

watch in several States the tragedy of lost children by the children's protective services.

I have already filed a bill dealing with infant abandonment in hospitals, and also the question of hospitals attending to the information or trying to find family members of abandoned children that may be left, or newborn babies that may be left in hospitals. We will be looking to file a bill dealing with and addressing the question of children's protective services across the Nation.

Let me first of all say that there are many who do good work as part of the system of protecting our children in States across the Nation. Let me applaud those individuals. Particularly, I would like to cite the Harris County Children's Protective Services that had worked with me so valiantly on the issue of baby abandonment and other child protection issues.

But when there is fault and error, when there is a circumstance such as that that generated the loss of life of a 7-year-old boy in New Jersey, and the starvation of two very young children, we need to address the question of accountability by our children's protective services across the Nation.

So I will be filing legislation to require an accounting of the children that are under their jurisdiction, an annual reporting, and a knowledge of whose possession those children are in. Our children are our most precious resource, and therefore we need to include legislation to protect them at every opportunity that we have.

Mr. Speaker, I will also be filing two private bills, and have filed them, one dealing with Gao Zhan, an outstanding academic from China, who still at this point has not received her citizenship. She was held against her will in China just a few months ago. We are delighted that she is released, and her husband and son are citizens; and I hope we will consider her plight.

Let me also say, Mr. Speaker, that I am filing a private bill on behalf of the Kesbeh family, who have been in this country for almost 12 years and have made every effort to become citizens, and in fact have a 9-year-old daughter. We hope that under the laws of this land their case can be considered and that we will treat them fairly under our laws.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we are here to work, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting the legislative initiative that I have put forward and, as well, that we will find compromise and opportunity to work with those who are unemployed and to provide an outstanding economic stimulus package.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 23. An act to provide for a 5-month extension of the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002 and for a transition period for individuals receiving compensation when the program under such Act ends.

S. RES. 1

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communications he may be pleased to make.

S. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

S. RES. 5

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of Ted Stevens, a Senator from the State of Alaska, as President pro tempore.

S. RES. 9

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of the Honorable Emily J. Reynolds of Tennessee as Secretary of the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE WAYNE OWENS, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM UTAH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, as dean of the Utah delegation, it is my sad duty to announce to the House the passing of the Honorable Wayne Owens, a former Member of this body and a good friend to many of us.

Wayne died unexpectedly just before Christmas of a massive heart attack while walking on the beach in Tel Aviv, Israel, at the conclusion of a peace-seeking trip to several countries in the Middle East. He was only 65 years old.

That Wayne Owens would be involved in that kind of activity as his life ended is no surprise to those of us who knew him. He spent a significant part of his life trying to bring about accommodation of the interests and passions plaguing that part of the world.

Wayne Owens served in this House from 1973 to 1975 and again from 1987 to 1993, representing the people of the Second District of Utah. His political career inspired a generation of young people with his political idealism. He was a Democrat and he and I differed on many policy issues, but we never disagreed on the need for the involvement of the electorate, and especially young people, in the art and science of making law. In fact, I might say that while we disagreed on almost every issue, he was never, and I hope I also was never, disagreeable.

In the House, Wayne served on the Committee on the Judiciary, and we had parallel careers in that he inves-

tigated one Republican President and I, early in my career, investigated another Democratic President. Later, he served on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and it was his service there that led to his lifelong concern for the people of the Middle East and to his efforts to mediate their conflicts. He created the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation to assist in that effort.

At the funeral service held for Wayne Owens, Gordon B. Hinckley, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, said of him: "Any man who is engaged in the cause of peace is engaged in the cause of Christ. By that measure, Wayne was a true Christian."

The world is poorer for his passing. I join my colleagues in extending to his wife, Marlene, and his children and grandchildren our deepest sympathy for his loss, and our profound respect for their husband, father, and grandfather. We will miss him.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 days to submit tributes to their former colleague.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and thank him for providing me an opportunity to express my deep affection and respect for Wayne Owens and his memory.

I can say that we were very good friends, even though our tenure here in the House of Representatives did not coincide. He was leaving for the second time, actually, as I was coming in in 1993; but we were associated by virtue of the fact that we were interested in similar issues. Two of those issues most principally were the protection and preservation of open space in the State of Utah and peace in the Middle East.

It was because of the initiative of Wayne Owens that I became the sponsor of a very significant piece of legislation here in the House of Representatives which would set aside a vast amount of publicly owned land in the State of Utah to be incorporated within that property owned by the Federal Government which is declared wilderness; in other words, affording it the highest level of protection for today and for future generations.

Future generations is what Wayne Owens often had in mind, whether he was working on environmental issues or working with young people in his own State of Utah or elsewhere. He was also, as we all know, dedicated to the idea of bringing about peace in the Middle East between Israelis and Palestinians and others in that part of the world.

He first developed this intense interest as a result of his missionary work

for the Mormon Church. He was, of course, a devout Mormon, and had, as all Mormons do, performed significant missionary work on behalf of the Mormon Church. It was in that cause that he first became intimately acquainted with the details and difficulties of the circumstances that prevail, and that have prevailed, for some time in the Middle East, and which led him to establish the Center for Middle East Peace, which later became the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Development.

