

Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman, I think we can be successful, I really do, and here is why. I think we have the precedents of the 22nd Amendment, which was done in the shadow that was cast by one of our greatest leaders, George Washington, and the custom and tradition of the 2 terms for President.

But the people, with angst and vehement opposition to more than two terms as President, spoke, and there was enough critical mass where we had the 22nd Amendment. We passed a constitutional amendment. It has already happened and it can happen again. I believe that we are embarking on such a time and a season in the life of this country.

And the public frustration, we have talked about the approval rating, popular reform. We talked about the polls. Over 80 percent of the American people want this. And then we talked about the man in the Oval Office who ran on draining the swamp. And this is a definitive measurable way to do that. It is not the only way; it is not the panacea for all of the ills culturally in this institution, but it would certainly be a big start.

So, Mr. Speaker, I say thank you to my colleagues for the support and for their eloquent and passionate remarks to advance this.

And I want to say a special thanks to the President for tweeting out on this after our meeting, for endorsing our efforts, and I encourage him. There are two things we need. We need the President to continue to make this a priority, and we need him to continue to talk about it; and we need the next leadership of this body, whatever that looks like and however that sorts out, we need the leadership to bring this to a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX). It is not on the issue of term limits. It is on another very important issue.

RECOGNIZING ELI HERMAN

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas, Mr. ARRINGTON, for leading this Special Order and yielding me some time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the story of a young American entrepreneur, Eli Herman, who lives with his parents, Teresa and Ritchie Herman, on their farm in Alexander County.

I met Eli and his parents at the Alexander County Draft Horse Pulling Contest recently, where he opened the contest by riding into the arena with his ponies and the American flag.

It was clear from the beginning of our meeting that Eli is not a typical 11-year old boy. This young man truly embodies the American entrepreneurial spirit and exudes patriotism.

At his young age, Eli has big dreams and the self-motivation he needs to accomplish them. Starting at a very young age, Eli raised his own calves and was able to earn some money from that endeavor. He made the decision to

use that money to purchase ponies and a wagon.

Now Eli owns 11 ponies, which he shows. He participates in events to promote American values, and will be participating in the North Carolina State Fair in October, where I know he will be a big hit.

Eli's long-term dream is, one day, to follow in the footsteps of his hero, Randy Derrer, the driver of the Wells Fargo stagecoach. He has my best wishes to achieve that dream, and it is my good fortune to have met him and his parents and know that they are among the many wonderful people in the Fifth District of North Carolina that it is my privilege to represent.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina. And I just say, in conclusion, before I yield the balance of my time back, Mr. Speaker, that, and I was remiss to not mention that this would be the appropriate way to conclude.

I want to thank the majority leader, KEVIN MCCARTHY, for allowing my colleagues and I to speak on this issue on the floor of the House, of the people's House, and being open to allow Members to bring their ideas and the things that they ran on, the things that they are passionate about, that they believe will make the biggest difference for the future of this country.

To me, that is a big part of leadership, being big enough to allow people to take the microphone and speak on these issues, whether he believes in it, supports it or not, I don't know. But I know that he is a good leader for allowing us to speak about it, and I am grateful for that.

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, tonight, in this hallowed Chamber of the House, in the U.S. Capitol, we pay tribute to a good friend, a patriot, a loyal Member of this House of Representatives, and the Senate, and that is John McCain, who we lost last week, after a long and productive life.

It seems fitting that we are here in the House Chamber with the portraits of George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette, two generals in the army of the liberation in our American Revo-

lution, two comrades at arms, two people who set the standard for high, ethical standards of leadership, and leading us in what we treasure today, our United States of America. And really John McCain epitomized that.

Mr. Speaker, it may be unusual that a Member from Arkansas would lead a tribute in honor of our distinguished former colleague, but there is a connection, because when I started, one of my earliest jobs was serving Senator John Tower of Texas, on his personal staff and on the staff of the Senate banking committee.

