

am reminded of what he said so succinctly as a result of last year's deal. He called it, quite frankly, a "Satan sandwich." He has really been able to take leadership on these issues because, as a person of faith, he understands the moral and the, really, I think, extremely deep ethical impacts of our decisions. He pricks our conscience as we approach our deliberations.

Indeed, in what has many times and often times been the most divisive, polarizing, and political climate that many of us have experienced, Chairman CLEAVER has used his pastoral skills, his ability to bring people together on both sides of the aisle to help us all through times of trouble.

□ 1100

He is truly a Member's Member. He helped to remind us exactly why we are all here. And yes, he is a brilliant legislator, but he's also a prophetic leader.

Chairman CLEAVER visited my district on my birthday not long ago, and he blessed me and my church with a sermon. And I must say, it was a moving, a powerful, and a spirited sermon. He's truly an anointed pastor, and he has demonstrated this gift in his work and his leadership here in Congress.

Also, Chairman CLEAVER is a strong environmentalist, and I had the privilege to visit his district where, as mayor of Kansas City, he led the way in the greening of his great city. His presentation and his clarity on climate change and how it is affecting God's planet and its inhabitants is brilliant and it's clear. Communities of color and low-income communities owe Chairman CLEAVER a debt of gratitude for tackling this tough issue with patience and with clarity.

But I know that Chairman Reverend Congressman CLEAVER does not stand alone. He has an amazing support system with his family and his wife, Dianne, who has been a friend to me and to the Congressional Black Caucus. Dianne is a brilliant and beautiful woman who was taught, like myself, by the Sisters of Loretto. She has been by his side offering her advice, counsel, and love.

I thank Chairman CLEAVER for his friendship. My congressional district, my pastor, J. Alfred Smith, Sr., and Junior, the Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, California, and my entire congressional district deeply appreciate Chairman CLEAVER's generosity and his attention, not only to his remarkable constituents and his district, but to my district, to all of our districts, to our great Nation, and to our country.

Thank you, Chairman Reverend Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER for your tremendous leadership, for your friendship, and I look forward to our continuing work together for peace and justice.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS CHAIRMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let it be very clear, EMANUEL CLEAVER is not retiring from the United States Congress, but we are here to thank him for his service to the Congressional Black Caucus as chair, but really to the Nation.

Let me thank my colleagues for gathering this morning to raise a voice of crescendo in thanks and appreciation for this man called EMANUEL CLEAVER. His progeny and his ancestors are grateful for the mark that he has made on behalf of America.

Chairman CLEAVER speaks eloquently about his origins of hailing from Texas and his many relatives who remain there, even those who are in the surrounding areas of the 18th Congressional District. He's a proud graduate of Prairie View A&M University in Texas, in the surrounding area of Houston, Prairie View, Texas. He has a great heritage and connectedness to the Black Power movement, and he is a good combination of peace, gentleness, firmness, leadership, and courage.

And I might say that he was a man for these times, just as the Bible dictated that Esther was a woman for her time, was there for a time such as that. Our chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus found his role in a number of challenges that we faced. And if I might paraphrase a Biblical story, hopefully I have it nearly right, but I call this chairman a modern day Joseph who is able to wear the multicolored coat, representing constituencies from all backgrounds and going to represent his people in a foreign land. Chairman CLEAVER would go to places where others had not gone or raise his voice for issues that were unpopular, and he did so with the consensus and collaboration of the astute and committed members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

I went to his district, as many of us did. We're proud to see the affection, friendship, and love given to him by his constituents. I was so interested in what we call the green corridor; so many are looking to instill and implement that in their own districts.

Thank you, Reverend CLEAVER, for coming to Houston, Texas, on more than one occasion, but particularly to the NAACP banquet when I was named a recipient of the Mickey Leland Humanitarian Achievement Award, but more importantly, for your words of diminished return that if, in fact, we go to the lowest common denominator, if we don't raise ourselves to the highest level of challenge, then it becomes a diminished return, if I might paraphrase Chairman CLEAVER's words. It was a rousing and challenging speech that lifted people off their feet, and it caused us to think about what we need to do.

