

STEM, teachers by writing Next Generation Science Standards curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, I am incredibly thankful for the passion that Beth shared with her students, instilling in them an appetite for learning that they will carry for the rest of their lives.

Congratulations to Ms. Brown on receiving the Presidential award.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Elizabeth Brown for her hard work, and I thank all the teachers across southern York and Lancaster Counties who do great work educating our students every day.

RECOGNIZING DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to dyslexia, a learning disability that affects as many as one in five people.

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month, which is why I will be introducing a resolution this week calling on Congress to formally recognize it.

Those who have dyslexia struggle with language skills, making reading significantly more difficult.

While this is a serious problem, it is a solvable one. If educators identify dyslexia early on and teach children proper techniques, students can use these tools to succeed. Reading is foundational to education, as we first learn to read and then read to learn.

Dyslexia affects students equally regardless of intelligence, socioeconomic status, or gender. Many famous people, including Albert Einstein, Steve Jobs, and George Washington, had dyslexia. They were able to achieve incredible things despite their learning disabilities.

However, 74 percent of children who are poor readers in third grade remain poor readers by the time they reach ninth grade. This is why, as co-chair of the bipartisan House Dyslexia Caucus, I am working to increase awareness. I encourage my colleagues to join the House Dyslexia Caucus so we can ensure children with dyslexia have every opportunity to succeed.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, and I thank our CBC chair, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, for her leadership in organizing this effort.

For the next 60 minutes, we want to pay a special tribute to Congressman Elijah E. Cummings.

The Congressional Black Caucus, the entire country, and this institution

suffered a great loss. As a lifelong advocate for justice, equality, and the truth, Congressman Cummings was the true definition of a leader and public servant.

To many, Chairman Cummings was a friend and a mentor, but to the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Chairman Cummings was family.

Last week, Congress lost a fierce leader, a tireless champion of the people, and my friend, Chairman Elijah Cummings. It is a sad time for Congress, for Maryland, and, in fact, for the entire country.

□ 1945

For the next 60 minutes we will hear from members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other colleagues as we pay tribute to a great man.

Mr. Speaker, I yield, first and foremost, to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, a man of great honor and a giant within the House of Representatives.

Congressman Cummings was born in Baltimore on January 18, 1951. He was one of seven children of Robert and Ruth Cummings. Although his family struggled financially, they always found a way to help others in their community.

Representative Cummings and his family, like thousands of other African Americans, had to face the brutal experience of the Jim Crow period. When Representative Cummings was a child, at 11, he was attacked while trying to swim in the neighborhood swimming pool. Racist adults threw rocks and bottles that resulted in injuries but left him with a determination to study law and to become the fighter for social justice that characterized his life.

He would go on to receive his bachelor's degree in political science from Howard University, and, while at Howard, he served as student government president. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Howard University, he obtained his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Congressman Cummings practiced law in Baltimore, and, at the age of 31, he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates, where he served for 14 years and ascended to become the first African American speaker pro tempore.

In 1996, Congressman Cummings won a special election to Congress. He immediately demonstrated his leadership talent and won the respect of his colleagues.

In 2003, he was elected as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, where he served with distinction.

In 2011, he was elected by the Democratic Caucus as the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform; and, in January of this year, he became the chair of the committee.

At this difficult time in the history of our country, we were so fortunate to

have had Representative Cummings in the leadership of such an important and contentious committee. He fought passionately for the rights of children separated from their families; he fought for everyone to have healthcare and medications that are affordable; and he fought for everyone to have access and the right to vote.

Anyone who attended a committee hearing could feel his passion. Even if they disagreed with him, they knew his passion was based on his belief and a commitment to fight for justice. The respect he afforded his opponents demonstrated for everyone to see how to lead with integrity and humility.

Chairman Cummings once said: "I'm not trying to do anything extraordinary. I'm trying to do what the Constitution says I'm supposed to do."

Representative Cummings' passing is a loss to the entire Nation, especially at this moment in history where he provided for us all an example of true leadership—leadership for the people, not leadership for self-advancement. He provided an example for us all to emulate.

His memory will forever be in our hearts and his legacy is secured in history because, in spite of his word, he was, in fact, extraordinary.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for her timely remarks and for her leadership and compassion for our entire Congressional Black Caucus membership during this very difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the majority whip.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for leading this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman of our caucus for giving us somewhat of a resume of the life of Elijah Cummings.