You couldn't work for John Tower and not be a friend to John McCain, because John McCain was, as a young captain, the liaison to the Senate between 1977 and 1981, and then he ran for office in 1982 in his home State of Arizona.

He said it was hard to decide to run. He didn't really have a home. The longest place he had lived before he ran for Congress from Arizona was in the Hanoi Hilton, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1830

And John Tower broke his promise to not campaign and mess around in a Republican primary by traveling Arizona and Texas helping John McCain win his election in 1982.

They were, like Lafayette and Washington, comrades in arms, both Navy men: Tower, the seniormost enlisted man elected to the Senate, and John McCain, a captain, son and grandson of admirals.

Tower's favorite story about John was when they went to Oman, and Captain McCain was his escort officer on a codel, and they were with the Sultan of Oman out in the desert in a tent, arrayed on beautiful carpets.

As you know, it is bad protocol to show one's soles of the feet in the Arab culture, and John McCain, Mr. Speaker, could not bend his legs from his beatings in the Hanoi Hilton. And so there he was, cross-legged—or tried to be cross-legged—in that tent in Oman with the soles of his feet pointing directly at the sultan.

It was Tower who said: Your Majesty, please understand that Captain McCain can't properly cross his legs, as he was a POW in Vietnam and is crippled from that horrible ordeal.

And the Sultan of Oman said: My dear Senator, I am a graduate of Sandhurst and a former captain in the British Army of the Rhine. I understand. And it is a pleasure to have Captain McCain at our table.

Years later, it was John McCain who worked his tail off to try to have John Tower confirmed as Secretary of Defense in 1989 for my old boss, President Bush, to no avail. But in the minutes before that failed vote in the Senate, McCain turned to Tower and said: God bless you, John Tower. You are a damn fine sailor.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to John McCain, his comradeship, his friendship with John Tower, his

service to this country, his undenied patriotic leadership and strength in the country that we have today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call on my friend from Texas, and it is a special call, it is an emotional call for all of us in this Chamber tonight, to ask SAM JOHNSON to come to the podium, SAM JOHNSON, who spent 7 years in the Hanoi Hilton, 42 months in solitary confinement, a 29-year career in the Air Force.

So, Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), and thank him for sharing his thoughts on his comrade in arms, former Senator John McCain.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for recognizing me, and I appreciate those comments.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, FRENCH HILL, for arranging this Special Order to honor John.

Mr. Speaker, John was more than just a colleague in Congress. We were friends, and that friendship was forged in the infamous Hanoi Hilton. Not everyone knows that he and I shared a cell there together for a time.

I can testify to the fact that John did everything he could to defend freedom and honor our great Nation, not just in that hell on Earth, but beyond those bleak years. This is most evident in his service in the United States House and Senate.

John, we will remember your strength of spirit, your commitment to our servicemembers and our democracy, and your love of country.

I would now like to tap a special message for John and his family, who remain in my prayers. This tap code was used by the POWs to resist our captors.

That is a G. That is a B. And that is a U. And that is what we all used to use, "God bless you."

God bless you, partner. I salute you.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank our good friend for his service.

SAM JOHNSON has served this Chamber so nobly during his years on Ways and Means and ends his career in the people's House this term. All of us treasure our time with him, our work together, and his leadership, and we treasure his remarks tonight in honor of his great comrade.

And, sir, we salute you and we thank you, and God bless you for all you have done for this great country.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM), who serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Natural Resources. Also, he served this great country in the Air Force for 16 years, fought in Operation Desert Storm in Iraq, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. We welcome him, and we thank him for his comments tonight.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HILL for recognizing me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John McCain, a family man, a war hero, United States Senator, and a very, very close friend.

John was a one-of-a-kind, a man with an undeniable spirit, an incredible gift to work alongside people of different beliefs and backgrounds for the good of all people.

As a veteran, I recognized John's service went above and beyond the call of duty.

