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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.

He was a man of great wisdom. And although he needed little protection, when I was on that committee, I viewed my role as not only being a consummate prosecutor and counselor but being on the front line. I remember I called and told him, I was almost gleeful, that I was going to be sitting in front of him, not because I thought that the camera would be there, but that I could watch his back from many of those coming at him from the front.

He always shook his head at my colorful language. Although, mind you, he did chuckle quietly at a lot of the things that I had to say. And he always counseled me to take care of my children first before any of this. "Take care of your family," he always said, "because at the end of the day, that is who you are going to have, even when you leave this job." But he also counseled me to go slow and steady, to "walk humbly," as Micah 6:8 says.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), who sits with me on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He represents his home of Newark, New Jersey, and I would ask him to reflect on the life and his times with Congressman Elijah Cummings.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT), my friend, for once again being here for this Special Order hour.

I first want to offer my condolences to Mrs. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings and her family on this immense loss.

I rise to honor a true American hero, Congressman Elijah Eugene Cummings, a strong man, a serious man, a man that was about the business of this Nation. Irrespective of whether it was on the streets of Baltimore or in the halls of Congress, he never wavered in his plight to make sure that the American people had the opportunities that everyone—everyone—should be afforded in this great Nation.

It is difficult to state just how immense this loss is to the people of his district, the State of Maryland, and the entire Nation. Congressman Cummings was a dedicated public servant who represented Maryland's Seventh District with honor and distinction for 23 years. But he was so much more than that. He was an icon, a leader, a statesman, a patriot, and the embodiment of the American Dream.

Yet, the real legacy of Congressman Cummings was his connection to the people of his district. It was quite common to find him at the corner grocery store, neighborhood church, and any other number of community functions. It gave him a level of respect that made him beloved in his district.

The esteemed congressman, JOHN LEWIS, once said of Mr. Cummings: "There was no greater friend to the poor, to the lost, to the left out and the left behind than Representative Cummings." Never have truer words been spoken about anyone. He was a great man, congressman, and most of all, a great American.

We had some of the same medical issues, so we spent many evenings on the phone talking him through what the next step would be in the process. And he said to me one day, he said, "Payne, I am scared." But he wasn't just scared about his health issues, he was scared about the direction that this Nation was going in. And to his very last existence, he was concerned about the people in his district and this country.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss him dearly. This Nation will miss him.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 20 minutes remaining.

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Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I have met many people in my life, but Elijah Cummings was steadfast and unmovable in his quest to protect our democracy.

He was my friend from day one. I was a lost freshman, trying to find my way to the Rayburn Building from Cannon. Not only did Elijah teach me how to read the numbers, but he walked me all the way to the Rayburn Building. Then he recommended a chief of staff to me, Kimberly Ross, who is with me today.

He was a mentor to me and so many. We texted often and talked about healthcare challenges and the challenges of our communities and this great Nation.

He cosponsored and saluted me for my work putting Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill.

Elijah would often say his life was based on pain, passion, and purpose, which propelled him forward.

A few months ago, he keynoted an event in my district for his good friend, the Reverend Dr. Charles Booth's program, Bridges to the Future, for its 25th anniversary, although he was not feeling well himself. But Elijah was a friend to the end.

His unmatched ability to tap into the heart of the matter and find consensus that mattered was Elijah.

So, Elijah, my brother, my friend, my mentor, my colleague, I assure you, when times get tough, I will borrow your fighting spirit and harness the power to stand firm in the face of injustice.

My heart and prayers are with his wife and my friend, Maya; his children; his family; his constituents; and his staff.

Elijah, my friend, my colleague, rest in peace. Rest in power, my friend. I know you are dancing with the angels. God bless you.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms.

ADAMS), who, like Elijah Cummings, came to Congress first in a special election. I am happy to call her my classmate.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands and also the gentlewoman from Nevada, Chairwoman BASS, and all who participated in organizing this event.

I rise to join other Members tonight to honor the life and career of one of this body's most effective lawmakers, one of the most tireless champions of the underprivileged, and a close and dear friend to us all, representative Elijah Cummings.

The 12th District of North Carolina extends condolences to his wife, his family, his extended family, and to the members of his district.

