

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

others who have spoken here for providing us the opportunity to pay tribute to this distinguished colleague who will be departing.

I will reserve the balance of my comments, either for submission to the RECORD or for a later Special Order, if we can get additional time.

I just want to say to KWEISI MFUME that we have great respect and admiration and love for you, and all of us wish you Godspeed in your new career.

Miss COLLINS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

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

Miss COLLINS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on a personal level, I want to pay special tribute to Mr. MFUME's contributions to the Congressional Black Caucus. As chairman for 2 years, he energized our membership and inspired our organization to attain new and unprecedented heights.

In closing, not only do I applaud you, Mr. MFUME, for your outstanding political achievements, but I also thank you for your profound contributions in preserving equal rights for all citizens. You have truly emerged as a national leader and one of the most respected voices in the ongoing human rights struggle. Thank you.

I am very pleased today to pay tribute to my distinguished colleague, the Honorable KWEISI MFUME. Mr. MFUME, I first want to congratulate you on your outstanding political career. As we know, Mr. MFUME was elected to Congress 9 years ago to represent the interests of Maryland's Seventh District. And, while he has represented the interests of his constituents with unquestionable excellence, Mr. MFUME's influence extends far beyond the boundaries of Maryland. Indeed, all of here in Congress and across these United States have benefited from Mr. MFUME's exceptional leadership.

During his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. MFUME has been a dedicated advocate of landmark civil rights legislation. Minority businesses across the Nation have particularly benefited from Mr. MFUME's contributions in obtaining favorable amendments to the Financial Institutions Reform and Recovery Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and Community Reinvestment Act. Impressively, Mr. MFUME also successfully cosponsored the Americans with Disabilities Act, and amended the Civil Rights Act of 1991 to apply to U.S. citizens working abroad.

On a personal level, I want to pay special tribute to Mr. MFUME's contributions to the Congressional Black Congress. As chairman of the CBC for 2 highly successful years, Mr. MFUME energized the membership and inspired the organization to attain new and unprecedented heights.

In closing, Mr. MFUME, not only do I applaud you for your outstanding political achievements, but I also thank you for your profound contributions in preserving equal rights for all citizens. You have truly emerged as a national leader and one of the most respected voices in the ongoing human rights struggle. I wish you blessings and the best of wishes in your new appointment as chairman of the NAACP, which will undoubtedly benefit from your exceptional leadership.

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

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

Mr. HORN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I see Mr. MFUME leave this Chamber. He is one of the most respected Members in the House of Representatives. When the Democrats were the majority in the last Congress, he presided with great dignity and great presence over the proceedings of the House of Representatives. But if he has to leave, he could not go to a more worthy organization that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

He and I share in common a friendship with the late Clarence Mitchell. It was Clarence Mitchell and others of the NAACP who were walking the Halls of Congress before any of the more prominent civil rights leaders of the latter part of the 20th century were walking the Halls of Congress. Clarence Mitchell and a few colleagues were the ones that were bringing the cause of the African-American to these doors on a bipartisan basis. I am sure that KWEISI MFUME's presence and leadership in reassembling and restructuring and improving the work of the NAACP will be a great service to this Nation and thus to the provision of equal opportunity for many of our citizens.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE].

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from New York, and I will be brief and reserve written comments for the RECORD.

As a freshman, I just could not remain in my office. I call him, still, Chairman MFUME for his 2 years of leadership. I personally want to thank him for the kindness extended to one during here interest and climb in public service. He was never too busy to answer a question, to come and visit with constituents.

Now we will have the same kind of gentle kindness going on at the helm in the leadership of our mother organization, the NAACP, leading America into the 21st century of civil rights. I am gratified that he will do that.

KWEISI, my friend, I thank you for your leadership and your kindness. Congratulations. But most of all, best wishes in your new role and challenge.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I want to thank the Speaker for his understanding in making this time available in this unusual process that we have used. You have been very understanding, and we thank you.

It is a real occasion to celebrate KWEISI MFUME's service to his Nation and how we will all miss him. I know tomorrow we are going to have some additional time on the floor, and I would urge those Members who did not have a chance during this opportunity that we will have time tomorrow. I know that the time has passed for today.

Once again, I want to thank the Speaker for his courtesy.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. The Chair thanks all of the speakers during this special order and would take time also to commend my good friend from Maryland.

Mr. TOWNS. In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me say to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. MFUME] that you can count on me to be a soldier in your army for justice as you continue to fight on the outside as you have been able to fight on the inside.

One that note, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. MFUME].

Mr. MFUME. I appreciate the gentleman yielding. I recognize the time constraints that the House is under, and I appreciate the comments of Mr. CARDIN that perhaps we can conclude this portion of the special order tomorrow or perhaps later today. I know there are a lot of Members that are starting to come over on the floor for that.

