

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DRILLING IN ANWR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of the central issues of our time, and that is whether or not we should drill for oil in Alaska in an area known as ANWR.

I have just returned from a 4-day trip to ANWR to do a fact-finding mission to see this area firsthand. Those in our country who are for drilling in the ANWR section of Alaska say that there's a large amount of oil there, that it can be drilled in an environmentally friendly manner, and that the Alaskan people want it. Those who are against drilling in ANWR say there's only a trivial amount of oil there, it will hurt the pristine wilderness, and it will hurt the wildlife in that area, particularly polar bears and caribou.

Well, to answer those questions for myself, I went there. I just want to walk through a couple of them. First, let's talk about the amount of oil in the ANWR area. Having been there and talked with the experts, I can tell you that there is 10.4 billion barrels of oil in ANWR, according to the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Department of Interior. That 10.4 billion barrels of oil is enough oil to provide my home State of Florida with all of its petroleum needs for 29 years. It's enough to provide 1 million barrels of oil a day, every day, for the next 30 years.

The next issue comes up, Well, this will hurt the pristine wilderness area. Well, I traveled to ANWR, and you can see this map. This is the entire ANWR area. The only village in ANWR is called Kaktovik. I stood right there in the Arctic Ocean looking down at ANWR with the head elected leader, Mr. Fenton Rexford. As I looked out, all I saw was a flat, barren tundra.

I asked Mr. Rexford, Where are the trees? He said, there are no trees within 100 miles of this area that would be drilled. The area is not a pristine wilderness. It looks more like the moon than it does the rain forest.

The next issue becomes, Well, this will hurt wildlife. We hear from those

who have concerns particularly about caribou and polar bears. I saw both on my trip in visiting various parts of Alaska. There are 5,000 polar bears approximately in Alaska, and 800,000 caribou. Caribou are by far the most numerous of the large mammals in Alaska.

Are we concerned about diminishing numbers? No. Both the numbers of polar bears and caribou have increased every year since the last three decades. In fact, we know that they can coexist because right next to ANWR is an area called Prudhoe Bay, the single largest oil field in the United States.

When oil started to be taken out of Prudhoe Bay in the mid seventies, there were 3,000 caribou in that area. Today, there are over 30,000 caribou. The numbers have increased tenfold.

So the bottom line from my fact-finding mission to Alaska is this. There is a significant amount of oil there. Over 10 billion barrels. The Alaskans do want it, over 70 percent Statewide, and 90 percent of those who live along the ANWR coastal plain. This can be done without harm to the wilderness. There's not a tree within 100 miles. And 99.9 percent of ANWR would be off-limits to the drilling. It can be done without harm to wildlife, either polar bears or caribou. And we can have it all. We can have responsible, environmentally friendly drilling that reduces our dependence on foreign oil.

I made a promise to the Eskimo tribal leaders when I was there in Kaktovik, a small town with 300 folks, that I would come back and tell their story as objectively as I could. They said so few Members of Congress have ever visited there and they would like to just get the truth out for both sides. I hope today, by laying out as best I can my factual findings, I have honored their request. I urge folks to look at this issue objectively, as I have, and try to reach a fair conclusion.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KILPATRICK. For the Members who have sat all night as we pay special homage to our friend, colleague, and very special woman, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Special Order for Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. KILPATRICK. I'd like to yield to the former chairman, my predecessor

of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman MEL WATT.

Mr. WATT. I thank the gentlelady for convening this Special Order for us to pay tribute to our friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

In the midst of all our sadness I think the one thing that keeps occurring over and over and over again is wonderful, uplifting, fun stories and memories of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. In fact, I was privileged to share a whole sequence of fun, funny, uplifting experiences with STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and I concur with my colleague, EMANUEL CLEAVER, who made a comment earlier that this life did not cheat our friend STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She lived and enjoyed every single minute of it. Even when she was working, she was having fun. So I suspect you're going to hear from this group that is coming for this Special Order more stories about our experiences with her because they were all a series of fun experiences.

Let me start with this experience. Probably 3 weeks before STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' death, 7:30 a.m. in the morning the phone rings at my residence in Charlotte, North Carolina, and on the other end is STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES saying, Mel, I got into your city last night at about 10 o'clock in the morning. I was on my way from Memphis, Tennessee, where I had been campaigning for a person who was running for Congress, and I was on my way to give a speech in Cincinnati, Ohio, and there was bad weather in Cincinnati, Ohio, and I ended up spending the night at a motel in Charlotte, North Carolina, and I don't have any clothes and I am supposed to be giving a speech in Cincinnati later today. What can you do for me?

I said, Well, STEPHANIE, no problem. I will just have somebody pick you up, take you to the shopping center. You can do your shopping, buy a whole new wardrobe. So she went to all this excuse to go shopping. We will hook you up.

So that very morning, as soon as the stores opened in Charlotte, one of my staff members had STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES at the mall and she did her shopping and we got her to the airport by 11:30 that morning to catch her flight to Cincinnati. She went to Cincinnati and gave her speech.

Now I missed the opportunity to see the outfits—not one, but outfits—that STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES purchased that morning. She promised me she was going to show me the special outfit that she purchased, and I never got the opportunity to see it.

But as those kinds of stories that make STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES a real person to us, not just a colleague in Congress, but a friend, a peer, a confidante, a person that you knew that if she ever made a commitment to you, would be there come heck or high water. I am cleaning it up a little bit.

□ 2045

She was our friend, a delightful, wonderful person, always with a smile. She

never got cheated in this life, because she lived every moment of it.

I thank my colleague for yielding me time. I know there are so many other of my colleagues here to pay tribute. I could go on and on and on, but I won't. I thank you for doing this. My condolences to Barbara and Mervyn and the entire Stephanie Tubbs Jones family.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Thank you very much.

Sister Sister, that is who she was to me. And to Mervyn too, and Barbara and the rest of the family, it has been said, this night is for you. She lives in this Chamber, and she always will.

I yield now to a former U.S. Ambassador to Micronesia, the Congresswoman from California, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON.

Ms. WATSON. Thank you so much, Madam Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had some prepared remarks, but I think the intimate stories really speak to who she was and how we felt about who she was.

After the untimely passing of our colleague Juanita Millender-McDonald, STEPHANIE called and she says, "Hey girl, I am coming out there to spend some time. I just want to be in Juanita's space."

So she came out, and I picked her up. And representing Hollywood, I took her with me that weekend, and she met Ben Vereen and she met other celebrities, and she was so thrilled. She said to me, "I'm coming out again, girl. I'm coming out again."

After we had our AKA Boule several weeks ago here and we had our pink and green, she came in the last I saw her in her red. And she came strutting down this aisle, and she said, "See, I got my red on. We are getting ready to have our Boule too." I said, "Well, your red is just a deeper pink." We laughed. And that was the last time I saw her.

