

that are not frivolous, somebody has practiced below the standard of care. Maybe it is one of my physician colleagues. Maybe it is a hospital. Maybe something happened in the emergency room. That patient has been injured and suffered and has significant economic losses, and they deserve fair and just compensation. But they are not getting it because of this contingency fee system which causes a lottery mentality among a lot of trial attorneys. Not all of them. Certainly not all of them. Most, in fact, I think are men and women of high integrity and provide a good service to their clients as they practice this subspecialty of personal injury.

3.9 million, and let me repeat that, Mr. Speaker, 3.9 million, the increase in the number of Americans with health insurance if Congress were to pass commonsense reform. Almost 4 million more people would be able to afford health insurance. We have been talking about that issue ever since I have been here in this Congress about the 40 million or so mostly working Americans who cannot afford to have health insurance. Either they cannot pay their part of the premium or their employer cannot provide it for them. It is estimated with meaningful leveling of the playing field, not taking away anybody's rights, that an additional 4 million people would be covered by health insurance.

I could go on and on with these numbers and statistics, but let me just talk a little bit in some of the time that we have remaining. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of provisions in the bill that we passed, the Health Act in 2003. That bill primarily puts a cap on non-economic, so-called pain and suffering. But what it does not do is it absolutely does not limit recovery for injuries, economic losses; and in many cases those awards are in the several millions of dollars. But there is no way that one can put any estimate on pain and suffering or noneconomic losses. And that is the hallmark really of MICRA, the law that was passed in California, and it is a model that we know works. And as I said before, if this bill is passed, and I feel that we will pass it in the 109th Congress, any injured patient would be well compensated for the economic losses and any medical care that is needed as they go forward in the rest of their lives.

Another provision in this bill is something that is called joint and several liability. I want my colleagues to understand this concept: joint and several liability. That is what exists today. That means that if 10 doctors are named in a lawsuit, it does not matter who is the major culprit or the one who practiced the least close to the standard of care. One of those physicians who had very little to do with the case could end up paying the whole judgment or the whole settlement just simply because they have the deepest pockets. In this law that we passed, the Health Act of 2003, it would be propor-

tioned depending upon their degree of responsibility, as well it should be.

Another provision is called collateral source disclosure. Collateral source disclosure simply means that a jury needs to know if an injured patient has health insurance, has disability income, because their injury has been eligible and is now receiving Social Security Disability benefits and by virtue of that is now eligible for Medicare. Under current law in most States, the jury is not permitted to know that as they calculate what a just and fair settlement or award should be. And, Mr. Speaker, that is what I would call double-dipping, and that is wrong.

Another provision of course in the bill that I talked about a little earlier was contingency lawyer fees, and I think they ought to get paid and they will get paid and they will do very well. I do not believe there is a shortage of attorneys in the State of California. I do not see any of them coming to Georgia, thank goodness. I think they are doing well out on the west coast and will continue to do well. But if we are going to have a shortage, I think most of the Members of this body, my colleagues, would agree it is probably a lot better to have a shortage of lawyers than a shortage of doctors because we need access to health care. And that is what this is all about, that and job creation and to take some relief off the men and women who are trying desperately to provide health care to their employees.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor, really, and a pleasure to come here tonight and talk about something that is very near and dear to me as a physician Member of this body. And in closing, my plea to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and my fellow Republicans and those Members of the other body is to think about that statistic that I gave them a little bit earlier. Seventy-five percent of the American people want this, and they are not going to wait any longer. And if they do not get it, they are going to hold them responsible in 2006 just as they obviously did in 2004.

#### COMMEMORATING THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening for what I think is a celebratory occasion. It is a time of recognition and celebration of the service of a number of the Members of this body. And I thought it was appropriate for myself and my colleagues from Texas to stand before this body and to be able to acknowledge a time, an era, a collegiality, a time in space, a time in the history of this body.

As I listened to my colleagues who preceded me, it makes it even more im-

portant that we come to the floor today, particularly as I listened to a litany of complaints and issues that were being raised and as I recollected of the debate we had yesterday where our friends on the other side raised the debt limit to its highest in the history of this Nation, and it makes it even more important that we acknowledge not only the legacy of these colleagues who will finish their term in the 108th Congress but to note the fact that these are Democrats, proud to be Democrats, diverse and different.

□ 2100

Certainly we are proud that they are Texans and proud to be Americans, and frankly, we are equally proud of their service.

What they brought to this body, all of them with different regional backgrounds, although coming from the State of Texas and different ideological philosophies in the political wheel of fortune, if you will, they brought a sense and a desire to serve not only their constituents but the American people. They also brought a sense of reaching out and working on both sides of the aisle.

In fact, I am reminded of less than 24 hours ago when the Ranking Member of the Committee on Agriculture, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), went to the floor of the House to try and strike a reasonable response to this escalating deficit, this out-of-control budget and, frankly, seemingly no end to tax cuts and, if you will, a lack of a plan to be able to serve the American people.

So we come this evening, and my colleagues have come, and I am going to call the names of those who we seek to pay tribute to tonight, and then take time to yield to my friends, my fellow colleagues of the Texas delegation, and then I will join in with them to speak about great Members of the House.

Texas itself has had a very great history. I think of some of the names like Congressman Pickle and Congressman Brooks and Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, and I think of a number of those who no are no longer living who have been great servants of this body. Sam Rayburn, I think certainly of his leadership as the Speaker of the House. Certainly I think, and he is strong in North Texas, our good friend Jim Wright and the service that he gave. So many names that have gone down in the annals of history for their service, and Texans are proud certainly of those who have been able to serve. So I will call their names, and then I will yield to my colleagues.