Quite frankly, I am honored and flattered by it, and I appreciate their presence here and look forward perhaps to spending some more time on this special order either later today or certainly tomorrow.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues today in honoring KWEISI MFUME, an extraordinary legislator and a good friend. KWEISI is leaving the House of Representatives where he has capably represented the people of Maryland's Seventh Congressional District to assume new responsibilities as chief executive officer of the NAACP.

I have had the privilege of working closely with KWEISI since his arrival in Congress in 1987. We have served together on both the Committee on Banking and the Committee on Small Business, where KWEISI held leadership positions as chairman of the Minority Enterprise Subcommittee and, this year, as the ranking Democratic member on the Banking Oversight Subcommittee. In these positions, as well as in his leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus, KWEISI demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership and unshakable integrity. Throughout his years in Congress, KWEISI has been a champion for people in need, a powerful voice for equal justice and affirmative action and an effective advocate for small business rights and economic opportunity.

With KWEISI's departure, the House of Representatives loses one of its most able Members. But our loss is a tremendous gain for the NAACP and for the cause of equal justice generally. Although we look back to praise KWEISI's many accomplishments in Congress, we also look forward knowing that even greater accomplishments await him in the future. I look forward to working with KWEISI in the future and wish him every success in his new role.

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in honoring one of this body's most distinguished and dedicated Members.

When Congressman KWEISI MFUME takes the helm of the NAACP in February, this body will lose one of its finest leaders. Since entering Congress over a decade ago, Congressman MFUME has stood on the front lines of the

battle for equality and opportunity for all Americans.

As chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus during the 103d Congress, he was instrumental in passing legislation to increase opportunities for minority-owned businesses and banks. And this past year, as chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, he has insisted on focusing our attention on those Americans the economy often leaves behind. His efforts have made a real difference in people's lives, from his neighbors in Baltimore to men, women and children a continent away who he has never met but whose plight compels him to act.

Congressman MFUME has amassed an impressive legislative record in the House of Representatives. He could have taken the safe route by staying in Congress; in fact, he would have been reelected easily in November. But doing what is easy or safe has never been Congressman MFUME's way. He has dedicated his entire life to accepting new challenges and pursuing higher goals. Each time, he has met those challenges and achieved those goals.

Leading the NAACP through uncertain times will certainly be a tough challenge, but the organization's unanimous vote to make him their new president and CEO underscores the amount of confidence it has in him to do the job. His talents and commitment will lead the NAACP in its fight to improve educational opportunities, promote personal responsibility and rejuvenate our cities. Congressman MFUME is ready to use life's lessons he learned growing up in Baltimore and the political experiences he gained in Congress to move the NAACP into the 21st century as a proud, vibrant voice for equality and civil rights.

Already, Congressman MFUME is making his presence felt with the NAACP, leading the charge to register 8 million African-Americans to vote in time for the next election.

At a time of dissatisfaction with the political process and those who embody it, I can think of a few better role models than Congressman MFUME, who has chosen to leave the confines of Capitol Hill and a near-certain reelection for a far riskier venture, simply because he believed it is the right thing to do.

I think every one of us recognizes that, come February 15, this body will be less passionate about helping the most vulnerable members of our society, and a measure less vocal about expanding opportunities to all Americans. However, we are comforted by the fact that our loss is the NAACP's gain. And we are inspired to know that, as long as Congressman MFUME plays a role in the affairs of our Nation—whether it is here in Washington, up in Baltimore, or anywhere else in this Nation—the progress we have made over recent years will not be lost.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and colleague, KWEISI MFUME. The gentleman from Maryland will be leaving this body next month to accept the job as president and CEO of the NAACP, the most important civil rights organization in the United States. I also want to thank Mr. CARDIN for convening this special order.

In 1986, KWEISI MFUME was elected to represent Maryland's Seventh Congressional District, a seat that Parren Mitchell had held for

16 years. So, even before he arrived, our expectations of Mr. MFUME were great—filling Mr. Mitchell's shoes would not be easy. But Mr. MFUME has shown us on many occasions that he has been more than able in meeting the challenges of representing his constituents to this body.

Mr. MFUME's lasting mark in Congress will most certainly be his tenure as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. Elected chairman for the 103rd Congress, Mr. MFUME shepherded our caucus to become a prominent coalition in shaping legislation during President Clinton's first 2 years in office. Under his leadership, the caucus achieved a critical mass of some 41 members, its largest presence ever. With Mr. MFUME at the helm the caucus played an integral role in assuring that the President's budget passed, and that it included programs to help the urban poor. Among the victories in that budget were an expanded earned-income tax credit, the creation of urban empowerment zones, an expanded Food Stamp Program, and mandatory immunization for all children. The caucus, through Chairman MFUME's leadership, has also been at the forefront of many struggles of particular importance to African-Americans, including the efforts to preserve affirmative action and to restore democracy to Haiti, one of the foreign policy highlights of the Clinton administration.

