

that were completed by the Center for Health Affairs and the Michigan Health and Hospital Association regarding the excellent health care that is delivered in my district and throughout west Michigan. The studies show that west Michigan hospitals have lower costs while also delivering health care that is consistently equal to or better than the expected rates for lengths of stay and mortality. These factors combined help to illustrate the fact that health care in west Michigan is both low in cost and high in quality, and that we can serve as a model for national efforts to reform our health care system.

Over the past 10 years, we have seen national consumer health care prices increasing significantly. Last year's increase in consumer health care prices of 4.5 percent was the lowest in 22 years, but this increase is still nearly two times the increase in overall consumer prices. So you can understand why a report illustrating the low cost of hospital care in west Michigan is an important event. These low costs can be attributed to several factors, but the most significant ones are that administrators are operating efficient hospitals, doctors are making responsible decisions about appropriate care, and patients are not over-utilizing health care resources.

The most traditional measure of hospital resources in inpatient bed capacity, measured by beds per 1,000 residents. The number of beds in west Michigan hospitals has decreased by 26 percent over the past 10 years. This reflects the changing philosophy in the health care sector toward less intrusive treatments, shorter hospital stays, the use of outpatient and home care, and greater emphasis on preventive care. In west Michigan, the number of acute care beds per 1,000 people dropped to 2.35 in 1993, meaning that we had 1,700 fewer beds than would be expected at the statewide average. And the State average is still below the national average of 3.3 beds per 1,000 people.

In addition, the admission rate to acute care hospitals in west Michigan is 28 percent lower than the average rate across the State and throughout the Great Lakes region. The length of time that a person is expected to stay in the hospital upon admission has also fallen considerably in west Michigan from 1980 to 1993. The average length of stay at 5.3 days is over 15 percent lower than the national average. In terms of length of stay for selected medical cases, west Michigan hospitals performed better than expected in all categories. The days of care per 1,000 people in west Michigan is 35 percent lower than the days of care per 1,000 people at the national average. Finally, the per person operating costs in west Michigan hospitals are 30 percent lower than the statewide average, and the expenses per admission are also 10 percent lower than the State expense per admission.

All these statistics may be numbing, but together these data show that west

Michigan hospitals are leading the State and the Nation in developing low-cost, quality hospital care. The entire health care community is working together in west Michigan to find ways to lower the cost of health care, while still increasing the quality of the services delivered. I applaud health care providers in my region for the innovation and leadership that they have demonstrated. And I would like to highlight two hospitals in the Third District, Blodgett Memorial Medical Center and Butterworth Hospital, for being recognized for the second year in a row as one of the top 100 hospitals in the Nation. Hospitals included in this report, which is conducted by HCIA, Inc. and Mercer Health Care Consulting, reduced expenses per adjusted discharge, lowered mortality, and cut length of stay. If all hospitals emulated this performance, hospital expenses would decline by 17 percent, inpatient mortality would drop by 24 percent, and average lengths of stay would decrease by almost a day. These are the kind of results that we are going to need in order to decrease health care costs in a way that does not decrease the quality of care.

These results will also help us address the rapidly increasing rate of spending in the Medicare program. The Social Security Board of Trustees' report for the Medicare trust fund illustrates the grim prognosis that the rate of increased spending poses for the Medicare trust fund. One way that we can slow this increase in spending is by utilizing alternatives to fee-for-service coverage.

It is ironic, however, that the low cost of health care in west Michigan currently hinders our ability to attract Medicare managed-care organizations. In order to determine payments to managed care plans, Medicare uses a formula that is based on 95 percent of the average amount that Medicare pays per beneficiary for fee-for-service care. Low-cost areas, like west Michigan, receive dramatically lower managed care payments, based on this formula. As a result, the payments are too small to attract managed care organizations. This comes down to a basic issue of fairness because Medicare beneficiaries pay the same amount to participate in the program, but those in high-cost, high-utilization areas are able to access better benefits through managed care. It is improper that areas, such as west Michigan, that have worked hard to keep their medical costs low are then penalized with less adequate Medicare coverage. If we expect to help lower Medicare spending through the use of alternatives to fee-for-service coverage, we must ensure that managed care payments are developed in a fair manner.

I address the House today to commend west Michigan for the low-cost health care that its hospitals have developed. As we proceed with Medicare and other health care reform, I urge this body to take steps to ensure that we do

not penalize low-cost areas, like west Michigan, as they try to develop alternatives to fee-for-service coverage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. COBURN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. STOCKMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. SHADEGG addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE HAMILTON FISH, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May

12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would gladly have made any sacrifice to avoid having to stand before you today for this solemn purpose.

Before I make comments on this special order, I would like to note for our colleagues' information, that on Tuesday, July 30, 1996, at 10 a.m. at St. Albans Episcopal Church on the corner of Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenue, there will be a memorial service for our distinguished colleague, Hamilton Fish.

The House Sergeant at Arms will provide bus transportation for Members, and buses will depart the east front of the Capitol at 9:15 a.m. and return to the Hill following the reception.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of Hamilton Fish, Jr., is a genuine shock which reverberated in this Chamber as well as back in our Hudson Valley region of New York. We knew that Ham was ill when he announced his retirement from this body only 2 years ago, but his intelligence, his helpfulness, his integrity, and his charm were so overpowering—right until the end—that it is virtually impossible to believe that he is no longer with us.

Ham Fish was born right here in Washington, DC 70 years ago last month. At the time of Ham's birth, his father, Hamilton Fish II, was serving in his fourth term in this Chamber. The senior Congressman Fish went on to serve until near the end of World War II, earning a nationwide reputation as a critic of the New Deal and as ranking minority member on the House International Relations Committee.

In fact, members of the Fish family, usually surnamed Hamilton, have served in the Congress, representing New York, since the earliest days of our Republic. One Hamilton Fish, after service in this body, went on to serve as a Senator and as Secretary of State in the Grant administration.

