

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

forever cherish his friendship; and, I join my colleagues in extending the Honorable SAM GIBBONS my very best wishes for the future. God bless you, SAM.

SAM GIBBONS: TRULY AN AMERICAN HERO

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the gentleman from Florida, my dear friend, SAM GIBBONS. I would like to say thank you to the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] for organizing this tribute to a man who has served his country with distinction for over half a century.

SAM GIBBONS is truly an American hero. Most people know SAM for his work here in the House in steadfast defense of Medicare for our Nation's seniors. He understands what Medicare has meant in the lives of seniors. He understands what health insurance has meant to the seniors of this Nation. He has been inspiring in leading the charge in that important fight and I am proud to have served with SAM GIBBONS.

Yet, outstanding service to our Nation is nothing new to SAM. Mr. Speaker, 52 years ago this June SAM GIBBONS led the charge as American and Allied troops stormed the beaches in Normandy in Operation Overlord, the invasion that liberated Nazi-occupied France and marked the beginning of the end of World War II.

SAM won the Bronze Star for parachuting into France the night before the invasion. As President Clinton remarked during the 50th anniversary ceremony commemorating brave men like SAM, and I quote, "What we must remember is that when they were young, these men saved the world."

Throughout his 34 years of service to the American people in this House, SAM GIBBONS has worked long and hard to provide opportunity and progress for the American people. SAM was instrumental in the enactment of President Lyndon Johnson's Job Corps, Head Start, and other antipoverty initiatives.

As the former chairman and current ranking Democrat of the Committee on Ways and Means, SAM has long been a leader on pension reform, international trade, health care, welfare, and tax policies.

Again, to the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN], I thank you for allowing me to participate in this tribute to this true American hero. The people's House, which is what this body is, will not be the same without SAM GIBBONS. We will miss his intelligence, his dignity, his indomitable will, his commitment to the people of this country, his love for a good fight, and his desire to make this place a better

world, a better country for American men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the gentleman from Florida the best fortune in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO SAM GIBBONS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I also want to participate in this commemoration to our good colleague, SAM GIBBONS, and I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida, Ms. BROWN, my colleague, for setting aside this time to do this.

Mr. Speaker, it came as a surprise when SAM GIBBONS announced his plans to retire from Congress at the end of this year. SAM GIBBONS' name has become synonymous with Florida politics. He has represented the Tampa area for the past 44 years, first venturing into politics as a State representative and then the State senate. He was sworn into Congress during the Kennedy administration and for the past 34 years has represented Tampa in the House of Representatives.

When I first heard about SAM's plans to retire, I couldn't help but recall the 50th anniversary D-day invasion ceremonies that I had the privilege of attending and to which SAM GIBBONS was appointed as a special representative, by President Clinton.

It was indeed fitting that Mr. GIBBONS was specially designated as the President's representative. SAM has a long and distinguished career in service to his country. A decorated World War II veteran, he showed extreme bravery by parachuting into Normandy the night before D-day and then made his way behind enemy lines during the Normandy invasion.

After the war he returned to Florida and commenced his law practice. He then began a political career that spanned several decades.

Although we have not always agreed politically, I believe SAM has served his constituents well and has worked tirelessly as a champion on their behalf. SAM has long been considered a leader and supporter of free trade which he attributes to his experience during the war. SAM has often been heard to say: "I believe fundamentally, people who trade together and work together do not fight."

As a fellow Floridian, I can assure you, SAM, that you will be missed. Your spirit and energetic nature have set you apart and truly demonstrate your commitment and willingness to fight for your convictions.

Leaving can sometimes be difficult, but you leave knowing that you gave it all you've got and then some. Perhaps, now you will be able to find time for another great passion in life—arranging a tee time will now be a little easier. I wish you well in the future and I

venture to say that whatever you do you will do with great passion and gusto.

SAM GIBBONS WROTE THE RULES FOR THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. STARK] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, it is a joy to get a chance to speak to SAM when he has to sit and listen to us.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked with SAM my entire 22 years on the Committee on Ways and Means. It is interesting. SAM opposed expanding the Committee on Ways and Means when all of us new youngsters came on the committee. They had a nice little club and they really did not want to add to it.

But once the caucus worked its will and the Committee on Ways and Means learned about democracy and expanded its membership, SAM turned out to be the fairest of the titans on that committee for opening up and sharing the responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, he wrote the rules for that committee which stand today I think as a mark for other committees in its fairness and its openness. And many of us who worked with SAM for so long remember that. He could oppose you and he is not shy and he is willing to speak out. And unlike some of us, he does not need to learn more diplomacy and reticence because he has Martha, and Martha has been able to keep SAM mellow and happy when he has been fighting like hell for something that he believes in.

Mr. Speaker, SAM wrote the rules for the Committee on Ways and Means. He is an expert on trade. Then in the last Congress when we were attempting to pass welfare reform, SAM sat through every markup with our subcommittee, even though he was not on that committee, and when the bill came to full committee it was the expertise not only from his experience as he had been with Medicare from the time he voted for it as an original bill but from all the service on the Committee on Ways and Means he was able to help us pull together that coalition that was able to present to the American public a health care bill that was fair, did not increase the deficit, and opened up health coverage to every American.

I hope, SAM that he can provide that for you in your retirement and you can come back and share with us when under the leadership that you set, and the goal you set for us with the President, we will accomplish that.

God bless you, SAM. We will miss you.

SAM GIBBONS: AN IDEAL CITIZEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr.