

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and Congressman JAMIE RASKIN for organizing a Special Order to follow the 1 minutes to honor the memory of our dear friend and former colleague, Congressman Ron Dellums.

Ron Dellums was an unabashed progressive icon, and a strong and outspoken advocate for his constituents, veterans, people of color, and other vulnerable communities during his 13-term tenure in the United States Congress.

Understanding the unique problems facing the African-American community, Ron Dellums joined with 12 fellow civil rights giants, including Lou Stokes, Bill Clay, Shirley Chisholm, to create the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971. True to his creed, the CBC remains the conscience of the Congress today and has grown to a historic 48 members.

As a former U.S. Marine, Ron Dellums was one of the most outspoken opponents of the Vietnam war. In Congress, he led an effort to educate the American public of war crimes that were committed during the Vietnam war.

In 1993, he also made history as the first African American chair of the House Armed Services Committee.

However, one of Ron Dellums' greatest achievements is one that is also dear to my heart, ending apartheid in South Africa. As a member of the California State Assembly and a national board member of Trans Africa, I had the privilege of working with Ron Dellums to pass legislation at the State and Federal level that forced the United States to divest from apartheid, the regime in South Africa.

CENTRAL NEW YORK MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, 343 firefighters, 70 law enforcement officers, and 8 emergency medical technicians. Seventeen years ago our Nation was changed forever. While the Twin Towers burned, thousands of first responders rushed to save the lives of their fellow citizens, knowing the dangers ahead; 421 first responders made the ultimate sacrifice that day. Side by side, they climbed 110 flights of stairs, in nearly 70 pounds of gear. It was the largest high-rise rescue operation in history.

"We climb because they climbed."

In an inspiring, touching tribute this Saturday, hundreds of our local first responders will take part in the annual Central New York Memorial Stair Climb. Wearing the same 70 pounds of gear, they will make the same climb at the Utica State Office Building to keep the memory of our fallen heroes alive.

Mr. Speaker, in the face of the worst of humanity, our Nation saw the best

of humanity in those brave men and women. Let us never forget their selfless sacrifice.

□ 1630

HONORING RONALD V. DELLUMS

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Representative Ron Dellums, who, among other things, was known as one of the most outstanding, articulate, and eloquent persons to ever serve in this House of Representatives.

He was a political, social activist who used his voice and his mannerisms to educate millions of people throughout the world about issues, AIDS, HIV, Free South Africa.

He was an icon. He is an icon and will always be an icon, a great Member of this body.

HONORING RONALD V. DELLUMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for this Special Order hour, which we have decided to devote to the life and career of an extraordinary former colleague, Ron Dellums, the giant who has fallen and whose death has deeply affected this body. We have invited Members who have reminiscences and appreciations to come forward and to participate in remembrance of the life of Ron Dellums.

I just have a few things to say. I never had the good fortune of serving with Congressman Dellums, but he was a very close friend of my family's, so, as a little boy, I grew up admiring him.

He was an incredibly warm and dynamic, charismatic and brilliant man who really exuded love of people wherever he went.

Among his many extraordinary achievements in public life, one of them was to bring into politics and government service our distinguished colleague BARBARA LEE, who succeeded him in office and who will be taking over the Special Order hour after I say just a few words, but we should not understate the importance of that achievement.

Congresswoman LEE served as his chief of staff for many years; she will tell you that story. Then he backed her for the seat that he occupied, so she is the proud and worthy successor to Congressman Dellums.

But I wanted to say that, in a professional field where so many participants are known for putting their finger up to the wind and following simply what the pollsters or campaign donors are telling them to do, Ron Dellums was a diamond in the rough from day one. He

always put his ideals and his values first, and he didn't waver from them, no matter how politically tough it became.

He was raised in a politically engaged environment. His father was a longshoreman who was deeply involved in the labor movement. His uncle, Cottrell Lawrence Dellums, was instrumental in helping A. Philip Randolph organize the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters before being elected president of that union in 1966.

Now, Ron, when he graduated from high school, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and spent several years in the Marines before an honorable discharge.

He went on to college and to receive his master's in social work and became a psychiatric social worker in the California Department of Mental Hygiene.

He was elected to the Berkeley City Council in 1967 at the age of 32. He was deeply involved in the movement against the Vietnam war, which profoundly affected his political outlook and his development as a leader. He was elected to Congress in 1972.

I will allow my colleague to talk about the various legislative efforts they were involved in with Congressman Dellums, but I will say, when I was in college, he was a great hero to college students across the country and to anti-apartheid activists, not just across America, but across the world for his leadership for comprehensive sanctions against South Africa, the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, which was passed as a culmination of a movement that he organized that involved civil disobedience at the South African Embassy.

I was very proud to have played a tiny part in that as a college student, to have come and participated and submitted to arrest, along with thousands of other people who did that at that time in order to galvanize public opinion against American complicity and involvement with apartheid in South Africa.

But I would say that one other thing that always made such a powerful impression on me was that Congressman Dellums, like another great leader for peace, George McGovern, was himself a veteran, and he saw no conflict between the two. He was someone who proudly served in the Armed Forces of his country and nobly did so, but thought that it was equally noble to fight for peace and to make sure that our defense budget was one that was very closely tethered to the actual military and national security needs of the country, not one that is bloated and subject to waste and corruption and graft and embezzlement and kickbacks and so on.

That has been a historic struggle that goes back to the very beginning of our Republic. We want a military that actually serves the people, that serves the Republic, and is not an opportunity for other people to rip off the taxpayers.

