

with such distinction during the 103d Congress. He has been tremendously supportive and helpful to me, and I am personally grateful for his friendship and encouragement.

Following his election to the House of Representatives in 1986, Congressman MFUME quickly gained a reputation as one of the most energetic and effective Members of Congress.

As a member of the Banking and Financial Services Committee and the Small Business Committee, he has been active on a wide range of issues, including the development of minority business opportunities. He was successful in adding minority contracting and employment amendments to the Financial Institutions Reform and Recovery Act. He also played a leading role in strengthening the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Community Reinvestment Act. In addition, he was actively involved in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

Congressman MFUME's election by his colleagues to serve as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus came at a historic point in time. President Clinton had just been elected along with 110 new Members of the House of Representatives. The Congressional Black Caucus had grown to include 39 House Members and 1 Senator.

Congressman MFUME took on the task of chairing the Congressional Black Caucus with the same enthusiasm and tenacity which he brought to all of his other successful endeavors. He broadened the scope of the Caucus, reaching out to members of the business community, building new coalitions, and seeking the ideas and input of young people.

While Congressman MFUME's presence in Congress will be greatly missed, we are thrilled that he will be using his talent and exceptional leadership ability to re-energize one of our Nation's most prominent civil rights organizations, the NAACP.

Having joined the NAACP myself as a high school student, and later serving as the president of New Jersey youth councils and college chapters of the NAACP, I know the potential the organization has to guide our community through the challenges that lie ahead. In fact, I had the honor of attending the NAACP convention in 1957 when the prestigious Spingarn Award was bestowed on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As the next leader of the NAACP, Congressman MFUME will be following in the distinguished tradition of such giants as W.E.B. DuBois, Walter White, Roy Wilkins, and Benjamin Hooks. I am certain that he will approach the job with the same passion for justice and equality as these heroes of the past. Just as his chosen name indicates, no obstacle will impede this "conquering son of kings" from achieving his goals.

Let me just close by saying that Congressman MFUME has been an inspiration to all of us, and to many people, young and old, throughout this country. His rise from his Baltimore neigh-

borhood to the halls of Congress, his success against the odds and his belief in himself remind us of the immortal words of Rudyard Kipling, that success will come "If you can dream, and not make dreams your master; if you can think, and not make thoughts your aim; if you can meet with Triumph and Disaster, and treat those two imposters just the same * * *. If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they are gone, and so hold on when there is nothing in you except the will which says to them: hold on * * *."

Again, we congratulate Congressman MFUME and look forward to our continued association as he takes on this exciting new challenge.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

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Mr. MFUME. First, Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for his words regarding the time that he and I have shared and many of the things that I have worked on here in the Congress and to say to you, DON, how much I appreciate the way you have also had the opportunity to lead this caucus, as have Congressman TOWNS, Congresswoman COLLINS, and others who are here on the floor.

It is a very difficult task. In fact, it is one I say that everybody ought to have the opportunity to do just once, just once.

But you are a great friend and your words are very heartfelt. I thank you for taking the time to come over here today. I almost feel like I am being memorialized, but I knew it is from your heart, and I appreciate all the time we have spent together here and throughout the country, and I wish the best for both you and your family.

TRIBUTE TO KWEISI MFUME

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands [Mr. FRAZER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to join my colleagues in the special order honoring Congressman KWEISI MFUME. For the past 8 years Mr. MFUME has served this body with distinction and honor.

He led the fight for fairness and equity in Federal contracting for small and minority businesses. During the 103d Congress Mr. MFUME chaired the House Small Business Subcommittee on Minority Business. Under his leadership the committee investigated Federal agencies who were in noncompliance with Public Law 95-507, the Small Business Act. As a result of that investigation those agencies have established small disadvantage business offices and are meeting their contractual goals for small and minority businesses. Mr. MFUME is a master nego-

tiator. He has the ability to listen, synthesize, and reach compromises when a impasse seem inevitable. He has negotiated with Members on both sides of the aisle, because he is open-minded and does not let ideology prevent him from getting the job done.

