

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, this Member introduced legislation to designate the American Discovery Trail as a component of the National Trails System. The bill, H.R. 3250, also creates a new category in the system—National Discovery Trails. The bill is already supported by a bipartisanly balanced 44 cosponsors.

This legislation represents an exciting step forward in the development and connection of trails in the United States. The multiuse ADT provides the connections which are needed to link existing trails and create a backbone for the National Trails System. While stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, it connects large cities and small communities with forests and remote areas.

The American Discovery Trail will provide outstanding, family oriented recreation for all Americans. It will also offer important economic development opportunities to the communities along its route.

The ADT also takes into account private property concerns since almost all of the trail is on public lands. The few exceptions are in locations where there are existing rights-of-way or agreements with existing trails or by invitation. The bill also mandates that no lands or interests outside the exterior boundaries of federally administered areas may be acquired by the United States solely for the American Discovery Trail.

The American Discovery Trail is national in scope, but it is made possible by the grassroots efforts on the State and local level. This Member urges his colleagues to support these local efforts by cosponsoring the American Discovery Trail bill.

PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD BE TOUGH AND CONFRONTATIONAL WITH MR. YELTSIN

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, today the President of the United States travels to Russia. I would hope that the President would not pose for photo opportunities with Mr. Yeltsin but would instead be very tough and very confrontational on three important issues to America:

First, the ongoing war in Chechnya that is killing thousands and thousands of people each month. We need to bring an end to that war immediately.

Second, the New York Times recently reported a secret project going on in the Ural mountains in Russia. We need to find out more about that.

Third, renegotiating the space station on the part of the Russians could cost the American taxpayers several hundreds of millions of dollars. I would hope the President, in a policy of engagement, would be tough and

confrontational and not coddle the Russians on these very important issues.

TRIBUTE TO SECRETARY RONALD H. BROWN AND AMERICANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON MISSION TO BOSNIA

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration in the House of the resolution (H. Res. 406) in tribute to Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown and other Americans who lost their lives on April 3, 1996, while in service to their country on a mission to Bosnia.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 406

Whereas Ronald H. Brown served the United States of America with patriotism and skill as a soldier, a civil rights leader, and attorney;

Whereas Ronald H. Brown devoted his life to opening doors, building bridges, and helping those in need;

Whereas Ronald H. Brown lost his life in a tragic airplane accident on April 3, 1996, while in service to his country on a mission in Bosnia; and

Whereas thirty-two other Americans from government and industry who served the Nation with great courage, achievement, and dedication also lost their lives in the accident: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives pays tribute to the remarkable life and career of Ronald H. Brown, and it extends condolences to his family.

Be it further resolved, That the House of Representatives also pays tribute to the contributions of all those who perished, and that we extend our condolences to the families of: Staff Sergeant Gerald Aldrich, Duane Christian, Barry Conrad, Paul Cushman III, Adam Darling, Captain Ashley James Davis, Gail Dobert, Robert Donovan, Claudio Elia, Staff Sergeant Robert Farrington, Jr., David Ford, Carol Hamilton, Kathryn Hoffman, Lee Jackson, Steven Kaminiski, Kathryn Kellogg, Technical Sergeant Shelley Kelly, James Lewek, Frank Maier, Charles Meissner, William Morton, Walter Murphy, Mathanial Nash, Lawrence Payne, Leonard Pieroni, Captain Timothy Shafer, John Scoville, I. Donald Terner, P. Stuart Tholan, Technical Sergeant Cheryl Ann Turnage, Naomi Warbasse, and Robert Whittaker.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House shall transmit a copy of the resolution to each of the families.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. In a moment, I will yield to the distinguished Speaker of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning with great sadness to offer a resolution in

tribute to Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and all of the Americans who lost their lives in that awful tragedy on April 3 while they were all serving their country on a mission to Bosnia. I am pleased that we are able to make this a bipartisan resolution, in fact, a resolution of all the Members of the House. For when a highly and distinguished member of the U.S. Cabinet is killed overseas for the first time in American history, when we lose an individual, and individuals of such extraordinary ability and achievement, when we lose so many other dedicated business leaders and public servants, members of the Commerce Department, members of the U.S. Air Force, it is not a partisan tragedy, it is truly a tragedy for all of our citizens and all of our country.

In the week since Ron Brown's death, it has already become a cliché to speak of his brilliant political and public service career. Of his pioneering role as chairman of the Democratic Party and his efforts to almost single-handedly redefine the Commerce Department and its mandate. For those of us who considered Ron a friend, as I did, it is reassuring to know that the country remembers him as fondly as we do. But when there are so many tangible achievements to celebrate in a man's life, it becomes harder to recognize what is less tangible but perhaps as more important.

To me, there is a simple reason why Ron Brown broke down so many barriers in so many areas and shattered so many preconceptions, about politics, race, and America's place in the world. For all of his practical and political talents, Ron Brown was an idealist, pure and simple. His goals for himself, his party and his country were always based on what should be and not on what others thought could be. This is a rare quality in any of us, in a politician, a rate quality in a human being. But it is why so many people loved and respected Ron Brown and were so often willing to abandon their own goals and egos to work with him for a higher purpose.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said in recent days about Ron Brown's ability to heal divisions, to reconcile views, to focus on what unite people rather than on what divide them. He truly believed that you could always accomplish more by working together, by bringing others along with you. That is one reason why he nurtured so much talent in so many other people throughout his career. As party chairman, he really did bring the Democratic Party together, something that is hard to do, sometimes almost one person at a time.

To see the depth of his empathy and understanding, to see how far he would go to understand people who disagreed with him and opinions and then to find the common ground between them was to see the very essence of leadership. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown dramatically expanded his mandate, reinventing the foreign commercial

service and becoming a real booster of U.S. exports on a scale that we have never seen before. He poured all of his passion and energy in his work at Commerce, as he had at the Democratic Committee, and I always admired the aggressive way in which he led that department, even in the face of criticism.

Mr. Speaker, our country could use more Ron Browns, for he pushed boundaries, broke down barriers almost instinctively, intuitively as if he simply refused to acknowledge that they were there in the first place. Perhaps in that sense, we can find a shred of meaning in Ron Brown's death, because no risk, no naysayers could ever have kept him from exploring new terrain, for reaching new challenges, and from trying to redefine the world in which we live.

That he managed to do all of these things in so few years is a powerful legacy indeed. I also want to reach out on behalf of all of us to the families not only of Ron Brown but all of the Americans who died in this terrible tragedy. All of them together, in their own way, were trying to do something very important for the United States and for the world. The business people who were out there were out there to help rebuild an economy torn by war and strife.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is there was no real profit to be made by these companies. They were there on a mission of the United States to help the people of Bosnia. Unlike maybe many of the other trade missions that Ron Brown asked them to be on, this one was truly a mission of help. This was a mission of altruism in the highest sense of the business community and the people of this country.

So to the families of all of these people, whether it was business leaders, whether it is Ron Brown, whether it was the Air Force people who were trying to take them there, whether it was the staff people at Commerce, I want to reach out and deliver in as heartfelt a way as we can the deep sympathy and the feeling of gratitude and appreciation that all of us have for all of these people and their families.

There is no way that any of us can bring these lives back, but we can at least stand here today and on behalf of the American people give a heartfelt condolence of sympathy and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the sacrifice of all of the people who died in this terrible tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH].

Mr. GINGRICH. Let me thank my colleague for yielding and let me thank the minority leader for proposing this resolution which I think every Member of the House will support and which I think every Member of the House wishes to reach each family touched by this tragedy.

The House, I believe, will want to extend condolences to every member of every family to realize that there were

a number of Americans serving their country, serving the cause of freedom, seeking to help a war-torn region who found themselves willing to take real risks. This tragedy is a reminder that service in our armed services and at times service to our country is potentially dangerous and requires of our citizens a willingness to put duty above pleasure and to put country above self.

Mr. Speaker, Secretary Ron Brown is the first Cabinet Secretary killed on duty in over 150 years. I think it was an enormous shock to all of us to be reminded of the dangers traveling around the world that can affect those who serve even in civilian posts. I knew Ron Brown as a competitor. We did not meet in the same planning meetings. We were not involved in the same things when he was chairman of the Democratic National Committee, but I got to know him as somebody who was brilliant, who was charming, who was energetic and, maybe more important, who had a kind of creativity with a remarkable resilience. Whatever angle you came at Ron from, he came back with a new idea, a new approach, new intensity. He was a great competitor. I think that both Lee Atwater before his death and Haley Barbour since have found in Ron Brown a personal friend and somebody who shared their passion for democracy and shared their zest for partisan competition.

It is true that Ron Brown was at times very controversial and a lot of questions were raised, a lot of charges were made. Certainly, of all the Members of the House, I may be the most able to identify with being at the center of controversy at times. And I can say that every time we would meet and we would talk, there was a positiveness to his approach. There was an intensity and a willingness to live out whatever happened and whatever fights he was in, a willingness to move forward, to focus on getting things done that was quite remarkable.

At the Commerce Department, he traveled across the world, worked with senior executives, did, I thought, remarkably creative things to create American jobs through world sales. And again and again he would put together a team, they would go to a country and he would achieve breakthroughs for American workers and for American sales that had not occurred before. In his last mission, as my good friend from Missouri was pointing out, Ron Brown was on a selfless venture to help those who needed help, to help those who sought peace, recognizing that as Commerce Secretary, if he could help them begin to rebuild their economies, he might be able to begin to rebuild their cultures, and they might be able to find a way to seek prosperity together rather than to destroy their region in war.

I think we in the House want Ron Brown's family and the families of all of those who died in this accident to know that we are deeply grateful for the commitment they made to free-

dom, to the willingness they had to serve their country, and that our offices and our doors are open, both to Secretary Brown's family, but equally important, to the family of every American who was on that airplane, to the family of every person who died in service to their country.

Again, I thank my friend for offering this resolution which I so strongly support and which I would hope the House will pass unanimously in just a few minutes.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for that fine statement and urge all the Members to vote for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] be allowed to manage the remainder of the time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to commend our distinguished minority leader and the Speaker for introducing this important resolution and for bringing it to the floor in this expeditious manner.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this resolution, which pays tribute to Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and the other 33 Americans who lost their lives in the tragic airplane crash on April 3.

