

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 underrepresented 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.

□ 1040

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

Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert material into the RECORD on the subject of Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER's retirement as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CURSON of Michigan. I, too, offer my congratulations to Representative CLEAVER for his service to all Americans as the CBC chair.

Millions of Americans are out of work through no fault of their own. Millions of Americans are relying on federally funded benefits to make ends meet as our Nation's struggling economy starts to recover. These unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed will immediately and completely stop on December 29, 2012, unless we in Congress act. There is no phaseout. Every individual receiving those benefits now will be cut off cold.

The Department of Labor estimates that over 2 million Americans will lose their emergency benefits at the end of the year, including over 92,000 people in my home State of Michigan. Cutting off benefits for the long-term unemployed will have a devastating impact on middle class families who are struggling to stay out of poverty. They are critically important for necessities of life, rent, groceries, and utilities. Cutting off unemployment benefits will also hurt America's economic recovery, as economists predict that allowing the UC benefits to expire at the end of this year will reduce economic growth next year by \$58 billion.

Emergency unemployment benefits provide a particularly valuable economic contribution to the economy because financially stressed unemployed workers typically spend the benefits they receive quickly. Cutting off these benefits will hurt small businesses and add to the downward spiral of a failing economy. The Census Bureau reports that unemployment benefits, both State and Federal, reduced the number of Americans living in poverty last year by 2.3 million, including over 600,000 children. The Congressional Research Service estimates that in 2011, unemployment benefits reduced the poverty rate for families receiving them by 40 percent.

Cutting off unemployment benefits for too many Americans will only substantially increase hardship and poverty in our Nation. Now is not the time to deprive these Americans of a critical lifeline. Federally funded unemployment benefits should be extended by this Congress.

The best cure for unemployment is to create jobs. We can do this by investing in rebuilding our Nation's infrastructure, creating real jobs and real revenue by people working for a living.

STOP MILITARY RAPE

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to pay my respect and to honor Representative CLEAVER.

I am one of those many Members of the House who each week waits for that letter from Congressman CLEAVER. In each of these letters, he tells a life lesson, typically one to inspire us to be more hopeful, to be more willing to look at the issue from someone else's perspective, to be more compassionate, to be more loving. So I, too, share in his commitment to making this place a more responsive environment for all, and I thank Mr. CLEAVER for his great leadership as the chair of the CBC over the last year.

Mr. Speaker, I now would like to turn to my prepared remarks for this morning. I would like to read you some song lyrics that Air Force Technical Sergeant Jennifer Smith found on her government computer at Shaw Air Force Base. The lyrics of the song are called the "The S&M Man," and they go like this:

Who can take a machete, whack off all her limbs, Throw her in the ocean, and watch her try to swim?

The S&M Man.

Jennifer Smith reported this song and other sexually explicit documents to her superiors in the Air Force. "The S&M Man" is offensive, it's hostile, but to her male colleagues and superiors, the song is just tradition, a tradition that is alive and well, celebrated in song, patches, coins, offensive pictures, behavior, and the tacit approval of commanding officers.

A military tradition of demeaning women is not only sickening, but contrary to the fundamental principles of an institution founded in respect and honor and in discipline. It undermines our military's readiness and cohesion. Simply put, it gravely damages the military.

This is the 24th time that I have come to the floor to share the story of a servicemember, either man or woman, who has been raped, sexually assaulted, or harassed by fellow servicemembers. By the Department of Defense's own records and estimates, there are 19,000 rapes and sexual assaults each year in the military, and the VA reports that half a million veterans are affected by military sexual trauma.

□ 1050

Still, fewer than 14 percent of these victims actually report the crimes. And why is that? It is because so few are prosecuted—fewer than 9 percent—and a minuscule number end in conviction.

Air Force Sergeant Jennifer Smith has been subjected to this toxic culture for nearly two decades. She finally had enough. She filed a lawsuit; and in her lawsuit, she chronicles 17 years of abuse and a toxic culture—from 1995

until the present time—a culture that speaks of repulsive and destructive behavior by servicemembers and the tacit approval of their commanders.

Jennifer Smith joined the Air Force 17 years ago, when she was just 18 years of age. Her career has been filled with promotions and with medals and commendations by her commanding officers. She is one of the soldiers whom we so highly regard in the military. She has a record of astonishing accomplishments. In many of the commendations, she has been told that she is a "gifted mentor" who "goes above and beyond" and to "promote her now." Her career has also been filled with sexual harassment, assaults, and complacency—or worse—from her commanding officers.

During her five deployments in Iraq, Kuwait, Korea, and Germany, Sergeant Smith has endured assault by a master sergeant, who pushed her into a room, dropped his pants, and tried to force himself on her; harassment by a vice commander, who told her to relax and take her top off during a meeting; constant exposure to pornographic material and sexually explicit flight songs; and an attempted rape she was too scared to report.

Sergeant Smith endured sexual harassment and a hostile work environment for 13 years when she decided to speak up. It's time for all of us to speak up. It's time for all of us to expect from the military what we expect from the private sector—no hostile work environment.

She found pornographic materials in her squadron that included two "Doofer" books and magazines that were in her shared office. She reported them, but nothing was done.

Later that year, approximately two months after Technical Sergeant Smith had deployed to Iraq, she was assaulted outside of the gym. A man grabbed her from behind and physically dragged her to a dark place behind the building.

The man pushed her up against the wall and groped her. He had his arm under her neck, lifting her feet off the ground. He said, "I could kill you right now . . . and no one is going to miss you."

Technical Sergeant Smith was able to break free, and ran away as fast as she could. She went to work the next day and did not say anything about it because she feared retaliation and harassment.

This is happening now—in January 2012, Technical Sergeant Smith was back from Iraq at Shaw Air Base to manage pilot training. Whenever she checked her computer, she was bombarded with sexually hostile documents and videos. She reported the offensive material. Nothing was done.

In response to news coverage Sergeant Smith's formal complaint, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh ordered a service-wide sweep of workspaces and public areas for images, calendars and other materials that objectify women.

This sweep is inadequate, or worse. It appears to be a response to bad press rather than an aggressive tool to root out and expose this toxic culture.

The sweep which began on Wednesday, December 5th, provides a twelve-day window