Most people know that Elijah Cummings' roots were deep in South Carolina soil. I happen to represent the county in which his parents were born. They came north to Baltimore, seeking a better life for their children. They were sharecroppers in the county that gave birth to Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.

The interesting thing about the people of that community who formed the movement that spurred a national and, I dare say, international movement was the simplicity of their lives and their aspirations. The Brown case was not about integrating schools; it was about getting a schoolbus for their children.

The people who came together were people of modest means. The case got the name of Briggs v. Elliott. Harry Briggs was an ordinary man working at a filling station making \$23 a week; his wife, Eliza, making \$18 a week as a chambermaid in a motel. That is the community that Elijah Cummings' family left.

He came back to that community often, and we would talk about it: the

dreams and aspirations of his parents and what they instilled in him. They were both evangelicals.

Elijah took on the mantle of an evangelist. He didn't work to prepare people for the hereafter. He worked to prepare people for the here and now.

I have been approached by various media sources with the question: What is the legacy of ELIJAH CUMMINGS? It is a simple legacy that I hope all of us will remember.

First of all, it matters not where you come from. What really matters is how far you go.

He came to this body knowing full well that he was coming into a body where people stood on the shoulders of giants. He didn't set out to be a giant, but he became one. And we, today, are much better off because of ELIJAH CUMMINGS.

I often think about a long conversation Elijah and I had over near the wall. He told me, one day, about being placed in special education as a child. He told me what it was like when a teacher saw him and decided that the only thing special about Elijah Cummings was his inquisitiveness. He was inquisitive, a little bit too much for some people, and they thought, to get rid of him, they would put him in special education.

This teacher took him out of that class, and Elijah Cummings went on to graduate college Phi Beta Kappa, to finish law school, to become the first African American to head a position in the House of Delegates of Maryland, and to come here to this body and to chair a committee, a committee that he chaired with distinction and reverence.

We are going to miss Elijah Cummings. All of us in this body will stand upon his strong shoulders.

Thank you, Elijah. Thank you.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority whip for his heartfelt remarks and for sharing his personal reflections on his friendship and service with Chairman Cummings.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), a civil rights icon and a man whom I am very honored to serve with in this body each and every day.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a close, dear, and beloved friend, almost like a brother, Congressman Elijah Cummings.

This great man, this brother, spent 36 years in public service to his people, his home State, and to our country. He was a leader who loved this Nation, all of its people, and fought until his very last breath for those who had been left out and left behind.

He dedicated every single moment of his life to strengthening and preserving our Union. He spent every waking moment thinking of those who were hurting and suffering. He focused all of his energy into this Congress and the people we represent.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to know and to love him. It was an honor to

serve with him. It was a great honor to consider him my brother and my friend.

Sometimes people would confuse us and say: "Hello, Elijah," or, "Hello, JOHN LEWIS" to him, and we would joke about it. We would laugh about it.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the people in Maryland and people around our Nation and people around the world: We have lost a warrior. I don't think we will be so lucky or so blessed to see the likeness of this man again.

As a nation and as a people, we owe Chairman Cummings a debt of gratitude. There are no words to describe the loss of our brother, our friend, and our colleague who lived up to this great and powerful name. It hurts so deeply that all I can do is keep his wife, his family, and all who knew and loved him in my constant prayers.

Elijah, we hope to see you again one day. Blessed be your name.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, we as a body extend our sincerest condolences to Chairman Cummings' wife, Dr. Maya Rockeymoore; their children, grandchildren, friends, staff, and all those whom he positively impacted in his life and work.

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

□ 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding.

At times like these, my good friend who chaired the Oversight and Reform Committee, on which I also serve, was compelled to be a strong leader, but that is who Elijah was anyway.

Elijah Cummings was known for calling out his Republican colleagues on countless issues, from the Census to the treatment of children coming across the border.

Yet, Chairman Cummings always took a principled stand whenever he saw the strong against the weak. Elijah Cummings' strong sense of principle was reinforced by his commanding presence, booming voice, and convincing sense of rectitude.

Yet, the presence of the passing of Chairman Cummings drew widespread sympathy and comment from the very Republicans in this House he most opposed. It is Republicans who give the best witness to Chairman Cummings' resolute fairness. Even as he held the gavel, he always let his adversaries have their say. Afterward, of course, he took them all to the cleaners.

