

On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I am proud to stand with my colleagues who stood here and spoke in favor of passing the American Dream and Promise Act because, make no mistake: The DACA program is the result of the failure of Congress to live up to its obligation to create that prosperity, hope, and a future.

We need the DACA kids to continue their education. We need those who have been in this country from a very young age to be able to assert and have the protections of those who are presently enrolled in DACA.

Dreamers have been raised and educated here. They work in our communities. They raise their families. They attend our colleges. They serve in our military. They die for the country and the home that they have known.

We now ask Congress, we ask the Senate Republicans to hear those dreams and to pass the American Dream and Promise Act in whatever vehicle it must be. We urge them to consider including it in the omnibus, to include it in the NDAA, but to pass it.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOWMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 600,000 DACA recipients who are terrified that a forthcoming court ruling will force them to leave the only country they've lived in and loved.

These young men and women came to the U.S. as newborns and small children. They've attended American schools, served in the U.S. military, and they contribute their multitude of talents to our nation's economy every day.

Despite having built their lives here, DACA recipients live with fear that their legal status will be ripped away from them by a disastrous court decision. They've lived with this uncertainty for over a decade, and they deserve a permanent solution.

I'm proud to have voted for the Dream Act which offers a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers. The legislation passed the House with a bipartisan vote last year and is supported by the faith community, business leaders, law enforcement, and over two-thirds of the American people.

Despite being supported by a large majority of Americans, Senate Republicans have repeatedly blocked the Dream Act, forcing the lives of Dreamers to remain in limbo. This is unacceptable. Denying basic protections to these brave young men and women dishonors our proud heritage as a nation of immigrants.

Dreamers are Americans in all but name. They've been subjected to the cruelty of our broken immigration system for far too long, and it's time for Congress to live up to our promise to protect the Dreamers so that they

can continue to strengthen and enrich our Nation.

□ 1730

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN LOUIE GOHMERT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my absolute honor and privilege to be here tonight to honor one of our very own, one of our very own Texans, who has been here for 18 years. I am calling this the Louie Gohmert Special Order hour. But when you realize how many hours he has been up here, probably more than anybody else we know, it doesn't seem to be a fitting title.

There is no better way to honor my good friend, LOUIE GOHMERT. If you see the picture over here, he has been on FOX News. He is a great drinker of Dr. Pepper, Peanut M&M's, those are some of the things that LOUIE GOHMERT is known for.

I had a friend the other day that said: Louie can be pushy and obstinate.

I said: Really?

My friend said: Yeah, but he is actually the opposite now; he is obstinate and pushy.

I tell you what, LOUIE GOHMERT speaks his mind. He comes to this floor and says a lot of things, quite frankly, that we are thinking but a lot of people are not gutsy enough to say it.

He has been a true patriot. He is a champion for Texas' First Congressional District, and he is a fighter for everyone's freedoms. We are going to miss him.

Mr. Speaker, can I impose upon the gentleman (Mr. GOHMERT) to come down to the front?

He has had quite a distinguished career since before he got into Congress, when he got, what I like to say, demoted to Congress.

Ronald Reagan once famously said in a campaign: "I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit for political purposes my opponent's youth and inexperience."

Talking about youth, LOUIE doesn't look like he is 69, does he? But I remember when he did.

I tell you what, he is a great, great friend of ours. Y'all didn't know this was going to be a roast, right? He has been a great, great friend of ours.

Before I ever knew him, I saw him on FOX News much of the time, and I always looked up to him. I knew that he was a man of conviction, that he was a Christian, and that he spoke the truth the way it was. I really looked up to him.

When I came to Congress, I kind of confided in him. I said: LOUIE, I am beginning to have dreams. I keep seeing talking crickets, talking dogs, talking birds, talking cats, and even talking

donkeys and elephants. What is wrong with me? Do you think Congress is pressuring me?

He said: No, no, you are just having Disney spells.

Come on, that was funny, guys.

LOUIE has always had a great sense of humor. He has always been someone who was so wry and so right on with things. I always love having a conversation with him.

LOUIE, we appreciate you. I cannot tell you how much we appreciate you and what you have tried to do for Texas, by the way. I hope tonight will show through a little bit and show a lot of our appreciation for you.

You have never backed down from a fight for our freedoms.

You have never backed down from fighting for our democracy.

You have never backed down because sometimes the truth is hard to hear, even when you sent the media into a frenzy, quite a few times.

I always admired that about you. To say that you are going to leave big shoes is an understatement.

Who else in the history—we might want to look this up, Mr. Speaker. Who else in the history of this House has spent 17,340 minutes, 289 hours, and 12 days speaking on the House floor? Who else has done that? Probably nobody but our famous LOUIE GOHMERT.

LOUIE, you are going to leave a legacy of fighting tirelessly for what is good and right for the people you represent, not just in Texas, but in this country, religious freedom not being the least of those. We appreciate that about you.

You have not only fought tirelessly for the people you represent, but you have fought for every single conservative. There are a lot of people who will never be able to vote for LOUIE GOHMERT, but he voted for them every day, and we appreciate that about you, LOUIE.

