

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FAREWELL TO CONGRESSMAN  
TONY P. HALL

SPEECH OF

## HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I am both pleased and saddened to be in a position to present these remarks about TONY HALL. Pleased because I have had the opportunity to serve with TONY for the past four years, and pleased because I know he will do so much to help the hungry and the less fortunate in his new job; yet saddened because his guiding hand and steadfast effort on behalf of those less fortunate will be missed when he leaves Congress.

Because TONY's reputation precedes him, TONY was one Member I was especially looking forward to knowing when I arrived in the House. Three times nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, Congressman TONY P. HALL has been the leading advocate in Congress for hunger relief programs and improving international human rights conditions. Over the last twenty-four years, there is not a single Member of this great body who has contributed more to those who cannot stand up for themselves. Without TONY here, we will all need to pull together to make sure that those less fortunate are not left behind.

TONY has worked actively to improve human rights conditions around the world, especially in the Philippines, East Timor, Paraguay, South Korea, Romania, and the former Soviet Union. In 2000, he introduced legislation to stop importing "conflict diamonds" that are mined in regions of Sierra Leone under rebel control. In 1999, he was the leader in Congress calling for the United States to pay its back dues to the United Nations.

TONY HALL's record on hunger issues is unparalleled in Congress. TONY was a founding member of the Select Committee on Hunger and served as its chairman from 1989 until it was abolished in 1993. He has been an outspoken advocate for fighting domestic and international hunger and he has initiated legislation enacted into law to fight hunger-related diseases in developing nations. He has visited numerous poverty-stricken and war-torn regions of the world. He was the sponsor of a successful 1990 emergency measure to assist state Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs and legislation to establish a clearinghouse to promote gleaning to provide poor people with food. TONY has worked to promote microenterprise to reduce joblessness.

When the Hunger Committee was abolished, TONY fasted for three weeks to draw attention to the needs of hungry people in the United States and around the world.

Rep. HALL was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998, 1999, and 2001 for his humanitarian and hunger-related work. For his hunger legislation and for his proposal for a Humanitarian Summit in the Horn of Africa,

Mr. HALL and the Hunger Committee received the 1992 Silver World Food Day Medal from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Mr. HALL is a recipient of the United States Committee for UNICEF 1995 Children's Legislative Advocate Award, U.S. AID Presidential End Hunger Award, 1992 Oxfam America Partners Award, Bread for the World Distinguished Service Against Hunger Award, and NCAA Silver Anniversary Award.

Despite the number of awards he has won, TONY HALL's impact can be felt not by the number of plaques and awards in his office, but by the number of men, women and children around the world who have seen their lives brightened, and their sense of hope renewed because of his actions.

TONY was recently nominated by the President to serve as our ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the world's preeminent hunger fighting organization. While I am disappointed that I will no longer have the pleasure of serving with TONY in the U.S. House of Representatives, I am reassured by the fact that somebody of his talent and heart will be representing our Nation in an effort to fight hunger around the world.

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF  
DR. JAMES DAVID FORD

SPEECH OF

## HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, Chaplain Jim Ford had a positive influence on every member of the House of Representatives, and I was privileged to know him and grateful to have his friendship for nine years. As Chaplain, Jim had the rare quality of being able to relate to everyone regardless of religious affiliation or background. As a friend, he was there for anyone needing help through life's inevitable ups or downs. As a family man, his loving and accomplished wife and children are a testament. As a human being, he had an exuberant zest for living and caring, for adventure, for knowledge, and for jokes.

When I had surgery for prostate cancer, Jim visited me in the hospital. He was a survivor himself, and his humor and his irrepressible positive attitude filled the room. My wife and I were fortunate to have traveled with Jim and Marcy in the Middle East and in Europe, where we had the benefit of Jim's companionship and his vast store of historical anecdotes. He had an impressive understanding of the world's three great religions centered in Jerusalem. Although Jim was modest about his eloquent daily prayers in the House of Representatives, it is the wish of his many colleagues and friends that they should be published. Chaplain Ford's prayers covering 21 years are a powerful commentary on the spirit of the people's House through times of tranquility and turmoil. They are prayers for all

people in all seasons and form a rich legacy for generations to come.

PRELUDE:

Mrs. Judy Snopek, Pianist.

INVOCATION:

The Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain, United States House of Representatives.

REVEREND COUGHLIN: Members and staff and friends, today we gather to remember, memorialize and celebrate the life and service of Dr. James David Ford as Chaplain to the House of Representatives for over 21 years. I wish also to acknowledge the Parliamentarian, Charlie Johnson, and Reverend Ron Christian, both very close friends to Dr. Ford, for their efforts to assure this event would happen after the cancellation of the memorial service first planned for September 11. That tragic event affected all of us and only deepened the pain of our loss of Jim Ford when terrorism robbed us even of the freedom to assemble and grieve as well as thank God for this gifted pastor, counselor and friend of so many here in the House which he loved so much and which was honored by his years of faith-filled service. We are indebted also to the Honorable Jeff Trandahl and the Clerk's office for their detailed arrangements for today.