As a member of the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, Mr. MFUME has worked diligently on issues important to cities, African-Americans, and the urban poor. He has worked hard to assure that banks loan money and offer services in poor neighborhoods to assure that the underserved have the same opportunities as others. In 1990, KWEISI successfully offered an amendment that changes the way public housing tenants pay their rent. Rent payments are now based on actual income, not estimated income.

This year Mr. MFUME, as a member of the Minority Leader GEPHARDT's Policy Committee, has led the fight against attacks on Medicare, Medicaid, welfare, job training, and other important elements of our social safety net. We, certainly, can't afford the cuts the Budget leaders have prescribed, and Kweisi has worked to preserve these important programs.

Mr. MFUME has served his Maryland constituents with dignity and honor throughout his 9-year career. He is now leaving us to manage the largest civil rights organization in our Nation. I must confess that when I first heard of KWEISI's decision to leave Congress I was disappointed. I felt that his exemplary leadership was needed more than ever as Congress grappled with the extraordinary agenda of reactionary legislative initiative now confronting it.

Upon reflection I embrace and salute without reservation Mr. MFUME's decision. He leaves us in order to lead the revitalization of an organization that has a critical, perhaps seminal, role to play in mobilizing millions of African-Americans and progressive Americans of all types to halt this Nation's slide into a reactionary abyss and to move this Nation toward the full realization of justice and the promise of democracy. His decision is one that all Americans, in and out of Congress, committed to the struggle for justice can endorse.

The NAACP is very important to me. I am a lifelong member of the NAACP and my home city boasts this Nation's largest NAACP Chapter. I have no doubt that the NAACP is in good hands and that KWEISI will raise the NAACP to new heights, and will continue to fight for civil rights, social change, and economic justice. I wish him well in his new career. His commitment and passion will be sorely missed in this Congress. It is not often that we are able to work with a more dedicated or honorable individual. We, certainly, could use a few more Members like KWEISI in the U.S. Congress.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN, took time in the well to pay tribute to our colleague, KWEISI MFUME, who is a retiring member of the Maryland delegation. I join Mr. CARDIN, Mr. STENY HOYER, and my colleagues who take time today to pay tribute to Mr. MFUME.

As one who has seen a number of colleagues go and come over the years, I can say that the departure of KWEISI leaves me with mixed emotions. On the one hand, I am proud to see the good judgment shown by the NAACP in selecting KWEISI as its chief executive officer. On the other hand, for those of us who know this institution, his leadership qualities bode a bright future for him as a leader in future Congresses.

As a life member of the NAACP, I salute this organization for what has to be recognized as a coup in getting KWEISI to head up the most important civil rights organization in America. In light of its current financial problems, declining membership, and lack of national focus and direction, I think that KWEISI MFUME is the right man, at the right time, for the right reasons.

He will bring to this organization the type of fresh, new leadership and eloquence that will return it to its stature of greatness.

Mr. Speaker, KWEISI's whole life has been that of a man who accepts challenges head on. In this case, he will be confronted with a formidable challenge in restoring the NAACP to its rightful place of prominence as the pre-eminent civil rights organization in the history of this Nation.

But everything in his background cries out, indeed screams, that all of these years he has been preparing for the day when a challenge of this magnitude would come. And indeed, he is ready.

A part of his preparation took place in this very body when he was selected by the members of the Congressional Black Caucus to chair our organization for 2 years. This was a daunting challenge, but he undertook it with vigor and determination, and in my opinion, he took the Congressional Black Caucus to a new level of success and stature during his chairmanship.

In that post, he demonstrated a level of commitment that is unsurpassed. He was able to bring to the forefront a wide range of economic and foreign policy issues. He fought hard for the millions of Americans whose voices go unheard in the Halls of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, KWEISI MFUME has also exercised strong leadership as a member of the House Banking Committee. He has fought efforts aimed at increasing rents for the Nation's

public housing residents. He has also authored language which would require a commitment from banks to make loans and services available in poor neighborhoods and underserved banking markets. He is a thoughtful and skilled lawmaker who has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I take special pride in saluting KWEISI MFUME today. In closing, I am reminded of how, a few years ago, shortly after he came to the Hill, that I invited KWEISI to a meeting with some of my constituents from Cleveland. In his speech to the group, he brought the house down by relating a story of how, as a high school student, he had been assigned the task of writing a research paper on me. We still, from time to time, get a laugh out of that story.