When you leave Congress, you will be known for unapologetically fighting for and leading the conservative movement. Nobody has represented the conservative movement better than you have, LOUIE GOHMERT. I want to tell you, with your stance for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and for Christian values, you leave some really big boots to fill.

Thank you for all your hard work. We have a lot of friends here that want to say good things about you. They won't be as rough on you as I was, probably.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

I am proud to be here on the floor with my friend from Texas. He is someone that I have looked up to for a very long time. And to have served with him for the last 2 terms, for the last 4 years, has been an honor. I wouldn't be in Congress but for his support.

My parents live just down the road from Pittsburg where he grew up; they

live in Mount Pleasant, Texas. That is actually where I first got to meet Congressman GOHMERT. Now, to sit and serve in this body alongside of him, is truly an honor.

The poster talks about the Gohmert hour. We used to make our interns watch the Gohmert hour so they could learn from the great LOUIE GOHMERT.

One of our favorite moments was when he spent 30 minutes hammering the Architect of the Capitol because they told him not to grill his ribs on his office balcony. That was one of the greatest speeches delivered on the floor of the House, no doubt.

We already talked about 17,000 minutes, or whatever the number was, 12 days. I took it to heart watching the passion of Congressman GOHMERT coming to the floor of the House and using this floor to speak to the people and using this floor to be able to communicate why we are here. We ought to do it more often. In fact, we ought to have debate and engagement with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

I was inspired by Congressman GOHMERT to use this privilege, to use this time that we are given to be able to be the voice for the people who send us to Washington. That is what Congressman GOHMERT has done. He has been a voice for the people of East Texas. He has represented them well. He is truly one of the most honest, honorable, and decent public servants that I have ever known.

In fact, the reason that he is leaving this body has a great deal to do with his honor and his integrity and wanting to defend the people of Texas and to do it the right way.

I will miss you, LOUIE, but I know you are not going to be too far away.

I will leave you with this: During a speech in one of the famous Gohmert hours, Congressman GOHMERT said: My SAT score would shock people who think I am the dumbest Member of Congress.

Well, nothing could be farther from the truth. He is one of the smartest Members, one of the best lawyers, and one of the best human beings.

It has been an honor to serve alongside you, my friend. We will see you soon in other areas of life. God bless you.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, LOUIE GOHMERT is just as popular among my constituents in Virginia as he is among my esteemed colleagues' constituents from Texas.

LOUIE was one of the first Members of Congress to come and support me in my district when I started this journey 3 years ago. He literally drove through the night to come down to Virginia to help a fledgling, aspiring Congressman down in the Fifth Congressional District of Virginia.

LOUIE since I have gotten here has been an example of courage. As a freshman, I quickly observed him being

willing to go to the microphone time and again, not only to challenge the other side but even to challenge our side when he felt they were wrong or weren't living up to the ideals that we promised to live up to for our constituents.

I have admired him for his character and testimony on a personal level, his love for our Lord, his love for our Savior, Jesus Christ.

LOUIE GOHMERT is one of those people you meet here in Congress who is the same here in person as he is on TV when folks watch him. I am proud to learn from and serve with this true courageous, conservative warrior.

I am proud to call LOUIE a friend on a personal level. He will be missed. Even in his leaving this Congress, he is leaving in a courageous, selfless act, because he could have stayed here as long as he wanted to, to represent his district. But he loves his beloved State of Texas, and in a tremendous act of courage he took personal risk in leaving this body.

He has had a lifetime of service. He was an Army Captain, a Texas district judge, Chief Justice of the Twelfth Court of Appeals of Texas, and has spent 18 years of courageous, conservative service here in Washington.

Thank you, LOUIE. I admire you, love you, and I am proud to call you a friend. God bless you.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I want to say about LOUIE GOHMERT is that LOUIE is a hero to many, many Americans, and he is a hero to me.

One of the pretty heady things about walking onto the floor of the United States House of Representatives is that you meet these people you have seen on your television screens across the country that you have heard from who have spoken the words that you wish you could have spoken.

LOUIE was one of the first heroes I met. You meet some people who are not necessarily heroes, too, here. But LOUIE was a hero that I met maybe my first day walking on the floor.

Another thing about this place is sometimes everything has been said, not everybody said it, but there are moments when having the opportunity to join the chorus is as important as anything I can think of.

To LOUIE GOHMERT, I say thank you for being a hero. Thank you for always being a loyal fighter for freedom.

All of us seem to fail, and sometimes at the moment when most needed, LOUIE, you have never failed. You have persisted.

While sometimes I am uncertain how to fill up the time, you will stand on this floor and you will rely on your inner substance, and you can lay it out as long as you need to go to communicate to the American people, to communicate on their behalf, to say what matters. I don't know what we will do without you.

God bless you, LOUIE GOHMERT.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD).

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, we are going to miss Mr. GOHMERT, my fellow Texan and House colleague.

It has been an honor to get to know you and now to be able to call you a friend.

