

Perhaps what TONY so effectively conveys when he works to help end the suffering of the world's hungry people is his personal conviction that lending humanitarian aid is above politics. In his discussions with North Korean leaders about their country's acceptance of peace talks, they expressed concern about the agenda for the talks and that food aid would be used as a political weapon during the talks. He assured them that the United States had a long tradition of providing food aid solely on a humanitarian basis, which he personally considers a point of pride, and that this policy will continue, and he urged them to begin formal negotiations on the peace talks with that assurance.

He made his fourth trip to famine-stricken North Korea in November 1998, traveling to cities in the far northeastern part of the country and a town south of the Pyongyang capital, visiting orphanages, schools, hospitals, and an "alternative food" factory, before returning to Pyongyang for meetings with senior North Korean government officials and aid workers. He reported that grave-covered hillsides and overflowing orphanages were the most visible changes there since he visited a year earlier.

He observed that the food donated by the United States and others is helping to save the lives of children in North Korea, but that food alone won't cure the ills there. Stopping the dying will take a new focus on health—one sufficient to combat the debilitating effects of contaminated water and an almost complete lack of medicine and one he found missing in the current approach of the government of North Korea. He also reported that private and United Nations health initiatives are impossibly underfunded.

Yet in his visits throughout the countryside, where no one can escape the ravages of famine, TONY HALL found something in this fourth visit with the North Koreans that made him realize that his efforts to help turn the tide toward a brighter future for these suffering people were bearing fruit. He found—hope. He called "heroic" the efforts of ordinary North Koreans to overcome their difficulties, as he saw an "alternative food factory" which turns leaves and twigs into the noodles that are becoming a staple in the diets of too many people. He saw people working at all hours of the day and night, moving the cabbage harvest, gathering twigs for kitchen fires, and gleaning already cleanly picked fields. Denuded hills and rows of crops planted three-quarters up the hills were clear evidence of their desperate efforts.

And when he had the chance to speak with ordinary citizens through his own interpreter and out of the presence of his government "minders," the shyness he had seen in earlier visits was replaced with absolute determination in their voices to overcome their troubles. Even faced with slow starvation, the telltale signs of which show on skin darkened by malnutrition, these brave people have hope, a hope that TONY HALL in his work as a humanitarian ambassador has helped instill by showing the people of North Korea that the community of nations cares and is there to help them in their time of need—"When I was hungry, you gave me food."

TONY's passion took him to southern Sudan in Africa in May 1998 where famine was threatening 700,000 Sudanese people in a nation torn by a 15-year civil war and where 2 million lives had already been lost. His own elo-

quent words in June 1998 from his trip observations may best reflect why TONY HALL is the right person to now be the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. world food programs:

"What I witnessed in Ethiopia convinced me that there was no greater service, besides to the people who elect me to Congress, than to those people who are so desperately poor that they can't even feed themselves. I have been to dozens of countries since then, to some of the regions hit hard by both natural disasters and man-made ones. But it was not until I visited the forgotten nation of Sudan two weeks ago that I saw conditions as terrible as those in Ethiopia. The humanitarian aid reaching those people is a drop in the bucket of what is needed. If we are sincere about stopping the death toll from climbing from two million—to three million people—we have to do more. The people of southern Sudan need food and medicine. But they also need peace, and we should not squander the narrow window that may now exist to bring an end to this hideous war . . . Anyone who has seen the terrible condition of the people in southern Sudan feels the same determination I do to find a way to bring peace—and relief—to them."

TONY's call for an immediate cease-fire and heightened diplomatic attention to Sudan's peace process, and his urging of the United States and other friends of the peace process to step in and enhance and support invigorated negotiations, struck a chord. It's taken some time, but fueled by one of the largest humanitarian relief efforts in history, with the United States providing the greatest share of aid, today's headlines report that breakthroughs in peace talks in Sudan could very well pave the way to end the 19-year civil war in which more than 2 million people have died.

TONY HALL speaks for those in so many desolate places in the world who can't speak for themselves. Playwright George Bernard Shaw once said, "You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, 'Why not?'"

TONY HALL says "Why not?" and follows those words with action. Why not work to stop the suffering of the poorest of the poor? Why not help to feed the starving people? Why not help the desperate people of Sierra Leone or the Sudan?

George Bernard Shaw also said, "The worst sin towards our fellow creature is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them: that's the essence of inhumanity." There is no fiber in TONY HALL's body that knows indifference. He is the essence of humanitarianism, the embodiment of service to mankind, a follower who daily lives Christ's teachings as he seeks ways to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty.

