

So for me it has been, I guess, sort of a continuing of the spirit that we knew in Texas. Mickey Leland would not have wanted this day to pass without his words being offered: Thank you, friend. Thank you, friend.

And so as a student of yours, though my efforts may not have been as they should have been, let me recommit myself, and when I say that, I suggest that all of us are filled with the responsibilities of this body, but let me recommit myself to the teacher's teachings and that we will fight against hunger. We wish you well and we know that you, in your role in Rome, will fight hunger around the world. We thank you. A heavenly and sincere farewell to you and your wife. We thank you for all of your service.

TRIBUTE TO HON. TONY HALL

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, TONY HALL has been a friend of mine for 14 years. When you have seen firsthand the enormity of the hunger problem on the face of this earth, you can understand the commitment of TONY HALL. My first appointment by a Speaker of this body was to the Select Committee on Hunger. And 3 months after that appointment, I was in Sudan with Mickey Leland, with GARY ACKERMAN, with my late friend Bill Emerson. And in that country the year before, 1988, 280,000 people starved to death, in that one country. I often use these numbers to illustrate sometimes that we do not have our priorities straight.

□ 1515

If a few thousand people die in Europe, we get involved in the conflict, as well we should. In the homeland of my ancestors, in Ireland, over the past 30 years in what we call "The Troubles," between 3,000 and 4,000 people have died, and I think that is a lot of people; and I am glad we are getting involved in trying to bring peace in that conflict. But in that one year, in one country on the continent of Africa, 280,000 people starved to death, and somehow we do not as a Nation have the same commitment to doing something about that.

In that one nation over the period of the last 20 years, more than 2 million people have starved to death on what I call the forgotten continent.

I can tell you, if any one person in this body has worked consistently to make sure that is not the forgotten continent, and that men, women, and children do not starve to death on this Earth of such great bounty, it is TONY HALL.

I can remember when I was in one of those camps down in southern Sudan, it was either Mugud or Wau, and I looked out and I could see huge numbers of people, as far as the eye could see, without really knowing where

their next meal was coming from. It was very moving to me.

I remember turning to TONY's friend, Mickey, who was chairman of the select committee at the time, and saying to him, "Mickey, how are we going to solve all of this?" And he quoted the Talmud. He was giving me a lesson. He said, "Mike, if you save one life, you save the world." That was his message to me, that each one of us has to do our own small part in trying to correct horrendous situations like that.

No, none of us can solve all of the problems of the world, but if each of us helped in our own small way with whatever talents or resources we have, we could solve these problems. That is something that that teacher has demonstrated to me, and I thank him for it.

I know there are many others who want to speak, Mr. Speaker; so I will abbreviate my remarks. I will just conclude by saying that TONY HALL is one of the people who lives the prayer of St. Francis and especially understands and demonstrates that it is in giving that we receive. He understands the fundamental principle, that life is to give, not to take.

I salute you, my friend; and thank you for your commitment to the men, women, and children of this world.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TONY HALL, A TRUE SERVANT-LEADER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY AND HUNGER

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest humanitarians to ever serve in the United States Congress. Congressman TONY HALL has inspired not only the Members of this body, but people throughout the entire world, with his untiring and selfless dedication to helping people in need.

Congressman TONY HALL is a true servant-leader. The minute you meet TONY and talk to him about what drives him, you can easily understand why he has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1998, 1999 and 2001. Tony Hall's pioneering leadership for hunger relief programs and international human rights is legendary.

After 24 years as a Member of Congress and all TONY HALL has accomplished around the world, it is easy to understand why President Bush has nominated him for the rank of ambassador as the United States representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, the organizations that deal with international hunger relief.

TONY has served the people of his district in Ohio and the people of this great country with great distinction for 24 years, and we are all going to miss TONY as he leaves the House for

his new position. But TONY will remain uppermost in our hearts and minds as he continues the important work which has defined his legacy here in Congress.