Tragically, we have lost Elijah Cummings when this House perhaps most needed his principled leadership.

Our Committee on Oversight and Reform, which he chaired, is one of the committees deeply involved in the impeachment inquiry. Almost every day, Republicans and Democrats are sitting in to hear testimony and ask questions of witnesses during this investigation stage of the impeachment inquiry.

Elijah Cummings' legendary evenhandedness will be most missed

and sought after by all who are looking for a role model and for best practices for the rare impeachment inquiry and, for that matter, hereafter.

Let us always remember our good friend, Elijah Cummings.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for sharing her remarks and reflections on his leadership.

He definitely had a presence as a dignified leader and chairman, and he personified what it really means to oversee his committee with civility and respect for each Member. I had the honor of serving on that committee during my first tenure in Congress, and I learned a lot and will continue to carry out that leadership.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Truly, this is the day that the Lord has made. In spite of the fact that our hearts are heavy, we must rejoice and be glad in it because we have the opportunity to celebrate the life of our longtime friend and our colleague, Congressman Elijah Cummings.

As you have heard, Elijah rose from modest beginnings to become one of the greatest public servants that our country has seen. Elijah always did what he believed was right, which earned him respect and friendship on both sides of the aisle. His courage, his passion, and his integrity were undeniable to anyone who crossed his path.

Elijah inspired us regularly as one of the greatest orators in this House. He came to my district in Georgia as a guest speaker, and when he finished, everyone was in awe. Elijah's powerful voice made everyone take notice, listen intently, and then act.

America has lost a fierce warrior who was committed to doing the right thing, regardless of politics. We will truly feel his absence in this House, where he spoke truth to power and passionately advocated for justice and equality for all.

My wife, Vivian, and I send our prayers and our deepest condolences to his wife, Maya, his children, and his family as we mourn this great man.

Winston Churchill once said: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Elijah Cummings gave so much to so many for so long. He made his life, but even greater, he made a life for his constituents and for countless others all across this Nation.

Truly, this world is a better place because of the life and legacy of Elijah Cummings.

To God, be the glory for our friend, our colleague, and the legacy of Elijah E. Cummings.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for again sharing his very heartfelt remarks.

This body tonight, it is very humbling to be here with each of the Members who have joined us, each one great in their own way.

As one of the new Members here in this body, it gives me great pride to be a part of the Congressional Black Caucus and to know that each and every Member has made such significant contributions, not just to their districts, but to the entire country.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The Word of the Lord says in Psalm 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

With that in mind, the people of the First Congressional District of Illinois have sent me here to extend their collective condolences to the family and friends of Elijah Eugene Cummings and to the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District of Maryland.

Elijah loved the Lord because the Lord first loved Elijah. How do I know this? I know this from the many times that we had discussions. Rarely in those discussions did we talk about anything other than the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how good the Lord has been to both Elijah and myself. I just stopped by the well of the U.S. House of Representatives this evening to tell somebody, to tell everybody, that the Lord is good and his mercy endures forever.

Our Nation shall surely miss the love, the compassion, the strength, the brilliance, the tireless dedication, and the amazing words of Elijah Eugene Cummings.

The Lord proclaims now to all who would hear his praise for Elijah and Elijah's work: Well done, my good and faithful servant. Well done.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman RUSH for his encouraging words, the Word that we know we needed, not just the day that we heard of the passing of Chairman Cummings, but the Word that continues to sustain us each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, one of the big five, as we call them here in the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the chorus of admirers of Elijah Cummings and to mourn the passing of our distinguished colleague.

Congressman Cummings served with passion for the rule of law, and always governed in a respectful manner, even when dealing with some of the most critical and controversial issues facing Congress today.

It is rightly noted that when Congressman Cummings spoke, he spoke with moral authority, frequently reminding us that "we are better than that."

He was an invaluable leader for civil rights, justice, and fundamental fairness. He believed in the promise of America and served as an example of it every single day. We are better off be-

cause of his leadership in Congress and the tremendous contributions he made over his life of service.

Mr. Speaker, I send my deepest condolences to Dr. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings, his three children, and all of his loved ones. I hope they will find comfort in knowing that so many people across the country are mourning their loss with them.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and chairman of the Education and Labor Committee.

