

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTES TO FORMER REP. RON
DELLUMS BY HIS COLLEAGUES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, on Friday, May 10, 2019, the family, friends, and former colleagues of the late Rep. Ron Dellums of California paid tribute to him at a memorial service here in Washington. Several of us who served with him in this House delivered eulogies praising Rep. Dellums for his decency, his strength of character, his leadership, his dedication to the men and women who serve in our military, and the respect he earned from his fellow legislators on both sides of the aisle.

I want to take this opportunity to include in the RECORD the remarks I offered along with the kind words spoken by Rep. BARBARA LEE, Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS, and Del. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON. Majority Whip JAMES CLYBURN also spoke, although unfortunately there is no transcript of his remarks. I can attest, however, to his moving words.

Below I share with the rest of our colleagues my remarks in praise of our friend, the late Rep. Dellums, joined by the statements of others made in tribute to him:

Mr. Hoyer: Rev. Lamar and Father Conroy, thank you for your words of peace and reflection. Cynthia, Erik, Piper, Brandon, and Pam, thank you for allowing us to join you in mourning Ron and participating in this service today. To his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, let me say “thank you” for the love you gave him, because we all saw the joy it brought him.

I had the great honor to serve in congress with Ron Dellums for seventeen years. He was a friend, a teacher, an example, a hero. He was always a gentleman. He was kind, gracious, strong, and historic. Respected and admired by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

As Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Ron Dellums was a man who knew the purpose of arms. He understood that instruments of war could be guarantors of peace. And he knew that the greatest force was that of the moral being, the spirit of good will and powerful words used to speak truth.

When he saw the injustice of apartheid in South Africa, Ron fought with every fiber to arm Congress with truth and make our country an instrument of moral clarity.

When he and other African-American Members saw an opportunity to raise issues that were being ignored in Washington and lift up voices that weren't being heard, Ron helped create the Congressional Black Caucus that now serves as the conscience of the Congress.

As city councilman, he drew on his own family's experiences to see the clarity of his cause championing workers and their families, the downtrodden, the forgotten, and the dispossessed.

The people of Oakland elected Ron eleven times to congress and then made him their mayor—because they saw in him the kind of moral leader unafraid to stand up for prin-

ciples and determined to do right by those who entrusted him with high office. They knew he would always speak up for them and speak out for the causes he knew to be just.

Ron Dellums understood that the power of words speaking truth—on the Floor of the House or in Committee or in the City Council chamber or from the mayor's desk—could be mightier than any armament. He was a man who chose his words carefully and wielded them forcefully.

President John F. Kennedy said of Winston Churchill that he “marshalled the English language and sent it into battle.” So too did Ron. And we will remember him always for speaking truth, speaking justice, speaking goodness, and speaking for those who needed a voice.

He was regal in bearing. He was real in his relationships—warm and empathetic to all.

He was courageous in battle. Principled in his policies. Moral in vision. Worthy of leading. Courteous in demeanor. Clear in his goals. Loyal to his country, colleagues, and conscience. Deserving of our love and respect. A Teddy-Roosevelt “doer of great deeds.” And, most assuredly, a man to be admired, emulated, followed, and—as we do today, remembered.

Ron was our friend and our exemplar. We were honored and blessed to be a part of his life.

Ron: you were always faithful, Marine. You were “Semper Fi.”

Ms. Lee of California: To our officiant, Rev. William H. Lamar IV, Father Conroy, Reverend Skinner, and to all members of the clergy.

First, let me offer my deepest condolences to Cynthia, Brandy, Rachel, and Ron's entire family and extended family and Ron's staff who have and continue to experience a deep sense of grief, yet hope that through the celebration of Ron's life, we all can join together and keep his legacy alive through our work and love for each other.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge my colleagues; members here; Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Majority Whip James Clyburn, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Congressman Hank Johnson, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Congressman Gregory Meeks, and Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee. Members, please stand.

Our former congressional colleagues.

And Ron's friends and constituents, and all program participants.

I thank you for being here today as we celebrate the life of a man who was a statesman, a gentleman, and an authentic representative of the people. Also, Ron was my mentor and my friend.

I looked up to him, like we all did, as a warrior, and a fighter.

Ron never gave up his principles and integrity, even though he was brilliant, a deep thinker, a philosopher, and a man who—as he would say—had a memory like an elephant. He was a psychiatric social worker who understood human behavior in its totality and a proud former marine who demonstrated that peace is patriotic.