I will definitely miss LOUIE GOHMERT hour at the end of every week. We will miss the ribs that are certainly worth a mention in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I remember the first time I met you. I was a Texan, just grassroots, and you inspired me. I remember you speaking about the things that you were working to accomplish up here. A few things were obvious.

One was that you hadn't forgotten who you were working for. It was obvious to me that you were compelled by your love for the Constitution and these founding principles our Nation was built upon, and you were motivated by your deep and abiding faith. Those things resonated with me, as someone trying to make a difference where I could.

I didn't know I was ultimately going to have the opportunity to be here and get to know you. It is truly an honor to see and to watch your service. You have been a happy warrior who stands up, doesn't flinch, stands for what is right, what is just, and you haven't forgotten why you are here.

We have all seen people who can kind of get used to it, get comfortable with what is going on here. You haven't done that. You have stayed true.

It is an honor to know you. I thank you for being a hero in this place on behalf of our Nation and on behalf of our State. Thanks so much. God bless you.

□ 1745

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY).

Mr. POSEY. LOUIE, the first person who reached their hand out to me when I got here was not you. It was Ron Paul. You were the second one. I got to know you good through Ron Paul's lunches, his wonderful lunches at his Liberty Caucus. I learned, before I ever heard you speak, of what a true patriot you were.

I don't know that there has ever been a more consistent Member since I have been here on principles, policy, and ethics than you, LOUIE GOHMERT. You have been a fearless voice for those that were voiceless, something which every Member of Congress should aspire to be. You have been an advocate for what is right about America and a fierce opponent of what is not right for America.

Congressman GOHMERT, you have always been well informed on a galaxy of issues that come before this body, and as always, you have been more than well prepared to fight for the good and against the bad.

An honest, pragmatic, free thinker for sure, Congress could surely use more LOUIE GOHMERTS, not fewer.

We are going to miss you, LOUIE. Godspeed. I don't know what we are going to do without you.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, there is not a more fierce fighter than LOUIE GOHMERT in this House, and if you are serving in this House and have a bigger heart than LOUIE GOHMERT, I haven't met you yet. I am sorry. I need to find you. I haven't found anybody with a heart the size of LOUIE GOHMERT's.

One of the measures, I think, of a Member here is how they treat their staff and how their staff responds to them. LOUIE GOHMERT attracts the best talent of anybody in this Chamber, and they love him. We love LOUIE GOHMERT.

I remember my first week in Congress. I was in conference. We were going to elect a Speaker, and nobody was challenging Speaker Boehner. LOUIE GOHMERT got up to nominate somebody else. He reminded us all that you didn't have to be a Member of the House to be nominated for Speaker. I was just praying that he didn't nominate Ron Paul because I knew I would have to second that nomination.

I leaned to the person next to me, and I said: "Who is that guy making that nomination?" He said: "Oh, that is Louie Gohmert. He is crazy."

Well, within a week, I realized LOUIE GOHMERT was the only sane man in this Chamber, and for 10 years, he has been guiding me. He has a photographic memory and is sharp as a whip. He is like an encyclopedia of everything that has happened in this Chamber while he was here, before I got here.

One day in conference, they were telling us: Look, when the quarterback calls the play and snaps the ball, you don't execute another play. They were imploring us to do something, frankly, that wasn't in the best interests of the people from Tyler, Texas, nor in the interests of the people from Kentucky.

I asked LOUIE: LOUIE, what are you going to do when the quarterback snaps the ball?

He said: When the quarterback snaps the ball and runs for the wrong end zone, I am not obligated to block for him. In fact, I might have to tackle him.

LOUIE GOHMERT has never been afraid to go against the grain when it means supporting the people from Texas' First District, and that is the people I thank for loaning us LOUIE GOHMERT, for having the good discernment to send him to Congress in the first place and then to send him back. America has benefited from the good judgment of the people in Texas' First District.

We are going to miss you very much, sorely, LOUIE.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. THOMAS, you came in with me in 2012, as I recall.

Mr. MASSIE. Yes.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Just a little bit of history here. In my second term,

when LOUIE GOHMERT decided to throw his name in the hat for Speaker, us knowing him, believing to know him and his character, I said, "I am all in, LOUIE."

It turned out I was part of the Gohmert caucus of three that voted for him for Speaker. I paid a price for it, of course, but LOUIE stood firm. Jim Bridenstine was the other one. Since they vote alphabetically, Bridenstine voted for GOHMERT, and GOHMERT voted for GOHMERT. We already knew who the Speaker was going to be. It gets to the W's. Bridenstine is texting me and saying don't leave us hanging. I said, "I told LOUIE I was all on board. I am all on board." So Weber put that GOHMERT name up there.

Thank you, THOMAS, that is a great remembrance. He has been a fighter and was always willing to put himself out there.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WEBER very much for not only preparing this opportunity for us to honor our colleague and a Member who will be leaving this body after a number of years, the great judge and Congressman, LOUIE GOHMERT.

I rise tonight not just to honor LOUIE GOHMERT but to probably say some things that not many Members can say, and that is I know Tyler, Texas, and I know Tyler, Texas, well. I know many people there, and each of them not only speak well of LOUIE GOHMERT but are pleased with his performance. They enjoy not only his representation, but they believe that he is a man who came to this town knowing who he is and will leave this town knowing who he is. The same person that came is the same person that is leaving.