Mr. Speaker, KWEISI MFUME will be missed on Capitol Hill. Our loss is certainly the NAACP's gain. We salute KWEISI and look forward to working closely with him in the days ahead.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Congressman KWEISI MFUME, a remarkable man from Maryland who has served his constituents and all Americans with exceptional integrity and distinction. KWEISI MFUME is leaving the House to accept a new and exciting challenge as president and chief executive officer of the NAACP. This historic civil rights organization is indeed fortunate to have such a skilled and highly respected man at its helm.

During his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman MFUME has emerged as a national leader and champion for the most vulnerable Americans. He has consistently been a voice of reason in Congress, never shying from the good fight. KWEISI's eloquence and advocacy for progressive cause have affected the lives of millions of Americans for the better.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, I salute KWEISI MFUME, conqueror of kings, and wish him nothing but success in all his future endeavors.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues today to recognize the very significant contributions that the gentleman from Maryland has made during his 9 years in the House of Representatives and to wish him great success as he begins a new and very important endeavor.

We know that Congressman MFUME's constituents in the Seventh Congressional District, who have consistently reelected him with over 80 percent of the vote, will miss his representation in the House. We also know that millions of Americans outside the seventh district, who have relied on him to give voice to their needs and aspirations, will sorely miss that voice coming from the Congress of the United States.

Throughout his tenure in the House, Representative MFUME has been a champion for the rights of those denied opportunity in this Nation, and particularly for the expansion of economic opportunity for those denied. He has been one of our most eloquent spokesman for the need for economic empowerment in the Nation's urban and minority communities, focusing his legislative efforts on minority business development.

During his 2 years as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus [CBC], Congressman MFUME energized the caucus and focused our message, culminating in major legislative

achievements in the 104th Congress. Included in those achievements were expansion of the earned-income tax credit for working families, and creation of enterprise zones to spur economic development in inner-cities. As a member of the House Banking Committee he has been an advocate for the needs of low-income housing residents and for greater responsibility on the part of financial institutions to offer services in their communities.

Representative MFUME has been an articulate, forceful, and passionate presence in the House of Representatives. All Americans will benefit as he brings these qualities to his new role as chief executive officer of the NAACP.

Congressman MFUME is uniquely suited to the task of reviving membership and reenergizing the NAACP—particularly among the Nation's African-American youth. The challenges he overcame in his own youth and the accomplishments he has achieved during a distinguished career in Congress bode well for his efforts to recruit a new generation of leaders to the cause of ensuring that all Americans share in the prosperity of this Nation.

I join my colleagues in thanking Representative MFUME for his service to the country as a Member of the House of Representatives and wish him much success as he meets his new challenge at the helm of the NAACP.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Representative KWEISI MFUME, former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, on the occasion of his leaving the House in order to head the NAACP.

During his tenure in Congress, KWEISI MFUME, who has represented Maryland's Seventh Congressional District since 1986, has displayed a strong commitment to public service and a stellar record of legislative accomplishment.

Through serving on the Banking and Financial Services Committee, Representative MFUME has been able to focus congressional attention on a variety of issues, including minority businesses, health care, and civil rights legislation.

He authored the minority contracting and employment amendments to the Financial Institutions Reform and Recovery Act, strengthened the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and amended the Community Reinvestment Act to strengthen the protection of minority financial institutions.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in the House with Representative MFUME. Clearly, his hard work and dedication to public service have improved the lives of all Americans.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this special order.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1700

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2546, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-456) on the resolution (H. Res. 351) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2546) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SPEAKER TO DECLARE RECESSES SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-457) on the resolution (H. Res. 352) authorizing the Speaker to declare recesses subject to the call of the Chair from February 2, 1996, through February 26, 1996, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—WITHDRAWAL OF INVITATION TO FRENCH PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC AND NOT AGREEING TO FUTURE APPEARANCES TO ADDRESS JOINT MEETINGS OF CONGRESS BY HEADS OF STATE OF NATIONS CONDUCTING NUCLEAR TESTS

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer a privileged resolution that I noticed pursuant to rule IX yesterday, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 350

Whereas virtually every nation in the world has adhered to a moratorium on nuclear tests since September 1992;

Whereas, on June 13, 1995, President Jacques Chirac of France ended his nation's adherence to the moratorium by ordering a series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific;

Whereas France has since conducted six nuclear tests on the Pacific atolls of Moruroa and Fangataufa in French Polynesia;

Whereas France has acknowledged that radioactive materials from some of the tests have leaked into the ocean;

Whereas, as a result of the tests, the people of the Pacific are extremely concerned about the health and safety of those who live near the test sites, as well as the adverse environmental effects of the tests on the region;

Whereas, in conducting the tests, France has callously ignored world-wide protests and global concern;