

Florida (Mrs. MEEK). Without question, her spirit carries this institution, and she has given hope, not only to her district, but to the people of our entire country. Each of us here in the House knows we are serving with an historic figure, and we thank her family, we thank the people of Florida, of Miami, for sending her here in order that our country be a better place in which to live.

I think every single Member here whose life she has touched is a better person for knowing her. She has strengthened us when we were at our weakest, she has made us laugh when we were taking ourselves too seriously, and even as recently as this afternoon she was fighting for the weakest and the poorest among us in the Committee on Appropriations in a several-year effort that she has fought to get rid of usurious lending and check-cashing facilities across this country that prey on the poorest among us.

I will never meet another person like the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), and I say to the gentlewoman, I hope that you will come back to us as often as you wish, because you have a seat in the office of every single person on both sides of the aisle of this Chamber. You are held in the highest regard, and you truly have fulfilled the oath that you took to represent the interests of our country.

It has been my great privilege to serve with you, and I thank you for your work on behalf of the citizens not just of your district or mine, but our entire country and the world. You are one of a kind. God bless you.

□ 1645

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

(Mr. TAUZIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise, too, to let the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) know that, from this side of the aisle, the feelings that have been already expressed about her personally are shared broadly across this body.

I say to the gentlewoman from Florida, we have shared a lot of time together, I have shared time on both sides of the aisle, and we have come through a lot together. We came through Hurricane Andrew. When it got through messing with the gentlewoman's folks, it came down to Louisiana and messed with mine, and we share the horrors of those tragic days with our constituents together, and helped rebuild together.

More importantly, I say to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), she has been a dear friend, a dear friend to so many of us. We have come to love and admire her in so many ways.

I have often said that this House is filled with real people who represent

real people. In a real sense, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) has literally represented the best of what the House of Representatives is all about. It is about people coming from the bottoms, the small places of America, and representing them with dignity and honor and respect; and she has done that in a magnificent fashion.

She has honored this body by her presence. She will be remembered a long time by more than those grandchildren who love her so much. She will be remembered with honor and love by all of us in this House for the time we have been privileged to share with her here.

I wish you bon voyage, CARRIE. I hope you have a great time in whatever you do.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am here to speak on behalf of guys with white hair, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), and me. The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) used to play the game with us all the time; and we knew she knew who we were, but she would play like she did not. But her sense of humor and her ability to reach down into people's souls really makes the difference.

Many Members come here and we all think or we all try not to lose touch with where we came from; but there is no question, when the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) speaks on this floor, there is no question that she has not forgotten where she came from or the people around her, who they were, and what they struggle with.

Her voice has been a consistent and solid voice for the people in this society we try to give a hand up to, but the gentlewoman from Florida would never let us get away with just trying. She insisted that we do it. We are going to miss her, and they are going to miss her. All of us are going to miss her coming up the aisle saying, "the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. MORAN." We are going to miss her a lot.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, as one reads history, many times it seems as though the figures that one encounters are larger than life. It is uncommon to be absolutely certain that, during one's life, one has met someone who is like the greatest of the characters that one has met in history.

That one person that I know, and am absolutely certain that she has already come to be known not only as one of the greatest orators in the history of Florida, one of the greatest public servants in the history of Florida, but one of the greatest Floridians, is the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

I have had the honor, the profound honor and privilege, to know her and to be her friend since we served together in the Florida legislature; and her wisdom and her fairness and her compassion and her goodness and her strength and toughness on behalf of those in need are legendary, and will be more legendary each day.

I join all Floridians, all who have known her, in thanking her, in wishing her well, in wishing her and her family and her son, who will be here with us soon, Godspeed. Thank you, CARRIE.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I know that I will have an opportunity to pay tribute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) at a later time, but I simply wanted to not have this RECORD close, after she has made such an eloquent statement to her colleagues, without commenting on what she means to those of us who have had the privilege of serving with her and on what she means to Florida and to the Nation.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is a renaissance woman. She is one who will come to the floor with passion, but also with knowledge. She is one that is unbeatable in debate because she is not one who memorizes or tries to recapture facts she does not know. She speaks both from the heart, but as well, from an internal, deeply embedded sense of knowledge of humanity and the needs of our people, no matter who they are.

I have heard her quote from those who many of us only read about, and we will miss the eloquence of a stateswoman who can turn heads and minds on issues that they thought they would come to the floor and vote in the opposite way.