I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, another great chairman who governs with a steady hand and another example of the wonderful leadership that we have in this body.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am happy to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Elijah Cummings.

We all have at least one Elijah Cummings story. Some of us have a lot more. But more importantly, it is how Elijah lived that we have to pay tribute to.

Elijah demonstrated every day not only that he loved the people of Baltimore, but he loved this great country. If we can just pattern our lives after Elijah Cummings' past, we will be fine.

To a great warrior, a great patriot, a great leader who, obviously, in a lot of our minds, was taken too short, we say God bless you. We understand that if we had anything to do with it, we would have kept you here. But it just wasn't in the plan.

So, departing, I say to you, as well as my colleagues: Elijah, we appreciate you. Your job here in this Congress speaks volumes. God bless you.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for coming to the floor and speaking on behalf of his experience and friendship with Chairman Cummings.

As the gentleman said, he really demonstrated a life worth living and an example, an embodiment, definitely for young people and young leaders of what they should do to exemplify a good role model.

I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, to Elijah's wonderful wife and my friend, and to his children and family, we have said over and over again how much we will miss him, but we realize how much you will miss him.

Elijah Cummings was my classmate. He came in during a special election, but we always viewed each other as classmates coming in the mid-1990s.

His spirit was so strong that he was able to provide his own internal strength and also to provide strength for others.

I think we knew about Elijah's parents more than anyone else. He talked about Robert and Ruth Cummings not

only as sharecroppers but as preachers, and he talked about how they poured into his life.

Elijah was a successful man though he started with a designation that he was slow in school. He was a Phi Beta Kappa, becoming Maryland's first African American speaker pro temp.

□ 2015

But what I know most about him is that Elijah would not want us to talk about all of those successes. He probably wouldn't even want us to talk about his being the powerful chairman of the Oversight and Reform Committee or talk about his work in criminal justice and ban the box that we worked together on, or even when he took a whole group of Members over to Baltimore when he first got elected because of the scourge of HIV/AIDS. He wanted us to see it; he wanted us to stand with him; and he wanted to show his community that he was going to fight on their behalf.

What I love most about Elijah was that he mentored people anywhere he could find them on the floor of the House. We joined each other in wanting to mentor to young interns, and every time the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation called him to speak to the interns—I remember a time when John, Elijah, and I spoke to the class, and Elijah lifted them beyond anyone's expression or belief.

Elijah Cummings gave his maiden speech, and I want to give his words when he first came to the United States Congress. When I saw these, I said how powerful and potent.

Elijah Cummings said:

I only have a minute,
60 seconds in it.

Forced upon me, I did not choose it,

But I know that I must use it.

Give account if I abuse it,

Suffer, if I lose it.

Only a tiny little minute,

But eternity is in it.

So, as I close my remarks, being reminded that Elijah would not want us to give his whole litany of success, I began to think of the speech of Dr. Martin Luther King on the night before his death, when he reminded people that he wanted to be known as someone who tried to help someone. He said he feared no man.

When Elijah spoke and worked, and when he worked with Republicans, he did not fear them, but he brought them to him. He made peace, while he also fought for justice.

In the words of Dr. King in that last speech, he said: "When people get caught up with that which is right and they are willing to sacrifice for it, there is no stopping point short of victory."

I believe in this life our dear friend secured real victory for his people and his constituents, a victory for those who believe in justice and equality, and a victory for the people of the United States of America.

So, Elijah, the minute you had, the minute that was given to you, you did

not waste it, and you have gained eternity. As Dr. King said, you were the orchestrator of letting justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. You were part of that justice and part of that victory. You didn't stop short. You only had a minute, but boy what you did do with that.

May God bless your soul, may you be in peace, may you R.I.P., and may we love you until we meet again.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congressman HORSFORD of Nevada for anchoring this Special Order in remembrance of Chairman Elijah Cummings, the indefatigable champion of justice and equality, the Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight, the Member of Congress from the Seventh Congressional District of Maryland since April 16, 1996, and above all, the devoted and beloved son of Baltimore.

Chairman Elijah Cummings died Thursday, October 17, 2019 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland; he was 68 years old.

On behalf of my family and the constituents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I offer my deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends. Mr. Speaker, our friend Elijah Cummings was in every sense of the word a statesman and a gentleman who believed in bipartisanship and treated everyone equally and respectfully.