You know this, Judge GOHMERT, but I have the honor to take part of your congressional district that, through redistricting, has changed. It gives me time to come and reflect upon not only your friends in east Texas, Angelina County, and certainly places like Crockett. Huntsville is a little bit south of the district, but they asked me the other day when I was in Huntsville: "Do you know Louie Gohmert? Because we were kind of thinking that before he said he was leaving that he was going to come down here and be our Congressman." I said: "Well, that is the same thing they say in Lufkin and Nacogdoches. They say that in Crockett. They say that in Waco."

There were a lot of fans all over central Texas that not only admired LOUIE, but he speaks very eloquently about the things that are on their minds, that are front and center on his mind.

For his friends in Waco, Dallas, and Huntsville, certainly across the district that he represents, LOUIE GOHMERT has not only made a name but has, with his great passion and articulation, struck the hearts of many people in Texas who deeply believe that Texas is special, that America is the

greatest place in the world, and that we want to be one Nation under God for as long as we can stay there.

Judge GOHMERT, you are going to be missed, but I look forward to catching up with you often and letting you know that there are a lot of people who thought you did a great job and did it well and are proud of you.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I will echo what Congressman SESSIONS said, that our district loves LOUIE GOHMERT. He was invited to speak. Unfortunately, his calendar wouldn't always permit it, but we did finally get him to come to speak to us.

My District 14 on the Gulf Coast, I am not sure we could have drawn your district that far down to the south, but there are a lot of people who would have sure loved that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people have been speaking a lot of wonderful high praise about LOUIE.

I will tell you, I met LOUIE before I arrived in Congress. I am a freshman, so I haven't had the opportunity to spend as much time with him as many of you have. Before I got here, LOUIE sat me down, and he told me a story.

He was out in Montana doing an event for another Member of Congress. He told me this story: I used to be a judge. I was a judge there in east Texas, and one of the big cases that I had come before me when it was right before an election.

He said every other judge that had this case presented to them had recused themselves because they didn't want to have their fingerprints on it because it was a big problem. It was a man and a wife. There was a domestic problem. There was a murder involved. Half the town supported the husband, half the town supported the wife, and there wasn't a judge around that wanted to get involved in the situation.

LOUIE said: I thought about it. I thought about it, and I went to prayer that evening. I was really struggling with whether I needed to pick this case up or not, whether I needed to pick that fight or not.

He said: The next morning, I got up and knew what I had to do. It came to me, the words from the Holy Spirit came to me, "You can't run from what you ran for."

You can't run from what you ran for. I have carried that message with me as I walk into this Chamber on a daily basis because there are so many people who are afraid to do the right thing. They know what is right, and they walk away and hide. They get other people to help them explain their way out of it.

But there is a right and a wrong in what we do up here, and LOUIE GOHMERT personifies a man who is willing to stand up and say this is what is right, and this is what is wrong. We don't need a deep explanation about it. It is really rather simple: Don't run from what you ran for. It is difficult

issues that we are addressing every single day, and this is why we were sent here.

They tell us all that we are honorable when we get here. You get letters in the mail, the Honorable MATT ROSENDALE, the Honorable RANDY WEBER, the Honorable CLAY HIGGINS, and, yes, the Honorable ANDY BIGGS. It is not so important when you get here to be called honorable as it is to still be addressed as honorable when you leave.

I will stand here and tell everyone that LOUIE GOHMERT will be considered honorable when he leaves this place, and I am honored to call him my friend.

God bless you. Please come and kill a turkey on my place next year.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), somebody who is honorable.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, it is really an incredible thing to be here. Before I came to Congress, I had heard of LOUIE GOHMERT. I had no idea that he would be a friend nor how iconoclastic he is. He is a one-of-a-kind American.

I have a volume of stories. I mean, the way he eats a doughnut, for instance. We could talk about all of these things. I won't do that.

He is larger than life. He is a fearless conservative. He has been on the front lines fearlessly fighting.

THOMAS MASSIE was talking about his memory. It is copious. It is encyclopedic. You can never go wrong with saying, "Hey, LOUIE, what happened here?" Because he is going to know.

He has been a friend of the friendless and a champion who offers the balm of Gilead to those who have a lost cause. He has just been an iconoclastic individual. He is going to be missed terribly.

I tell you what, LOUIE, we are going to miss you, your personality, your fun, your *joie de vivre*—that is French, LOUIE; you might not have recognized that—your love of life, all the things that you brought to us. But we are going to miss your guitar playing—a little bit, anyway. We are really going to miss your ribs. I don't know if anybody else is going to be able to smoke some ribs up on the balcony of the office building over there. Maybe not. But we are sure going to miss them. We are sure going to miss you, my friend. God bless you. Godspeed.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BIGGS for those kind words. If he will get with me later, I will tell him some of those stories, all that we all admire and cherish about Congressman GOHMERT.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), my neighbor to the east of me.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I am so honored to speak on behalf of the people of the country that we serve, the oath that we have sworn, and bid some words of adoration and respect for our brother and friend, LOUIE GOHMERT.