As the director of that center, he led many of us in this Congress on numerous trips to that part of the world, at least for two reasons: to better acquaint Members of Congress with the circumstances that prevail in Israel and the surrounding area, and also to enlist us in his work to bring about a peaceful settlement to the political difficulties that prevail there.

With Wayne Owens I have had the opportunity to be in Israel on numerous occasions; also in Beirut, and in Damascus; throughout the southern Mediterranean: in Tunisia and Morocco, Egypt, Algeria; and throughout the Saudi Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf States, as well.

Always, Wayne was well received by the political leaders of all of those countries. They were well acquainted with him, they liked him personally, they understood the devotion and intensity that he brought to his work, and they respected him deeply for all of that.

So whenever any of us traveled with Wayne, we were always treated well by everyone with whom we came into contact, not only because we were Members of the Congress, but also because we were traveling with Wayne Owens, who they knew and respected in the way that I have just described.

I and everyone who knew him were deeply shocked at his loss, by the suddenness of his death. He was a man of such energy and vitality we all could not help but think that he would go on for a long, long time doing the very good work that he has done. It is still hard to believe that he has been taken from us in the midst of his work; but so it is, and so we miss him and respect him.

I believe that all of us will continue to show that respect by continuing our devotion to the cause to which he in fact devoted his life, and that is, the cause of bringing peace to the Middle East.

I thank Wayne Owens, and I want to also at this moment express my deep appreciation to his wife and his family, who suffered, I guess is the best way to put it, his work. They allowed him to carry it on. They knew he was doing, in effect, the Lord's work. He was doing work that they appreciated and understood. I want to express my appreciation to his wife and family for allowing him to do all the good things that he did.

We miss him very, very deeply, we admire him, and we feel deeply his loss.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I first would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) for his comments. He and I worked closely together on issues that he has picked up on, public lands in Utah, from Mr. Owens; and I want to thank him for his kind words to our colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER).

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor an outstanding visionary leader, former Member of Congress, and dear friend, Wayne Owens. Today is a sad day in the Middle East and here in our own country, not only because violence and terror continue unabated, but also because one of the greatest believers and promoters of peace in the Middle East has passed. That man was Wayne Owens.

It is with profound respect, admiration, and sadness that I wish to pay tribute to him today.

□ 1700

In my tenure as a Member of Congress I have traveled with Wayne to the Middle East on numerous occasions, witnessing firsthand his remarkable ability to bridge the gap between international leaders and promote dialogue, understanding and accord.

Wayne was the quintessential peacemaker because he never wavered in his steadfast dedication and commitment to the future of the Middle East. His expertise on this issue was the focus of his professional life, from his years in the House of Representatives, to his time as the President and driving force behind the Center for Middle East peace. Wayne's unique efforts promoted understanding and communication in a time of great uncertainty and despair in the Middle East. At a time when hostility, hatred and terror permeated current events, Wayne would travel to the epicenter of the conflict to encourage diplomacy and peace.

At a time when no one could envision a resolution to the most contentious issues in the Middle East, Wayne consistently offered creative answers and an optimistic spin. At a time when doors began to close in the region, Wayne dedicated the end of his life to opening the channels of peace, bringing American ideals to the region, and offering a glimmer of hope to leaders and people in the Middle East.

Wayne Owens was a truly remarkable man who leaves behind a legacy of compassion, leadership and hope. Wayne was a beautiful soul, an extremely kind man who loved his family and cherished life dearly. I wish to convey my deepest condolences to his wife Marlene and the rest of Wayne's family and offer my wholehearted sympathy at this most difficult time. Wayne's contributions to history will be forever remembered as will his unyielding dream of harmony and peace. Wayne, you will be missed by those who care for you, and I consider myself one that

thinks of you like a brother, an older brother, a very dear person and we will all miss you very, very much.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) for his kind words.

I will submit for the record a statement by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN). If I may take a moment to summarize what the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) said. His ideas are important.

The gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) served with Mr. Owens in the House and pointed out in his comments that Mr. Owens was remarkable for the broad range of issues with which he dealt.

He goes on to say that Mr. Owens was a very effective legislator, and after he left Congress that he was deeply involved in the Middle East peace process. One of the reasons why he was so effective, according to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), is that all sides accepted him as an honest broker. And finally, he never stopped believing that peace was possible even in the most difficult times recently in the Middle East.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL).

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) for all he has done in organizing these words today on the floor for Wayne Owens.

I just wanted to rise today to say a few words about Wayne Owens and his service to the United States of America. He was a fine public servant. Many will talk and some have already about his tireless efforts for Middle East peace, but Wayne had an extensive legislative record here in the House of Representatives. He fought tirelessly to restore endangered species across the West. And the issue that I specifically would like to talk about today is his bringing justice to the Colorado plateau uranium miners.