McCain was not the kind of man to put his brothers in arms at risk to save his own skin. Even as a POW, he put country first.

His patriotism was inspiring. It was so inspiring that, as a young airman at the time—I was going to junior college at Victor Valley College, became the student body president, and the first time they sent somebody to Washington, D.C., it was me. It was my first trip to Washington, D.C., and I actually got to meet the man that I had only read about and really got to know him, know John and his real character.

It was an honor to be with him in the 2000 campaign and again in the 2008 campaign. In 2008, we spent a lot of time traveling together throughout the West Coast, even spending some time in my district in Modesto, California.

Sonia and I were lucky enough to witness John at his happiest on his ranch in Sedona, working the grill, surrounded by family, to see the joy in the man's face just flipping shrimp and burgers and being around family in a very serene, beautiful spot.

John never lost sight of what truly mattered. He was willing to take on great risk in his political career, as he did in his military one, not because it was convenient or because it would benefit him, but because he knew it was the right thing to do.

John and I worked together to create a bipartisan fix for our broken immigration system. Together, we drafted the Uniting and Securing America Act, the USA Act, as he introduced it in the Senate, one that would provide a compromise for children who were brought here through no fault of their own and deserve an opportunity in this great country.

He and I had sat down initially in 2010 when I was first elected to Congress to talk about my idea on the ENLIST Act and talk about how you could show the ultimate act of patriotism and allow these kids in our high schools to be able to serve in the military. Together, we made sure our country had a serious discussion about real immigration reform for the first time in over 20 years.

Here in the U.S. House of Representatives and across the country, we must not lose sight of the vision John had for this Nation. His America was one defined by bipartisanship, optimism, and hope, looking forward to a brighter tomorrow where our Nation can come together as one; and I, too, believe in that vision.

I will be forever grateful to John for making me part of his incredible journey, and I pray that the example he set will serve as an inspiration for this Congress, for our Nation, and for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HILL very much for yielding to me tonight and for honoring our great friend.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from California. I appreciate his personal testimony about John's service and his friendship. I thank him again for his service to our country, not only in the people's House, but in the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my friend from Memphis, my neighbor from across the Mississippi River, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), a Representative from Memphis who serves on the Committee on Ethics, where he is a ranking member. I am proud to have his contributions tonight in tribute and memory to our former colleague, Senator McCain.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HILL for scheduling this Special Order. It is most appropriate that we meet here and we talk about John McCain, whose elected political career started in this House with two terms in the House of Representatives.

I spent most of my life as an elected legislator, 39 years, and I value my service. I think highly of people who take the oath of office and support it and make people think that government is an honorable profession and encourage younger generations to get involved because they set good examples.

John McCain was one of those people who set a good example for American citizens to think well of their government, to think well of their leaders, and to desire to serve in public office.

John McCain was a person I only had a few opportunities to interact with, and each of those opportunities are ones I will never forget. He was as nice and kind as he could be.

But I knew him from his career. We didn't always agree. He was a conservative and a Republican. But when he was wrong, he learned and he changed, and that is a great sign of a human being, to be able to continually evolve and become a better human being.

When he was running for President, he wasn't able, in South Carolina, in 2000, to come out against the Confederate flag, but he later knew it was wrong, came out against it and admitted his mistake.

He learned about campaign finance and worked with Russ Feingold on campaign finance reform, and on that, he was a maverick.

And he was a maverick on climate change. He recognized science and the need to preserve our planet.

He recognized the need to have reasonable and good immigration laws to not only protect our borders, but to give others an opportunity to come to this country and continue to make our country greater, because what we are is a country of immigrants that has benefited from the brainpower and hard work of immigrants who have sought a better home for themselves and their families.