As I call their names, though, let me just clarify, because it is exciting to pay tribute to them, but I just do a slight clarification. Because whenever we do these things, we obviously think of someone retiring or we think maybe of someone who decided that they wanted to choose another aspect in their life. But I want my colleagues to know that these Members of the House

love this body, they love the service in this body, they love serving the American people. The reason why this is a very special Special Order is because these individuals, most of them decided to stand and fight in what we found to be a very unbalanced redrawing and redistricting of the lines that saw them, in essence, redrawn out of their seats. So this was not a race, and they lost it. This was a race that they ran and certainly would have won if the cards had not been stacked against them.

As I have said, we are celebrating their service tonight, but we want our colleagues to know that these are individuals who stood up and stood tall and through a unique set of circumstances, not of any doing of themselves, we now will lose their very great service.

We will pay tribute tonight to MARTIN FROST, CHARLIE STENHOLM, CIRO RODRIGUEZ, NICK LAMPSON, MAX SANDLIN, JIM TURNER, and CHRIS BELL.

With that, it gives me great pleasure to yield to one of our distinguished members of the Texas delegation who likewise ran a very tough, tough race and was faced with the same set of redrawn lines but is here tonight to pay tribute to our colleagues and to reflect upon the celebratory aspects of the time that we have spent together in this body. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas, for hosting this tribute to seven extraordinary Texans, seven dedicated public servants. Whether Americans knew them by name, knew them personally or not, Texas will be the lesser for their loss of service, and our Nation will be the less because of their no longer being in this great body. But the good news is, Texas is a better place today and America is a better place today because of the dedicated service of these seven Texans.

Congressman MARTIN FROST of Dallas, a longtime friend of mine, a true leader of the Texas Democratic delegation, the dean of our delegation. I have never known a more dedicated public servant in my life than Congressman MARTIN FROST, a protege of Jim Wright, the Ranking Member of the Committee on Rules, a vital committee in this House. He is someone who fought for a strong national defense, for jobs and opportunity for his beloved constituents in Dallas and Fort Worth, someone who always was a voice for equal opportunity for citizens of all races in this country. We will miss MARTIN FROST.

Congressman CHARLIE STENHOLM, one of the most decent human beings I have ever known in my lifetime. Someone respected by Democrats and Republicans alike for always being one to put the interests of our State of Texas and our country above partisanship. An eloquent, passionate voice for the value and values of our family farmers and ranchers. All who respect our rural values and the importance of our agriculture producers will miss the voice of CHARLIE STENHOLM in Congress.

Congressman JIM TURNER, a colleague who is living proof that a good person can do well in life. Someone who always treated his fellow colleagues, his citizens, and neighbors with respect and decency. He committed his adult life to public service as a State representative, as a State Senator in Texas and then as a United States Congressman, rising to the terribly important position of senior Democrat on the Committee on Homeland Security, a person who, for the past 2 years, has helped lead the fight to protect all of our families from the threat of terrorism.

JIM TURNER is someone who did not just preach family values but who lived them every day of his life.

Noting that the commonality between Mr. FROST, Mr. STENHOLM, and Mr. TURNER, and something they would all be proud of, saying themselves that each one of them married above themselves. And often unheralded heroes and heroines of this public process in Congress are the spouses of our elected officials. I want to express my thanks to Kathy Frost, a general of the United States Army, and to Cindy Stenholm and to Ginny Turner for their public service. While they might not have had a voting card on the floor of this House, they have been every much a part, in every way a part of public service through this House of Representatives.

To MAX SANDLIN, who rose to the high position of Chief Democratic Deputy Whip, one of the finest legal minds I have ever known, a personal friend who always was fighting to see that the words that end our Pledge of Allegiance, "with justice for all," were not just words in a rote pledge but deeply meaningful words behind that pledge, "with justice for all." That was always MAX SANDLIN's cause in Congress.

To CIRO RODRIGUEZ, who rose to be chairman of the House Hispanic Caucus and a national leader on Hispanic issues, someone who I will always remember as a voice for those who could not afford to hire a \$1 million lobbyist, for the working families of his district and people all across this country. Someone who is a national leader on civil rights and veterans affairs, never forgetting the sacrifice of those who wore our Nation's uniform.

To CHRIS BELL, who served Houston and our State of Texas and our Nation with great distinction and integrity. Someone who, along with these others, lost a seat as a result of not a loss of confidence of his own constituents but because of the partisan redrawing of congressional lines in an off year in the State of Texas. He accepted political defeat with graciousness in a way that helped bring people together in his beloved City of Houston and throughout our State.

And to NICK LAMPSON, our friend from Beaumont, someone who accomplished much in Congress on many issues, but someone who will always be remembered as the father of the fight

to find missing children. And as a father of a 7-year-old son and an 8-year-old son, I think I speak for all parents in America when I say thank you to our colleague Nick Lampson for watching out for all of the children of America.

To each of these seven Members, they made a difference, and I can think of no greater compliment to pass on to anyone. They made a positive difference in the lives of their citizens, their constituents, and the people of this country. And to Susan, Susan Lampson, again, NICK would join his fellow colleagues in saying proudly that he married above himself. Thank you to her for her sacrifices throughout this career of public service.

Again, none of these lost because they lost the confidence of their constituents that they serve today. They lost or had to retire because of a highly unusual, unprecedented redistricting process in a year when redistricting was not supposed to be the case in Texas. But these are good people, decent people, great Americans who not only have made a difference in the past in our State and country, but I know in the years ahead will continue to make a difference for the American people.

I thank the gentlewoman from Houston for yielding me this time and for hosting this tribute to seven great Texans, seven extraordinary Americans and public servants.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman, first of all, for his compassion and his spirit, and to be able to add to the stories of these American leaders, which we will have the opportunity to read about in the years to come. And might I, before I yield to the distinguished gentleman from El Paso, Texas, just thank you for thanking the families, the wives, the children, because we all know, those of us in public life, that we just bring our families along. How they come along is a question, but they are there with us, and I thank the gentleman for bringing attention to the families of these very fine individuals.

Let me now yield to my good friend from El Paso, Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Houston for yielding me this time tonight because, in a sense, tonight is a special night for us, because we say goodbye to good friends and colleagues but, in my mind, great Texans who have given their full measure so that those that have no voice will have a voice in this, the People's House.

