first time, she was able to bring us together around women in the military.

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The last time I was there, the curator of that museum said, you know, JUANITA started this. We now have become so important because of JUANITA.

Then, of course, she worked with the library and those workers over there. JUANITA was someone who believed in getting things done, not for herself, but for others.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD had as her final work, the true integrity and transparency of elections all over America. Truly, we want to thank her, we love her. We love you, JUANITA. This is a celebration of your life.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 12 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. Baca).

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives, the State of California, and the Nation, lost a leader and a good friend of ours, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. We certainly will miss her. My wife Barbara and I extend a heartfelt condolence to her family, friends, staff, children, her five grandchildren and to Jim.

Today we pay tribute to a real trailblazer, a pioneer, the first African American woman to chair a committee, a positive role model, a person who created hope for many individuals, a person who was a well-liked and well-respected individual.

In her role as a public servant, she touched the lives of many individuals. Here in the House, I have heard many individuals talk about how she was a nice person and how she was well liked.

As chair of House Administration she worked closely with the Congressional TriCaucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in trying to obtain fairness and equality for all of us. She was pleasant to work with. I have had the opportunity to work with JUANITA and served with her in the California State Assembly prior to coming to Washington, DC.

She has always been a strong advocate for the poor, the disadvantaged, and those that were underrepresented. I know that she spent much time going into my district and speaking to a lot of the poor and disadvantaged in San

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Bernardino, in the Inland Empire, because she cared about the poor, not only in that area, but she cared about equal representation. She wanted to ensure that we had the numbers or bodies of people who represent us here in Congress. She worked for me on my campaign when I first ran out there.

She worked with me also in a variety of areas, but one of those that has been mentioned tonight has been the Alameda Corridor. She really took it to heart because she knew the Alameda Corridor and what it meant was a lifeline to California, to Southern California, in the area of transportation, not only to the L.A. International Airport, but Ontario International Airport that is also affiliated with that area.

JUANITA knew the infrastructure and the growth and the population in the area, and she put a high priority on transportation. She was a friend and a loyal supporter, and I am grateful.

As a friend, she will be deeply missed, but she will not be forgotten. She fought for justice, she fought for equality so that people will not experience the prejudice and racism that most of us have experienced throughout our life. She wanted life to be better for others. She is a strong voice for many. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be remembered for her dedication to public service, tireless work on behalf of her constituents, standing for the rights of women and minorities, and, overall, her desire to make our country a better place.

We love you, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Butterfield).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I too rise this evening to honor the life and work of my colleague and friend, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, who has passed from labor to reward.

JUANITA was a warm and caring individual. She worked very hard in this body to improve the quality of life for all Americans. As a faithful member of the Congressional Black Caucus she also spoke of the urgency of eradicating poverty and eliminating disparities in education, health care, and wealth. She spoke for those who could not speak for themselves. My constituents, the 660,000 people of the First District of North Carolina, are grateful for the service of Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

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I join my colleagues this evening in saying to the family of this great woman, you had a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother. Her love of humanity and work on behalf of disadvantaged people everywhere ensures that she is in heaven and free of the suffering she had to endure. May God bless the soul of this great American.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, Linda Sánchez.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I join my colleagues here on the floor this evening to pay tribute to a colleague who we lost far too soon.

I was saddened to hear the news yesterday of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD's passing. JUANITA was really a woman of many firsts, who broke down countless barriers for women and for African Americans.

While the history books no doubt will list the numerous accomplishments of her long career, I will remember her best as a champion for economic opportunity and empowerment for the people of Long Beach and Los Angeles. I was pleased to have had the opportunity to work with her on many issues important to the communities shared by our adjacent districts. When workers, for example, in our communities who assembled the C-17 aircraft, faced the prospect of their assembly plant shutting down and losing their jobs, JUANITA led the fight to make sure that those jobs were not lost. And she succeeded, and hundreds of people's lives are better off today thanks to her hard work.

When I first joined Congress, JUANITA took the time and made a special effort to introduce me to many of the local leaders in the African American communities that straddle our districts. This was very thoughtful of her and I will always be in her debt for it.

We here in Congress will certainly miss her insight, her experience, and her energy. And I will most certainly miss her beautiful smile and her unforgettable style because she truly is an unforgettable woman.

I am sure that her constituents will miss her tireless advocacy on their behalf. They and we have lost a fine public servant, and we have lost a tremendously fine colleague. But most of all, my thoughts tonight are with her husband, their children and grandchildren, and their extended family. I

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wish them all the strength during this difficult time, and I want them to know that JUANITA is truly an incredible woman who shall not be forgotten.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Santa Ana, CA (Ms. Loretta Sanchez).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from California.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was my friend. I used to love coming into the Chamber and sitting down next to her and asking, “What’s up, what’s going on?” because JUANITA knew. She knew what was going on in the Congress. She was the mayor of Congress, if you will, being the chairwoman of the House Administration Committee. And JUANITA knew what was going on back in California.

When I first decided to run for Congress and nobody knew, JUANITA called me up and said, “I’m stuck on the freeway, but I’m coming down to walk precincts with you. So let’s hope the sun stays up and we get to go and walk together.” And we did, and that is how I met JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

When I first came to the Congress, as a young woman—quite frankly, 12 years ago there weren’t a lot of us, and it was always very difficult and hard to be accepted. It is always hard to find your way in the Congress. But JUANITA was right there. She was like a touchstone. She was somebody that I could talk to and tell her my frustrations or the happy points here. She really is what I would call a friend, and to many of us here she was a friend. She is a friend back in her district.

I wish the people of the United States really understood the work that JUANITA did. The Alameda Corridor was her dream. It was her project. This was the project to move goods that come to this country from the port across and through Los Angeles and out into the rest of the United States. When you think of the fact that 50 percent of everything that comes into the United States comes through the ports that were right there at JUANITA’s side, you would understand how important it was to each and every American. You see, if that cargo didn’t leave L.A., if you were an auto worker in Tennessee, building a car, and you were waiting for inventory just in time, it wouldn’t get there in time if it hadn’t been for JUANITA. And last year on the very last day

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of the 109th Congress, we passed the Safe Port Act. That really was JUANITA's legislation.

She will be remembered for a long time in this country and in this Congress. JUANITA, and to her family, I love her.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas, Eddie Bernice Johnson.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for the time.

I rise with great sadness to remember my friend, my sorority sister in the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and my colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. And I want to extend my deep condolences to her husband James, her children, friends, and loved ones.

I was privileged to serve with her on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and her diligent service is evident in many of California's roads, bridges, and highways. I worked with her when she was cochair of the Congressional Women's Caucus. She did it with such charm, grace, poise, and dignity. This body is diminished and dismayed by her sudden absence, but we were inspired and enriched by her presence.

Her spirit will live on. Her work will be felt by those who don't even know she helped. We celebrate her life. It was a wonderful, wonderful life. And we love her and her family.

[The prepared remarks of Ms. Johnson follow:]

Madam Speaker, I rise with great sadness to remember my friend, my sorority sister and my colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I want to extend my deep condolences to her husband, James, her children, friends and loved ones.

As chairwoman of the Committee on House Administration, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be recorded in history as the first African American woman to chair a full committee of the House.

Those of us privileged to know and work with her will remember her tireless advocacy for justice and her example of meaningful public service.

Throughout her career, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a friend to women's causes and to young people. Her work to end human trafficking and slow the transmission of AIDS has improved countless lives.

The results of her work—improved lives for women and girls worldwide, expanded voting rights for the disenfran-

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chised, greater assistance for the sick and the poor—are a testament to her character.

From the beginning, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a trailblazer:

She was the first African American woman to serve on the Carson, CA, City Council.

In her first term in the California State Assembly, she became the first woman to chair two powerful committees.

She was the first African American woman to give the national Democratic response to President Bush’s weekly radio address as well.

But for all her firsts, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was also a champion for the least and the last. She fought injustice wherever she found it: Whether in the voting booth, the classroom, the research lab, or the workplace.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD rigorously investigated widespread voting irregularities and disenfranchisement.

She was a vocal opponent of genocide around the world and a tireless fighter for human rights.

Her Mother-to-Child HIV/AIDS Transmission Act became the President’s \$15 billion African AIDS initiative.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD also worked to increase diabetes research in minority and female populations; she pushed the Department of Education to improve the dismal dropout rates among minority high school students and secured millions to reduce the backlog of equal employment opportunity complaints.

The first-time voters in Ohio can feel more confident their votes will count because of Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD. The elderly diabetics in her home State of Alabama have a better chance of avoiding amputation because of her. She had a hand in granting diplomas to thousands of Native American students growing up on reservations; and countless girls in Cambodia and Sudan have her to thank for a childhood free from kidnapping and assault. They may never know where to direct their gratitude, but the alleviation of their suffering stands as her lasting legacy.

Her influence is also inscribed on the physical landscape of California’s 37th District. I was privileged to serve with her on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and her diligent service is evident in many of California’s roads, bridges and highways.

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Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's record of exemplary public service includes life memberships in the NAACP and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

She served on the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Board of Directors, and founded the League of African American Women.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD also founded the Young Advocates to train young people for political leadership.

This body is diminished and dismayed by her sudden absence, but we were inspired and enriched by her presence.

Her commitment to equal opportunity, civil and human rights will be greatly missed.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Scott).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this is indeed a solemn occasion, but it is also an occasion to celebrate.

On each of our obituaries there are three things that are mentioned: the year you were born, the year you died, and then there is the dash. It is what you do with the dash, what you do with your life. And the life that we are here to celebrate, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD's life, was one of greatness and sacrifice and commitment, serving on the city council, serving in the State legislature of California, and then in the Congress of the United States, traveling around the world wherever the need was, whether it was in Africa, the Middle East, or in the Caribbean.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD fought the good fight, she kept the faith, and there is indeed put up for her an outstanding crown of righteousness, and we all thank God for having Ms. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD pass our way.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Bishop).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian, all of our colleagues here in the Congress, and all of the hundreds of workers here on Capitol Hill were deeply saddened to learn of the death of our friend and colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Words are never adequate at a time of loss. Only one who has worn the garment of bereavement can truly understand the pain that comes when a family must confront the inevitable that one has been taken from its midst. Yet, upon prayerful reflection we must all allow our tears to melt into joy,

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because truly we have been blessed to have known, to love, and to have been a part of the life of this very, very exceptional woman.

JUANITA was a lady of achievement, of service, of public distinction, of beauty, of grace, of dignity. She was elegant and she was eloquent. She was the epitome of refinement, but she was committed. She was intellectual, she was a lady of principle, and she was an advocate for justice.

JUANITA was a person of great courage. She took on the toughest fight, but she fought it with dignity. Even in her illness, she took on that tough fight. I was happy to call her my friend, but I was happier for her to call me friend and confidante.

A poet wrote, "Full many a gem of purest ray serene, the dark unfathomed caves of oceans bear; full many a flower is born to blush unseen, and waste its sweetness on the desert air." We are blessed and so happy that JUANITA's sweetness was not wasted, but that we and the world are better because she was here.

We wish Godspeed and the consolation of the Holy Spirit for her husband, her children, and her grandchildren as we share in your loss and bid our good friend and colleague farewell.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Watt).

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time. I join with my colleagues in expressing sympathy and paying tribute to our friend and colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD.

When you serve in a body of 435 people, you get to know some of the Members by face, some by name, and then you get to know some close up and personal. When you serve as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, as I did for the last 2 years, you get to know your members on a close personal basis, and you get to know who will stand with you and fight, who will support you, who will cover your back for you. And that is how I got to know JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, because I knew she would stand and fight for what she believed in and she would be a friend.

So I remember her first and foremost as a friend and colleague, and pay tribute to her family and express my sincere condolences.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio, Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

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Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Diane Watson, for organizing this event.

You know, when I think of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, I think of this piece of poetry called "A Phenomenal Woman." In one of the lines in that piece of poetry, it says, "Does my sexiness upset you? Do you find it awful hard that I dance like I have oil wells growing in my back yard?" And JUANITA was like that. She danced and she walked and she showed off, and that is what I loved most about her.

When I came to Congress, I learned that we had Alabama roots. I learned that she was an AKA and I was a Delta. And on the floor of the House I would wear pink, and she would say, "Oh, you look good in that pink." And I would say, "Oh it is only faded red that I have on," because Deltas wore red.

We talked about issues affecting women. It was as a result of her work and that of Bob Ney that I had an opportunity to bring the Secretary of State of Ohio before a hearing and get him to answer questions. I thank JUANITA for that.

But I think the thing that JUANITA and I talked about most, and my words are to you, Keith, that she loved you. We talked about our sons. And African American sons are so important in the lives of mothers. And we used to talk about you. And I used to talk about Mervyn. And she loved her daughters, but we talked about our boys.

And I just want to say to the family, Jim and all, that we here in the Congress will miss JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. But the thing that we will always remember is she was right there on that aisle, right there, just sitting there talking, smiling, walking, being involved. And we thank God for JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

And, God, you know, AKAs came first, but the Deltas were second. So I will always think of her as my sister. We are from the same roots.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, as my final speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. Rohrabacher), who has also had a difficult week. He lost his brother this week, and our condolences are with him, also.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I lost two people who were very dear to me this last week, and one was my brother, who passed away Thursday morning, and JUANITA, who just passed away on Sunday.

It is really an amazing thing as I have thought about this, just about how similar these two people were, because my brother was very, very active in politics, but he was really

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non-ideological. He was someone who had a very good heart and was a very generous person, was always looking forward trying to help people get something done. Does that remind of you anybody else?

That was JUANITA. I mean, there wasn't an ornery bone in her body. And in politics, you know, we get kicked around and beat up a lot and people lie to us, and people say bad things about us, and I never saw JUANITA ever get mean or vengeful at all toward anybody.

And we used to travel back and forth in the airplane. I see some of my friends here who traveled on that same flight. And it was always such a joy to be with her and to spend 4 and 5 hours at a time going across the country. And you can't say that about everybody. Who else do you want to spend 4 or 5 hours with?

She was a wonderful person. She had a wonderful heart.

And my brother wasn't as successful as JUANITA. When he passed away, he really didn't have a lot of professional success.

JUANITA, as we have heard today, had enormous professional and personal success in her life, being a woman who reached up to the height of power and authority and influence here in Washington, DC, and our Nation's Capital.

But you know what? Whether it was that or whether it was my poor brother who passed away, both of them died of liver cancer, I might add. Both of them died of liver cancer, just so close to each other.

But, you know, when they lay us down in our casket, no matter what we have accomplished in the material world, it is what we have done to try to help others, how good a heart we have, how generous we have been to other people, not just financially, but with our time and with our love and with our caring. Those are the things that we carry with us.

I believe my brother was a very accomplished and successful person in that way. And we certainly know that today, JUANITA was a wonderful success in her life. She cared about people. She never was captured by the meanness and ornerness that comes with politics sometimes.

She always wanted to get things done. She worked with me. Our districts came together in Long Beach and we worked together on so many programs for the people of Long Beach, especially in the areas of transportation and water and health care, and she was always there trying to talk to me, saying what can we get done.

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I am a conservative Republican and she was a Democrat, but she always wanted to work together to try to do things to help other people. So I am very proud tonight to stand up and say that I will miss JUANITA. I am going to miss my brother, obviously. But this world has lost two wonderful souls, two wonderful human beings. And I am pleased to add my voice tonight to say goodbye, JUANITA, and we are going to miss you. You had lots of love in your heart, and we love you. Bye-bye.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, Hilda Solis.

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Los Angeles, Congresswoman Watson, for holding this special event here for us to talk about one of our colleagues.

You know, I haven't been here very long in the Congress; but when I came in 2001, I knew that I had a friend here. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD at that time served as caucus chair for the Women's Caucus and led the fight in so many ways for justice for women. And particularly, as a woman of color, she knew how deeply important it was to set herself up as a role model for all of us.

I remember her coming back and talking to me about events she did in her district. Every year she would raise funds and give grants out to domestic violence shelters and programs. She would have a big event with her community, and she kept inviting me. Hilda, you have got to see what we are doing out in our area; and it is something that you should take a look at.

She was there. She fought so hard for us during the Women's Caucus as she served her tenure, helping to promote women in the military. And she was strongly supportive of women in the military.

And I know that her family, right now, needs our prayers and thoughts, and we send those from our community and from my family, from my husband and myself, and want to thank her for all that she did to fight for us, for our transportation funding in Southern California, for the ACE Project, which affects so many of the L.A. delegation members, and for her strong work and advocacy for people of color affected by HIV and AIDS.