In the past 2 weeks, we all have heard the tremendous accolades paid to Secretary Brown for his numerous contributions to this Nation. He was a great public servant, a loving husband and father, and a man who brought tremendous enthusiasm, vision, humor, and intelligence to every challenge he accepted.

The country is much better off because of Ron Brown. We have all heard the many tributes from American business leaders who have called him the best Secretary of Commerce in our Nation's history. These statements were made well before his tragic death. As Secretary of Commerce, Ron worked tirelessly and aggressively to create and protect American jobs. Under his leadership, the Department delivered more for less by making sensible investments in our communities, protecting intellectual property rights, stimulating advances in technology and telecommunications, increasing our competitiveness and exports, and providing essential weather forecasting, research, and environmental services.

I know many other Members with to speak this morning, so I will end by simply saying farewell and thank you to my dear friend Ron Brown and by extending my deepest condolences to his wife Alma, to his wonderful children, and to the families and friends of the other Americans who lost their lives in service to their country on April 3. The loss of their collective talents will be felt for years to come.

□ 1045

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. MEEK].

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank, as a representative of the Congressional Black Caucus, to thank the leader, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH], to thank our Speaker, and to say to our Speaker we thank him for bringing in the bipartisan part of this resolution, and I thank him very much, Speaker GINGRICH, for adding this dimension to this resolution.

Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and the other Americans who lost their lives on April 3 while in service to our country, they were true patriots, and they deserve the honor which patriots should receive.

The Congressional Black Caucus thanks all of this House for representing and paying a tribute to Secretary Brown. We also want to thank Senator BOB DOLE, who cosponsored the resolution in the Senate, and 98 of his colleagues properly and officially honored, just as we are doing, Secretary Brown and the other great Americans who died in the service of their country.

We pay tribute to Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and the others. He was the 30th U.S. Secretary of Commerce. He had been a strong and forceful advocate for not only American business, but Ron Brown stretched all out to the byways and the ghettos of this country, and they all had a model to follow, regardless of race, color, or creed. He was a beacon of hope for the divergent messages that make up this country.

Under Secretary Brown's leadership, the Commerce Department became one of the major success stories in the Clinton administration. He launched a national export strategy predicated on the very basic idea that American exports translate into jobs and opportunities for American business and working people. In the pursuit of this strategy, Secretary Brown conducted trade mission after trade mission.

He was a tireless worker or soldier in the American Army. He had the vision to see that beyond the horrors of war, behind the horrors of war-torn Bosnia lay opportunities, not only for American business, but for the Bosnian people. To be of service, he wanted to be, and he did it as well as to engage in commerce.

Ron Brown was a common man with an uncommon touch who, while fighting against this Nation's injustices, also believed he could be bettering this Nation and that all people could be lifted up to reach their highest potential. Because of Ron Brown, doors have been opened for many Americans that were never even cracked before.

The Congressional Black Caucus is grateful for Secretary Ron Brown's legacy, which he left to all of us. He came from humble roots, but he did not internalize his race or his color or his

creed. He did not internalize his humble beginnings. He made something out of each one. He did not relate himself to the roles which society had defined for him and others like him.

He was an unifying and driving force to indicate to all of us what a public servant should be like. He knew what it meant to be one. He put the needs of the American people ahead of his own. He lived for America, and ultimately, Mr. Speaker, he gave his life for America.

So I want to thank this House for bestowing this tribute on Ron Brown, and on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus I would like to say, "Thank you to all of you."

Mr. DINGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. FORBES].

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, and most importantly I rise in support to celebrate the life of the man that we knew as Ron Brown.

I am a new Member of this body, going on my 15th month, and early in my tenure Ron Brown reached out to me as one of those new freshmen Members, those Republican freshmen Members of the Congress, because Ron Brown, above all else, was the kind of man that built bridges, and, yes, we know his service as a great politician, and I say that in the most reverent and decent sense because he understood good politics, he understood the art of compromise and building bridges.

Ron Brown was a people person, he was a good and decent man, and I am so very honored to stand in this well with so many others who have come to revere and respect Ron Brown and to have called him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 15 months we spent many moments together, some of his more difficult personal moments. I was honored to have spent some time over in his office with him, and, Mr. Speaker, Ron Brown, as I said, was a tremendous individual, and he was a tremendous public servant. He built the Commerce Department in a way that I think few on either side of the aisle would dispute. It said that the work of Ron Brown has sowed the seeds for about \$44 billion in new economic opportunity for American businesses as a result of his travels around the globe to build partnerships with other nations.

As I said, he was a good and decent man, and we shared something else in common: our love for a place on eastern Long Island called Sag Harbor, and he spent many wonderful private moments there with his dear wife, Alma, and with his children.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Brown, as I say, will be sorely missed. He was a man of good humor, good decency, and we reached out and spoke with each other many, many times over the last 15 months.

I disagree with some who think that, for example, we should change the way the Commerce Department is set up. I

disagree with that, and Ron understood that, and we talked at great length about that.

I shared his interest in the National Marine Fishery Service, which was one of the many agencies under his charge at the Department of Commerce, and they did tremendous things, the National Marine Fishery Service, something again that we had in common with my eastern Long Island district, and, as I have acknowledged, he has built tremendous bridges across the world on behalf of all Americans in the area of international trade particularly, and during my last 15 months in this body I have heard repeatedly, long before the tragedy, of the tremendous accomplishments of the Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown, in the area of exporting.

So I rise today in support of the resolution. I extend to the family of Ron Brown, to his dear wife, Alma, and his children, Tracy and Michael, and to all of the families of the 33 others whom we lost in the tragedy earlier this month, I extend our condolences, our heartfelt sympathies, and our prayers and thoughts are with all of you.

I stood in this well several evenings ago and made note of another individual whom we lost in this tragedy from my district, young Gail Dobert, who served with Ron Brown in his chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee, and with excitement and great promise went with him over to the Department of Commerce and served so ably to help build this international presence that Ron made possible.

So I rise in support of this resolution, and I appreciate the House taking this time today to celebrate the life of Ron Brown. He was a good and decent man.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY].

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, today we honor a dear friend and a great leader, the late Commerce Secretary, Ron Brown.

Every so often, fortunately, our country produces someone who reminds us of the hope, energy, and optimism that are the very essence of being an American. Ron Brown was such a person. He was a vital man—vital in his love of life, and vital in the energy that he brought to his work.

Those of us who had the joy of working with Ron Brown know the total dedication he brought to any job. Verve, style, and sheer energy were his hallmarks.

But beyond that dazzling surface lay an intellect of great depth in understanding the forces at work in the world today. He knew that in an increasingly complex and competitive world, Government officials must fight to gain a fair share of foreign projects and markets for U.S. goods. So Ron Brown pioneered commercial diplomacy. From his first day at the Commerce Department to his last tragic

flight, Ron Brown proved himself to be the best advocate American business ever had. Against the world's toughest competition, he championed our country's industries, workers, and products. He pioneered commercial diplomacy from his first day at Commerce to his last, tragic flight.

Ron Brown proved himself to be a strong voice for American business and for all Americans. Against the world's toughest competition, he championed our country. His knowledge, his good will, and his commitment to this country will all be missed deeply. With my colleagues, I send my deepest sympathy to his family.

But, Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, I just want to speak about Ron Brown as I knew him. He had something that always had me in awe. When Ron Brown talked to you, you thought he cared about you.

The last time I talked to Ron Brown was a week before he went on his trip. My colleagues would have thought this terribly busy man was waiting for my call. And my call was a request, another request of so many requests, to take up part of his very important time.

My sympathy to his family, my sympathy to the United States of America, because he is gone.

Ron, your thousands of friends are going to miss you.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON].

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan, JOHN DINGELL, for being gracious with his time, and I will only take just a couple of minutes.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise as a conservative to pay tribute and give my sympathy to the family of Ron Brown.

Ron Brown was a liberal. We rarely shared the same philosophical views. But let me say to my colleagues there was no more trusted man in politics, in my opinion, than Ron Brown because he really believed what he said. He was truly genuine. I think we really need to learn from Ron Brown's spirit. Even though he was a partisan Democrat and I am a partisan Republican, we all could meet with him, and when that meeting was finished and when I was walking out of the room, it felt like walking out after having met with a friend even though we might have disagreed.

That is the kind of man that Ron Brown was. We need more people like that in Government, we need more people like that in this House of Representatives. We all, those of us who show emotion from time to time, could take a lesson from Ron Brown because he was truly a decent human being, liked by so many people, including me.

Our condolences also go out to all of the families of those who lost their lives in the terrible tragedy including the families from Glens Falls, NY, my hometown, Claudio Elia, the husband

of Susan Day, who grew up next door, and to Walter J. Murphy, who also grew up in Glens Falls.

They and Ron Brown were just 2 of the 33 decent human beings who were doing their part in trying to bring peace and stability to that troubled part of the world.

May God Bless them all.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON].

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me, and I thank him for his leadership and his tribute to Ron Brown.

Seven Americans, seven public servants, went down on that fated plane in Bosnia. One of them was Ronald H. Brown. He was my friend of 30 years and my constituent. This was the city in which he was born, it is the city where he lived out his life, it was the city where he became known as both a public man and a public servant.

Many of us will remember him also as a family man. The most poignant photograph of Ron is the one with his twin grandsons.

□ 1100

What Ron meant to his son Michael and his daughter Tracy is itself a model for how to be a parent in these days when so many have lost that art. Yet, this most busy of men was a wonderful parent to his children.

Ron will be remembered as a breaker of barriers on one hand, and as an extraordinary innovator on the other. He broke barriers that no man or woman before him had even attempted. This was, I have to say, my colleagues, a black man who simply did not know his place and refused to accept the notion that there was one for him. So when it came time to resurrect the Democratic Party, it was Ron Brown who stepped forward and said not "Not me," but "It must be me."

When he went to the Commerce Department he said not "How do you do this job?" but "I will do this job in a way it has never been done before." So after he broke the barriers, he did something much more important. He was a pioneer in turning around each of those institutions.