The U.S. House of Representatives is a better place because of Mr. MFUME's leadership. Members who have served with him always respected his ability to build consensus. I know these qualities will be tremendous asset to him as he goes forward to be the chief executive officer of the NAACP.

For those who will ask why would KWEISI MFUME leave one of the safest districts in this body, it is because he is a selfless person.

Mr. Speaker and other Members, there is no doubt in anybody's mind that KWEISI MFUME would be elected if he chose to run in November and November after that, but he is leaving what is obviously, as we said, a safe seat to take on the task of the NAACP at a time when it is most troubled and needs leadership. I, too, applaud the NAACP for choosing the best person to sail the ship out of troubled waters.

Mr. Speaker, KWEISI MFUME has caused many young people, especially black African-American males, to recognize the political side of the country, and because of him, they are coming forward in large numbers and partaking.

KWEISI MFUME, I applaud you for the service to this body. I wish you well, and I thank you for being a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA].

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add my voice to the chorus of colleagues who are singing the praises of KWEISI MFUME. We both were elected to serve the people of Maryland during the 100th Congress. I have enjoyed his friendship, and I have appreciated his courage and determination to fight for those Americans whose voices are often not heard in the halls of Congress.

KWEISI MFUME grew up on the streets of west Baltimore where he was known as Frizzel Grey. The people who still live there are proud of KWEISI, proud that he made something of himself. The old neighborhood is deteriorating and impoverished, but KWEISI keeps going back there—to his roots. He believes that the work he has been doing in Washington can only be relevant if it has an impact on his old neighborhood.

Although he has been an outspoken advocate of equitable and excellent education for women and minorities, scholarship wasn't always high on KWEISI's agenda. He was a high school dropout who hung out on Baltimore's streets drinking and swapping stories. He turned his life around during the 1970's when he changed his name and worked toward a high school equivalency degree. Then it was on to Morgan State and Johns Hopkins University.

His name is pronounced "Kwah-EE-see Oom-FOO-may," and it hasn't hampered him one bit. He adopted the name during the 1970's because he wanted to embrace his African heritage. It means "conquering son of kings."

During his 9 years in Congress, KWEISI MFUME has distinguished himself with an impressive record of advocacy for human rights and social justice. As the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, he strengthened and brought national attention to a growing organization, establishing a rapport with African-American communities across the Nation and boosting the organization's reputation and morale.

I could go on and on, and I know I will in my extension of remarks, but I want to say that he has worked also for what he believes in with people on both sides of the aisle. I, for one, can attest to that. As Shakespeare would have said of him, the force of his own merit makes his way; and for me, here is a dear and true industrious friend. I will miss you.

I know that we will be working together as you chair the NAACP, and from the bottom of my heart, you are a good friend, and you have been a great statesman. Thank you.

I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

TRIBUTE TO KWEISI MFUME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. TOWNS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. MFUME].

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I know the time of the gentleman is short, but I do first of all want to thank my colleague from Maryland. We were elected together in 1986, kind of cut our teeth here in this House together and grew to be dear, dear friends. CONNIE, I will miss you very much also, and I thank you for your kind words and for coming here.

VIC, let me thank you also for yielding part of your time that the gentleman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA] might in fact be recognized. We have a long way to go in this institution, but clearly, individuals, such as yourself, who are coming here with bright ideas and a real commitment for change will make that happen.

Thank you so much for coming out and for being a part of this, and I mean that honestly from the bottom of my heart. I look forward, beyond this point, to working more with you. Thank you.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the voice of Mr. KWEISI MFUME was loud and his message was clear. On the issue of establishing democracy in South Africa and throughout his career, KWEISI has spoken his mind and

supported first amendment protection for freedom of speech, even in the face of vile and hateful remarks uttered by others.

Wherever the fight has had to be, KWEISI has been in the thick of it. His vision, strength, and leadership have been vitally needed. He has never wavered in his support of affirmative action, minority small business development, health care reform, community reinvestment, and protection of civil rights.