Wayne saw this as a situation with the Colorado uranium miners that had to have justice be brought to the situation. And what happened is these uranium miners went into mines on the Colorado plateau, worked in very dangerous, dirty air mines. There were high radon levels, as the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) knows. He has worked on this very issue. The government knew these levels were very high. Government doctors did reports and doctors issued studies, but nobody told the uranium miners that there was really a problem. And so many years they continued to work in these uranium mines, 10 or 15 years in these dirty air mines.

As many of us know, when you contract radon in a uranium mine and it is at high levels what ends up happening is 10 or 15 years down the line you get lung cancer, and that is in fact what happened on the Colorado plateau, an epidemic of lung cancer. Lawsuits were brought on behalf of these uranium

miners but many of them were unsuccessful. My father was one of the ones, Stewart Udall, that brought many of the lawsuits and represented the miners. He just told me the other day when we learned of Wayne's death, he said, if it had not been for Wayne at that particular point when the miners lost their lawsuits, when the families were discouraged, when they thought there was going to be no justice, it was Wayne Owens that picked up the fight. And he went out and held hearings and he involved TED KENNEDY and BARNEY FRANK and the Committee on the Judiciary and brought justice to this situation by helping pass a piece of legislation known as the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. And many families today in Utah and across the Colorado plateau are now in much better shape because of Wayne Owens' efforts on that piece of legislation.

All of us here in the House of Representatives, I believe, miss Wayne very much and miss his contributions. We want to give our heartfelt condolences to his wife Marlene and his family, and we want to thank Wayne for his service, his great service to the country.

Mr. CANNON. As the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) knows, my first job as a lawyer, Madam Speaker, was with his father working on these very cases that we are talking about. It was one of the great experiences of my life, and it is one of many of the areas where Congressman Owens and I had a great deal in common.

I came to represent many of the people who were effected by the radon from the uranium mines. In fact, there is a whole town of widows, Minersville, Utah, which was part of my district until recently. So this has been a very important part of my life and one of reasons I appreciate the life and service of Mr. OWENS.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Utah for yielding to me. I knew Wayne, particularly having had the opportunity to travel to the Middle East with him, and one thing that struck anyone who got to know him was how profoundly proud he was of having served in this institution. He served as an aide to Bobby Kennedy and to others. He worked in a number of political campaigns. Politics was his life. But he saw politics as an instrument to do good, to make lasting and positive change.

His colleagues from Utah have talked about the environmental progress that he was able to achieve. He did any number of things in bringing diverse groups together. But I have to believe as his lifelong career pursuit, at least the latter part of his life, was dedicated to bringing about peace in the Middle East. He founded the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation.

He took a great many risks, not just personally and politically, but even

physically. He had tremendous courage. That courage came from the personal belief in what he was doing. He put his own safety far below the importance of what he knew needed to be done in bringing about peace and reconciliation in one of the world's most conflicted parts. He found ways to build bridges. He loved people on both sides and found that commonality and worked on that commonality.

And I want to quote from somebody that not only founded the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation but was a very close friend of Wayne's, an intimate friend of Wayne's. They shared objectives. They loved each other. And that is Danny Abraham. Danny sent out a letter from the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation. I want to quote from it. He says with regard to Wayne, "He was respected, loved and cherished by all who knew him. Wayne's single-minded devotion to continued dialogue and peace between Israelis and Arabs in the Middle East, even in the most challenging of circumstances, gave us the hope and courage we could have never found on our own. Wayne never faltered from his dream that one day Israelis and Arabs would live in peace and he had the magic, the gift of nurturing that dream in everyone he met. My beloved friend Wayne was a true servant of peace and he lived and died serving humanity. May Wayne Owens' life, his dedication and belief in us not be wasted. Together we must recommit ourselves to the pursuit of peace."

That will be Wayne's legacy, to help us recommit ourselves in the pursuit of the noblest objectives that he committed his life to. Again I want to thank my friend and colleague from Utah (Mr. CANNON). Let us memorialize Wayne in the actions that we take to further the vision that he had for peace, not only in the Middle East but throughout the world.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), for his kind words with regard to my dear friend, Mr. Owens.

Madam Speaker, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I had just before Christmas returned to Florida from a 10-day trip to the Middle East with Wayne Owens and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), who will speak shortly, as well as Danny Abraham with the Center. And I wanted to start by thanking Wayne's family and the people of Utah for sharing him with us, citizens of the United States, Members of Congress, the many people who were touched by Wayne.

Wayne was a wonderful husband, a wonderful father, a wonderful citizen and he gave so much because the people of Utah saw fit to send him to Congress to equip him with the knowledge that he used through the last minute of his life.

Wayne was one of the most selfless people I had met who served in this body. He had a wonderful sense of humor, a very strong sense of conviction, and something that I really came to appreciate more in the most recent trip to the Middle East, just a certain genius about him, a remarkable level of insight into people, people of all kinds, people who never could have been in the same room with one another, on different sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, on different sides of other issues that separated us from countries like Syria and Saudi Arabia.

But Wayne truly believed in people and I think did his best to see the best in everyone he met and to draw that out, and I think that Wayne played a very important role in the diplomacy of this country in having some painfully direct and difficult conversations with the heads of states in some of these Arab nations and having some very frank and constructive conversations with the officials in the Israeli government.