STEPHANIE was that kind of person, who, as everyone has described her as being, she lived life to the fullest. She was a fighter with a tremendous presence. She stood up for tens of thousands who could not stand up for themselves, and she fought for justice, equality and opportunity for every American. In her home State of Ohio and in her beloved city of Cleveland, she led the fight for election reform to assure that every American's vote was counted and was valued.

STEPHANIE was also loved and respected by her colleagues here on Capitol Hill, where in relatively short order she was appointed the first, among her many firsts, African American woman to the prestigious Ways and Means Committee. She also served as chairwoman of the Committee on Ethics and made great strides to work across the aisle in a nonpartisan manner.

I admired her enthusiasm for public service, her integrity, her warmth and her keen intellect. I extend to the family my condolences, to her friends and to all of her colleagues. Her presence

will be missed. But I know she is in this assemblage at this moment. Her shoes will be hard to fill, but, STEPHANIE, we feel the surge of energy as we speak of you this evening.

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Ms. KILPATRICK. I thank the gentlewoman from California.

I yield now to a young man from Newark, New Jersey, chairperson of our African Globalism Committee, the gentleman from Newark, Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Chairman, the Chair of our Congressional Black Caucus who has done such an outstanding job, it is really a great loss. We have this untimely loss of our wonderful friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. A void has been left in the lives of all of those of us who had the privilege of knowing this remarkable, vibrant and accomplished woman. It is a loss shared by her family, her many friends, her Ohio constituents, and all of those around our great Nation who looked to her as a champion of justice, a person who was an advocate for the everyday people.

A former county prosecutor, a judge on the municipal court, she went to break glass ceiling after glass ceiling, with her election as the first African American woman to be elected to Congress from Ohio. She tore down barriers here in the House of Representatives when she successfully sought a seat on the Ways and Means Committee, and those walls came down. She was like at Jericho. When she blew that trumpet, the walls just came tumbling down. She was just so full of energy.

In the little time that she was on the Ways and Means Committee, her reputation for fairness was so great that she was selected as Chair of the Ethics Committee. To chair the House Ethics Committee, you have to be the fairest person among that body. It is a tough, tough position. So, once again she was called to duty. It is really not an office you seek, it is just something that is bestowed upon you, and when you are asked, you have to take it.

She was a pioneer who forged ahead, not just for herself, because she knew that she was opening doors for others. As Cochair of the Caribbean Caucus, I had the pleasure of traveling with STEPHANIE. We would go to the Caribbean, and she was a great traveling companion. She had a lot of interest in global issues. She was interested in understanding other cultures. She was interested in those people in nations less fortunate than ours.

She was enthusiastic about promoting international trade. She wanted to have economic development to address the problems of poverty and hunger around the world. She wanted to bring more educational opportunities to regions in the Caribbean and other places that we traveled.

Even though she was a diligent public servant, STEPHANIE always found time to laugh and enjoy life. A terrific sports fan, she was unrivaled in her enthusiasm for her hometown teams, the Cleveland Browns, the Cleveland Cavaliers, and she even cheered the Cleveland Indians, even though they had not won a World Series since 1948 and she would complain about that.

She was just so proud of Mervyn II. She loved to sail. My brother is a sailor, and they would talk about just getting out. The only water I like is when I take my shower every day, and that is about it. But she loved to sail, and she just knew all about it, and her sister Barbara right there paid attention.

I remember her proud father. He was elderly and he was so dignified. One time we were staying on the same floor at the CBC's hotel where we were, and his tie came loose. He was walking so proud, and I said, could I just fix it for you? I just felt good just trying to do something. And he was just so proud. I know how my grandfather was, the dignified black men who had to endure so much. But when they walked, they walked proud and they walked straight as an arrow, and that is how he was.

She was just great. She was my pal. She was my traveling companion. It just hard to find words for STEPHANIE, full of life, full of energy. I didn't smoke, but I used to tell her she needed to slow down on that smoking. But we did have some times together. I won't get into that. We don't want to get into too many details.

But she was good at everything. She did a great job with that tennis and golf tournament every Wednesday at the Congressional Black Caucus lunch. She would say, you have got to come. You have got to support it, scholarships for children.

It is hard to be in Congress without STEPHANIE there, but we are going to have to remember her. She was my pal.

With the untimely loss of our wonderful friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, a void has been left in the lives of all those who had the privilege of knowing this remarkable, vibrant, and accomplished woman. It is a loss shared by her family, her many friends, her Ohio constituents, and all those around our great nation who looked to her as a champion of justice and also an advocate for their everyday concerns.

A former county prosecutor and judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court, she went on to break another glass ceiling with her election as the first African American woman elected to Congress from Ohio. She tore down a barrier here in the House of Representatives when she successfully sought a seat on the Ways and Means Committee, which had no African American woman member at the time. It was a measure of her reputation for fairness that she was selected to serve as Chair of the House Ethics Committee.

She was a pioneer who forged ahead not just for herself, but because she knew that she was opening doors for others who would benefit from her groundbreaking steps.

As Co-Chair of the Caribbean Caucus, I had the pleasure of traveling with STEPHANIE

TUBBS JONES, and what a great traveling companion she was. She had a strong interest in global issues, in understanding other cultures, and in improving the lives of those in nations less fortunate than ours. She was enthusiastic about promoting international trade and economic development; in addressing the problems of poverty and hunger; and she wanted to bring more educational opportunities to regions where such opportunities were severely lacking.

Even though she was a diligent public servant, STEPHANIE always found time to laugh and to enjoy life. A terrific sports fan, she was unrivaled in her enthusiasm for her teams, the Cleveland Browns, the Cleveland Cavaliers, and she even cheered on the Cleveland Indians, even though they had not won the World Series since 1948—a year before she was born.

She was also very proud of her son, Mervyn II, and she loved spending time with her sister, Barbara Walker. I recall the care and attention she paid to her elderly father; it was touching to see the bond between them when they were together.

STEPHANIE lived life out loud. Her dazzling smile, her passion for causes, and her devotion to her family made her a remarkable person to know.

Her home town newspaper, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, summed it up well when they wrote that she was “tough, exuberant, passionate . . . a woman from modest means who rose to national prominence.”

Our thoughts and prayers remain with her family as we mourn the loss of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES and celebrate her amazing life and legacy.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Thank you, Congressman.

You know, you have heard it said tonight that she was a friend and a leader and intelligent and you could count on her when she gave you her word. We all felt that. And I think as Congressman PAYNE said, she is in this Chamber, and she will be in this Chamber, and it is our responsibility to carry her spirit and her dedication to building a new America for all of God's people.

The caucus has received many letters and congratulations, condolences and expressions of love for Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. At this I would like to put some of them in the RECORD, from the South African Embassy, from the Embassy of Turkey, from the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, and from the Embassy of Colombia. The list goes on and on, and we will be putting them in all week long. To you, Sister Sister, you live, and you always will.

EMBASSY OF TURKEY,
Washington, DC, August 21, 2008.