As the first Lutheran pastor to serve in the House as Chaplain, Dr. Ford was rooted in the Word, and so I thought it only fitting to begin with a short reading from Saint Paul:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but handed him over for us all, will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us who will condemn. It is Christ Jesus who died, rather was raised, who also is at the right hand of God and indeed intercedes for us all. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Languish or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor present things nor future things, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So as we begin, let us call to memory first impressions, wisdom sayings, poignant moments and compassion and joyful laughter which he usually left with us.

Let us pray for Jim Ford.

Lord God, you chose our brother James to serve your people as a minister and so share the joys and burdens of their lives. Look with mercy on him and give him the just reward of his labors. Continue to console his family and all those he loved. Grant him now the fullness of life promised to those who preach your good news, your holy gospel. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen. We would like now to hear from a good friend.

REMARKS:

The Honorable Charles W. Johnson III, Parliamentarian, United States House of Representatives

CHARLIE JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here today as Jim's friend representing the staff. As Jim used to say, "Johnson, you never were invited to be a public speaker because you couldn't if you were." He said, "All you can do is this." "This" means whisper and "this" means hit the mute button at the same time.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Last year around this time, my beloved predecessor, Bill Brown, passed away. There was a Quaker gathering for Bill in Lincoln, Virginia. It was a beautiful service. Jim used to commend Quaker prayer hour to the House on occasion, not publicly, but there were long periods of silence and then I felt so inspired to talk about Bill's public service and I said, Bill never lobbied for anything, except for one resolution, and that was on January 15, 1979, the opening of the 96th Congress, when the new Chaplain had just been elected and the new Chaplain was going to be the first full-time Chaplain and he had five children and the word came down, although Bill didn't know and had not met the new Chaplain, that he needed a pay raise. So the Parliamentarian took it upon himself to make sure the floor was clear of all potential objectors and at the appropriate time H. Res. 7 came up, called up by Jim Wright on January 15 and, boom, the Chaplain's salary was tripled. I mentioned that at Bill's Quaker meeting. And some further period of quiet intervened and Chaplain Ford, retired, was in the congregation. He stood up and said, "I was the recipient." It was the spontaneity of it. It was not orchestrated. I don't think he can orchestrate Quaker meetings, at least for that event, but there he was Chaplain in 1979 and befriending people left and right.

He had his own separate chaplaincy right at the rostrum of the House. I will allude to certain little anecdotes as I go along here. But come 1985, 6 years into his chaplaincy, it was his 53rd birthday. Tip O'Neill was proud to sponsor a resolution, we called it House Res. 53, and he handed it to him from the rostrum. The resolution would have amended rule VII to read as follows. Rule VII is now somewhere else as a result of recodification, but don't ask me where. The resolution would have said, "The Chaplain shall attend at the commencement of each day's sitting of the House and shall open the same with prayer, and shall personally attend, without benefit of guest Chaplain, at the adjournment of each day's sitting of the House, including all special orders, and close the same with a benediction."

Here is a photograph of two people a lot younger. Jim Ford, this is H. Res. 53, there is a preamble, a series of "whereas" clauses explaining why it was necessary to require the first full-time Chaplain to stick around full-time. His predecessors, Bernard Braskamp and Ed Latch, were part-time, lovely, wonderful ministers to the House but they weren't full-time. But here was Jim Ford full-time. Tip was lobbying for this. And so this picture was taken. On it, it says, "Charlie, would you buy a used prayer from this man?" Addressed, "Best Wishes, Jim Ford, July 25, 1985."

Jim Ford never wanted his prayers printed as his predecessors' prayers had been in a little document because he felt some of them were used. He would grab a psalm or a hymn, he did hundreds of prayers and so they weren't always original, but they were always meaningful. That was why he never had his prayers printed.

But then that ministry at the rostrum as I talked about it, we started to lobby for support of House Resolution 53 and that lobbying, and I think some Members past and present, Mr. Speaker, got wind of this, so would Members support this resolution, and it was almost unanimous. Everyone felt that a full-time Chaplain should be there to do a personal benediction. You can't rely on guest chaplains for that, with one exception, and I will never forget when I asked Henry Gonzalez whether he would support it, the champion of special orders, he said, "No, that is my definition of cruel and unusual punishment." I won't forget that.

That banter at the rostrum was not just for the fun of it but it was a ministry in and

of itself, and there are folks here today, and I am here as a spokesperson for the people at the rostrum and other employees in the Capitol whose lives were enriched every day by Jim's presence. He was a larger-than-life person in a lot of ways. But the great thing about it, he had this self-deprecating humor about this adventurous part of him and he could laugh at himself. By doing that he would make everyone else's life richer. The power to laugh at yourself was embodied in Jim Ford.