In Texas, we are a long ways from Texas here in this House, but in Texas, we like to live by the standard that we simply say "don't mess with Texas." And, regrettably, Texas has been messed with in the worst way possible and, unfortunately, messed with by Texans. And while that is lamentable and regrettable, we have to understand that it is not so much the individual but the actions of that individual.

As I sit here tonight and think about the many battles, the many debates, the many struggles that we have had, and I am relatively new to service in this Congress, I am finishing out my fourth term, which is 8 years, and I look at the number of years that are represented here that in one fell swoop that experience, that institutional knowledge, all of that hard work that these great Texans have done, I like to think of them as the magnificent seven. I know their representation will be missed. I know them to be men of real character, strong character, willing to stand up and fight when even the odds are stacked heavily against them and against us, but fighting the good fight nonetheless. Willing to get into that arena and willing to give their last full measure so that those issues and those programs that are so important to Texas working families receive full and complete consideration here in the People's House.

□ 2115

So, yes, we are losing seven Texans, and Texas I think will be the lesser for it. But I also think that it is important not having been an individual that grew up in a political system; I came to politics after a long career in Federal law enforcement. In fact, most people know that being here as a Member of Congress is probably an accident for me. But I relied heavily on the advice and expertise of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), the ranking member of the Committee on Rules; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), the ranking member on the Committee on Agriculture. I came here with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) who was our ranking member on the Select Committee on Homeland Security.

I became friends with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON), also we came to Congress together. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) followed us by a few months. And then the rookie, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BELL), who has been phenomenal in the short period of time that he has been here.

I think that is the real legacy that we are so proud of being Texans. We are all different. We come from different backgrounds. We focus on different priorities. We bring different expertise. But in the whole scheme of things, we make this country greater. And no one stands taller tonight in my eyes than these seven Texans, the Magnificent Seven, each one with a support system. My good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), who himself I think walks around with a target on his back, and we are so proud of the job that he did and of the support system that he counts on.

When we mention Kathy and Cindy and Ginny and Susan and Carolina, we mention the heart and soul of why we serve. We serve so that our children

and their children can have a better future. We serve so that we can hopefully set an example of what this country can be and what it should be. And while we may have differences of opinion with those on the other side of the aisle, it is never personal in my mind, and it should never be personal.

The last thing I want to say before I yield back my time so that my good friend from San Antonio can speak as well, is that nobody from Texas walks away or runs away from a good fight or a good game. There are certain things that we expect. We expect to know what the rules of that game were. We expect that those rules will not be changed once the game starts. And most of all, we expect that win or lose, we can be proud and we can be friends because we are Texans.

In this case it was not fair. The rules were changed. And I have to say that once this story is told, we are not going to be proud of how this was done. But the one thing that we will be proud of is the work, the dedication, the professionalism of these magnificent Texans that unfortunately, through no fault of their own, because of changing the rules after the game was started, will not be able to continue their work on behalf of Texans, on behalf of Americans, and on behalf of a world that today needs great role models more than anything else. And with that, I appreciate the opportunity to pay tribute to good friends, great Texans; and they will never be forgotten by this Texan.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman. I think the power of the words this evening really define our colleagues and let everybody know that it was their will and determination that caused them to persist in the battle field of politics.

In the scheme of things, when the numbers were recorded on Tuesday night and the analysts and pundits were suggesting the numbers that the Democrats lost and our numbers went down, it is important to note on the floor tonight that the orchestration of the defeat of these colleagues again was not because the voters were dissatisfied with their work and performance, because a very unique and obviously unfair tool was utilized.

So we are here tonight putting aside that loss and really commemorating the great service that has been given to this body.

We thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) for now giving them a new name. The Magnificent Seven has now been recorded in the annals of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I think that will be quite unique.

Let me say I am proud to yield to my good friend from San Antonio, Texas. He comes from his own skill and scholarship, a former judge, but he also will not mind us saying that we all stand on the shoulders of his predecessor and our good friend. He will have a unique story to tell us about why it is so important to pay tribute to his colleagues

tonight, because I know he has been told by his dad how these things work.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Houston.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that all of us from the Texas delegation on the Democratic side come to address the people's House.

We did not want to make this dinner that we had tonight earlier a wake or anything that was sad; but the truth was that there was a great amount of sadness. And at the end, I think we all learned a great deal about the true strength and character of our Members that will not be joining us in swearing-in ceremonies next January 4. I will repeat their names again because I think it is appropriate that they be repeated often so that we all are reminded what public service is about. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN), First Congressional District; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), Second Congressional District of Texas; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON), the Ninth Congressional District; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), the 17th Congressional District; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), the 24th Congressional District; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BELL), the 25th Congressional District; my good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ), the 28th Congressional District. These were true public servants.

Tomorrow they will be casting their last vote. And of course they will have their Member's card and they will put it in the slot and they will be casting their vote. And all of those votes may not be the same because we are quite different, as my dear friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), was saying. We have different opinions. We come from different regions of this great State of Texas. But what motivates us all would be the cardinal rule of how we vote. What do we base it on? People sometimes do ask that.

I think this is a great lesson I learned from my father who served for 37 years in this august body, as well as from the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT). The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) when I arrived here in 1999 was our minority leader. He said, if you really want to do the right thing, if you want to enjoy service in the House of Representatives, every vote that you take, it is a real simple formula. First you vote your conscience because those are your principles and your values and you must face yourself every morning and do the right thing.

Secondly, vote your district because no one else represents your district. And lastly, vote your party. And the gentleman told me that that makes his job really hard as your leader because he is trying to keep us together. But thank God that that was our cardinal rule and that is what has guided us.

The seven Members that are departing followed that rule day in and day

out. It was their social conscience. It was their moral principles that guided them here every day, not as Democrats, not as Republicans, because like the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) said, that is the last factor, that is the last element that you take into consideration. But what were these individuals when they were serving here for so many years?