Hon. CAROLYN KILPATRICK,
Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN KILPATRICK, I learned with profound sadness and regret the passing of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Chairwoman of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and a valuable member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Chairwoman Jones took great personal interest in Turkey and was dedicated to upholding the strong relations, friendship, strategic partnership and alliance between our

two great nations. We will always feel her great loss in our hearts.

On this note, I would like to extend our deepest condolences and sympathies to the members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Sincerely yours,

NABI SENSOY,
Ambassador.

SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY,
Washington, DC, August 22, 2008.

Hon. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK,
Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus,
Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRWOMAN, it was with sadness that I learned of the sudden and untimely passing of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones. A spirited Representative from the great state of Ohio, Ms. Tubbs Jones stood up proudly for what she believed in, and her infectious zest for life, her optimism and her service to others, are all the qualities that she brought to the U.S. House of Representatives, and to all that had the pleasure of knowing her, and she will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Republic of South Africa, I hereby wish to convey our sincere condolences to the family, friends, constituents, colleagues and especially to you our friends in the Congressional Black Caucus, and you remain in our thoughts throughout this very difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

WELILE NHLAPO,
Ambassador.

BLACK WOMEN LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION OF GREATER CHICAGO, INC.,
Chicago, Illinois, August 21, 2008.

Re death of the Honorable Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

Hon. CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK,
Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus,
Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN KILPATRICK: The Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago wishes to honor the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones for her numerous accomplishments and achievements in her role as a member of the Ohio Congressional Delegation, an African-American lawyer, and an activist.

As the Chairman of the esteemed Congressional Black Caucus, we respectfully ask that you place the enclosed resolution into the Congressional Record.

Should you have any questions about our bar association, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

MARY A. MELCHOR,
President, Black
Women Lawyers' Association of Greater
Chicago.

Enclosure.

A RESOLUTION FOR U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN
STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES (OH-11)

“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” II Timothy 4:6-8

In commemoration of the Life of U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones (OH-11) from the members of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.:

Whereas, it is with deepest regret that we are compelled to mourn the passing of U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones on August 20, 2008, the first African-American woman elected to the United States House of Representatives from Ohio; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones was a lifelong resident of the 11th District of Ohio, which encompasses most of the East Side of Cleveland and parts of the West Side of Cleveland and includes parts of 22 suburbs; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones was in her fifth term in office and a strong advocate for many issues, including championing wealth building and economic development, access and delivery of health care, and quality education for all; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones chaired the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics), served on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, and was an active member of numerous Congressional Caucuses, including the Congressional Black Caucus; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones introduced several pieces of legislation including, the Uterine Fibroids Research and Education Act to increase funding for research on uterine fibroids and provide enhanced public education about this condition; the Predatory Mortgage Lending Practices Reduction Act, which would require certification of mortgage brokers and enhance penalties for predatory loans, and the Campus Fire Prevention Act, which would provide money to equip college dorms, fraternities, and sorority houses with fire suppression devices; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones introduced the “Count Every Vote” Act of 2005, which seeks to provide an all-encompassing solution to a broad range of voting irregularities that occurred during the 2004 presidential election, and was an original co-sponsor of multiple significant pieces of legislation, including healthcare for low and middle-income families and community re-entry for exfelons; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones made a number of historic achievements in her distinguished career as a public servant, including serving as the first African-American and the first female Cuyahoga County, Ohio Prosecutor, the first African-American woman to sit on the Common Pleas bench in the State of Ohio, and a Municipal Court Judge in the City of Cleveland; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones received numerous honors throughout her lifetime, including the National Bible Association Capitol Hill Distinguished Leadership Award, the Human Rights Campaign of Cleveland Equality Award, the Backbone Campaign's Backbone Award, and the Carib News Multi-National Business Conference Marcus Garvey Award; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones was a graduate of Cleveland Public Schools; received her undergraduate degree in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University in 1971; received her Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1974; and received honorary doctorates from David N. Myers University, Notre Dame College and Central State University; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones was an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated and served on its national Social Action Committee; and was a lifelong member and member of the Board Trustees of Bethany Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones was married to Mervyn L. Jones, Sr., deceased (2003), for 27 years and is the proud mother of Mervyn Leroy Jones, II.

Be it therefore resolved, that we, the members of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., pause on this day with abiding sympathy to support the family of Congresswoman Jones;

Be it further resolved, that we offer our admiration, respect, and support of the legacy of Congresswoman Jones and give recognition for the many “firsts” that she achieved

as an African-American woman, lawyer, and legislator and an outspoken champion of justice for her Congressional District, the State of Ohio, and the nation;

Be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be given to the family of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones; and a copy shall be presented to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, and the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus at the Democratic National Convention which will take place in Denver, Colorado from August 25, 2008 through August 28, 2008; and a copy shall also be placed in the archives of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.

Respectfully submitted, this 21st day of August, 2008 by the membership of Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., by Mary A. Melchor, President.

EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA,

Washington, DC, August 21, 2008.

Hon. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK,
Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus,
House of Representatives, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN KILPATRICK, I would like to extend my most heart-felt condolences for the passing of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones to you and the members of the CBC.

During my time in Washington, I had several opportunities to meet with Congresswoman Tubbs Jones, and was fortunate to have had the chance to be with her during her visit to Colombia. Her high spirit, sharp mind and positive outlook left a lasting impression, and she will be missed.

Her son, Mervyn Jones, her family, her staff and her colleagues remain in our prayers.

Sincerely,

CAROLINA BARCO,
Ambassador.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield the balance of my time to a young man who has taken this House by storm. He chairs our Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, one of Congresswoman TUBBS JONES' sons, also a member of the Ways and Means Committee. I yield the balance of my time to Congressman KENDRICK MEEK.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida will control the remainder of the time.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Madam Chairman.

I would like to thank my leader and colleague from the great city of Detroit, Ms. KILPATRICK, for yielding the balance of the time. We will continue to go down the list I have been given here, Mr. Speaker, as we continue to honor our fallen colleague.

Next on this list I have Congressman DANNY DAVIS from the great State of Illinois, a very good friend of the Congresswoman, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues as we come this evening to pay tribute to our colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. I am pleased to follow so many of my distinguished colleagues, because they have said so much until there isn't much to say. But the interesting thing is that with STEPHANIE

TUBBS JONES, you never run out of things to say, because she was so much and meant so much to so many.

It is interesting that when you knew STEPHANIE, you knew her whole family. You just didn't know her, you knew her sister; you knew her father; you knew her mother; you knew Mervyn; you knew her husband, Mervyn the first; you knew Mervyn the second; you knew nieces and nephews; you knew friends; and you almost got to know the whole of Cleveland if you knew STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE, as many people have already indicated, had a great legal mind. Prior to coming to Congress, she served as both a prosecutor and a judge. And the interesting thing about prosecution is that you are generally trying to make sure that the law is upheld, and that once people commit infractions, that they pay a price. Of course, that is what prosecutors often do.