For example, he had this proclivity to jump off ski lifts backwards. There was a Parade, one of those Sunday Parade insertions in the Washington Post that Tip O'Neill happened to notice. The next day the Chaplain offered the prayer. No sooner was that prayer over but the Chaplain was walking off, "Hey, Monsignor, come over here." "Monsignor" was Chaplain Ford. He said, "I never knew you were such a wacko." Direct quote from Tip O'Neill. The microphone was on. So from that day on, he was Wacko to some of us.

And then his trans-Atlantic sail. You have all heard about his adventures to sail the Atlantic. He said, "Johnson, are you a sailor?" I said, "No." He said, "Well, let me take you out on the Chesapeake and I'll show you how to sail." So he and Bill Brown and myself went out. It was a windy day. He got on his boat. He put on this engineer's cap. Peter, you remember, who he sailed the Atlantic with. Suddenly this gust of wind comes up, boom, the hat is gone forever and the sail is ripped. It was in our first half-hour. He spent the rest of the day getting his sail sewn up. It could have been very humiliating for him, but he saw the humor in it. It just was the way he could laugh at himself during this adventurous part of his life.

Then in his later years, he flew ultralight airplanes, as some of you know. He would always brag, "I'm the only one in our group who hasn't crashed yet." And one day 2 years ago, Bill Brown and I and our wives would celebrate New Year's Eve at Bill's log cabin. I said, "Jim, why don't you fly over, and I'll just kind of tell people that you're going to do a flyover of Bill's farm on New Year's Day." He said, "All right." So we went out. I said, "Let's go out for a walk." It's New Year's morning, we are out there, I don't hear anything. It's a beautiful 1st of January. Someone said, "Charlie, forget it. He's not coming. The dream is over." Just then this sound of an ultralight. He had to come across Dulles airspace to get to Bill's farm. He had said he didn't want to land because it would disturb the neighbors. Bill had 300 acres. He didn't know how to land. But he showed up. He showed up and he dipped his wings as a token of friendship.

And then there were these civility retreats to which some of you Members, Ray and others, have attended. He would come in on a motorcycle or on horseback, and there was this one video that he showed of himself emerging from the statuary in Statuary Hall, as if he were one of the statues, intoning the history of the House of Representatives. He showed me this video. He knew I was just going to laugh and laugh at it, that he would subject himself to this kind of thing. And I said, "What would Will Rogers have said to you, Jim, in Statuary Hall?" He thought that was very funny.

In a more serious way, he was a listener. He used to say, "Text without context is pretext." He would come up and sit on the floor of the House during 1-minutes and guest chaplains by the hundreds would come and he would be with them. Then he would spend a lot of time with them after they had preached. And then he would come back after listening to some very provocative 1-minutes and he would come back and sit on

the rostrum with me day in and day out, and we would just kind of try to pull together the thoughts that these guest chaplains might have had, what their impressions were of the House, and then the theme of the day and the personalities involved in the 1-minutes. He could bring to me a context of the humanity of the House viewed from his own eyes and from the eyes of visiting clergy. It was a tremendous sense of inspiration when he did that for me.

But what I really want to honor today, and I think we all do, is really the way Jim brought a modern chaplaincy to the House. As the first full-time Chaplain, he was available. He may not have always been here for a benediction, but he was here into the evenings, and he would come onto the floor and he would be available to Members. He always said, "You know, Johnson, you'll never get that resolution through on the benediction." I said, "Why?" "Because I have 218 votes." I said, "Well, how do you know that?" And he pulled out a red book and that book had the names of his appointments, past, present and future. There were a lot of Members' names in that book. He said, "I've got names. I've got enough on these various names in this book that they will never support this resolution."

Chaplain, you saw that red book. Every time he held it up, I got the message. But his pastoral, his being a pastor to Members and staff was the modern chaplaincy, full-time, in confidence, a priest-penitent relationship, the full confidentiality of it where he could say things to me that wouldn't reveal a confidence but would give me a better perspective.

His notion of inclusiveness. He loved to have people from other faiths or from no particular faith be part of a dialogue with himself. Not many people know this. I see a couple. He did pretty well on the honorarium circuit. Every one of those honorarium checks as far as I know went to the Luther Place homeless shelter. Thousands of dollars. Thousands of dollars. Very generous. He never mentioned it.