Our Hamilton, the one who shone so brightly in this Chamber during the last third of the 20th century, brought to this Chamber a heritage of public service nearly 200 years old.

Ham received his B.A. from Harvard, and his LL.B. from the New York University School of Law. In between, he committed himself to service with our Foreign Service, and as a member of the Naval Reserve. He was admitted to the New York Bar in 1958.

Ham Fish first sought election to the House in 1966. He narrowly lost to a popular incumbent, but 2 years later was victorious. In order to win that 1968 election, Ham first had to defeat a local district attorney in the Republican primary. The person Ham defeated was named G. Gordon Liddy, who later went to achieve notoriety in other ways. Today, Mr. Liddy is a nationally syndicated radio show host,

and I understand that yesterday he devoted a portion of his show in an extremely gracious tribute to Ham Fish.

Since his first election to the House in 1968, Ham served on the House Judiciary Committee, which becomes his principal love. As a distinguished member of that committee, Ham became a champion of civil rights under the law, and human decency tempered with justice.

The entire Nation first learned of Ham's talents during the wrenching days of Watergate. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, Ham was one of the first Republicans to vote in favor of impeaching President Nixon, to the objection of many of his constituents including his own father. Ham, however, recognized that a government of laws had to have precedence over any individual or party loyalty. His belief in our constitutional system of government was absolute and he was willing to endure criticism and censure to stand up for it.

When Ham passed on earlier this week, the Poughkeepsie Journal, his hometown newspaper, asked Ethel Block, who was chairman of the Dutchess County Republican Party at the time of Watergate, to recall her recollection of Ham Fish's role at that time: "I personally had such faith in him that after that vote [to impeach Nixon], I was sure that it must have been the right thing to do. It took a lot of backbone," Ms. Block noted.

Throughout the coming years, Ham's seniority on the Judiciary Committee grew, until he eventually became ranking Republican on that committee. However, Ham's contributions were legion even before he reached that pinnacle of leadership. He was one of the four original sponsors of the extension of the Voting Rights Act which were enacted into law in 1970, 1975, and 1982. Just as his father earned fame and glory as the champion of Afro-Americans during World War II, Ham earned recognition as their champion at a time when prejudice and racial hatred became much more subtle but just as insidious.

Ham fought discrimination in education by his authorship of the Civil Rights Restoration Act in 1988, requiring all operations in any entity receiving Federal funds to adhere to all anti-discrimination requirements contained in the major Civil Rights Acts of 1988. It was with courage that Ham Fish prodded the Congress into adopting this legislation; it was with even more courage that he led the successful battle to override the Presidential veto of it.

The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, the Civil Rights Act of 1990, and perhaps most significantly of all the far-reaching Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 are all legislative landmarks that are living monuments to Congressman Ham Fish.

Ham did not restrict his incredible energies to the work of his Judiciary Committee. Back at home, represent-

ing adjacent districts, Ham and I fought many battles together: the battle to try to keep the General Motors plant operating in Tarrytown; the battle for better commuter service on our Metro North rail lines; the fight to expand Stewart Airport and with it the economy of our region; the struggle on behalf of our apple growers and vegetable farmers; the continual fight to render our majestic Hudson River pollution free and pristine—there was no cause, no group, no constituent in which Ham Fish did not have a love and an abiding interest.

This week, the Poughkeepsie Journal chronicled memories of Ham from many of this neighbors: "He was a very gentle man," said Michael Giordano. "I just loved him. He was a sweetheart," said Betsy Abrams. "He will be remembered by everyone in Dutchess County," said Richard Archer.

If Ham had sought election to a 14th term in Congress 2 years ago, there is no question his friends and neighbors would have reelected him. Had that happened, Ham would have become chairman of our House Judiciary Committee.

Ham was fully cognizant of that fact, but it did not distract him. Instead, he threw his considerable energies into the private practice of law here in Washington, with the prestigious firm of Mudge, Rose, Guthrie, Alexander, and Ferdon. Just a few weeks ago, he visited our International Relations Committee, and I was pleased to introduce him to our colleagues and to the many guests in attendance at our hearing. Ham was as alert and as welcome as ever.

Ham Fish is the father of three sons, Hamilton III, Nicholas Stuyvesant, and Peter Livingston, and of one daughter, Alexa Fish Ward. He also leaves behind eight grandchildren.

Ham's first wife, the mother of his children, was Julia Fish. Julia was killed in a tragic automobile accident during his first year as a Congressman. Later, Ham married Billy Lester Cline, a vivacious person who died of a brain tumor in 1985.

Ham's widow, who so many of us know so well, is Mary Ann Tinklepaugh Knauss, who in her own right is one of the premier activists here in Washington. Currently, Mary Ann serves as an assistant to New York Gov. George Pataki here in his Washington offices.

To the entire Fish family, we extend our sincerest condolences. We know that their grief is great, but perhaps they will receive some consolation from the realization that so many of us share their loss.

We also extend our condolences to the people who Ham Fish represented so superbly for over a quarter of a century. Each and every one of them is well aware, as we all are, that a giant in public service has now departed from their midst, and that the world is a far better place thanks to the dedication of Ham Fish, Jr.

I thank our colleagues who have joined us in this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the dean of our New York delegation, the gentleman from New York, CHARLES RANGEL.

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, BEN GILMAN, for getting this time for the New York delegation.

A few minutes ago one of the Members on the floor asked, is this only for New York Members? And I did not give a full answer, but, no, Hamilton Fish and his memory will never be just for New York Members or Members of this Congress, because I think when you see where we are today and where we were 2 or 4 years ago, most everybody that was here would say, do you remember the old days of civility, of tolerance, of mutual respect? How we could disagree, and yet have respect for each other?

And I am reminded that throughout the rules which govern us in this body, interlaced throughout them are words, such as "yielding to the gentleman," kind and gentle words that allow us to protect the interests of our constituents, and, at the same time, to have this place be one that we respect, and would want not only our constituents to respect us, but history would do it.