Wayne Owens knew an awful lot about the Middle East and really would have been entitled to have been incredibly very cynical about what is happening over there right now, even hopeless, as many well-intentioned wise people are. But Wayne, like a lot of leaders who have made this country great and the world great, was an incurable optimist, and he til his dying day never stopped radiating the hope that he had that the better angels, as Abraham Lincoln would have put it, of all the people he had come in contact with would ultimately prevail, and that the United States would in the end play an important role in bringing about peace and tranquility in the Arab-Israeli dispute.

I always thought to myself that if there ever had been or could be an election to choose the mayor of the Middle East, my candidate would have been Wayne Owens. In the last trip that the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) and I took, at every major airport we passed through in the Middle East, Wayne ran into people that knew him, respected him, who loved him, who had not seen him in 10 years because Wayne was one of those people that you never forgot.

I have to say that as a United States citizen, I was proud and will always be proud not just to call Wayne Owens my friend and someone who has helped develop me, but someone who I think represented the best things about our country in a part of the world where people are judging us very carefully, to see what we are made of and whether we really live up to the things that we say our country stands for because Wayne represented the very best of this country.

□ 1715

He has set a standard for diplomacy that we will all have to work very hard to live up to.

Wayne Owens' untimely death on the shores of Tel Aviv is tragic but perhaps

the place where Wayne would have chosen, in between the United States, his beloved home of Utah, and on the shore of a country he loved dearly.

Wayne's tragic, premature death gives us another reason to do what Wayne Owens would have asked us to do if he were standing here today, and that is, to recommit ourselves to peace in the Middle East, to serve as an honest broker, to stand for the values that have helped this country get to where it is today, to bring about a Palestinian state that respects the security of Israel, to help the Palestinians find a way to govern themselves, bring the terror to an end and give the Israelis the chance to live the dream they have always had in that part of the world.

Let us renew ourselves to the cause of peace in the Middle East. It is another way that we can honor Wayne Owens, and I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) for all the things they have done in Utah today and will be doing in the future to honor Wayne Owens, and we are all blessed in that.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida, and I would now yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for calling this Special Order today and for his and the gentleman from Utah's (Mr. MATHESON) efforts to make certain colleagues have an opportunity to pay tribute to our dear friend Wayne Owens.

Madam Speaker, Wayne Owens bade the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS) and me farewell on December 17th after we had traveled through the Middle East together for 7 intense days. He planned to take that same flight the next evening. But the next day Wayne suffered a massive heart attack, collapsed and died while walking on the beach in Tel Aviv.

Our shock and consternation upon hearing the news a mere 24 hours after he had put us on that flight were acute, but these emotions were widely shared among Wayne's many friends, the Utah constituents he served during two distinguished stints in the United States House of Representatives, and the admirers of his path-breaking work since 1989 with the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation.

Wayne's background included 6 years of service for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, including work as a missionary in France. In Washington, he served on the staffs of Senators Frank Moss, Robert Kennedy, and EDWARD KENNEDY. He gave up his House seat for an unsuccessful Senate race in 1974 and then returned to the House in the class of 1986, where I and others in that class came to know him as an accomplished and supportive colleague.

He left for another Senate run in 1992 but in the meantime had found his true calling in his work in the Middle East.

This was hardly a predictable path in terms of his personal and professional background, but it was one to which he was drawn by his experience on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, his friendship with Daniel Abraham, with whom he organized the Center for Middle East Peace in 1989, and by his vision of what a small, independent and creative organization might achieve in this political and policy thicket.

Wayne, Danny Abraham, and the various Middle East hands and political leaders working with the Center were actively involved in the discussions leading to the Madrid and Oslo agreements, and they found numerous ways of encouraging the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations of the 1990s. Wayne was haunted by the knowledge of how close to resolution those efforts had come only to collapse into distrust and violence. He had few illusions about the obstacles to getting peace negotiations back on track. Still he persevered, always looking for the openings, the confluences of interest, the glimmers of hope that could be acted and built upon. He was one of the most determined and dedicated persons I have ever known.

Wayne's approach was mirrored in the trip we took in December. We met with the heads of state in Syria, Lebanon, and Israel, demonstrating again the remarkable access and the relationships of respect that Wayne and the Center had developed across the political spectrum in Israel, in the Palestinian community, and in most Arab states. But many of our visits were more narrowly targeted to learn about and to encourage promising initiatives that are under way.

For example, we met in Cairo with Chief of Intelligence General Omar Seuliman regarding the next round of cease-fire talks to be brokered by Egypt among Hamas, Fatah, and possibly other groups. We then visited chief Palestinian Authority negotiator Abu Mazen on the day it was determined that he would personally attend this second round.

We met with Palestinian Authority Finance Minister Salam Fayyad regarding financial and budget reform, where there has been enough progress to allow the U.S. to broker the release of a first installment of Palestinian Authority revenues impounded by Israel.

We talked with Sari Nusseibeh, head of Jerusalem Affairs for the PLO, about the back-channel, unofficial peace initiatives undertaken by him and others.