In a very personal way, obviously you can tell we were friends, but he at my behest went to a place called Camp Dudley in Westport, New York, 13 summers to preach. It is the oldest boys camp in the country. He would go up and do a great sermon for young boys on the shores of Lake Champlain in an outdoor chapel. His recurring theme, he would talk about adventure and all this, was the attitude of gratitude. I remember that little saying that he would use, and when he used it with young people it was especially impressive, but the fact that he went 13 years, and one time he came in on a motorcycle cross-country with Peter just to be there. He knew he had to be there. He started in Washington State, came across country, but he was there, bearded and all. Just wonderful.

And so let me just close by remembering his final days, days of obvious distress for him, but there was a tree planting on the Capitol grounds in August of last year.

Speaker Hastert arranged it. It was a hot day. It was about 98 degrees. His whole family was there. It was wonderful.

There was a little reception afterwards. Then I went away for a couple of weeks, and while we were away, we learned that he passed away. I got back, and on my desk was the most beautiful letter of thanks from Jim.

And so on behalf of all the employees, rostrum, police force, the folks whom he counseled during that terrible shooting, I am here as a staffer to honor Jim and the way he brought a true chaplaincy which lives to this day to the House of Representatives.

REMARKS:

The Honorable Martin Olav Sabo, United States House of Representatives

MR. SABO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Leader, family and friends of Chaplain Ford, wasn't that beautiful?

The rest of us, I think, should really sit down, because that really captured Jim Ford.

I came here as a freshman in 1979. I immediately read someplace that there was a new Chaplain being appointed. He was from Minneapolis. I didn't recognize the name. I wondered, who knows? It's great. I've never heard of him. I don't know anything about him, but pretty soon I got to meet this wonderful person.

He had some flaws. He was a Swede. I'm Norwegian. He went to college with his Swedish background. I went to college with a Norwegian background. But everything that Charlie said about him, that ski jump really does exist. The park is still there. I discovered he grew up in Northeast Minneapolis. His name, family name, originally was Anderson and sometime along the way it changed to Ford. He always told me if his ancestors would have kept Anderson, he would have been a Member of Congress, not I. He came from Northeast. I always reminded him he came from up on the hill, not down in the valley where the real Democrats were.

But I got to know just this wonderful person. Charlie really captured that zest of life that he had. It was unique. I think that is what caught the attention of all of us. He was clergy but he most certainly wasn't pompous or self-righteous. He related to all of us. I suppose in some ways for me, despite the fact that he was a Swede, we were both still Midwestern Lutherans, and it was rather easy and simple to do. On the other hand, I watched in amazement his relationship with the totality and the diversity of the House. He was there. From the minute he walked in he was probably the most beloved member around the House, and I think that is accurate. I think the membership just had tremendous respect for him as an individual, but also as a clergy and knowing that they could visit and talk to him about whatever might be bothering them in life and they knew that with this exuberant, zesty person, that whatever that relationship was, it was very professional. He was a pro who really enjoyed life. I suppose for most of us when it simply came down to it, he was most fundamentally a friend.

So today, to the family, to everyone, I would simply say we remember Jim Ford as somebody who was the ultimate pro, somebody who had a life of public service, who thoroughly enjoyed life but ultimately, most important, was simply a friend to all of us. **REMARKS:**

The Honorable Lois Capps, United States House of Representatives

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Leader, Peter, Sarah, family and friends, today as we celebrate the life of Chaplain Jim Ford, we are thankful to God and to his family for sharing him with us, with our beloved House, with a grateful Nation. There are many family connections that have made Chaplain Jim Ford a very special person to the Capps family and these connections go back to 1959.

Reverend Sodergren, Marcy Ford's father, was the pastor of a Lutheran church in Portland, Oregon. One September morning over 40 years ago, Walter and I arrived at his doorstep. The good reverend was exasperated because we were late even though the hour was very early. We were tardy in picking up his son, Marcy's brother Jack. He and Walter were to drive together across the country to Augustana Lutheran Seminary in Rock Island, Illinois. Only when we explained that we had just that very morning, only a few minutes earlier, become engaged did Rev-

erend Sodergren's countenance soften into a congratulatory smile. And when my husband came to Washington with the 105th Congress and met Marcy's husband, the two became fast friends.

Walter loved Jim, as I did and do, as one does a brother or a lifelong friend. And when Sarah called me with the sad news of Jim's death, I confessed that my first thought was that he and Walter are now having a fine time telling Lars and Oley jokes. They are livening the proceedings in heaven just as they did on the House floor. In fact, Jim told several of those corny jokes when he spoke at Walter's memorial service in 1997. And so it goes without saying that following the death of my husband and then my daughter, Chaplain Ford ministered to me and to my family, to Walter's and my staff with utmost compassion, strength and sensitivity. I learned in a very personal way the importance of the Chaplain to the House of Representatives, and thus I was honored to serve on the Speaker's search committee with my colleagues who are here to find a new Chaplain and was reminded time and time again during that process of the incredible skills that Jim Ford brought to his job.

