

the people of this great Nation and our great State and the tremendous personal sacrifice. Unless you have been there and done that, you just have no idea what it entails, the sacrifices for SAM personally, for Martha, his lovely wife, and for his family.

But I have been here for 3 years and I have seen that he has been here for three decades and he has done that. So he deserves our praise and the credit, the thanks of a State, the thanks of his colleagues and the thanks of his Nation in this short tribute to him.

Many people also see the conflict, and heaven knows we have had the conflict. SAM and I have gone at it on the floor here, and we both express our opinions and our viewpoints. But what is interesting, most people do not see, is that we come together. We come together for the State of Florida and for the country. That is the greatness of this institution, and certainly SAM does typify all those great traits and that coming together and that leadership.

So we have, my colleagues, today an opportunity to honor a distinguished leader for many years of service, not just here, in our State House in Florida and, as I said, three decades of dedication in this great body.

We have a distinguished veteran. He is a model for what made this country great in his service to his Nation, and we certainly owe him our debt of gratitude for his tremendous service as a veteran.

Then, the part I said that is so important about SAM is his distinguished character as a family person. I know his family and his wife, and he is indeed a distinguished family man, which is so important. When all the other trappings of office leave us, you still have your family. He has certainly been a great family man, a distinguished family man, which I think is so important.

So I join my other colleagues today in thanking him for his years of service, for caring about people. He is so sincere in his caring, not only for the people of Florida but for the entire country, and no matter where they came from or their persuasion or their standing in our society.

I often look up here behind me at the top of the podium, the very top of the House Chamber, and remember the words of Daniel Webster. I first looked at them when I came here. Dan Webster actually asked the question when he served here, and his comment was whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something to be worthy to be remembered.

Certainly, SAM, you have performed something worthy to be remembered, and you have served your generation and generations well. So I join my colleagues from the Florida delegation, from around the country, in saluting you today and thanking you for a job well done.

FAREWELL TO SAM GIBBONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Puerto Rico [Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ] is recognized during morning business for 1 minute.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I speak for the people of Puerto Rico in saying that we wish SAM GIBBONS the best of times following his retirement from the House of Representatives. After 34 years of devoting himself to the welfare of the people of Florida, his home State, and to the welfare of the American people, he more than deserves the opportunity to devote his time to himself and his family. I again speak for the people of Puerto Rico in saying that we also view his departure with a strong sense of personal loss. We have no voting representation in Congress, but we have always had the benefit of a few special friends who have shown great understanding in working to protect the interests of 3,700,000 disenfranchised U.S. citizens. SAM GIBBONS is one of these special friends.

SAM has honorably represented his home district in Congress since 1963, while never losing sight of the importance of being fair to the people of other districts. The intensity of his commitment to the principles of fairness and compassion for the disadvantaged and the deserving against all odds, can be summarized in one word—fearlessness.

More than 50 years ago SAM GIBBONS parachuted into Nazi-occupied France on the night before the Normandy invasion. Upon his entrance to Congress almost two decades later, he immediately began applying this same fearlessness to the defense of the disadvantaged of this country.

His early battles included floor managing President Johnson's anti-poverty programs, including Head Start, and supporting the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He has continued this fearless fight in recent years, cosponsoring the civil rights restoration bill of 1990 and fighting for health care reform and for legislation to aid the elderly. In his work as a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee he has also fought for the equal participation of the people of Puerto Rico in Federal programs and has stood against legislation which would harm the disadvantaged.

Sam has also been a strong advocate of politics aimed at creating peace and security for our country and for the rest of the world. He is well known for his view that a "world bound together by the ties of trade is a world strongly inclined toward economic growth and peace." As chairman of the Subcommittee on Trade he has successfully guided through the House such important and controversial trade legislation as the North American Free Trade Agreement, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Caribbean Basin Initiative. This last initiative has been particularly important to the development of the economies of several countries and the security and regional integration of the Caribbean Basin.