Wayne specialized in discussions of these sorts, which bore witness to his remarkable understanding of the politics of the region and of the many facets of peacemaking, his conviction that fact-finding for himself or others required diverse sources, and his realization that the encouragement offered, the feedback given, the information exchanged, in such off-the-record sessions could be significant.

As a middle-ranking member of this House, I have found such repeated visits, and my work with Wayne and the center generally, invaluable as a source of information and insight and as an avenue for engagement.

Wayne was passionately committed to the security and integrity of Israel and to justice and self-determination for the Palestinians. He understood well the relation between those two and the unlikelihood of forward movement without persistent American engagement.

The achievement of a comprehensive peace among Israel and its neighbors is a compelling cause in its own right, but it is one given additional urgency by the need for regional cooperation and support in combating terrorism and in disarming Iraq.

With Wayne Owens' passing, we have lost one of our country's most determined and resourceful contributors to this cause. It is critically important for those of us who understand the value of his work to find ways to carry it forward.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his kind comments and now yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, let me first thank the gentleman from Utah and all of his colleagues from Utah for bringing this resolution to the floor, for their wonderful and warm words about Wayne Owens; and I wish to extend my condolences to his family, his wife, Marlene, his five children and 14 grandchildren.

Unlike many in this Chamber, I was only privileged to know Wayne Owens a very short time; but in the weeks since he has died, I have learned a great deal about this man and his career, how he campaigned in 1972 by walking his entire district, about his courageous vote in the Judiciary Committee to impeach President Nixon, about his commitment to environmental protection which was way ahead of its time, and such a tribute to the land he represented in Congress.

I came to know Wayne Owens because of his work on another important issue, the cause of Middle East peace. As a Member of Congress and as a founder of the Center for Middle East Peace, Wayne Owens never lost sight of his dream, that one day Israelis and Arabs would put down their weapons and take up the mantle of peace.

Because of Wayne's decency and fair-mindedness, he was a rare Middle East expert with credibility in the American Jewish and the American Arab communities. He was respected by Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Wayne Owens was the right messenger with the right message, that it is in the United States' interests to vigorously pursue peace with Israelis and Palestinians; that the cycle of unspeakable violence, illustrated so horribly just 2 days ago in Tel Aviv, will only be broken through a negotiated

settlement; that Israelis deserve to live in security, and Palestinians in dignity, side by side in two sovereign states.

How touching it was that Wayne Owens passed away while accompanying these two of our colleagues who have just spoken on one of his countless missions to the region, that he passed away on the soil of the land he loved so much.

In my last conversation with Wayne, we agreed that I would travel with him to the Middle East early this year, and although we will not take that trip together, I hope to honor, in my own way, the memory of this great man and his legacy by continuing on this path. That path will bring us to the day when we can take up and we will wake up to the dawn of Middle East peace.

I thank my colleagues again for remembering their cherished colleagues in this fitting tribute. He did the State of Utah proud. His legacy gives pride to our Nation, and his message of negotiated settlement for peace gives hope to our world.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her kind words. It dawned on me during her discussion that Congressman Owens has been away from this body for 8 years; and yet many, many people have taken time at an awkward hour, on an important day, to express their appreciation for him and his work, and I hope that this is the kind of thing that his family will appreciate and understand and understand the depth of the value he brought to this institution.

Madam Speaker, I would yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) very much for his leadership in assembling this tribute this evening on behalf of our beloved colleague Wayne Owens who passed, as others have said, in Tel Aviv, as a witness for peace, and I would like to encourage my friend, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), to consider perhaps in Congressman Owens' memory that we, on a bipartisan basis, might create, as the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) has very wisely suggested, a Middle Eastern study group oriented toward peace in that region and to do so on a bipartisan basis, naming it after Congressman Owens who showed us the way in that troubled and war-torn region of the world.

He was walking the path to peace and peace requires heroes and it requires heroics; and Wayne Owens, for our Nation, is such a hero. My heart goes out to his wife, Marlene, his five children, two sisters, a brother, 14 grandchildren who truly have a hero to admire.

At age 65 he did not have to go on that painstaking journey, 7 days of intensive work, trying to find those keyholes to peace, and yet he did that. He could have been living a comfortable life in some condo on some ski slope enjoying himself, but his whole life showed that Wayne Owens was not afraid of hard work.

In 1989, he cofounded the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation here in our Nation's capital and established working relationships with leaders from Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and was making a difference for all of us as the world and our own country is perched on the verge of war in that region. He was trying to show us a different path.

He was not afraid of hard work in his own life. I mean, from the time he washed dishes to work his way through school, to walking across his own State in the entire second congressional district and winning election here, this was a man who endured and who rose above common effort to heroic level to try to help the world, to remove from the television every evening those terrible images of death in the Middle East that infect every child in every nation on Earth, certainly our own.

To his family, may I please extend the deepest sympathy of the people of our community. I had the great honor of being able to work with Wayne in our efforts here to find a peaceful road in the Middle East. I am forever indebted to him, to the organization that he founded and to the friendships that he made on both sides of the aisle that helped us find a better way forward.