On November 10, 1999, it was my privilege to help manage H.Res. 373 to appoint Reverend James David Ford as Chaplain Emeritus of the House of Representatives. I described him with these words: "He has infused this House with spiritual strength in times of triumph and in times of tragedy. He has spent countless thousands of hours providing pastoral care to Members and staff who desperately need his guidance. He has taught us to respect and to nurture the diversity of our own religious faiths and in doing so has reminded us that one of our Nation's greatest strengths is our religious pluralism."

Looking back, it is somewhat unsettling to realize that I intended to use this quotation on September 11, the original date of that service. Oh, well. I know how we all wished that we had Jim Ford to shepherd us through that horrible day and its aftermath. He would have calmed our fears, he would have made us strong so that we could confront our Nation's challenges, and he would have ensured that our justifiable rage did not turn into hatred and intolerance.

I will also never forget what Jim said at Walter's memorial service. He quoted Martin Luther who said, "Send your good men into the ministry but send your best men into politics." Our Chaplain was both. He was a good man. He was the best of men. He walked the delicate and yet vital line between faith and public life, between religion and politics. He did this with unparalleled skill and devotion.

I have wanted to reach out to Marcy as one widow to another to share with her some of Jim's words of remembrance and prayer which he shared at Walter's memorial service. He wrote them about Walter, and so I am going to give them back with a heart full of sadness and respect and love, and I will insert Jim's name where he put Walter's. I very vividly remember the Chaplain saying these words on that day at the Old Mission in Santa Barbara:

"Ceremonies such as we have today are for the living and the lessons we can learn from our friends. God has already given to James David all of the good gifts of everlasting life. He is in good hands. There is a Bible verse from Psalm 90, verse 12: 'So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.' Jim did so much with his days, his time here on Earth and in this Congress. He was so at home here in the House, so enthusiastic about doing the work of being a Chaplain. No one knows how many days or years we will be given but we can heed the words of scrip-

ture and make the best use of our time. 'So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.' James David Ford gained a heart of wisdom and we all benefited from his great and wise and loving heart."

And then Jim prayed this prayer, so I will now pray it for him:

"We commend our friend and colleague to you, O gracious God, and we do so in thanks-giving. We are grateful for his presence in our lives and for the light that he gave us as a father, a husband, a grandfather, as a teacher, and as our beloved Chaplain. We saw the light of his spirit and we were drawn to him in such a special way. How blessed we have been and how grateful we are. Amen."

Thank you.

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE:**

Mrs. Judy Snopek, Pianist

**REMARKS:**

The Honorable Richard A. Gephardt, Democratic Leader United States House of Representatives

MR. GEPHARDT: On behalf of all the Members, we want to say to the Ford family how sorry we are that Reverend Ford has died and passed from our presence and that you have lost him. We also want to celebrate his life, because we think that is what today is really about. I enjoyed all of the speeches; they were wonderful. I expected good speeches from Members of Congress; I didn't quite expect what we got from the Parliamentarian. When he did it, I realized I had never heard him speak in public, other than "say this, do that." It has been a while since I have been able to get that from him, but we are working on it. But I thought he caught the essence of Reverend Ford as well as it can be done. I would note, Charlie, that that speech is well over 5 minutes; but nobody stood up, and there was no Parliamentarian to call you into order.

We are here today as the family of the House of Representatives. We have not only the present Speaker of the House, but two illustrious former Speakers of the House who are here, and lots of others who have a myriad of connections with this place. I have been here a quarter of a century now. Time flies when you are having fun. And I must tell you, I am more in awe of the institution every day than the first day I got here, and I know every Member here feels the same way. This is a place where the hopes and dreams, expectations, grievances of 260 million-or-so people get channeled on a daily basis, for us to sort all of that out and make decisions on their behalf.

I am often saying that politics is a substitute for violence. I used to get snickers at that and even some laughing; and in recent days, as we see suicide bombers blowing themselves up, people being assassinated around the world, we know better, that that really is what it is. That is the magic ingredient of this place. It takes a lot of human effort to allow this institution to do what it is supposed to do.

Jim Ford was an important part of that mix that allows the House to do its work and to do it as successfully as it is done. First of all, he obviously had this wonderful sense of humor. It was kind of what I always recognized was the sparkle in his eyes when he would come up to you on the floor and tell you some kind of silly joke that he had that he thought was pretty funny. Sometimes it was, usually it wasn't, but what the heck. It was the glistening in his eyes and the way he got tickled himself about what he was saying that made it fun. And humor can lubricate and get you over any tough place that you are in, and he used it as well as I have ever seen it done.