Well, STEPHANIE had another interest in the law, and she wanted to make sure that the law also had a sense of justice. And even though she was a prosecutor, brother KENDRICK, even though she was a prosecutor, she was a champion for those who had committed crimes, who had been convicted of crimes, and was one of the staunchest supporters of something called the Second Chance Act.

□ 2100

That is a bill which simply says that once individuals have fallen, that they also need to be lifted up; that once they have had problems, they need to be reclaimed; and, once they had committed crimes for which they may have been punished, they also needed to be redeemed. And so it was very pleasant for me to work with STEPHANIE on the Second Chance legislation.

She befriended people from all walks of life. It didn't matter if they were Democrats or Republicans, or they had been prosecuted.

As a matter of fact, when I think of her, I often think of the poet Homer, who talked about the kind of house that he wanted to live in, and I think STEPHANIE was an embodiment of that kind of house. And when he said,

"Let me live in my house by the side of the road, where the race of men go by. Men who are good, men who are bad, wise, foolish. But then, so am I. So why would I sit in the scorner's seat or hurl the cynic's ban? But let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man."

STEPHANIE was indeed a friend to mankind, to humankind.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I thank you so much, Congressman DAVIS. And she was very proud of the fact that she was able to work with you on the Second Chance Act, and was there when the bill was signed.

I want to call on my very good friend and STEPHANIE's good friend, I call her my Brooklyn Congresswoman, Con-

gresswoman YVETTE CLARKE from the great State of New York.

Ms. CLARKE. To my colleague and very good friend, KENDRICK MEEK, I want to thank you for picking up the mantle. I know that STEPHANIE is watching us and is a part of all that is taking place.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the distinguished woman from Ohio, and I still can't believe that she has transitioned. I have taken the Congresswoman's passing somewhat personally. You have heard many of the Members speak about their relationship with her and the pet names or nicknames that she had for them. Well, mine was Baby Girl.

My sister, friend, mentor, Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, to the Representative of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, Cleveland, Ohio, from the 11th Congressional District of New York, Brooklyn, New York, I love you.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was the consummate public servant. As a new Member-elect to the 110th session of Congress, one of the very first persons to embrace me on the Hill was STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She opened her office, her office staff to helping me to adjust to Washington, to select my staff, and to share with me what her transition had been as she reflected back on becoming a member here in Congress 10 years previously.

I had the privilege to have been mentored by her, and the one thing I can say is that she was one determined diva. We danced together, we shopped together, we drove together. Three things that I know that she loved to do, dance, shop, and drive. As a matter of fact, she shared with me the fact that if I loved to drive, then I have got to put my staff under reins and get me a car and do my thing, because that is what she had to do.

She worked hard, she played hard, she loved hard. She was proud to represent the people of Cleveland, and she loved her family. She simply adored her son and wanted the very best for him in this life, Mervyn, Jr. She was an inspiration in my life. She loved her country, and she fought for our people every day with an abiding commitment to their struggles.

When STEPHANIE entered any venue, the chemistry changed, and the atmosphere immediately acknowledged her presence. Her history, a trailblazer, a fighter for women's rights, women's health, civil rights, civil liberties, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was always on the move for justice and equality. And I learned so much from this woman, and I just feel privileged to have had her as my mentor.

She dedicated much of her life in service to others. She has bequeathed to us a legacy and an imperative for me to do the same. To Mervyn, Jr., to Barbara, to the Tubbs Jones family, to her constituents in Ohio, to her staff in Ohio, to her staff here in Washington, may the love of God be a comfort to you in this time of our bereavement.

Bon voyage, my sweet sister. See you in that great getting-up morning. Fare thee well.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Congresswoman. And I know that Ms. TUBBS JONES meant so much to you.

I would like to call on another good friend and new friend, but a colleague of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, Ms. DONNA EDWARDS from the Fourth District of Maryland, who posted her condolences statement on the 21st of this month, Mr. Speaker, the passing of Ms. TUBBS JONES.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Chairman, I am really grateful to be here this evening to speak of my new colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

When I was first elected to Congress just a few weeks ago, one of the first calls that I received was from STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. And when I came here to this floor to be sworn in to the United States Congress as the first African-American woman to represent our great State of Maryland, it was STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES who greeted me and said, "Hello, girlfriend. I am a first, too." And I won't forget that. And she knew, not asking me about my office or how I was planning to settle in, but she said to me, "You have a man-child." And I have said, "Yes, I do." And to me, that was a mark not just of a colleague and of a politician, but it was a mark of a woman. And I understood from her as a mother what it meant to be a mother to a man-child.

The next question she asked me was whether I planned to play basketball, because she knew that I had coached my son in basketball. I am not really quite sure how she knew that, but she did. And so she immediately said to me that not only did I have to play basketball, but I also had to learn how to golf. And so I am going to take that as her marching orders as I serve in the United States Congress, and try to serve in her memory, not just as a great woman, as a great politician, and as a great sportswoman.

And I had the privilege of admiring STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES not in the United States Congress but outside and from afar, and the great privilege just prior to coming to serve in this body of speaking at an event with her in the spring. And she lit up the room. And very recently someone in my congressional district asked me, "Did you know Stephanie Tubbs Jones?" And however one knows a person, what I could say is one of my favorite words in the English language is ebullient. And STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was ebullient.

Thank you.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much for that very kind and moving dedication to Congresswoman TUBBS JONES.

One of my good friends from California, LAURA RICHARDSON, who has taken this Congress by storm and has

worked very well in the 37th Congressional District of California, Mr. Speaker, it is very unique having women that have come to Congress because, as you know, the Congressional Black Caucus has been hit hard this particular Congress with losing three women of our caucus in this 110th Congress alone. And all of them played a very substantial role.

This next speaker is, I wouldn't call a replacement, but an addition to that greatness as we continue to march on to allow good representation from all over the country here, Congresswoman LAURA RICHARDSON.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MEEK, thank you for yielding at this time.

It is interesting, from Florida, you brought up that we as members of the Congressional Black Caucus have lost three great women in this session. And as I came in as a new Member really learning from Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald who I had worked for, when I came into this body, I came into a family. And that was something that Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES taught us; that coming to Congress wasn't about a group, it wasn't just about legislation, it was about people who were committed to working together to make our communities better. That is why we came here.

And I'll never forget when I stood in this very spot to share my comments of what it was that I hoped to do on behalf of my community, and I knew that Ms. TUBBS JONES was really hurting because she missed her colleague, Ms. Juanita Millender-McDonald. But in that same hand, she knew enough to know that, as I stood there, she was willing to embrace me. She was willing to help me. And she wanted to make sure that I had everything that Ms. McDonald had and then some. So I will never forget as I spoke and I turned, and, yes, she was one of those first big smiles that I saw, and she said, "Hey, girl. How are you?" As she would always tell us.