TONY HALL has left his mark, Mr. Speaker, in so many ways. I have worked closely with TONY on many legislative initiatives, including hunger, housing, and welfare issues. It has been a real privilege to serve with TONY as a member of the Congressional Hunger Center, of which TONY HALL is the founder and chairman.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am even more privileged to have come to know TONY and his wonderful wife, Janet, on a personal level and to witness firsthand their important ministry to people in need.

Although examples are endless, one example leaps to mind. TONY and I have shared many fond memories of the 20th anniversary dinner of our Greater Lake Country Food Bank in Minneapolis, which I helped found. My good friend, our good friend, Hy Rosen, who is the director of this important food bank in Minnesota, asked me to find a keynote speaker for the 20th anniversary celebration in April of 2000. Of course, I thought immediately of my friend TONY HALL.

I will never forget TONY's stirring, inspiring message to the overflow crowd of volunteers, staff, and community leaders that night at the Greater Lake Country Food Bank. TONY's message inspired all of us to work even harder to help fight hunger, inspired all of us to move to greater heights in the war against hunger, inspired all of us to greater accomplishments on behalf of people in need.

TONY HALL has that effect on people. TONY can motivate like few others because of the way TONY HALL speaks right from the heart. TONY HALL walks the walk.

Mr. Speaker, TONY HALL calls it his "personal passion" to fight hunger and improve conditions for the neediest people, both here at home and abroad.

TONY and I have been active with an organization in Washington called the People's House. I keep a card in my wallet which talks about the People's House as a place where any person in our Nation's Capital can call and talk to a friend, anytime, night or day. The friends who made this possible know that TONY is a true friend to so many people, a person who every day sees his calling as helping the less fortunate and bringing the light of the Lord into all areas of this life.

Those of us who know TONY are very pleased to see him continuing the important work he began here in Congress 24 years ago in his new position as ambassador to the U.N. organizations that deal with international hunger relief. I might add, this is a great appointment by President Bush. He could not have chosen a more qualified, a more compassionate or a better individual to serve in this important position.

I am truly privileged by TONY's friendship the past 12 years; and I wish,

on behalf of all of the people of Minnesota, TONY and Janet all the best in their new challenges. May God bless you both, TONY.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TONY HALL

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Ohio delegation, I have been proud to call TONY HALL "leader." He has led our delegation with dignity and honor, and he has brought to this House a grace, a wisdom, and a compassion which has filled up this House.

It is a work of mercy to feed the hungry, and TONY's life has been about showing mercy and about bringing together resources to make sure that hungry people would be fed in this country and around the world. When TONY saw a challenge, where hungry people did not have their needs met, TONY put himself on the line physically to challenge the sensibilities of our Nation and the world. So it is no surprise that President Bush would tap him to be our ambassador to the world on issues of food and issues of hunger.

In his new capacity, Ambassador TONY HALL will be the one who people will look to from all over the world to deal with the challenges of world hunger. He will be the one who will make sure that the World Food Program is effective and that food gets to people who need it. He will be the one to make sure that the Food and Agricultural Organization coordinates its efforts to those most in need. He will be the one to make sure that the International Fund for Agricultural Development uses its resources to grow new opportunities for people around the world.

Many of us in life are challenged to step up to our responsibilities to help others; and when we are, we sometimes hear the echo of words that come from Scriptures; and the echo that TONY HALL heard years ago was of a question that asked, "When I was hungry, did you feed me?" TONY HALL has been able to stand before this Congress and say, yes, and next he will stand in Rome in front of the world and answer again, yes.

What a blessing it has been to work with you, TONY. God bless you. We all in this Congress look forward to working with you to continue to address the challenges of hunger, which are so serious all over this world and which your large heart encompasses, all the people of the world, so that they can share in the abundance which we know this world has.