And who really epitomizes that? We have had a lot of people, Tip O'Neill, Silvio Conte, Chairman Natcher, and even Bob Michel, who fought for the beliefs of his party. Yet, when you think about a person that, no matter what the issue was, Hamilton Fish was not only a gentleman, but he had really the type of class, because he came from class. His grandfather was Governor and Senator and Secretary of State. His dad, who I knew before Hamilton, was not only a member of this body for 24 years, but how would I know him so well was because after serving in Korea, the only veteran's organization that seemed to want a Korean veteran was the 369th African-American Veterans Association, and I had to learn about the history of that group.

It turns out that the 15th Regiment, which later became the 369th Regiment, were groups of African-Americans who wanted to serve in World War I and were denied the opportunity. They could not enlist to fight for their country. So what did they do? They marched all up and down in my district on Lenox Avenue with broomsticks, training each other, hoping that America would change its mind and allow them to defend the free world.

□ 1815

Eventually they won out and they were trained and they were sent to Europe. And there were some protests among the white soldiers. But the captain of that 369th pulled out his gun and told the white soldiers that were

protesting the presence of these African-Americans in the 369th that to defend his country he had to defend his regiment, and he cocked his pistol and said, if you touch one of these soldiers I will kill you dead.

That person was Capt. Hamilton Fish, the father of the person that we served with. He took them to Europe and they came back to America as the most decorated unit that served in the entire World War II. And there was not a parade that the 369th veterans ever had, until the time that Hamilton Fish's dad died, that he was not at that parade.

When I met his son, I felt as though I knew him because his dad accepted me and the things I believed in because of our military background but was always critical of his liberal son Hamilton.

So, then, Hamilton and I go on to the Judiciary Committee, where we found a voice there that was not only there to weigh the facts, to see whether or not they were so serious that we should even think about impeachment, but he was a mediator, a conciliator, one that brought Democrats and Republicans together, not just for the TV cameras, but to sit down, to weigh the evidence and to see whether it made any sense not to impeach or not to impeach but to better understand how important this was for the integrity of our great Nation and to make certain that Chairman Rodino would not have to make anything that looked partisan because he was there to work it out.

The funniest thing in the world was seeing Hamilton Fish working out problems and his dad having a press conference saying he should not even be thinking about impeaching the President. Is that not what makes America great? And it was.

I hope that in memory of our dear friend that maybe when we are tempted to be angry with each other, maybe when we are tempted to say the things that we all regret after we say them, that we can wonder what Hamilton would want us to do no matter how angry and how many differences we had about reaching that common goal.

And so we all lose a dear friend, but I lose someone that is a part of a very, very long tradition. He is a part of the history of the House of Representatives, and he served us so well that we can all know in the State of New York that nobody from any other State could possibly do better in presenting what a Congressperson should be.

In his memory I will try to be a more compassionate, a better understanding person, because it is not our individual beliefs that count, it is how do we look as a body that represents not just our districts but the United States of America. He was in New York and we are proud, but he was first an American.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL] for his moving words.

I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from New York, our distin-

guished chairman of our House Committee on Rules, Mr. SOLOMON.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GILMAN for taking this special order to pay tribute to not only a great Congressman, a great American, but really a great friend of all of ours.

Ham Fish, Jr. It seems like only yesterday, although it was 18 years ago, that I walked onto this floor as a newly elected Member of Congress and there were 35 Members from New York State back in those days, before reapportionment cost us all of our seats and now we are down to 32, I guess. But the only two left after the passing of Ham Fish, is you, Mr. Chairman, and CHARLIE RANGEL over there.

It seems like this young pup now is the third ranking member of our delegation. That does not seem possible, but I recall it because I can recall how proud Ham Fish was at the last delegation meeting that he presided over. He pointed out back in those days when Frank Horton was here, and Frank Horton was the chairman of a very important committee. I beg your pardon, he was the ranking member of a very important committee, along with Norman Lent, who was ranking on Commerce, and BEN GILMAN, you were ranking on Foreign Affairs, and myself ranking on Rules, and the 5 members of the New York delegation were the ranking members on 5 of the 13 committees.

That was really something that Ham was proud of back in those days. It just makes you think of the difference between Ham Fish and perhaps the rest of us.

I look over here and I see the gentleman from Louisiana, BOB LIVINGSTON, and he is the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and he has a reputation like JERRY SOLOMON of sometimes being a little excitable perhaps; but I can remember how many times when I had a tendency to be excitable and Ham would walk up and we would sit down in the back of the Chamber and it would just rub off, that calmness that that man exuded. It was something that you had to really look at in him and respect.

Mr. GILMAN said so much here, I am going to be brief because we do have an awful lot of Members here that are coming on the floor and want to talk, but Ham Fish really was the quintessential family man and I believe one of the most devout public servants that ever served in this body and certainly in the Hudson Valley that you and I and some of the others here have the privilege of representing. To me, Ham Fish was not just a Congressman, he was a mentor of mine and he taught us all so much.

He was just a great friend and it was truly an honor and privilege to have served with him representing the Hudson Valley. Ham's good nature was just renowned throughout this Congress.

I even see some former Members of Congress from New York sitting over here, and, BOB, you remember too from

both sides of the aisle. He just embodied what it means to be a representative of democracy and he will undoubtedly be remembered as a true gentleman of this House, and what better respect can you say of a person than that.

We will miss him dearly. Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife Mary Ann, his entire family and, Ham, we just wish you the best, good friend.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, JERRY SOLOMON, for your kind remarks on behalf of Hamilton Fish.

I am pleased to now recognize the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON].

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for setting up this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear departed friend and colleague, Hamilton Fish, Jr. It was a true honor to serve with Ham fish as a fellow New York delegation member. His presence in the House has been dearly missed over the past 2 years and he will continue to be missed both in Washington and in the Hudson Valley, which he proudly represented in Congress.