Born January 18, 1951 in Baltimore, Maryland, to Robert and Ruth Cummings, South Carolina, sharecroppers who followed the Great Migration north to factory jobs in Baltimore, Elijah Eugene Cummings was the third of seven children.

After graduating from Baltimore City College High School in 1969, Elijah Cummings attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he was elected President of the student government and graduated in 1973 with a degree in political science, earning honors as Phi Beta Kappa.

Mr. Speaker, you may be interested to know that Elijah Cummings went on to earn a law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Elijah Cummings' matriculation and graduation from the University of Maryland School of Law was poetic justice because a generation before it had denied admission to another son of Baltimore, the legendary Thurgood Marshall, who then went to the Howard University School of Law and later became the greatest social engineer and the architect and instrument of the strategy that defeated Jim Crow and toppled *de jure* segregation at the University of Maryland School of Law.

Elijah Cummings practiced law for 14 years in Baltimore and in 1982 he was elected to the House of Delegates of the Maryland General Assembly where he served for 14 years.

In the Maryland General Assembly, he served as Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland and was the first African American in Maryland history to be named Speaker Pro Tempore, the second highest position in the House of Delegates, earning a reputation as a champion of progressive and liberal causes and constituencies and as a skilled census-builder.

Mr. Speaker, in 1996 when Congressman Kweisi Mfume resigned to assume the presidency of the United Negro College Fund, Elijah Cummings ran in and easily won the spe-

cial election created by the vacancy with 80 percent of the popular vote.

Elijah Cummings was re-elected to the 105th Congress and each of the succeeding Congresses until his untimely death, never winning with less than 70 percent of the vote.

In Elijah Cummings' maiden address as a member of Congress he vowed that he would make use of his limited time in Congress:

I only have a minute.

Sixty seconds in it.

Forced upon me, I did not choose it,

But I know that I must use it.

Give account if I abuse it.

Suffer, if I lose it.

Only a tiny little minute,

But eternity is in it.

Mr. Speaker, Elijah Cummings made good on that prophetic promise from the start.

As a Member of Congress, Elijah Cummings served on the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and on Oversight and Government Reform.

As a freshman member, Elijah Cummings championed and supported health care and labor legislation.

In 2003, Elijah Cummings was elected as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

In the 112th Congress, Elijah Cummings was elected by his colleagues to be Ranking Member of what is now known as the Committee on Oversight and Reform and in the 115th Congress was appointed by the Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI to the Benghazi Committee.

One of my proudest moments was working with Elijah Cummings to secure passage of H.R. 1076, the Fair Chance Act, which would "ban the box" in federal hiring by restricting federal employers and contractors from asking about the criminal histories of applicants until the conditional offer stage.

The Fair Chance Act would give formerly incarcerated people a fair chance at a job and a piece of the American dream.

I was proud to have been able to work with Chairman Elijah Cummings in support of this legislation and other legislative goals of mutual interest and concern like reducing gun violence and eliminating unfair policing in communities of color.

Mr. Speaker, Elijah Cummings dedicated his life to serving and uplifting others and empowering the people he was sworn to represent; he was a man for and of the people, going to the streets and ensuring that their voices were heard.

Elijah Cummings received national attention in 2015 when he walked the streets of Baltimore, his notable bullhorn in hand, and pleaded for calm after riots erupted in his neighborhood after the funeral of Freddie Gray, a young black man who died in police custody.

Elijah Cummings took the issues of his constituents to heart; many of us recall how he fought for meaning in the death of young Deamonte Driver, a 12-year-old Maryland boy who died from an untreated tooth infection.

Elijah Cummings often said that "our children are the living messages that we send to a future we will never see" and was committed to ensuring that the next generation had access to quality healthcare and education, clean air and water, and a strong economy defined by fiscal responsibility.

Elijah Cummings had a servant's heart and was imbued with an ethic of service and inspired countless numbers of persons fight for their beliefs.

Unsurpassed was this native of Baltimore's love for his hometown.

That could also be seen by his response to the current President's belittling Baltimore and his congressional district as a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess" to which Elijah Cummings invited the President to join him in the important work of ensuring that all Americans had accessible, affordable, high quality health care.

Elijah Cummings' passion was not reserved for his district and the city of Baltimore; he also deeply loved his country.