I have described LOUIE as a living Founding Father. To those that have inquired as to whether I have known him, which from sea to shining sea, it is a common question as we travel in service to "we the people," we are asked: "Do you know this fellow? Do you know that lady?" It is quite common to be asked: "Do you know LOUIE GOHMERT?" I am honored to say yes.

LOUIE has represented not just the people of his district, and by extension the Nation that we love and have sworn to serve, but he has represented the foundational core principles that gave birth to our Nation.

In Matthew, the words of the Lord stated: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

You, my brother LOUIE, should feel satisfied within your soul, good sir, because you have brought the very essence of pure principle and spirit to this great body. This Chamber shall forever resonate with your words and your love for God and country. I am honored to have worked with you, to call you brother and friend.

□ 1800

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for speaking. We are going to give the two gentlemen here a chance to express their love for one another.

Mr. Speaker, I have watched LOUIE GOHMERT for a long time. So much could be said about him. So much has been said about him; some of it is even true. Having LOUIE for one of my very good friends gives me status. You know, I had a friend in the fifth grade that gave me the measles, and this is a lot better deal, let me just tell you that. LOUIE has got a great sense of humor. He is a great patriot. He is a great Christian. We all know that.

We have seen him stand for our biblical values time and time and time again. Maybe it sounds a little archaic or a little corny, I don't know, but I think of Roosevelt and his great speech. And it is called "The Man in the Arena" because, Mr. Speaker, it does apply to LOUIE GOHMERT. He is in our arena. He is our fighter. I remind folks President Roosevelt said: "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles; or where the doer of deeds could have done them better."

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph"—at the best, LOUIE GOHMERT—"the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly . . ."

My good friend, LOUIE GOHMERT, has not failed, will not fail.

The President went on: "... if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Someone who is heavily involved in a situation that requires courage, skill, or tenacity as opposed to someone sitting on the sidelines and watching, and the President went on.

I will tell you that nothing has discouraged LOUIE GOHMERT. Nothing has laid him down in the defeat of dust as President Roosevelt described it. He has been a tireless fighter. LOUIE, you and I have been through a lot of battles. We have seen a lot of things. Some of the things we just shake our heads at, but ultimately, we know who is in control.

We know that you have done the Lord's bidding. We know that you fought the good fight. We know that you have endured until the end. We know that you have been a sterling example of what President Reagan called a light on a hill. I forget exactly how he said it, but you are one of those points of light—I think President George H. W. Bush used that analogy—that the rest of us Members in Congress could learn from, that people watching on TV on C-SPAN and out in America could learn from. You never doubted where you stood, never doubted what you stood for or who you stood for.

I can't tell you how proud I am to be called your friend and to know that. We are going to miss you, but I have a feeling you won't be a stranger. We will get to see you come back. If nothing else, I still have to get that rib recipe from you. I still have to get the trademark on that rib recipe from you, the patent on it.

In Texas 14, just like your district, we love God, we love our America, we love our freedom, we love our family, we love our guns, and, LOUIE, you have done a tireless, tireless, spectacular job of defending all of those, and it shows. We believe what the Bible says, quite frankly. God made males and females, a lot of biblical principles. You have stood up for those principles for our Lord Jesus Christ every bit of the way.

Having been a Texas Supreme Court Justice, if you had told me that on our Supreme Court that some of them wouldn't even know what a woman was, from Texas we just don't get that, do we? We understand what the Bible says.

If you had told me, if you and I sat down 10 years ago, that the left would be trying to destroy fossil fuels, the things that make our country so great, that we fight for so diligently in Texas, I wouldn't have believed it. You and I have watched a lot of things come down the pike, a lot of things come down the pike.

So I can sit here and go all night and all day. I believe we do have the leader coming in eventually to come and share a few words, but, LOUIE, if you don't mind, I would like to yield you

some time to give your thoughts and let us continue right now to learn from you yet some more.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), my good friend.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful to my fellow Texan, and I am not saying that lightly, dear friend, with whom a lot of battles have been fought for organizing this Special Order. And I can also honestly say that in my 18 years here I have never been more uncomfortable on the floor than I have been listening to these comments. I had no idea—I never asked—I had no idea how much time I have spoken. Is that really right?

Mr. WEBER of Texas. LOUIE, we don't have enough time to talk about how much time you have actually spent here. It is what your staff said. And it was already pointed out tonight you did such a great job at hiring competent staff, so you better believe it is right. We are proud of you for that.

Mr. GOHMERT. When I came to Congress I had seen that the country was in trouble and having been a history student and having loved history, I knew no republic lasts forever. I knew we were about to the extent of the length of time that republics come and go. I didn't expect to be here 18 years, but I had hoped that when I left I could feel we had perpetuated that liberty for at least another generation, hopefully, much more.

As I sat here listening to the gracious comments, I was taken right back to Ben Franklin's speech in the Constitutional Convention in 1787 after they couldn't agree on much but his words: "I have lived, sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire could rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings that 'except the Lord build they labor in vain that build it.'"