Thank you, TONY HALL.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TONY HALL

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

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to run to the floor when I saw that this was under way to give my own personal and special tribute to the Honorable TONY HALL, who has had now a higher calling, one of ambassador to the United Nations for Food and Agricultural Agencies, all the way in Rome. What a beautiful place to be, in Rome.

I have not known the Honorable TONY HALL for as long as many of you have, and certainly do not hail from the same State from which he is elected; but TONY HALL has the kind of spirit that radiates across boundary lines, geographical lines, State lines.

When you understand TONY HALL, the genuine spirit that he emits, knowing that he has reverence for the world's hungry and for food safety around the world, you cannot help but consider him a comrade, a colleague, regardless of the State from which he hails.

TONY HALL is willing to make this sacrifice, to give up a very safe seat in the United States House of Representatives, to go on to what I consider, TONY, to be a higher calling, but a much more important calling. As the speaker before me recalled from Scripture, "When I was hungry, did you feed me?"

I do not want to get emotional about this, but when you think of all of the children around the world who need a TONY HALL there to advocate there for them, kids who go to bed hungry, kids who wake up hungry, kids who are dying from malnutrition, kids who are orphans, perpetuated by the unabated rise of AIDS and HIV and tuberculosis and lack of immunization, when their lives could be spared and their bellies could be fed, to think that you and your lovely wife are going to go out along the highways and the byways and truly be a Good Samaritan along life's highway, you remind me often of what I describe for people like you: you live not just because, but you live for a cause, living for God's people.

You are reminiscent of the poet that said, "If I can just help somebody as I am walking through, then my living will not be in vain."

The nice thing about this, TONY, is for you to be able to sit here and hear this, because oftentimes when we lose a Member, we are memorializing the Member.

□ 1530

But you have an opportunity to sit here and know that people love you and that people are going to miss you. I know one thing, after a speech like this in tears on national television, you better give me your address so I can come to Rome and tell the security there, I know TONY HALL, I am one of his former colleagues, and to be one of your colleagues.

But to make this kind of commitment to good work, you are what I call an unsung hero, one that does not seek the spotlight. But you certainly will eternally have the high light, and that

is far more important than prizes and accolades and all of those kinds of things. You have a high light that radiates eternally.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TONY HALL

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

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues in paying special tribute to an extraordinary individual and one who has touched the lives of the entire Emerson family over many, many years.

Mr. Speaker, I recall the friendship, the very close and deep friendship that TONY had with my late husband, Bill; the faith that they shared together, the friendship they shared together, and the compassion that TONY showed, and the deep faith and love TONY showed for Bill as he held our hands and Bill's hand through a very fatal illness and his subsequent death. All of this in spite of the fact that his own son was very seriously ill.

But I guess that should not come as a surprise to anyone who knows TONY, because I can think of no person who is more of a hero and more of an inspiration than TONY HALL, not only in the work that he has done throughout his years in Congress, but truly, there is no one who has put a more human face on the issue of hunger, both here and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I remember so very well the time that TONY went on the hunger strike so that he would finally make all of us, or all of our colleagues; I was not in Congress back then, but Bill Emerson and everyone understood that there was a very serious problem in the United States and in the world, and that Congress needed to get serious about this issue. He made his mark. He made it not only here in the Congress, but throughout the United States and throughout the world.

As TONY leaves his position here in Congress and he leaves his position as the chairman of the Congressional Hunger Center, he has left me in a bit of a precarious position, because TONY had recommended that I become the new chairman of the Congressional Hunger Center, and I do not think I have ever been so scared of anything in my life, nor so intimidated, because no one, no one could possibly fill the shoes that you, TONY, have. You are a remarkable person, and I am so pleased that the President understood the gift that you have for people, the gift you have for life, the faith, the leadership, the inspiration that you give to all of us.

As you move to this very, very important job in Rome, all of us will be with you in spirit, be praying for you, and know that there is no better person to help the world understand the investment we must make to rid the world of hunger.