And Ms. TUBBS JONES, what I wanted to share with her family and with all of us today is just a couple things. One, what I know of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES is that she was always ready. And I think that is a good lesson, not only for us as colleagues, but as young people coming forward, being ready to seize the opportunity, being ready to speak up and to stand up, and not to hesitate at all.

Another thing that always stood out for me with her was just her knowledge. You heard a lot of people tonight talk about the fact of her law background and all of that. But it was so much that was in her head, so much of what she wanted to take of what she had learned to really change America as we see it today.

And that brings me to my third point about sports, and people have talked about that. Yes, I think we are going to have a big basketball team next year, and I am sure we will work hard to win

in her honor. But I want to talk about two other sports that were so special to her.

One, taking her son to the Super Bowl. That was something that she valued and she treasured. And I would challenge all of us CBC members that we need to make sure that he goes next year and the years forward with us and our families.

Number two, her love for golf. We had in honor of her husband, who had also served our caucus so well, we had named the spouse's program after him, and I am sure next year we are going to have to add her name to it.

But also, I want to talk about another sport, and that is just being in the gym. You know, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, they were gym partners, and I just happened to be the beneficiary of being the third person there. And when you hear people talk about the fervor and how vigorously she approached everything, it wasn't just here at work. It was her on the treadmill, it was her on the Stepmaster. It was her getting ready to come in here and do work. She was always about working hard and really benefiting in any way that she could to help somebody else.

And the last two things I want to talk about is, one, her commitment to youth. If you would come on this floor, it was not uncommon that Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES would pull you aside and say, "Girl, I've got somebody I want to you to meet." And if it wasn't a page from her local area, if it wasn't a young intern who she was in the process of hiring, her commitment to young people was second to none. And I have got to tell you, as being a relatively young Member of Congress, it is critical that we take on that mantle. It was something that she knew and she understood more than most, and that was, the development that we do for our future young people is really showing wisdom for the future.

And, lastly, I want to say our travels that we had on behalf of Senator CLINTON. I had an opportunity to go; Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was her cochair for her national campaign, and we had an opportunity to travel to South Carolina, to Ohio, to Nevada. I didn't go to Puerto Rico as some did, but she went all over the place. But in honor of the sisterhood of the traveling pantsuits, I want to say that Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, when I had an opportunity to go to Ohio, because she was also working in so many other States, her folks loved her.

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Her folks still love her. And it was out of that respect that they had for her that anyone who came as her guest, they were so well-treated. And my time that I had a chance to spend in Ohio, and to all the young elected officials that she mentored and she helped, being a part of those 8-12 months that

we had an opportunity to work, there was no one who ever wearied in her drive. There was no one who ever hesitated. There was no one who worked harder to make sure that Americans really understood the value of what we have in our elected officials.

And so, as I close, I just want to say, my time that I had with Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was to know her love, was to know how sincere she was, and lastly, she was unwavering when she committed herself to you.

We love you and we love the family. Thank you very much.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Congresswoman.

Mr. Speaker, I am just going to yield time for my good friend and a good friend of my mother's, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, MARCY KAPTUR, who is the Dean of women here in the House, longest serving woman on the Appropriations Committee, and also Dean of the Ohio delegation that held an hour prior to this one as we dedicated a resolution and condolences of the House to STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

And as she sat here listening to the stories and testimonials of members of the Congressional Black Caucus of how we remember STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, I turned around and I said, MARCY, do you have anything else that you would like to share with the House? And she said, I want to talk about the red dress. So I want to hear this too. I yield to Ms. KAPTUR.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK). And your mother certainly had a man child too. And we love Carrie Meek, Congresswoman Meek. I miss her very much, and she must be very, very proud of you. I am certain of that.

We have shared so many memories this evening, and there are very serious ones that I will end with. But I have to say that I can still see STEPHANIE sitting in the Speaker's chair in the reddest of red suits, and she just beamed. And she loved that chair, and she loved that gavel, and she used it. You could hear it ring against the walls when she would hit that gavel down.

And I did not know that she was not the only member of a sisterhood that wore those red dresses. It wasn't until her service in Cleveland that I saw an entire street from side to side covered with women in red dresses. STEPHANIE had many acquaintances and many friends. And I know that those red outfits gave her strength, and it certainly brightened this Chamber.

I remember her scarves with the fringes. I don't know where STEPHANIE got all those, but they certainly added a flourish here, and they helped to cheer us up and to add to the full smile, ear to ear, that greeted every person that she ever met.

Now, some of us knew about her cheers. There were many cheers, sports cheers, political cheers, Democratic cheers. She had a chant and a rhyme and a rhythm about her, and she had a

presence, and she took those cheers forward. I know one of those cheers, one of the more recent ones with a rhyme was H-I-L-L-A-R-Y. I know that that was one of the latest cheers.

She had a great devotion to youth, to the younger women who are serving in this Chamber, three of whom we just heard from, Congresswoman RICHARDSON, Congresswoman EDWARDS, and Congresswoman CLARKE. And it almost seems somewhat providential that as we lost three women from the Congressional Black Caucus, we have three younger women on the floor tonight. That says something right there. And I have no doubt STEPHANIE is watching over making sure that the numbers even get better.

I think that her path breaking efforts in so many ways put her in the footsteps of Sojourner Truth; particularly, I am woman, I can do anything. I am woman, I can do anything. I know STEPHANIE believed that to her very core. Her zest for life and her indomitable spirit surround us, surround her son, surround her sister, surround all of her friends, her church friends in Ohio, all of those who came to know her, appreciate her.

And I know that Congressman Louis Stokes, her predecessor, feels this loss particularly deeply. And I recall with great affection his service here. And as the years go on, it is amazing the events that we witness and that we endure.

And in STEPHANIE's memory, I want to thank Congressman MEEK for holding this special hour on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and allowing me to add a few words to the eloquence that has been spoken this evening in memory of our beloved friend. And I yield back the time you have kindly given me.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much. And MARCY, I just want to thank you for being a good friend of STEPHANIE's, and continuing to carry the flag here in the House.

I would like to bring on another Member, a great Member of Congress, and she is a good, good sister of STEPHANIE's, was a good friend and traveled to Cleveland in between STEPHANIE's departure and her homegoing service to be with STEPHANIE's family. And we know her as Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE. And she was another fighter here in Congress that sleeps with her fists balled up. And STEPHANIE and her were sisters as it relates to that. So my good friend from the great State of Texas, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I feel like family has gathered here on the floor, and I thank my good and distinguished friend. We are like family. And his mother, and as he has come here, and the extended family relationship.

And so, even as I spoke on the bereavement resolution, I wanted to come and be part of the Congressional Black Caucus special order because I could feel the warmth and spirit just continue to flow through. And I hope

the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD doesn't mind us talking about spirit flowing through.

I want to acknowledge her staff that is staying here till the end that are in the gallery there, and they are like family as well. And we know that STEPHANIE would say she loved her staff, both in Washington and in Cleveland.

