

men and women who answer our Nation's call and do the bidding of our Commander in Chief.

You can't do the job as a Member of Congress for so many years unless you love it, and I do. It is a labor of love. And to paraphrase my fellow Missourian, Harry Truman, I have done my damndest every single day. I will forever be grateful for the trust Missourians have placed in me through the years and for the opportunity to serve Missouri's Fourth Congressional District, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the United States of America.

As I leave this House, these lines from Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "Ulysses" express my feelings very well:

Much I have seen and known; cities of men

And manners, climates, councils, governments . . .

And drunk delight of battle with my peers . . .

Some work of noble note, may yet be done . . .

Come, my friends,

Tis not too late to seek a newer world.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this time.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to sing the praises of a great man, Chairman IKE SKELTON. We all heard his beautiful address to us, and in it he started where his heart is, with his family, expressing his love for his family, his appreciation for his staff, his respect for his colleagues, his admiration for our great country.

I am so pleased that we have been joined by Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL, coming over from the Senate side to make the respect for Mr. SKELTON bicameral, and that we are joined by Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON, making that support bipartisan, as well as being joined by so many Members of the Missouri delegation, and that you, Mr. CARNAHAN, are in the chair for Mr. SKELTON's presentation. I know we will be hearing from our distinguished majority leader Mr. HOYER, but I think it is important to note that EMANUEL CLEAVER of Missouri is here, LACY CLAY of Missouri is here, and other Members, Chairman MILLER, chairs, colleagues, new Members, senior Members—that is how Mr. SKELTON is regarded and respected in the Congress of the United States.

□ 1750

He made his speech the way he served in Congress, surrounded by friends, admired by all, on both sides of the aisle, on both sides of the Capitol. He began by talking about his family, and he ended by talking about our men and women in uniform, which are like sons and daughters to him.

He has always taught us that, as President Kennedy said, We'll pay any price, bear any burden. Mr. SKELTON said to us over and over again, as he did this evening, that protecting the American people is our first responsibility. Our young men and women in uniform make us the home of the free and the land of the brave, and we can never forget that. They have no greater champion in the Congress than the chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

I know I speak for every person in this Chamber when I say, Mr. SKELTON, thank you for your leadership for our country. It is an honor to call you colleague. Thank you, Mr. SKELTON.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

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

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't try to tell a little bit more of the story that our beloved friend and colleague IKE SKELTON started. It kind of started all back about in 1980 for my family with IKE when my late husband, Bill, and he drove in to work every single day, and the stories that I learned both from Bill and IKE, because I used to then take IKE in after Bill, and every Thursday now that we come in with prayer breakfast has been, for me, a remarkable experience because of what I have learned from our colleague IKE SKELTON, both from history and also an understanding of the great love that he has for our wonderful State of Missouri.

His commitment and his dedication have been extraordinary, and he has been, for me, not only a real hero but also someone whom I have tried very hard to learn from. You have set an example, IKE, that is impossible for anybody else to meet; but certainly you have been a role model for me and so many others before me, and I just want you to know how important you are not only to me, to how important you were to Bill, to Tori and Katharine and to Ron and Sam and the rest of the kids, IKE. But more importantly than that, you have been special for our country.

You are what every Member of Congress should want to be, and that is a man of great courage, a man of great fairness. You have shown me and others how important it is for us to be civil to one another, how we should talk to one another, and I hope that the example that you have set will continue on in this great body. You will be sorely missed, and we really love you.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, IKE SKELTON is my brother. He and I are both

Sigma Chi's. There's a lot of misinformation and misapprehension about fraternities and sororities. Sigma Chi was founded by seven individuals, one of whom was a gentleman named Jordan, and the Jordan standard requires of those who pledge that fraternity to live by certain standards. Those standards are what we would expect of all of us and hope for all of us.