Elijah was one of our best examples of what it means to be a public servant. In Baltimore, he was not only his community's Member of Congress, but he was its voice, a recognizable and fervent product of the community that he represented.

When West Baltimore was hurting after the death of Freddie Gray, it was Representative Cummings who spoke the words of a grieving community.

When the President of the United States insulted his city, it was Representative Cummings who stood up and offered to show the President what Baltimore is really about.

This was the type of man and Member that Elijah Cummings was, an advocate for what was right.

He was an advocate for our youth, and he took a sincere interest in their success. I remain personally grateful to him for the support that he gave to my youngest grandson as he explored entrance and application to Howard University.

Elijah Cummings was always an advocate for what was right, or, as Dr. King would call it, he was indeed a drum major for justice. He earned the respect of men, women, and little children, and he made this world much better than he found it.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), my very close classmate from the State of Michigan who is herself a tireless fighter for the rights of not only the people of Michigan but of women and people who are oppressed and who also sat and sit on the Committee on Oversight and Reform under the tutelage of Elijah Cummings.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, who has been a very close colleague as we have sat under the guidance and leadership of Elijah Cummings.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to honor my chairman, Elijah Cummings.

This is an extremely difficult time for me because Chairman Cummings was more than a colleague; he was my mentor.

As a freshman, while serving on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform with Chairman Cummings, I came

to him with a litany of questions. He never turned me away. He was always receptive and always considerate. He would eventually explain to me how much he appreciated that I had put thought into the policies that I wanted to implement while serving in Congress.

It was then that this great man actually saw that I really cared for people, and he instructed me to continue doing the work because, when you really care, your constituents will see it and will appreciate it.

When I came to him during the Flint water crisis and told him we needed to look into this because people were being hurt, and children were being physically damaged, he was so determined to get to the truth.

I watched him serve in the majority and in the minority, and there were many times when this chairman, my Chairman Cummings, became the voice of reason within the Caucus and at the helm of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

He was a consensus builder. He cut to the chase. And he was the person who worked across the aisle, never, ever putting anyone before the American people.

I will miss his bigger-than-life presence in our meetings. I will miss that booming voice, heaving incredible words of wisdom during our committee hearings. I will miss the intelligent and passionate questions and the astute observations that he would hurl at any of the combative witnesses.

I will miss the man who believed in the American experience, and he fought for this democracy with his last breath.

Most of all, I will miss the considerate, giant gentleman who was my mentor, Elijah Cummings.

This week, as we bid farewell to Baltimore's native son, I know he will be dancing with the angels, smiling down on us, saying to continue the fight and keep the faith because our democracy is worth the fight.

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

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), representing Philadelphia.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleagues and members of the Congressional Black Caucus, under the leadership of KAREN BASS and both co-leaders here tonight, Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT and STEVE HORSFORD, for their leadership.

Last week, I lost a friend and a colleague, and Baltimore, Maryland, and the United States lost a civil rights activist, a tireless activist and leader.

I had the privilege of knowing the chairman for many years, since we both served our State legislatures before coming to Congress. We represented districts. I represented a district in Philadelphia, and he represented a district in Baltimore. He got elected about 1982. I got elected in 1981.

We both had similar challenges. He did in Baltimore. I did in Philadelphia.

A few months ago, I saw the chairman here on the House floor, and I complimented him for being relentless in his commitment to civic participation.

I had the pleasure of sitting with him on my very first State of the Union Address. That day, we had the chance to talk about discussions and challenges that we both faced in major urban cities.

Today, I am glad I said something when I had the chance. I told him that I loved him. I told him that I loved him for all the things he had been doing and all the relentless he has shown.

Now, it is all up to us who are still in this fight to carry on, to make a difference.

So, Mr. Chairman, rest in power. We have to continue this fight.

Ms. PLASKETT. I thank Mr. EVANS, as one gentleman from a great American city paying tribute to another man from a great American city, as native sons. I thank him for those kind words and for the fight that we are all continuing to undertake on behalf of the people whom we represent in this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS), who had the honor of being on the Oversight and Reform Committee with Mr. Cummings, for her remarks about that great American.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Dr. King once said the true measure of a man is not how he behaves in moments of comfort and convenience, but how he stands in times of challenge and controversy.

Last Congress, I had the honor of serving with Chairman Cummings on the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and he did not look for the easy way out. He never ran from controversy or challenge.