Certainly, I think the most poignant moment of the going home service was my friend and brother, the Honorable KENDRICK MEEK, and Congressman RYAN, having stood together, stoically, strongly, and specially to talk about Congresswoman STEPHANIE Tubbs Jones and, as well, as they did so, you could feel in that huge, huge Cleveland Convention Center, everyone just pouring love toward them. And I think it drew Mervyn, her son, out of his seat to go up on the stage and to see the most powerful embrace that one could ever see. It will be lasting. I think it will go down in the annals of her record, when you pull her up and you look at this celebration, this homegoing service, you will note that there was this kind of experience, this moving experience. And I want to thank my distinguished Member of Congress from Florida, Congressman MEEK, for just pouring his heart out during that service. I think all of us just paused for a moment to see the largeness and the bigness of our relationship with STEPHANIE.

So I wanted to come because I didn't get a chance to just mention more extensively, someone who allowed you to know most of her family members during her time here in Congress. And the goodness is, I think we should celebrate that her family members lived, her mom and dad lived to see her become a Member of Congress. Her husband, of which, someone mentioned they had celebrated 25 years together or more, lived to see her in the United States Congress and enjoyed being part of her commitment to the Congressional Black Caucus, with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. They were a couple. They were a pair.

In fact, I am envious and dream of the fact that I used to hear the stories about the yachting that they did together as a couple, and always said one day I would have the time to go. But just to think about how she used her life experiences of joy and large living to touch everyone's life.

When we talked about airlines, when we talked about the troubles airlines were having, I remember her talking after 9/11. She would always get in there that her dad was a skycap. When they were talking about salaries or talking about working conditions at the airlines, she had an affinity because she would get in there that her dad was a skycap, and she was proud of that.

And I want everybody to know, since we live in this kind of multi-cultural society, that being a skycap was a big, big deal for an African American and an African American man. It was a

middle class, it was a working job that had benefits, but it was an important responsibility. I know that because my uncle was a skycap. So that was an important, if you will, connection for her dad who supported this family.

And of course, her mom and her sisters, and the sister who I had a chance, as Congressman MEEK mentioned, I had a chance to visit Barbara and Mervyn when I went to visit them at home.

There were friends, and I know that I will get in trouble, but I know that the Mayor of Warrensville I believe is the name, Mayor Fudge, a dear friend and a part of the Delta family. But I know the guy that she calls Joe Hewitt; never a single name, just calling him Joe Hewitt, larger than life, someone that she cared about; he cared about her. We had a chance to fellowship with their family.

So I wanted to just come and say that, as we talk about sisterhood, it is really real. And as we talk about traveling with her, it is really real. As we talk about being larger than life, it is really real as well.

And I want to close simply by just adding to what my good friend, MARCY KAPTUR from Cleveland said, as I looked at the three Congresspersons, one from Maryland, California and New York, three beautiful young women. And we lost Congresswoman Julia Carson, Juanita Millender-McDonald, and now STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, all mentors. And look at the legacy that they have left.

Look at the legacy of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, who I call a great patriot, a great American, because she could fight you for her love for America. She would not take a back seat. Whether or not she was talking about predatory lending or whether she was talking about health care that did not occur in her community around the Nation, or those incarcerated persons who were treated unfairly and didn't get a second chance, she still loved America.

So I want to leave us with the words of Sojourner Truth. And it was when she was sitting in the back of the room, and it was during the abolitionist movement, suffragette movement. And it was crowded, and she saw they saw her hand raise up, and the person called on sir, or indicated that she was a man. And Sojourner Truth stood up and said, ain't I a woman? I born 13 children into slavery. Ain't I a woman?

To STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, there will be no doubt that she was a woman's woman and a leader's leader.

And finally, in closing, if I can read from Philippians Chapter 4, verse 8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things."

Let us think on the life of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and let us, in all of our

imperfections, and we have them, embellish those things in ourselves. And as the Congressional Black Caucus, let us live on, and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, of which my distinguished colleague is the Chair, let her spirit live on as we do her work and do the work of the Lord.

I rise today with a conflict of emotions to recognize Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. I stand with a heavy heart enriched and gladdened that I had the opportunity of knowing and working with such a beacon of light here in Congress.

Before heading to the funeral I was reminded of the words of, Mother Teresa, "There is a light in this world, a healing spirit—more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force, when there is suffering, and too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways."

That is why although I rise with a heavy heart at the loss of a colleague and friend, I stand with a realization and gratefulness for all that Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was able to do for her family, for her constituents, and for her country in her brief time here on this earth. I also believe that Congresswoman TUBBS JONES is in a better place and is looking down on us with that contagious smile and generous nature that made us all love working with her.

As Women's Caucus and Congressional Black Caucus members, the Congresswoman and I spent a lot of time working together and talking about our lives, our unique work, and the issues facing our nation.

HISTORY

I had the opportunity to get to know this great woman and learn that she was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where she graduated from the city's public schools, later earning degrees from Case Western Reserve University, the Flora Stone Mather College, and Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

I knew that she was a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta; and even more proud to have been married to the love of her life, Mervyn L. Jones, Sr., for over 27 years until his passing in 2003. Together she and Mervyn had one son; Mervyn Leroy Jones, Jr., who was the light of her life.

Like me, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a lawyer who had been a local judge. She served on the Cleveland Municipal Court in 1981, and later on the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County before becoming the Representative for the 11th District of Ohio.

She was selected to be the Chairwoman of the House Ethics Committee to watch over the standards of ethical conduct for members of the House. She also served on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee where she fought for economic development and financial opportunities for all. She was loved by her district, and was routinely reelected against nominal opposition.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES spent 58 years on this earth and she was a blessing and her memory will always be a treasure. She was loved beyond words, and will be missed beyond measure by all that knew her.

Over the last few months, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES and I travelled across the country together. She was always focused on

doing the "right thing". She understood that in this unique work of ours we serve the people, but we must also answer to our conscience. Doing the "right thing" in this job is not always an easy task—but she did it day in and day out as she worked to help the people of Ohio, Americans across this great Nation, and our men and women overseas.

She was an outstanding example of what it means to be leader. She epitomized service before self. Indeed, as a society, we must do all we can do to build upon the strength of service to help strengthen the fabric of the Nation. I offer the TUBBS-JONES family encouragement in their time of bereavement by saying, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Her work on Earth is complete. We join the Lord in saying, well done, thou good and faithful servant. She was a fighter for issues that affect the least among us and in all the years she was in Congress—she never forgot that. Now let us not forget her.

CONCLUSION

The Bible states in Philippians chapter 4 verse 8: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Let us remember Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, a public servant, a colleague—a friend.

[From the New York Times, Aug. 21, 2008]
STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, LAWMAKER, DIES AT 58

(By Dennis Hevesi)

Stephanie Tubbs Jones, the first African-American woman elected to the House of Representatives from Ohio and a leader in the fight against predatory lending practices, died Wednesday. She was 58.

The cause was a ruptured brain aneurysm that Ms. Tubbs Jones suffered Tuesday, Eileen Sheil, a spokeswoman for the Cleveland Clinic, which owns the Huron Hospital in East Cleveland where the congresswoman died, told The Associated Press.