I have been a member of that fraternity for over half a century. No Sigma Chi that I have met has been more faithful to meeting the standards of conduct and character and courage and fidelity to purpose than my brother IKE SKELTON.

IKE SKELTON is the father of a Sigma Chi and the son of a Sigma Chi and the grandfather of a Sigma Chi. Is that correct, IKE? I think I have it in order. But IKE SKELTON has been a colleague in this Congress. IKE SKELTON, as Mrs. EMERSON said and as Speaker PELOSI said, and as others will say, is the quintessential example of what the American public would hope all of us would be. He's thoughtful, a great intellect, faithful, patriotic, and he teared, of course, as he mentioned the troops, the men and women who serve this country in uniform, the men and women who have had no greater advocate than IKE SKELTON of Missouri, the men and women of our Armed Forces who have had no greater advocate in terms of not only the quality of their lives, their housing, their health care, their benefits, but also the assurance that they had the best technology that was available to make them not only as effective but, as importantly, as secure and safe as they could possibly be.

IKE SKELTON is a good and decent man who has served his country extraordinarily well. He quoted the Tennyson poem, "Ulysses." What a wonderful poem. He didn't quote the end of it, which is essentially that Ulysses, then old, Telemachus, the king, left to his son the duties of being king and brought his band of brothers together to go forth to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

There is no doubt in my mind, Mr. Speaker, that IKE SKELTON will continue to be an extraordinarily faithful citizen of this country, an unswerving supporter of those in uniform, of our Armed Forces, and of our national security, and one who will uphold the highest standards that this institution would hope all of its Members maintain, and he will continue to strive to seek to find and we know he will not yield. But in not yielding on principle, he will be faithfully courteous and respectful of others, as he has been every day on this floor, in his committee, and in the hallways of our offices.

His late wife was named Susan. My oldest daughter is named Susan. Susan Skelton, in the spring of 1981, came to Bowie, Maryland, and knocked on doors, and the doors opened and she said, I would like you to vote for STENY HOYER for Congress. I loved Susan. We lost Susan a few years ago. She was

like her husband—a beautiful, beautiful person.

It is a sad day that IKE SKELTON leaves this Chamber. It will not be today but in a few weeks, but it is a wonderful day for all of us to count ourselves blessed by being part of the life of this extraordinary, good, and decent man, IKE SKELTON of Missouri. IKE SKELTON, patriot. IKE SKELTON, a wonderful, great American.

Thank you, IKE SKELTON.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, in 2003 I was teaching at the Bloch School of Business at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, serving as a talk radio show host on NPR and pastoring a congregation.

□ 1800

I received a phone call from Congressman IKE SKELTON, who began the request for me to give up my peaceful and loving life to run for Congress as my predecessor, Karen McCarthy, had decided not to seek reelection. I chose, in large part, to pursue this office at the request of Congressman IKE SKELTON.

Mr. Chairman, I have three sisters whom I love dearly. From the age of about 3 to about 7, I made requests repeatedly to my parents for a brother. I'm not even sure I knew how that brother could come into existence, but I made the request nonetheless. That never happened, but I can say here in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, that, if I had had a brother, I would have liked for his name to have been Ike. If I had had a brother, I would have liked for him to have had the patience, the intellect, and the spirit of IKE SKELTON.

There is very little secret around our home as to who is the favorite Congressman for my 7-year-old grandson, Isaac Cleaver. One of the great delights of his life—and probably the older he gets the more significant it will be—is already having been introduced to Congressman IKE SKELTON at an event at Royals Stadium. In that introduction, he said that IKE SKELTON was named after him. So, in our household, from my wife, Dianne, all the way to Little Ike, we all have great admiration and love for IKE SKELTON and his family.

It will be difficult to roam these Halls and not see IKE SKELTON or to come into this hallowed room and not look at the seat where he usually sat and where the Missouri delegation would, from time to time, gather around him. I have said to him and to others in his presence that this man has the ability to walk with kings and Presidents and not to lose the common touch.