As mission president for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Montreal, Canada, for 3 years, Wayne Owens took his own peace quest to a much higher level and took it to ground zero in the battle for peace in the Middle East.

□ 1730

Madam Speaker, I will place in the RECORD an article that was in Roll Call this week in his honor and also thank the gentleman from Utah very much for yielding to me this evening.

FORMER REPRESENTATIVE OWENS DIES

(By Bree Hocking)

Wayne Owens, a relentless advocate for Arab-Israeli peace and former Democratic Representative from Utah, died Dec. 18 while walking on a beach in Tel Aviv.

Owens, who was 65, succumbed to a massive heart attack while traveling with a Congressional delegation to the region.

The four-term Congressman served in the House from 1973 to 1975 and from 1987 to 1993, representing the Salt Lake city area.

During his Congressional career, he made two unsuccessful bids for the Senate. In 1974, he lost to Republican Jake Garn and in 1992 he was defeated by Sen. Bob Bennett (R-Utah). He also ran unsuccessfully for governor of the Beehive State in 1984.

A devout Mormon, Owens served as president of the Montreal mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the mid- to late 1970s.

Despite his liberal credentials—he was the Western states coordinator for the presidential bids of both Robert Kennedy and now-Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), and also was a staffer to the later Kennedy—Owens was admired by Members from both sides of the aisle for his tireless work for peace in the Middle East. In 1989, he cofounded the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic cooperation and served as its president.

Owens attended the University of Utah, latter earning a law degree from that institution.

He is survived by his wife, Marlene, five children, two sisters, a brother and 14 grandchildren.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio. If I might make a couple of comments on things she said.

I was thinking during this discussion that Mr. Owens spent a tenth of his life as a Mormon missionary. That is a remarkable commitment. Three years as a missionary and another 3 years as a mission president for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

In addition, the gentlewoman mentioned he could have easily spent his time on a ski slope. And in fact, in Utah, with all due respect to some of the other States who pretend, we actually have the best skiing in the world. So he could easily have taken advantage of that.

In fact, I was talking to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) a few moments ago, who will speak in a couple of minutes, in fact I think he is next, and he mentioned how healthy Wayne was. The fact is he was a healthy, robust, happy, thoughtful person who could have spent his life skiing or doing other things that he would have enjoyed and I know he did enjoy. But rather than do that, he chose to do things that were difficult, that were very difficult, and, frankly, very important.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I was horrified to learn of Wayne Owens' death last week when I was at C-SPAN, just about to go on their morning program, and saw the news come across the bottom of the screen that Wayne had died the day before.

Wayne and I were neighbors when I was first elected to Congress. He and his wife lived right next door to my wife and I in Arlington in rented homes. He was then chief staff assistant to Senator KENNEDY. I got to know Wayne first as a friend and then I got to know him as an even stronger friend when he became a colleague of so many of us in the House. And after he left this House, as has been mentioned, he devoted a good deal of his time to the cause of peace, especially in the Middle East.

He was a strongly religious man. He prided himself on being a Christian and he took the responsibilities that come with that very seriously. One of those responsibilities, in his view, was the obligation that all of us have as the more comfortable members of the human race on this planet to reach out to try to help those who are not in such comfortable circumstances. He would have been appalled to see the lack of a sense of shared sacrifice that so often permeates what political leaders do these days.

But he never forgot his obligations to himself, to his maker, and to his fellow man to take into account always the needs of others. He was one of the least

selfish human beings I have ever known, and he believed passionately that in the Middle East, the center of so many of the world's religions, that there ought to be a way to bring the parties closer to each other to avoid the violence and bloodshed that has plagued that region of the world for so long.

He is a tremendous loss not just to his family, but to all of us who took daily inspiration from his lack of cynicism and his profound human decency.

I thank the gentleman very much for holding this special order, and I appreciate also the comments of my colleagues in tribute to this wonderful man.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin. I did not think about it until he spoke, but it occurs to me that he did not spend a tenth of his life doing missionary work, but when we consider the religious zeal he brought to the Middle East, it was probably more like two-tenths or a third of his life in these difficult and selfless aspirations.

Madam Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON).

I first met Wayne Owens when I was 12 years old. He was running for Congress in 1972 in the State of Utah and he took the State by storm. He walked over 700 miles during that campaign. And the walking was not just a gimmick. The walking was an indication of the fact that Wayne Owens genuinely, genuinely wanted to get to know the people of whom he was asking for a vote and the people who he was going to represent.

I think throughout his life, with all of the great goals that Wayne tried to achieve and the big picture and the big items he pursued, he never lost that notion of relating to the individual person, to the common man. That is something we here in this House should remember as we look back on Wayne's life.

I had the opportunity to be a campaign manager for Wayne Owens during one of his elections. It was an exceptional opportunity, a challenging opportunity, because Wayne, again, always liked to dream big and he would ask a lot of the people who worked for him. He pushed people beyond what they thought they could do. And as someone who was rather young at the time, I got to be a campaign manager, and that was something that was a significant development in my own life. So I considered Wayne a friend, a mentor, I considered him my Congressman, and I am pleased to occupy the Second Congressional District office that Wayne once represented so well.