So I want to thank her. And it is fitting to say that this evening, because this evening after we finish our discussions here, we are going to talk about the uninsured. And Lord

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knows that our communities of color share a heavy burden, disparate treatment, disparities that exist with chronic illnesses, and one of those being cancer, particularly African American women who many times go undiagnosed. We need to do more in this area. And so we think of her today. We honor her, and we thank her family for the time that she served with us here on Earth.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. You have 1 minute, and the gentlewoman has 1½ minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. I would close, Madam Speaker, by saying that we heard many great stories about JUANITA and remembrances of her life, and we have lost a great friend, a great champion for our home State of California, and a great champion for our country. And as we mourn her loss, our condolences are shared with her family. Godspeed, JUANITA.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to Ms. Marcy Kaptur from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I can say that Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD would be so happy to see Congresswoman Yvette Clarke in the Chair tonight. And I thank Congresswoman Diane Watson for her compassionate service and certainly for this memorial service tonight. And I extend deepest condolences on behalf of the people of Ohio to the family of our beloved Congresswoman, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, her husband, Jim, her children, and her grandchildren.

Having had the great pleasure of serving with her during her entire tenure, let me say, when I think of JUANITA, I think of a woman who was resilient, who was strong, determined, refined, accomplished, persevering and, indeed, courageous, a pioneer with a great sense of humor and, as a minister's daughter, a boundless sense of hope.

Even today, for a woman to chair a full committee of this House is a rarity. And for an African American woman, she created the mold, the first African American woman in the history of this country to chair a full committee in this House.

Just a few weeks ago, a new volume of "Women of Congress" was published, and hers is the first name in that vol-

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ume, commissioned by order of the chair of the House Administration Committee, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

There are some people who teach us how to live and indeed, she did. And many people can teach us how to die, and she has done that with her great dignity and her courage.

Just a few weeks ago, when Nancy Pelosi of California was sworn in as our first Speaker, I had the great honor of being one of the two Democratic tellers. JUANITA, as chair of the House Administration Committee, sat to my right. I shall never forget that moment, and I think she lived partly for that moment.

May her strength comfort her family in these trying moments of bereavement. I believe God holds close those who journey toward the light in this Easter and Passover season. And may the angels of mercy lift her and lift the spirits of those who love her and bring comfort and bring peace.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a remarkably committed legislator. As the first African American woman to chair a full committee in Congress, she was deeply dedicated to the work of the House Administration Committee. Through her chair, she was working on landmark legislation to ensure the integrity of our voting system.

At home, Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD worked every day for her constituents on the issues of health care, economic development and housing. Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD was engaged in a serious effort to revitalize the public housing in her district and was involved in a series of tours and meetings with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Alphonso Jackson, at both Imperial Courts and Nickerson Gardens aimed at providing better housing options for her constituents.

Recently, we joined together to lend our voices to the chorus of community leaders and residents in a successful effort to extend funding for Martin Luther King Hospital.

Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be missed not only by her constituents in the 37th District, but by all of the people who were touched by her service.

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, in my office is a wonderful photograph of JUANITA and I, arms raised in victory, It was taken as I announced my intention to run for Governor of California in 1998. She was right there, and I was clearly buoyed by her presence. Our friendship was forged in that tough campaign, and it remained strong.

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JUANITA was a popular and highly regarded Member of this House. Those are not easy things to achieve in a very competitive workplace, so it is worth asking how she did it.

First, she was a loyal friend. Once she decided to endorse or support you, she never flinched—no matter how hot the heat. And second, she was a pro. She had a clear idea of what legislators can do, and she worked hard.

The results are obvious. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD served California's 37th Congressional District well.

When she came to Congress, she decided to add "Millender" to her name in order to honor her father. Surely she honored her mother. But she also honored her constituents—and this Congress.

A good friend, superb colleague and class act, JUANITA, you will be missed.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as I remember my dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. JUANITA passed away April 22 in her home State of California. She will be remembered as a strong woman and formidable legislator who broke down many barriers by becoming the first African American woman in history to chair a committee in Congress, the House Administration Committee, and the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council and the first to chair two committees in the California State Assembly.

I really got to know JUANITA when I cochaired the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues and subsequently when she became the cochair. She was a strong advocate for women's and minority rights and was a strong ally in the effort to combat human trafficking. JUANITA came to work with a passion and determination that is rarely found. She represented the 37th Congressional District with dignity and pride, proving to be an effective leader and caring Representative.

I especially want to extend my condolences to Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's husband, James, and to her five children and grandchildren. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I wish to offer my sincerest condolences to the family of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. My thoughts and prayers go out to them in their time of mourning.

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Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD amassed many firsts and accomplishments during her life as a public servant by breaking racial and gender barriers. She was the first African American woman to serve as ranking member and chair of the powerful House Committee on Administration. She was also the first woman to serve on the Carson City Council; the first to chair two powerful California State Assembly committees—the Insurance Committee; and the Revenue and Taxation Committee in her first term as a State legislator. She was also the first African American Democratic chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues and in that capacity she led the women on two groundbreaking meetings: One with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to talk about the plight of women globally and another with the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange to develop strategies for increasing women’s investments and net worth.

In recognition of women who served in our military, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD initiated the first annual Memorial Day Tribute to Women in the Military at the Women’s Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery and she led the fight to secure \$15 million for the maintenance of the memorial. She most recently secured \$50 million for counseling services for our returning men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During her 6 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, her ability to reach across the aisle and effectively move bipartisan legislation was evident during her work on a range of issues, including ensuring equal rights for women and minorities, improving our education system, combating poverty, protecting voting rights, and stopping the genocide in Darfur.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD devoted her life to her family and to service on behalf of her constituents in the 37th District of California and to the Nation. Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was truly a phenomenal woman. She is a friend and colleague who will be sorely missed.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sadness at the passing of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, a dedicated public servant, who worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents and her country.

I had the privilege to serve with Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD on the House Administration Com-

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mittee and also previously in the California State Assembly, and can attest to the passion, dignity, and grace she brought to her work.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD devoted much of her life to public service. In her career she was an educator and an advisor, a member of Carson's City Council, a California State Assemblywoman and finally a Member of Congress.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's passion and drive were unmatched. She was an unwavering advocate for minority rights. She was a champion of women's health issues. She was an adamant opponent of the genocide in Darfur. And she was committed to securing election reform and security for our Nation's ports.

I admired Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's leadership and fervor in her many roles: as community leader, Member of Congress, and chairwoman. All those who knew her and worked with her know the void she leaves with her passing. I extend my heartfelt condolences to her husband, James, her children and her grandchildren. She will be missed.

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, who bravely fought a battle with cancer up until this past weekend. After a painful struggle, she's now at peace.

JUANITA and I both came to Congress in 1995. While we were on different sides of the aisle, I always respected her passion for a host of issues, and her willingness to work with the other side to find solutions. At only 68 years of age, it seemed she had many more years of public service ahead of her, and I'm sorry for the loss of a friend and colleague.

JUANITA became a good friend of mine back in 1999, when I was diagnosed with cancer. She made a point of reaching out to me to show her support, and I've always been grateful to her for going out of her way to lend a kind word and a compassionate smile.

Her passing is yet another reminder of how much more work is needed to continue our Nation's war on cancer, in spite of the progress that's been made so far.

Today we mourn the loss of a friend, and our thoughts and prayers go out to her husband James, and her children and grandchildren.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

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Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Watson) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise this evening to celebrate the life of my very good friend and colleague, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

I personally have known Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD for over 30 years. Our time together spans back before her days as a Member of this distinguished body when I was member of the Los Angeles Unified School Board and she was there as an administrator and then as a California State legislator. And then on that road she was elected to the Carson City Council.

JUANITA's distinguished life is a life of "firsts." She is the first African American woman in history to chair the Committee on House Administration, which oversees the operation of the House, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institute, and the National Zoo. The Committee on House Administration also oversees all Federal elections. JUANITA worked tirelessly to investigate all reports of voter irregularities and voter disenfranchisement. She was one of the first Members of Congress to call for a congressional hearing on reported voting irregularities in the State of Ohio. She played an important role in congressional election reform.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was also the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council and the first to hold the position of chairwoman for two powerful California State Assembly committees in her first term.

Like myself, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD at heart was an educator. After raising five children, JUANITA, at the age of 40, returned to school and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands and a master's degree in educational administration from Cal State L.A.

She spent her early career in the classroom, teaching high school and working at a career center. It is here that JUANITA first demonstrated her ongoing interest in the lives of

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young people and issues that impact the lives of women and their children. But above all, JUANITA worked tirelessly for all the people in her community. And I want to say, all the people. She was a people person who had an uncanny skill to build and sustain networks.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, JUANITA worked, again tirelessly, to secure much-needed Federal assistance for Southern California's transportation needs, including funding for her passion: for the Alameda Corridor.

JUANITA's passing is a great loss to this institution, her constituents, and this Nation. She was a great citizen as well as a great person and would have made a lasting and important contribution to this body in her position as House Administration chair. She was making that contribution every single day.

And I would say to her, "JUANITA, you missed the caucus." "You missed the California caucus." "You missed the Black Caucus."

She said, "I am so busy working, I don't have time for the caucuses." She was committed.

And on a personal note, Madam Speaker, when she was sworn in as a Congresswoman in her district, I went there. She had been sworn in here, and when she got up to speak, she said, "You know, I was raised on a farm and I married early." And she said, "I was so naive, when I had five children one after another, I just knew it was that orange juice, being raised on a farm." So I would tease her. I said, "JUANITA, watch out for the orange juice."

She was one of my closest friends and colleagues. She will be missed. And I want you to know she was raised by a father and her older sisters. She was the youngest. So she said, "You know, on a farm we were wealthy." And she said, "But it was my father who played the role of both parents. He set down the principles and values by which I run my life. So in honor of my father, I am adding as my middle name, my maiden name, his last name." So, therefore, she became JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. And if you ever saw her signature, it was one of the most beautiful, graceful signatures. And she always took time to write "JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD." And I would go on correcting people when they said "JUANITA MCDONALD." I said, "No. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD."

So, JUANITA, we celebrate you and we know that you are here in these Chambers today. And to end my piece and

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allow the others, we did a taping with our voices on it, and at the end we sang to her “Dreamgirls.” We will always be dreaming of our JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Davis) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I join with my colleagues from all across America who have spent much of the evening extolling the virtues of our colleague JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Much has been said, and yet there is much that can, in fact, be added.

As a matter of fact, when I first came to Congress, JUANITA was one of the first persons that my wife and I met. So my wife immediately became a JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD fan. And I said to her, “Vera, it is all right for you to be a JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD fan, but don’t try to dress like her. We can’t afford it.”

JUANITA was, in fact, a charming, delightful, snazzy lady, the essence of femininity, but as tough as a nail. As a matter of fact, I don’t know if a week went by that I didn’t receive some communique from her talking about some issue or explaining something that she had done or something that she had worked on. And as I listened to all of my colleagues talk about her many “firsts,” the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council, the first African American woman to render the national Democratic response to President Bush’s weekly radio address, the first to be named honorary curator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, and the first Democratic chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women’s Issues. Obviously, she was many firsts. And I guess maybe the poet Homer had her in mind when he said that there are pioneer souls that go where highways never ran, but let me live in my House by the side of the road and be a friend to man.

And I guess he had JUANITA in mind as he talked about why would I live in my House by the side of the road as the race of men go by. Men who are good, men who are bad, men who are wise, foolish, but then so am I. So why would I not simply be, as JUANITA has been, one who understood the relationship between people, moving across aisles, moving across boundaries to accomplish and get things done.

So on behalf of my family and me and all of the residents of the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois, we extend our greatest condolences to her family and say that we too

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would hope to live in the House by the side of the road like JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD and be a friend to mankind.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I am so honored to see all of our colleagues rise and extol all of the great virtues of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, talking about her historic firsts, her role as mayor pro tempore, city councilperson, the first African American woman to chair a committee in the House, and all of the great things that she did, things that commanded the attention of the whole world.

But I just want to say, as a member of the freshman class, that coming to Congress, trying to figure out what is going on around here, things going by so quickly, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD had time for people in our situation, just trying to figure out what was happening. She had a moment to say, How is it going? Did you know where this was or where that was, and what can I do to help you?

So in life, Madam Speaker, people will often remember the great things that we did that command headlines and find things that we do that command public attention. But greatness is measured by the small things in life, and in those small things she was great also.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Payne) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, yesterday we lost a devoted colleague and friend, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents in the 37th Congressional District of California. As we know, prior to her coming to Congress, she made a name for herself as the first African American woman to serve on the City Council in Carson City and the chairwoman of two powerful committees, Insurance and Revenue.

But many people don't know that in recognition of women who served our country in uniform during wartime, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD initiated the first annual Memorial Day Tribute to Women in the Military at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. And she led the fight to secure \$15 million for the maintenance of the memorial. She also secured \$50 million for counseling services for our returning men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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Bold initiatives have been her trademark. In 2005, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD, along with other CBC members, unveiled a portrait of Joseph Rainey, the first African American to be seated in Congress. She was very proud of that because she contacted members of his family who are alive today, and there was a tremendous celebration.

Internationally, she spoke out against genocide in Cambodia and Darfur and other regions of the world where human rights are in danger. She worked with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Ambassador John Miller on human trafficking and women's rights issues globally.

She reminds me of a poem I learned as a youngster in elementary school, actually; but it is appropriate because her memory will live on. The poem is called, "The Arrow and a Song." It said:

I shot an arrow into the air, it fell to Earth I know not where. For so swiftly it flew, my sight could not follow it in its flight.

I sang a song into the air, it fell to Earth I know not where. For who has sight so keen and strong that can follow the flight of a song? But long, long afterwards in an oak I found the arrow still unbroke. And the song, from beginning to end, I found again in the heart of a friend.

And so I say that to say that what JUANITA did will live on. Her work for the persons who worked in the Library of Congress who were minorities and women who were being terminated, and we felt unfairly, she took on that responsibility to fight to see that those women, primarily, would be placed in other positions.

She worked hard, and her dignity and her beauty and her perfection were certainly noticed. And I can tell you, the women talk about the grace that she had. Well, let me make it clear that the men also noticed that grace and that beauty and that charm. And so we will remember her as she moves on up that highway.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Ellison). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. Sherman) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. You know, it is heartwarming to sit here for a while and to listen to these personal tales of our good friend, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

I first got to know JUANITA in our days as activists during the 1980s on the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee. Both of us entered State government in the early 1990s; both of us came here to Congress in the mid-1990s.

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JUANITA broke barriers. JUANITA led the charge. She was the first African American woman on the Carson City Council, the first African American woman to chair the Revenue and Taxation Committee of the California Assembly, where I enjoyed working with her on State tax issues. JUANITA was the first African American woman to give the Democratic Radio Address response. And finally, she was the first African American woman to serve as chair of the House Administration Committee.

Now, her fine work on that committee has been detailed by so many of the prior speakers who have come to this floor. And the prior speakers have also spoken of her work on the Transportation Committee, where we in Southern California are so grateful to her for her efforts on behalf of the Alameda Corridor.

JUANITA will be missed, of course, by her husband James, by her five children and by her five grandchildren. She will be remembered here for her record of legislative accomplishment, and she will be remembered here for the spunk she showed every day. And finally, she will be remembered for the courage she showed in these final days, because JUANITA barely mentioned to her closest friends that she was a bit under the weather. Right up to the end she was fighting the good fight. JUANITA's courage and strength will be remembered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Woolsey) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD. We already miss you, your beautiful face, your elegance and grace, your tenacity and spirit. Your absence will leave a void that will never, ever be filled. And that is what we know about you here without question in the House of Representatives, so we can only guess how much you are going to be missed by your beloved family. They, in their grief, however, can always take solace in their pride and in their love and their appreciation of such an amazing woman.

Beloved wife, mother of five, grandmother of five, member of the California Assembly, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and in the end, the very first African American woman to become chairwoman of a full committee.

Because of this position, this elegant persuasive woman's portrait will hang in the Halls of Congress for the rest of time. And over the years she will watch over the activities

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of her House Administration Committee. And believe me, she will be expecting excellence. So while JUANITA rests, she expects each and every one of us to keep on going until we can go no more; and because of her example, we will do our very best.

We already miss you, JUANITA, and we will remember you always.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. Bordallo) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I also wish to thank my good friend from California (Ms. Watson).

I, too, Mr. Speaker, want to take this opportunity to associate myself with the remarks made by our colleagues this evening in tribute to Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend to her family our condolences. She was a strong and effective leader for the people of the 37th Congressional District of California, and we are going to miss her here in Congress.

JUANITA took a special interest in the people of Guam. When I first met her, I was a freshman. She stopped me in the hall and she said, "Are you the new Representative from Guam?" I said, "Yes." And she introduced herself and she said, "I want you to know that I have many people from Guam in my district."

She attended our liberation wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington. I will never forget it. And each time we met, whether it was here on the floor or in the hall, she would always ask me about the people of Guam.

She was a strong leader. She made her mark here in Congress. And I extend to her family, her husband, her children, and her grandchildren, our deepest sympathies.