They were public servants. And the way they looked at it was that every citizen, every citizen in their district was their boss, whether a Democrat or a Republican, whether they were registered to vote or not, whether they were old enough to vote or not, you represented the district. And that is what was important. And you always voted the best interests of your district. And it was a simple formula.

But they also knew it was a higher calling. And that is what we lose here as an institution, men of high character and moral principles.

I am going to quote now Senator Joe Lieberman in his book "In Praise of Public Life":

"Although public figures may face the same everyday pressures as the people we represent, we are not and should not be judged by the same standards. More should be expected of us. We are public officials, not private citizens. Everything we do can become public and, therefore, has serious consequences for the community. We are, whether we like it or not, role models. We have voluntarily entered a contract with the voters that is based on trust. If we violate that trust, our government, our democracy suffers. So the first question a public figure must always ask himself when making a decision about his personal behavior or actions or votes, about whether to take an opportunity is not just is it legal, but rather, is it right."

These are shining examples of individuals that made hard choices, difficult choices, but really in the final analysis were quite simple because they did the right thing.

So everyone that is listening to us tonight must wonder, well, if they were so great, why are they not coming back? Why were they not reelected? And I have my own theory, my own analysis of it. Not one of these gentlemen lost on the merits. Why they lost was really about form over substance.

Someone said it earlier, the rules were changed in the middle of the game, unfairly and in a perverse fashion. None of these gentlemen lost because they were not the very best that we had out there. They lost because of manipulation. They lost because people thought they could appeal to the most base instincts of human nature, which many times is about unfairness and injustice and fear and insecurity by Members of this House. This is repeated every day, day in and day out in this country. It is just that at this point in time it was concentrated in the State of Texas. And we see the result of seven dedicated public officials

that had so much to give and did give. And we are the losers for it.

They did not lose. This Chamber lost; this country lost. They were casualties of a dangerous time. Of all things, I found a quote the other day and it is from a comedian. But it is not about comedy. And it was not about humor that he was writing about. He had time to reflect because he had a very serious thing that happened in his life, and that was that his wife had passed away. And he reflected on life and where society was today, and this is what George Carlin said:

"The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways but narrower viewpoints. We spend more but have less. We buy more but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge but less judgment, more experts yet more problems, more medicine but less wellness. We have multiplied our possessions but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We have learned how to make a living but not a life. We have added years to life not life to years."

His observation is so applicable to what is happening in the political process in this country today. Again, I will say these seven men did not lose these elections, but rather truly were casualties of what is transpiring, what is encouraged and promoted by seven individuals in this country. This is not love of country. This is not patriotism. This is not citizenship. This is not responsible behavior.

So the truth is, what should we do about it? Well, let us go back to the way things used to be where we are going to go ahead and we are going to have our good-faith disagreements. The truth really lies somewhere in the middle. Righteousness. The best answers do not reside on that side of the aisle, and they do not reside over here. They actually reside right here in the middle of the aisle, right here.

□ 2130

The problem is we never go and talk right there in that aisle. That separates us. That is the greatest gulf in this great country, wider than the Grand Canyon because we have made it wider than the Grand Canyon.

When winning is everything, it does not matter how you do it. What is happening? We are models. It is what JOE LIEBERMAN was talking about. We are models to all citizens in this country, and do we let our citizens down and our country down? Of course we do.

Let us stop defining ourselves by our differences. Let us come to the middle. Let us have a dialogue and a discourse. Let us not corrupt a political process, a legislative process, for political gain, be it Democrat or Republican. Because what happens here, great public servants, the very best this country has to offer will be the casualties and the vic-

tim of political greed and avarice. That is what we have tonight.

It is a sad moment, way beyond the seven Texans that we lose. Sad moment for this body, sad moment for this country.

I want to end my statements with my profound gratitude and appreciation for having known these seven individuals. I will continue to know them, and I have a sense that we will be sharing a swearing-in ceremony sometime in the future because things will right themselves. That is all part of human nature. We only let things get to a certain point of excess before we know that it is truly wrong.

These are wonderful individuals, and on a personal side, the absolutely personal side, these are my friends. It is never, never a happy moment when we say good-bye to friends, and this is what we say here tonight and tomorrow after the final vote. There will be great sadness, but something tells me they will overcome the adversity of what transpired and will rise to greater heights because they are totally capable of doing it but for a better reason. Our country needs them.

So to MAX and to JIM and to NICK and CHARLIE and MARTIN and CHRIS and CIRO, we need you and we know that you will continue making your great contribution and making this country a greater one even better than the one that we live in today. Thank you for your service and all I can say is I look forward to your return.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for his remarks. It is worth hearing each of my colleagues characterize what will really be in the annals of the history pages of this body, and I think all of us came to the floor tonight just to make sure that the story was not misinterpreted, because after every election there are defeats. There are winners and losers and most of the articles are written in the first week and then nothing else is said, and oh, those guys lost.

I thought it was very important that the Texas delegation come tonight to be able to say that those guys did not lose. If anybody lost, this body lost, America lost and Texas lost, and I will take just a moment myself to add just a few points into the record, as all my colleagues have indicated in calling each of their names.

So I just simply want to say to MARTIN FROST, thank him for being the political moderate but having the balance, along with his great influence on the Committee on Rules, and I might say that any Member in this body that has ever had an opportunity to go to the Committee on Rules, the powerful Committee on Rules, knows the value of MARTIN FROST's insight and encouragement and questioning to make a bill better or to be able to see the reason in what you offered so that the others who are in the room might be able to join in his reason and vote for good amendments to make bills better.

We thank him for that. We thank him for coming as our leader in the delegation week after week, leading us and guiding us around very important issues, and might I say, for those of us who came in the last decade, I believe that we were dealing with the redistricting issue for at least 8, 10 years as it relates to the constituents.

Everybody says the Member, but it was the constituents, and those of my colleagues who are here tonight recall the hearings that were held around the State of Texas. Thousands upon thousands of witnesses came forward and said they did not want any changes.