John McCain was courageous as a military leader in Vietnam when he

was in prison, but he was courageous as a politician. When he stood up to the lady that condemned Barack Obama and was trying to throw scurrilous remarks about Barack Obama—in her mind they were scurrilous—John McCain, the candidate, could have just gone on and let it pass and moved to the next subject, but he didn't because he had character and he had a soul. And he stopped and he told the lady: "No. You are wrong. Barack Obama is a good man. He is a good family man." And he spoke well of his opponent, something that we have not seen in recent Presidential elections, a Presidential candidate who rose above the fight and realized that Barack Obama and he were both Americans and on the same team even though he wanted to be President rather than Barack Obama.

There is so much that John McCain did. And when he came and did that famous thumbs-down on the ACA—yes, I was for the ACA, so I liked that a lot. I don't know if he did that because of the fact that the Senate wasn't following their rules and regular order, which was a good reason not to be for it, or if it was because he had recently found out that he had brain cancer and was undergoing a horrific health experience that he did face with great courage, but he saw that he had had the best medical treatment available, and I suspect he had to think about Americans who needed health insurance if they came into the same situation that he had experienced.

That showed he had empathy and he could grow and vote in a way as a human being and not just as a party person, because of others who suffer from health afflictions.

I watched every minute of the services in Phoenix, here in Washington, and was inspired—inspired—by Meghan McCain and her remarks and the two Presidents who were his opponents who spoke so well of him, and others.

□ 1845

I am sorry I couldn't attend those services on Saturday. I will be in Annapolis, Maryland, and I will visit his grave and pay my respects in person. He was a great American, and he was courageous. We are lucky he came our way.

Fair winds and following seas, John McCain.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Tennessee for his remarks about our friend John McCain.

Now, I would like to ask a colleague of his from Arizona, my friend, who we served on the House Financial Services Committee together, DAVE SCHWEIKERT, who represents Phoenix and Scottsdale and currently serves on the House Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Representative SCHWEIKERT and thank him for being with us tonight.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HILL for doing this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to give you, actually, a slightly different recollection, because I am one of those who, over the years, since almost 1982, had time around John McCain.

I want to start with the fact that I have had the pleasure of having John McCain step in when I was running for office and endorse me and help me and do things. And I have had the pleasure of having John McCain step into one of my races to oppose me and work against me.

It was always a really interesting experience, because one of the reasons I have never held hostility, and, actually, always really appreciated him, it is something that rarely happens around this body. Someone fusses at you and a couple of hours later calls you and says: Hey, I thought about that. We need to talk it through. I think there is a way we can fix it. Hey, I didn't mean that.

To have a U.S. Senator sometimes being frustrated with what you were doing, and then a couple of hours later call you and say: Hey, I am sorry. I was probably a little aggressive on that. I understand. Have you thought about doing it this way?

This place never says sorry. This place never sort of has that type of passion. And you heard over and over in the memorials in Phoenix and here at the Capitol discussions of people who were very close with Senator McCain, this sort of discussion of how human he was, how passionate he was.

I want to make the argument of someone who knew Senator McCain most of his life and interacted with him in and out throughout that life. It is that humanity, that ability to at one moment put a finger in my chest and fuss at me, and an hour later call me and say: David, how can I help you? I want to help you get something done. Can I help you get this done if you do it this way?

That humanity, that passion, is something that desperately is missing around here. We have all become so careful in everything we say and everything we do, because there is always the next moment we are going to get beaten up by someone out in the community, or the press, or those things.

Imagine this body if we all were like Senator McCain, where you just sort of let your passion fly. If you went a little too far, you said you were sorry. If it was something worth fighting for, you stood up and you engaged in it. And then, a few minutes later, you went out and had a hamburger with the very people you were debating.

Some of that is really missing around here, because we are so far in our camps. I am not sure the public completely understands the power, whether it be on the Democratic side or the Republican side, of when the cameras go off, when the reporters aren't around, when we are walking through the hallways, when we are in the elevator. There is this great humanity around here.

I think that humanity was exemplified by my former senior Senator, John McCain.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Arizona. I thank him for his personal stories tonight and his tribute to our former friend from Arizona.