Ms. Tubbs Jones, a Democrat, was in her fifth term as representative of the 11th Congressional District, which includes most of the east side of Cleveland. Two years ago, she was re-elected with 83 percent of the vote. Before her first election to Congress, in 1998, she had been the chief prosecutor for Cuyahoga County in Ohio.

Considered a liberal, Ms. Tubbs Jones was a co-sponsor of legislative efforts to broaden health care coverage for low- and middle-income people and of programs supporting the re-entry of convicts into their communities. She was also the author of legislation requiring certification for mortgage brokers and stiffer penalties for predatory loans.

In June, Ms. Tubbs Jones voted against emergency supplemental financing for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I feel it important that we have a plan for a timely redeployment of our troops from Iraq and Afghanistan before we continue funding what has become a seemingly endless war," she said at the time.

When Congress officially ratified President Bush's re-election in January 2005, Ms. Tubbs Jones joined Senator Barbara Boxer, Democrat of California, in initiating a rare challenge to what has historically been a polite formal ceremony. They were objecting to accepting Ohio's 20 electoral votes for Mr. Bush, citing voting irregularities in the state.

Instead of holding a courteous joint session to certify the election, lawmakers were forced to retreat to their separate chambers for two hours of debate. In the end, the House voted 267 to 31 against the challenge; in the Senate, the vote was 74 to 1.

Stephanie Tubbs was born in Cleveland on Sept. 10, 1949. She graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 1971 and received her law degree there three years later.

From 1976 to 1979, she was an assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor. In 1981, she won election as a Cleveland Municipal Court judge, and 10 years later she was appointed chief prosecutor.

As chief prosecutor, Ms. Tubbs Jones was at the center of a controversy in 1998 when she refused to reopen an investigation into the 1954 murder of the wife of Dr. Sam Sheppard, dismissing new DNA evidence that Dr. Sheppard's supporters said would have exonerated him.

The case had received nationwide coverage in the 1950s. Dr. Sheppard spent 10 years in prison before the Supreme Court ruled that his trial had been prejudiced by publicity. He was acquitted at a second trial, in 1966, and died in 1970. With the new evidence, Dr. Sheppard's son was seeking to collect damages on behalf of his father. Ms. Tubbs Jones argued that the new DNA results would be inadmissible because the samples were too old.

Ms. Tubbs Jones's husband of 27 years, Mervyn L. Jones Sr., died in 2003. She is survived by her son, Mervyn II.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Congresswoman. And it is a very kind tribute and kind words given to our colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to take the remainder of our time just to speak a few minutes on reflection of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. I can say that there has been several days of reflection and testimony to her life and her presence here in this Chamber.

I can also share with the House, Mr. Speaker, that this tribute will continue on Wednesday. The Speaker has called a memorial service of the House and of the Congress in Statuary Hall at 11 a.m., so those Members of the House or staff and friends can come and reflect and hear further stories of STEPHANIE and her contributions to this great country.

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The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation will host a reception for all in the Rayburn room afterwards, which we will post pictures of STEPHANIE and the contributions that she's not only made to this country but also to young people who are walking the Halls of Congress. She spearheaded efforts within the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation to provide internships and fellowships for so many students who ordinarily wouldn't have the opportunity to do it working along with our Congressional Black Caucus spouses.

I came to the Chamber today with mixed feelings. It was a special kind of warmth that hit me when I walked into the Chamber because so many times we would have the chance to talk and laugh and talk about things that took place either over the weekend or over the break. And "Stephanie Hall,"

like leader Boehner talked about a little earlier today, her office is right down the hall from my office, and we served on the Ways and Means Committee together. So it's almost like not only Congresswoman TUBBS JONES, but her staff and my staff, it was almost like having a good neighbor, someone you can go get a cup of sugar from. Someone you can go sit down and hold common goals with.

And we all know—and you heard a lot of folks saying you're going to miss her because she was one of those individuals that you assumed was just going to pop up at any moment. I was talking with my wife when we attended her home-going service in Ohio, and she said, "It just seems like STEPHANIE's going to walk up behind us and say, 'Hey, what's going on,'" because that was the kind of unique person that she was.

I think during this whole time as I continue to reflect and really live deep in the spirit of how good God is, here in the present to have served with someone like STEPHANIE, to have folks on both sides of the aisle, to have people who know what it means to punch in and punch out every day when they go to work, those that wake up early to catch the bus to go to work, those that are cleaning hotel rooms, those that are driving the carts at Cleveland Airport. There are so many times that STEPHANIE would talk to them and make them feel like real people. All of them, including what we may call the "blue shirts" here in the Capitol building, those that work here, those that clean, those uniforms, the police officers, everyone knew STEPHANIE for being the person that will treat them the same way they would treat a Member of Congress or a President or a leader of a country or what have you.

I say all of that to say that the best conversation that I keep going back to, and I spoke of this at her memorial service, was a conversation that I had with my mother about STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE was a member of our family. Period. Dot. And she would travel to south Florida and would do things together with my mother, and they had a relationship prior to my arrival because they were both Delta sisters. And it took me, Mr. Speaker, a while, because my mother and I really work hard to talk every day. And I was holding off from calling her because I said I know if I call her, we're going to get in the middle of this conversation about STEPHANIE. And sure enough, we did.

And my mother, who I consider the person in my family that's closest to the cross—that's not in the way of saying that she's about to pass on, but she's very spiritual—and a woman who has traveled a similar route as STEPHANIE has traveled in her time. We were talking, and all of a sudden she just rained down on the phone and said, "Kendrick, she had an appointment with the Maker." And that has pro-

vided more comfort to me, and I believe to others, of saying that why would she have to have such an untimely death. Well, it's not up to us to say what is timely and what is untimely. That's something that's already planned from birth.

And just looking at her trail and her track as we continue to reflect on her light, that God would allow her to play a national role in the primary election and to be judged by others and cherished by certain individuals and to be known nationally and internationally for her presence in the primary election, this Presidential election. And then after the primary is over, be the person, serve as the instrument to bring those that were the two that were running for office against one another together in a special way. And to be able to work on behalf of Senator OBAMA, to have that opportunity before her death to be able to bring them together at her homegoing service is beyond coincidental.

So we have to really look at every day, cherish every day as though it's our last day to serve.

STEPHANIE spent a number of days, a number of hours hugging those that may have had some doubt about her judgment and her actions, but that's the kind of person because she had this uniqueness that very few may have.

So I close with this, Mr. Speaker, because I almost feel like a visiting Baptist preacher. If I had time, I would really be able to get into the deepness of STEPHANIE's presence, and it will always be here in this Chamber. I'm glad she lived life in the way she lived it because so many times those that pass and they move on, they say, "Goodness. I wish they would have had the opportunity to do this, this, and this," and I can't say that about STEPHANIE because she did it all.