So it is not that we are speaking here tonight for these colleagues. Their constituents, voters, who are our bosses, told them that they wanted no changes, but one manipulated the system, refused to listen to the people.

I remember a witness coming up and saying, is anybody going to listen to us? Does anybody want to do what we said or asked them to do? This is just a voter, a witness, that waited hours in the hearing room to testify before the State Senate, hours into the night. I think it was 1:00 a.m. Is anybody going to listen to us?

So, MARTIN, we thank you for understanding that representation belongs to the people, and when you engaged in redistricting, you realized it was to make the people whole and to make them large.

Thank you, also, MARTIN, for taking this very terrible crisis that we had of violence in schools and helping to organize the Bipartisan Youth Task Force Against Violence that I sat on. Thank you for doing that and making a difference.

CHARLIE STENHOLM, 26 years of service in the House and to Texas and to the Nation. I have just got to say one thing. It is this House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) said it. He called it the People's House. We like to say that in debate. I believe it is known in that manner through history and through the concept of the Founding Fathers. They wanted people to be different in this body.

CHARLIE STENHOLM is a farmer. I mean, he grows cotton. He understands farming and ranching, and he understands a large portion of this Nation that really believes they have been left out, the farmers of America, the ranchers of America, people that maybe some of us only know about because of what we consume.

It is important to note that this is an \$80 billion industry in Texas, and look what happened? Because of reckless disregard for the people of Texas and even for this House, an ill-conceived plan now found a man that had been elected in what was really a very conservative district, some might say a Republican district, had been elected over and over again because those people understood that he was their servant. Now we have lost that expertise, and as I indicated, just 24 hours ago we were on this floor listening to his rea-

son about how can we raise the debt again, how can we allow the numbers to go up even higher. Of course, we will lose that voice.

Thank you, CHARLIE, for, as was said by colleagues, having a pure sense of what is right and never wavering from it.

Let me also thank NICK LAMPSON. As many of my colleagues know, he is my neighbor in Houston, and I was there. We were all sort of caught up in the tragedy of the loss of this precious little 12 year old as NICK was just coming to Congress, and I do not know what struck him. I remember the specifics of it. He left Congress and went and joined the search for this very dear, little girl, something like the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) said, none of us can even mouth the words of losing a child.

So he joined the search, and I guess out of that came the inspiration of putting forward the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus. He has been in conferences. He has spoken. He has put it on the map. He has been about the business of organizing communities around the idea of being against child abduction, and the caucus has over 130 members. It really has made a mark in its effort to fight against child pornography and many, many other issues. So we thank him for that.

He introduced the Bring Our Children Home Act with a 103 original cosponsors, and he really made this something that is clearly a mark that will not be forgotten on this Congress. We thank him for that.

We all know that CIRO RODRIGUEZ is called the nice guy, but he is a nice guy, but he is a tough guy on the issues that are, in fact, close to his heart. Here is a guy that I would see on the floor of the House night after night after night, chairman of the Hispanic Caucus, but he was on the floor talking about health care, not only for Hispanics but for Americans, and he was always talking about it for children. He chaired the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Health Task Force, but he took it very seriously.

I traveled with him. I saw him traveling around the country, going to summits on the question of health care and recognizing that we have 44 million Americans without health coverage, and he got up all the time and said how can we do this. Thank you, CIRO.

He fought to raise the attention on diabetes and HIV/AIDS and substance abuse and mental health, and he led the fight in Washington for Hispanic health awareness, and so we cannot thank him enough. He is a guy with a big heart. I guess it is that social work degree that he has, and we simply thank you, CIRO, and your wife for working to make the NIH better, helping to get more moneys to the NIH and certainly helping to put the focus of health care improvement in Hispanic Americans clearly on the map. We thank you so very much.

He has been called many things, but he was awarded the Community

Superhero Award, and that speaks to CIRO in the words that he has done and what he has done on this floor as it relates to health care.

MAX SANDLIN, someone said, is the lawyer's lawyer. I remember it is a shame that we do not do what the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) said and just meet right here in the middle because MAX was a former judge, and the only thing that he wanted us to do was to be pure in our debate. If we had some issues about the law or legal procedures, he did not want us to politicize it, scapegoat lawyer, scapegoat injured individuals who have no other way of addressing their grievances, people who have been damaged by the Food and Drug Administration, poor quality drugs or someone's child has been on a playground and fallen down because the equipment does not work properly or some other product liability issue. He wants to get to the core element, debate the merits, and he brought forth some of the most crafted, thoughtful legislation dealing with balancing the rights of consumers and others that may be concerned about the costs of litigation.

He was always here, not to be carrying forth the message of the single thought of trial lawyers, our friends, of course, who helped protect many Americans, but he was prepared to craft very intelligent legal arguments. It is a shame that we could not meet right here in the middle of the floor for MAX SANDLIN's very, very articulate, and well-thought-out legislative initiatives could not be heard.

He spoke very clearly that as a judge he understood what justice was all about, and I will always admire and respect him for his leadership, his work with the Democratic Children and Health Task Forces, again his very defined work on the Committee on Ways and Means, a new Member that he was, but still a Member that was prepared to tackle those hard issues on Medicare and the legal liability issue of Medicare.

You could always count on Congressman MAX SANDLIN to explain to you and get the legal liability issue out and make the bill better to serve all of us, and I thank him for that.

Let me thank JIM TURNER. I had the pleasure of serving with JIM TURNER, and I met JIM TURNER in Crockett, Texas. He was the mayor of Crockett. I knew him has a long-standing public servant. They loved him in Crockett, Texas, he and his family, his wife. He loved them, and lo and behold he comes to be a senator out of the Senate in Texas, and then he comes here to the United States Congress.

He did not come here to think that he was going to be the ranking member on the Select Committee on Homeland Security. He did not come here knowing what would happen on 9/11, but I tell my colleagues what happened when he got to get that position, as he, even in the knowledge of having to retire because there was no district for him, he did not sit down.

