

I don't usually come over here for these 5-minute speeches or 1-minute speeches, but today I thought I would make an exception to say some things about our outgoing chair.

I want to make two points. First of all, contrary to the perception that's out in the world, there are no bad people in this body. All of us are good people who are here to serve the American people, and our constituents in particular. I characterize us as all good guys—and that includes female in that good guys category too. But then there are people who because of their particular qualities I would put in a category of really, really, really good people. It doesn't take long to detect those people; it comes through in their manner, in the way that they deal with their colleagues and the way that they consult and console you when you really need consultation and consolation; and the way they give you advice or fail to give you advice or don't give you advice when you either need it or don't need it. They're not in the way; they're just really, really, really good people. That's the category in which I would put our outgoing chair, Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER. And his leadership has been outstanding, but it's not that that I came to praise.

The second thing I really want to emphasize about him is that the question I get most from constituents is who's doing something inside you all's institution to make you all more compatible with each other? So every week I look forward to getting in my intra-Congress mail this letter that our outgoing chair sends to every Member of this body, just one or two or three paragraphs, one page—never longer than one page, just giving us some sage wisdom and advice about how to be nicer to each other, how to soften our edges, how to work better together to achieve the aspirations of our constituents and of our Nation.

Those are the little things that people out in the public never see or hear about, and Chairman CLEAVER has set that example. Sometimes I'm sure he feels like he's a voice in the wilderness by doing that, but every single week each of us gets this special appeal from EMANUEL CLEAVER to be what we should be, stewards of our country, and to do it in a way that does not demean our institution and demean each other, and to advocate for what we believe, but to do it in a way that is more human and kind.

So I want to join with my colleagues in thanking him for his leadership, but most of all I want to thank him for the tremendous role model he has been for our institution to try to make our institution a better place in which to serve and to try to make each of us better Members of this institution.

NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, let me also thank Reverend Cleaver. At his request, I campaigned with him and for him and did a series of Social Security events in his constituency. I spent the better part of 2 days with him, and I got an opportunity to see the regard and respect that he was held in by the citizens of Kansas City.

Mr. Speaker, let me address the issue of extending the New Markets Tax Credit. I have fought for this program since its enactment in 2000 because it's a cost-effective way to create jobs and drive investments in communities with high rates of poverty and unemployment. I've seen the amazing results of this initiative firsthand. Let me highlight just some of those Massachusetts projects.

Let me first tell you a little bit about the New Markets Tax Credit. It was designed to stimulate investment and economic growth in low-income communities that are traditionally overlooked by conventional capital markets. Since its enactment, the credit has generated \$45 billion in capital for projects in low-income communities that range from the first supermarket in a generation in southeast Washington, D.C., to the restoration of one of the greatest acoustical houses in the world, the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Furthermore, New Markets' investments between 2003 and 2010 have been responsible for creating over 500,000 jobs in economically distressed communities across the country. These are remarkable results.

Let me share with you another success story from back home that further explains why I'm a big supporter of New Markets: the Holyoke Public Library. Holyoke is a city in western Massachusetts with a population of about 40,000 people. From the late 19th century until the mid-20th century Holyoke was the world's biggest paper manufacturer. In fact, at one point there were 25 paper mills in operation in Holyoke, and that's how Holyoke got its nickname, "The Paper City."

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However, this industrial city's fortunes ebbed when the paper mills closed, and Holyoke now has one-third of its population living below the poverty line.

The Holyoke Public Library project is currently underway and involves renovating and expanding the 110-year-old library and transforming it into a 21st century education and training center.

For many years, there had been very little funding available to maintain the facility itself. And, therefore, over time, the library has substantially aged and deteriorated. Today, nearly 40 percent of the library's interior is seriously compromised and inaccessible to the public. But thanks in large part to New Market's tax credit financing, the Holyoke Public Library is currently being renovated and modernized, and

the new and improved library will provide critical public access to computers and the latest technology.

New Market's tax credits are a good example of how public and private investment can be used to spur community and economic revitalization. New Market's tax credits expired at the end of last year. It's critical that the Congress not leave town until we, once again, extend this program and the opportunities that come with it.

REFLECTING ON CHAIRMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER WITH GRATITUDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the extraordinary leadership of my colleague, Mr. EMANUEL CLEAVER, who represents with distinction Missouri's Fifth District. I want to offer a special word of appreciation for his many years of service, not merely for his constituents, but for his steady commitment to employ the power of his office to ensure our Nation is set on a course where we all succeed.

As chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Mr. CLEAVER used this position of leadership to help elevate and embolden us to address some of the great social and economic challenges of our day, not just for African Americans, but for all Americans.

I am reminded of the evening in North Carolina at the Democratic Convention when he gave that impassioned and fiery speech that brought everyone to our feet. He reminded us that in America our strength is rooted in our Nation's most profound gift—its diversity. He reminded us that no matter how difficult times may get or may be that we must "hope on," and that it is the power of our hope that drives us to not give up when we have failed, but to try again until we get it right.

As I complete my first term in Congress, let me thank the chairman for his counsel, his guidance, and his friendship. He's provided advice and wisdom that as a newcomer to Washington has been invaluable. He's stepping down as the head of the Congressional Black Caucus, but we will all continue to enjoy hearing his reflections at caucus meetings and getting the notes on promoting civility. It's my personal hope that one day he will collect all of these notes and reflections and publish them.

But I did think that I would end with words from that famous North Carolina speech:

Hope inspires me to believe that any day now, we will catch up to the ideals put forth by our Nation's Founding Fathers. It is our hope and faith that moves us. It is our hope that tells us our latter days will be better than our former. It is our hope that instructs us to march on.