He was a comedian too.

He was so funny—some of you may remember his Richard Pryor skit—Sandre, and I were with Ron when he played the role of Richard Pryor at Lou Gossett's house.

What an evening—Ron became Richard Pryor, and Richard Pryor became Ron.

Ron never let the weight of the world destroy his sense of humor and fun-loving side with his friends and family.

I first met Ron as a college student in the early 1970s. I was going to school, raising my two little boys while on public assistance and developing my political consciousness.

I wanted to be an Intern in Ron's Washington office once I was in graduate school at UC Berkeley. I went to Ron's District Director, our beloved, the late Don Hopkins who Ron relied on and loved deeply, with this request.

Don placed me in Ron's DC Office during the Watergate hearings in the summer of 1974. I learned a lot that summer, saw how Ron, as a progressive African American man from Berkeley and Oakland, navigated his work as a legislator. Even though—as he always reminded us—they painted him as a commie pinko from Berkeley and he was on Spiro Agnew's hate list—Ron wore this as a badge of honor. He knew he came to Congress as an Anti-war, peace candidate, who knew the priorities of our country were wrong and destroying people's lives here at home & abroad.

In 1975, I came to Washington, D.C. to work on Ron's staff. In those days, it was rare for a woman—let alone a black woman—to run a congressional office. But Ron was proud to call himself a “feminist” and lived his life by the same progressive values he espoused on the House floor.

As an ardent anti-war activist, he also sought a seat on the Armed Services Committee to advocate for alternatives to military intervention.

Years later, Ron went on to make history as the first African American to chair the Armed Services Committee—and he used that position to advocate for more just and humane military policies. I travelled with Ron, along with his staff throughout the world. Heads of State wanted his advice and knew he was a global leader.

I remember him telling his staff “Let your conscience be your guide. If you are right—just to stand on that street corner alone because sooner or later everyone must walk right to you.” I'd like to ask Ron's staff—Congressional and Mayoral—to stand. Ron loved his staff. They are all true public servants who gave their all to our community, the country, and the world.

Ron demonstrated this repeatedly—he introduced the South African sanctions legislation 13 times.

It was the first override of a presidential policy veto in the 20th century and finally put the United States on the right side of history.

I will always remember Ron calling me after I was elected to Congress to come to his beautiful home for dinner. Yes—he also was a great cook.

Well, we sat at his kitchen table and asked me to think about introducing an AIDS martial plan for Africa given the devastating HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. His idea led to my legislation establishing the global fund and PEPFAR which has saved millions of lives. He worked so hard to help me get these bills passed and the world owes him a debt of gratitude.

Ron was my boss, mentor, and yet, like the brother I never had. He gave me personal advice and support as a single Mom raising two boys.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

When my son Craig graduated from Brent Elementary School, in the sixth grade here in Washington, DC, he asked Ron to be the graduation speaker. Ron left Capitol Hill, spoke at the graduation, took pictures and spent time with the kids afterward. Mind you, they were young children. They didn't have any political clout and couldn't vote.

Ron did this out of the goodness of his heart because he loved children and cared about their future.

My sons Craig and Tony were childhood friends with Ron's kids Brandy, Eric, & Piper, and to this day they remain close friends.

Also, as a single woman in Washington, DC, Ron counseled me on who—and who not to date.

He saved me from a lot of trouble and heartbreaks.

We can't forget that Ron was nominated for President in the mid-70's, in Cincinnati, Ohio, but he declined the nomination for the Office of the President at the National Black Political Convention. Then there was an effort to draft him to run for president, in New York,—I believe—in 1980.

Of course, he was conflicted—so was the staff. We just knew he could win—but Ron decided he wanted to continue serving his constituents because he wanted to help them achieve their dreams and aspirations.

And, as the father of Coalition politics, which began in the East Bay, his leadership was needed to continue to build coalitions for peace and justice around the country.

When Ron called me and told me of his illness, I was devastated. In his generous manner, he said he didn't want to worry me and was gentle and cautious in the way he told me—preparing me for that sad day. But he gave me time to be with him each week during his last month. Thank you, Cynthia.

I spent my birthday last year—the evening of July 16 after a legislative session—with Ron and his family. He was in rare form, telling stories, being the comedian that he was, toasting our friendship and singing Happy Birthday to me. He was frail, in pain, but demonstrated a sense of hope and courage—even as he knew he would meet his maker soon.