It just seems to me that we have much less concern or desire overall for having the Lord help build the House. I know historically what that means.

I have been deeply encouraged on seeing the people that have come in since I did, and especially in recent years, and I am taking great heart from the fact that we have got some fighters that have come in. If I have helped inspire some, as they said, that is something I can take with me, but I will continue to follow what goes on here and help in any way I can. I am very grateful.

I see my dear friend from Louisiana is here, and I thank God that He brought him through his brush with death because we have been better for him being here. I thank all of those who have spoken tonight.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to mention we do have a great love and affection for Kathy, your bride, for loaning you to us. I know it

is a sacrifice for her. As you pointed out, we have a great leader.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) for yielding and for organizing this tribute to my dear friend, LOUIE GOHMERT.

We will miss you in this Chamber, but I have nothing but great memories of LOUIE. You expressed so many prayers for me in tough times, but also, the things you would do, and I see on the poster the ribs because that is what I think of when LOUIE GOHMERT would offer to the Members to cook ribs for them at the end of a long night.

We have gotten into a lot of heady debates here. We sometimes spar with each other. At the end of that battle to bring people together and say, you know what, we are going to eat some ribs—and, by the way, they are really, really good. He has never given the recipe.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I am working on that.

Mr. SCALISE. I think you ought to pass the recipe on, so we can keep that tradition going, if nothing else—we won't enter it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—just the seasoning and rub you put on it the night before.

But it is one of those things that helps bring Members together because there are a lot of times where it is easy to get on different sides and people are battling on different issues, but to come together at the end of that, and that is something I will always remember because at the end of those long evenings there would be 50 to 100 Members of Congress in those little offices enjoying that camaraderie. It wasn't just the ribs and the Shiner Bock beer you brought, but it is the camaraderie more than anything. That is one thing we need more of. We are going to have disagreements; we always have since the founding of our great Nation. But to be able to come together at the end of each of those disagreements and remember the bond that joins us, that is much more powerful.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, LOUIE GOHMERT, for his service here to the United States Congress.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like the RECORD to reflect that after 5 years or so of cooking ribs on the gutter or balcony or whatever you want to call it of the Cannon Building, the Architect of the Capitol decreed I couldn't do that anymore and found a provision that indicated that. But it was STEVE SCALISE of Louisiana that went to bat with the powers here that ultimately allowed me to start cooking ribs again. I will always be grateful because that is maybe the only time I ever left a good taste in people's mouths. So I am very grateful to STEVE for helping make that happen. You

were the one that facilitated that, and I am grateful.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want the RECORD to reflect—if I can say this—I am going to get a commitment out of him to get that recipe for those ribs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative WEBER for yielding.

LOUIE, I sat next to you for 16 years, I think, in the Natural Resources Committee or one or two removed from you, and at the end we were right next to each other, and you would give me a lot of quips during hearings, during witness testimony. One thing you always struck me as being is a happy warrior.

□ 1815

You are a warrior in the sense that you are passionate and committed to your conservative views and you are happy about it. You have good humor. We just saw a minute ago you poked fun at yourself in a humorous way. So that combination is very rare, and we need more of that. We need people who are happy, positive, and have good humor. You have all of those attributes.

I won't go into these stories because it would take forever to give the background, but you remember some times in Israel we were together floating in the Dead Sea, or you found the dead cat, or other things like that. There are stories we could go into, and I won't do that.

But it has been a real honor serving with you, and I wish you the best. The people of east Texas have been very well represented, and I am sure they will have to make do with somebody else and they will eventually like that person, but they are going to truly miss you, and you will be missed here.

We wish you the best and Godspeed.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today we honor Congressman LOUIE GOHMERT and his years of service to the First District of Texas. I left the event I was at and rushed over here.

I appreciate you so much. Actually, LOUIE, you know you were the first Congressperson I met who was so warm, encouraging, and friendly. I appreciate how you initiated and were always there to be helpful.

Representative GOHMERT, you have been a strong fighter for our constitutional freedoms of religion and speech, States' rights, Second Amendment rights, and more. You have been an inspiration to Members of this body, including myself, and you will be missed.

Oh my, the best ribs I ever ate. I need that recipe. You said you would give it to me.

Thank you, Congressman GOHMERT, for your dedication to our Nation and all your hard work in protecting the

American way of life for future generations. You and I have talked about how much we care about future generations and what we are leaving them.

May God bless you and your family. My prayers will be with you as you transition to your next endeavor.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

It sounds as if your ribs probably need to be trademarked or patented or whatever it takes to get that out. We just can't say enough, LOUIE. We have got other people. It is amazing that Mrs. MARY MILLER would rush over here. I thought when she said that, wow, that is commitment. But then I thought, no, that is love—it is commitment—and that is love for LOUIE GOHMERT. It is respect, it is honor, and it is us wanting to say you are a tower among those people who have ever darkened these doors and been in this place. I can't say thank you enough.

I want the same guarantee that I get the recipe; otherwise, I will have to hack into her computer and get that recipe for those ribs.