I look forward to working with you in the years through the struggles and successes that are in front of us. Thank

you, Mr. CLEAVER, for your service, your friendship and for your leadership.

A TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute EMANUEL CLEAVER, II, my chairman and my friend, the Congressman from the great State of Missouri who was unanimously elected to lead the Congressional Black Caucus for the 112th Congress. As we move closer to adjournment of this Congress, I rise with my colleagues to thank EMANUEL CLEAVER for his stellar leadership and sacrifice during the last 2 years.

From councilman to Kansas City's first African American mayor to Member of Congress, and most recently our leader, Chairman CLEAVER has continually represented the interests of both his constituents and scores of under-represented Americans with an undeniable zeal and passion.

The leader of the Congressional Black Caucus carries the burden of modeling that which makes us the "Conscience of the Congress," and he has succeeded. A man of fine intellect and unwavering integrity who daily exhibits his deep-seated belief in civility, Chairman CLEAVER is firm in his convictions based on what is right rather than what is expedient. As an ordained minister with many years of pastoral experience, EMANUEL CLEAVER has not only served as chairman of the caucus but has served as our spiritual adviser as well. He is a friend on whom we can all depend. He is selfless and unassuming, yet powerful, respected, and a trusted leader on both sides of the aisle. Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER has earned the respect and admiration of citizens throughout this Nation and many beyond our borders.

Today, I salute Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER. Today, the Congressional Black Caucus salutes him. We thank him for his dedication to our people, his devotion to the highest standards and his undeniably effective leadership. Our caucus thanks Chairman CLEAVER, our country thanks him, and I thank him.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS CHAIR EMANUEL CLEAVER, II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, one of the most respected Members of this House, a leader of unparalleled ability, a trusted friend, and one of the best chairs in the 41-year history of the Congressional Black Caucus. I'm talking about the distinguished gentleman from Missouri, the honorable EMANUEL CLEAVER, II.

The Congressional Black Caucus has long and rightly been known as the "Conscience of the Congress," and it's no exaggeration to say that EMANUEL CLEAVER is the conscience of the CBC.

Prior to being elected to the House of Representatives, he served on the local level. But since coming here to the House in 2004, EMANUEL CLEAVER has been a champion for the poor, the aged, the infirm, and for those struggling to join the middle class or working to stay there. He has worked tirelessly to expand educational and employment opportunities for those looking to build a better life for themselves and their families and to represent God. He has done so with dignity, grace, civility, and unflinching good cheer.

As CBC chair during the 112th Congress, EMANUEL CLEAVER understood the importance of drawing attention to the economic crisis in the African American community, where the unemployment rates were more than double that of whites. And under his leadership, the CBC launched the "For the People" Jobs Initiative, hosting town hall discussions and job fairs, one of which was in Los Angeles, in my hometown, and four other urban areas hit hardest by the recession.

The CBC took the feedback that was received from those communities and its recommendations for creating jobs to the President, who included them in the American Jobs Act.

Following the assault and the murder of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed African American teenager in Florida, the CBC stood up for his parents and made sure their plea for justice did not go unheeded. Chairman CLEAVER understood that justice delayed is justice denied. And when the precious right to vote was under attack this election season, the CBC, led by Chairman CLEAVER and the incoming chair, MARCIA FUDGE, exposed those voter suppression efforts and worked overtime to overcome those obstacles and to ensure that our constituents were ready and able to vote with the CBC's "For the People" voter participation initiative. As a result, African American turnout in the 2012 election far exceeded expectations and was successful in reelecting President Barack Obama.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman CLEAVER has led the Congressional Black Caucus with skill, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to justice and equal opportunity during some of the most critical times of this Nation's history. I thank Chairman CLEAVER for his service, for his leadership, for his friendship, and, most of all, for his example of being led by God here in the House of Representatives.

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IN MEMORY OF MAVIS DONAHUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I rise first of all

to commend a matriarch in my community who passed away a few days ago, Ms. Mavis Donahue, who came to the United States of America from Jamaica. Of course, much of her family came with her, and they kind of stay together as a group.

It was her daughter, Claudette, that I first met, and we worked together for about 40 years. But then her son-in-law, Billy, Claudette's husband, took the first photograph that I ever used in a campaign brochure. Their daughter Erica, who is my goddaughter, was the first person who ever appeared on a campaign brochure when I decided to run for public office. So I simply want to commend them as they prepare to take their mother, their grandmother, their aunt, their friend, their neighbor, back to her home in Jamaica to be buried alongside her mother.

I also join my colleagues in coming to pay tribute to our leader, the Reverend Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER. We've all talked about his leadership, and I've been told two things about leadership that I always try to remember. One is that leadership is the ability to get other people to do what you want them to do but because they want to do it, meaning that somehow or another you can convince them that what you're talking about is the thing to do. The other thing that I've learned about leadership is that you can't lead successfully where you don't go, and you can't teach what you don't know.

I've been able to follow the life of EMANUEL CLEAVER long before he became a Member of the House of Representatives. See, he grew up in the Midwest, kind of, but really the Southwest, in a real sense, as I did. Our schools played football in the Southwest Athletic Conference. The first time we decided to televise our game, we went out and washed cars and did all the things you did to raise the money that we needed. We played Prairie View, and lo and behold, they beat us 28-0, which was a real letdown after we had paid to have the football game televised.

But I remember that EMANUEL came out of school, went to work for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, became a leader in his community as a young person, pastor of a tremendous church that I've had the opportunity to visit, and they even let me have something to say.

Reverend CLEAVER, Congressman CLEAVER, America has benefited from your leadership for many years. We know that what you've done for the caucus and for this Congress will stand, but we know that you will keep doing it for many more years to come.

God bless you and God keep you.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CURSON) for 5 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CURSON of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all