He also understood that we all got elected by half a million or so people, but that we

are just people, the same kind of people you would find anywhere in the United States; the same problems, the same difficulties, the same failures, the same high moments that anybody else has; and that we need spiritual help and guidance and counseling and to have a friend as much as anybody else. He provided that friendship, that advice, that council, that help, that human caring that Members often desperately need. He may have had a book, Charlie, and he may have even had names in it; but he did this for 21 years, and I don't know of a time ever that any of the information that he was entrusted with got out anywhere. He was totally in your confidence. He was there to help you, not to do anything else.

Finally, he, in every day of his life, I think exuded what I have come to believe day by day as the most important power in life, and that is simple human love. He really cared about other people and, in truth, loved people, all people. He exuded that and demonstrated that every day.

Probably the most important thing any of us leave behind are our children, and probably there is no greater reflection of who we are and how we live our lives than the way our children live their lives. In the last years, we in the House, a lot of us, got to know Peter Ford because as part of the diplomatic security service, he wound up on some of our trips to foreign countries providing security as we went into sometimes some difficult places. He was there on a number of trips that Speaker Gingrich and I got to take together, and we both got to know him pretty well. And if our children are a guide to how we lived our lives, Jim Ford lived his life as well as it can be done, because Peter Ford, in my view, exemplifies all of the values that Jim Ford was really about.

We were going to do this on September 11. I am glad we got to do it. If we face grave difficulties since September 11, and we do, then it is right for us to remember Jim Ford, because it is going to take the kind of behavior and the kind of values that he represented for us to meet the challenges for America that are represented by September 11. We are sorry. We celebrate his life with you, and we thank God that we were given Jim Ford for such a long time.

#### REMARKS:

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker, United States House of Representatives

MR. HASTERT: Well, you learn a lot of things sometimes at these memorials. As a matter of fact, I didn't know that the Parliamentarian and the Chaplain assessed people's 1-minutes every day. Mr. Leader, I think it is probably—what were they saying about the leadership's antics on both sides of the aisle? So I am sure that they had a great deal of enjoyment with that.

You know, Reverend Ford opened the House every day with a prayer. He was a man that you would find in the hallways telling a story, commiserating with Members and staff, more staff than I thought. But anyway, every day you would see him on the House floor at all hours of the day and night when we were there, and you saw him every Thursday morning in the prayer breakfast that the Congress has. He was a participant. That is where I probably got to know him best, because he would tell me stories about being in the Fox Valley and being in Illinois in my district, and he knew the places and some of the people; and he even knew my old uncle who was a Norwegian Lutheran minister in Illinois. But he was always telling those stories too, stories about Norwegians and Swedes, and the Norwegians never won. I am not sure why.

He would also love to talk about Minnesota; and he talked about West Point, a

place that he loved and the men and women that served there and the people that he got to know, and the young chaplains that came up underneath him and who he brought along the way and now have churches and ministries of their own.

But I remember his prayers on the House floor. His prayers were like poetry. They were lyrical. They touched the soul. And they made all of us think about what our duties were and responsibilities as citizens and as leaders.

When Jim told me that he was going to retire, I knew that the opening of each session wouldn't be quite the same. Jim Ford was an institution in an institution. He was part of the family, and he was an important part of that family.

We all know about Jim Ford's sense of adventure, of sailing and flying and motorcycling and all of these things that, as a matter of fact, he entranced a lot of Members in his stories about these things; and he actually did them. We know about his love of sailing and motorcycle riding, and we also know that Jim was also a compassionate soul who worked hard to minister to the Capitol Hill family. Really, when it comes down to it, his friendship and his antics and the things that he did and the stories he told endeared himself to Members of this Congress, to people that he worked with every day. He broke down those barriers that sometimes you find in these political places, sometimes the things that stop us from really talking about how we really feel about things and our real appreciation for people.

Through his many years of service, he touched many lives, providing spiritual guidance to Members and staff of all religions and political persuasions. I remember first as a Speaker and in leadership, one thing that happens, you get to go to a lot of funerals; and Jim was always there, and he always had a kind word and a special story. He knew every Member of this Congress. He knew their strengths, and he knew their weaknesses.

Jim Ford was a Lutheran minister, and he had an amazing gift of delivering a positive message that resonated with people of all faiths. He often told me the story over and over again of how Tip O'Neill used to call him Monsignor just because he wore the collar, and he thought that maybe Tip really didn't know. I think maybe Tip really did know.

We will always remember Jim Ford as a charming and an honest man who dedicated himself to God, and he dedicated himself to this Congress and its work with people. He served this body with the utmost distinction. His loving spirit will live in the hearts of all of our lives that he touched.

I think it is fitting and, Peter, I would like to ask you to come up here for a second; and I would like to present to you a flag that was flown over this Capitol in honor of your father and a letter to your mother.