It was Ron Brown who engineered the comeback of the Democratic Party in 1992, and it was Ron Brown who perfected the art of diplomacy, of commercial diplomacy at the Commerce Department. Either one of these breakthroughs, either one of these pioneering efforts, would have left Ron's name written in the book of American history. He wrote new pages wherever he went. He wrote them in part because he had it all. He was an extraordinarily talented man, and because he understood the expanse of his talents, he gave it all.

Ron exemplified the best of our country, the American spirit of optimism, the refusal to recognize any limits. May our country also make that same refusal.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX].

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute today to a great America, Ron Brown, who was an outstanding father to Tracy and Michael, a loving husband to Alma, a fine Cabinet secretary, a trusted adviser to President Clinton, a champion of business. He helped increase the growth of this country's companies and, as well, increased jobs; a goodwill ambassador for the United States; a positive spirit; a modern-day Will Rogers. He never lost his cool.

The world gave him lemons and he made lemonade; a role model for our young people; for those who want to get involved in government, work for a good candidate, work for a good cause, and work for your country, just like Ron Brown did, a great American who we tribute today, and who will be greatly missed.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPRATT].

(Mr. SPRATT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I proudly sponsor this resolution because Ron Brown was a friend and a rare American. He was African-American, but he transcended race and color. He was a party leader, and one of the best because he resurrected our party, but there was nothing ever small or petty or partisan about him. He had this enormous affinity for people, and he led by bringing people together, not by splitting us apart.

When he came before our committee to defend his embattled Commerce Department, he was a forceful advocate with the facts at his command, but he made his case without a trace of rancor or resentment. He could do that because he sat there as the single best argument for that embattled department.

Ron Brown was a bridge-builder at a time when so many of our differences seem unbridgeable. His goodness and his decency and his energy and charm are assets we sorely need in the public life of this country. We can ill afford to lose leaders like him, before his time, still in his prime.

But in the broadest sense, we have not lost Ron Brown, for he remains a lasting symbol of what America at its best can be. I extend to his family, and to the families of all those who perished in this tragic accident, my sympathy and our gratitude for the selfless service rendered our country in the cause of peace in a forlorn place.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY].

(Mr. NEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to extend on behalf of my district and, obviously,

all the Members of the House, condolences to the family of Ron Brown and all those who were aboard the airplane that crashed in Bosnia.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to point out that one of my constituents who was originally from Zanesville, OH, Shelly McPeck Kelly, was aboard that plane. She leaves behind a loving family in Zanesville, OH. That would be her mother, Shirley Clark, and also her stepfather, Sam Clark, and several siblings. She also leaves behind a loving husband, Dennis, and two children, Sean and Courtney.

Shelly McPeck Kelly was to retire in 2 years from the Air Force. She achieved the rank of technical sergeant. She was a loyal and devoted wife and a loving mother. She served faithfully her Government aboard a U.S. Air Force plane, and also had previously served for the President aboard Air Force One during the Bush administration.

I recognize her service to the country, and rise on behalf of the residents of eastern Ohio to say that we want to commend Shelly McPeck Kelly for her service to the United States of America during the Bosnia peacekeeping mission, and just also say that the residents of eastern Ohio join me in honoring the memory of Shelly McPeck Kelly and send condolences to her family, as we also send to the family of Ron Brown and the other devoted and loyal Americans aboard that plane.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois [Mr. JACKSON].

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] for yielding this time to me, and for his forthright vision in honoring the late Secretary of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to join my colleagues in sponsoring this resolution in honor of Secretary Ron Brown and the others who lost their lives on Wednesday, April 3. The tragic plane crash and death of Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown is a personal loss, as well as a national loss of a great public servant. In addition to being a professional colleague, I was a close personal friend, not only of Ron Brown, but of his entire family, his wife Alma, his two children, Tracey and Michael, and his brother Chip Brown.

Our prayers are with Ron Brown's family and with all of the families who lost loved ones in this terrible tragedy—Bill Morton, Carol Hamilton, Duane Christian, Kathryn Hoffman, and the others. It is a reminder to all of us to be good stewards of the time and talent that God has given us on this Earth, and to use it to serve others to the best of our abilities.

I was with Secretary Ron Brown just a couple of weeks ago at a breakfast meeting. He came up to me and congratulated me on my election to Congress. He said, "I am so proud of you." The feeling was mutual, I was also proud of him.

I was appointed to the Democratic National Committee [DNC] by Paul Kirk, largely at the behest of Ron Brown, who shortly thereafter was chosen as the chairman of the DNC. As Chair of the DNC, he is credited with running a coordinated campaign, which not only elected Democrats to the Senate and House, but helped to elect Bill Clinton President of the United States. Shortly, thereafter, he was appointed Secretary of Commerce, where he did a splendid job for the President and for the country.

Ron Brown was the convention manager for my father's Presidential campaign in 1988, where he used his bridge-building skills to close the gap between progressives and the more conservative members of our party. In many ways, even more than business development, that is Ron Brown's legacy. He was a gifted bridge builder—bridging the gaps of human misunderstanding and fear; and building human trust and understanding.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH].

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I got to know Ron Brown because I serve on the International Relations Committee, and because I also serve as Chairman of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus. Ron Brown had a great sense of humor. He was also a fellow that helped Republicans. I hold an exports conference every year, and over 1,000 people come to that conference each year. Ron Brown was one of the keynote speakers at the conference 2 years ago.

As I said, he had a great sense of humor. When I spoke with him at the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism, he said to me, "You know, you are my favorite Republican." I was really proud of that until someone told me, Ron tells all the Republicans they are his 'Favorite Republican'."

We have a travel and tourism bill developed from the recommendations of the White House conference. The success of that bill is a testimonial to Ron Brown, because we have 225 cosponsors of that legislation.

Ron and I also worked together on another bill, the Export Administration Act. For 17 years, Congress was unable to put together an export administration act. Then, I want to Ron Brown and said, "I have to talk to the President about this." Thanks to Ron Brown, I did have a chance to talk to President Clinton three times on the legislation. That bill has been reported out of our full committee, and it is waiting for a full House vote in May.

Ron Brown was a great Democrat, and he worked hard for the party. I think the loss of Ron Brown to Clinton is comparable to the loss of Lee Atwater to President Bush. That is my opinion. That is how much I thought of Ron Brown.

Yes, he was the loyal opposition, but he knew when to put aside partisan

politics. He went out of his way to help make my Exports Conference a success, and I happen to be a Republican. His help with the Export Administration Act was invaluable. That bill will increase our exports by \$30 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I just want the people of this body to know that when Ron Brown went overseas, he worked hard. When he went down with a number of CEO's to Brazil, Chile, and Argentina, he worked as many as 35 hours in a row briefing people, talking to people, and trying to create jobs. Ron Brown did a lot for the economy of this country, and we are going to miss him. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAYNE].

(Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] for handling this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, last night we held a special orders session to honor our friend and a great American hero, Ron Brown. I rise now to join my colleagues in supporting this resolution paying tribute to this remarkable public servant.

As Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown was known around the world as a tireless crusader for fair and free trade. A skilled negotiator, he kept America's interests in the forefront while winning the respect of our foreign competitors. Although Ron Brown's life was cut short, it was filled with extraordinary achievements: U.S. Army captain, vice president of the National Urban League, chief counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee, partner in the law firm Patton, Boggs & Blow; chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and his crowning achievement, Secretary of Commerce.

His dynamic energy was the force that propelled the Commerce Department forward. He and his energetic young staff brought billions of dollars of business home to the United States, transforming a lackluster Federal agency into a whirlwind of productive activity. We take a moment now to say thank you, Secretary Brown, for being both a dreamer and a doer. Your candle has not been extinguished; its light continues to burn.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his loving family—his wife, Alma and children Michael and Tracey and to the families of all of those dedicated Americans who died on that fateful mission.

We will miss Ron. He was a true American. He was an American who said that we can do it. He opened the eyes of this world to what can be done with dedication. Thank you very much for your service.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS].

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me, and

I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. FRANKS], for letting me go a bit out of order.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay my solemn and deep respects for Mr. Brown, who was an outstanding chairman of a major political party, the Democrat Party, and an outstanding Secretary of Commerce. He was someone who was extraordinarily energetic. I never met with him when he was not upbeat and excited and very dynamic. I wish to express my condolences to his wife, Alma, and to his two magnificent children, Michael and Tracy.

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This resolution also honors the others who died in this tragic plane crash in the former Yugoslavia, and I want to pay particular respect to Robert Donovan, who was the president and chairman of ABB, and, a resident of Fairfield, CT. I also want to pay respect to his magnificent wife Peg, and his two children, Kara and Kevin. I learned a lot from meeting with them after the death of their husband and father about the resilience of a great American family and how proud he could be of his family. I want to pay respect for his service to West Point and to his country. He was a true great American patriot.

At this time I also want to pay my respect to Claudio Elia, who was president and chairman of Air and Water Technology. He was a recent citizen of the United States, and I am told by his wife Susan and his children Mark and Christine that their father would have taken extraordinary joy, pleasure, and admiration—they would have been so proud to have heard the President of the United States call him and the others who went on this dangerous mission great American patriots. I was in awe of this family, the Elia family, in terms of my conversation and dialog with them, on how they dealt with the death of their husband and father.

My respects to Mr. Brown and to these two great families.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL].

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my friend from Michigan for managing this bill for my dear friend Ron Brown.

One of the questions that I have found most difficult to answer was what made Ron Brown so different. I have to admit that I do not really have the answer, but one of the things that I think that made him different was the depth of which he loved this country and the fact that the country gave him an opportunity to show just how good he was.

When you think about that, you have to take a look at the history of our country, where we were and where we are going, and was Ron Brown not the right guy at the right time.

Everything that we have been taught in this country in our history deals with our relationship with England and with Europe. But now that they have their Common Market, we have to find other places to sell our goods: Central America, South America, Africa, China, all of these markets. And we have to do it in a way that we are not so hung up with our European connection as much as we are with our human being connection, and that was what Ron Brown was all about.