God bless you, JUANITA, for everything that you did for the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. Schiff) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, tonight I plan to speak on the anniversary of the Armenian genocide; but before I do, I want to join my colleagues in expressing my sincere condolence at the passing of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, someone who in my very first days of Congress impressed me

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as a courageous, intelligent, dedicated public servant who, every time I went to her for help on an issue in her committee or outside her committee, was generous with her time and her energy, always ready to help, always of good cheer, and someone who I think enjoyed the unanimous and bipartisan respect of everyone in this body. Her memory will be cherished; her presence will be deeply missed. . . .

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. . . Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a woman who was a champion of health for minorities and other people of color. The extremely sad news of Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's death came as a shock to all of us, and it is with a deep sense of loss that I join my colleagues who were here earlier in mourning her passing. Not only have I lost a colleague, but also a mentor, a sister, and a friend.

I was honored to work alongside Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD as members of the Congressional Black Caucus together, and the Small Business Community. JUANITA was a true champion for minority and women-owned small businesses, and played a pivotal role in proposing and passing legislation to expand financing and contracting opportunities for our Nation's small businesses. Her dedication to helping women-owned businesses was evident in her dedication to increasing funding to expand women's business centers throughout our Nation.

Her commitment to improving the lives of minorities is reflected in her lifelong work in affiliations with organizations such as the NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and a number of other organizations devoted to the advancement of minorities. She will also be remembered for her outstanding stewardship in the areas of transportation, education, health, and FEMA legislation.

We are grateful for the leadership and the innovation that she brought to the Committee on House Administration, which led to her historic achievement as the first African American woman to chair a committee in Congress.

I know that the House staff and all of the Members appreciate her role in establishing the House Fitness Center and creating an outlet for mental and physical activity. She has truly left a legacy for all of us through her distinguished service on this important committee.

JUANITA will also be remembered for her passion for education, which was evident in her many eloquent speeches on the floor. She was truly a gifted and skilled orator. JUANITA had the distinct ability to captivate and engage her audi-

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ences. Although she possessed strong and determined qualities, she personified grace, compassion, and beauty both inside and out.

On a more personal note, it was through JUANITA, a minister's daughter, that I began attending Thursday morning prayer breakfasts when I first came to Congress. Her godliness was seen in all that she did.

JUANITA championed the cause of AIDS long before it was fashionable to do so. Every year she held a race in her district. And while I could never get away to attend, she always had all of our support, and we never missed a t-shirt or any of the other paraphernalia that she gave out each year.

JUANITA always spoke of her district with great affection and dedication. She frequently remarked that she had the most diverse district in the country, and that she was able to bring them together. And to be reelected over and over is a testament to her leadership and her abiding belief that we are all children of God, equal in His sight and made in His image. Her mission was one of justice, fairness, and opportunity for all.

One cannot speak of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD without remarking on her exquisite taste and her unequalled sense of style. She was always dressed to the nines and was always the epitome of elegance and grace.

Mr. Speaker, although her passing leaves a void in the halls of Congress, her spirit and legacy will forever be with us. Words are not enough to express our profound sorrow. On behalf of my family, staff, and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, my deepest sympathy goes out to her husband, James McDonald, their children, grandchildren, extended family, and dedicated staff. May God bless and comfort them at this time in grief as we know He is welcoming our sister home.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker . . . I would like to join with my colleagues in expressing my deep sorrow at the passing of our colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Just briefly, she was a kind and gentle person. She was a great advocate for many things that she believed in. She was a pioneer. But, for me, she was just a very helpful and warm and friendly person.

When I came to Congress, she had already been here for several years. She was the chairwoman of the Caucus on Women's Issues, and I was the vice chair for the Republican side. JUANITA was always very helpful, always very concerned that I was making my way in my first several months

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in Congress, and I think the way she crossed the aisle, the way that she treated me with kid gloves, so-to-speak, in the beginning of my term, is something that I will never forget. So my thoughts and prayers are with her. Bless her family during this very tough time, and know that she will be missed. . . .

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the comments of the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito). I too would like to express sympathy to Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD's family and to the families of those young people whose lives were senselessly taken at Virginia Tech. . . .

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart. The passing of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD is being felt by all who knew her, and all who were touched by her career in public service. I want to extend my condolences to her family, friends, and constituents in California's 37th District for their great loss.

In fact, we all have lost something in the chairwoman's passing. For me, I lost a colleague, but my wife Annette and I also have lost a neighbor and friend.

Much has been said in these past days about what she meant to California and to the Congress as a whole. When she won her first election to the City Council of Carson, CA, she committed herself to more than two decades of public service. As the first African American woman to chair a committee here in the House, she was a trailblazer. And as the so-called "mayor of Capitol Hill" she was charged with ensuring the smooth operation of the People's House, while overseeing the biggest expansion of the Capitol complex as the Capitol Visitors Center nears completion.

Madam Speaker, many of us are so busy that we don't have time to really get to know one another. Seeing JUANITA every morning on my way to the office was an extraordinary way to start off my day, and in the evening we would compare notes on our way home. I will truly miss seeing her and am heartbroken by her untimely passing.

Congress has lost a singularly able and warm person whose contributions to the greater good for her district, the people of California, the country as a whole, and African American women will live on. Our prayers are with her family as we all mourn the passing of Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD.

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Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in expressing my sorrow over the passing of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, the Representative of California's 37th Congressional District. My thoughts and prayers go out to her constituents, her friends, and her family.

Madam Speaker, I had the opportunity to get to know JUANITA during the 109th Congress when we both served as members of the Committee on House Administration. While some might view oversight of election law and the day-to-day functions of the House as relatively uninteresting, I know that I do not, and I know that JUANITA, who served as ranking member at the time, did not think them trivial either.

Whatever topic was before the committee, JUANITA was dedicated to assuring that things were done fairly, properly, and effectively. She was vigorous in guaranteeing the integrity of the Federal elections process and was committed to ensuring that every eligible voter had free and unfettered access to the voting booth. Likewise, in her oversight of managing the House, she wanted to ensure that everyone on Capitol Hill had a safe and secure place to work or visit, while preserving the grandeur of the Capitol and the surrounding buildings.

This tenacity was something she demonstrated throughout her life, not just during the decade she spent in Congress. After raising her five children, she continued her own education, earning a bachelor's degree at the age of 40. She followed that up with a master's degree in educational administration. She was no stranger to hard work, and she was not afraid to take on a challenge.

One of JUANITA's most notable accomplishments occurred earlier this year. In January, she became the first African American woman to chair a committee in the House of Representatives. It was something that made many Members of the House very proud, and it was a tremendous accomplishment for a woman whose life was full of monumental achievements.

I think it speaks volumes of JUANITA's dedication that she was here voting in this House, representing her constituents, until less than a month before cancer took her life. In fact, almost none of her colleagues were aware of her illness and how serious it had become until the week before she passed away. And through it all, she held a warm spirit and a kind smile.

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Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in sorrow for JUANITA's passing, and I again express my condolences to JUANITA's family, friends, and constituents.

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to remember a pioneering woman, a fearless advocate for justice and equality, and a remarkable trailblazer who was dedicated to improving the lives of others. Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD embodied all that Members of Congress strive to be: she was a masterful navigator of Washington politics; she was a tireless champion for her constituents in Southern California; she was a focused and determined activist for the less fortunate all over the world. She was also a dear friend and valued colleague to those of us in Congress, and to so many others who were fortunate enough to know her on both a personal and professional level.

As the first African American woman ever to wield the gavel of a full congressional committee, JUANITA was proof of the milestones that can be achieved through dedication, intelligence, and political acumen. Her steady rise through the hierarchy of California politics—from a seat on the Carson City Council to a position in the California State Assembly, and finally to the Halls of Congress—instilled in her an unshakeable allegiance to the people who repeatedly elected her.

JUANITA's intense loyalty to her constituents was reflected in their own well-placed faith that she would represent them in a principled and thoughtful manner. She never let them down; indeed, her record as a public figure was characterized by an attention to the needs of her constituents, by a single-minded focus on achieving equality, and by adherence to the principle that democratic government should help those most in need.

Everything JUANITA did was colored by her passionate quest for equality. She used this intensity to her advantage, emerging as an effective and authoritative advocate for women's rights at home and abroad. Never afraid to tackle controversial issues or to use her position as a bullhorn for reform, JUANITA's energy and enthusiasm for advancing the cause of women's rights propelled her into a leadership role from her earliest days in Washington.

Innovative ideas on this score seemed to emanate from JUANITA. She convened a first-of-its-kind meeting between women Members of Congress and female Supreme Court Justices to discuss women's issues. She carried the Families

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First Agenda to more than 30 States for the first time. She served as the first Democratic chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Through it all, JUANITA was masterful at marshaling well-known and influential individuals to her cause without ever losing sight of her goal, which was to help create a society committed to justice, fairness, and equality.

It is fitting that JUANITA was such an outspoken and effective advocate for women's rights, for perhaps her greatest strength lay in her identity as a woman. She demonstrated for all of us—men and women alike—that being a Member of Congress, a mother, and a grandmother at the same time was not merely a challenge. For JUANITA, it was a blessing to be embraced and cherished. As a grandmother myself, I looked to her as a role model for how to integrate the unique challenges of having a family with the equally exciting responsibilities that come from serving in Congress. Two of the most rewarding pleasures in life are raising a family and working for the public, and JUANITA's life is solid proof that a dedicated and forthright individual can accomplish both with poise, grace, and dignity.

I extend my deepest condolences to Congresswoman MILLENDER-McDONALD's family. While this week my fellow Members and I lost a trusted colleague, confidante, and friend, their loss resonates more deeply than we can know. Nonetheless, I know that I speak for all of Congress when I say that JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD was someone we admired on a personal and professional level, someone whose absence will leave a void within us, and someone whose legacy of principled and determined leadership will not be forgotten.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my close and dear friend JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, whom I have worked with and known for many, many years. I am deeply saddened by the news of her untimely passing, and I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the family, friends, and constituents of this distinguished Member of Congress.

She came to Congress in 1996 and quickly moved up the ranks among her peers. Her commitment to excellence led her to achieve a series of political firsts, including becoming the first African American woman to chair the Committee on House Administration, the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council; the first to hold the position of chairwoman for two powerful California State Assem-

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bly committees in her first term, and the first African American woman to give the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address. She spoke her mind and was not easily intimidated by political pressure, regardless of from where it came.

Furthermore, in the 110th Congress, in addition to her chairwomanship, she served on eight full and sub-committees. One issue that the Congresswoman and I worked on closely together was the protection of one's fundamental and constitutional right to vote. Our combined efforts on voting irregularities in Ohio ultimately led to the introduction of H.R. 4141 in 2005, which would amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

She believed that there are no more important responsibilities in the People's House of Representatives than ensuring that the ability to vote in free and fair elections is not compromised in any manner, which has not always been the case. She was a visionary, an advocate for justice for all Americans, and the embodiment of determination.

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD was a role model and incredibly dedicated to the empowerment of women and youth as the founder and executive director of the League of African American Women, and the founder of the Young Advocates, a political leadership-training program for African Americans between the ages of 18 and 35.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with a distinguished woman of strength, integrity, and dynamism. Not only will I miss her dearly, but she will also be missed by the many people that she has touched throughout her service in Congress.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to enter into the *Congressional Record* remarks on the life and work of the Honorable Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD. Congresswoman MILLENDER-McDONALD served over six terms for the 37th Congressional District as a Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives. She died of cancer on April 22, 2007 at age 68.

Mrs. MILLENDER-McDONALD was born in Birmingham, AL, on September 7, 1938. She always placed education and women's rights in the forefront of her issues and values. After graduating from the University of Redlands with an undergraduate degree, she became a teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District. When she attained her master's degree from California State University at Los Angeles, she gave up her job as a teacher to be an editor and writer

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for the school district. Her lifelong fight for women's rights emerged when she became the manuscript editor for "Images," a textbook designed to enhance the self-esteem of young women.

Before running for local office, she was named the director of gender equity programs for the Los Angeles school district. In 1990, she was elected the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council, and in 1992 the first woman to represent the 55th Assembly District in the California State Legislature. In both roles she attacked the congestion and transportation problems of California's infrastructure. As an Assemblywoman, she helped push the Alameda Corridor, a \$1.8 billion public works project to lay new tracks and build trenches and bridges. Her concern with transportation continued in her national office.

As a Member of the House, she was appointed to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and its Subcommittees on Aviation and Surface Transportation. She also served on the Committee on Small Business and as one of the ranking members on the Subcommittee on Tax, Finance, and Exports. After 2 years in the House, she was named the Region One Democratic Whip, and was honored with the Watts Walk of Fame for her work on behalf of the 37th District. In 2006, the Congresswoman became the first African American chair of the House Administration Committee.

For her entire life, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD has fought for social justice. She was a leader in election reform, women's rights, and transportation solutions; she was a credit to her district and to all the people she served as a Representative of the United States. Her husband, five adult children, and five grandchildren survive her. I commend her and her life's work, and ask my colleagues to recognize her memory.

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I was saddened to learn of her passing after her courageous battle with cancer, and my thoughts and prayers are with her husband, James McDonald, Jr., their five children, and five grandchildren—as well as the people of the 37th District of California.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD served this Congress honorably for over six terms, during which time she was a tireless advocate for underserved communities in the United States and around the globe. Among her many accomplishments, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD se-

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cured critical funding for counseling services for our servicemen and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and was instrumental in the passage of important AIDS-prevention programs in Africa. The Congresswoman was also a staunch advocate for the rights of women, minorities, children, and the elderly.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD will also be remembered as a preeminent leader and trailblazer. She was the first-ever African American or woman to chair the Committee on House Administration where she worked hard to ensure that all Americans would be guaranteed their rights at the voting booth. As the Democratic chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD convened groundbreaking meetings with then-U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to discuss global poverty programs, as well as the New York Stock Exchange to find ways to empower women in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD led an exemplary life of public service that included her most recent position as the "mayor of Capitol Hill." The House community lost a true friend. May God rest her soul.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my profound sorrow over the sudden loss of my colleague JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, who died of cancer on April 22, 2007. JUANITA was a trailblazer throughout her life and in the House of Representatives, and it was an honor for me to serve alongside her.

Born in Birmingham, AL, JUANITA was a former teacher in the Los Angeles public school system and served on the Carson City Council and in the California State Assembly before running for Congress in December 1995. Since then, she had been elected to Congress with an overwhelming amount of support from her constituents. The 37th District of California should be proud that they had such a strong and determined Representative in JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

JUANITA spoke out against injustices both in our country, especially on voting rights and election reform, and abroad, including genocide in Cambodia and Darfur, women's rights and human trafficking. Her hard work and ability to lead earned JUANITA the chairmanship of the Committee on House Administration for the 110th Congress. This appointment also represented another barrier she broke through: JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was the first African American woman to chair a House committee.

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Having faced many obstacles in my own life, I can truly appreciate the barriers that JUANITA knocked down in her lifetime. I know her memory will live on forever, as will the opportunities she helped create for those who follow in her footsteps.

JUANITA is survived by her husband, James McDonald, Jr., five children, and five grandchildren. May we keep her loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, the loss this week of our dear friend and colleague JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a great blow to this institution and to the people of California's 37th Congressional District.

I extend my sincere condolences to her family during this time of sorrow, and I hope that they find some comfort in knowing how deeply loved and respected JUANITA was by her constituents and by her colleagues here in the House of Representatives.

We honor her life and her accomplishments this week. Motivated by love of country, community and family, and inspired by her struggles as an African American leader and as a woman, she advocated for the rights of minorities and women in this country and throughout the world.

JUANITA was no less dedicated to the more parochial needs of her constituents and Southern California in general. As the tributes from her committee colleagues highlight, she was a respected and effective member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, securing billions of dollars for her region and her State of California.

She worked tirelessly to secure transportation infrastructure investments, enhancing the economic security of the region and improving the quality of life for Los Angeles County residents. She will long be remembered by Angelenos for her leading role in making possible the construction of the historic Alameda Corridor.

She was also a woman of many firsts. In the California State Assembly, JUANITA became the first woman, in her first term, to chair the powerful Insurance and Revenue and Taxation Committees.

I know how proud she was to be the first African American woman to be named honorary curator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach.

Most recently, JUANITA became the first African American woman to hold the distinguished position of chair of the powerful House Administration Committee in this 110th Con-

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gress, overseeing the operations of the House of Representatives.

During her short term as chair, her hiring and contracting practices within the House of Representatives reflected her deep commitment to diversity. She was a dedicated proponent of minority rights, and was the founder and executive director of the League of African American Women, comprised of 40 African American women's groups.

JUANITA was also the founder of the Young Advocates, a political leadership-training program for African Americans between the ages of 18 and 35. She believed in embracing our youth and fought to give young people hope and opportunity for a better life. JUANITA introduced legislation directing the Secretary of Education to study and report to Congress on the troubling dropout rate among Latino, Native American, American Samoan and African American high school students.