She held all of us up. She will continue to hold all of us up, and as long as I'm a Member in this Congress and a Member of the Ways and Means Committee and serving in the leadership position, she will be someone I will never ever forget because she called TIM RYAN and I—you know, we know about Mervyn—but we were her congressional sons. She would put it this way, "TIM is my white son and KENDRICK is my black congressional son." And TIM could not be here tonight, but I know he will be here in the future.

And I want the Members to know that she loved this body. And we will forever, ever remember her, and we will continue to have this great celebration of life for the next coming days.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I want to not only thank our chair, Congresswoman KILPATRICK, who serves as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, but all Members of Congress that have come forth this evening to share words of comfort with the family and the country for such a loss of a great leader, a great hero, and someone that has been an icebreaker for so many people.

My love and all of our love and our condolences go out to the family and her staff, which was her extended family, here in Congress and back in Cleveland, and to the hundreds of constituents that wrapped the streets to pay their appreciation to STEPHANIE.

And may her spirit live long in the Halls of Congress.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

We're going to spend our hour tonight on behalf of the minority party talking about energy, once again. This is the most pressing concern, I think, of our Nation right now in these tough economic times.

But before I get started, I want to join with my colleagues, my Democratic colleagues, and pay tribute, Mr. Speaker, to STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, the gentlewoman from Ohio. I guess you can say that everything's been said that needs to be said, but not everybody has had an opportunity to say it. I can't improve upon the kind words that we've heard here over the last hour in regard to her life and what a great person she was.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention one thing that I thought about a lot after hearing of her untimely and sad passing. She is the second member, Mr. Speaker, of the Ohio delegation to die in office during this 110th Congress. The first was a member on our side of the aisle—again, very loved and respected—Paul Gillmor. Just like Ms. JONES, like Representative JONES, as bipartisan whenever he could be, as she was.

And I went to his funeral in Columbus, Ohio, the great capital of Ohio. And the eulogies that were offered on behalf of Representative Gillmor, the very first one, Mr. Speaker, was offered by Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. And it was very touching, very loving. You know, it's a sad thing, of course, her passing. But God has His plan, and we have our plans, but His plan takes precedent over everything we do.

But she was a great Member of this body, and I join my colleagues in expressing my sincere sympathy to the family.

Mr. Speaker, we are here finally back in session after a long 5-week absence, the so-called August recess. And, Mr. Speaker, I think you and all of my colleagues know that many Republican Members—we asked our Democratic colleagues to join us on this floor during the recess—in fact I think some 134 Republican Members—that's not 100 percent on our side, but it's getting darn close to 80, 85 percent—Members

came back, some several days, took a break away from their families, from their constituents in this traditional August recess to come back here and say, you know, we really should not be at home. We should not be in our districts no matter how important the work there is. It's very important. Certainly, there is some politicking going on during election season.

But I think, Mr. Speaker, most of my constituents told me, and I'm sure every Member of this body, that you need to get back up there and do the people's work. We're suffering, we're struggling with these high gas prices; our kids are going to be going back to school in a couple of weeks and the school bus is probably not going to be running, and it's a safety issue. And some school districts across the country are talking about cutting back to a 4-day school week. It's one thing for a 4-day work week, but a 4-day school week for our youngsters . . .

So we were talking about that every day. Every day we had anywhere from 5 to 15 Republican Members in this Chamber.

Now, the lights were dim, the air-conditioning was either too cold or it was too hot, the C-SPAN cameras were not running. These microphones—I'm hoarse today Mr. Speaker, because of straining my voice during that time. But it was an absolute wonderful experience.

All of the people that were visiting the Nation's Capitol, their Capitol, the people's House, during that time, during those 5 weeks, we asked them if they wanted to come and have a unique opportunity to sit in our seats right here in this Chamber. Rarely do they get the chance to do that. It's not like sitting in the gallery. To actually come down and sit in the seats where the Members sit and debate and vote.

And this Chamber was virtually full many of those days, a lot of times three-fourths full, half full. But untold numbers of American citizens had an opportunity. And they were not just Republicans, Mr. Speaker. They were Democrats, they were independents, they were voters. They were people that enjoyed listening to this discussion about the crisis that we're in and what, at least on our side of the aisle, we felt need to be done.

We talked at length about the American Energy Act, the bill that was introduced by minority leader JOHN BOEHNER of the great State of Ohio. Leader BOEHNER introduced the American Energy Act probably 2½ months ago, in fact. And it languished wherever it went to, probably the Energy and Commerce Committee, and never saw the light of day. And that bill, Mr. Speaker, is the all-of-the-above Energy Act. Yes, the cornerstone of the bill is to drill, to drill here in the United States or off of its Outer Continental Shelf, to drill now so that we lower these gas prices and get some relief to the great people of this country who are struggling so much right now eco-

nomically. And yet the bill never had an opportunity to see the light of day.

I have got a number of posters, Mr. Speaker, that I want to refer to, and I'm going to put that on the easel here for a minute so my colleagues can join with me in understanding some of the issues.

□ 2145

Well, the first poster says, "Nancy Pelosi, we're here and where are you?" Well guess what, my colleagues. She's back. She's back. But it took 5 weeks to get her back, and during the time that we were begging her to come back and call this Congress into a special session, she had the power to do that.

Madam Speaker was out, among other things, promoting her new book, "Know Your Power." I'm sure Madam Speaker was referring to the power of a woman, and I think that's a good thing. I have three daughters and four grand-daughters, and I hope one day that they will have an opportunity to achieve what Madam Speaker's achieved. They obviously won't be the first female Speaker in the history of this country because she has that title now, but know her power, the power to convene the Congress and pass legislation. She, and only she, could do that, and yet she refused to come back even for a few days, even maybe for a week. She would still, as would the rest of us, have 4 weeks to work in our districts or go on vacation or whatever during that August recess.

The ironic thing, Mr. Speaker, about this is Ms. PELOSI said in the elections of 2006—gee, it's been almost 2 years ago when the Democratic Party was the minority party. She said that, you know, this do-nothing Congress, these do-nothing Republicans, we need to replace them, and among other things, of course, she said that bills should generally come to the floor under a procedure that allows open, full and fair debate, consisting of a full amendment process that grants the minority the right to offer its alternatives, including a substitute. Now, that is a direct quote by Speaker PELOSI back in 2006.

Well, she has already pretty much said that any energy bill, Mr. Speaker, that comes to the floor is going to be basically with a closed rule. We, in the minority, are not going to have an opportunity to amend, and it's not going to look anything like the American Energy Act, the All-of-the-Above Act, which allows not just drilling here, drilling now, but it includes so many other things that we'll speak about during this hour.

But before I go on, I wanted to take the opportunity—two of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, and I hope maybe some others will join us later in the hour, but the first colleague is the gentleman from Florida, and he should know a lot, a lot indeed, about the Outer Continental Shelf and what is being done and what's not being done. I yield at this time to my colleague from Florida, the honorable RIC KELLER.