Ron Brown saw despair. He saw the need for economic development. He knew what a job would do for a person in terms of family values and dignity and planning a family and having a place to live. When he went to these countries, he did not just see a place to sell airplanes. He saw the pain and the misery and the opportunity to help build their economy, build friendships and, of course, while doing that, to create the jobs and the dignity and the disposable income that would be necessary for trade.

That is why when I have had the opportunity and the honor to travel with him, that he never just stayed with the big shots. He always went out there with the beneficiaries, the poor, those that sometimes seemed to be without hope. Even in South Africa, where he went to Soweto and spent more time than I would normally spend to see the people in Soweto, to sing their national anthem in his honor and his presence, meant that he did more than just sell goods to these people. He was selling the United States of America.

I hope those that have targeted the Commerce Department would realize that Ron Brown electrified everybody in Commerce. They love their country and they love what they are going. Whenever Ron Brown went overseas, our embassies turned overnight into being satellites of the Commerce Department, and our business people, instead of seeing staid diplomats and ambassadors, they saw those people that were there making deals for them.

I hope as this Congress moves forward and we have to go to the North American free trade countries and we have to go to China and Japan, that we really give other Americans the opportunities and change the complexion literally of the State Department, as Commerce has changed, and give America a better chance to show how good we really are.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. FRANKS].

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me the time this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a letter that I sent to Alma Brown, Michael, and Tracy and the other members of the Brown family:

It is with great sorrow that I write this letter of condolence to all the members of your extended family. Losing a family member is always difficult, particularly when it is

someone who has been so vibrant and been so wonderful to this country, as well as one who would have such a great future that was taken away from him so abruptly.

Secretary Brown dedicated his life to his country and, ultimately, died in service of it. There is no greater love that one can have for one's country than to die for it.

Even though he died at a relatively young age, Secretary Brown's accomplishments were far greater than most people ever achieve at any age.

I realize the feelings of grief that you must feel at this tragic time. However, the love of your family and the warmth and sincerity of neighbors, friends and the many people of our great country who are mourning the loss of Secretary Brown, will help sustain you in the days to come.

I know that Secretary Brown's memory will be cherished by the many people whose lives he touched and affected.

My prayers are also being sent, Mr. Speaker, to the other passengers who died in the crash, including the two families from my State of Connecticut.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, on April 3 of this year, 33 bright and shining stars of America lost their lives on a mission for their Government. Whether they came from the private sector, the armed services, or public service as Ron Brown and his colleagues from Commerce, they were all serving America and serving as a shining example to us, all of the best that is within us.

I, and a number of my colleagues, went to Dover Air Force Base to welcome back the 33 caskets containing those bodies. Their souls, of course, had gone to God. But as we paid tribute to them as human beings and expressed our sorrow along with their families at their leaving, we listened to the President's eulogy which was appropriate and, I thought, compelling. He said that these 33 lives show us the best of America, and indeed they did. And as this resolution does, the President named each and every one of those 33.

Ron Brown was, as he was to so many, my friend. I particularly remember an incident where we were going to Los Angeles to speak, and he had arrived at Dulles on an airplane, and I had gone there from here, and he had a very short connection. We got on the plane and we were flying to Los Angeles, and he had to speak that night at 5 o'clock and, lo and behold, his bags had not followed him and he was in casual clothes.

Now, Ron Brown was not one to speak in casual clothes, as we will recall. Luckily, I had two suits in my bag, so we went in the men's room at the Denver Airport, and there we were, a black man and white man exchanging suits and dressing to speak that night. I am sure a lot of people said, "What's going on here?"

Ron Brown spoke that night, and he said, "I'm Ron Brown, but this is STENY HOYER's suit." He was so elegant, I am sure that he thought my suit was not quite up to his standards.

Ron Brown contributed greatly to this country in so many different ways. Yes, he was as shining an example of what a Secretary of Commerce ought to be as any in history, but he was much more than that. He was, as so many of my colleagues have indicated, a representation of what America is all about and what its best instincts produce.

Ron Brown was indeed a happy warrior. He was the embodiment of the joy of politics. Ron Brown, for all the young people of America, ought to be an example that there are no barriers too high, no mountains too hard to climb that should preclude you from accomplishing all that your character and your energy and your commitment will allow you to accomplish.

The President of the United States, as he closed the eulogy in Dover on April 6, said this:

Today we bring their bodies back home to America, but their souls are surely at home with God. We welcome them home. We miss them. We ask God to be with them and their families.

The President said that we ought to pray that God bless America. And God did bless America. He did so through the lives of these 33 shining examples of the best of America.

Mr. Speaker, I include the remarks of the President on April 6 at this point in the RECORD.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AND BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM J. DEDINGER, DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, AT CEREMONY HONORING THE AMERICANS WHO ACCOMPANIED SECRETARY OF COMMERCE RON BROWN TO CROATIA

BRIGADIER GENERAL DEDINGER. Let us pray. Almighty God, source of all comfort and consolation, we ask your blessing as we receive the victims of this tragic accident. Though we walk through the valley of death and grief, we fear no evil, for you are with us with your comfort and consolation. You always prepare a table of refreshment for us, and surely your goodness and mercy will uphold us in our grief and sorrow in these days.

Help us always to remember these public servants, ever mindful of their willingness to share their talents and wisdom, not only with their own nation, but also with people seeking to recover from the ravages of war. May their example renew our personal vision of public service. Lord, give us this day a new hope, as we feel despair; new light, as we sense darkness; deeper compassion, as we experience loss. May this hope, this light, this compassion heal the brokenness of our hearts and minds.

This we ask in you holy name. Amen.

THE PRESIDENT. My fellow Americans, today we come to a place that has seen too many sad, silent homecomings. For this is where we in America bring home our own—those who have given their lives in the service of their country.

The 33 fine Americans we meet today, on their last journey home, ended their lives on a hard mountain a long way from home. But in a way they never left America. On their mission of peace and hope, they carried with them America's spirit, what our greatest martyr, Abraham Lincoln, called "the last, best hope of earth."

Our loved ones and friends loved their country and they loved serving their country. They believed that America, through their efforts, could help to restore a broken

land, help to heal a people of their hatreds, help to bring a better tomorrow through honest work and shared enterprise. They know what their country had given them and they gave it back with a force, an energy, an optimism that every one of us can be proud of.

They were outstanding business leaders who gave their employees and their customers their very best. They were brave members of our military, dedicated to preserving our freedom and advancing America's cause.

There was a brilliant correspondent, committed to helping Americans better understand this complicated new world we live in. And there were public servants, some of them still in the fresh springtime of their years, who gave nothing less than everything they had, because they believed in the nobility of public service.

And there was a noble Secretary of Commerce who never saw a mountain he couldn't climb or a river he couldn't build a bridge across.

All of them were so full of possibility. Even as we grieve for what their lives might have been, let us celebrate what their lives were, for their public achievements and their private victories of love and kindness and devotion are things that no one—no one—could do anything but treasure.

These 33 lives show us the best of America. They are a stern rebuke to the cynicism that is all too familiar today. For as family after family after family told the Vice President and Hillary and me today, their loved ones were proud of what they were doing, they believed in what they were doing, they believed in this country, they believed we could make a difference. How silly they make cynicism seem. And, more important, they were a glowing testimonial to the power of individuals who improved their own lives and elevate the lives of others and make a better future for others. These 33 people loved America enough to use what is best about it in their own lives, to try to help solve a problem a long, long way from home.

At the first of this interminable week, Ron Brown came to the White House to visit with me and the Vice President and a few others. And at the end of the visit he was bubbling with enthusiasm about this mission. And he went through all the people from the Commerce Department who were going. And then he went through every single business leader that was going. And he said, you know, I've taken so many of these missions to advance America's economic interest and to generate jobs for Americans; these business people are going on this mission because they want to use the power of the American economy to save the peace in the Balkans.

That is a noble thing. Nearly 5,000 miles from home, they went to help people build their own homes and roads, to turn on the lights in cities darkened by war, to restore the everyday interchange of people working and living together with something to look forward to and a dream to raise their own children by. You know, we can say a lot of things, because these people were many things to those who loved them. But I say to all of you, to every American, they were all patriots, whether soldiers or civil servants or committed citizens, they were patriots.

In their memory and in their honor, let us rededicate our lives to our country and to our fellow citizens; in their memory and in their honor, let us resolve to continue their mission of peace and healing and progress. We must not let their mission fail. And we will not let their mission fail.

The sun is going down on this day. The next time it rises it will be Easter morning, a day that marks the passage from loss and despair to hope and redemption, a day that

more than any other reminds us that life is more than what we know, life is more than what we can understand, life is more than, sometimes, even we can bear. But life is also eternal. For each of these 33 of our fellow Americans and the two fine Croatians that fell with them, their day on Earth was too short, but for our country men and women we must remember that what they did while the sun was out will last with us forever.

If I may now, I would like to read the names of all of them, in honor of their lives, their service and their families:

Staff Sergeant Gerald Aldrich
Ronald Brown
Duane Christian
Barry Conrad
Paul Cushman III
Adam Darling
Captain Ashley James Davis
Gail Dobert
Robert Donovan
Claudio Eli a
Staff Sergeant Robert Farrington, Jr.
David Ford
Carol Hamilton
Kathryn Hoffman
Lee Jackson
Stephen Kaminski
Katherine Kellogg
Technical Sergeant Shelly Kelly
James Lewek
Frank Maier
Charles Meissner
William Morton
Walter Murphy
Lawrence Payne
Nathaniel Nash
Leonard Pieroni
Captain Timothy Schafer
John Scoville
I. Donald Terner
P. Stuart Tholan
Technical Sergeant Cheryl Ann Turnage
Naomi Warbasse
Robert Al Whittaker

Today we bring their bodies back home to America, but their souls are surely at home with God. We welcome them home. We miss them. We ask God to be with them and their families.

God bless you all, and God bless our beloved nation. Amen.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE].

(Mr. HYDE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I did not have the honor of personally knowing Ron Brown, but I knew him by reputation and by watching him work with flair and gusto in a very important job. He was a great role model for everybody. He was indeed a marvel.