Chairman of the Blue Dog Coalition, many who may not know the Blue Dogs, the Yellow Dogs, the Blue Dogs had a different perspective. He never carried around on his shoulder in a way that would be offensive. He was a team player, but he had his values.

But on this Select Committee on Homeland Security he took the bull by the horns, if you will, and constructed documents, not to poison the waters but to make our Nation safer. We Members are better informed because we have document after document after document about the lack of cargo inspection, the need for more border patrol agents and detention spaces, the need for a better bioterrorism plan, the need for a better transportation plan.

JIM TURNER, as the ranking member on this Select Committee on Homeland Security, did just that, and we are very grateful for him in and his knowledge and his sensitivity.

□ 2145

Let me also say that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), as was the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ), a big supporter, as is the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), of the military and the veterans. We could always, in this time when Democrats were sort of facing an uphill battle, sometimes because of the smearing that went about, about our patriotism, we were always glad that we had Texans in the room because we provided, I guess, the firewall. We could always get our colleagues, and I am pointing to the ones I am speaking about, really to be able to know that this is a diverse caucus and there is no divide on the support of this caucus for veterans and the military.

As we all know, our colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), along with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), all served on the Committee on Armed Services. So I guess we had our share of Members on the Committee on Armed Services. And I know the work the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) has done on the Committee on Appropriations. And then, of course, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which CIRO RODRIGUEZ was on. We set the standard that there is no challenge that you can make against us in terms of our support for our troops.

In fact, let me just make a personal mention that I have got a physician in my community that is reaching beyond 50 years of age, and I know he will not mind me saying it. He has just been called up to Germany to take care of those injured persons who are coming in, and he is a Texan serving out of Fort Hood who is in the reserve and is now being called out of his practice and is going. And I pay tribute to Dr. Daley tonight. And I am only saying that I am glad he had our colleagues, Dr. Warren Daley. I am glad he had our colleagues to be able to protect him and to be able to stand up for him.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BELL), whom I traveled with, has been an excellent member of the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Financial Services. He had the medical center in his district, and of course his predecessor was Mike Andrews. A number of others from the district, Mike Andrews, of course, most recently, and Ken Bentson. But I can assure he did not lose any time in getting to know the medical center's issues. After the terrible hurricane that we had, and following up with Ken Bentson, he got right in there and worked very, very meticulously on the needs of the medical center.

He was someone who had background in local government, the Houston City Council, and he brought a sense of understanding about respecting and responding to local government needs, and so we worked together on the needs of metro. He was unabashedly for light rail and was shocked that he would come to this body and find someone who is from Texas, our own colleague, would be standing up against the people of Houston getting the right kind of transportation system. So he was not afraid to stand up for transportation issues, work with the financial community in Houston, and as well he was a leader by being named senior whip and being part of the whip system. And I think that he was clearly someone who was having a great time but also was a great servant of the people.

So tonight we have the opportunity to call their names and as well to pay tribute. I wanted to just mention, and I see my colleague standing, but I wanted to just mention again names like Lyndon Baines Johnson because I had the opportunity to be with former President Johnson's two daughters just the other day at the Clinton Library. I thanked them again for their father and their mother. And I know that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) talked about his predecessors, whom he named and talked about in 1970, with so many years of experience that Texans have brought to this body. They have been here in a collegiate manner. We have shared with our colleagues that are here. We are not selfish, we are not arrogant, but we are proud of our legacy and our history, and clearly we believe that we come from good stock.

Let me just say this, that Booker T. Washington said, "Character, not circumstances, makes the man." I might paraphrase and say "makes the person." We can be assured that we have got some fellow Texans who will be leaving tomorrow that have certainly been made by the character that they possess.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Houston, as I finish with a couple of comments on my part, Mr. Speaker.

As we celebrate the extraordinary public service of seven great Texans, I

must also say as a Texan there is a lot that we will miss. As a Texan and as Texans we will miss 80 years of seniority in this body, the House of Representatives, where seniority means a lot in terms of effectiveness for our States.

Texas and I will miss having the ranking member, the senior Democrat on the Committee on Rules, one of the most important committees anywhere in Congress. We will miss having the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture, and we will miss having the ranking member of Homeland Security. Perhaps this is Texas's gift to the States of New York, Minnesota, and Mississippi, who will now have those ranking positions.

We will miss having the chairman of the House Congressional Hispanic Caucus, an important voice for Hispanics throughout Texas and our country. We will miss having the chief deputy whip on the Democratic side and a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and we will miss a true national leader on the issue of missing children.

I think our greatest loss, as important as it is and as sad as it is for our State to have lost 80 years of seniority in the ranking positions of key committees, our greatest loss is that we will lose people of great integrity who were truly dedicated to the principle of unselfish public service.

I do not grieve for these Magnificent Seven. They are bright, talented, hard-working, capable people with good families. They will do well. I do grieve for the 4.2 million Texas citizens who were denied the right to vote for the reelection of their present Member of Congress as a result of redistricting.

And personally I will miss the daily friendship and interactions with these good people, people who will be our friends for a lifetime. We will miss that daily interaction of these good, decent people.

I have nothing but best wishes and wish Godspeed to MARTIN FROST, CHARLIE STENHOLM, NICK LAMPSON, CIRO RODRIGUEZ, CHRIS BELL, JIM TURNER, MAX SANDLIN, and their families.

And I would finish my comments, before yielding back to the gentlewoman from Houston, with the words of Winston Churchill who once reminded us that "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." By that very high standard, these great seven Texans have lived a rich life, and I know they will continue to give to their communities, their State, and their country; and we wish them all the best in the years ahead.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kind words. Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me, and I will be brief because I know that, or at least I hope our colleagues are watching this evening. But we do thank them for their public service and we do recognize, as the great poet once said,

that the true measure of an individual who is successful in life is the fact that when that life is done he or she will have left not only a mark but will have left a legacy of leaving the world a better place.