He was very focused on making sure that our military budget was really targeted to the actual defense and security of the country, and that America was a force for human rights and security of all peoples and peace all over the world.

So he leaves an extraordinary and inspiring and difficult legacy for all of us to live up to.

I am very proud at this point to turn it over to Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, who has become, in her years in office, also a great and famous leader for peace, human rights, and social justice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING RONALD V. DELLUMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of our Special Order tonight.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to really celebrate the life and legacy of my mentor, my former boss, and my dear friend, Congressman Ronald V. Dellums.

I had the privilege to serve as an intern in Ron's Washington office during the Watergate hearings of 1974 and as a senior member of his staff for 11 years.

First, my deepest condolences to Ron's beloved family, friends, and our community, who he loved so deeply, as we continue to come to grips, quite frankly, with the grief in the passing of this tremendous voice, yet we honor and celebrate Ron's magnificent legacy.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank Congressman JAMIE RASKIN for being a part of this Special Order tonight and for co-leading it. Congressman RASKIN's father, Marcus Raskin, was a close and cherished friend of Ron's. They deeply loved and respected each other.

Let me also thank all of my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus for holding this Special Order tonight to remember a truly historic figure, the late, great Congressman Ron Dellums.

Congressman Dellums was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and I know this celebration of his life would mean so much to him.

Ron will be remembered not only for his many accomplishments, but for his integrity and his brilliance. He was a

courageous statesman, a warrior for world peace, a soldier for social justice, and a son of west Oakland. He served his country in both the Marines and in this Congress, with distinction, for 27 years and as mayor of Oakland for 4 years.

He was beloved by his east bay constituents, regarded by his colleagues from both sides of the aisle, and respected as a global leader.

Above all else, Congressman Dellums was a visionary, and his conscience guided him in the pursuit of peace and justice and equality in all forms.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), one of Ron's very close friends, a person whom he loved dearly, who is an icon in his own right, someone who led the fight for our voting rights.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my beloved friend, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, for holding this Special Order.

You know, Ron Dellums was a special human being, special leader. He was one of a kind. He was born and grew up in due season.

Those of us who worked with him and got to know him, we loved him. We admired him. I can see him now saying, "Hi, bro. What is going on?"

We must continue to stand up and speak up and fight the good fight.

You know, Ron never gave up; he never gave in. He never became bitter. He was never hostile. He loved people. He worked so hard and tirelessly for what he believed in.

As Congresswoman BARBARA LEE has stated so well, Ron was the founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. But I tell you, he was a peaceful warrior. He believed in peace.

He struggled to help build what I call a true democracy in America. He fought to build what Dr. King called the beloved community. He wanted to redeem the soul of America.

He wanted to bring people together. It didn't matter whether they were Black or White, Latino, Asian American, or Native American. He saw us as one people, one family living in the same house, not just the American house, but the world house.

I tell you, as one Member who came here after winning an election in 1986, coming here in 1987, I would talk with Ron a great deal. I learned a great deal from him.

He used his leadership of the Armed Services Committee to highlight the senseless nature of war and to press for greater investment in the public good. He fought for peace at home and abroad.

As a Member of Congress, he was the author of legislation and the movement for corporate divestment in South Africa.

As a political leader, he was an inspiration to people all over the world. People admired him. People loved him.

You know, he was tall. He stood up; he stood out. And he spoke with passion.

In his passing, the Nation has lost a strong and powerful crusader for justice, for equality, and for peace.

He was cool before it became popular to be cool. He dressed so well. You knew Ron Dellums was coming when you saw him before he made it to you.

□ 1645

For many of us, he was our hero. Activists of the 21st century, and all of the new Members of Congress who seek progressive change in America would do well to take several pages from Ron Dellums' book. It would make you a better Member of this body.

His voice made him a force to be reckoned with as a committee chair, as a legislator, as a leader. He insisted in his call for justice for his cause for peace. He will be deeply missed all over America, not just in California, not just in Oakland, but all over America and around the world, for people who long for peace, for justice, for equality.

Thank you, Ron Dellums, for all that you did to help make our country and make our world a better place. I thank the gentlewoman, BARBARA LEE, for this Special Order.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LEWIS for that very beautiful tribute to Ron. It was a loving tribute, and I know personally how much Ron loved him and, in many ways, looked up to him and respected him as a human being and for his tremendous leadership. So I thank the gentleman on behalf of Ron's family, friends, and our community.

Now I would like to ask Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON to come forward. Congresswoman NORTON knew Ron very well, served with Ron, and Ron served as chair of the District of Columbia Committee when I was actually a staffer during that period. They had many, many struggles during that day. Ron and ELEANOR remained friends, and he loved her dearly and always asked about her.

I yield to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very good friend, Representative BARBARA LEE from California, who has the great honor of serving in the seat that Ron held. And she has that honor because of her work with Ron and because those who lived in his district understood that Ron did not serve them alone.

I think that for BARBARA LEE to have risen from intern to chief of staff to Ron Dellums says everything about her service in the Congress. She is just the right person to be leading this special honor for our good friend, the dapper, the brilliant, Ron Dellums.

Ms. LEE shows us that Ron had an eye for talent, and I thank her for sharing that talent now with the Nation.

It is true that my district and I had a special relationship with Ron Dellums; and, therefore, a special love. Because for 14 years, he chaired the old District of Columbia Committee, which he helped me get rid of, understanding