When Wayne came to Congress the first time he happened to be on the Committee on the Judiciary, and he was involved in the impeachment process with then President Nixon. That was an exceptional period in Wayne's

life. It was a time when he had invested so much time and effort in terms of examining that issue because he understood the gravity of the situation. This was not a partisan effort. And I remember talking to Wayne about the stories of when he actually voted out those articles of impeachment, about he and his colleagues walking out of the room with tears coming down their faces because they recognized what a difficult circumstance that was for this country.

I think that was one instance where Congress behaved in a professional way, and it showed the strength of this country that we were able to move on from that circumstance, and Wayne Owens was an important player in that process.

It was mentioned earlier about how he advocated for victims of radiation exposure. When Wayne was not in Congress, when he was an attorney, he represented victims of radiation exposure, the widows of the miners that worked in the uranium mines, the people who were told this was safe when it was not. And that work in private life is another example of a guy who acted in the context of service, and when he got to Congress he continued with that and pushed ahead with the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

This was a critical issue that forced the Federal Government to acknowledge it had lied to people and exposed people to dangerous radiation through open air testing of nuclear weapons in southern Nevada and also through the uranium mining activities; an important issue for people throughout the Colorado plateau.

As I have gone through these comments, what strikes me is the fact that Wayne Owens was a guy who always had big goals and big objectives, whether it was trying to address a wrong that the Federal Government had committed and force them to admit culpability, whether it was other issues we have heard about today, like pursuing peace in the Middle East, whether it was pursuing a tremendous change in public lands policy in Utah, with Wayne's vision of a wilderness designation in that State. And there were other big goals and lofty dreams that Wayne Owens pursued, some of which are successful today, and some of which the work is going to go on past Wayne's activity in regard to those issues. Significant issues.

I could go on and on. The Central Utah Water Project, a project that had been involved with Federal funding for many, many years but it was going in the wrong direction. Wayne was part of a group that pulled people together from the sportsmen community, from the conservation community, from the agriculture community, and they completed the Central Utah Water Project as a Member of Congress in 1991, a significant issue that moved the State of Utah forward.

That is the Wayne Owens I am going to remember, a guy who would dream

big and would relentlessly and tirelessly pursue issues. But what I will also remember is what I pointed out at the start of these comments. This was someone who was incredibly genuine and would listen to people and took the public trust very seriously. It is the type of approach to the job that I think we can all learn from, and I think we can do no better activity to honor Wayne than to follow in that way in terms of how we approach this job.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) for his kind words and for his help in organizing this event for Congressman Owens, who preceded him sometime ago in his Second District of Utah.

The last time I spent some time with Wayne Owens was the evening of one of the sniper attacks in northern Virginia here and the freeways were shut down. Wayne and I flew in together and shared a taxicab into town and I had the pleasure of spending 2 hours with him.

The nice thing is the government only paid the normal fee because we split the taxicab fee, but it was one of the more pleasant periods of time I have spent. We talked about many issues and talked about many things. We talked about the issues we had worked together on and the issues we disagreed on. It was a fine experience from my perspective.

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) mentioned that Wayne Owens was a person who caused you to work. I worked for Wayne Owens when he was a professor of law and I took a class from him. I worked against him in some of his campaigns. I was wondering about the 12-year-old and whether I was actually engaged or not. I think, in fact, I am a little older than the gentleman from the Second District, and will have to do the math later to see who had known Mr. OWENS longer. He was a dear friend for as long as I can remember.

We did work against each other on campaigns. We both suffered through a remarkable experience of investigating a President, and he and I developed a deep bond of shared experience there. We both worked together on the downwinders issue. That was my first job in law school, was working on that issue with the father of the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), Stewart Udall. And it was wonderful that Wayne picked that up and made that work.

We both shared a deep, deep love for the beautiful public lands of Utah. He traveled those lands, I traveled those lands, yet we had very distinct differences on how those should be managed. We shared a kinship, however, based upon one of the things that became a hallmark of his life, and that was, from my perspective, wonderful. He was a friend.

I am richer from my experience in knowing Wayne Owens, and we as an institution and as a country are poorer

for his passing. I would like Marlene and the children and grandchildren to know how much we cared for him. I hope that this hour that we have spent talking about him will help them understand the deep, deep effect he had on our lives and on the course of American history, on the course of how we deal with our public lands and how we deal with individuals.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Wayne Owens and to send my regards and sympathy to his wife, Marlene and his children and grandchildren.

I had the privilege of serving with Wayne in the House, and I quickly developed a great admiration for his hard work, integrity and dedication to good public policy. We served together on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where he focused his attention on the Middle East.

Wayne was active on a broad range of issues, and while he spent much of his career focused on weighty matters of international affairs, he never lost sight of the issues that mattered most to people in his home state of Utah.

Wayne was a very effective legislator, and he earned the great respect of Members on both sides of the aisle for his willingness to put politics aside and tackle the important issues of the day.