JUANITA will also be remembered as a strong advocate for human rights around the globe, speaking out against genocide in Cambodia, Darfur and other regions of the world where she fought against injustice and inhumanity. She worked with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Ambassador John Miller to address human trafficking and in support of women's rights around the world.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a dynamic Member of this House, who sought to maximize her influence to better the lives of her constituents, the residents of her county and State, and all the people around the world in desperate need of assistance.

JUANITA was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. And she was a beloved colleague and friend who will truly be missed.

My husband Ed and I send our deep and sincere condolences to her husband, James, her five children, and five grandchildren.

We will miss you JUANITA.

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 328, expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a strong advocate for women and human rights, speaking out against injustice in our country and around the world. She was the first African American woman to chair a committee in Con-

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gress, and will be remembered for her commitment and dedication to ensuring that every American's vote counts.

As cochair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues in the 107th Congress, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD worked tirelessly to ensure that women from both sides of the aisle participated in the activities of the caucus. She was a warm and open person, and was a true mentor to me during my first term in Congress.

On behalf of the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, we extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to her husband, Mr. James McDonald, Jr., her children, and all of her family and friends. Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be remembered and honored in the highest regard.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. She was my colleague and, more important, she was my friend.

JUANITA and I served together in the California State Assembly and later in Congress. Each week we shared a flight back and forth from Southern California and we grew to be very good friends.

In Congress, we partnered on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to address the unique and pressing transportation needs of Southern California. We joined together to bring a national focus to the importance of Southern California's goods movement, highway financing, and transit needs. As conferees for the TEA-LU Act, together we worked hard to bring historic levels of Federal transportation funding back to the Southern California region.

I am saddened by the loss of a great public servant and colleague that fought for the needs of her constituents and the Southern California region with grace, dedication, and honor.

I am also saddened by the loss of a dear personal friend.

JUANITA was a kind and gentle soul who was called home far too soon. Her wisdom and leadership in Congress will be sorely missed. I join my colleagues in praying that she is in a better place and that her family is able to find peace in knowing the tremendous contributions she made to her State and Nation during her years of public service.

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Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, on Sunday April 22, 2007, my dear friend and colleague Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was called home.

JUANITA was a great woman who worked passionately for justice and cared deeply for mankind. She was a phenomenal Congresswoman, a loving wife, mother and grandmother and a dutiful friend.

She made time for her constituents—and didn't just listen, but heard them, and spoke for them.

Madam Speaker, JUANITA began her tenure in Congress in 1996. She represented California's 37th Congressional District and was a proud leader in the Congressional Black Caucus where she championed the caucus' disparities agenda to advance economic development, expand access and affordability for health care, truly "leave no child behind" in our education policy and the list goes on.

She was a true legislator. For example, she authored several pieces of legislation focusing on health care, specifically woman's heart health. Legislation such as H.R. 51, a bill to support National Wear Red Day, and H.R. 52 the American Heart Month which called on women to take action and prevent heart disease were just a few examples of her legislative priorities.

JUANITA was a trailblazer, becoming the first African American woman to chair the House Administration Committee for the 110th Congress. She was known as the mayor of Capitol Hill; overseeing the operational and safety needs of the Capitol compound.

She was truly a jewel and a joy to have known. In closing, I'm reminded of a passage from Proverbs 31:10 KJV, which reads: "Who can find a virtuous woman? . . . for her price is far above rubies."

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a great woman, epitomizing humanity, humility, and virtue. She will truly be missed.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, my presence on this floor today is marked by a melancholy over the loss of a friend and dear colleague. We have lost a good friend, indeed a great friend, in Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I wish to extend with deepest sincerity my sympathy and condolences to her family and to her constituents of Long Beach, Compton, and Los Angeles.

It is a common tradition in our society to look past the loss of the physical being in order to best preserve and cherish the personal being. However, the difficulty in this emerges

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when we constantly find ourselves reveling in the presence of that person as an everyday part of our lives. Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be so sorely missed. She was and is still a part of our everyday lives. It is hard to fathom the idea that we will never hear her voice again—for her eloquence and passion in speaking, and her unforgettable laughter, will ring in our ears. The strength and tenacity that propelled her through her life's work will continue to inspire us. As we continue our work in her memory, I encourage all of us to remember her as we walk through the hallowed Halls of Congress. If we stop and listen, we will hear her footsteps echo in these great marble corridors.

JUANITA's accomplishments and achievements in life were many. But as we mourn the loss of her physical self, we would do well to remember her compassionate self, her temperate self, which encompassed an unfailing dedication to public service. I most humbly thank Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD for her being an exemplary public servant. I praise her for her stalwart fight against cancer. At last, I am comforted by the fact that her truly unconquerable soul is yet unvanquished.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and accomplishments of our recently passed colleague and dear friend JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD's life epitomized one of a true leader. Her deep commitment to those she served led her to be the first African American woman to chair a committee in Congress.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD's vision and leadership since 1996 will have a lasting impact on the House of Representatives. Her fight for full voting participation for all Americans and her tireless efforts for fair elections in the United States have helped millions of Americans and made our democracy stronger.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying respect to the family of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD and in honoring her career in service to our country.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 328, I move that the House do now adjourn in memory of the late Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at 10:30

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a.m., for morning hour debate, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD of California.

TUESDAY, April 24, 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland, the distinguished majority leader, Mr. Hoyer.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is with deep sadness that I rise today to note the passing of our colleague and friend, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents in California's 37th Congressional District and a devoted Representative who cared deeply for those she served.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was someone who never allowed the conventions of her surroundings to define the role she would play. Because she understood that education would unlock her budding potential as a community leader, JUANITA achieved something extraordinary by earning a bachelor's degree from Redlands University at the age of 40, and a master's degree from California State University at the age of 47.

Because she recognized her duty to give back just a little of what she had learned, JUANITA made our children's future her life's work by teaching math and English in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Because she could not sit idly by when she had much to offer, JUANITA turned to public service in 1990, becoming the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council, the first African American woman to chair two committees in the California State Assembly, and the first African American woman to chair a full committee in the U.S. Congress.

And because she never let go of her abiding faith in the fact that our tomorrows can be better than our todays, JUANITA will be remembered as a leader who inspired action, drove progress, and labored diligently to improve the lives of people throughout our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the advocates of equal rights for women and minorities have lost a powerful voice in the U.S. Congress,

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one that always sought to bring people together by elevating the bonds that unite us as Americans and as human beings. Children and the working poor have lost a compassionate ally. Men and women seeking to participate in their own governance have lost a steadfast guardian of voting rights who fought to expand the reach of democracy, not only in spirit but in practice as well. And defenders of human rights have lost a champion of their cause who never missed an opportunity to remind the free world of its obligation to help alleviate suffering and restore fundamental human dignity to those who have gone without it for far too long, such as those suffering in Darfur. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD personified what it means to serve others before serving self.

Mr. Speaker, I want JUANITA's husband, James, and her children and grandchildren to know that the thoughts and prayers of a grateful Nation are with them as they mourn their loss. We join them in their mourning but we also join them in their joy of a life well lived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. Clarke) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to take a moment today to express my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and constituents of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD and pay tribute to her legacy of leadership and her profound impact on this institution, the people she served and indeed our Nation.

Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a trailblazer who paved the way for me and many others to be elected and to serve in the Congress. I am ever mindful of the legacy of integrity and excellence that she has imparted to each and every one of us. I embrace it and can truly say that she has touched my life. Though we were colleagues in this body for a short while, we had many moments of interactions that were truly empowering. She never missed a moment to be encouraging and complimentary.

Just a week ago or so before the chairwoman took her leave from the Congress, we encountered one another in this very Chamber. She inquired of me about how I was doing. My response to her was, "I'm just trying to keep up with you, Madam Chair." She smiled her beautiful and elegant smile and said to me, "You're doing it, girl."

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It has truly been a blessing for me as a freshman to have been acknowledged and encouraged by this truly remarkable, elegant, and extraordinary role model. The legacy of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will never be forgotten. It has been imparted to all of us and it will certainly always reside with me.

God bless you, sister. Thank you for all you have given to each and every one of us. Well done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Waters) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker and Members, I come to the floor today to join with my colleagues in recognition of a public servant who served in this august body, who served in the California State Legislature, who served the city of Compton as a city councilwoman, who served as head of the NAACP in the city of Carson, who was a community activist, a legislator and not only a committed servant but a woman who was determined to make sure that she did everything possible to bring about justice and equality, not only for our people but for all people.

I have known JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD for over 35 years. I knew her before she was the president of the Carson chapter of the NAACP. She contacted me when she became the president and we worked on some projects together. We went on to work on many projects together. When my son ran for the California State Legislature, she was involved with his campaign. We have interacted in so many ways for such a long period of time.

We have been involved in some of the same kind of issues over the years. I can recall, it was not so many years ago when it was revealed that perhaps our Government had known about drugs that were being transported from Nicaragua into South Central Los Angeles, and, of course, that revelation kicked off a firestorm in this country. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD invited the head of the CIA to come to South Central Los Angeles to speak to the people and tell them what he knew about the Contras and about the Sandinistas and our involvement with the drug trade. Did this Government turn a blind eye while drugs were being transported across our borders?

It was an unusual event. Never had the head of the CIA been to a community to speak with the people, and people

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were everywhere. The FBI, the CIA, everybody was standing on roofs all over the place. It was a spectacular event. But that was her style.

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD and I not only worked on that issue in different ways. We have been involved in trying to save Martin Luther King Hospital for a number of years now. This has been a tough battle. This hospital was born out of the ashes of the insurrection of 1965 in South Los Angeles. This is an institution that is so very much needed but is so at risk at this point. This institution has been threatened by the Federal Government to withdraw all of its Federal funds and we have fought day in and day out, month in and month out, year in and year out to maintain the funding from the Federal Government so that the hospital could stay there for people who need it so desperately.

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD had organized many meetings. She had interacted not only with CMS and the Federal Government but all of the county officials. Time after time we sat before the board of supervisors, imploring them to do everything that they could to straighten out the problems at Martin Luther King Hospital, to work harder, to make sure there was the management and the supervision.

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD cared about health issues. Not only was she involved with trying to save Martin Luther King Hospital, she organized an AIDS walk that took place every year. She and her women's group organized and each year they went to one of the stadiums in the South Los Angeles area and they held their walk. It got a lot of attention, but this was her way of saying to the community, not only do I care about AIDS, I'm willing to put some quality time and attention on this issue. I want you to get tested. I want you to get involved in learning how you can protect yourself from being infected with HIV/AIDS. And so it is just a small example of the care and commitment that she has demonstrated over the years, whether we talk about health care or education or voting rights that she was so very much involved in before she took her leave of absence.

She cared about justice. She cared that this democracy would truly act in ways that supported the proposition that everybody has the right to a decent quality of life. Everybody must be protected by the Constitution of the United States of America. Everybody must enjoy the benefits of living in this great country. And she reached beyond with care for the mother continent of Africa. She was involved in those issues, also.

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And so I stand here today to say JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD has taken her place in history and she did it her way. Sometimes we did it different ways, but she knew what she was doing and why she was doing it the way that she did. Her husband can be proud. Her children can be proud. And we can all be proud that we had the blessing and the opportunity to live and work with a woman of substance, a woman who cared, a woman who gave of herself and a woman who left us with dignity, a woman who never complained, a woman who never said, I feel bad, I have pain, I can't do it today. She worked right up until she took a leave of absence just a few days ago.

I am proud to stand here and say that I knew her, that I worked with her, that I have appreciated everything that she has contributed to our great society.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Al Green) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first allow me to please say amen to the words of the Honorable Maxine Waters.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the superlative life of a superb woman, the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Indeed, she was a devoted wife, a loving mother, a superior scholar, a preeminent educator, and a powerful legislator.

Notwithstanding all of this, Mr. Speaker, she had a positive air and a special flair. She was a pillar of probity. Her integrity was beyond reproach. She was a repository of respect. Her mere presence commanded respect. She was the queen of self-esteem. She was comely, courtly, and stately with a positive personality.

We were truly blessed to have her among us, she will surely be missed by us, and I thank God for her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Davis) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. I thank the Chair for recognizing me.

Members of the House, we tend to use the term "friend" very liberally in this institution. We often apply it to anyone with whom we have had more than a casual or passing con-

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versation. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was someone that I genuinely viewed as a friend, not in the way the Members of the House use that term but in the way that ordinary people who are watching this on television use it.

There were a lot of days when we sat on this floor and we talked together. There were a lot of days when we sat on this floor and we exchanged confidences. There were a lot of days when we sat on this floor and I spoke to her of my aspirations and my goals and she spoke to me of hers. There were times when I spoke of my family and she spoke of her abiding, continuing faith in her family.

Many people do not realize because she did not speak of it a great deal, but JUANITA was from Birmingham, AL, and it is a tragedy that a black woman born in 1937 or 1938 felt that she had to leave the State of Alabama to reach her full promise. JUANITA did. And it was my State's loss. She went to the State of California, and so many of my colleagues have told the story of her wonderful ascension and her wonderful career there. But she always retained memories of growing up in the South. She always retained memories of growing up in a segregated environment. And much of her family remains there.

Another thing that was not widely known, JUANITA's brother, Shelly Millender, was a long-time radio talk show host in the city of Birmingham and I have had a long-time attachment to him. When I ran for this job for the first time, there were very few people who would welcome me onto their programs or into their forums. The very first one to do so was Shelly Millender. He did it constantly and I have always appreciated that.

JUANITA's nephew, Shelly, Jr., has become a friend of mine and I always enjoyed telling her how proud she should be of him and how well he conducts himself in the city of Birmingham.

So, Mr. Speaker, what I want to say today, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a phenomenally elegant, restrained and dignified woman. She richly deserved the title Madam Chairwoman that she was just beginning to wear so well, and I will remember my last conversation with her sitting just off this floor. It was not uncommon for us to gather and talk about what was going on as we left the floor. I remember her telling me during that conversation how much she looked forward to her work on the House Administration Committee. I remember her telling me how much she looked forward to several hearings that were upcoming. She never

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had the chance to do that which she talked about that day. But I will always remember her confidence, her courage, and her decency. And as she and her family watch and as they prepare for God to take her back to her home in heaven, know that the time she spent here was well served and the legacy that she left honors her native State of Alabama, my State, and the State she adopted and served so ably, California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Jackson) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to send condolences to the family of my colleague, Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and let them know that they are in my heart and in my prayers. I also want to send condolences to the people of the 37th Congressional District of California who placed their faith and trust in the strong, dedicated, and elegant JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

You have heard from some of my colleagues about the many firsts that JUANITA achieved here in the Congress of the United States, including serving as the first African American woman to chair a full committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. But I just want to take a moment to reflect upon an aspect of her strength that was not readily apparent but clearly on display long before she came to Congress. While some of us have focused on the life that she lived, I want to talk about the JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD who did not believe in self-pity but believed in using what she had to make a difference.

While many of my colleagues will come to this mike and talk about the life that she lived and her service to a grateful Nation, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD taught us something about character in her transition. No self-pity. Not a single Member of Congress knew that JUANITA was ailing and that her ailment was terminal. JUANITA did not want to walk around the House of Representatives and have Members of Congress feeling pity for her or feeling sad for her or making special speeches or concessions to her. She wanted all of us to recognize that we live our lives as if life is certain and death is uncertain, when in reality it is death that is certain and life that is uncertain. And, therefore, each of us is under an obligation to do the very best that we can with

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the time that God has given us on this Earth and in this world.

The Bible talks about serving this present age. “O may all my powers be engaged to do my Master’s will.” Clearly the type of ailment that ailed our colleague and our close and dear friend, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, was not the kind of ailment that strikes one suddenly. She knew about it for quite some time and chose not to share it with Members of Congress. That is a statement about her dignity. It is a statement about her commitment to public service. It is a statement about character. And it is a statement about her strength under extraordinarily life-threatening odds.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was married, she raised five children, and then went to college to launch an impressive and inspiring career at an age when many people start slowing down. She combined higher education with her native Alabama wisdom and she set out to show women and men in life and in death that no matter where you came from, you can go where you want to go. She was a living example of the power of not only keeping your eyes on the prize but putting in the old-fashioned elbow grease to earn it.

No self-pity. She didn’t want people looking down on her or feeling bad about her or seeing her physical ailments. No self-pity. She possessed the necessary tough-mindedness combined with the tenderheartedness that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., talked about. She understood, and Dr. King wrote:

There is little hope for us until we become tough-minded enough to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half-truths and downright ignorance. The shape of the world today does not permit us the luxury of soft-mindedness. A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men and women purchases its own spiritual death on an installment plan.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve with JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and once again I send my condolences to those who loved her. The House and the Nation have lost a dedicated public servant and someone who in life and death has taught us the meaning of character.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Lewis) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

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Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor one of our colleagues, Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD of the 37th District of California.

Representative MCDONALD was an extraordinary woman. She was born in Birmingham, AL, at a time of racial violence and overt displays of the most open and systematic forms of racism. But she did not let that hold her down or hold her back. She went to college in California, she became a teacher in the Los Angeles school system, and throughout her career she used education as an instrument for change.