Our colleagues, of course, are going on to bigger and better things, and perhaps we will see them back here in the very near future. So to them, not only do we salute them tonight but we thank them for their service and their willingness to share of themselves with the rest of us here in the people's House. We wish them well. I know they are blessed, because they have left their mark in this House.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for being here this evening, and before I close I want to make mention of the dean of our State who will serve us in the 109th Congress, and that is the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ), who helped to convene us for a very warm occasion this evening. We were very grateful for that.

We know that we will move on in the 109th Congress. We will pull together and we will work together. But for any of those who are wondering why we stand on the floor tonight, it is because we did not want this session to end without the appropriate knowledge and respect for these colleagues who served, and who fought, but did not prevail. They did not lose. And I think that is the point we want to make tonight, that these are people defeated, but these are people who have not lost.

Again, I want to thank MARTIN FROST, CHARLIE STENHOLM, CIRO RODRIGUEZ, NICK LAMPSON, MAX SANDLIN, JIM TURNER, and CHRIS BELL. Let it be known that the Texas delegation will remain strong and united, full of hope and full of aspirations. Let it also be known that these are our friends and colleagues who we have traveled down many roads with, both smooth and bumpy roads. But let it be known, most especially, that we wish them Godspeed.

I leave my colleagues tonight with these simple words that I paraphrase from Mary McCloud Bethune. She said, I leave you hope. I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another. I leave you respect for the use of power. I leave you faith. I leave you dignity.

Shakespeare said, Unto each of us is given a bag of tools and a book of rules, and each must make of life as though a stumbling stone or stepping stone. I think we have made a stepping stone tonight, and I wish for those who will be leaving us many stepping stones and many, many days of happiness and good luck.

I rise this evening to pay tribute to and bid a fond farewell to seven distinguished colleagues, leaders, and friends. As we approach the end of the 108th Congress, a legacy of successful public service will close for these gentlemen. Tonight, Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally thank 7 of my 17 Texas Democratic colleagues for what they have done for

their respective congressional districts, the State of Texas, the United States of America, and to the international community.

Congressmen MARTIN FROST, CHARLIE STENHOLM, NICK LAMPSON, CIRO RODRIGUEZ, MAX SANDLIN, JIM TURNER, and CHRIS BELL will be missed for the high standard of achievement and commitment to upholding the integrity that membership in the House of Representatives connotes.

I have had the sincere honor of serving with Congressman MARTIN FROST, the senior Member of Congress from Texas. Congressman FROST is the ranking Democratic member of the influential House Rules Committee. Congressman FROST is also the senior southern Democrat in the House and has previously served as chair of the Democratic Caucus.

So it is with great sadness that Congressman FROST's long record of leadership in Congress is coming to an end after a bitter redistricting battle in Texas.

Congressman FROST brought common sense and a practical approach to a variety of senior positions. Within the Texas delegation, he is widely respected for his ability to bring together Members with different regional and ideological backgrounds, allowing the Caucus to work toward a common agenda that addresses the real concerns of working families.

A political moderate, Congressman FROST has also brought together both representatives of the business and labor communities with Democratic Members to discuss issues affecting their industries.

Congressman FROST served on the House Committee that considered the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. Congressman FROST has also served as co-chair of bipartisan panels addressing the causes of youth violence and the continuity of Congress in the event of a terrorist attack.

Congressman FROST, I have always looked to you as a leader and as a representative of all that is good in Congress. Your departure will leave a gaping hole in the Texas legislature, and you will be missed.

Let me take a few minutes to congratulate CHARLIE STENHOLM for his 26 years of service in the House to Texas and to the Nation. I've had the pleasure of working with him since I've been in Congress and as a friend and colleague in the Texas Democratic delegation. I appreciated the welcome he gave to me when I came to Washington and now I want to wish him the best as he starts his new endeavors.

CHARLIE's experience as a farmer, teacher, and head of the Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association contributed to his skillful leadership of the Democrats on the Agriculture Committee. He was able to understand the needs of the farmers who help to feed us in balance with fiscal restraint. That's critical to Texas, where agriculture is still the State's second-largest industry, with an annual economic impact of \$80 billion. In fact, CHARLIE still runs a cotton, wheat, and cattle operation in Jones County with his son Cary. He brought this great knowledge to our Congress.

Thanks CHARLIE for all your service.

Congressman NICK LAMPSON has always been fighting for what is right in the world, and that is the well being of children.

Whatever his initial ambitions coming into Congress were, things for Congressman LAMPSON were instantly changed just months into his first term, when a family in the 9th District suffered a terrible tragedy. A 12-year-old

girl from Friendswood was abducted and found murdered 2 weeks later. Congressman LAMPSON wanted to take immediate action and bring Congress to their feet. He founded the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus to build awareness around the issue of missing and exploited children for the purpose of finding children who are currently missing and to prevent future abductions. He succeeded in creating a voice within Congress on the issue of missing and exploited children and introduced legislation that would strengthen law enforcement, community organizing and school-based efforts to address child abduction. His caucus currently has over 130 members.

With the power of the Caucus behind him, the former high school science teacher has fought continuously in Congress to help families protect their children and aid communities and law enforcement searching for missing children. He has sponsored legislation to fund law enforcement efforts to stop child pornography and exploitation on the Internet.

Congressman LAMPSON introduced the Bring Our Children Home Act with 103 original cosponsors in both the 106th and 107th Congresses. This bill established a right of action in Federal court for resolution of child custody disputes and establishes a National Registry of Custody Orders. It also requires the Department of Justice and the Department of State to report to Congress on International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act warrants and extradition.

I want to close with a quote from one of my personal role models, Mary McCloud Bethune,

I leave you hope. I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another. I leave you respect for the use of power. I leave you faith. I leave you . . . dignity.

Congressman NICK LAMPSON, you will be missed dearly.