Hamilton Fish, following a 150-year-old family tradition of congressional service, was a most conscientious and thoughtful legislator. He was naturally gifted at working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reach bipartisan agreements that resulted in legislation benefiting all of us today.

As an ardent advocate of civil and human rights, he worked diligently to pass legislation such as the 1982 Voting Rights Act extension, the Fair Housing Act of 1988, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. His hard work was also instrumental in passing the Civil Rights Act of 1991 that provides women and minorities with monetary damages when discriminated against in the workplace. His commitment to New York and this country was exceptional and his accomplishments beyond number. Ham Fish was also a champion for freedom and human rights in Ireland. I am honored to follow in his path as a cochair of the Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I am most thankful that Ham Fish graced the halls of this House. His integrity and credibility was widely recognized and earned him respect and admiration from all of his colleagues.

I would like to send my condolences to Mary Ann and all of the Fish family. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. MANTON, for his kind remarks, and I am pleased to yield at this time to the gentlewoman from New York, Congresswoman SUE KELLY, who succeeded Hamilton Fish, representing that district in New York.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, we were all deeply saddened by the passing of our friend, and a distinguished Member of this institution, Hamilton Fish.

Ham served in Congress for 26 years, representing the same congressional district from the Hudson Valley of New York that I have the honor of representing today.

Each of us has our own personal memories of Ham Fish. My husband and I remember Ham as a good friend with a wonderful sense of humor. We also remember him as a public servant devoted to the well-being of the people of the Hudson Valley in New York.

In fact, the term "public service" was at the core of Hamilton Fish's life. He served in the Navy during World War II. After the war, Ham attended the Harvard Graduate School of Public Administration, and then joined the U.S. Foreign Service. In the early fifties he was posted to Dublin, Ireland. He really loved Ireland. He talked about it often.

Following this stint, he earned his law degree from New York University in 1957, and practiced law in the city and in Dutchess County, NY until he became a Member of Congress in 1968. I first met him 2 years before he was redistricted into my area.

I set up and worked in his first office in Westchester County and my husband and I worked to back him for the next 24 years. As a matter of fact, my staff card for Hamilton Fish's office expired 20 years to the day I was sworn into Congress. My husband and I have been privileged to know first three, and now four, generations of this Hamilton Fish family. They have represented the gentility of the Hudson River Valley. Ham was a gentleman's gentleman. His behavior on the floor of the House set a standard many of the Members of this Congress would do well to emulate.

His career was marked by accomplishments in the areas of civil rights, the environment, crime, the handicapped, and business regulation. Ham was a strong supporter of the Legal Services Corporation because he recognized and prized the important role LSC plays in providing legal assistance to those who otherwise could not afford it.

The 1990 Civil Rights Act and the Americans With Disabilities Act represent hallmark achievements and will stand as lasting legacies to the memory of Hamilton Fish.

To know Hamilton Fish, Mr. Speaker, was to know someone dedicated to truth and the dignity of public service. This institution is too often criticized for its problems, the partisanship, the lack of comity, and the arduous process that is the people's business.

Unfortunately, it is seldom judged by the virtues of its individual Members. Ham Fish carried out his work with dignity and respect, and represented the very best of this institution.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Ham. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Mary Ann, and his children, Alexa Ward, Hamilton, Nicholas Stuyvesant, and Peter Livingston, and his eight grandchildren.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank Congresswoman KELLY for her moving remarks.

I would be pleased to yield to the gentleman from New York, Congressman MAURICE HINCHEY.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank our friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for arranging this tribute to our friend, Hamilton Fish, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, it was with deep sorrow that we received the news that the Nation and New York have lost one of its great men, Hamilton Fish, Jr. Ham stood for what was best in this institution and what is best about our system of government. He was the kind of person that Jefferson and Madison had in mind when they wrote the Constitution, the kind of person they wanted and expected to serve in the legislature they were creating. They wanted the seats in this Chamber to be occupied by people who took their responsibilities more seriously than they took themselves, people of judgment, people of substance. Ham was above all a thoughtful, judicious person, a man of integrity. This institution already misses his wisdom.

Ham was known and respected for his independence. He was still a relatively junior Member of Congress when he gained national recognition for his committee vote to recommend impeachment of President Nixon. He will always be remembered for that vote, for his decision to apply his high standards of integrity impartially, even when he must have been under great pressure to do otherwise. But it would be a mistake to take that one vote as the measure of his independence or of his career. Ham was proud to be called a loyal Republican, but he knew that loyalty does not mean surrender of one's own judgment and temperament. Much of what Ham accomplished was done quietly, behind the scenes, in his conversations and discussions with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He believed that he served his party best when he served the country best, and that he served the country best by bringing the best of his own mind and heart to every issue he addressed.

There have been Hamilton Fishes in Congress since our republic was young. His family was one of the most celebrated and distinguished families in the Hudson Valley of New York, which is also my home, and they have made their mark. One of his forebears served as President Grant's Secretary of State. His father was famous for his staunch opposition to the New Deal. Another forebear was known as an arbiter of New York society, an aristocrat among aristocrats. I know some people thought of Ham that way. His bearing, his manners, even his height marked him as a distinguished person, someone who literally stood head and shoulders above the rest. Ham had all the good characteristics we associate with aristocrats like Lincoln and Jefferson. But like them, he believed in

all the people, and did not set himself above anyone. He brought people up to his level by treating them as if they had always been there.

For many years, he served as the ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Immigration. To some people, this seemed incongruous, perhaps even threatening. Here was a man whose ancestors had settled in long before the Revolution making policy on immigration. But perhaps it was this perspective that let him understand just how much America is an immigrant Nation, and how much immigrants continue to contribute. Despite the traditional hostility between the Irish and the English, Ham was probably honored and loved by more Irish groups back in the Hudson Valley than any of us who can trace our ancestry back to Ireland. Some of my friends up there still wonder if he had some hidden connection or relation to Ireland, to Italy, or to Poland, since he was so fair and generous to their people. I don't think he did—but any of them would have been honored if they could count him as one of their sons.