His leadership and his vision embrace and offer succor to those in need, even in the most remote corners of the world. His concept to end hunger serves as a beacon to light the way. His achievements in providing lifesaving food to so many is the road map to ending starvation. His efforts to end human misery the world over inspire others to take up that cause.

TONY HALL is an inspiration to everyone fortunate enough to know him. He has a wonderful combination of compassion and passion filled with spiritual purpose—compassion to see the suffering in the less fortunate in the world and the passion to work to do something about it.

Today is a bittersweet time for me, to be sure. My best friend in Congress is leaving, but he will now have the world's stage to continue his life's work of helping to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate in our world.

Godspeed, my dear friend.

THE HONORABLE TONY HALL

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed emotion that I say goodbye to my dear friend and colleague, TONY HALL.

Anyone who knows TONY, knows him to be one of the most considerate, and kindest gentlemen ever to grace this House with his presence. There is a reason why he has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize, where most of us would be honored just to be considered once.

TONY's commitment to the survival of children, particularly in poor countries, along with his support of development assistance programs in the world's neediest countries, makes him eminently qualified to represent the United States to the United Nations food and agriculture agencies in Rome. TONY's work and dedication in promoting hunger relief programs and improving international human rights conditions is legendary. I still remember when, nine years ago, in an effort to draw attention to the plight of hungry people in the US and around the world, he fasted for three weeks in response to the abolishment of the Hunger Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it's this dedication and compassion that will make TONY an excellent Ambassador. While the House will lose a dear and respected friend once he is confirmed by the Senate, the United Nations will gain a fair and principled man who, I am certain, will do wonders for the poor and needy of the world.

Though I am sad to see TONY leave, I am happy for him, and for all the good work that lies ahead of him.

TRIBUTE TO REP. TONY HALL

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my fellow Ohioan and good friend, TONY HALL.

For years, Tony and I have worked together for the benefit of the citizens of the Miami Valley on numerous projects and initiatives. I am very happy that he has this new opportunity to work directly on hunger issues as the United Nations, but it is still very sad to see him leave the House of Representatives.

Tony is now at the end of a nearly 24-year career representing the people of Montgomery County on Capitol Hill and is taking his crusade against hunger to a global stage.

The youngest son of one of Dayton's most beloved mayors, TONY has been a football star, a Peace Corps volunteer, a noted world traveler, a devoted husband and father, and a

dedicated public servant. TONY has become the area's longest-serving Congressman and a three-time Nobel nominee known worldwide of his work against hunger.

In Congress, HALL has been guided by faith and family and never chosen Capitol Hill events over the importance of being home with his wife and children. He has spent 21 years on the House Rules Committee, and I have been pleased to work with TONY on numerous local projects for the Miami Valley: from supporting the National Composites Center, to saving the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Ten years ago, TONY and I worked to establish the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and we just recently embarked upon a new effort to create the National Aviation Heritage area to preserve Ohio's aviation heritage for the future.

When I first came to Congress, TONY was one of the first Members of Congress to reach out to me, and show me the ropes. He didn't have to do that, and I have always appreciated his willingness to make me feel comfortable in this new environment.

Nobody goes around Capitol Hill grumbling about TONY HALL. He is the genuine article, he works hard for the constituents and he is a man of principle, and of his word.

TONY has managed to be a positive force, despite the difficult challenges he has faced in his personal life. We are all better people because TONY HALL has been here.

As Ohio's Seventh District Representative to the Congress of the United States, I take this opportunity to join with members of the Ohio delegation to honor the efforts and the many outstanding achievements of Rep. TONY HALL. His many contributions as a member of the House of Representatives and leadership will be remembered.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
TONY HALL

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in bidding farewell to TONY HALL. As Dean of the Ohio Democrats, TONY has provided leadership within the delegation. I have enjoyed serving as co-dean with TONY in working on issues that affect our state. From aerospace to defense to technology to education issues, TONY has been at the fore-

front of developing sound public policy for the benefit of all Ohioans.

TONY has never shied away from the tough issues. His dedication to hunger issues and human rights was born long ago and derives from his spiritual commitment. His life embodies the second great commandment to "Love your neighbor."

That steadfastness has motivated others to get involved and to make a difference. His advocacy of these issues has taken him to numerous hotspots around the globe. Each time he returned home he brought new insights into the problems facing mankind and oppressed communities around the world. He will leave a legacy of better health and quality of life for thousands of less fortunate individuals.

TONY's life will be an inspiration for many others. Like the ripple of a pebble in a pool of water, his life will ripple on in the lives and good works of many others. This is a remarkable achievement over a distinguished career in the House.

TONY now brings these gifts to a new assignment at the United Nations. I can think of no other who will be as dedicated to improving the lives of others around the world as him.

He is an inspiration to each of us and we are the richer for having been his colleague.