The 28th Congressional District has been served by a true man for others out of San Antonio, TX, Congressman CIRO RODRIGUEZ since 1997. My colleagues and I have enjoyed his leadership in the protection of our nation's veterans through his actions in the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The over 50,000 veteran constituents in his district know the sincerity and conviction of his work in that body.

As a member of the Committee on Armed Services, the gentleman did great things for military healthcare facilities. Through legislative efforts, he facilitated the ability of military hospitals to recoup increased funds for civilian trauma care.

He currently serves as the chair of the 20-member Congressional Hispanic Caucus, as well as the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, CHC, Health Task Force, leading the fight to improve access to healthcare and reduce health disparities for Hispanics and all Americans. During his tenure in Congress, Congressman RODRIGUEZ organized the first ever Hispanic Health Awareness Week focusing on three diseases that disproportionately affect the Hispanic community: Diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse/mental health. Not only has he led the fight in Washington for Hispanic Health Awareness, but he continued to aid those in his district by organizing and leading the National Hispanic Health Leadership Summit in San Antonio, TX.

This gentleman is one of a few Members of Congress with a master's degree in Social



Work, was an counselor/caseworker at the Bexar County Mental Health and Mental Retardation from 1971–1974 and 1978–1980. The result of this training is that Congressman RODRIGUEZ recognized that social workers play an invaluable role within our Nation's social service infrastructure. In 2004, he reintroduced H.R. 3887, the National Center for Social Work Research Act, which would establish a research center within the National Institutes of Health. Congressman RODRIGUEZ has continued working to encourage NIH to better integrate social work research into their mission. In 2002, he helped secure language in a congressional appropriations bill directing NIH to develop a social work research plan.

CIRO has held a long and distinguished career receiving numerous awards such as the National Hispanic Medical Association's Leadership Award given earlier this year by the National Hispanic Medical Association for his leadership and his initiative on Hispanic health disparities. He earned the 2003–2002 Community Health Super Hero Award from the National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc. and Health Centers from the State of Texas recognizes the Congressman's strong and consistent support for health centers and the patients they serve in communities across the country throughout the Second Session of the 107th Congress.

I along with the other members of the Texas Congressional Delegation have been honored to serve alongside CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ. Although we will miss his friendship and leadership, I am sure that as he looks back upon his illustrious career of civil service, he will be proud to have served the constituents of 28th Congressional District of Texas.

It has been such a privilege to serve with Congressman MAX SANDLIN. As one of the most compassionate Members of Congress, he was recently appointed to serve on the Ways and Means Committee, the most powerful and esteemed committee in the House.

Congressman MAX SANDLIN and I were members of the Democratic Children and Health Task Forces. Both he and I worked hard to champion legislation that protected working families with children. I have always admired him for his strategic use of his position to gain consensus among his colleagues, identify important issues, and formulate policy.

As a Member from an urban district in Texas, I could always count on Congressman MAX SANDLIN to add the voice of rural America and fiscal responsibility to the leadership of the Democratic Party.

As we faced the harsh injustices of redistricting, Congressman SANDLIN stood strong, redoubled his efforts to maintain what he believes in, and did not back down. Even though he was not able to emerge victorious in this cycle, I am confident that a man of his caliber will return to public service.

I have had the honor and privilege of serving with Congressman JIM TURNER in the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. I always felt confident that as the ranking member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, JIM was working to protect the safety and security of the American people in the war on terrorism. He lead the Democratic charge for the ushering in of several pieces of important legislation that will help this nation fight back against global terrorism and keep our families safe.

Congressman TURNER retired after four terms in Congress, a decision that I know as

difficult. Unfortunately, we are not able to control all the events in our life, and Congressman TURNER did not have a fair or unbiased chance for reelection.

A longtime fiscal conservative, Congressman TURNER was the cochair of the "Blue Dog" Coalition. In addition, his work in Congress focuses on promoting economic development and forestry in east Texas. He continues to work for senior citizens through his sponsorship of legislation to lower prescription drug costs.

I have always enjoyed working with Congressman TURNER, who was able to bridge the partisan divide and make friends on both sides of the aisle. I wish you the best of luck in the future.

I am honored to be here today to speak on behalf of my colleague, CHRIS BELL. Our districts border one another in Houston, so I have been privileged to know and work with CHRIS BELL during his time in Congress. Similar to my own background, CHRIS BELL is a former Houston City Council Member. Congressman BELL has earned a reputation as an independent thinker with a common sense approach to governing. He has built an exceptional public service career around defending the truth, championing the people's issues and maintaining the integrity of public office.

During the Enron debacle that affected thousands of Houstonian's, Congressman BELL and former Democratic Leader DICK GEPHARDT, held a town hall meeting calling for corporate employee retirement security and executive accountability. Additionally, BELL executed a citywide campaign to educate employees on the importance of diversification of assets. Congressman CHRIS BELL is an outstanding example of what it means to stand up for truth, something that I will always admire in him. He has taken a stand against unethical actions in this body and the public owes him a debt of gratitude for that. Congressman BELL, I applaud you for your groundbreaking courage.

Congressman BELL's leadership qualities have been noticed by many, particularly by Democratic Whip STENY HOYER, who appointed him as a "Senior Whip." There is a large void to fill with Congressman BELL's departure.

In closing, I would like to quote Booker T. Washington, who said, "Character, not circumstances, makes the man."

Gentlemen, again, thank you very much for your service, leadership, and friendship. Please know that I will always be happy to "yield back the remainder of my time to you if you ever need me." The best of luck to you and your respective families in your future lives.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit written statements on the subject matter of my Special Order this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings on H. Res. 853 and H.R. 5382 will resume tomorrow.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0018

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON) at 12 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4818, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Florida submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 4818) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

[The conference report will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.]

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. KIND (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 7:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of a prior family commitment.

Mr. ROTHMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a family obligation.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CUMMINGS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ORTIZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DOGGETT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. REYES, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GONZALEZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINOJOSA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EDWARDS, for 5 minutes, today.