As Ranking Member and the Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Elijah Cummings brought his intellect to what he called "the fight for the soul of our democracy."

Elijah Cummings deeply believed in our democratic system and values and worked tirelessly to preserve them and exhorted everyone to the same:

"When we're dancing with the angels, the question will be asked, in 2019, what did we do to make sure we kept our democracy intact? Did we stand on the sidelines and say nothing?"

In the words of his widow, Dr. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings, Elijah Cummings "worked until his last breath because he believed our democracy was the highest and best expression of our collective humanity and that our nation's diversity was our promise, not our problem."

Mr. Speaker, the life of Elijah Cummings is a testament to what a person of goodwill can accomplish with a servant's heart and the understanding that in the passion play of life you only have a minute, but all eternity is in it.

Elijah Cummings did not waste his minute of eternity.

Elijah Cummings will live forever in the hearts of the people of his hometown Baltimore, his state of Maryland, and the United States.

To his widow Maya, his children, and family and friends he loved and who loved him so dearly, my deepest sympathies go out to and I hope you find consolation in the certain knowledge that our beloved Elijah is now dancing with the angels.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), who is another great leader. She is one of the co-chairs of the Steering and Policy Committee for the House Democrats and a true champion on so many issues, particularly for women, children, and families.

Ms. LEE of California. First, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I also want to thank our chair, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, and STACEY PLASKETT for leading this beautiful tribute tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in honor of the life and legacy of Chairman Elijah Cummings, who was a great statesman and leader, but also a kind and gentle human being who led with both his head and his heart.

My heart is heavy tonight as I offer my deepest condolences to my friends, Dr. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings, the

entire family, his staff, and the people of Baltimore, whom he loved and served with courage and boldness.

Yes, he was a person of deep faith, which was that guiding light in everything that he did. Elijah was the son of two pastors, and he took care of his mother and his father in their last years on Earth.

Elijah had been a friend and adviser to me since I first came to Congress. When I was first elected, he gave me much-needed encouragement, knowing that I had come in a special election, replacing my mentor and my friend, the late great Congressman Ron Dellums, who had some big shoes to fill.

But Elijah told me early on, he said: Hey, you have got to step out there, carve out your own agenda, and get out there and do your job, what you need to do to serve the people of your district.

He wanted to help me. We talked about how he could do that. He was the first Member of Congress—and he was so eager to do this—to visit my district early on in my tenure.

We had a town meeting on gun safety, mass incarceration, and criminal justice reform. I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, my constituents were in awe. They also send their condolences this evening.

This was a defining moment for me as he lifted me up as a new Member of Congress in my district in a way that no one had, and he continued to support me and advise me on many important decisions.

Also, like Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, I had the privilege to be with Congressman Cummings in his district several times. The first time was when he invited CBC members to visit his HIV/AIDS clinics and other community organizations. It was so remarkable to see how people not only respected him as a great Member of Congress, but how they loved and connected with him as their brother who never lost touch with the people.

So Elijah will be remembered as a man who pulled no punches, was authentic to the core, and a champion for our democracy. The greatest tribute to his work will be for all of us to continue to stand and defend our democracy with the same passion, vigor, and determination that he had.

I will miss Elijah's wise counsel, his words of encouragement, his support, and his leadership.

May his legacy live on, and may he rest in peace and power.

I will miss you so much, Elijah. May God bless.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her heartfelt remarks.

Each one of us can tell our own story of our experiences and opportunities that we had to share with Chairman Cummings, and that is really the opportunity that we have tonight during this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), who is an-

other person with a great legacy, who continues to serve his constituents with dignity.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Nevada for yielding.

He was my chairman, my colleague, and my friend: the late great Elijah Cummings.

I not only had the good fortune of serving with Chairman Cummings, I also was blessed to get to know him well over the years. He was a powerful and passionate advocate for the city of Baltimore, which he loved so dearly.

I want to say that thousands of my constituents back in St. Louis have posted messages of condolence for Chairman Cummings' family. One of the most moving messages simply said this:

One of the nicest things that can be said about a man is that we believed him.

And that is the truth. Chairman Cummings fearlessly spoke truth to power, not to defeat an opponent, but to challenge us, to lift up this institution, and to give the American people a government that is as good and decent as they are.