After my next visit, which would be the last, he talked about family and friends—told me some of his secrets, and I told him some of mine—encouraged me to keep fighting the good fight and imparted more pearls of wisdom.

As I was about to leave, I was reluctant to hug him, knowing he was in pain. He reared up in the bed and called me to him in his playful way and gave me a big hug with tears in his eyes.

As a brilliant, powerful, elected official, a fighter, and a physical fitness champion, Ron was also kind, gentle, and a humanitarian who lived his life with dignity and respect.

He left this earth demonstrating that same sense of dignity and courage.

He did it his way.

Ron passed me a blue baton when we announced in 1998 that I would run for his seat upon his retirement.

The baton, which I look at often, reminds me that all of us must carry that baton that Ron gave us and run our mile in this marathon for justice, for peace, and unity. So, when we can pass our batons to the next generation, we know, as Ron said frequently—we have secured their future. In honor of the great legacy Ron has left, I'll be introducing the Ronald V. Dellums Memorial Fellowship For Women Of Color In Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math, and National Security Act. And we will get it passed.

Finally, let me say during moments like this, as a person, of faith, I go to the scriptures often for inspiration and hope.

2nd Timothy Chapter 4, verse 7 says: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith."

Ron, rest in peace, rest in power, know that we got your back.

Ms. Waters: By all standards, our brother, Ron Dellums, was a truly exceptional human being who consistently gave of himself to his loved ones, his community, his nation, and the entire world.

Reverend King wrote "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy. In dangerous valleys and hazardous pathways, he will lift some bruised and beaten brother to a higher and more noble life."

In both his public and personal capacities, Ron embodied this standard of character, purpose, selflessness, and service.

As an elected official, Ron was a bold pioneer, a true leader, and a stalwart advocate for peace in the U.S. and globally. Fueled by his extraordinary acumen and legendary eloquence, he built a stellar track record of standing up for principle, righting the wrongs of inequality, and empowering the powerless.

Ron initiated his career in Congress as a crusader for peace, taking on the establishment by opposing the Vietnam War. He pressured Nixon to end the U.S. involvement, and exposed war crimes in Vietnam, earning him a place on Nixon's enemies list, of which he was proud to be a member.

Ron was a pioneer in the campaign to end apartheid in South Africa, proposing sanctions as far back as 1972. He was fiercely dedicated to opening hearts and minds in Congress to the plight of the oppressed South African majority. Together we fought apartheid, with my bill divesting California's pension fund investments, and Ron's bill divesting U.S. companies' assets and applying sanctions against the repressive regime, becoming law just days apart, in Ron's case by overriding the president's veto.

Ron called out racial discrimination in the military and advanced diversity and inclusion through innovations that opened doors of opportunity to people who had been excluded. He championed the minority set-aside program for Defense Department contracts, enabling businesses owned by African Americans, Latinos, and other minorities to compete for a share of the DoD's large procurement budget.

Ron consistently advocated for peace, opposing expensive, excessive weapons such as the B-2 stealth bomber, and the MX and Pershing II missiles. He called for funds for those weapons to be shifted to cities, communities, education, and housing. He opposed military intervention in Grenada, Zaire, Burundi, Sudan, Angola, Liberia, and elsewhere, and was an outspoken critic of the Persian Gulf War.

Ron's illustrious leadership was on display as chairman of the Armed Services Committee. He maintained his commitment to peaceful policy positions while allowing the committee to work its will on the DoD's authorization and policies that he opposed. Ron often voted against his committee's legislation.

Ron's principled passion was epitomized by his speech from the well of the House supporting the Civil Rights Act of 1990. In that August 2, 1990 speech, which is still emblazoned on the minds of many, Ron implored his colleagues to support the bill, declaring "this is throw-down time. This is the bottom line. This is integrity. There is no substitute to freedom and human dignity . . . there is no substitute for justice."

Ron's nature was just as resplendent outside the public arena. To his friends and all who sought his counsel, he was a trusted

confidant, a source of strength, a bastion of wisdom, and a compatriot in our shared goals and dreams. His personal warmth, thoughtfulness, and empathy were as much a part of his essence as passion for peace. When facing conflict, he remained dignified. When confronting challenges, he remained optimistic. When engaging opponents, he remained congenial. Even his adversaries in Congress appreciated him for being fair, responsive, thoughtful, and honorable.