#### WORDS OF APPRECIATION FROM THE FAMILY AND BENEDICTION

REVEREND CHRISTIAN: Mr. Speaker and Mr. Leader, first, on behalf of the family, I too wish to thank you and certainly Charlie, as has been mentioned, for providing this opportunity. I think it is the case that all of you, all of us, needed a time where we could just be together, think here, repeat here. I suspect that each one of you could tell a story or two; and the biggest, hardest task of this whole event probably for you, Charlie, as well as some of the rest of us who had time for conversation, Jeff, to be sure as well, was how many speeches of course to make.

You have heard the stories, and there are many more that could be said. But I am here

as a representative, which I surely cannot do and I understand that, but I am here as a representative of the family just to bring a few closing remarks on behalf of them to all of you.

Mr. Leader, you did speak very kindly and strongly about Peter as the son of Jim Ford, and I only wanted to add to that that each one of the members of the family is an equal to Peter. I have had the great opportunity to be a friend of the family for 25 years and indeed have had a chance to share frequently with Jim Ford, even on the House floor, as I have participated with the opening prayers periodically.

So on behalf of the Ford family, let me say that I know they appreciate and offer to all of you their deep and abiding thanks for your love and for your concern which you have shown during these last months in many different ways, each one appropriate and each one received gratefully. But also, they want to thank you, and I know that is certainly true from Mrs. Ford, Marcy, one and all, to thank you for the joy and the happiness and the laughter and the fun that you all and so many others provided Jim through the years, and through Jim and, therefore, to the family.

Speaking of the family, isn't it wonderful to have Hannah here, sitting on the floor who will, one day, undoubtedly in the great oral tradition of our own family lives, bring forth the stories of the man we gather here to remember and to honor and to give thanks.

The family was all here on September 11, and you need to know that. They came from all over the country and all over really from many parts of the world; and of course many, almost all, of course, are not here today for many obvious reasons. But two of the family, direct family members, are Peter and Sarah; and I know you carry with you the thoughts, the spirit in your hearts of your sisters, spouses, grandchildren, and certainly your mother who is visiting one of those children and grandchildren this very day in Brussels.

So they thank you; and on behalf of them, I wish to bring those thanks to you. Peter is here and Peter did receive the honor of the flag and the letter; but maybe, is there anything you would like to add or just say to the group?

MR. PETER FORD: Yes. I do want to say thank you all for coming. You loved my father, and he loved you all. My father was a giver. He loved a couple of things about this place. He loved religion, of course. You were his flock. He didn't have a church. He always talked to Pastor Steinbrook, because he had a church. He said he was always down there for churches. He felt like he was in a command post here. You were his flock, and also the fact that he loved democracy. When he would go out and speak, I would try to come along with him as often as possible, because he was gone a lot at night. I loved to hear him when he talked about religion, and then afterward he would talk about democracy and talk about the rancor of this place and the debate, and he would talk about loudness. And he thought this was a very honorable profession to be up here.

If you are ever up at West Point, Rear Admiral Carrigan up at West Point, and he is buried 30 feet, 30 yards—the many people he buried in the 1960s during the Vietnam War. So it was sort of interesting to see that. If you see the 2-hour special on West Point, they interviewed him and he talks about MacArthur coming up; and at the beginning, they show my father's face, and they go into the West Point cemetery, and he is buried in plot 34. So if you are ever up there, that is interesting.

He loved you all. Thank you for being very nice to him. This is closure, and we do appreciate it as a family. After September 11, we didn't feel that it was appropriate, so we are glad this happened. I did learn something myself today. My father always told me he didn't want to print his prayers because he wanted to save taxpayer money. But I wish he would have printed them, because right now they are going through the whole house, and my mother saved every prayer. Every day he would bring home the Congressional Record and she would tear it out, and she would put them all in one place. I wish he would have printed them.

I want to say thank you very much. You were his flock. If my father came back right now, my family, we are a totally loving family, and we wouldn't have one question for him. We would just be happy that he was back, but we will see him some day. So thank you from him.

**MRS. SARAH FORD STRIKE:** I am Sarah Ford Strike, and I just got married just 4 weeks ago, so I am still getting used to my last name. But I am the youngest of the five kids, and again I want to say thank you very much for putting this together. You have all been so honorable to us and to our family, because after September 11, we thought since there are so many other tragedies in this world, let us not do this, we will honor our dad in our own special way; and you all are very nice to continue this, and we appreciate that.

My mom is in Brussels visiting our sister Marie and her family, so she is not here today. But I want to say that we are his family; but you are also his family, because you made his past 21 years here so happy. He didn't tell us about his counseling and his times of need with people, but he did tell us about the friendships; and that is what made us happy. He would come home, and it was just great.

Being five kids, almost all of us working in the District, we were able to come and visit Dad from time to time, and we would just laugh because you could not get five feet in the hallway without him stopping and talking to somebody. It didn't matter who you were or what you did. He knew everybody by name, and that is what I just hope that I have that gift, because he would just say, just remember something about that person; and it just was so special and such an intimate conversation, and then we would walk five more feet and we would get stopped again. So we cherish that.