I think the true measure of what Elijah Cummings meant to us was that, early last Thursday, when word of his untimely death began to spread, there were as many Republican tears as Democratic tears mourning the passing of this very good man in the spirit of compassion and reconciliation the Lord has endowed within each of us if we have the wisdom to seek it.

I want to extend my deepest sympathy to Chairman Cummings' family, and I want them to know that I share their grief. I have lost a brother, an American hero, and a true leader of this House.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for coming to the floor to share his remarks.

Many experiences have been shared from the Oversight and Reform Committee, from those who served on that committee, those who worked with Chairman Cummings on his staff. He was known to have one of the best staffs here in the House of Representatives, and it is partly because they got to work with such a great chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), who is the former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Congressman HORSFORD for yielding this evening, and I thank him for his extraordinary leadership.

Elijah Cummings was my friend. Nearly every legislative day for the past 15 years, we talked about every subject you can imagine. Some of it consisted of small talk, but very often it consisted of serious conversations about our families and about our communities.

So, on behalf of my family and on behalf of the 750,000 people of the First Congressional District of North Caro-

lina, I extend condolences to the Cummings family and to the good people of Baltimore.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago, I shared with Congressman Cummings a very sad situation in my district involving an African American attorney who had suffered a debilitating stroke and was having financial problems. Immediately—immediately—Mr. Cummings said: I have great affection for Black lawyers who have served their community, and I am going to send him some money. And he did.

From time to time, I would see Mr. Cummings on national television on the talk shows. I would come back to the floor on Monday night or Tuesday night and I would sit next to him. I would compliment Mr. Cummings about his appearances on television and how he handled himself. I recall one day he told me that every minute that he is on television, he spent 1 hour preparing for that 1 minute. He was one for preparation.

I sat next to Congressman Cummings as he cast his last floor vote several weeks ago. He didn't know it was his last, but it was. He was seated right over where Ms. CLARKE is seated right now. As his staff assisted in getting him out of the chair, he looked at me that day and said: "I'm so sick. I love you, man."

I say to you tonight, Congressman Cummings: I love you; we love you; and America loves you.

Mr. Speaker, we celebrate a life well-lived. Elijah Eugene Cummings belongs to the ages.

Rest in peace, my brother, rest in peace.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BUTTERFIELD again for sharing his stories of friendship and how Chairman Cummings really touched his life as an example to so many here in this body.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), who is my good friend.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleague, Chairwoman BASS, and our co-leaders for this evening's Special Order hour, for providing this moment for us to reflect.

Let me start by saying, on behalf of myself, the Clarke family, and the people of the Ninth Congressional District of New York, I rise today to reflect upon the life and the legacy of the great chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, Chairman Elijah Cummings, and express my heartfelt and deepest condolences to his wife, Maya Rockeymoore, his family, friends, constituents, and staff. Our great Nation is mourning and is in shock over the loss of a great man.

As one of seven children born to parents who were sharecroppers and, just as important, or maybe more importantly, pastors of the Gospel, it is safe to say that Chairman Cummings embodied the epitome of our ancestors' wildest dreams and most fervent prayers.

□ 2030

Chairman Cummings represented Baltimore, Maryland, with devotion, pride, dignity, and integrity, and dedicated his career to ensuring that his beloved community was never marginalized.

As chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Mr. Cummings used his voice to protect our democracy, to protect our civil liberties, and indeed, our humanity and our Constitution until his very last breath, and we will forever be indebted to his life-long dedication to public service.

He will be remembered as a steadfast, former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, an advocate of the Congressional Black Caucus and black communities across this Nation who used his voice to elevate our colleagues in leadership positions and to mentor black staffers.

I recall when I was elected to the House of Representatives in the year 2006, I heard from all of the members of the New York Congressional Delegation, but I got a call from this gentleman from Baltimore, Maryland, with a thundering voice over the phone. That is when I knew I had made it, because I received a call from Elijah Cummings. And he offered his support, his mentoring, and his encouragement, and continued to do that every day that we served in this body together.

Let us all take comfort in knowing that Chairman Cummings' legacy will be forever ingrained in the halls of Congress through the next generation of leaders that his work impacted and inspired, and all of us who are his legacy keepers.

Chairman Cummings completed his mission. He is now, as he has said, dancing with the angels, and will go down in American history as a pillar in preserving our democracy and our core American values.