It is a loss to the Nation and particularly to the people of Puerto Rico to

have a man of such compassion and fearless idealism leave this institution. With gratitude for all he has done, I speak for the people of Puerto Rico in wishing him and his family the best in his retirement years and the recognition he so definitely deserves.

SAM GIBBONS, A REAL HERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I hope I am not going to bend too many rules by referring to this distinguished gentleman over here, and SAM, I am not going to say anything unusual. You have heard it, but I want to reiterate it because it means something to me.

After 50 years of public service you are stepping down, and that is pretty unusual. You are a real hero in anyone's mind, and I suppose no one can replace any one of us as individuals but you are somebody very special.

Let me go back to this World War II experience which many people have referred to. I was in World War II, but I am not a hero like SAM is. The concept of dropping 15 miles behind the enemy lines in Utah Beach, 2:30 in the morning on January 6, to wipe out the enemy, to make it safer for those boys to come in on the beach, is really an act of heroism.

And that is not all. SAM went then on to Holland and, as many of you know, remember the story "A Bridge Too Far" and the Rhine campaign, and then there was the Battle of Bastogne and the Battle of the Bulge, and then, ultimately, the final attack on Berlin. You were there. As somebody who was associated with you, but in a different part of the war, I will always be grateful for that, SAM.

So, what do you say about somebody who leads a group, there are less than 25 in this House Chamber now that served in World War II, and will be going on to other things and will not be here to give his wisdom? It is going to be a different place.

I mean, every one thing leads to another thing. In talking to SAM's son, Cliff, a terrific young guy, he was saying, "One of the things that differentiates my father from many other people is that that experience in World War II carried on to everything he did in life."

There were two particular areas when he came to Congress. One was the field of education, and you have heard a lot about Head Start. People could say, well, anybody could have started Head Start. They could not have. They did not. This is the man who did it. But you did not do it in a vacuum. You did it because of your feeling that if people can be educated and not beaten by the time they go to first grade, they could learn, they could understand the world in which they lived.

That was the whole genesis of the great service that SAM performed in

the Education and Labor Committee. SAM, I know I am talking about things that you know far better than I, but again they mean a great deal to me.

Then when you got on the Committee on Ways and Means, I understand it was not an easy task. I understand it came down to a couple of votes right here on the House floor, getting on Ways and Means. And then what you did as far as trade is concerned, I used to be in the glass business, and I remember coming down here as part of a group called the Labor-Industry Coalition for International Trade, and Senator Heinz and Senator BAUCUS and Senator ROTH and SAM GIBBONS were part. And I had a sense, and I was not looking at it from a political standpoint but I had a sense, here was a man who understood the essence of trade. Obviously that has been manifested with your support of GATT and NAFTA and things like that.

But again it was to try to relate the peoples of the world, whether it is through education or whether it is through the economy, so that they will understand each other, and there will not be a problem in terms of generating the real gulf of lack of understanding which obviously results in wars.

Now, you say you judge a man by his friends. I say you judge a man by his family. I know JOHN MICA has mentioned this, and you cannot take a look at SAM and his lovely wife Martha and Cliff and the other children—Martha and Cliff are the other members of the family that I know—without realizing that here is somebody who is not just a perception, he is a real, real person representing all those values which you and I think are important.

Now, there are going to be many people who are going to be going after your seat in Congress and there are going to be many people, SAM, who are going after your seat on the Committee on Ways and Means, and that is right and natural. But you know something, SAM's job, SAM's job is not up for grabs, and it never will be, because SAM's job is where SAM is.

THANK YOU, SAM GIBBONS, FOR SHARING YOUR LIFE WITH US

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. MEEK] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to think the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN], my colleague, for having put this together. And I would like to say to this Congress and to the world, seldom will they have a chance to either serve or even know a man like SAM GIBBONS.