She was a great teacher, and she used the power of knowledge and her commitment to human understanding to break down institutional barriers and to reach across the aisle.

I think that is why she made so many strides as a Member of Congress. She knew gaining mutual understanding was the only way to build coalitions and lay all differences aside.

That's why her creativity and skillful leadership became legendary. She was the first Democrat to chair the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and she used that power to build a coalition between the women of the Supreme Court and the women of Congress. She knew the differences in their roles as public servants didn't matter. She believed all women in government shared a common bond.

She took concerned women of Congress to meet delegates to the United Nations to unify the global struggle against the exploitation of women and girls.

She developed the first National Teen Dating Violence Week as a platform for all women to speak out against a common problem—violence against teen girls. And she was the first Member to bring the head of the CIA to the city of Watts to address long-standing, widespread allegations of drug dumping in that community.

And, of course, she was the first African American to chair a full committee, the Committee on House Administration. This committee oversees some of the great educational institutions of our Nation—the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, the Government Printing Office, and the Capitol Fine Arts Board.

We can only dream about what this great teacher would have done in this capacity. I know she would have used the power of knowledge and education as an instrument of change.

But beyond that, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was an elegant lady. She may have moved to California, but she never lost her southern charm. She was always a lady—as

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tough as steel but as sweet as honey. She was more than a colleague. She was our sister, our friend. JUANITA was a sharp dresser, and sometimes she would dress to kill. She was beautiful on the outside and on the inside. She had a sweet, sweet spirit, and she will be deeply missed.

Sometimes when she would see me, she would call me Mr. Civil Rights. And sometimes when she would see Sanford Bishop, David Scott and me together, she would say, "What are you Georgia boys doing? What are you up to?"

And when she was planning programs in her district, she would stop by to see members of the Georgia delegation and tell us she needed a box of peanuts. And we would all ante up and make those peanuts available to her.

It is so unreal. It is so unbelievable that we will not see her on the floor of this Chamber again. Life is short, too short. We are here today, and we're gone tomorrow, but her spirit and her memory will live on for all of us.

With the passing of Congresswoman McDONALD, it seems the world is a little darker. It seems that a light has gone out. Maybe here in this Chamber and on this Earth a light has gone out. But in another part of the universe JUANITA is shining brighter than ever before.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from New York (Mr. Meeks) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I had to come to the floor today in remembrance of a phenomenal woman, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. My heart is pained and it is unbelievable that we will not see this great woman, at least not on this planet, again. She was a woman that anytime that you saw her, she stood with such dignity and grace. She was a woman who was honest. I can recall when I would go to her and ask her opinion on various issues. She wouldn't tell me what I wanted to hear. She would tell me what I needed to hear. She would tell me what was indeed right. Being the father of three daughters, I can't help but say, Thank you, JUANITA. Thank you for being the pioneer that you were. Thank you for blazing a trail, a trail that's so wide for women, all women, like my three young daughters, so that they can walk now on that path, so that they now can have opportunities that were denied others because you have fought the fight.

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In the church that I come from, the question is, have you helped someone, and the song says, "If you've helped someone, then your living shall not be in vain."

In the life story of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, she has indeed helped a whole lot of somebodies and she has made life better for a lot of children yet unborn. She has made history. And in the camera of history and in the camera of life of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, it will be recorded that she was a soldier in this thing we call life, and she was a leader for all human beings but in particular to make sure that for women, their tomorrow is better than their yesterday or today.

JUANITA, we will miss you, and we know that as you see the good Lord, He's saying, "Well done, JUANITA. Job well done."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. Rahall) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in the words of mourning and celebration of the life of our late colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. She was a leader on many issues as we have heard stated already. And foremost among those in my opinion was her leadership and her vision as the first African American female chairman of a major committee here on Capitol Hill. She had a plan for how this City on a Hill would operate in a smoother and more efficient manner. And while she may not be with us to see that vision carried out, it is my hope that we will carry it out in memory of her. So to her husband and to her children and to her grandchildren, I hope that her memories will serve as a source of inner strength, inspiration, courage, and love for the rest of their lives. . . .

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. Jefferson) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2½ minutes.

Mr. JEFFERSON. I thank the Chair.

The 17th century poet John Donne speaks to death thusly: "Death be not proud," he says, "though some have called you mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so. And those thou thinkest thy doth overthrow die not, poor death. A short sleep past, we wake eternally and death shall be no more."

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This is the confidence in her Christian faith with which our sister, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, lived and with which she passed from this earth. This is what she meant when she told her family that she was going home. This is what we saw and at which we marveled as we observed her peace on display in the final hours that she worked amongst us, giving not a hint of distress or brokenheartedness or loss of confidence. Her grace and elegance in her final months and years when she knew well her earthly fate is a lesson in how to live and how to leave this life for those of us who still live on this side.

Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was serious about her work. I had the pleasure of finding this out firsthand when I was chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and JUANITA was chair of the CBCF's annual legislative weekend. She helped to organize this event, which drew over 40,000 African American leaders to Washington, with great attention to detail, taxing all of us—sometimes we thought then too much—to meet our responsibilities and on time. But the result was a magnificent event heralded by all of us as one of our very best. This House got only a glimpse of her profound organizational skills as she had the chance to serve us only a short time in her post as chair of the Committee on House Administration. It would have been wonderful for we who work here and for our Nation if we had been privileged to see more.

As it is now, we welcome our sister to her rest in the bosom of her Lord and we pray for comfort and peace for James, her husband, and their five children and grandchildren, and we thank her for her friendship and commitment to the House, to her constituents, and to her country. She served us proudly and well, and she will be well remembered.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

In the end it is faith that proves victorious. Days come and go. Wars and famine cry out for justice, charity and peace. It is faith which helps us all respond to every call. It is faith that strengthens Your people for the struggle and, in the end, brings promise beyond the sacrifice.

Lord God, as faith inspired the apostles and martyrs and all who have gone before us, let living faith now find expres-

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sion in us through acts of love that will excite hope, especially in the hearts of the poor and the fragile.

Help the Members of Congress and all Americans make decisions today that will build a justice that will not fail tomorrow. With faith, enable them to set aside goods of the present moment in the hope of attaining eternal good. With faith, it is possible to hope to change the present for the future.

We pray for the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD and all Your servants who have served You and Your people in public service. With faith, they can leave this place and find in You eternal reward. The free children of God are always on the move, both now and forever.

Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 165

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, late a Representative from the State of California.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns or recesses today, it stand adjourned or recessed as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Representative.

THURSDAY, April 26, 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Cummings) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday we will lay to rest a truly gifted friend, colleague, and public servant, the Representative from California's 37th Congressional District, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. So today I would like to pay tribute to her legacy.

In 1997 *Glamour* magazine wisely named Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD as "one of 11 women who will change the world." And even though she has left us before her time,

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her very significant and meaningful impact on the world is known.

Although Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD has crossed over, her actions will continue to reverberate for us and for generations yet unborn.

We both came to the Congress as a result of special elections in 1996. She came on March 25 and I was sworn in on April 26. As a close colleague, I was proud to see her take the helm of the House Administration Committee, which deemed her the “mayor of Capitol Hill.” And, indeed, she was. In fact, she was the first African American woman to chair a House Committee.

Further, within this committee, she was a leader in addressing issues of voting irregularities and voter disenfranchisement.

I also worked closely with her on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for 11 years. And most recently, as Congress worked with the passage of the SAFETEA-LU bill, a major piece of legislation addressing highways, transit, and other public legislation, she was indeed a strong advocate for her district and for her State.

When I served as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I asked her to serve as the chairperson of the Annual Legislative Weekend, and she did so with class.

The year 2003, when she served as head of the Annual Legislative Weekend, was a very difficult year for all of us. The caucus had several issues to confront: Widespread unemployment, the war in Iraq, and coping with the negative effects of the Bush administration policies. Still, amidst these tough times, she led a 4-day conference entitled, “Collective Leadership—Challenging a Bold New World.”

That conference reenergized our constituencies to fight for that better world that she fought for every day.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD changed the world by being a pioneer, and she paved a path for many to follow. She was the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council. She was the first to hold the position of chairperson of two very powerful California State Assembly committees, Insurance and Revenue and Taxation, in her first term.

Here in Washington she gave a voice to the voiceless by speaking out against genocide in Cambodia, Darfur, and other regions of the world. She also addressed global HIV/AIDS, which was a major issue for her, and she organized an annual 5K AIDS walk in her district.

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During the 108th Congress, she drafted language that was incorporated into the U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act, which authorized funding to reduce mother-to-child transmissions of HIV/AIDS and gave priority in awarding of funds to organizations focused on family survival.

In the 109th Congress, she introduced legislation to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 that would establish a network of pediatric centers in certain developing countries to provide treatment and care for children with HIV/AIDS. She fought tirelessly for women's rights and empowering women to be all that they can be.

As the first Democratic chair of the Congressional Democratic Caucus for Women's Issues, she led the caucus on two groundbreaking meetings, the first with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to talk about the plight of women globally, and another with the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange to develop strategies for increasing women's investments and net worth.

She also worked to give women who served our country in uniform during wartime the recognition which they richly deserved. In this regard, she initiated the first annual Memorial Day tribute to women in the military at the Women's Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, and led the fight to secure \$15 million for the maintenance of that memorial.

Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD did indeed change the world, and she will not be forgotten. My prayers go out to her husband and her family.

TUESDAY, *May 1, 2007*

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 328, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD:

The gentleman from California, Mr. Stark

The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Pelosi, and the members of the California delegation:

Mr. George Miller

Mr. Waxman

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Mr. Lewis
Mr. Dreier
Mr. Hunter
Mr. Lantos
Mr. Berman
Mr. Gallegly
Mr. Herger
Mr. Rohrabacher
Mr. Doolittle
Ms. Waters
Mr. Becerra
Mr. Calvert
Ms. Eshoo
Mr. Filner
Mr. McKeon
Ms. Roybal-Allard
Mr. Royce
Ms. Woolsey
Mr. Farr
Ms. Zoe Lofgren
Mr. Radanovich
Mr. Sherman
Ms. Loretta Sanchez
Mrs. Tauscher
Mrs. Capps
Mrs. Bono
Ms. Lee
Mr. Gary G. Miller
Mrs. Napolitano
Mr. Thompson
Mr. Baca
Ms. Harman
Mrs. Davis
Mr. Honda
Mr. Issa
Mr. Schiff
Ms. Solis
Ms. Watson
Mr. Cardoza
Mr. Nunes
Ms. Linda T. Sánchez
Mr. Daniel E. Lungren
Mr. Costa
Ms. Matsui
Mr. Campbell

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Mr. Bilbray
Mr. McCarthy
Mr. McNerney, and
Mr. Conyers, Michigan
Mr. Lewis, Georgia
Mr. Faleomavaega, American Samoa
Mr. McDermott, Washington
Ms. Norton, District of Columbia
Mr. Jefferson, Louisiana
Mr. Bishop, Georgia
Ms. Corrine Brown, Florida
Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Texas
Mr. Scott, Virginia
Mr. Watt, North Carolina
Mr. Thompson, Mississippi
Ms. Jackson-Lee, Texas
Mr. Cummings, Maryland
Mr. Hinojosa, Texas
Ms. Kilpatrick, Michigan
Mr. Kucinich, Ohio
Mr. Meeks, New York
Ms. Berkley, Nevada
Mr. Gonzalez, Texas
Mr. Holt, New Jersey
Mrs. Jones, Ohio
Mr. Davis, Alabama
Mr. Meek, Florida
Mr. Scott, Georgia
Mr. Butterfield, North Carolina
Mr. Cleaver, Missouri
Mr. Al Green, Texas
Ms. Moore, Wisconsin
Ms. Clarke, New York
Mr. Ellison, Minnesota
Mr. Johnson, Georgia

Mr. CONYERS. . . . We celebrated the life yesterday of our dearest colleague JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD as she was memorialized in Los Angeles. What a dynamic, unusual, amazing circumstance of a young girl from Alabama transporting herself to the first elected chairwoman of color of the House Administration Committee. . . .

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WEDNESDAY, *May 16, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former California Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD and her lifetime of dedication to the people of California and the United States. I was deeply saddened to learn our colleague passed away so suddenly. We have not only lost a wonderful friend but an individual who during her lifetime made countless contributions toward the betterment of our Nation.

A native of Alabama—there is some dispute as to whether she was born in Gee’s Bend or Birmingham—JUANITA’s ties to her home State remained strong throughout her life. In fact, just a few short years ago, she was extremely involved with her family reunion which was held in Monroeville, in Alabama’s First District. She was always so very proud of her family and naturally, they are so very proud of her.

JUANITA began her career as a teacher in Los Angeles. She was also the editor-writer for the Los Angeles Unified School District and worked as a manuscript editor for “Images,” a textbook designed to enhance the self-esteem of young women. She began her political career in 1990, when she was elected to the Carson City Council. Just 2 years later, she was elected to the California State Assembly.

In 1996, JUANITA was elected to represent the 37th District of California in the U.S. House of Representatives. Throughout her six* terms, she was a champion of election reform and women’s health issues. She made history in the 110th Congress when she was named chairwoman of the House Administration Committee becoming the first African American woman to chair a House committee.

We are privileged to have known and worked with such a passionate and loyal individual. JUANITA will be greatly missed and always remembered. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be deeply missed by her family—her husband, James McDonald Jr., her five children, and five grandchildren—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

*Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD had just started her seventh term.

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Proceedings in the Senate

MONDAY, *April 23, 2007*

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 165—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. McConnell, Mrs. Feinstein, Mrs. Boxer, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Allard, Mr. Baucus, Mr. Bayh, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Biden, Mr. Bingaman, Mr. Bond, Mr. Brown, Mr. Brownback, Mr. Bunning, Mr. Burr, Mr. Byrd, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Carper, Mr. Casey, Mr. Chambliss, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Coburn, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Coleman, Ms. Collins, Mr. Conrad, Mr. Corker, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Craig, Mr. Crapo, Mr. DeMint, Mr. Dodd, Mrs. Dole, Mr. Domenici, Mr. Dorgan, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Ensign, Mr. Enzi, Mr. Feingold, Mr. Graham, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Gregg, Mr. Hagel, Mr. Harkin, Mr. Hatch, Mrs. Hutchison, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Inouye, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kerry, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Kohl, Mr. Kyl, Ms. Landrieu, Mr. Lautenberg, Mr. Leahy, Mr. Levin, Mr. Lieberman, Mrs. Lincoln, Mr. Lott, Mr. Lugar, Mr. Martinez, Mr. McCain, Mrs. McCaskill, Mr. Menendez, Ms. Mikulski, Ms. Murkowski, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Nelson of Florida, Mr. Nelson of Nebraska, Mr. Obama, Mr. Pryor, Mr. Reed, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Salazar, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Schumer, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Shelby, Mr. Smith, Ms. Snowe, Mr. Specter, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Sununu, Mr. Tester, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Thune, Mr. Vitter, Mr. Voinovich, Mr. Warner, Mr. Webb, Mr. Whitehouse, and Mr. Wyden) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 165

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, late a Representative from the State of California.

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Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns or recesses today, it stand adjourned or recessed as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Representative.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 165, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 165) relative to the death of Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, of California.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the *Record*.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 165) was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, if there is no further business today, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 165 as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:26 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at 10 a.m.

TUESDAY, April 24, 2007

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I honor the memory of Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, a kind-hearted woman whose remarkable life touched so many of us.

JUANITA was a loving mother, and a dedicated public servant who approached her work with an upbeat attitude and can-do spirit that was an inspiration to us all.

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Her passing is a tragic loss for California, the 37th Congressional District she so ably represented, and the many Members of Congress with whom she has worked over the years.

JUANITA's career broke through so many barriers for women and African Americans. Her rise as the first African American woman to chair a congressional committee was only the latest of many firsts in her career.

In her over six terms of service in the House of Representatives, she fought valiantly for the rights of women, for the security of our Nation, and for the protection of human rights across our Nation and the world.

JUANITA's efforts to reach across the aisle made her one of the most effective Members of Congress, but it was her bold initiatives that embodied the courage with which she followed her convictions.

In her first year in Congress, JUANITA immediately demanded the attention of the Nation when she brought then-CIA director John Deutch to Watts to address a newspaper report that the CIA was using profits from domestic crack-cocaine sales to fund CIA-backed Contras in Nicaragua.

JUANITA's commitment to the health of our communities has been profound, and her efforts addressed the needs not only of her constituents, but to the victims of disease around the world.

She led the charge to enact the Mother-to-Child HIV/AIDS Transmission Act that has become the foundation of President Bush's \$15 billion African AIDS initiative. For nearly a decade, JUANITA coordinated the annual AIDS Walk in her district to help continue to inform the community and raise awareness of this deadly disease.

During her tenure as the ranking member of the Committee on House Administration, JUANITA fought to ensure that every ballot that is cast is counted, and that all of the citizens of our country would know their voting rights.