It is a pleasure for me to ask my friend from Fresno, California, Representative JIM COSTA, to share some thoughts on the life of John McCain.

Mr. COSTA serves on the Agriculture Committee and Natural Resources Committee, and we are grateful for him being with us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for giving me this opportunity to pay my tribute to Senator John McCain.

John McCain was clearly an American hero. His love and patriotism for our country knew no bounds. I first met Senator McCain in 2006 when we were on a congressional trip to Antarctica. We spent 6 days together, exploring the science and the efforts that were going on with NASA and with our Defense Department and American universities that were doing valuable research.

I got to witness firsthand his self-deprecating sense of humor. Like he did with many Members and people with whom he came into contact, he gave me counsel. During those days we spent together he said: Hey, kid, if you really want to learn how to do this right—well, first of all, I liked the fact that he called me kid—you ought to listen carefully. Too many people around here don't spend enough time listening.

For me, and for so many other Members and people professionally that Senator McCain came into contact with, he was a role model on how we should conduct ourselves, not only as Representatives, but also as people who want to solve problems. He, clearly, I think, set the bar quite high on how we develop bipartisan compromises.

I gave a speech here last year about what has happened to the art of the political compromise. Has it become a lost art? Well, Senator John McCain had fine-tuned his skills, his efforts to reach across the aisle, to figure out ways in which you could bring people together to find that art of the political compromise.

So his greatness, really, is one that reflects the true values of Americans. For all of us, I think he instilled the nature of—as we know in our country, historically, there is the politics of hope and there is the politics of hate. Many individuals have been successful at practicing both types of politics in their careers.

But Senator McCain's success was the politics of hope, the politics of love, love of country and love of his fellow Americans. It carried him through the trials and difficulties that life brings one's way, both in his service to

his country in the United States Navy and as a prisoner of war.

When he had the opportunity because of his status to leave the Hanoi Hilton early, he made it very clear he would not until every American prisoner of war left, and he suffered great torture as a result of that.

The lessons in life that Senator John McCain learned were lessons that he tried to teach to all of us in his conduct as a public servant, in which he put public service among the highest levels of contribution that one can make to their country.

So not only was he a role model for all of us, for Americans, but throughout the world. When we traveled in the Middle East, in Europe, my Congressman colleague, Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART, and I, who worked closely with our European colleagues, John McCain was sought after for advice, for understanding the body politic, what was happening in America, and how we could better work together with our European allies, and the values that we hold most dear, the values of human rights, the values of freedom of speech, the values of ensuring that we protect our democratic institutions.

Senator John McCain really reflected the best that America has to offer, which is why he was so well respected around the world. When you went to countries in which you had autocrats and dictators and you had issues of human rights, he was always sought after by those who were oppressed, because there was, clearly, a sense of empathy that they understood that he had for them.

So as I close, let me say that the tributes that we pay to him are small in comparison to what he gave to our country. The book that President John F. Kennedy wrote, "Profiles in Courage," if there were to be a second book in the 21st century, clearly, Senator John McCain would be one of those individuals who, throughout his career, exemplified what it means to have profiles in courage in his conduct, in his daily life, in the practice of the politics that he led through example, which are lessons for all of us to learn.

Senator John McCain, a grateful Nation can never, ever say thank you enough for all that you did and all that you gave. God bless you.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from California for his personal memories and tribute to Senator McCain.

It is a pleasure now for me to yield to my friend from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

Senator McCain, throughout his life, was such a great voice for our Bill of Rights, for liberty across the world, for the fight against communism during the Cold War, and for the fight for trade and leadership by the American people and our great country around the world.

I think the same of my friend, MARIO DIAZ-BALART from Florida, who with his friend JIM COSTA helps lead our par-

liamentary dialogue between the Transatlantic Economic Council in the EU and the United States.