I just can't say enough. We have got a couple more people; hopefully, Dr. BRIAN BABIN and JOHEY ARRINGTON will be here shortly.

So if you want to take this time, LOUIE, to lay out all the ingredients, then we can all write it down. But please come share some more from your heart while we wait. We just can't tell you how grateful we are to be able to spend this time with you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Obviously, the people whom I have to thank in addition to my family, Kathy is—well, I don't think I could have gotten elected without her help both running for judge and then for Congress. My girls have put up with so very much. They have taken abuse for my positions and things I have said, done, and fought for.

But I have always felt that I was the most fortunate Member of Congress because of whom I got to represent, the people of east Texas. We are so blessed in Texas. I am really blessed they took a chance. Nine of twelve counties had not elected a Republican for Congress, and I am grateful that they took a chance on me. So I will always be grateful to the people of east Texas. My service is not over, it will be in a different capacity.

One of the things that has really bothered me during my time is other Christians saying: LOUIE, we don't have to worry, God is in control.

That is so frustrating.

I love what my friend, Pastor Tommy Nelson says:

Just because God is in control doesn't mean He wants us to lean on our shovel and pray for a hole because He gave us all tools and expects us to use the tools while we are praying, that is fine, but use what He gave us.

We have heard from people who have done that. There are so many more

that are tied up other places. But it really has been an inspiration to me to see the people who are coming in, who have come in, like those we have heard from; they are smart, ethical, and care deeply about America and about America's future. So that is an encouragement to me. I am so glad I got a glimpse of that.

Actually, when I decided I had to at least try, as late as I got into the race for Attorney General, I knew, I had seen, I had heard, and I had become friends with people whom I knew were going to be fighting for what is right. We don't have to agree on everything.

It was an honor for me to know BOBBY RUSH. Even though some gave me grief because I did not vote initially for his Emmett Till bill; I was for it, but then when they cut the maximum sentence back to 10 years, that was just such a shortchange. As a former judge, I couldn't imagine being limited to 10 years in sentencing somebody involved in some conspiracy like that, to do something as horrible as that. So I was very pleased—because of Congressman RUSH's constant never giving up and continuing to push—when we got a bill that was more deserving of his name and Emmett Till's name.

There have been great opportunities. I know there are good people here. I will continue to pray for this body. I am just thankful that I got to serve with the folks here.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER).

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is 2022 in the U.S. Congress. We have crises with inflation, energy, and homeland security. We have got issues with the border, the Ukrainian invasion, and the list goes on. The only thing higher than the degree of partisanship is our national debt. The only thing lower than congressional approval is confidence in the President.

So why would anybody want to serve at a time like this?

There tends to be two types of congressional Members, those with a personal agenda, typically one that places themselves and the title of Congressman at the forefront, and those who sincerely desire to serve Americans and protect the divine principles our Nation was founded on.

LOUIE GOHMERT is clearly in the latter category.

Time after time, when personal liberties were being challenged, taxpayer money misused, and Christian values maligned, LOUIE GOHMERT would stand, and with his unrivaled passion he would state his case.

Mr. GOHMERT, you are that rare type of Member our Founders had hoped would sit in this Chamber in the future. You made your constituents proud. You honored biblical guidelines for governance.

It is an honor to call you a friend. You will be missed.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

RUSS is exactly correct. LOUIE GOHMERT has stood strong against abortion. The judge has stood strong against the Green New Deal and the destruction of the fossil fuel industry that makes America great. We have got to have fossil fuel so that our enemies around the world cannot just overrun us with their military might.

Judge GOHMERT has fought any attempt to do away with gun rights. He has been a great soldier in that regard.

He has fought against this administration's attempt to keep the borders open and all that that means, whether it is killing 100,000 Americans a year with fentanyl—300 a day. Just imagine, Mr. Speaker, if you would, 300 Americans a day is like two jet airliners going down every single day.

How long do you think it would take for the American public to cry out if there were two jet airliners hitting the ground and killing 150 people on board every day?

You have stood strong against open borders. You have stood strong against Congress' willingness to give away taxpayer dollars. You have stood strong against some Members who want to increase the size of government agencies.

Can you say 87,000 IRS agents?

You stood strong against a big tech that was out of control and wanted protection from liability.

Yes, as RUSS and many others have pointed out, you have been a supreme fighter for defending rights of religious liberty, and you have been a supreme fighter against those who would turn America into a socialist country. I can't enumerate that as well as you can and have done so eloquently over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend. Both of these guys are great friends. This is a great tribute today to a great man.

No one is more well-known in the conservative world than Judge LOUIE GOHMERT. I am very grateful to have served with him as my brother in the Texas delegation for the last 8 years since I was elected.

It is no secret that LOUIE is a speaker of truth and a fighter for our freedoms. He is unapologetic in his principles and a true defender of the United States Constitution.

As President Trump said: LOUIE has guts. He is as tough as hell.

Isn't that the truth?

But he is more than that. He is also a man of integrity, a veteran, a judge, a historian, a Bible scholar, a really fair preacher, a husband, and a father.