Finally, as others have spoken of his work on creating jobs for all of America, particularly those underserved, where the African American job unemployment rate was so high, he was a champion during the debate and the challenge of passing the Affordable Care Act, now proudly ObamaCare. When we came together that Sunday, March 19, before we had to go and vote, it was Chairman CLEAVER that led us to a prayer service where we worshipped and were renewed. We came back ready to cast our votes, to put this great legislation that is going to save lives over the top. We did it as a body, as a collective body, and as a group of members of the Congressional Black Caucus. And so even preceding his time in leadership, he led.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me offer my thank-you to this native son of Texas, a graduate of Prairie View A&M, one of the great institutions in the State of Texas. Let me congratulate his wife and his wonderful children and his extended family and all those who have seen in him the willingness to sacrifice for others. Thank you, Chairman CLEAVER. The great news is you're not retiring from this body and your leadership for America will continue.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS CHAIRMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outgoing chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Reverend and Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER, II, of Missouri, who is my colleague and good friend. Representative CLEAVER has graciously served with distinction in the House of Representatives and the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri for nearly 8 years.

He has been an outstanding chairman to the Congressional Black Caucus, ushering the caucus through its 40th anniversary. He cares deeply for all Americans—children, seniors, and the marginalized of our society. Who can forget his demonstrative leadership on the CBC Jobs Tour where tens of thousands of Americans lined up for an opportunity to present themselves to employers.

From creating economic opportunity, supporting quality education for all children, to ensuring equal access to health care for all Americans, Chairman CLEAVER has truly been the embodiment of the conscience of the Congress.

After the shooting of our colleague Gabrielle Giffords, her staff, and constituents in Tucson, Arizona, occurred, Chairman CLEAVER was one of the first people to call for civility and the end to the toxic rhetoric here in Washington.

Congressman CLEAVER led the effort to ensure that all citizens registered to

vote on National Voter Registration Day, which was an initiative to raise awareness to block the voter suppression efforts with the enacting of voter ID laws by numerous States during the Presidential election this year.

This outspoken, soft-spoken minister can bring the fire when needed. I cannot forget his legendary and enthusiastic speech to Democrats on the pressing issues that affect all Americans, as demonstrated in his 2012 Democratic National Convention speech in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is not afraid to display his passion for what is right.

□ 1110

Chairman CLEAVER is truly a man on a mission for his constituents in Kansas City and all Americans across this Nation. A crusader for justice, I am proud to serve alongside him in the Congressional Black Caucus and look forward to our continued friendship in the 113th Congress.

I wish him God's richest blessings and continued success.

HONORING EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in honoring Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER. I have never had to wait so long to say something nice about a colleague of ours, and that gives you a sense of how wonderful Chairman CLEAVER has been as the chairman of the CBC, as a Member of Congress, and as a human being.

This is a place of hard elbows and harsh tongues, and Chairman CLEAVER has always worked to make us better, a better Congress and better as individuals.

He and I found common ground very early on in our tenure together. I created the House Center Aisle Caucus, and he reached out to me and we tried to figure out ways of injecting respect and tolerance and sensitivity into our discourse on the floor of the House. We share the value that listening is better than shouting and that bringing people together is a more valued tradition than driving them apart.

His leadership of the CBC has inspired so many of us, his ability to drive the CBC forward and, at the same time, to reach even higher. And I know that the incoming chairperson, Chairwoman FUDGE, will pursue those goals with equal tenacity and equal vision.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would say this. Although EMANUEL CLEAVER ascended to the highest position in the Congressional Black Caucus, although he has become a senior Member of this Congress, he has never forgotten that our fundamental ability is to work for those we serve, and he has reminded us every single day that no matter how high you are at any given time, there is always a higher calling. And for that we are forever grateful to Chairman CLEAVER, for his service to the CBC and

his continuing service as a Member of this body. He has made us a better Congress and a better country, and we look forward to continuing to work with him.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 2½ minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my good friend and mentor, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER, the outgoing chairman of the CBC.

