

George Brown did not shy away from asking the tough questions. He pointed out that "It is still difficult to draw a correlation between scientific and technological capability on the one hand and quality of life on the other." He reminded us that if we look at the world as a whole, it is not at all clear that advances in science and technology have translated into sustainable advances in the quality of life for the majority of the human race.

He warned us of the potential societal crisis fueled by a deteriorating public education system, unaffordable health care, ethnic polarization, urban violence, environmental degradation, and the lack of political courage and leadership necessary for decisive action on these matters. Representative George E. Brown, Jr. had that kind of courage and he demonstrated it in each of his 18 terms in this House. George Brown never took the easy or politically expedient way. What a model he provided for us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I would like to add, Marta, that I felt that memorializing your husband, our colleague, in statuary hall, where he was surrounded by some of the greatest leaders of this country, was appropriate because in my mind George was as great as all of them and he should be in that hall. He is in this hall here tonight, because as long as someone is in our minds, they are here.

We have heard from his colleagues tonight. What a great father for the State of California. I do not think anybody understood what made California tick, what made California the center of so many excellences, the center of excellence for electronics, the center of excellence for the entertainment industry, the center of excellence for agriculture, and so many kinds of agriculture. Agriculture in the north and agriculture in the south, totally different. From row crops to forestry, to all kinds of diversity, he understood the diversity of the people who live in the great State of California.

When we talked to him, we realized that we were talking to someone who grasped the entire potential of California. I think he saw that defined through science and technology; that if we could take enough good minds and put those good minds to practical use on beautiful places, like the diversity, the geographical diversity, that we cannot help but solve problems. And those problems are not just solved for California, they are solved for the United States. And when they are solved for the United States, they are solved for the world.

Just a remarkable human being in our time. Every one of us was touched by him. I think that he was, indeed, one of the fathers of modern California, and for that we will forever remember him as one of the great statues of this great state.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to use 5 minutes, because my colleagues have spoken much more eloquently than I could, and I also want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) for delaying his long-awaited special order to allow us to complete this California memory of George Brown.

I think that the centerpiece and the trademark of our democracy in this House of Representatives is civility. The ability of the Members of the House to have close quarters combat on values and on philosophy and yet remain civil to each other. And I think if there was anything that George Brown taught not only the delegation but the rest of the House it was civility.

He did all the things that my colleagues have mentioned. When we on the Republican side ran strong, tough races against him, the next time we saw him, he would be smiling, he would be beaming, he would be winning, and he would not hold it against you. It was an amazing lesson. I think it was a lesson that we all ourselves tried to emulate, and in that sense he threw a rock into the pond and caused a lot of ripples of civility. He helped us to be better to each other.

He was a guy with a great good sense of humor. I recall when we were working the Salton Sea project, which he was a real champion of, and he worked with the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the gentleman from California (Mr. BONO), the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. Bono), the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), and myself on that project, and one day, on an extremely windy day, we went to the Salton Sea, which is fed by the most polluted river in North America, the New River, when the waves were about two feet high and had whitecaps, and we were to go out with the Secretary of the Interior Mr. Babbitt on these air boats and tour the Salton Sea.

As George and I walked down to our air boat, I noticed that our two seats were extremely low to the water. And I looked over at the Secretary of the Interior's air boat and he had a high seat that was about five feet off the water. And I asked a friend of mine, who was a native there in Imperial Valley, and George Brown was born in Imperial Valley, in Holtville, he was really a man of the desert, and I asked this friend of mine, do you want to go out? And he says, not on your life. He said, this is the most polluted stuff in North America. He said, you are going to be catching that stuff right in your teeth.

So I suggested to the fish and wildlife people, who were conducting the tour, that maybe George and I might be allowed to ride in the air boat that had the high seats. And, of course, we were

denied that privilege. That went to Mr. Babbitt. So George says, looks like they have a little something less for us. They provided us with a single sheet of plastic. I think we were to pull up like a makeshift windshield to keep ourselves from getting too much of this pollution in the teeth.

We got lots of it that day. And here was George Brown, a guy who had immense prestige and political power, and could have been doing a lot more comfortable things than riding around in the Salton Sea with whitecaps coming over the stern of this little air boat, because he believed in this cause of cleaning up the Salton Sea. That was George Brown. A man of great civility, a man with great good humor.

And I like to think of George as being a real product of this country that he came from, this Imperial County, Imperial Valley. He was born in Holtville, the carrot capital of the world, where they do a lot of farming, where people are hard working Americans, they are open and straightforward, and they all seem to have a sense of humor. And I think that George acceded to that desert sense of humor in the best way, brought it to this House and this chamber, and helped to make us all better people and better representatives because of it.

So I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for putting on this very important service. George Brown is going to live for a long time in our hearts and I think in our actions, because I think we are all going to be a little better to each other. We are still going to have those tough differences, and I think that is good, but we have a democracy that is a model for the rest of the world because we are civil, and George Brown was a leader in civility.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) for delaying his special order to give us the opportunity to pay tribute to someone who in my short time here in the United States Congress was a mentor and a tutor.

George Brown made the Committee on Science fun. And I guess that is something that I should be admonished not to say, because in this House we are about the people's business and we are serious in doing that business. But what I found in George Brown is that he loved science, but he had a holistic approach to science. Even though his expertise or his advocacy or his interests might have fallen in one area of science versus another, he was open enough to be able to take those groups of us on the Committee on Science that had our own interests in perhaps ensuring that there was more unmanned

space flight than manned space flight, because I come from the manned space flight advocacy group with the Johnson Space Center and the shuttles that have been going back and forth, but he could explain to each of us the fact that there was value in whatever that we advocated; that science was holistic; that we all should be participating in it.