Words cannot express the void and loss that our collective community feels during this time of bereavement, but we must lift our heads and continue to walk in the light of Chairman Cummings' legacy. We are standing on the shoulders of a giant, and we will live out his mission of creating a better America for all, one where we pass on to our children and grandchildren a nation far greater than the one that we inherited.

May Chairman Elijah E. Cummings rest in peace and rise in glory. We will miss him dearly. I thank him.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. It has been my great honor to coanchor this Special Order hour with my esteemed colleague, Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT. And I want to, again, thank our chairwoman, KAREN BASS, for her effort in bringing forward this opportunity for us to all share our reflections.

And I just want to say, on my behalf, that Chairman Cummings stood up for, really, the most vulnerable in society, and supported policies to ensure that

the next generation of Americans have access to a clean environment, affordable housing, quality healthcare and education, and financial empowerment.

Congressman Cummings was a firm believer in the United States Constitution, who fought for equality for all Americans. It is certain that Chairman Cummings did everything in his power, and then some, to defend our country and its institutions, to keep our democracy alive and thriving, despite attacks from within. His legacy of leadership will continue to inspire us all, and his presence in Congress will surely be missed.

I hope now that he is resting in power and dancing with the angels, happily, with the knowledge that he set an example of resistance and perseverance, and that we will continue in his footsteps, we will carry on his spirit, and we will carry on his legacy.

I now turn this over to the coanchor for this Special Order, my colleague and good friend, Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT from the U.S. Virgin Islands, and I yield back the balance of my time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 30 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), my colleague, for his support of the Congressional Black Caucus, and working with me in ensuring that the voices of Black America are heard here in the Congress.

At this time, I yield to the great gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for his reflections of our colleague, Elijah Cummings.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) and the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) for coanchoring this hour.

Elijah Cummings epitomized the virtues of honesty, dignity, decency, grace, and responsibility. He was committed to his family, to whom I offer my deepest condolences, and he was committed to his community. And Elijah was committed to being true to the oath that he took to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

He did so as chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform where he carried out the responsibilities of that office with great ability. Elijah Cummings wielded the gavel with the ability of a giant, but he was a quiet, unassuming, and a kindhearted man, and unafraid to sometimes walk alone.

Walking alone, Elijah saw more than many will ever see. That is why Elijah will continue to be our North Star. His light shines on in the dark night of his passing; his spirit and his example will live on in our hearts, to guide us as we

live, true to the oath we endeavor to uphold.

Shine on, Elijah Cummings, shine on.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his reflections on our colleague, Elijah Cummings.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, a good friend and colleague.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the delegate from the Virgin Islands for cohosting this Special Order in honor of Elijah Cummings.

We all ask that question to the Lord: "What is required of thee?"

And the answer is simple: Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with thy God.

That is exactly what Chairman Elijah Cummings did. He fought for justice every day, not just in the halls of Congress, not just in courtrooms, sometimes it was on the streets of Baltimore. When the community was protesting, he was out there fighting for justice.

He loved mercy. He fought for criminal justice reform every ounce and minute of his life, because he knew that we have to give people a second chance and that, but for the grace of God, who knows where anybody would be.

And then last, it was to walk humbly. Many people don't know this, but Elijah Cummings was one of the first Members of Congress to endorse me, because he was about lifting up the next generation. He knew that you don't have to blow out somebody else's candle for yours to shine brighter. And what he did all the time was light candles in the next generation so that they would assume the mantle of leadership and so that they would find their purpose in life.

So I would just end with this: Elijah Cummings was a man of purpose. It wasn't about politics. It wasn't about partisanship. It certainly wasn't about profits. It was about purpose. And the one thing that comforts me, and I am sure the entire Black Caucus, is that we know in our hearts that last Thursday, at 2:30 a.m., we know that Elijah Cummings heard these words: Well done, my good and faithful servant.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those words.

Mr. RICHMOND, that happens to be my life scripture—Micah 6:8. That, I believe, was the scripture that the Lord gave me when I was in law school. I recognize that I had the honor of being a member of the committee in which Elijah Cummings sat, was the chair, and I was on that committee for 5 years now.

Mr. Cummings was a mentor to me. And to those who had a chance to interact with him and knew him more than just as a Member of Congress, he was a man of God. He lived and worked in Congress on Christian values. I think that scripture, Micah 6:8 exemplifies how he lived his life. It really exemplifies his Christian walk.