I thank my friend, also a member of the Ways and Means Committee, for coming tonight and sharing his thoughts on Senator McCain.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HILL for allowing us, those of us who knew, worked with, admired John McCain, to have this moment, to have this time to honor and to remember and to, frankly, speak about someone who all of us admired so much.

Senator John McCain was, as you have heard from everyone and from all of us who knew him and who had contact with him, he was a patriot and he was a great American hero. I am profoundly blessed to count this man as both a trusted colleague and a loyal friend.

We have heard so many things about him today, tonight, because, again, of this wonderful moment that Mr. HILL has done for us here tonight, allowed us to do tonight.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Senator John McCain was an extraordinarily brave and noble man—a hero a dedicated husband, father, fighter pilot, and an amazing lawmaker. He endured and overcame unspeakable horrors as a POW, and as a lawmaker never ceased working for members of our armed forces and veterans. And on matters of principle and conviction, Senator McCain was fiercely independent, always willing—even eager—to bend into the wind and not with it.

John McCain and I were colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee when he was in the House. In fact we sat next to each other, and so I got to know him, and valued his intelligence and expertise. Then-Congressman McCain and I were very much in sync on supporting the administration's vigorous opposition to communism, rebuilding of the U.S. military, and its robust internationalism, as well as the re-emergence of a principled commitment to human rights and defense of democracy as core principles of U.S. foreign policy.

He vigorously defended the downtrodden, the underdog, the forgotten and disenfranchised, including the unborn. Already in these years on our committee, his willingness to do the right thing regardless of partisanship was a blessing to this country.

My wife Marie and I will always cherish and deeply respect the incomparable Senator John McCain. Marie joined me and thousands of others at the National Cathedral last Saturday to say goodbye to this great patriot and American hero. All the tributes were extraordinarily moving, including those by Meghan McCain, and Presidents Bush and Obama.

Our nation is deeply grateful for the sacrifice and service of John McCain, and our hearts and prayers are with Cindy, and with his entire family.

HONORING JOHN MCCAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for 30 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, one thing that some of you may not know about John McCain's time at the Hanoi Hilton was that he spoke of a Castro regime thug and his Cuban underling. They were sent to Vietnam to torture American POWs, to torture John McCain's friends. He had hoped to one day identify those barbaric individuals and bring them to justice.

Sadly, John did not see that egregious injustice, along with so many perpetuated by the Castro regime, resolved in his lifetime.

John witnessed firsthand the evil of communism, along with the tyranny and the inhumanity that it breeds. A tyrant capable of such brutal oppression of his own people could also be responsible for unspeakable atrocities to those who would stand up to the tyranny.

Perhaps that experience, Mr. Speaker, personally motivated John McCain's passionate advocacy for freedom and human dignity, as well as his untiring outreach to those languishing under tyranny anywhere in the world, as Mr. COSTA mentioned just a little while ago.

He was a fitting chairman of the International Republican Institute's board since 1993, an organization whose mission is to promote freedom and civil society and democracy to some of the world's most repressive environments. That mission aligned perfectly with Senator McCain.

So, yes, although I am deeply saddened by a loss of such magnitude, I will tell you that I am encouraged by the knowledge that his example will continue to inspire and educate for many, many generations to come.

There will never be another one like John McCain and we are all fortunate to have had the benefit of his service to our Nation.

Mr. HILL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time to thank my colleagues for coming to the House floor to this hallowed Chamber of the people's House and paying tribute to a distinguished Member of this House, a distinguished United States Senator, and someone who epitomizes the best of American character.

We were all inspired by the stories shared tonight, particularly I think by the touching tribute of a colleague in the Hanoi Hilton, SAM JOHNSON of Texas. I will remember that time for the rest of my days.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me just say that as John McCain communicated with SAM JOHNSON in the Hanoi Hilton, I say we salute this fine sailor and say God bless you.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank Mr. HILL for bringing us together and for allowing us to remember and to honor a great American hero.

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