JUANITA has been inspiring young women since the beginning of her career as an educator in California, when she served the Los Angeles Unified School District as a career counselor and edited "Images," a State textbook which encouraged young women to pursue non-traditional careers.

As the Democratic chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, she sought to address the plight of women globally, brought together the women of Congress with the first female Supreme Court Justices to discuss issues important to women across the Nation, and sought recognition for

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the women in uniform who have served our country in times of war with the first annual Memorial Day Tribute to Women in the Military at the Arlington National Cemetery's Women's Memorial.

On so many issues, I have been fortunate enough to consider JUANITA a valuable ally and friend, but I will especially miss her work as a leading voice on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. As the Representative of a district with two of the busiest ports in the United States, JUANITA was a passionate supporter of the effort to ensure that the movement of goods is safe, secure, and efficient.

Through these past years, JUANITA and I worked together to keep the C-17 production line from being mothballed by President Bush and furloughing hundreds of employees.

I know that JUANITA's presence will be sorely missed by communities which she served so tirelessly. Today I send my sincere condolences to her husband James, her five children, her staff, and all those who knew and loved her. Together we will continue her important work.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: . . .

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 328. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, a Representative from the State of California.

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Congresswoman
Juanita Millender-McDonald
September 7, 1938–April 21, 2007

Proverbs 31:8
Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the
rights of all who are destitute.

Monday, April 30th, 2007
12:00 p.m.
Second Baptist Church
2412 Griffith Avenue
Los Angeles, California

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A Tribute to a Woman of Integrity

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was the youngest of five children born to the Reverend Shelly and Everlina Dortch Millender on September 7, 1938, in Birmingham, Alabama. As the great-granddaughter and granddaughter of A.M.E. ministers and the daughter of a Baptist minister, her life's work would be deeply rooted in faith and guided by high moral values. Her accomplishments, iron clad commitment and generosity were simply a manifestation of the teachings and qualities reflective of her father's training.

At the age of three when her mother died, her father assumed the rare role of matriarch. Gently, quietly, and sternly, he raised five children alone and instilled in them a strong work ethic. JUANITA's drive for perfection, hard work and leadership qualities were shaped by this philosophy. From an early age, what she did and how she did it was always kept to herself, yet her results spoke for themselves. She could very well be labeled a "quiet warrior."

She attended Carrie A. Tuggle Elementary School and graduated from Holy Family Catholic High School with honors. She married James McDonald, Jr., and the couple moved to Southern California soon after. They raised five very active children even as she pursued a successful career within the Los Angeles Unified School District. In 1981, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Redlands and Master of Arts in Educational Administration from California State University at Los Angeles.

JUANITA's political career began in 1990 when she was elected and served as a Carson City Council member and Mayor Pro Tempore within her first term. In 1992, she catapulted into the State Assembly where she served as chairwoman of two powerful California State Assembly committees (Insurance and Revenue and Taxation) during her two terms.

JUANITA continued her legacy of achievement parlaying her political successes into winning a seat in Congress in 1996. When U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi named her Chairwoman of the House Committee on Administration, she became the first African American woman in history to chair a full House committee. As Chairwoman of this committee, she oversaw the operation of the House of Representatives; the Library of Congress; the Smithsonian Institute; the National Zoo and all federal elec-

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tions. She was the first African American woman to give the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address, and the first to be named Honorary Curator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach.

JUANITA was nationally known as an unwavering advocate for women, families, people of color and small business. As co-chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus, she supported initiatives that promoted women's wellness and celebrated their achievements.

Her legislative proposals included, but were not limited to "Preventing Mother-to-Child HIV/AIDS Transmission Act," the "Women and Heart Disease Resolution," and the "Empowering Women Business Owners Act." Among her many sponsored initiatives, two bills stand out as an example of her commitment to underrepresented populations: "The Second Chance Voting Rights Act of 2000" which aimed to restore the voting rights to former inmates and "The Healthy People, Healthy Choices Act" to address the devastating impact of obesity in minority communities. She was a firm believer in diversity, access and equal opportunity. Gaining international headlines and drawing national attention to the inner city substance abuse problem, JUANITA was instrumental in bringing CIA Director John Deutch to Watts to address allegations of Agency involvement in the international drug trade. Covered by ABC's *Nightline*, the meeting sparked national debate over the role of the federal government in addressing the issue.

JUANITA served on several community, professional and civic boards, including the National Association of Female Executives, the National Women's Political Caucus, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Southern California and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She was on the Board of Trustees for Second Baptist Church and an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She was founder and executive director of the League of African American Women, an organization of 40 African American Women groups responsible for the annual "AIDS Walk for Minority Women and Children." The African American Women's Health and Education Foundation will be the ongoing legacy for continued support of and research on AIDS prevention.

Considering all these firsts and tremendous accomplishments, JUANITA's most significant impact was made on her family. She was a symbol of generations and generations of proud people who overcame adversity in a world that did not

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always understand the circumstances of women and people of color. JUANITA raised her children and grandchildren to never settle for mediocrity. She influenced her brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces and cousins to persevere and be fully engaged in the pursuit of their passions.

JUANITA is survived by her husband James McDonald and their five children, Valerie, Angela (Juan), Sherryll, Derrick, Keith (Lori) and five grandchildren, Ayanna, Ramia, Myles, Blair and Diamond; her sisters Dicksey Marie (Vernon) and Nora (Herbert), brother Shelly (Brenda); her nephews and nieces, Wanda (Ted), Yolanda, LaMont (Debra), James, Galen, Michelle, Mark (LaVeda), Derrick, Vikki (Christopher), Herbert (Toni), Yuri, Shelly III (Darlene), Eryka (Randall); grand nephews and nieces, LaMont II, Dejeana, David, Andrew, William, Jr., Courtney (Gerald), Angelina, Kendall, Cameron, Austin, Alexandra, Shelby, Shelly IV, Shelby, Randall, Jr., and Ryan; uncles and aunt, William Dortch (Vivian), Oliver Webb and Reba McCants; father-in-law, James McDonald, Sr. (Vera) and sister-in-law, Quincy Ballard along with a host of cousins and many friends. She was preceded in death by her father, mother and brother William.

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CONGRESSWOMAN
JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

Instrumental and Combined Choirs

The Second Baptist Church Consoling Choir and the Los Angeles Inner City Mass Choir

Processional

Pastor William S. Epps

Opening Prayer

Reverend Gregory Morris

Musical Selection

“Amazing Grace”

Combined Choirs

Scripture Readings

Ms. Sheryl Lee Ralph

Old Testament

Proverbs 31:8–11

New Testament

1 Corinthians 15:10

2 Timothy 4:7–8

Prayer of Comfort

Reverend Leslie R. White

Greeting

The Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa
Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Musical Selection

“Precious Lord”

Combined Choirs

Acknowledgements

Valerie J. McDonald

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Family Reflections

Sherryll McDonald
Michael C. McDonald
Grandchildren with Angela McDonald-Thomas
and Lori McDonald
Wanda Levatter

Musical Selection

“Then My Living Shall Not Be in Vain”
Ms. Marie Marsh

Tributes

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Speaker
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
The Honorable Carolyn Kilpatrick
Mr. Jimmie Lee Solomon
Dr. Helene Gayle

Musical Selection

“I Won’t Complain”
Ms. Marie Marsh

Tributes

The Honorable Willie L. Brown, Jr.
The Honorable Grace Napolitano
The Honorable Diane E. Watson
The Honorable Mervyn M. Dymally
Chief Anthony Batts
Mr. David Crippens

Eulogy

Pastor William S. Epps

Musical Selection

“In the Upper Room”
Consoling Choir

Benediction

Pastor William S. Epps

Recessional

**Upon conclusion of this service,
please remain seated until the family,
Congressional Delegation and dignitaries have departed.**

By request of the family, the interment is private.

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Active Pallbearers
Military Service Honor Guard

Honorary Pallbearers
Michael Christopher McDonald
Myles McDonald
Roderick Keith McDonald

Lambert Adouki
Steve Bagby
The Honorable Steve Bradford
Terry Carter
Lamont Chappell
James Chappell
Galen Chappell
Mark Chappell
The Honorable Larry Forester
Derrick Freeman
The Honorable Mike Gipson
Larry Grant
The Honorable Isadore Hall
Vincent Harris
Andrew Hudson
Ted Levatter
Andre Lewis
James D. Lites
Kevin Martin
Marcus Mason
Herbert Mathews Jr.
Bandelee McQueen, Esq.
Shelly Millender III
Patrick Patterson
Paul Patterson
Ian Patton
Terry Stinson
E. Dotson Wilson
Gary Winuk
Henry Dixon
Rodney Emery
Hasan Christian

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Acknowledgments

The family wishes to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy and condolence they have received. The outpouring of support has been overwhelming. We ask that you continue to pray for us. May God's continuous blessings be yours.

Praise her for the many fine things she does. These good deeds of hers shall bring her honor and recognition from people of importance.

Proverbs 31:31

When I must leave you for a little while, please do not grieve and shed wild tears, and hug your sorrow to you through the years but start out bravely with a gallant smile and for my sake and in my name live on and do all things the same. Seek not your loneliness on empty days but fill each waking hour in useful ways. Reach out your hand in comfort and cheer. And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near and never be afraid to die for I am waiting for you in the sky.

Valerie J. McDonald. On behalf of my family (immediate and extended), I want to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy and condolence we have received during these very difficult times. The outpouring of support has been overwhelming and it truly warms my heart to know that my mother had such an impact on so many people. I cannot thank everyone by name at this time, but would like to thank the following persons for their ongoing communications and concerns:

Pastor Epps and my Second Baptist Church family
Sybil Brown

The cities of Carson, Compton, Long Beach, Signal Hill
and Los Angeles

Councilman Mike Gipson

Councilwoman Jan Perry

The county of Los Angeles and the offices of Supervisors
Yvonne Braithwaite Burke and Gloria Molina

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Time Warner
The office of Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas
The University of Southern California
The office of Assembly Member Laura Richardson

I would also like to acknowledge the work and support of those whose efforts have assisted us immensely:

My mother's staff, specifically Mary Gaddis and Josephine Martin who have worked tirelessly since joining her office over 15 years ago.

Marcus Mason, Bandele McQueen, Terry Carter and Carmen Taylor all of whom made sure the people in the 37th Congressional District continued to receive the service my mother always demonstrated and demanded.

Top Sergeants Vincent Harris and Terry Stinson who assisted in making sure my family was insulated from any unwarranted activity, helping us to focus on the matters of importance to my mother and her constituents.

They collectively assisted the DC and district offices in making the transition from the Office of Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD to the Offices of the 37th Congressional District. Your friendship and love cannot be measured and we thank you.

You know, my mother lived in an era of great change.

During her lifetime, she witnessed Jackie Robinson break the color barrier in major league baseball, the collapse of Jim Crow segregation, and the emergence of opportunities unavailable to previous generations.

She took stock of "firsts" by trumpeting the achievements of others and chronicling her own accomplishments. That's why the presence of the first female Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi means so much to us. Likewise, she would want me to acknowledge the first female and African American Chief Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, Lorraine Miller. And finally, she would ask me not to forget to mention former California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, Jr., who was her first Speaker and whose mentorship she respected.

I personally want to thank Representatives Grace Napolitano, Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, Barbara Lee, Diane E. Watson, and Sanford Bishop. Their phone calls almost every day reached out to my entire family, especially my

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dad, to inquire about his emotional, physical and spiritual well-being.

I want to acknowledge Sergeant at Arms, Wilson Livingood and Ted Daniel and the Capitol Police for their assistance in providing the continuity of this service.

To my aunts Nora and Dicksey, thank you for supporting my mother her entire life. When mom needed an ear to listen, precinct walkers, telephone callers or donors to her campaign, you were there. Yesterday, Representative Diane Watson, the California Teacher's Association, the AKAs, the Carson Women's Club, the Fannie Lou Hammer Queen Mothers Society, and the League of African American Women presented resolutions to my mother at a memorial organized by Aunt Dicksey, allowing several members of mom's constituency to express their feelings. Thank you.

I'm sure I have forgotten to mention many names so please forgive me and accept my thanks on behalf of my family for your love, kindness and compassion.

Wanda Levatter. Good afternoon, my name is Wanda Chappell-Levatter. I am D. Marie Chappell-Battle's eldest child, and I am also the eldest child of the family's baby boomer generation. Upon being informed of my aunt's death, I was also told that she wanted me to speak. My Aunt JUANITA honors me here today. It is both a privilege and an honor for me to represent all of her nieces and nephews.

The core family name is Millender, but we along with our cousins carry many different last names such as McDonald, Chappell, Mathews, Levatter, Brown, Thomas, Dortch, Freeman, etc. So many last names that I can't list them all.

Our names are from all over the world—Dutch, French, Russian, English, etc. Names that point to our slave heritage as well as our ancestors' legacies. I am saying this all to acknowledge the fact that JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD's name was unusual from the start. When she was born she was a star! She was given a Spanish first name—Juanita. Millender is a name of Dutch descent. And McDonald, her married name, is a Scottish surname.

How apropos is it that JUANITA, born a black Southern female, had names from everywhere. But be assured that she summed her name up by being an American. A great, all-American woman. A leader in her neighborhood, her community, the State of California, and our great country. Yes, a leader, but first a leader in our American family.

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Aunt JUANITA loved her family—Uncle James, Val, Angie, Sherrie, Chris, Keith, her son-in-law, Juan, and her beloved daughter-in-law Lori. When the grandchildren, Ayanna, Myles, Ramia and Blair came along, she was ecstatic and the quintessential, doting grandmother.

She loved her older siblings, D. Marie, Nora, Shelly Jr. (Buddy), and Harvey. Being only 3 years old when her mother passed away, JUANITA was raised by her older siblings and their dad who remained a widower until his death in the 1980s.

In the same loving manner, she instinctively loved each and every one of her nieces and nephews, along with a multitude of cousins, many of whom are here today from all over the Nation. Speaking for 14 nieces and nephews, 11 grandnieces and nephews, and 1 great-grandnephew, Baby Charles, is virtually an impossible task.

I did gather some information from a few of my relations, but decided otherwise. Since I have known my aunt the longest—she was a pre-teenager when I was born—I decided to keep it simple. I give you my impressions and the memories she has left me.

Maya Angelou wrote, “Love life, engage in it, give it all you got! Love it with a passion, because life truly does give back, many times over what you put into it!”

JUANITA was all of that and more. She was ferocious if someone was unfair to an individual. She spoke up, and let you know what was on her mind. She did not let people get away with anything. She championed children, women, men, minorities, the handicapped, the disenfranchised, etc. Her voice rang out in the State legislature and in the House of Congress for fairness, decency, and compassion for those less fortunate.

JUANITA was eloquent, dignified, witty, clever, and very strong-willed. Even the illness that she eventually succumbed to had a formidable battle on its hands. She was determined to fight it until the end. And she did. She literally worked until just days before her death.

My impressions? They are simple compared to her great accomplishments, but nevertheless, they are mine.

I loved the way when she heard something funny how she would chuckle at first and would eventually laugh out loud, clap her hands and reply with either, “that’s a good one” or “child, please!”

I loved how when she was a teenager she loved to drink RC Cola—Royal Crown Cola—a habit that must have dis-

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appeared in her twenties, but something I remember about her with endearment. I thought it was so cool!

I loved the way she would wave at me when we both went to Holy Family in Birmingham. I was in kindergarten, and she was in high school. I'd only see her on rainy days when the whole school was in the big gymnasium. I loved getting her attention.

I loved watching "American Bandstand" with her when it originated from Philadelphia and learning how to do the stroll, the cha-cha-cha, the mashed potato, and the twist from her.

I loved the way she said, "Daddy" when referring to my grandfather. I loved that she married in this church and remained a member throughout her life.

I loved how she engaged my brother, James, a special needs child and/or others who were challenged. She never forgot their limitations, but recognized the goodness and strengths of each of them.

I loved how she calmed me down at my wedding when the florist arrived late. She was loving, patient, and very sensible.

I loved the way she embraced my husband and other in-laws as they married into the family. I loved the more than 50 Thanksgiving meals in which everyone partook in both family games and passionate and very heated political debates. When we left those events, we were all stirred up, shook up, and overly stimulated.

I loved being a witness to her and her two sisters, D. Marie and Nora. They were the mighty three, the formidable trio, the matriarchs of the family—the Millender sisters. When they were involved in anything—step back, keep your mouth shut, and get out of the way! They took no prisoners. They were on a mission to change the world. Even I, the first born, never encroached upon that holy order. I knew my place. And I stood back in awe.

I loved how my aunt took me out on my 21st birthday to the "space" restaurant at LAX. I enjoyed my first adult fine dining experience there with JUANITA. Despite my natural inclination to just order a hamburger and to be a kid, she told me that I was older now and needed to know the ways of the world.