One searches tragedies for some meaning or for some glimmer of good. Out of Ron Brown's tragic end and out of the deaths of his passengers, it seems to me we can take comfort in the fact that he died as a public servant and elevated the category of public service through his sacrifice and through his example. And those of us who are very concerned about the low estate and esteem that public service has in people's minds, it seems to me can take some consolation.

God bless Ron Brown and his family and all of those on the plane.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. FORD].

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Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Michigan for yielding me 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to support the resolution that is before the House today in tribute to Secretary Ron Brown and other Americans who met their untimely death.

Ron Brown, and I really associate myself first with all of the remarks that have been made so far on this resolution before the House, and we all were saddened with the death of Ron Brown and others, for this Nation to know that Ron Brown was a good public servant, that Ron Brown not only served his Nation well, but I was a neighbor of Ron Brown's. That is true for Alma and Tracy, along with Mike and the two grandchildren.

Being a neighbor, I guess for the past 15 years here in the D.C. area, to know Ron Brown and his family, and to see and to watch how he was able to develop such a great family and a good support system for that family, and he was a good neighbor. Ron kept the neighborhood upbeat. He was one who was always available and had time for young people.

I can say that, because I have three sons myself, and my three sons have been somewhat raised in the presence of Ron Brown, and to know of his leadership and to know of his character and to know of his smartness. He was extremely bright while he was there at the law firm here in the District.

He went on to become the chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Then I was on the plane with him going to my hometown in Memphis back in 1992, the end of 1992, when he was called by the President-elect Clinton to be offered a Cabinet slot in the administration. We had that 2-hour flight. He left Memphis and went to the Little Rock area.

But to hear him and listen to him, and to know he was about serving this Nation, and to see Ron Brown as a corporate giant, leading corporate American into other ventures throughout the world, and to create jobs and to bring huge dollar amounts into this country, as a neighbor and as a friend and as a Member of this body, I would say that he made a great contribution to mankind, he made a great contribution to America, and Ron Brown will be missed. We are certainly praying for the family and other family members of the other deceased persons.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio [Mr. PORTMAN].

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving me the opportunity to speak.

I was over at my office and I heard this, and I wanted to be here. Twelve years ago, fresh out of law school, I worked with Ron Brown as an international trade lawyer. At the time I was doing volunteer work for then Vice President Bush. So clearly we were on opposite sides of the political aisle. Yet

Ron reached out to me and befriended me, and for the past 12 years that friendship continued.

Most recently at home on a Sunday he called me to talk about preserving the international trade functions at the Department of Commerce, a function that he exercised as well as any Secretary of Commerce in history, I think better than any Secretary of Commerce in history.

As Ron was so good at doing, he reached out to me again and found common ground, in this case our mutual back problems we were experiencing. Unfortunately, my back surgery kept me away from his funeral last week.

TOBY ROTH said he called him his favorite Republican, and apparently he called some other Republicans that. He never called me that, but he did call me his friend, and I cherish that, and will cherish that forever.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia [Ms. MCKINNEY].

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution, and I would like to thank the Democratic leader and the Speaker for bringing this measure to the floor today.

First, I wish to extend my condolences to the Brown family and to the families of all those who went down on that fateful flight. Their loss is our loss, and America mourns the passing of some of our best and brightest.

Mr. Speaker, I personally admired Ron Brown as a role model and as a public servant. Moreover, his work touched the lives of my constituents who benefited from his vision of improving the lives of working families through investments and exports.

Ron Brown exemplified everything we as Democrats believe in and stand for. His belief in the human spirit and the American dream permeated every aspect of his life. His unwavering compassion and concern for the less fortunate was the moral compass by which he guided his work. As Democrats, we have lost one of our party's finest.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I get to meet the likes of a Ron Brown. Moreover, I am proud to have known him and appreciate what he has done for my constituents, for my party, and for my country.

A young woman from Atlanta was also on that plane, Kathryn Hoffman. My condolences are extended to her family and to her friends.

I was recently asked by a journalist about the loss of Ron Brown, a black leader. I corrected that journalist. Ron Brown was an American leader.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT].

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, all of those of us who were friends of Ron Brown certainly have their own personal stories, and I have mine, but I will not take the time to dwell in personal stories.

I simply wanted to be one of the Members who rose in support of this resolution and to express my condolences to the Brown family and the families of all the other brave Americans who lost their lives in this tragic accident.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BISHOP].

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, history will remember Ron Brown as one of the most dynamic, creative and brilliant leaders to ever serve in a Presidential Cabinet.

These characteristics stand out strong and clear in the many articles reviewing his career that were published after the plane crash that took his life and the lives of the staff Members and business leaders accompanying him on that fatal trip to the former Yugoslavia.

One national magazine, *Jet*, featured a number of photographs of Ron Brown at work. They showed Ron Brown in China, in Japan, in South Africa, in Egypt, in Saudi Arabia, in Israel, in Gaza, in Russia, in Germany, in Chile, in Indonesia, and in Bosnia, just hours before the crash on the mountain top.

He seemed to be everywhere during those few busy years he served as Secretary of Commerce, the first African-American to hold that office, even coming to the Second District of Georgia to deliver the commencement address at Albany State College.

In a span of less than 3 years, he made 15 trade missions to more than 25 countries. These trips produced a record 80 billion dollars' worth of new business contracts for U.S. made goods and services. His work in foreign trade led to a 26-percent increase in U.S. exports. But he also worked to enhance minority business enterprise in America and abroad.

Vice President GORE called him the greatest Commerce Secretary in history. But it was not just political allies who recognized his extraordinary ability. Senator DOLE described him as a tireless advocate for American business and a gifted leader.

Born in Washington, DC, and raised in Harlem, Ron Brown was gifted at everything he did, as a student at Middlebury College and St. John's University, as an Army officer in Germany and Korea, as an official and social worker with the National Urban League, as a senatorial aide and chief counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee, as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, as an attorney in a leading law firm, and as Secretary of Commerce, and as a friend.

Many of the articles about Ron Brown's career referred to him as a trailblazer. This was certainly true, and the trails he blazed brought jobs and a more secure economy for all Americans. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER].

(Mr. HEFNER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution and thank the gentleman for bringing it forth. We have lost a dear friend.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN].

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the outpouring of feeling after Ron Brown's death was unique. It was a tribute to Ron, to his capacity for friendship, to his verve, his zest for life, his intelligence, his caring. It was also a tribute to Ron Brown's America.

Ron Brown's life showed that there are almost no limits to opportunity in America. You have to work for it. But we often talk about the limitlessness of opportunity. It is not always quite true. Ron tried so hard to make it true.

Like so many other dear friends of Ron Brown, I have mourned his death. I miss of him every day.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. GEJDENSON].

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, Ron Brown, who was a good friend of many years, and I appeared on a program about 3 weeks into his position as Secretary of Commerce, and I was somewhat nervous for my friend, because the breadth and depth of areas covered by the Commerce Department are so vast. Within 3 weeks he had mastered the area of high-technology licensing and exports to a degree which most secretaries had not at the completion of their term, his interest length was such and his intensity and commitment to the areas he was in charge of. He knew his job, he executed it with dignity and grace and with an energy that ought to inspire everyone in both the public and private sector.

He fought for the economic strength of this country from every working man and woman's point of view. He wanted to make sure there were jobs so that each American would have the kind of opportunity he had made for himself.

He was a friend, he was incredibly capable. I cannot imagine that there is anyone who will serve in that capacity who will have the energy and intellect that Ron Brown had.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of the time to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELDS].

(Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Brown was a very personal friend of mine. I had an opportunity to meet him on a Presidential campaign in 1988, where he and I shared many platforms together. There is not

another American that I have ever met in my lifetime who has worked as hard, who has had such a strong commitment to country, than Ron Brown.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before the House today to say that Ron Brown was indeed a scholar, a leader, and a role model, for people all across this country.

The last time Ron Brown and I had an opportunity to sit down and talk was actually in the Fourth Congressional District. I called him at the Department of Commerce and said, Mr. Secretary, I want you to come to Louisiana and talk about economic development. And right off the cuff he just said, I will be there. And in about 30 minutes, he called back and said, I will be there in about 3 weeks.

So I want to thank the Ron Brown family. I also want to give a special tribute to a family from Louisiana. The pilot of that plane was from my home State of Louisiana, Ashley Davis. To his wife and to his two little children, we want to say that we offer our condolences to them and to all of the families of those who lost their lives in this tragic accident. To them we say God bless you, and we will pray for you.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is possible for everyone to fully comprehend what a loss the Nation will suffer without the late Commerce Secretary Ron H. Brown. Not only was he a champion for the domestic and international development of American business, but also, and more importantly, his extraordinary character was an invaluable asset to the U.S. Government. Every project he touched was approached with a tireless devotion and a profound understanding of the initiative's impact on the Nation's economy. He led by example, urging others to work as partners instead of competitors to maximize opportunities.

Truly, this man was in the business of building bridges and reinforcing existing relationships to ensure opportunities for advancement of large and small business interests alike. Under his leadership, all facets of the Commerce Department flourished and enjoyed the benefits of innovative policies. He was instrumental in developing a comprehensive and coordinated plan for bringing together the many elements of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration; he sought to improve patent and trademark protection of U.S. interests in intellectual property; he worked diligently for telecommunications reform to create a competitive marketplace and to illuminate how technology can alleviate geographic barriers and enhance education; he instituted a long-term plan to assist the New England fishing industry—the list goes on and on.

A man of firsts, Ron Brown was the first African-American chairman of the Democratic National Committee and the first African-American to hold the office of U.S. Secretary of Commerce. He worked tirelessly to promote the Commerce Department's mission of long-term economic growth—to him we owe a debt of gratitude for our Nation's prosperity. At a time when diversity seems to be a dividing force in this country, Ron Brown demonstrated that diversity is our Nation's greatest asset. It is in this spirit that I offer these words of tribute.