Ham and I both represented parts of the Hudson Valley for many years, most of my time in the State Assembly, most of his time in Congress. Our mutual love of the valley brought us together many times. Ham could always be counted on to support any effort to protect the valley's beauty, grace, and charm, and to advance the welfare of its citizens. It was Ham Fish who wrote the legislation preserving Eleanor Roosevelt's home at Hyde Park as a national historic site, although his father could not bear to hear her name. I hope that his actions, his spirit, and above all his character will long be remembered in our valley, and I hope they will be remembered too here in Congress. If his spirit serves as an example to us, perhaps it can raise all of us to his towering height.

I extend my condolences to his widow, Mary Ann, and his children.

□ 1830

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. HINCHEY] for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, who I understand is a relation of Mr. Fish.

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

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], my friend, for yielding me this time, and I thank him for taking out the time to pay tribute to a great American, Hamilton Fish, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I am very, very pleased to rise along with all of the members of the New York delegation who have spoken, and I think it is testament to the character of Ham Fish, Jr., that he has had such a strong bipartisan show of support for his memory.

Indeed, we are distant cousins. I cannot help but remember how gracious and charming he was when I came to Congress 19 years ago. He opened his heart to me, and showed me the ropes as a freshman Congressman, and helped guide me throughout the processes in my early days as I stumbled along and tried to learn about this intricate place.

I am proud to rise on his behalf because Ham Fish, Jr., emulated what I believe to be all that is good and fine about public service.

Ham Fish, Jr., was not the only one in his family to serve as has been indicated before. There has been a Fish in the country's history going back to its origin. Ham's great grandfather served as Governor of New York, U.S. Senator, and Secretary of State. His grandfather served in the House of Representatives. His father served in the House of Representatives for over 20 years and earned a name for himself as a strong opponent of the New Deal and an outspoken proponent of the free enterprise system.

But Ham, Jr., in his own 26 years on behalf of New York's 21st District throughout the Hudson Valley, placed his mark on American history as well.

As was indicated, he was the picture of civility, integrity, gentlemanly cordiality, and he was steadfast in his belief in the institution of Congress and in the worthiness of his service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As a Member and ultimately ranking minority member of the Judiciary Committee, Ham Fish, Jr., was a champion of civil rights and social justice, and he believed in the fiscal integrity of this Nation as well.

He was a strong proponent of the line-item veto and the balanced budget. But of all of those activities and the others that have been discussed here this evening, Ham will be remembered because he was a warm and gracious and friendly person.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate his assistance and his guidance throughout the time that I was privileged to serve with him. We affectionately knew each other and called each other "Cousin" rather than by our proper names. We engaged in special orders from time to time to commemorate his heritage and forebears in the Congress, and it was my privilege to call him my friend.

To Mary Ann and to his children and to all of his family, my wife Bonnie joins with me in extending our prayers and our best wishes to the memory of a fine and wonderful American.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LIVINGSTON for his kind remarks. I am pleased to yield to the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY].

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight we gather to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr. Hamilton Fish was one of the kindest, elegant, finest Members with whom I have had the pleasure of working with in this House.

I had the good fortune of working with Ham for 6 of the 26 years that he spent in Congress, and during that time I came to appreciate the fact that Ham was not only deeply concerned and involved with local issues, he certainly can be considered one of the most expert Members in policy.

Ham served as the Ranking Republican on the Committee on the Judiciary and Immigration Subcommittee. More important, Ham was a moderate and a fair man who could work with Members on both sides of the aisle and rise above partisan politics to achieve the goals of the American people.

Hamilton Fish was part of a true political dynasty in New York's Hudson Valley, a dynasty as old as the republic itself. It is from Nicholas Fish, who fought in the American Revolution and mounted an unsuccessful campaign for Congress, to Ham's great grandfather who ran as a Whig in 1842, to Hamilton Jr., who served his country honorably in the Navy during World War II and in the House of Representatives for 26 years, from 1969 to 1994.

Although there were times when his congressional district was more conservative than he was, Ham never strayed from his moderate, fair ideals. Despite the fact that his father, Hamilton Sr., was an isolationist, Ham was an advocate for human rights issues and refugees worldwide. He worked tirelessly during the cold war to allow for Soviet Jews to enter the United States. During the 1970's, Ham was an outspoken critic of the Nixon administration and its involvement in the Vietnam war. As a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, Ham was one of the first members of his party to call for President Nixon's resignation.

Ham also had an exemplary record on civil rights issues. Ham fervently supported the 1978 extension of the equal rights amendment and the 1982 Voting Rights Act. He also supported the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

As Ralph Neas, the former director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights said, "Many of the almost two dozen civil rights bills passed in the 1980's would not have become law without him."

Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the Fish family. While this country has lost a great civil leader, his wife, Mary Ann, has lost a dear, devoted husband, his children, Ham, Nick, Peter, and Alexa, have lost a father, and of course his eight grandchildren have lost a friend and a role model.

As a freshman Member of Congress in 1988, I learned from Ham Fish. This Congress would do well to heed his legacy. He was a leader, a colleague, and a friend. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. LOWEY for her kind statement, and I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from New York, Mr. LAFALCE.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in

paying tribute to our late colleague, Hamilton Fish, Jr. As the fourth generation from his famous family to serve in Congress, Ham could easily have acted as if he were entitled to his position, as if he were born to it, but that was the exact opposite of the way he was.

Ham Fish was as down to Earth and genuine as anyone I have ever known. Most important, Ham Fish was indeed a gentleman. One word. And a very gentle man.

He could, and did, hold his own in the rough and tumble of politics, but he would not hurt a soul. He must have had as a tenet: Hurt no one. Embarrass no one. Be kind and gentle to everyone. Because that is the way Ham Fish was, day in and day out. He epitomized what every person should strive to be.

