

ON THE PASSING OF FLETCHER E. ALLEN

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2001

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the passing of a dear friend and colleague of many members of this esteemed body. Mr. Fletcher E. Allen, Director of Government Affairs for BP Amoco Corporation, passed away in his home after a bout with cancer on Tuesday, September 25, 2001.

Fletcher Allen was a wonderful man and a loyal servant of his community. His presence in our lives will be missed tremendously, for there is no doubt that Mr. Fletcher Allen was a great-spirited man; a man of passion, a man of loyalty, a man, above all, who cared about people. Moreover, he was a man who believed in simple values, and transformed them into deep-seated convictions; convictions he held tenaciously and for which he fought most vigorously. What a marvelous heritage he leaves for us to appreciate, emulate and nurture; there can be no doubt that he fervently loved life, his family and friends.

Although he will be missed, those of us he has left behind find the words of II Timothy 4:6-8 to be a fitting epitaph for Fletcher Allen: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Mr. Speaker, Fletcher Allen's life was filled with trailblazing accomplishments and achievements. Not only was he one of the first African American executives in the government affairs office for a major oil company, but he began to achieve at an early age. He played all sports at his high school, and was named to the All State Football Team and nominated for the high school All-American Football Team. He then went on to earn a degree in chemical engineering from Michigan State University at a time when African Americans were still being discouraged from study-

ing the sciences, finally graduating with honors from DePaul University Law School.

Mr. Speaker, the stellar matriculation of Fletcher Allen is only matched by his illustrious business career. Fletcher began his career with Amoco at the staff level in 1970. Five years later he joined International Minerals and Chemical Corporation. He quickly elevated to Director of Sales for the Industrial Chemical Division of the corporation. After retooling the sales division to increase sales by 15% and earnings of 10%, he then moved on to Velsicol Chemical Corporation, where as a Director he developed five new products in three new business areas. As a direct result of his actions Velsicol Chemical increased sales in his division \$13.5 million.

Mr. Speaker, Fletcher Allen not only conquered the science world with success, but he also demonstrated his intellectual flexibility and business savvy with a career change to banking. As a Vice President of Continental Bank, and then President of Allen Capital Group, Fletcher again proved that there are no boundaries for those with the will to succeed and achieve.

By 1994 Fletcher Allen found himself back home at Amoco. The depth and breadth of his myriad of business experiences served him well during his second tenure with what we now know as BP/Amoco, finally culminating in his being named Director of Government Affairs for this Fortune 500 company. In this capacity I knew Fletcher to be a cogent thinker, experienced policy-maker, and a good friend.

Mr. Speaker, in John 14, Jesus promises that there will be a place for us in His eternal home, and that He will come again to escort us to our new "mansion." Fletcher Allen has found his place there in Heaven already. Maybe it will help us to know in our moments of sadness, that someday we too will find our way there to our special eternal room, and rejoin Fletcher Allen for a glorious and happy reunion in the presence of God.

A wonderful and thriving family survives him, including his wife of 27 years, Linda. His son Fletcher and his daughter Alikii will remember a caring, compassionate, and giving father. His father, Robert Allen, Sr., and siblings Robert, Richard, Bessie, and Elizabeth will also miss Fletcher's smile, but it is my sincere hope that they find solace in the fact his

mother Irma is there with him in Heaven to take his hand in comfort.

Mr. Speaker, the Beltway community lost a dear friend on Tuesday, and though we are sad, we know that his life was not in vain, for he will be remembered by all as one of the good ones who come into this world to make it a better place.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 2586) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes:

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the Sanchez amendment, and I thank my colleague from California for her leadership on this important issue.

Even as we speak, servicewomen are leaving the United States to take up their posts on ships and military bases around the world, prepared to join the battle against terrorism. They are joining the many servicewomen who are already stationed outside our country's borders.

Madam Chairman, this amendment would allow these brave servicewomen the same constitutional right enjoyed by women here at home—the right to choose. Every servicewoman should have the option to spend her own funds to safely, legally terminate a pregnancy at a U.S. military facility overseas. The President has called upon all Americans to stand up for our rights and freedoms. It is time to give military women who are abroad the same rights as women here at home. I urge my colleagues to vote for the Sanchez amendment.