He could advocate for the space center and he could advocate for the real sciences, the earth sciences, which he was a strong proponent of. He was a person who was able to balance the interests of the members of the Committee on Science in explaining that we had a responsibility to promote this Nation as a world leader in all of the sciences. So this was not just a race to space, of which he had much more history than I would have had, but this was to be able to fulfill our promise and our responsibility in man's creativity with research and experimentation and outreach in the areas of science and physics and other areas that the Committee on Science covered.

I found that he had a wry sense of humor, he had a good sense of humor, he had an enormous sense of humor. And we could always rely upon ranking member Brown, for I did not have the privilege of serving with him as chairman, although that never got the best of him, but he would always, in a moment when it got too serious in our committee, there was ranking member Brown with the appropriate sense of humor to bring us all back to the reality that we are simply mere mortals and this too will pass.

To his family, to his dear family and his dear wife, we thank them in particular for sharing him for all these many years. I thank him particularly for his openness to then freshmen members in the class of 1995, the 104th Congress, the Congress that Democrats were not in control. There was a small class of 13 of us that came in as Democrats, and I was fortunate enough to secure a place on the Committee on Science. Mr. Brown served, even in my lowest ranking position, as a welcoming mentor and a person who was encouraging of the work that we had to do together on the Committee on Science.

I am grateful for his leadership and I was even more grateful to listen to the many colleagues who were able to share some of the wider ranges of George Brown, both his civility, his kindness, his concern about world peace, which I think is most insightful of the kind of man he was, and then to hear in the memorial service his commitment to politics, as Senator BOXER related how he provided her support in a very competitive race.

He was a man of his word. He was a man who showed great love for his Nation and great love for his avocation, which was a love of science and research.

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I close simply to say that something very special comes to mind of Mr. Brown, and that is that he was a person that I thought exhibited the concept that all of us aspire to, that we are one human race. Before it became in vogue to talk about one race, maybe to talk about diversity, maybe to talk about openness and equality and opportunity, I could sense that, even though just knowing Mr. Brown starting in my first term of Congress, that he lived his life as being part of one human race. For he lived it on the floor of the House. He lived it in the Committee on Science. And, as I have heard from my colleagues, he has obviously lived it all of his political life.

I am thankful for that. And, for that reason, I owe a debt of gratitude for the fact that he served us and that he served this Nation. We will be forever grateful. Thank you, ranking member Brown, Chairman Brown, for your leadership.

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TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, George and I, of course, served here together for 24 years. A more perfect gentleman you would not find. His humor was mentioned by several, and I would have to say that he had the best one-liners and the shortest one-liners that I have ever heard. Usually two or three words and he could crack you up pretty quickly.

But I have to tell my colleagues, George also had everybody in the House of Representatives believing that I have a chronic cold condition. He was on the fourth floor; and, of course, I got on the second floor. And I could smell the elevator coming and I was ready. Because, of course, it was not only George on the elevator. It was his famous cigar on the elevator with him.

Well, I get a violent migraine from cigar smoke. So every time the door opened, I would, of course, pull out my handkerchief, put it on my nose, and hold it over my nose until I got down. Everybody would say, "Do you have a cold?" "Do you have a cold?" "Yes, I have a cold." And then we would get over to the trolley and I would wait to see where he was going to sit, and then I would go to the opposite end, depending on which end the wind was blowing. And sure enough, when we got to this side, of course, we had to get back on the elevator again; and I would pull out my handkerchief, ride on the elevator with the handkerchief over my nose. And everybody would say, "Do you have a cold?" "Do you have a cold?" "Yes, I have a cold."

So they are wonderful memories of George. And he would want us to be

rather light in paying a tribute. Because, of course, as I said, he was a good humored man and it only took a couple of words until he had you laughing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the dean, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding by way of closing this wonderful time we have had together in tribute to our colleague, George Brown.

I mentioned at the beginning of my remarks earlier that George and I, although we had our differences politically from time to time, had so much more in common.

The fact that we often talked about being born on the wrong side of the tracks, he in Imperial County, and I was raised in San Bernardino. But shortly after in his youth, he was in Colton, considered by us, like my home, on the wrong side of the tracks. He and I shared our love and our pride as being alumni of the wonderful university in West Los Angeles, UCLA.

George also had this great passion for science but particularly for NASA. When I had the chance to work with NASA's programming in the VA-HUD subcommittee, George and I professionally spent a lot of time together and many times in the battle here on the floor to save the Space Station and the future work of NASA.

Beyond that, we had a great love for water. I remember George talking about riding in an innertube down the Alamo River where he had his first experience with the Salton Sea and his commitment to that project as a part of his youth but also as a part of his very intense and life-long love for the environment.

George kind of closed his days and my memory of him when Arlene and I went and visited Marta and George at their new home in San Bernardino where they had been there for a while but they built this huge, huge fish pond, the largest fish pond I have ever seen in my life and the first time, and I told friends of this, the first time I ever heard George even raise a doubt about his commitment for the environment.

Because suddenly, and he spent a lot of money for these fish, etc., and they were planning to have tea out there and watch the fish grow; and the birds from the outside began flying in in their natural way, and stealing his fish.

George was a brilliant, wonderful, talented guy and a reflection of the best of America's House, the people's House, the House of Representatives.

I appreciate all of my colleagues joining with us tonight and sharing this evening with Marta and her family.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.