He also epitomized what every legislator should strive to be: A fervent advocate for his point of view, yet someone always willing to see the other side and always understanding of the necessity to compromise for the greater good.

One got the clear sense that when Ham looked at someone he did not see labels like Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative. Ham saw a fellow human being, someone who deserved to be heard, regardless of ideology, regardless of any other arbitrary classification. And that perhaps was his true hallmark. That arbitrary classifications were not only not smart, but that they were and are dehumanizing.

Mr. Speaker, I join in praising the record of service that Hamilton Fish gave to his fellow Americans. I, too, extend my sympathies to his wife and his entire family.

In the long run, Ham will be remembered for his hard work, yes. But even more than that, I will remember Ham for his grace, his kindness, his gentleness, his wisdom, his tolerance, and his love for his fellow human beings. And there can be no greater role model and no greater legacy than that.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank Congressman LAFALCE for his kind remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from western New York [Mr. HOUGHTON].

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

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from New York, Mr. GILMAN, as I was listening to Mr. LAFALCE and others, it really is too bad that you cannot hear what other people really feel about you while you are alive. I do not know whether Ham is listening or whether he can listen, or that is possible in the overall scheme of things, but it is a wonderful tribute to hear people from different walks of life, different associations say what they have about him.

I just would like to say a few things. There is an old Arab proverb that says, A word when spoken must pass three

gates. The first gate is, "Is it true?" The second gate is, "Is it necessary?"

□ 1845

The third gate is, "is it kind?" Many of us here would not get out of the first gate, but Ham always would. He passed all those gates in whatever he did. He hit the issues hard, and yet there was an old expression from Proverbs, a soft answer turns away wrath. We need more of it here. He exemplified that.

I go back a long way with Ham. It started in 1946, when we both got out of the service in World War II, went to college and then periodically kept our friendship going during the years.

I was always in awe of Ham's heritage. It did not seem to be anybody that had a greater heritage than Ham, but Mary Ann Fish, his lovely wife, told me a story the other day of Ham going into the Rotunda and pointing to one of the murals and pointing out that Nicholas Fish was standing beside George Washington as he received the surrender from Cornwallis. And this man was very polite and he said, thank you very much, Mr. Fish.

He said, on the other hand, there was a mural of Dutch settlers coming across and landing in New Amsterdam, and my ancestor was the minister at that time; of course, a full 100 years before Nicholas Fish ever appeared in Yorktown. And he was always being poked with fun for things like this, but had a delightful, easy, wonderful sense of humor.

We develop many friendships down here. Some are political. Some are personal. Some are diplomatic. Some are business. Yet at the same time, as you work through this place, you understand those people who have that special quality that you know they will not betray you if you are vulnerable. Ham was one of those people.

There are questions which we always ask ourselves: What do I believe; what do I stand for; what do I really want. Ham never used that. He always changed the "I" to a "we." What do we believe; what do we stand for; what do we really want. If anybody epitomized service over self-service, it was Hamilton Fish and we are going to miss him.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those moving comments, Mr. HOUGHTON.

I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina Mrs. EVA CLAYTON.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman and the delegation from New York for allowing me, from North Carolina, to say a word of tribute to all of our friends and colleague, Hamilton Fish. My husband and I both, too, knew Hamilton Fish. We knew him in a personal way.

I am a new Member to Congress so I do not have that long lineage of getting to know someone, but I did know him in a personal way. He did indeed have fun. So I want to tell you that although he was a gentleman and a scholar, he was also a person who could relate to human beings.

My husband and he had a certain passion for certain fun and they had a certain memory that they would remember. His wife, who is probably known as a vivacious, caring person, is certainly one that I have gotten to know and we had occasion, I guess just 2 months ago, for us all meeting together. So this week this Congress, New York will miss him, but America will miss him because in many ways he was not only the ideal person from New York, but he also was the ideal Congressperson for America.

We all will not only lose a friend but lose someone who has been epitomized as being an idol and a symbol.

Mr. Speaker, this week, Congress and America suffered a sad and great loss.

Former Representative Hamilton Fish, Jr. passed and has left a deep void in our reservoir of decency and fair play.

This devoted husband, caring father and loving grandfather served the people of the 19th District of New York for more than a quarter of a century. But, he provided more than service to New York's citizens.

Hamilton Fish, Jr. provided a high standard of statesmanship, an unparalleled measure of respectability and dignity, an unprecedented display of non-partisan cooperation.

Those of us who serve in this 104th Congress can learn much from Hamilton Fish, the manner in which he lived his life, the honor he brought to this institution, the distinction with which he served his party.

His ability to function as a gentleman in the sometimes murky and perilous waters of politics must be attributed in part to the deep roots of his ancestors which guided him and gave him important benchmarks. This son of New York was always up for the challenge, always prepared for the task.

Throughout his life, he refused to accept mediocrity. He had hopes and dreams, he had goals, he had vision, and he dared to be different and determined to make a difference.

In Congress, he distinguished himself, making his mark in many places, leaving his permanent imprint on the sands of time.

He supported civil rights, fought for justice, stood for equality and was unwavering in behalf of the principles that make this Nation great.

Tirelessly, he was a role model for role models, a leader among leaders and a champion for all.

In this august body, he was more than a Member of Congress. He was Congress.

He leaves us now, not to quit, but to fight another fight, to write another chapter, to run another race.

To his darling wife, Mary Ann, who I consider to be my friend, to his three sons, Hamilton III, Nicholas, and Peter, to his daughter, Alexa, and to his many grandchildren, I say hold fast to the fond memories, stay strong on the wings of tradition Hamilton provided and celebrate the legacy he has left through the life he lived.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO].

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I guess, like Congresswoman CLAYTON, I remember my friend as a little bit of a prankster, someone with a sense of humor who would joke, a man who certainly had dignity and guts, who showed independence and brilliance, but also was not beyond whispering something very funny in your ear as you went down the aisle.