After Wayne left Congress I continued to have the pleasure of working with him on the Middle East peace process.

As President of the non-profit Center for Middle East Peace, Wayne worked tirelessly to promote continued dialogue between Arabs and Israelis in the Middle East. His goal was to help build economic interaction between Israel and her Arab and Palestinian neighbors and through that work, to support and promote the peace process. He spent much of the last decade meeting with leaders in the region trying to foster peace through economic development.

He was very effective in this role because all sides accepted him as an honest broker.

Even over the last couple of years, when many others gave up hope that Israelis and Palestinians would ever be able to resolve their differences, Wayne continued his work to find common ground.

He was often frustrated—as we all are from time to time—and he understood the realities on the ground, but he never stopped believing that peace was possible.

We will sorely miss Wayne, and his dedication and creativity. As we work toward a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, may we remember Wayne's life and works and let every action we perform be a tribute to his memory.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to remember the life and work of former Congressman Wayne Owens. I did not know Wayne when he was a member of this body: I met him two years ago when he came to my office asking me to support the Middle East peace process.

Wayne's tireless commitment to Middle East peace, his willingness to reach across party lines, to go anywhere, and to talk to anyone, has been a source of inspiration to all who believe that Arabs and Israelis will one day live together in peace and security. He was a study in moderation and tolerance, a compas-

sionate man who believed that all people deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. Wayne was also a true patriot. He loved his country and he believed that our values of freedom, prosperity, and tolerance should be shared with the entire world, particularly the Middle East.

But what makes this moment most painful for me is that Wayne Owens was my friend. He was a true champion of peace, and he lived and died serving humanity. He will be missed dearly.

THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I take to the floor this evening for the first day of the new Congress basically to talk about the economy and my concern about the fact that the Republican majority, President Bush and the Republican majority now in both the House and the other body, really are not doing anything, in my opinion, to address the downturn in the economy, the loss of jobs, the loss of production.

It is of a great deal of concern to me and I know to my constituents. This is their number one concern, what is this Congress and what is this President going to do to turn the economy around. Today is a very important day in that regard, because the President today, in Chicago, we understand, is unveiling his economic stimulus package, what he claims will be the answer to try to revive the economy. Every indication that we have had so far, as Democrats, is that his proposal will not do anything significant to turn the economic situation around, will not create more jobs. It is primarily a plan that benefits the wealthy, the corporate interests, and does very little, certainly very little in the next year or two, that would make any difference in terms of the economic situation in the United States and the world.

Sometimes I think that the White House and the Republican leadership in both Houses here would like us to think that the situation is not that bad and so maybe we do not have to do much in Congress because the economic outlook really is not that bad. Let me assure them that that is certainly not the case. It certainly is not the case with my constituents in New Jersey and it certainly is not the case with any of my fellow Democrats that I talked to today or in the last couple of days since we have returned and since the swearing in.

Just to give some idea, and I will not talk too long about this, Madam Speaker, but since January 2001, when President Bush first took office, private sector employment has been reduced by 2.1 million jobs. The number of jobs that have been lost in that period now, which is essentially 2 years, is over 2 million in the United States.

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If we look at other indicators, business investment since the first quarter of 2001, that is down 10 percent. If I look at the budget outlook, that has deteriorated by \$5 trillion since January 2001.

I do not need to show the statistics. Members are aware that the stock market has declined considerably, unemployment is up, the budget surplus that existed during the Clinton administration which was the first time in almost 20 years that we had actually turned around a budget deficit and we had a budget surplus, and that meant that we were paying down the debt and more jobs were being created and Americans had more money and long-term interest rates were down because of the surplus. In the last 2 years during the term of this Republican President, we have seen that situation go the other way. We now have a budget deficit that is something like \$150 billion, and we anticipate that it will only get worse.

It is only going to get worse unless something is done in this Congress to turn it around. The sad thing is when I listen to some of the suggestions that have been coming out of the White House in the last few weeks, including today, I am concerned that their proposal continues this country down the path of larger tax cuts for the wealthy, for corporate interests, and larger deficits that are only going to make the economic situation worse instead of better.

One of the things by way of background that really bothers me in terms of what comes out of this Republican White House is the notion that somehow the recession began under the previous administration and that the recession is not a product of the Bush administration. Again, let me give some information on that. The National Bureau of Economic Research, Business Cycle Dating Committee, and this is a direct quote, "In November 2001, the committee determined that the peak in business activity occurred in the United States economy in March 2001." A peak marks the end of an expansion and the beginning of a recession. The determination of a peak date in March is, thus, a determination that the expansion that began in March 1991 ended in March 2001, and a recession began in March of that 2001.

So essentially we had 10 years of increased economic activity, of growth, and that ended in March of the first year that President Bush took office after a 10-year expansion that included the entire time that President Clinton was the President of the United States. I do not come here because I want to talk about who did this or who did that, but the bottom line is for Members to suggest that we are not in a bad situation economically today, by any indicator we clearly are, and clearly this recession began under President Bush and has only gotten worse in the 2 years he has been in office.