Upon her insistence, I had my first drink, a daiquiri. I also enjoyed the first and the only time I ever tasted filet mignon. I remember it because it tasted like butter. JUANITA laughed about it years later because within a few weeks of that meal,

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I became a lifelong vegetarian. But boy do I remember that meal! It was special! One of the few times I was with her by myself.

It was obvious that she was preparing me for adulthood. She never said what I should or should not do, but I knew what was expected of me. I was expected to work hard, to be self-sufficient, intelligent, informed, witty, charming, and above all, polite.

Last, I loved how she died on her own terms, at her home, in her own bed. JUANITA, Maya Angelou's words really do sum up the life you lived. You loved life, engaged in it with a passion and in every way you gave it all you had to give. Life in turn, gave back to you many times over what you put into it. I love you, we love you, and I will now take the liberty to call you by the name that only your brothers and sisters, Yolanda, LaMont and myself were allowed to call you. Our words of endearment, Baby Sister.

Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House. On behalf of all Members of Congress, I rise to pay tribute to Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, who passed away Saturday night. I offer the deepest sympathies to her family who loved her so dearly—her husband, James McDonald, Jr., her five children, and her five grandchildren.

As the first African American woman to chair a committee in Congress, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a trailblazer, always advocating for the full participation of all Americans in the success and prosperity of our country. She was a strong defender of the right of every eligible voter to have full access to the polls, and a tireless proponent of fair elections that ensured that every vote would be counted.

As chair of the House Administration Committee, Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's deep commitment to diversity was manifested in her actions on hiring and contracting within the House of Representatives. She enjoyed her role as the "mayor" of Capitol Hill, and was known for asking tourists in elevators "are you finding everything OK?" and listening closely to their response.

After her family, the people of California's 37th District were always first and foremost in Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's mind and her work here in Congress. She saw it as a priority to make sure they had every opportunity. She worked to strengthen the economy and create jobs there, and she saw it as a priority to secure the two ports adjacent to her district.

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Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was an advocate for justice around the world. She spoke out forcefully against the genocide in Darfur, and was a powerful advocate for the rights of women everywhere. As a former co-chairwoman of the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues, she worked for gender equity here at home and throughout the world.

The loss of Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD is a personal one for many of us here. She was always optimistic and determined to make a difference. The dignity with which she faced her illness was an indication of the determination with which she always served the people of our country. We have all lost an effective leader and spokeswoman, and many of us have lost a dear friend.

When we look around this Chamber, it’s almost impossible to imagine it without JUANITA here fighting the fight, and doing so looking magnificent. The dignity, the grace, the beauty, the thoughtfulness that she brought to the tasks at hand were a model for others. Young people would come to the Capitol and observe her in action and learn from her.

We also learned from her how to have dignity at the end of life. Many of us knew that she had had bouts of illness, but we really didn’t know how serious it was and how close she was to what she said, her daughter told me, “going home.” Valerie said to me last night, she said, “I want to make all these arrangements so that I can go home.”

I hope it is a comfort to Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD’s family and friends that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time. Many of us will travel to California to say goodbye to JUANITA, to speak to her in that familiar way.

It’s been an honor to call her colleague—I know we all agree on that. And for many of us it was a privilege also to call her friend.

Goodbye, my friend.

Hon. Carolyn Kilpatrick, Congresswoman. On behalf of the entire body of the Congressional Black Caucus, we wish to extend our sincerest condolences to the family of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. JUANITA was not only our colleague, but she was also a woman of supreme character, a devoted leader, and a dear friend.

History will record her as the first African American woman to chair a full committee in the U.S. House of Representatives; our hearts will revere her as a fearless leader

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who vowed to enhance our local and global communities through tireless service and timely advocacy.

Most were unaware of Congresswoman McDonald's stellar background. A portrait of her life includes a gallery of groundbreaking distinctions, including being the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council; the first African American woman to render the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address; the first to be named honorary curator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach; and the first Democratic chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Undoubtedly, serving in the U.S. House of Representatives was the right stage for this shining star.

Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be sorely missed. Her lasting commitment to making America honor its promise will remain unbridled. The CBC will continue to carry on the work of Congresswoman McDonald as we change course, confront crises, and continue the legacy.

Jimmie Lee Solomon, MLB Executive Vice President, Baseball Operations. To the family, colleagues, and friends of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, I am deeply honored to be here today to add my voice to those mourning her loss, celebrating her memory, and recognizing her outstanding legacy of service.

When I was asked to speak, I must admit that I wondered initially if I was qualified to do so, especially in the company of so many who had known her so much better. And so much longer.

However, as I reflected on the impact of my experience with Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD, I knew that I had to be here.

It was important to share with you personally yet another dimension of her passionate commitment, and tireless dedication to making a difference for her district and its young people—all qualities that I came to know firsthand.

In late February 2006, it was my privilege to introduce the Congresswoman at the opening of major league baseball's first urban youth academy on the campus of Compton Community College. From the outset of my career in major league baseball, it had been my dream to bring to America's inner-city communities a state-of-the-art facility where disadvantaged minority youth could not only learn to play baseball, but receive exposure and training for career opportunities both on and off the field.

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And no one outside the major league baseball family was a more effective ally in transforming this ambitious dream into a bricks-and-mortar reality than JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

When the Congresswoman first heard that we were looking at the Los Angeles area as a site for the academy, she approached me about considering Compton. Well, we came, we saw. And we were conquered by an extraordinary ambassador for California's 37th District.

The Congresswoman's enthusiasm and optimism about the area's potential redefined "straight outta Compton" into a badge of district pride. And now it has become a tremendous source of pride for major league baseball as well.

I don't know whether she fully embraced our vision of what the academy could mean to Compton's at-risk youth because of her years as a teacher, her work as a community activist, or simply her personal sensitivities as a mother and grandmother. But what we do know is that she "got it" and consistently lent her unwavering support and political savvy to facilitate the project, even as obstacles emerged along the way.

It was during those times that we saw the full measure of a woman who parted the waters for us without getting a drop on her elegant attire, a lioness who never lost any of her Southern-bred charm and graciousness in the heat of the fray. And we will never forget her efforts on our behalf.

To that end, I am pleased to announce that on August 9th of this year, major league baseball will dedicate the entire plaza concourse at the Compton Academy to Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, with the installation of a bronze plaque inscribed to a woman who may well be considered "the Godmother of the Academy."

The plaque will be positioned at a vista where it can easily be seen and read by each person who enters so that all may know that this facility would not have been possible without her strategic assistance.

As I contemplate the passing of this remarkable woman, I am reminded of a father who had two sons—one named Life and the other named Death. Life was an active child full of energy and abundance. He would put the mementos of everything he did in a box he kept under his bed. In that box were pictures, stories, souvenirs—anything that served as a reminder of what he had done that day. Life was a wonderful child who brought his father great joy.

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Now Death was just the opposite. Death was mischievous and always up to something disruptive that would get attention. Death would steal, openly cheat, and take advantage of anyone around him. Death wanted and created chaos wherever he went.

One day Life returned from his day's activities, went into his room and looked under his bed, but his box was gone! Life was hysterical and cried uncontrollably.

When the father heard the commotion, he came into the room and asked Life what was wrong. Life sobbed, "My box and all the things I collected are gone!"

The father said, "Life, I have known you and your brother all of your lives. And I have been keeping my eye on that conniving Death. Yesterday, he took your box. But I had been watching him, so before he did that, I took all your things and set them aside in my room. So when Death came, all he got was an empty box."

Our Father, God, is much like the father in the story. He has known JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and the great works she did to fulfill his plans for her life and all of us here today. Each in our own way are indeed testaments and memoirs of the life she lived.

So when death came to her home in Carson on April 22, her spirit had already soared to join her Heavenly Father in a joyous homecoming. And all he got was an empty box.

Thank you.

Hon. Diane E. Watson, Congresswoman. Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD left a legacy of dedicated service to her constituents, colleagues, and people of the United States. As the historic first African American female to chair a committee of the House of Representatives, JUANITA used her position as chairwoman of the House Administration Committee to correct oversights from the past and initiate new programs. She established a lasting legacy through her many good works. I salute JUANITA in spirit as I did in life.

The Juanita I Knew

By Congresswoman Diane E. Watson

A stylish lady with a soft touch and with might ...
Who in every instant revealed an intelligent insight;
Raised in a family where character was built
By a father who knew where her future would tilt;
She stayed true to her values with tolerance and grace
And modeled strict principles for all to embrace;

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To honor her father she would carry his name
In the middle of her signature to much acclaim;
A lady whose hard work truly reflected a family
Upbringing where much was expected;
JUANITA took on her new chairmanship with all great vigor
And made much progress in spite of the rigor;
Few had known that her time would be short;
But she took on the responsibility without even a thought;
She left life on her own terms;
From her stoic behavior we can all learn for God only knows
When the clock is to be set;
But we now know that JUANITA has been sent to her final rest;
So sleep on JUANITA, we'll remember you with love.

David Crippens, Chair, Trustee Board, Second Baptist Church. Our prayers and love go out to the husband, James; to the children, Angela, James Jr., Keith, Chris, Sherryll, and Valerie; to the grandchildren; to her sisters, Dr. D. Marie Millender-Battle, and Ms. Nora Millender-Matthews; and to the extended family.

Congresswoman MCDONALD, or if you will permit me, JUANITA, was a true sister of the members of this congregation and a true daughter of Second Baptist Church. She represented to the community what this church has been about for 122 years!

Second was established to be a spiritual home to the church members. And throughout its history, Second has always reached out to be of service to the broader community.

As a member of our trustee board, JUANITA was involved in one of the most momentous decisions that this church has ever made: the decision to stay and serve this neighborhood. The trustee board, with the congregation's approval, voted to preserve and restore this 81-year-old historic structure. This work will commence this summer.

In so doing, we honor the legacy of the visionary people who founded the church, and we look forward to the bright future of Los Angeles.

JUANITA used her vision, her character, and her great strength as a leader to contribute mightily to the same bright future.

On a personal note, JUANITA was the one who brought my wife and me to this marvelous congregation some 18 years ago. She expected me to get involved. She always held me accountable for that involvement. I can hear her say, "Now, David."

The congregation voted to honor her legacy to the trustee board and to the church by naming her trustee emeritus.

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This is no small accolade for a person who lived life to the fullest. She expected the same of others: not to see obstacles but to search out the possibilities.

JUANITA's life was like a stone thrown into a pond. The splash makes ripples in the form of circles, radiating out from the center. All of us here today are part of those ever-widening circles of her influence.

Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD's time on this Earth truly personified Pastor Epps' words to those who join this congregation: "Service is the price you pay for the space you occupy."

William S. Epps, Pastor. Death like a thief in the night came and took the life of one we have known. Unaware of the extent of the challenges she was facing with her health, those who heard the news were in shock. The public would later come to know what the family already knew; JUANITA was in a fight for her life in which she would fall as a victim. She bravely accepted what she could not change and faced the outcome of her inevitable demise courageously. She eased out of time quietly leaving behind a trail that traces the steps her life tells.

JUANITA MILLENDER was born on September 7, 1938. She exited this ephemeral reality on April 21, 2007. She lived to be 68 years, 7 months and 14 days. That translates into 25,063 days, 3,580 weeks and 823 months. The name JUANITA from the Hebrew origin means gift of God or God has been gracious and from the Spanish origin it means God's gift or God has been gracious. As we come to commemorate the life and celebrate the legacy of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD I want to use as our focus God has been gracious. We are thankful for God's gift to us in, through, and with JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I just want to talk to you about what JUANITA was as an expression of God's graciousness.

Saint Iranaeus, that second century theologian, who helped to shape the early development of Christian theology and direct the course of the church's beliefs, is credited with a statement that has lingered in the hearts of many about how faith finds expression. His work continues to inform modern scholarship about the priceless and timeless contribution of the thinking of his day. He is credited with the saying "the glory of God is a human fully alive." God wants people who are fully alive, not people who cower in fear but people who are not afraid to live to the fullest and make the

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most out of life. After all God made us to live life fully and abundantly.

JUANITA was a human being fully alive and therefore the glory of the Lord was revealed and seen in her as God's gift—the expression of God's graciousness. She was the quintessential woman for JUANITA epitomized what it meant to be a human who lived life fully. She embodied the characteristics of womanhood in all of their fullness. She did not sacrifice any aspect of what it meant to be a woman. She started as a daughter, the youngest of five siblings, became a young lady, a wife, a mother, an aunt, a grandmother, an educator, a legislator at the municipal, State and Federal levels, a consummate stateswoman, an advocate for the poor and disenfranchised, a lady of exceptional and rare grace, poise, and dignity. You can truly say of JUANITA that she is often imitated but never duplicated. She was truly one of a kind.

There is a person from the pages of sacred writ who comes to mind when I consider the gift we have had as an expression of God's graciousness in JUANITA. In Judges, chapter 4 and verse 4, it says, "at that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel." Let me paraphrase it to read, at that time JUANITA, God's gift, an expression of God's graciousness, the wife of James, the mother of Sherryll, Valerie, Angela, Chris, and Keith was in the legislature.

JUANITA was a present-day Deborah. We are simply told a few things about Deborah that frames the picture I want to paint for you on this occasion of our friend. We are told that Deborah was a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth and a judge in Israel. Deborah was a prophetess. She is described by the faith that shapes her life. A prophetess in that day was a person who was in touch with the reality of the Spirit of God to the extent that others recognized that there was something special about her. Her ability, capacity, honesty, and judgment were trusted. What she said carried weight and meant something. She was authentic and real and people believed in her. When she appeared people recognized her. When she stood her appearance was commanding. When she spoke people listened. She was a rare and exceptional breed indeed.

JUANITA was a person of faith. Her faith was the driving and motivating force behind her life. She was the great-granddaughter and granddaughter of A.M.E. ministers and the daughter of a Baptist minister. Her life's course was de-

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terminated by the faith that shaped her and all that she did, and became. Her faith informed her identity. Her faith provided the lens through which she interpreted information/reality. Her faith assisted her in integrating her insights. Her faith inspired her involvement. “She spoke up for those who could not speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute” (Proverbs 31:8). It was her faith that was the catalyst that propelled her to reach to do what she did because her faith became a mandate for her in the words of Jim Wallis, “to change the wind.” Can you do it, I don’t know, but I have to try. Will you make it, I am not sure, but I have to try. What if it doesn’t work, all I know is in the words of the poet, “I have to fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distant run.” I have to do what I can.

Deborah was the wife of Lappidoth. She is described by the relationship she had chosen by which she would be identified. Her relationship with her husband was one of the defining aspects of her life by which she was remembered.

JUANITA was the wife of James. She was a person for whom family was important. She did not live in isolation with a singularity of focus but chose to recognize the multiplicity of life’s emphases. Relationships are a part of life. Our lives are described by our relationships. JUANITA was the wife of James. She was proud to be James’ wife with all of the benefits that it afforded her. She had the security of a warm, loving environment where she could conceive and rear five children in the confines of a home where she was accepted, admired, and appreciated. As James’ wife she became the mother of Sherryll, Angela, Valerie, Christopher and Keith in a relationship of trust of faith that actualizes itself in the symbolic of becoming no more twain but one flesh. She was the wife of James. She was her parents’ daughter, her siblings’ sister, her students’ teacher, her staff’s manager, her constituents’ representative, her colleagues’ co-worker, her friends’ friend, her children’s parent and her husband’s wife. Her life was described by her relationships and her relationships were defined by her faith.

Finally, Deborah was a judge in Israel. Deborah was one of the early charismatic leaders of ancient Israel. She was among a small group of persons whose contributions are recorded in the seventh book of the Bible called Judges. She was the only one of her kind in the list as the others were men. It has been said that the best man for the job is a woman. Deborah was an outstanding person, able to arouse the scattered tribes of Israel to a sense of unity and loyalty

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to God in their early struggles against the Canaanites. This sense of unity was of critical importance for the establishment and continuing life of the nation of Israel.

JUANITA was a legislator at every level of government. She served as a member of the Carson City Council and mayor pro tempore. She served in the State Legislature of the State of California for two consecutive terms chairing the California State Assembly Committees on Insurance and Revenue and Taxation. She served in the U.S. Congress, being named most recently as the chairwoman of the House Committee on Administration by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, becoming the first African American woman to chair a full House committee.

She is among an elite group. You can count the African American women in the Congress of the United States (10 in number, now minus 1). They have emerged against the odds to shape the policies of a Nation that is still struggling with equality for all of its citizens. They are the last hope that we will continue to move forward and not retreat to the days of yesteryear when discrimination was acceptable.

JUANITA was a heroine of human rights (a feminist). Unfortunately, in politically conservative circles any reference to feminist or feminism is taboo. The term with what it represents let it be told is the reason for the decline in the family, morals, and values of the contemporary society. You are aware that the term simply means that you advocate for the equal rights, political and social, for women and everybody who is disenfranchised. A friend of mine, a feminist by the way, told me that the first feminist she ever met was her dad. I hope you get the point. A woman does not have to sacrifice being feminine to be a female. She can be like Deborah in a man's world, a judge exercising discretion in delicate matters, prudence in perplexing situations and wisdom in the most extreme of circumstances.