As it turned out, I met Ham Fish not 15 or 20 years ago but only 4 years ago now when I was beginning my first term in Congress. He was finishing up what would end up being his last term in Congress. But almost immediately, he and I struck out together for what might be an unlikely duo, sort of an odd couple, to hang out in the back of this Chamber, talk a little bit, see each other once in a while, what were very civilized and very social New York State delegation meetings.

I remember him enjoying his sundae ice cream with complete relish on his face as the desserts were offered. I remember him in flashes of both frustration and annoyance at things that we did in this body, a sense of defiance when he thought we were going down the wrong path out of political expediency.

Ham Fish was somebody who had the ability to have a sense of honor and a sense of humor. He was able to mix both with a good old Yankee pragmatism, and I think he represents the very best traditions of the Republican Party and of this Chamber.

He was a man of great courage who always kept his bearings. During my freshman term, I always thought that he was protective of me. He was the sort of generous person who always took time out to help a new Member, sit down and discuss things if you had a question, and I will always cherish the wisdom that he was able to share with me.

As my colleagues know and they have been talking about tonight, Ham Fish came from a remarkable American political family historical not just from a New York perspective but from a national perspective, a family whose record of public service can be traced back to the beginnings of our Nation.

In Congress Ham Fish himself was something of a tradition. He was a centrist who got things done. He liked to work together with people. He played a key role in forging compromises that resulted in important legislation like the Fair Housing Act of 1988, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

As a House Committee on the Judiciary member, not just a member but as the ranking member, he showed great courage back in the 1970's by voting his conscience as one of the few Republicans who voted for the articles of impeachment against former President Richard Nixon.

As the ranking member Republican on the Committee on the Judiciary,

Ham always was a strong advocate for causes that he deeply believed in, the sense of civil rights, the sense of right over wrong.

He was particularly remembered for his efforts in support of not just civil rights but environmental protection.

With Ham's passing, our Nation has lost a great American. My condolences and the condolences of my wife Patricia go to his wife, Mary Ann, and to his sons Nicholas, Peter, and Ham Fish III and his daughter Alexa Fish Ward and their eight grandchildren, all of which I know he loved deeply. We have lost a great friend.

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

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

I thank him and his colleagues from New York, Mr. RANGEL and Mr. GILMAN, for having this special order to allow us to pour out our hearts to somebody that we dearly love. I firmly believe that those of us who serve in this body are diminished as well as the American public are diminished by the loss of Ham Fish, Jr. He was fourth generation in terms of serving this great country in Congress 26 years.

I learned about Ham Fish when I was involved in the campaign of a man who served with him in the early years, Charles Mac Mathias, who then went on to the U.S. Senate. To me Ham Fish himself was a tradition. When I was elected to serve in the 100th Congress starting in 1987, I turned to Ham and told him that I knew so much about him and looked forward to serving with him. Well, he smiled in his very warm way, recognizing I had a lot to learn.

I did find that Ham Fish was a role model. He was always very upbeat. There might be times that I would come into this Chamber and go over to him despondent about some issue that was coming up or perplexed about a vote that needed to be cast. He was always assuage one in terms of recognizing what truly are the priorities, and the priorities, I think, for him were really human contact.

I found him somebody who could make us see what was really important, who had a very warm sense of humor, somebody who became a hero because he deserved it in the areas of civil rights, human rights, fair housing, employment discrimination alleviation, caring about minorities, caring about women, having a streak of effective independence. We could always rely on Ham to do that. Very often I did converse with him about the issues that we had to decide because I looked on him as somebody who was a real role model and one who would lead me correctly in the right way.

So Ham Fish will be missed. I got to know Ham and his wife Mary Ann personally. My husband and I traveled with them. We always appreciated his warm sense of humor, his understanding of human foibles. And with Mary Ann, her sense of love of life, the fact

that she laughed a lot, and Ham helped her to laugh a lot. He was also someone who received the benefit of that sense of humor, a man who had great courage.

Mr. Speaker, I remember we were at a conference in Madrid where we had a few hours off. This is when Ham was not well. We would go to an art gallery, and he was indeed a true collector of art and an appreciator of art. I thought at that time this man of great courage also has made politics into an art and has done it exceedingly well.

I just want to say that we will certainly miss Ham Fish, and he will live on in love. I am reminded of a quote from Thornton Wilder, who said: "There is a land of the living and a land of the dead; and the bridge is love, the only survival and the only meaning."

Tony and I extend to Mary Ann and to the family of Ham Fish our deepest condolences.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, Congresswoman MORELLA, for her kind remarks.

I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK].

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I got to know Ham Fish when I joined the House and became a member of the Committee on the Judiciary where he was then a senior Republican. Later he became the ranking Republican.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk a little bit about some of the things he so exemplified that are less in fashion than they used to be. You will look very hard to find a politician who worked as hard for people unlikely to vote for him in return. In the first place Ham Fish was a champion of a decent policy protecting the human rights of people all around the world. Ham Fish spent an awful lot of time on people who were never going to be able to vote for him, were never going to be able to vote at all in the United States.

He was a man who became an expert in the intricacies of immigration law so that he could give full vent to his burning desire to help people live in freedom. I say burning desire because Ham's quiet, relaxed demeanor may have fooled people.

□ 1900

One of the things we can learn from him is that being civil and being thoughtful in no way rules out being passionate. This was a man of great passion on behalf of human rights, and he exerted a good deal of his own influence and his own resource of time and energy on people all over this world.

Immigrants are not the most popular people these days, and people who live in other countries are not the most popular people in America. I wish the spirit of Ham Fish informed this place a little bit more today when it came to recognizing that we, with the great blessing of living in this wonderful free country have some obligation to help people elsewhere.