KWEISI's voice has been one of reason, vision, and principle. He has been a foot soldier on the front line and an able member of the Democratic leadership. He has been effective in the boardroom, courtroom, and the streets of public opinion have been his battleground and pulpit for highlighting causes that are just and necessary.

Those of us who have served in this body have seen an erosion in the confidence of voters regarding public officials and institutions of government.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TOWNS. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, because I too want to pay the highest tribute to our longtime colleague and close friend, former Congressional Black Caucus Chairman, KWEISI MFUME, and to say that he has been a wonderful leader in our Congressional Black Caucus, as well as a premier Member of this body; and I thank you for yielding, because I know your time is short.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay the highest tribute to my long-time colleague, close friend, former CBC chairman, and one of the most outstanding Members of this body, Congressman KWEISI MFUME of Maryland. There is no doubt that he will be sorely missed by this institution as he moves on to his new role as chief executive officer of the NAACP.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Representative MFUME has been a powerful, articulate, and respected champion of average hard-working Americans, the elderly, our children, and the underprivileged. He has generously lent his time and his talents to the causes of justice, civil rights, and economic and educational empowerment for all citizens of this Nation. In so doing, he has been extremely successful in building coalitions to help advance the needs of those whose voices are least often heard in Washington and in the corridors of the Capitol.

I recall a commercial jingle that I think is a fitting phrase to describe Congressman MFUME's significant presence: "When Kweisi Mfume speaks, people listen."

It is particularly in the area of minority business and community development that Congressman MFUME has been without peer in the House of Representatives. As an active force on the Banking and Financial Services Committee, KWEISI MFUME has tirelessly advocated landmark legislative initiatives to expand access to credit and lending opportunities for small, disadvantaged entrepreneurs and firms. He expertly crafted minority contracting and employment amendments to the Financial In-

stitutions Reform and Recovery Act. In addition, he deftly strengthened the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and amended the Community Reinvestment Act in the interest of minority financial institutions.

But it was in the 103d Congress, as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, that KWEISI MFUME's star shined the brightest and America stood up and took notice of this remarkable and truly distinguished gentleman. His term as chairman of the CBC marked the pinnacle of the caucus' power and influence on Capitol Hill, at the White House, and, yes, across the country. From securing increased funding levels for targeted education, environmental protection, and health care programs in the 1993 budget to negotiating effective prevention initiatives included in the 1994 crime bill, KWEISI MFUME stood firm for the convictions of the caucus, the rights and needs of our constituents, and the principles of equality and liberty for all.

I thank my colleague, Congressman CARDIN, for holding this special order in honor of Representative MFUME. I wish KWEISI all the best in both his personal and professional endeavors. It has been not only a pleasure but also a privilege to serve with him in this august body.

I know for certain that the NAACP will thrive under KWEISI's direction. They are lucky to have someone with his stature, strength, honor, and intellect to lead them forward at this important time in the history of that vital organization and the history of our Nation.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TOWNS. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding and take just a moment, and I will have a much more extensive statement to submit for the RECORD, because I believe that Mr. MFUME represents the very best that this body has to offer. He is the personification of leadership, of vision.

We came here together, elected in 1986 and came here in 1987. He has been a great Member, a good Member. I hate to see him leave this place, but I know he is going on to bigger and better things. He will provide leadership for the NAACP, but in providing leadership for the NAACP, he will be providing leadership for this Nation.

So let me say to Congressman MFUME, my friend, my leader, and my brother, we wish you well, and Godspeed.

Mr. TOWNS. I would be delighted to yield to the gentleman from Ohio, the dean of the Ohio delegation [Mr. STOKES].

Mr. STOKES. I thank my distinguished colleague and friend from New York for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I regret that because of the time constraints today, due to our schedule on the floor, that we will be unable to spend time paying tribute to a man who deserves tribute from so many of us who want to participate. Hopefully, we are going to be able to get additional time, so at this time what I would like to do is just commend Mr. CARDIN and Mr. HOYER and