Well, let me close. I just want to close with what is part of the faith tradition of which JUANITA was a part; the tradition that shaped her understanding and guided her life of faith, her family life and her professional life.

She was a Christian. That shaped how she lived her life and how she faced her death. She faced death courageously like one who in the words of the poet could "wrap the drapery of her couch about her and lie down to pleasant dreams." She could say "Death, be not proud." You have not won a victory. You have merely opened a door through which I have passed. You are potent but not omnipotent. There are some

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things you cannot do. We have that saying around here. We know that death is limited. There are some things that death cannot do. Death cannot cancel the contribution that a person makes in a lifetime nor limit the length of the legacy that a loved one leaves behind. Death cannot erase the experience we hold dear nor mar the memories that we keep near.

Death and life had a meeting at a place shaped like a skull-shaped hill called Golgotha, known as Calvary. It was there that an innocent person was murdered. The state and people of faith formed what could be nothing less than an unholy alliance because they were threatened by the activity and growing popularity of an itinerant preacher named Jesus. Surreptitiously they planned how they could prevent the progress they saw being made. They wanted to retard the influence that Jesus had garnered by virtue of who he was and what he did. They made up charges and had a fabricated trial. They convicted an innocent man on trumped up charges in a kangaroo style court. After convicting him falsely, they mocked him, scourged him and put him to death on a cross. Preachers of another time would say, "they hung him high and stretched him wide and out there he died." Those who came to that sight could not do anything but show up and watch. They stood on the periphery of the place where the awful spectacle occurred and shook their heads and shed their tears. After he died, Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus. Then he took his body and wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb. That is what you do when you can't do anything. You accept graciously the privilege to pay a tribute of respect to a life well spent. You adhere to the custom of your community, the ritual of your religion and the tradition of your tribe. The women who had come with him from Gallilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how the body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

They waited Friday, and Saturday. Early on Sunday morning while it was yet dark, the women who had prepared their spices and ointments threaded their way through the darkened streets of a sleeping city to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. When they got there they found that the stone had been rolled away and Jesus was not there. An angelic announcement informed them about what had happened. Jesus was raised from the dead with all power in Heaven and in Earth in his hand. Thus, the composer says, "Death where is your sting? Sting where is your grave?"

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Grave where is your victory?" He got up. God raised him up. He got up with all power in his hand.

In Christ, God changed death from a period to a comma, the grave from a terminal point to a thoroughfare that leads to eternal life. So when we lay down for death's long sleep we simply move beyond the boundaries of time and space down the corridors of infinity to be with God in eternity.

So we say sleep on JUANITA, we will see you in the morning. There is a morning coming unlike any we have seen before. It will be like the first morning when God brooded over a wide abyss of nothingness and by the sheer essence of God's presence called a moratorium on nothing and declared that something would be the order of the day. In that morning the clouds will roll back as a scroll, Jesus will descend in the middle of the air, summoning the earth and sea to give up their dead. All who sleep in him will be given bodies like Jesus' own glorious body. Then we are told that the last enemy to be destroyed is death. Death will be summoned. Imagine the demise of death. The one who has caused so many to sorrow will meet with the ultimate end that has been the bane of our existence. Death will be no more. Then we will all form a long and lordly train and proceed down the corridors of infinity to a grand coronation.

One composer says:

When I get home, how happy I will be.
When I get home my Savior's face I'll see.
When I get home, I never more shall more roam.
You know bells will be ringing and saints will be singing when I get home.
I'll greet my friends and loved ones and all who have gone before.
Put on my golden slippers and walk the streets of gold.
I will join the choir of angels praising the Father and the Son.
You are talking about a glorious meeting loved ones greeting when I get home.
You are talking about joy; oh what joy, when we all get home to glory.
We will rest beneath a sun lit sky.
In that land, in that land, we shall sing and never die.
We will sing hallelujah; shout hallelujah, bye and bye.

Sleep on JUANITA we will see you in the morning. There is more to life than we can see and still more existence that is yet to be.

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A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
The Honorable
JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

California's 37th District

SEPTEMBER 7, 1938–APRIL 21, 2007

United States Capitol
Statuary Hall
Thursday, May 17, 2007
10:00 a.m.

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“It is imperative that we continue to speak out for positive change. As women our voices and initiatives will enable us to achieve the lives we want—and deserve.”

—Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald

Program

Prelude

United States Army String Quartet

Master of Ceremonies

The Honorable Diane E. Watson

United States House of Representatives

Opening Prayer

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver

United States House of Representatives

Reading

Proverbs 31:8–11 and I Corinthians 15:10

The Honorable Sheila Jackson-Lee

United States House of Representatives

Tributes

Ms. Barbara A. McKinzie

*International President, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
Incorporated*

The Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick

*United States House of Representatives
Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman*

The Honorable David E. Dreier

United States House of Representatives

Musical Selection

“Precious Lord”

Officer Melissa A. Recchiuti

United States Capitol Police

Family Reflection

Ms. Valerie J. McDonald

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Tributes

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip of the United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
*Majority Leader of the United States House of
Representatives*

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

Benediction

The Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin
Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives

Barbara A. McKinzie. Good morning to our honored Members of Congress, family of our beloved soror, and others assembled:

To the family, we grieve with you in the loss of one so special. We are gathered here in white as a symbol of our Ivy Beyond the Wall memorial service. Servant leadership is the journey of choice of each and every Alpha Kappa Alpha woman. Some of us are blessed to reach heights that others only dream of and certainly, our soror, JUANITA, was truly a blessed servant leader. She was a light of grace, dignity, and hope. Let us honor her memory by being lights of grace, dignity, and hope and thereby never forgetting her contributions.

In Alpha Kappa Alpha we have a tradition of saying, "For if I've been an AKA, life owes me naught, I've lived my day." Our prayers and thoughts will be with the family in their grief.

Carolyn C. Kilpatrick. To our sister, the queen, the leader, the dignified, the courageous: we promise to you we will never let you down. We promise to you we will continue to build the kingdom that God asked us to build as we walk the halls of Congress. We say to you our sister, rest in peace. We shall continue to lift up our mighty race, and we will, in Godspeed, take you with us always.

On behalf of the entire body of the Congressional Black Caucus, we wish to extend our sincerest condolences to the family of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. JUANITA was not only our colleague, but she was also a

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woman of supreme character, a devoted leader, and a dear friend.

History will record her as the first African American woman to chair a full committee in the U.S. House of Representatives; our hearts will revere her as a fearless leader who vowed to enhance our local and global communities through tireless service and timely advocacy.

Most were unaware of Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's stellar background. A portrait of her life includes a gallery of groundbreaking distinctions, including being the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council; the first African American woman to render the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address; the first to be named honorary curator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach; and the first Democratic chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Undoubtedly, serving in the U.S. House of Representatives was the right stage for this shining star.

Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be sorely missed. Her lasting commitment to making America honor its promise will remain unbridled. The CBC will continue to carry on the work of Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD as we change course, confront crises, and continue the legacy.

David E. Dreier. This is a very sad occasion for me personally. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was both my friend and my neighbor. We were next-door neighbors here in Washington, DC, and we had neighboring districts in Southern California.

In fact, in JUANITA's first re-election, there was a mix up of sample ballots in our two districts. Several of my precincts got ballots with JUANITA's name on them, and several of her precincts got ballots with my name on them. I was very concerned JUANITA was going to win both districts.

JUANITA, as we all remember, would call everyone "babe." I always thought she just didn't know my name . . . until she needed an amendment, and then it was "Dreier, I need a rule."

As we worked together over the years on a number of issues of importance to Southern California, I grew to have a great deal of respect for her as a trailblazer on so many issues. One issue that I know she was very proud to champion was the Alameda Corridor Project.

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As a senior Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, JUANITA championed this critical project with great enthusiasm, and worked tirelessly in a bipartisan way—always willing to share credit in order to help accomplish what needed to be done. Becoming the first woman to ever chair the Committee on House Administration was the culmination of a career marked by commitment and leadership.

She was a very proud alumna of the University of Redlands. She went to the University at age 40 and got her degree. I have tremendous admiration for the tenacity that drove her to obtain her degree at mid-life, and pursue a very distinguished career in public service. Many of us have commented on what a shock her passing was. We all knew that JUANITA was not well, but very few knew the seriousness of her illness. Her ability to carry on and persevere for so long through such adversity is a testament to her strength and dedication to her constituents.

Her passing is a tremendous loss to my State of California and to this institution. I will miss my neighbor.

James E. Clyburn. Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was known for her spirit and commitment to this body through her work as chairwoman of the House Administration Committee, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues among other groups. She was highly regarded for her work to correct voting irregularities and voter disenfranchisement, ending human trafficking, defending women’s rights across the globe, and stopping genocide in Cambodia, Darfur, and other countries where human rights are threatened.

She was a dear friend with whom I shared a love of history and a passion for politics. We often reminisced about our Southern roots and experiences as PKs (preachers’ kids). She will be sorely missed by our Members and for me her death is a personal loss as well. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends during this difficult time.

Steny Hoyer. Our friend and colleague, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, had a God-given gift for public service. And in the words of Tennyson, she never once let it “rust unburnished, not to shine in use.”

JUANITA personified what it means to serve others before serving yourself.

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Early in life, she chose to put the hopes and dreams of her children before her own—working hard to ensure that they would enjoy every opportunity she and her husband, James, could provide.

And when her children were children no more, JUANITA turned her attention to her community—fighting injustice and inequity, and working tirelessly on behalf of those who had yet to realize the American dream.

Because JUANITA understood that education was the key to unlocking her budding potential as an agent for change and social justice, she achieved something extraordinary by returning to school in her forties and earning a bachelor's degree from Redlands University and a master's degree from California State University.

And once she had prepared herself for the challenges ahead, she touched thousands of lives as a teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District, the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council, the first African American woman to chair two committees in the California State Assembly, and, eventually, the first African American woman to chair a full committee in the U.S. Congress.

To the people of California's 37th District—as well as everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her during her time in the People's House—JUANITA was an inspiration—someone who never allowed the conventions of the world around her to dictate the role she would play.

She was a pioneer in every sense of the word. And she will be deeply missed.

F. Scott Fitzgerald once defined America as a “willingness of the heart.” And JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a leader who understood precisely what Fitzgerald was talking about. She was always willing to give of herself for the benefit of others—and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to work so closely with her for so many years.

Nancy Pelosi. Good morning. Thank you, Congresswoman Watson, for bringing us together this morning so that we once again can express our love and pay tribute to our dear friend, our girlfriend, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, or as she liked to be called, Madam Chairwoman.

It is an honor to join all of you, so many of her friends, her sorority sisters, James, Dr. Chappell, to you and certainly to Valerie and to the wonderful family. Yes, we loved seeing those children here in the Capitol. When they weren't here she talked about them all the time. One only had to

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visit her office to see as a mother, a grandmother and a wife what was important to her.

I told my colleagues when we came back from the funeral—the mayor of Los Angeles was there for the full 3 hours, the Speaker of the House, Willy Graham, the former Speaker was there, representatives of every aspect of the official religious community life of her district and our State were there. But the greatest tribute of all was not what was said by the elected officials. The most beautiful tributes, of course, came from her children. But the greatest tribute to me, as a grandmother, was that her grandchildren cried at her funeral. It was so moving, wasn't it, Valerie? We were all so touched. They accepted the flag in her honor. Their tears were shed. You could see their personal closeness to her.

As has been said, JUANITA was raised in the segregated South. Growing up, JUANITA saw voting rights being denied in Birmingham, AL. She blazed a trail to become the first African American woman to chair a committee in the Congress. It was historic, and it was on merits. We are all very proud of her. In doing so, she brought us closer to the ideal of equality that is America's heritage and hope. She became one of our Nation's great champions so that every vote counts and that every person who is eligible to vote can vote. It was about the legitimacy of our democracy, it was about the fairness of our system, and it was about the respect that we all had for her.

It is fitting that we are gathered here in Statuary Hall, and I just want to depart from what I've intended to say because the spirit is moving me to a different direction, Madam Chair. The chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman Kilpatrick, always tells us to speak where the spirit moves us; she always does. When I was hearing the "Beautiful Precious Lord" song that was sung so beautifully, all I could think of was that JUANITA is calling the Lord "Precious" right now, because she called all of us "Precious." She called the mayor of Los Angeles "Precious." She called Senator Boxer "Precious." I don't know if she called Senator Feinstein "Precious," but she may have. So I'm sure she's calling the Lord "Precious" right up there.

But what I wanted to tell you was, and Mr. Clyburn and I have discussed this, while we are in Statuary Hall, it is appropriate that we are paying tribute to her here. Valerie, she loved you so much. When President Lincoln made his second Inaugural Address, which some considered his greatest

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speech, it was the first time that blacks came to an inauguration as free people, as a class and met. Of course, it was the Emancipation Proclamation, and then they came. For a couple of days before the inauguration it was raining and storming, and the streets were full of mud. Of course, they were dirt roads to begin with, but they were full of mud, and it was a mess. Washington was a mess. People sought shelter in the Capitol when they came to attend the inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln. And so the white folks who came had on their foul weather gear. They just had on their worst clothes, because it was such terrible weather, and they didn't want to get their clothes dirty.

But the blacks who came, came in their Sunday finest. They were dressed beautifully. So beautifully that, 160 years later, the author who wrote the book on Lincoln's greatest speech commented that this was the remarkable thing about Lincoln's second inaugural. He didn't live much longer after his Inaugural Address, but what he saw at his inaugural was black Americans coming as free people dressed to the hilt. And Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD honored that tradition. It was right here in Statuary Hall where people sought shelter and slept against these columns. All of you in the sorority who honor that tradition—and I see that you do—note that it has strong roots in our democracy, in our having freedom extended to people and being accepted with the greatest dignity. It was with the greatest dignity that Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD served here.

She was the mayor of Capitol Hill, as mentioned by Congresswoman Jackson-Lee. She went around talking to everyone. She, of course, loved the people of her congressional district. After her family and her faith, they were her first priority. Millions of people around the world have lost an advocate for justice. JUANITA spoke out forcefully against the genocide in Darfur and was a powerful advocate for the rise of women everywhere.

We've talked about mayors and Senators and Congresspeople and the rest. Three trainloads of Members of Congress went to her funeral. That was recognized by all who attended that beautiful tribute of love and respect for her. I thought it was interesting that no matter how exalted her friends were and all the tributes she received from her former colleagues in the State legislature, the mayor of Los Angeles, and others, this tribute came from Albert Cary Caswell. He's a worker here in the Capitol. When she died, he extended his sympathies, and he said, "I wrote a poem for

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Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I loved her.” An ordinary worker in the Capitol. While she was receiving tributes from Lorraine Miller, the new Clerk at the House, who brought these three trainloads of Members of Congress to her funeral, I thought it was important for her friends there and here today to hear from someone considered an ordinary worker in the Capitol. Certainly not ordinary. He wrote a poem:

Black is beautiful,
And JUANITA, so were you
A woman of character through and through
One of dignity, as are you
So dignified, who strived
Who so ever held her head up high so true
A freedom fighter who so fought for all
Who, like King and Parks, worked
For a far, far better world that they so saw
It's time to rest a fine lady our Nation blessed
And now an angel of our Lord
To fight the good fight as the shining light
And as an angel forevermore.

“An angel forevermore”: our precious JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Daniel P. Coughlin. Almighty and merciful God, eternal Shepherd of Your people, You are forever the just reward for those who serve You faithfully and the consolation of those who love sincerely, tender in moments of understanding and strong when strength is needed.

Show with consolation the family, constituents, colleagues, staff and friends of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

As love and justice have bound them together in this life, may eternal hope and loving trust strengthen their steps in the way of peace and draw all to Your everlasting truth.

Almighty and merciful Lord, in this life as in every life, attentive to Your Word, the Holy Scriptures are fulfilled. Today we commend to You our sister, JUANITA, in the sure and certain hope that together with all who have lived and died calling upon Your holy Name, she will live with You and rise in glory on the last day.

We give you thanks for all the blessings which Your Divine Providence bestowed upon JUANITA in this life both in family and service in the 37th District of California and the Nation here in the House of Representatives.

These signs of goodness are a lasting memorial to her legacy and a sign of our oneness in Your sight.

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O Lord our God, Spirit dwelling in broken and healing hearts, Your days are without end and Your mercies beyond counting, keep us who remain here a little while longer mindful that life is short. Help us to comfort one another with assurances of faith. Guide our days on earth in the ways of holiness and justice, that we may serve You together and one day be reunited with our sister and with You in the great and glorious marriage feast of the Resurrected Lamb, our Lord and Savior.

Thank you for gathering here to celebrate the life and memory of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Let us go now in the peace of the Lord, for it is in God we trust as we walk into the future.

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