During this time of remembrance, I would like to pay tribute to an Air Force pilot who lost his life serving our country, Capt. Ashley J. Davis. Captain Davis was from hometown, Baton Rouge, LA. A victim of the tragic plane crash which ended the lives of 33 Americans who were serving their country, Captain Davis' mission was to pilot the dignitaries who visited Europe. He was chosen for the job just 18 months ago, over 38 other pilots. I offer my condolences to Captain Davis' family. He is survived by his wife Debra, and two children. A man of great spirit and patriotism, I know his family and friends will miss him. The Air Force has also suffered a great loss in his untimely death during his dedicated service to our country. Today, I extend my prayers to this family as well as the families of all the persons who lost their lives in Croatia.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate former Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown.

Throughout the past several days I have heard the accomplishments of Ron Brown extolled by my colleagues. Americans everywhere, and especially those who were close to Ron are deeply affected by this tragedy. Ron was much more than a great chairman of the Democratic Party and Secretary of Commerce, he was a true pioneer and an inspirational human being.

I feel extremely fortunate to have known Ron as a personal friend. Ron began to serve as chair of the Democratic Party around the time I became chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Ron exhibited unwavering optimism in the face of adversity and inspired others to do the same. Through his tireless efforts, Ron Brown restored the Democratic Party to greatness and brought a Democrat back to the White House.

Ron was the type of person who consistently exceeded people's expectations. As Commerce Secretary, Ron single-handedly defined his role. He succeeded in promoting American business and boosting exports to new heights.

Ron Brown was a pioneer in every sense of the word. He spent his life overcoming obstacles and opening up new doors for others to follow. His death occurred while he was cultivating the seeds of economic growth and creating greater opportunities for a country ravaged by war.

Ron Brown will be long remembered for the tremendous service he provided to his country. However, I will miss him as a close friend.

Adam Darling, a 29-year-old Commerce Department employee was also among those who perished in the crash. Darling had worked at the Department since 1993 and had helped plan the trip to the region. A former Davis, CA resident and graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Darling had a promising future ahead of him. My deepest sympathy goes out to Adam's family.

Tim Schaefer, a Sacramento native, was among the six Air Force crew members who perished in the accident. Schaefer, the plane's copilot, had earned a degree in mechanical engineering from California State University, Sacramento. Also among the crew was Capt. Ashley J. Davis. Both men had been stationed at Beale AFB. I salute these members of the armed services who paid the ultimate price to serve their country.

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ron Brown, the United States Secretary

of Commerce who was killed in a tragic accident on April 3, 1996. He and 35 other victims died when their plane went down on a stormy evening in Croatia. He was serving as a diplomat in the war-torn area, analyzing the economy and what actions needed to be taken in the former Yugoslavia in order to spur economic growth to secure the peace.

Ron Brown was indeed an asset to the United States. He was one of the ambitious, special people who is capable of performing multiple roles in their lives while at the same time succeeding in all arenas and remaining true to their ideology.

Ron Brown was a vocal and successful civil rights advocate, political strategist, corporate lawyer, and propagator of American business interests.

He tirelessly campaigned to make the interests of American businesses a foreign policy goal. He certainly deserves credit and thanks for market expansion.

It is because of his success in multiple arenas and in the international community that the United States and the world mourn together. Today we should all take a moment to remember the career and the man we lost.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on April 3, 1996 the United States lost a leader. Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown inspired us all with his ability to bring together people from different backgrounds, beliefs, and cultures to find and achieve a goal for the common good.

He inspired us by his commitment to finding opportunities for U.S. businesses overseas, recognizing that our country's trade deficit is harmful to our domestic economy and the jobs Americans want and need.

Because of his leadership, many California technology firms have increased their sales to foreign countries, which has increased employment and a rebounding California economy. According to the Joint Venture's Index of Silicon Valley, 46,000 jobs have been added to our region since 1992. The semiconductor industry, which has endured years of job loss due to a trade deficit with Japan, showed a gain of 4,300 jobs between 1994 and 1995. Business confidence of Santa Clara County companies reached an all-time high of 73 percent in 1995.

Secretary Brown advocated effectively for economic and employment improvements in Silicon Valley, and this is just part of his legacy. Members of Congress, the administration, business leaders, and citizens must work to preserve this legacy of proactive work on behalf of the people of our country.

America will miss his leadership. I will miss his friendship of almost two decades. Secretary Brown gave his life while serving his country. God rest his good soul.

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown and the 32 other Americans who lost their lives when their plane crash near Dubrovnik, Croatia, on April 3, 1996.

Throughout his tenure as Commerce Secretary, Ron Brown successfully worked on behalf of American companies and their workers in opening doors to the global market. For many companies in my home State of Washington, Secretary Brown was instrumental in promoting our products and cultivating new and/or improved business relationships with our international neighbors.

The most important role of any Commerce Secretary is the promotion of American com-

panies and the workers they employ. Ron Brown will forever be remembered as being a success at this task.

The people who died aboard that plane gave the ultimate sacrifice in the name of democracy and a global free market. Prosperity and economic hope are essential in bringing long-term peace and security to that region of the world. Ron Brown and the other individuals on that plane knew this and recognized their role in spreading our Nation's democratic and free-market beliefs around the globe.

My heart goes out to each and every family member of those who died in that tragic crash. In this time of great sadness, these families should know that as Americans their loved ones will be missed, as patriots they will never be forgotten.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, "Fanfare to the Common Man" was played triumphantly at the funeral of the late Commerce Secretary, Ronald H. Brown. His family could have played some horn tooting type music, in view of the facts that Mr. Brown was truly a successful, high stakes Washington player and an overachiever in many respects. However, they know Ron would not have wanted it any other way.

Ron Brown did not see himself as a Democratic power broker or jet setter or trailblazer like we did. He saw himself as a middle-class kid who grew up in Harlem that loved the basic things in life: family, friends, work, and country. He was passionate about each. He was also passionately devoted to ensuring that everyone got an opportunity, a chance to do better. He believed in opportunity so much that he insisted that his Commerce Department staff memorize a one-sentence mission statement. It reads: "The mission of the Department of Commerce is to ensure economic opportunity for every American." We should all agree that this is still a noble cause.

Mr. Brown set several honorable examples for people from different walks in life. He encouraged young people to strive and reach for the gold. And indeed, he practiced what he preached, he had several raising stars on that ill-fated plane with him. He encouraged CEO's and business leaders to lend their expertise for the improvement of cities in our country and in foreign lands. On that plane were business leaders from across the country. Ron Brown always did what he could to provide an opportunity for everyone, everywhere.

We each will remember Ronald Brown, in our own way, but collectively we will remember him as a great, inspiring American.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ron Brown and to express my deep sorrow and sincerest condolences to his wonderful family. Ron Brown was my friend, and he was a great American.

As Secretary of the Commerce Department, Ron Brown played an instrumental role in implementing the administration's economic plan that has created 8.4 million jobs nationwide since taking office. He was a major force behind job creation efforts and the chief architect of high-technology initiatives to provide greater employment opportunities for working Americans.

Previously, Ron Brown served as chairman of the Democratic National Committee. He was the first African-American in history to head a major national political party. At the DNC, Ron Brown rebuilt the party and laid the groundwork for the Democrats to win back the

White House after losing three straight national elections.

Last summer, Ron Brown traveled to my congressional district to attend the closing ceremony of the Special Olympics in New Haven. We spent the glorious Connecticut morning touring events and had a great time with those wonderful Special Olympians who shared Ron's never-give-up spirit.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Brown lived the American dream and served as an inspirational role model for America's youth. Our country has lost a great leader.

I also want to convey my condolences to the friends and families of Robert Donovan, the chief executive officer of ABB, Inc., headquartered in Norwalk, CT, and Claudio Elia, the chairman and chief executive officer of Air and Water Technologies Corp. in Branchburg, NJ, who lived in Greenwich, CT. In addition, the Nation lost many fine, dedicated people in this tragedy who gave their lives in an attempt to heal a nation and a world ravaged by war. Connecticut and the Nation mourn the loss.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues in tribute to a truly remarkable man, the late Honorable Ron Brown. Ron Brown was a prominent black American who dedicated his life to building a better world for all people. Blessed with many talents and opportunities, Ron used them wisely and he shared his gifts generously.

Ron Brown was a compassionate man who thrived on challenge. He blazed new trails and often was the first black American in his field. Ron was the first black member of his college fraternity, the first black counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee, the first black chairman of the Democratic Party, and the first black Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

Ron had a charming manner and a graceful style. He showed a deftness for overcoming the odds and doing some impossible things. When many experts and political pundits said it could not be done, Ron rejuvenated the Democratic Party and spearheaded the campaign that elected Bill Clinton President, and when Ron did these things he made it look easy.

Ron Brown had the courage of convictions that inspired others to join in his crusades. He shared his vision and his faith in a brighter future. He was a force for unification of diverse groups and the resolution of conflict among them. His last mission was dedicated to rebuilding a war torn land and I am sure he would have made a great contribution to the rebuilding of Bosnia if only he had lived a little longer.

Ron lived his life sowing the seeds of peace and hope. He left this world way too soon, but he left it better than he found it. We will long feel the force of Ron Brown's smiling spirit and long celebrate the legacy of good will he left behind.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a very special man, Ronald H. Brown. Most Americans will remember him as the Secretary of Commerce. However, he was much more. He was the personification of the concept of a bridgebuilder.

In his role as the Secretary of Commerce, Ron constantly promoted American trade. His zeal was premised upon the notion that if the commerce of the United States thrived it would directly translate to increased economic vitality for our Nation. Ron, who never forgot

where he came from, knew that his efforts would result in jobs for the common man.

As chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Ron Brown set the stage for a resurgence of the Democratic Party. This is a resounding testament to his ability, for it was under his leadership that the Democratic Party was able to elect Bill Clinton as President. Ron accomplished this task on the heels of three consecutive Presidential defeats of Democratic candidates.

His memory deserves more than the mere recognition of his official position. For his title was but a small reflection of what he was. Drive, tenacity, compassion, and loyalty were his trademarks. Most of us hope to attain all of these attributes. Few of us attain them with the proper balance. And even fewer attain these attributes and are able to parlay them into avenues for even greater achievement. Ronald H. Brown was one of these rare individuals.