An accomplished and esteemed legislator, Congressman CLEAVER was instrumental in orchestrating the CBC For the People Jobs Initiative, which brought together private and public sector entities across the Nation to help the unemployed Americans get jobs.

He also spearheaded voter protection events to bring attention to the State voter suppression policies designed to discourage and prevent African Americans from exercising their right to vote.

Personally, it was my pleasure to get to know Congressman CLEAVER through his relationship with my father, the late Congressman Donald Payne, Sr. However, I became more acquainted with Mr. CLEAVER when I was a candidate for the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey.

Throughout the many encounters with Congressman CLEAVER, he has always shown tremendous leadership, intellect, kindness, and poise. These characteristics were on full display during the passing of my father. My family and I were honored to have Mr. CLEAVER deliver a very emotional and uplifting speech that was felt throughout the church during my father's home-going service in March. His advice and words of comfort during those very challenging times were tremendous help, and I will always be grateful for his unwavering support.

During my transition to Capitol Hill, he offered a great deal of support, oftentimes stopping me in the hallways to ask me how am I doing and how can he help. His assistance has eased my transition considerably, and I am grateful for the profound impact that Congressman CLEAVER has had on me.

In just a few months, I've come to know why my father considered him a great colleague and an outstanding leader. Today I cannot think of a better friend and mentor.

Thank you.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CONGRESSMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 2½ minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. I don't rise to talk about and to give accolades to Congressman CLEAVER because he has served the Congressional Black Caucus so well. And the reason I don't is because I can't imagine that he won't continue to serve us as he has this capacity to do.

I know that Congresswoman Judge FUDGE is going to do a remarkable job, but there is a uniqueness about Reverend CLEAVER, Pastor CLEAVER, City Councilman CLEAVER, Mayor CLEAVER, Congressman CLEAVER. God has given these terrific assets to be able to take complex, emotional problems and to talk to you like he's known you all of your life as he helps you to work with him to try to find some solution.

Every time I hear him give a talk, I vision him in his church talking about those things that give inspiration to so many people that have lost hope, and especially now, as many have lost their homes and lost jobs.

As we struggle in this Congress today, in trying to bring some balance in terms of our deficit, our spending, as well as our raising the revenue, I cannot help but look at the reverend, Congressman, chairman in terms of the words of Matthew, when Jesus made it abundantly clear that, although the rich were not asking Jesus for comfort as related to providing for the sick and the naked and the poor and the underprivileged, somehow Jesus had said what EMANUEL CLEAVER follows, that it's not what we do here in the Congress for Members of Congress, indeed, it's not what we do for the rich and the middle class, but the basic question we all have to decide is: What did we do for the lesser among us, the vulnerable, the sick, the aged, and the poor?

Certainly, EMANUEL CLEAVER provides a conscience for all of us that are privileged to serve in this august body.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Congress's finest members, Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER, for his exemplary leadership and service to the Congressional Black Caucus.

While Chairman CLEAVER has worked on behalf of the people of Missouri's fifth district for the last eight years, and in service to the people of Kansas City as a councilman and mayor for many more than that, I want his constituents to know the depth, character, and accomplishments of the public servant they are so fortunate to have representing them and Americans across this country.

As Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman CLEAVER has guided its more than 40 members on their mission to extend the promise of the American dream to every community and corner of this Nation. Through his tireless advocacy on issues critical to the African American community and his stewardship of the Caucus's jobs fair initiative, Chairman CLEAVER worked to bring the business community together with the many talented and skilled workers that were disproportionately impacted during this recent economic recession.

He has worked to ensure that every child has an opportunity to receive a quality education; that every man and woman can exercise their constitutional right to vote, and that