Mr. Speaker, it is an unusual occurrence to have someone like SAM and to have a man who is a hero and a legend in his own time. He is a legend and he has made Florida proud. He is not one with a lot of talk and fanfare about SAM GIBBONS. He does the job and his-

tory will replicate and document that SAM GIBBONS was a hero.

He spent 50 years since he was in World War II. He has a memory that is replete with all of these memories and all of these facts and all of the tax laws and he helped to make them. He helped to bring about some of our most famous educational programs. But he is a son of Florida, both in uniform and out.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Florida is serving his 17th term in the Congress and I am so pleased that I had a chance to serve with you, SAM, and to learn about your wonderful family. And I was most proud of you, SAM, when the President designated you as his personal representative.

This is the first time I have been to this floor talking about SAM GIBBONS. I could come back every day of the year and I would say something new every time about SAM GIBBONS. I saw him on television as he attended the ceremonies in Normandy last year and how he stood upright and how he spoke forthrightly about his love for this country and for his love of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, what an outstanding job he has done for all of us as the ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means and how he was the chairman of the Subcommittee on Trade. SAM knows trade like no one else in this country and he does not mind sharing that information with you.

He is recognized for domestic policy as well and it is sort of hard to capsule you, SAM, because you are an enigma. You have it all. You have the political know-how. You have the love of the people. You have the love of the State. And, SAM, again and again, we pay tribute to you, a strong America, a good hero a power, a pioneer, and a man who knows it all.

Thank you very much, SAM, for having shared your life with us.

SAM GIBBONS: A LEADER ON TRADE ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. CRANE] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, at the close of the 104th Congress we will, with regret but with pride in having known him, bid goodbye to a valued friend and a dedicated Member of this Chamber, the Honorable SAM GIBBONS of Florida.

I have had the privilege of knowing the dean of the Florida delegation for more than 25 years and during most of that time we served together on the Ways and Means Committee. There he has served with the highest distinction, particularly as chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, a position which I now have the good fortune to hold, and later as chairman of this powerful committee with paramount jurisdiction over taxes, trade, welfare, Medicare, and Social Security.

However, I believe it is his commitment to free and fair trade for the United States which constitutes the greatest legacy of the honorable Member from Florida. He has guided numerous trade policy milestones through the sometimes contentious legislative process, including the historic passage of the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement, the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement, the subsequent North American Free Trade Agreement, and the Uruguay Round Multilateral Trade Agreements.

On both a bilateral and multilateral basis, he has worked tirelessly to expand markets and improve trade relationships all over the world. This includes not only our traditional trading partners, such as Canada, Mexico, Japan, and the European Union, but also the emerging economies of Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and China.

It seems on the face of it such an impossible task. However, although the challenges were exceedingly difficult and the interests both at home and abroad were diverse, SAM's commitment to the philosophy of open, competitive markets and uniform trading rules provided the solid foundation for success after success. These successes meant the creation of more and more jobs and a higher standard of living throughout the world.

Mr. GIBBONS has traveled the world and talked frankly and openly with presidents, kings, dictators, and prime ministers. He also has traveled this country and talked to big business, small business, workers, and consumers—friend and foe alike. The results are his legacy—an economy that is the envy of the world, an expanding job market, and a primary role for the United States in international trade policy.

There are few instances when the welfare of the average American working family has been so directly and significantly affected by the dedicated leadership of one man. We can claim such an honor for SAM GIBBONS. His trade policy leadership, along with his contributions in the area of Medicare, Social Security, and tax reform, has touched the lives of so many, many Americans.

Jobs have been created and the quality of life has been lifted. He has improved the lives of the citizens of his congressional district, his State, and the Nation.

In the years to come, others must provide the caliber of leadership and commitment for which SAM GIBBONS has become so well known. Others will strive to achieve his high standards of integrity, dedication to family, and service to country in both peace and war. I believe SAM GIBBONS has provided a blueprint for a life of public service that will both attract and challenge a new generation of congressional leaders.

I look forward to my friend's continued contribution in private life; I will