As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, IKE SKELTON was one of

the most influential human beings, not only in this country but in the world—the most revered Member of Congress by the military of the United States of America. Yet any Member of Congress, frankly, from either side of the aisle, could stop IKE SKELTON and hold a conversation. He never lost the common touch.

It will be difficult for me not to see him in this place. I speak of the man IKE SKELTON from Lexington, Missouri; and I speak of a man whose career in this body will be recorded by historians as a majestic moment for the military of the United States of America.

I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker, because I think IKE SKELTON deserves far more eloquence than I can present. Hopefully, a combination of everything we say will match, in some small way, the elegance with which he served this Congress.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a fellow colleague and a person I have grown to love—our distinguished colleague from the Show Me State.

I was blessed when coming into this Congress that the first committee I was appointed to serve on was the Armed Services Committee and to be there under the guidance and tutelage of IKE SKELTON. I was the last person appointed to the committee that year.

In fact, my mother would often say to me, How come I never see you on C-SPAN? That was because I was sitting behind the camera so they couldn't actually see me on C-SPAN.

But IKE SKELTON, as he does with everyone, treated the lowest member on the committee, who was me, with the same kind of dignity and respect and solid advice as he does with every Member of this Chamber.

IKE SKELTON, as has been said by so many speakers with great eloquence, cares so deeply for his home State, for his community, for his great family, and legacy. Imagine, in this Chamber, sitting and serving with a direct descendent of Daniel Boone and knowing how proud he was of that legacy and how proud, growing up in his great State, he was of his dad, whom I learned about in so many conversations with him, and about Harry Truman and the great history of Missouri.

When you would go there to Lexington, when you would travel and stay at his home—and as STENY mentioned—with his wonderful wife, Susie, who was such a kind, generous and kindred soul mate of IKE's, you would walk around that district and see the respect and the reverence that the people held for IKE SKELTON.

I think I was there to talk about ethanol, but I've got to be honest with

you. Joanne Morrison probably knows a lot about it, but I didn't know a great deal about ethanol. By golly, by the time I was through, you would have thought I was an expert at it.

To travel with this man abroad, you see the respect at our war colleges, amongst our military leaders, amongst heads of state, but most important to him are the men and women who wear the uniform of this country.

He carries his legacy, his great family name, his State, his community, and his country. He wears that well on his face. He shoulders it well, but he carries in his heart a love and devotion for the men and women who serve this great country of ours, and everything he has done on this great floor has been on their behalf.

All men and women who serve in our Armed Forces owe such a great debt of gratitude to this humble, passionate servant of our country and the proud standard-bearer of his great State of Missouri in the way that he has held forth on behalf of the citizens he has sworn to serve and the men and women who have represented this great country of ours and who have given the full measure of their devotion.

□ 1810

Like so many here, I love IKE SKELTON. He is a man of the House, a man for the ages because he led with that big heart of his and cared so deeply about people who serve this Nation.

God bless you, IKE SKELTON. We are all better for having served with you.

A TRIBUTE TO IKE SKELTON

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, let me first say that I, too, am here to thank IKE SKELTON for his friendship, for his service to this country, and especially for his friendship to me.

My relationship with IKE SKELTON goes back more than 30 years. I was a teenager when I first met him because he served with my father—both represented the State of Missouri—and I can remember the day he arrived here. I went on through college and happened to wind up serving in the State legislature for 17 years in his district, in Jefferson City, so our paths would cross on occasion.

But ladies and gentlemen, this country will never witness an individual like IKE SKELTON. There will never be another one like him to cast a shadow on this floor. You have served this country and your State well, and you have also given me a great appreciation for our armed services, the men and women who some make the ultimate sacrifice for this country.

As Rev. CLEAVER and others have said, I have also visited Lafayette and have been to IKE's home, but I have also been to the military bases with IKE, to Whiteman Air Force Base where