I am grateful that I had the chance to thank Ron for what he accomplished, represented, and taught us. Shortly after he left Congress, we celebrated him at the Black Women's Forum in LA, not just because of what he did for his district and for the people of mine, but for all 435 districts. We enveloped him in so much appreciation and praise that day—every bit well-earned and well-deserved—that the eloquent orator was rendered speechless, albeit only briefly.

To me, Ron was far more than a colleague, compatriot, teammate, confidante, counselor, and political soul mate, although he was all that. To me, Ron was a true friend, a dear and trusted friend, a brother, and I loved him very much.

Ron Dellums will always be remembered as the true article; a man of conscience, dignity, and grace; a leader with the rare blend of sincere humility and sublime intellect; the peoples' patriot who waged peace at every opportunity; and a man who is admired and loved by more people, in more corners of the country and the world, than he could have imagined.

Ms. Norton: We celebrate our colleague and friend Ronald Dellums at a time of historic polarization in Congress. It is a good time to remember the peace advocate who chaired the Armed Services Committee with such equanimity that he won the respect, even the friendship, of those who opposed every cause, of the many into which Ron poured his considerable talent.

I first came to admire Ron even before being elected to Congress from my work in the Free South Africa anti-apartheid movement. For 14 years, Ron did not relent until he freed his landmark bill for South Africa divestment, overcoming a presidential veto.

By the time I was elected to Congress, Ron had already been chair of the District of Columbia Committee for more than a decade. That committee is long gone, and nothing would have pleased Chairman Dellums more than its demise. But when freedom-loving Ron Dellums first came to Congress, he knew that if there had to be such a Committee, he wanted a seat on it. Just as Ron sought peace by serving on the Armed Service Committee, he sought to free D.C. from Congressional control by serving on the D.C. Committee.

He joined the Committee during his very first term in Congress. Upon becoming chair of the D.C. Committee, Ron framed his service as "an advocate, not an overseer of District affairs." No sooner had Ron gotten to Congress in 1975, in his very 1st term, long before I even thought about becoming a Member, he introduced the 1st D.C. statehood bill.

Ron would relish our progress today as we close in on enough votes for the D.C. statehood bill to pass in the House this term. We expect a vote soon in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee to send the bill to the House Floor. When that committee vote occurs, we will not be able to claim we are breaking new or historic ground. In 1987, more than 30 years ago Chairman Ron Dellums proclaimed "There should be no colonies in a democracy" and led the District Committee in a vote for statehood for the District of Columbia that passed in his Committee.

The American citizens who live in the nation's capital will forever remember Ron Dellums, prescient warrior for equality and freedom—and well ahead of his time—a leader for statehood for the District of Columbia.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT OF 2019

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, today, with my colleague, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, I rise to introduce the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act. I also welcome the companion version of this bill introduced today in the U.S. Senate by Senator HIRONO of Hawai'i and Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska.

This bipartisan, bicameral legislation would exempt immigrant visa applications of children of Filipino World War II veterans from existing caps and allow them to gain green cards on processing and approval of their applications, which are still carefully vetted in line with existing immigration standards. This bill will not only assist these veterans in their senior years but also provide a fitting recognition of their critical service in the War.

In 1941, more than 250,000 Filipino soldiers responded to President Roosevelt's call-to-arms in the Philippines and elsewhere and fought for the U.S. during World War II. Many of these brave individuals returned from the War only to be denied many of the benefits promised for their service, and they have spent decades fighting recognition of their service. Many such veterans became proud U.S. citizens, though today there are only a few thousand Filipino veterans still alive and living in the U.S.

In October 2017, Congress finally awarded the Filipino veterans of World War II the Congressional Gold Medal to honor their service to our country, but we must do more as we promised. These Filipino American veterans long sought to gain entry and citizenship for their children, yet our immigrant visa backlog has forced family members to wait up to decades and thus effectively prevented these aging veterans from reuniting with their families.

In 2016, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services created the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program, a temporary administrative fix that allows these veterans to request parole for their children or siblings. Under this policy, they can live in the U.S. pending processing of their permanent resident applications, which may still take years if not decades. However, as these veterans near the end of their lives, they deserve the certainty of a non-revocable permanent solution. This bill would grant them that.

In this Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and in further recognition of the selfless service and contributions of Filipino veterans of World War II to our country, I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting and passing this bill.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JIMMIE "JW" ALESHIRE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jimmie "JW" Aleshire, age 73, who passed away on Thursday, November 1, 2018.