You see, Mr. Cummings was a true leader. Life is all about choices, Mr. Speaker, and true leaders have to make a lot of them.

We can live in fear of what man will say or do to us, or we can stand up and speak out for what we know in our hearts is right.

Elijah Cummings never failed to stand up and speak out. You see, he was a true leader.

We can follow the crowd no matter how wrong the crowd may be, or we can choose to be a drum major for justice. Elijah Cummings chose to be a drum major for justice.

Mr. Speaker, we can close our minds and our hearts, mentor no one, and share nothing with anyone. We can make life's journey all about us, or we can mentor, impart knowledge and wisdom, and look out for someone else and have their back.

Elijah Cummings was a mentor, a role model. He cared about us. And every day, we knew it.

Elijah Cummings had the Nation's back. For that, we are forever grateful to Chairman Elijah Cummings for a life well lived.

Ms. PLASKETT. I thank the gentlewoman for those powerful words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. McBATH) for her tribute and words about Congressman Elijah Cummings.

Mrs. McBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I would like to begin by offering my deepest prayers to Congressman Cummings' wife and family and the Baltimore community. He was a solid voice of conscience and always offered a steady hand and sound wisdom.

He was one of the giants among us here in Congress.

Congressman Cummings was born the son of sharecroppers from Clarendon County, South Carolina, a county where children were forced to walk miles to attend segregated schools. The refusal of Clarendon County to provide buses for the Black children in that district became the court case *Briggs v. Elliott*, one of the five cases that would be decided under the shared designation of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Remarkably, Congressman Cummings never forgot his roots. He spent his entire life as a fierce champion for justice and humanity. He boldly fought for civil and human rights with the strength given him by God.

His humility, his compassion, and his commitment were nothing short of inspiring.

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I remember the times I would come in here on the floor and I would sit down next to him and he'd say: How are you doing today, kid?

And I would say: Well, you know, it is kind of rough being a freshman.

And he said: That is okay. Take care of your family. Stay focused. Stay clean. Do your work. Stay in the district, and you will be just fine.

Representative Cummings once said: When we are dancing with the angels, the question will be asked, what did we do to make sure that we kept our democracy intact?

Well, Representative Cummings, you moved mountains for democracy.

And so, now, as he dances with the angels in Heaven, we honor his lifelong fight for our democracy, his towering legacy, and his unwavering dedication to the United States of America and to the world. He will truly be missed.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY), who also sat on the Oversight and Reform Committee under Mr. Cummings.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands and the gentleman from Nevada and our chair, KAREN BASS, for organizing this Special Order.

What an honor and a privilege to spend my early months as a freshman Member of Congress in close proximity to a titan for justice and a force for good, someone who spent several decades as a truth-teller and a justice-

seeker, who, in his role as chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, knew that the best disinfectant is sunlight, and he shone a light on every injustice.

He was a patriot, tireless in his efforts to preserve our democracy, and a statesman of unwavering conviction. He challenged each of us to appeal to our better angels, to be decent, to be fair, to comport ourselves with the reverence and dignity this institution demands and our country deserves.

He was consistent and did that even in the face of great physical fatigue and, some days, perhaps, even a weary spirit, in the face of injustice and indignities. He often reminded us that it was our charge on the Committee on Oversight and Reform to be an efficient and effective pursuit of the truth.

His body has transitioned, but his instructive words ring resoundingly and true. He was a selfless servant and leader until the end.

One of the final pursuits of justice we took on together was to maintain access to lifesaving healthcare for our immigrant neighbors in the medical deferred action program. His staffer, Anthony, drove through the night to Baltimore so the chairman could sign subpoenas, advancing our fight together.

Truly, in life, all you have is your name and your word, and when it comes to Elijah Cummings, both were good.

Until the very end, the chairman would stop my staff and me in the hallways, and he would say: Are you keeping up the fight?

He knew the fight was greater than one man or one mission or one legislative act. The pursuit of justice is not a box you simply check. So we continue in that pursuit, following in the footsteps of a giant.

No one can fill your shoes, but we will pick up the torch and press forward with your moral clarity as our roadmap and your vision as our charge. We will keep up the fight.