It is well known that we expect to be fortunate enough to be able to serve, those of us who may get reelected, with her distinguished son. But what I would say, Mr. Speaker, that I want the RECORD to be able to account for as she gives her remarks this evening, is that she is a great woman, a woman of affection and love, and that we love her; and, as well, she has been someone who has, in the deepest of need, she has gone there and responded to the need, but also she has solved the need. That is for her constituents in Florida, that is for the people of the United States of

America, and those who may call upon her, who do not know her but see her as a soldier or sojourner for truth.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CON- GRESS

(Mr. DEUTSCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, this is with both great pride and sadness that I rise today to join what I really think are unprecedented spontaneous words of Members to talk about our friend and our colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

I joined this Chamber with her 10 years ago with several other Members from Florida, and particularly from south Florida. Three of us were elected: myself, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

For those of us in south Florida, we literally stepped on the shoulders of giants: Claude Pepper, Dante Fascell, Bill Lehman. I think for all of us those truly were icons in American history. We felt we could fill their shoes, but we knew of their legacy. I think after 10 years it is absolutely clear that at least one of us has attained that legacy, and that is the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), who really in the history of America stands out as a unique leader.

Clearly not just in the history of Florida, in the history of south Florida, but truly in the history of America she is an icon, an icon in terms of integrity, accomplishment, work, and compassion. I think that is something that she will remain for the rest of her life and for all history. Her legacy is not just her good works but her family, as well, who join her in public service and will continue.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CON- GRESS

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my words of tribute to the spontaneous demonstration this afternoon on behalf of our colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), who has recently announced her retirement. This is an announcement that caught us by surprise and that we regret; but we welcome this chance to pay tribute to the gentlewoman from Florida for whom we have great admiration and affection.

I have sat next to the gentlewoman from Florida on both of my Appropriations subcommittees for some years now, both the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies and the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government. We

have sat through many hearings and many markups together. We have had some good times, and we have had some real challenges. I have developed great affection and respect for the gentlewoman from Florida during this period of service.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is a fighter. I will never forget the kind of fight she made for the hurricane victims when her district was stricken some years ago. This very day, I have seen her fighting for people without adequate banking services in our Committee on Appropriations.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) does not always win these fights, but she always fights with conviction, with a compelling case, and with the kind of style that makes her a very hard person to oppose. She has a warm and winning way; she wins admiration and friendship on both sides of the aisle. She is a unique Member of this body. I have counted it a real privilege to serve with her and am looking forward to several months more of service as we go through the appropriations cycle.

I wanted to rush over here when I saw this spontaneous tribute arising on the House floor, because I am so fond of Mrs. MEEK and so admiring of her. I am pleased this afternoon to add my words of tribute, to wish her well, and to say that in her months remaining here I anticipate many more good fights and good times as we serve together.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CON- GRESS

(Ms. WATSON of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to give my tribute this afternoon, but we cannot be in these Chambers or in hearing distance and not be compelled to come up and add to this tribute. We are going to say more later.

I have known the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) for almost 30 years now. I remember her as a legislator who rushed up to me one day and said, What is the name of that bill, that bill? What is the number of that bill that you had? We want to do it in Florida. She was always probing, always seeking to make good public law.

We served together in Noble Women many years ago. I just went up to her and I said, I want to take credit for getting you here in 1992. After that very devastating earthquake she called my office. We had had a big uprising in Los Angeles. She said, What can I do? I have two young men running against me. I said, Turn your headquarters into an emergency relief center. She did that. She gave out beds and blankets and food, and she ended up in the place where she needed to be; that was in the House of Representatives.

She has served with distinction, but most of all, she has served with heart,

directly under God, and shared that with all of us. For that, we will be eternally grateful to you, Carrie. We love you.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CON- GRESS

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it just happens that today I had on the great colors red and white. I am pleased, as a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., an international woman's sorority, to stand here to salute my soror, the Honorable gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

It has been wonderful to have an opportunity to serve in the House of Representatives with her. We had a wonderful chance to talk about the great Delta days, about Bethune College, about basketball. In fact, recently she and I coached the Congressional Basketball Team called the Hills Angels as we played the Georgetown law faculty.

But more importantly, she is full of history, full of wonder, full of grace; and I am so pleased and blessed to have had the opportunity to serve in the House of Representatives with her, if only for 4 years.

□ 1700

In your lifetime God gives you the opportunity to be touched by a number of people. I am so pleased that I had a chance to be touched by this wonderful, wonderful woman called CARRIE MEEK. And I look forward to your further years of service. We will not let you retire. We may let you leave here, but we have other jobs for you, Mrs. CARRIE MEEK.

On behalf of all the Deltas from across the world, 190,000 strong, we salute our soror, CARRIE MEEK.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHUSTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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 of North Carolina 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 gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. THURMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. THURMAN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)