Jimmie was a proud veteran, serving his country in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Infantry. He was also a devout man of faith and was a member of St. Mary's Church in Mineral Ridge, Ohio. Prior to retirement in 2011, Jimmie worked as a steel worker for RMI for 38 years, and was a former 6S coordinator and continuous improvement facilitator at RTI International Metals, Inc.

Jimmie was also a fighter in more ways than one. He was a 36-year melanoma cancer survivor, volunteered his time with the Niles' Relay for Life, and served on the Board of Directors of Yellow Brick Place. He was also a great union man, a part of Local No. 2155, and served on school committees for both St. Rose and John F. Kennedy Warren Schools.

A family man, Jimmie was a beloved grandfather and coach. He was a track coach at St. Rose and a softball coach for JFK and Seaborn Elementary, while being instrumental in developing the ball fields at JFK Warren.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Joyce (Veltre) Aleshire, whom he married October 22, 1966; his children, Alise (Jason) Kent of Warren, Christian M. Aleshire of Alliance, and Justin (Crystal) Aleshire of Mineral Ridge; his grandchildren, Isabella and Michael Kent, Ryan, Noah, and Lucas Aleshire; his granddog, Furious, and many nieces.

Jimmie was a great friend of mine and was a one of my earliest supporters. He knew better than most the power of collective action to improve the lives of working-class people. Jimmie will be missed.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF CAVEY'S

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Cavey's a restaurant located in Manchester, Connecticut.

Cavey's has been a mainstay on Connecticut's restaurant scene since it opened in 1933, during the Great Depression.

For 85 years the Cavagnaro family has created a welcoming environment with delicious food and great friendship.

As a frequent visitor of Cavey's, Steve Cavagnaro, the current owner and chef, and his wife Kate, have become dear friends. His grandmother, Florence, originally opened the restaurant, and Steve has continued to serve her famous ravioli.

Over the years, the Cavagnaro family has created a Manchester institution, where I met a cast of characters, starting with Steve's father, Stephen Cavagnaro Senior, and ranging from people like Raymond F. "Sonny"

Damato, Jack DeQuatro, Bill and Steve Thornton, Neil and Elizabeth Ellis, Chris Powell, and Bob Marcotte, who coined the phrase, and preferred to be called a social chemist, not a bartender.

Steve is the quintessential gentleman, erudite and gracious. His humility underscores the fact he is simplistically, as he's said, not a man of many words, but he speaks the language of good food and wine.

To say Cavey's will be missed after it closes on May 24th, is an understatement. We wish Steve, Kate, and the entire Cavey's family well wishes as they start this new chapter and thank them for being the hearth where the community could gather and know there was always good food, good wine, and good fellowship.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOEL JEAN COURREGES, SR.

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Joel Jean Courreges, Sr., a decorated veteran and Kitsap County community member, who passed away on May 10, 2019.

Joel was born in France on March 15, 1950. He attended Roosevelt High School in Seattle and immediately enlisted in the Marines after graduation. Through his decorated career of military service, Joel attained the rank of Sergeant and served two tours as a mortarman in Phu Bai and Danang, where he was wounded. Returning home from Vietnam, he married Kandace K. Hove and had two children, Joel Jr. and Danielle. In 1973, he met his current wife, Carol, and they were married, expanding his family to include Deanna and Tami.

After his time in the military, Joel continued to seek ways to serve his community and contribute to its growth and vitality. He spent thirty-six years as a truck operator before retiring in 2006. Not long after his retirement, Joel became a service officer for the Bremerton chapter of Disabled American Veterans, eventually taking on the role of Commander.

Through his work with Disabled American Veterans, Joel served his community diligently by outreaching, connecting, and supporting veterans across Kitsap County. His work earned praise and numerous accolades during his tenure, including a Golden Tennis Shoe award from Senator PATTY MURRAY.

In addition to his work with Disabled American Veterans, Joel also served on the Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board, helping shape the County's efforts in supporting its many veterans who call our region home.

Madam Speaker, Joel set an example for all of us who strive to serve and better our communities. Even in the face of increasing health hardship, Joel maintained a steadfast commitment to working on behalf of veterans and we are better off because of his great work.

I am honored to recognize Joel Jean Courreges, Sr.'s great life and legacy of service and send my very best to his family, friends, and the staff of the Bremerton chapter of Disabled American Veterans.