We miss his bad jokes and we miss his humor, and we love him very much; but we are very happy because who we are is because of our dad. And we are happy that he is healthy and happy. I know he is up there. I got married, and at our wedding his spirit was with us. If you ever saw him at the White House balls or somewhere, he danced very badly, and he would do this; and I know he was up there doing the same thing, and I know he is doing it now; and I know he is happy as can be. So thank you from our family.

**REVEREND CHRISTENSEN:** Just to bring this then to a close, Mr. Speaker, you did talk about the fact that you remember Jim Ford's prayers. I would like to ask us now to stand, and I am going to read the last prayer that Jim Ford gave at the House of Representatives. These are those words of his final prayer, and then I will conclude with the benediction. Let us pray:

"We are grateful, O merciful God, that you are with us wherever we are and whatever we do. We know that Your spirit gives us forgiveness for the ways of our past, direction for the path ahead, and the comforting assurance that we are never alone. We gain strength from the words of the Psalmist: be

still and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth, the Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge. May Your good word, O God, be with all Your people and give them the peace and confidence that You alone can give. In Your name we pray. Amen."

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord give up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

#### A WONDERFUL MAN

(By Stephen Horn)

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we honored a Celebration of the Life of Dr. James D. Ford, the Chaplain Emeritus of the House of Representatives.

When we traveled to meeting with the delegations of the European Parliament, we found that Jim was a very fine companion. Jim Ford was a great teacher. When we met diplomats and officers, Jim was able to lighten up some of us who were stressed from negotiations and differences among various factions.

Jim was a fine scholar of the Bible. When we were in Israel, Jim was well versed in three of the great religions which are in Jerusalem. Before Chaplain Ford came to the House, he had been for 18 years as the Chaplain of the United States Military Academy at West Point. As a result of his experiences at West Point, he knew about youth and how they grow to be leaders for our country. When a delegation of the House met with General Wesley Clark, the Supreme Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO]. When the General met the Chaplain there was a warm hug. We saw a four star General, but, Dr. Ford remembered him as the very bright senior who was President of the Bible Society during Clark's senior year at West Point.

Dr. Ford was an effective counselor of members that work hard and often needed to be working with people under stress.

One of Jim's great adventures was when he and three volunteer cadets from West Point navigated a boat with sails, guided by the stars. The waves tossed the small boat in the North Atlantic Ocean. It was a great experience.

Jim was a people-person. When colleagues had medical operations at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Jim would come out to see us. He brought us cheer. His humor was delightful.

He will not be forgotten. Our condolences to Marcie, his wife, and Peter his eldest son, and the Ford family.

#### TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5120) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in support the Treasury and

General Government Appropriations Act of 2003, H.R. 5120.

This has been an extraordinary year for our nation, and our civil servants have responded with professionalism to the threats against our borders and assaults against our values. They certainly should be counted among our heroes. It is, therefore, most appropriate that all Federal employees, both civilians and military members, receive the same 4.1% pay raise in FY 2003.

I am also pleased with the Postal Service Appropriations Act of 2003 for it reaffirms some of the basic principles of our universal postal service—6-day mail delivery, rural delivery of mail, and maintenance of post offices in rural areas.

Since 1912, 6-day delivery of mail has been an essential service that the American public has relied upon, particularly working families that depend on the Postal Service for the timely delivery of paychecks. Ending Saturday mail deliveries would not only cause delays in the delivery of mail, but would also cause higher postal costs, due to the additional overtime that would be required to handle the resulting backlog of mail.

Another great efficiency in our country is the ability to send a letter from rural Arkansas to downtown Chicago—and have confidence in knowing it will get there. Whether you live or work in rural or urban America, the satisfaction of knowing that you can communicate provides peace of mind. Many of our communities have limited methods of communication and rely on the post office to provide the glue that binds people together. By maintaining rural post offices, we will continue to bind together our citizenry.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this appropriations bill.

#### FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which I chair, is conducting a series of fact finding hearings as we prepare to reauthorize the Nation's highway and mass transit programs next year.

Surface transportation and the immense infrastructure that supports our Nation's transportation system extends to every corner of this country and every Member's district. That is why we are now examining the effectiveness and funding needs of existing programs, as well as the need for any new direction that the infrastructure of our country may need into the future.

I have said many times that I am concerned about the state of the Nation's infrastructure. This concern is shared by many members of my committee.

The hearings underway in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee are serving to highlight the need for a modern, effective transportation infrastructure. Our economic health depends upon our roadways and transportation infrastructure. To ignore the physical state of these systems is to invite disruption that could have enormous economic consequences to this country.