Whitney Young once said, "We can't * * * sit and wait for somebody else. We must go ahead—alone if necessary." Ron Brown was a trailblazer and a visionary. He never waited for opportunities, he created them. Because of this, all American people have benefited.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Ron Brown was a renaissance politician, a jack of all trades who mastered them all. He was a mentor for seasoned professional politicians and he was qualified to tutor most of us. Ron used his considerable influence and charm to become an extraordinary fundraiser for the Democratic Party. From the complex job of raising money to the details of election day engineering, Ron performed with great enthusiasm.

I first met Ron Brown in Chicago while campaigning for Harold Washington for mayor of Chicago. Former Majority Whip Bill Gray, Ron, and I were on a campaign swing through the public housing projects on Chicago's Southside. At that time, Ron was working with a well-known, prestigious, and powerful law firm in Washington. However, on that day, he was simply Ron the loyal friend, campaigning for a fellow Democrat. We went into huge, tall, cold concrete buildings and walked on floors which seemed to be completely out of this world.

The deterioration and garbage inside the halls were unbelievable even to a poor boy like me whose father had never earned more than the minimum wage. I had lived in some of the poorest neighborhoods of Memphis and worked in some of the poorest neighborhoods in New York, but never had I seen such despair. The only glimmer of light we saw in those highrise urban tunnels were the Harold Washington posters that the residents waved at us when they saw our familiar signs. We had connected with the most oppressed among us. As my eyes met Ron's he broke into his signature smile: "This is what politics has got to be all about," he said as we plunged into the crowd of outstretched hands and marched through the halls reminding folks that tomorrow was the day to go out and elect the first African-American mayor of Chicago.

Ron Brown was the unifying force behind the most successful and conflict-free convention the Democrats have had in nearly two decades. Ron was a star who kept his poise, kept peace among the many party factions, and made the Democratic National Committee an effective force to be reckoned with in politics. Ron Brown was a masterful strategist who began his tenure as party chairman with

several special election victories despite great obstacles. He was a great communicator and a great cheerleader who also understood the nuts and bolts of winning campaigns.

Seldom in America does one man so gracefully transcend the racial chasm. Ronald H. Brown did, and in his journey, he deeply touched the heart and soul of a nation. As our Secretary of Commerce, he was our corporate ambassador to the world. As the chairman of the splintered, fractious Democratic Party, he was the glue that held it together, and in so doing, delivered the White House and became the most beloved chairman in history.

Ron Brown was undaunted and unfazed by challenges. Being a first was not unusual for him. He was the first African-American in his college fraternity, the first African-American counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the list goes on. Ron was a trailblazer and an eternal optimist. He saw no mountain that couldn't be climbed or moved or conquered.

The Nation has lost a great leader and statesman. I join Ron's many colleagues and friends not in mourning his death, but in celebrating his life, his accomplishments, his style, and his spirit. Ronald H. Brown will be missed, but never forgotten.

Mr. MCDADE. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues from both sides of the aisle today in paying tribute to former Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown and the 34 others who lost their lives in the tragic plane crash on April 3 in Croatia.

I had the privilege of personally knowing Ron Brown. I respected and liked him as a dedicated public servant, an individual of the highest caliber, and a man of great intellectual ability. A man of his abilities and experience, who possessed such tremendous personal characteristics, will be greatly missed.

Ron Brown leaves behind a legacy of achievement in the military, political, government, and business arenas that few people can match. He led an extraordinary life and we are all saddened by the loss of this talented, exceptional, and energetic man.

My sympathy and condolences go to his wife and two children and to all of the families of those who died in this tragic accident. As Americans, we all mourn the loss of life and note the sacrifice of these individuals who died in the service to their country.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues, Mr. GEPHARDT and Ms. MEEK, in support of the resolution in tribute to Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and the 32 other patriotic Americans, including several from my State of Massachusetts, who lost their lives on St. John's Hill outside of Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Ron Brown was truly a living American hero, and his loss will be sorely missed—and my heart goes out to his lovely wife Alma and his loving children, Michael and Tracy. I will miss Ron dearly. He was a colleague and a friend of more than 20 years, and his loss is a personal one.

In an era where cynicism too often wins out over optimism, where fear too often conquers hope, and where the art of politics is seen by most in a less-than-admirable light, Ron Brown showed that public service is indeed an honorable profession.

Whether in his service to his country in the U.S. Army, as a leader in the civil rights movement, as a public and private sector lawyer, as a political party professional, or as an advo-

cate of business and job creation for all Americans, Ron Brown was a leader, a visionary, and a dreamer of what America could and should be. But most importantly, was a passionate advocate for expanding equal opportunity to all Americans.

In a world with too few heroes, we have lost a true American hero.

Ron Brown was truly a man who viewed politics as the art of the possible. Ron Brown's legacy will far outlast most of us—his unique and enviable ability to bring people together to find a common goal.

You had to know Ron Brown on a personal level to understand his unique ability—his intelligence, his boundless energy, his strong will, his resilience, his ability to grasp complex ideas and to advocate them in a way that always brought people together.

But you also had to appreciate how Ron Brown took on each and every opportunity with a spring in his step, a twinkle in his eye, and a smile on his face. It's been said before, but Ron Brown was Will Rogers in reverse: you never met anyone who didn't like Ron Brown.

Ron Brown had a passion for achievement that you rarely see in individuals, and he was an extraordinarily gifted man. I will always consider myself fortunate to have known Ron Brown as a friend.

He will indeed be remembered as a patriot and a friend, and we will miss him dearly.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad responsibility to rise to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to an outstanding public servant who has been lost to us all too prematurely and in support of House Resolution 406.

Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown, throughout his many years of public service—and let there be no mistake that he did indeed contribute many years of public service—was well known for his outstanding personality, his determined professionalism, and perhaps, most importantly of all, his charming sense of humor which won him the admiration of political allies and adversaries alike.

Ron Brown, before entering the public limelight, was well known as political mover and shaker behind the scenes here on Capitol Hill. While serving on the staff of Senator EDWARD KENNEDY of Massachusetts, he learned the importance of compassion in legislation, the importance of compromise, and the importance of consensus.

As Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown was an inspiration to us all. He genuinely cared about the business community of this Nation, and understood that a strong economy is the cornerstone of national strength.

It was in pursuit of expanding trade opportunities in that part of the world which used to be called Yugoslavia that Ron gave his life. The tragic and untimely death of Ron Brown is a reminder that those who devote their lives to public service are in just as much jeopardy as are those who volunteer for the battlefield.

The fact that 33 young public servants also gave their lives with Ron Brown only underscores his ability to inspire others, especially young people, to public service. These devoted young people deserve our admiration.

It is with deep regret that I learned that one of those 33 victims was a constituent in my 20th Congressional District of New York. Lee Jackson, a 37-year-old native of the town of Greenburgh in Westchester County, was the

son of Luther Jackson, Jr., a highly respected journalism professor at Columbia University, and Mrs. Nettie Lee Jackson, a long time community activist.

Lee was inspired to go into public service by Secretary Brown, under whom he served in the Department of Commerce. As we extend our condolences to the Jackson family—and to the families of the other victims—the bereaved families should be assured that many Americans share their loss.

Ron Brown, and his courageous coworkers, will long be remembered and will long be missed.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, it was with great sadness that I learned of the tragic accident that took the life of Ron Brown and 34 dynamic young Americans who were on a journey of hope to a dangerous part of the world.

I had never had the pleasure to meet Ron Brown until I came to Washington last year, but I knew long before that, that he was a crusader, an energetic advocate, and a dedicated public servant. In politics he was a more than worthy opponent to his Republican counterparts, and in Government he was clearly a most valued member of the President's Cabinet and an effective ambassador for America around the world.

Our country was well served by Ron Brown's enthusiasm, competence, and determination. His work as a member of the Cabinet earned him well-deserved praise, especially from the Nation's business community.

My heart and prayers go out to Ron Brown's family at this difficult time, and also to the families of all those who lost their lives on this mission of hope. They all shared in that great American gift of optimism and that great American belief that we can make the future better than today. They went to the Balkans to share that great American gift with a people whose history has stolen their hope and their optimism and their dreams for their children.

Our greatest tribute to these dedicated Americans would be to renew their journey of hope and to share their great dream of a better future with those who suffer around the world.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great American, the late Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown. I am pleased to be a part of this resolution for tributes to distinguished leaders of our great Nation. Ron Brown's life work is a true American success story. It is that American agenda opportunity that I alluded to when I was sworn in; that gives an opportunity to every American, that hope that is embodied in our creed. They will soar to high of this Cosmos.

The loss of the Secretary of Commerce is tragic which is underscored by his commitment to jobs, social justice, and economic security. During the times that we met at several official occasions, I found him to be a charming, warm, intelligent, and always a gentleman. I have fond memories of my discussions with Ron Brown.

I remember watching the news in the immediate aftermath of the civil unrest in Los Angeles in 1992 following the Rodney King beating trial verdict, when he met with the angry and frustrated youth of south central Los Angeles. He and the President played basketball, demonstrating his ability to relate intergenerationally and across the socio-economic spectrum. That was perhaps his great-

est attribute. He understood that we must work to help others, and he did that.

Ron Brown perished in Bosnia trying to acquire a delegation of businesspeople with the market conditions there and to bring peace to a war-torn region. Speaks to his humanitarian efforts and as a parallel—he also worked to bring jobs to south central Los Angeles and improve the lives of the people, and finally bring peace to people who have desired it for so long. Ron Brown knew the value of a job to people and to a community. He worked to improve people's lives by bringing jobs to those who wanted to work.

I want to offer my condolences to Alma Brown, a woman of courage and strength, the Brown family and the families of the people whose lives were lost that day.

I am pleased to participate in this tribute to a wonderful American.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to the late Commerce Secretary, Ron Brown, and his colleagues who lost their lives while serving our country in Bosnia. Secretary Ron Brown, through his eloquence and determination, contributed greatly to our Nation. Even before his days at the Commerce Department, Ron Brown's capability and many successes advanced racial equality in America. His commitment to fostering relations between foreign governments and U.S. business is evident in America recovering its leadership role in world trade.