To my forever chairman, Elijah Cummings, rest in power.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I just want to close my portion of this by stating that, when it came to a notion of democracy, Chairman Cummings, in his speeches, insistently invoked it, and not in the inert way that elected officials tend to do.

He spoke of democracy as something vital and fragile and valuable, an inheritance that had to be safeguarded for future generations. He said that to all of us who sat under him in his chairmanship and ensured that we brought that passion and that desire to do the best for this democracy that our bodies could do.

So I thank him for that. I thank him for everything that he has been to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, 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 New York (Ms. CLARKE) for 30 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and my privilege to continue the CBC's Special Order hour, and we are going to call this portion CBC and friends.

It is my honor now to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), one who has served alongside the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings throughout his tenure here and I know would like to bring forth his very special remarks and reflections at this time.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise, yes, to mourn his death, but I also rise to celebrate his life, because it was a life worthy of great celebration.

I rise understanding that, yes, he was brilliant. He was a Phi Beta Kappa with some 13 doctoral degrees, but he did not allow his brilliance to outshine his goodness.

His goodness was such that he was one who cared for the least, the last, and the lost. He was there for those whom we consider the least among us, those who were not born into plenty but, rather, into poverty.

He was there for those who were the last, the last hired and the first fired. He fought for jobs for them.

He was there for those who are lost, lost in poverty in the richest country in the world, and he fought to elevate their lives; those lost in chemical abuse, he was there to help them acquire healthcare.

He was truly a person who made a difference in the lives of people whom he never had the opportunity to meet and greet.

So I mourn his passing, but I celebrate his living.

And while I am sure there are many who will say that he left too soon, I can only say this: We had him for 68 years, and I am grateful for that 68 years.

God bless you, dear brother. You were a wise warrior and a seeker of peace. And while you may not be with us physically, your spirit will endure forever.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Houston for sharing those very inspiring, uplifting comments about our dear, beloved colleague at this time.

It is important for us, as we go through the stages of mourning, to recognize, as he has stated, rightly stated, that we were fortunate to have Elijah Cummings with us for 68 years—his family, his friends, even longer—and during the 68 years, we were fortunate to have him as part of our family here in the Congressional Black Caucus and in the Halls of Congress.

In that time, he was able to accomplish so much through his God-given talents and abilities that he has become well-known not only here in the United States, but around the world.

I am hearing from members of the Caribbean community who have read about and heard about the passing of Elijah Cummings, all of whom have reached out to share with me their comments and their condolences because they understand what Elijah has meant not only to the United States House of Representatives, United States Congress, but, indeed, because he was a world-class leader.

Mr. Speaker, I have some friends and colleagues of the honorable chairman of the Oversight and Reform Committee who would like to say a few words, if you will, about our great colleague.

It is my honor, at this time, to yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), my classmate and colleague, a member of the Oversight and Reform Committee and the Judiciary Committee, to give his remarks.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was just walking back to my office and I saw on the video this memorial service, this celebration of life, and I wanted to come listen. It has been inspiring for me, so many appropriate remarks made about this great man.

I feel privileged just to stand here at the podium where he spoke and next to his photograph just as I felt privileged to know him and become a friend, and where we spoke over here when he was in the wheelchair and in the Speaker's lobby before votes and during votes.

When I was home this weekend, more people came up to me in Memphis, and people on social media, and expressed their condolences, their appreciation of his life and their knowledge that the Congress had lost a person who was irreplaceable.

Elijah Cummings was one of the great people that I have had the opportunity to interact with in my life, in Congress, and in other places.

Truly, a giant has fallen. He had grace. He had knowledge. He had judgment. He had character.

It has been spoken, and I remember seeing him on television walking in Baltimore at some risk to himself, during the riots, to help bring calm to Baltimore, leadership where he put his community first and his safety second.

He talked about: We are better than this. Well, we are better than this, and, hopefully, one day, we will be as good as him.

He knew that we were only here for a minute and you should make that time worthwhile, and he made it worthwhile.

Friday, a week ago, the last Friday that Elijah was in our caucus, we had a caucus conference call, and the discussion toward the end was about the Congress' issuance of subpoenas and the attempt to get them enforced through the courts.

I believe Elijah was the last person to speak on the call, and when he spoke, it was like hearing the voice of God. He said that these cases will go through the courts, and they will be appealed, and they will eventually be appealed to