Similarly Ham, hardly from a district where civil rights in the traditional sense was a burning constituency issue for him, was a consistent defender of legislation that said America has an obligation to end discrimination, to do what we can as a Federal Government to reach into those pockets that unfortunately persist of racism and of sexual discrimination. He was a consistent and staunch defender.

I must tell you as we have debated affirmative action in these past couple of years that I missed Ham Fish because I believe that the voice and the commitment and the passion he showed on behalf of fairness would have served us very, very well.

I also want to talk about Ham Fish as a legislator, a longtime legislator. He was here for what, 26 years. I guess the term-limits people think that is a terrible thing. People who think we should have term limits regret the fact that a man like him was here for 26 years, not for lack of anything else to do, not as a careerist, but as a man who had a passion which could best be satisfied by helping other people and who got better at it and better at it and who was a superb legislator who understood.

And sometimes people defend moderation and give it a bad name because moderation gets defended sometimes as a kind of mindlessness, as if the middle was the place to be, as if by definition, as if the arithmetic means was always the right place. Ham Fish was moderate in his approach, and, yes, he was a great legislator, and he could compromise and bring people together, but it is because he started from somewhere. He did not walk out and say, "OK, what's the middle of this issue and how can I be a big hero by talking about what a middle-of-the-roader I am?" He had passionate and firm convictions on immigration, on racial justice, on other areas. He understood how to legislate, and that is a talent unfortunately scorned these days in many quarters rather than celebrated.

So I consider this country to have been enormously enriched by Ham Fish's service on the judiciary committee as a senior Republican, a man who, as we know, was not always in accord with his party on all issues but who understood the importance of party in this country and showed, I think, how you could both be loyal to your party and independent on issues of principle when that was important.

And finally, let us talk about family values. I think he exemplified that at its best too in a 2-generation way. He had fundamental disagreements with his own father. He was in Congress a few years and had his own father, a man of very, very strong convictions. Yes, his father opposed the New Deal, he also opposed American participation in World War II, and he took out ads criticizing his son when his son voted for impeachment, and Ham Fish, the Congressman, never let that interfere with the loving relationship with his

father, his ability obviously to differ strongly with his father on these issues and maintain the loving relationship that was there.

And I was privileged to see that duplicated in Ham's own response to his own children. I knew his son, Ham. I was particularly friendly and had been with his son, Nick, and I send my condolences to them, and both of Ham's sons became Democrats and had differences with him, and they maintained with Ham the same kind of loving relationship in which strong personal affection coexisted with deep political differences that Ham had showed with his father, and that ability to do that is something all of us would benefit from.

So he is a man who enriched our lives in a lot of ways, and, like everybody else here, I miss him a lot.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, Congressman BARNEY FRANK, for his moving remarks.

CONTINUATION OF TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON FISH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL). The time of the gentleman from New York under the majority leader's designated time has expired, and so under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL] will be recognized for the first portion of that time designated by the minority leader.

Mr. RANGEL. I thank the Chair, and I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN].

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I think each one of us in our own way and perhaps sometimes differently have seen one of the basic qualities of Ham Fish, a beloved Member of this House, and that is that he was a gentleman. He was a warm and wise man. He was compassionate. He not only cared about mankind, he also cared about his neighbors and his friends. He was decent, effective, and quiet spoken. And as many know in this Chamber, some of our most effective legislators are quiet spoken and work behind the scenes to bring people together and to build a consensus.

Ham Fish had an engaging smile, and what you saw was what he was. He was not a phony. He was a person that was interested in people.

And how I came to know him as a newcomer to this Chamber in 1993 was because my mother had been a devoted follower of his father. And like his differences with his father on foreign policy, I had those differences in my own family. His father was one of the great isolationists of the 1930's. My mother who had been an active seeker of world peace was a devoted isolationist, and she and Hamilton Fish's father used to exchange letters on occasion, and as most of us know, his father was going strong at 100.

Ham Fish was part of an American political dynasty. Allen Nevins wrote a

prize winning book on his great-grandfather, who served as Secretary of State under President Ulysses Simpson Grant. He was of our great Secretaries of State. Ham's family was grounded in public service. They devoted their lives to helping America through various crises. Sometimes they might have been wrong in the ultimate judgment of who had the right policy or the wrong policy at a given time, but they never wavered in terms of their courage and their dedication.

When Judiciary Ranking Minority Member Hamilton Fish criticized the treatment of the minority by the then-majority during the formulation of the 1994 crime bill, he did not do it with rancor. He just laid it out in simple English and in simple declarative sentences. That is why we respected him. He was honest, to the point, and straightforward.

He was a gentleman who was also a Republican. His father had been a Progressive and a Republican. His grandfather was a Republican. His great-grandfather had been a Whig and then a Republican. Those four spanned the century and a half of our two-party system. They saw the evolution of the two-party system. They contributed ideas and vigor to that two-party system.

And to MaryAnn, the children, and the grandchildren: All of us will remember the wonderful things Ham did as a friend and as a Member of this Chamber. He consistently did the right thing. We honor him for that and we honor him for being a dedicated, warm human being.

Mr. RANGEL. Thank you so much for that statement. I recognize the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding, and I thank both of my colleagues from New York, Mr. GILMAN and Mr. RANGEL, for allowing those of us who are not part of New York, but certainly part of this Congress, to just express our love and our admiration and affection for Ham Fish. But I want to claim him as someone who had tremendous impact on Connecticut because his district was in Westchester County, to the west of Connecticut and to the north of part of our district. In fact, I think Ham's home and my home are probably less than 20 minutes apart.

Ham Fish was a good friend of my predecessor, Stewart McKinney. They were two very distinguished Members of this Chamber, both of whom are no longer living. But I remember thinking as a young person that I was represented by an extraordinary man, Stewart McKinney, but also I felt in some ways represented by another extraordinary individual, Ham Fish, because he was still part of our area, and he was just someone who stood out almost any time he spoke as someone who was thoughtful, someone who was quiet in one sense, but strong behind that quietness, and at times you do not always get to see the courageousness of