Mr. Speaker, one can never be prepared for such a sad and unexpected event. Secretary Brown and his colleagues brought hopes of prosperity to a war-torn region. Those of us from Long Island were especially saddened to find that Gail Dobert of the Commerce Department was among those who lost their lives in this tragic end to a mission of peace. We have witnessed a great loss, not only to friends and family, but to the Nation. I join with my colleagues today in offering my deepest sympathy.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 406.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 423, nays 0, not voting 10, as follows:

	[Roll No. 123]	
	YEAS—423	
Abercrombie	Deutsch	Ingalls
Ackerman	Diaz-Balart	Istook
Allard	Dickey	Jackson (IL)
Andrews	Dicks	Jacobs
Archer	Dingell	Jefferson
Armey	Dixon	Johnson (CT)
Bachus	Doggett	Johnson (SD)
Baesler	Dooley	Johnson, E. B.
Baker (CA)	Doolittle	Johnson, Sam
Baker (LA)	Dornan	Johnston
Baldacci	Doyle	Jones
Ballenger	Dreier	Kanjorski
Barcia	Duncan	Kaptur
Barr	Dunn	Kelly
Barrett (NE)	Durbin	Kennedy (MA)
Barrett (WI)	Edwards	Kennedy (RI)
Bartlett	Ehlers	Kennelly
Barton	Ehrlich	Kildee
Bass	Emerson	Kim
Bateman	Engel	King
Becerra	English	Kingston
Beilenson	Ensign	Kleccka
Bentsen	Eshoo	Klink
Bereuter	Evans	Klug
Berman	Everett	Knollenberg
Bevill	Ewing	Kolbe
Bilbray	Farr	LaFalce
Bilirakis	Fattah	LaHood
Bishop	Fawell	Largent
Bliley	Fazio	Latham
Blute	Fields (LA)	LaTourrette
Boehler	Filner	Laughlin
Boehner	Flake	Lazio
Bonilla	Flanagan	Leach
Bonior	Foglietta	Levin
Bono	Foley	Lewis (CA)
Borski	Forbes	Lewis (GA)
Boucher	Ford	Lewis (KY)
Brewster	Fowler	Lightfoot
Browder	Fox	Lincoln
Brown (CA)	Frank (MA)	Linder
Brown (FL)	Franks (CT)	Lipinski
Brown (OH)	Franks (NJ)	Livingston
Brownback	Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo
Bryant (TN)	Frisa	Lofgren
Bryant (TX)	Frost	Longley
Bunn	Funderburk	Lowe
Bunning	Furse	Lucas
Burr	Galleghy	Luther
Burton	Ganske	Maloney
Buyer	Gejdenson	Manton
Callahan	Gekas	Manzullo
Calvert	Gephardt	Markey
Camp	Gilchrest	Martinez
Campbell	Gillmor	Martini
Canady	Gilman	Mascara
Cardin	Gingrich	Matsui
Castle	Gonzalez	McCarthy
Chabot	Goodlatte	McCollum
Chambliss	Gooding	McCreery
Chapman	Gordon	McDade
Chenoweth	Goss	McDermott
Christensen	Graham	McHale
Chrysler	Green (TX)	McHugh
Clay	Greene (UT)	McInnis
Clayton	Greenwood	McIntosh
Clement	Gunderson	McKeon
Clinger	Gutierrez	McKinney
Clyburn	Gutknecht	McNulty
Coble	Hall (OH)	Meehan
Coburn	Hall (TX)	Meek
Coleman	Hamilton	Menendez
Collins (GA)	Hancock	Metcalf
Collins (IL)	Hansen	Meyers
Collins (MI)	Harman	Mica
Combest	Hastert	Millender-
Condit	Hastings (FL)	McDonald
Conyers	Hastings (WA)	Miller (CA)
Cooley	Hayworth	Miller (FL)
Costello	Hefley	Minge
Cox	Hefner	Mink
Coyne	Heineman	Moakley
Cramer	Herger	Molinari
Crane	Hilleary	Mollohan
Crapo	Hilliard	Montgomery
Creameans	Hobson	Moorhead
Cubin	Hoekstra	Moran
Cunningham	Hoke	Morella
Danner	Holden	Murtha
Davis	Horn	Myers
de la Garza	Hostettler	Myrick
Deal	Houghton	Nadler
DeFazio	Hoyer	Neal
DeLauro	Hunter	Nethercutt
DeLay	Hutchinson	Neumann
Dellums	Hyde	Ney

Norwood	Royce	Taylor (NC)
Nussle	Rush	Tejeda
Oberstar	Sabo	Thomas
Obey	Salmon	Thompson
Olver	Sanders	Thornberry
Ortiz	Sanford	Thornton
Orton	Sawyer	Thurman
Owens	Saxton	Tiahrt
Oxley	Scarborough	Torkildsen
Packard	Schaefer	Torres
Pallone	Schiff	Torrice
Parker	Schroeder	Towns
Pastor	Schumer	Traficant
Paxon	Scott	Upton
Payne (NJ)	Seastrand	Velazquez
Payne (VA)	Sensenbrenner	Vento
Pelosi	Serrano	Visclosky
Peterson (FL)	Shadegg	Volkmer
Peterson (MN)	Shaw	Vucanovich
Petri	Shays	Walker
Pickett	Shuster	Walsh
Pombo	Sisisky	Wamp
Pomeroy	Skaggs	Ward
Porter	Skeen	Waters
Portman	Skelton	Watt (NC)
Poshard	Slaughter	Watts (OK)
Pryce	Smith (MI)	Waxman
Quillen	Smith (NJ)	Weldon (FL)
Quinn	Smith (TX)	Weldon (PA)
Radanovich	Smith (WA)	Weller
Rahall	Solomon	White
Ramstad	Souder	Whitfield
Rangel	Spence	Wicker
Reed	Spratt	Williams
Regula	Stark	Wilson
Richardson	Stearns	Wise
Riggs	Stenholm	Wolf
Rivers	Stockman	Woolsey
Roberts	Stokes	Wynn
Roemer	Studds	Yates
Rogers	Stump	Young (AK)
Rohrabacher	Stupak	Young (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen	Talent	Zeliff
Roth	Tate	Zimmer
Roukema	Tauzin	
Roybal-Allard	Taylor (MS)	

NOT VOTING—10

Fields (TX)	Hinchey	Lantos
Geren	Jackson-Lee	Rose
Gibbons	(TX)	Tanner
Hayes	Kasich	

□ 1203

Messrs. STOCKMAN, LAHOOD, KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and HASTERT changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 735, ANTITERRORISM AND EFFECTIVE DEATH PENALTY ACT OF 1996

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 405 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 405

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (S. 735) to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). The gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. PRYCE] is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the

gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the floor today the rule providing for the consideration of the conference report on S. 735, the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, which was passed overwhelmingly by the other body last evening. This is a simple, fair rule which waives all points of order against the conference report, and against its consideration, in order to permit the House to consider provisions which may exceed the scope of differences between the House and the Senate.

Ms. Speaker, the devastating terrorist attack that took place in Oklahoma City nearly 1 year ago today serves as a poignant and powerful reminder that the threat of domestic terrorism is a very real and present danger in our society. One hundred and sixty-eight innocent people, including dozens of children, lost their lives in that attack. Combined with the nearly 500 people who were injured in the blast, the bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City ranks as the worst terrorist incident ever to take place on American soil. Unfortunately, it was not the first. The bombing of New York's World Trade Center building in 1993, Americans for the first time faced the sobering prospect that terrorists are at work right here in the United States.

Among the lessons we have learned from these tragic events is that law enforcement must be prepared to respond effectively and immediately to terrorism when it occurs. More importantly, as technology rapidly advances, law enforcement officials at all levels must have access to reasonable and legitimate tools that will enhance their ability to prevent terrorist acts before they result in the loss of human life.

The difficult task which this body has faced during the past year has been to balance the needs of law enforcement with the need to preserve essential civil liberties. Today, under the terms of this simple, straightforward rule, we will debate a conference report that I believe improves upon the House-passed bill, while still assuring the Federal Government an appropriately limited but responsible role in the fight against terrorism.

Several key provisions have been added to the House-passed bill in this bipartisan conference report that will assist our country's fight against ter-

rorism. For example, it provides procedures to allow for the removal of alien terrorists, fairly and with due process, but also with adequate protections to safeguard sources and methods of classified information.

It provides improved steps for designating foreign terrorist organizations, and contains provisions that severely restrict the ability of terrorist groups to raise funds in the United States. As we all know, Mr. Speaker, money is the lifeblood of these ruthless organizations, and if we cut off their flow of funds, including the blocking of financial transactions, we will surely diminish their ability to carry out these cowardly, heinous acts here at home and abroad.

With regard to the exclusion of alien terrorists, the conference report authorizes State Department officials overseas to deny entrance visas to members and representatives of those same groups deemed to be foreign terrorist organizations, and it also allows the United States to stop or prohibit assistance to foreign countries that do not cooperate with our antiterrorism efforts.

And finally, in a move that will hopefully prevent future tragedies like the loss of Pan/Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, the conference report requires that foreign air carriers traveling to and from United States airports follow the identical safety measures that our own American air carriers must follow under regulations issued by the FAA.

Equally important are other provisions contained in the conference report, including three key elements from the Contract With America: First, there are reasonable reforms to curb the abuse of habeas corpus by convicted criminals. This will help, finally, to free the judicial process from endless and frivolous appeals from prisoners convicted of capital offenses while victims and families of victims wait helplessly by for years and years for justice to finally be done.

Second, improved procedures for deporting criminal aliens are included which allow judges to order the deportation of aliens convicted of Federal crimes at the completion of their sentence.

Third, the bill calls for mandatory victim restitution. Securing the right to adequate restitution is a long overdue victory for crime victims and their families. For too long, our criminal justice system has devoted significant attention and resources to the plight of criminals. As a result, crime victims have often suffered twice—first at the hands of the criminals, and then by an inadequate, insensitive, inattentive justice system. By requiring fair restitution, we will give victims of crime some of the ranking and legal status they deserve while they recover from their unwanted and unwelcome trauma.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, this debate is not about who, or which