Judge GOHMERT is my neighbor to the north. He represents the First District of Texas, and I represent the last district, the 36th District. That is changing as we have had redistricting, but I like to tell people that. He has fought tirelessly to preserve and protect our border and prosper the State of Texas.

In a judiciary hearing a few months ago, LOUIE quoted the author George

Orwell saying, "Free speech is my right to say what you don't want to hear." What a fitting quote for our friend, LOUIE GOHMERT.

You can count on LOUIE to be truthful. Sometimes he says what you don't want him to say. But he says it if he believes it. He is a man of integrity, and he stands his ground. You can count on LOUIE GOHMERT to be bold, and you can count on LOUIS to be fearless.

There will be a great hole in this august body here without LOUIE GOHMERT. I imagine that it will really never be filled in the same way that it was.

In a recent Louie Hour, my friend closed his time on the floor with following words, and I would like to do the same.

I continue to have hope that springs eternal in the human breast that we don't and won't lose the greatest freedom, the greatest country, and the greatest gift of a country any people has ever received, and that it will not be our generation that sees it lost.

May God bless LOUIE GOHMERT and his family.

We will miss him.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to say what an honor it has been to serve alongside the great LOUIE GOHMERT. I have watched him on television, as we say, for many years, fighting the fight for our freedom, for the Constitution, and for the values that make America so exceptional and so great.

I know I am about to be gaveled, and I am running out of time, so let me say this: This man has the kind of grit and the kind of fight that this country and this country's leaders are going to need if we are going to restore freedom and return power to the people and resurrect the great United States of America.

If we could just bottle a little bit of LOUIE GOHMERT and force-feed it to the Members of this body, I believe we could get our great country back.

God bless LOUIE GOHMERT. God bless his family and all his future endeavors, and God bless America.

□ 1830

HONORING FRED HAMPTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) for 30 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, LOUIE GOHMERT, for his friendship over the past years that we have served together in this Chamber.

I certainly thank him for his support of the Emmett Till Antilynching Act that was signed into law by President Biden a few months ago. I thank Representative GOHMERT for his support and for his steadfastness on that bill.

Mr. Speaker, it is for the final time that I stand in this well on this floor to commemorate the memory and the legacy of Fred Hampton, my friend and comrade in the Black Panther Party.

This last Sunday marked 53 years since Chairman Fred was assassinated by a racist, corrupt Chicago Police Department, which, as a part of the FBI's COINTELPRO program, the FBI's national counterintelligence program, without legal authority and in stark violation of the U.S. Constitution, surveilled, harassed, harmed, arrested, and assassinated innocent, ordinary American citizens.

My friend, Fred Hampton, was a brilliant young man that I recruited to join the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, which I, along with Mr. Bob Brown, organized in 1968.

Fred and I fought together side by side against police brutality and police murder in Chicago specifically, but across our great Nation in general.

We set up free community health clinics, free breakfast for children programs, and a free busing to prison program to allow families to visit their loved ones who were in prison.

Mr. Speaker, we initiated free sickle cell anemia testing programs to educate this Nation and to tell Black people about this dreaded but often and largely ignored disease.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to his charismatic leadership, Fred Hampton was so powerful and so inspirational throughout the city of Chicago and the Nation at large, his charisma, his influence extended even to other countries.

Chairman Fred was a charismatic, courageous, exceptional, and highly committed leader, who, at the age of 21, was assassinated while he slept under the influence of the drug Seconal that was put in his favorite drink at that time, which was Kool-Aid. His Kool-Aid was laced with Seconal.

Why? Because Fred Hampton used every fiber of his talent, his immense talent, without hesitancy, to fight for poor people: poor Whites, poor Blacks, poor Asians, poor Hispanic people, poor people across the board.

His oratory skills exceeded almost every significant leader of his time. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, he was able to move the masses not simply and only because of his oratory but also because of his example.

To see Fred, to hear Fred, was to know Fred, to be inspired by Fred.

Mr. Speaker, Chicago, my home city, the city I love, was and still is one of the most segregated cities in America, but Chairman Fred understood how to connect across racial and geographic boundaries. He knew how to connect with aspirations and deep-seated desires of people across racial and geographic lines. He knew how to create alliances and coalitions based around common needs and common desires.

He created the original Rainbow Coalition in Chicago. This coalition was a partnership with the Young Lords, a Hispanic organization, and the Young

Patriots, which was an organization of poor Appalachian Whites from the Uptown community in Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, this amazing, creative, never-seen-before coalition of poor people was comprised of working-class people in our city suffering with the same issues that we all were suffering with. Those issues were police brutality, substandard housing, mediocre education, low-quality healthcare, and low-quality food that was being sold in stores in our neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, these were the programs that Fred Hampton championed. This was the kind of individual that Fred Hampton was.

I stand here today, Mr. Speaker, and say that rather than be saluted for these and similar efforts, the Black Panther Party members, and particularly Chairman Fred, were seen as a threat to those in power.

J. Edgar Hoover said that the Black Panther Party was this Nation's number one threat. Why? We were feeding hungry children. We were providing free healthcare to young children, to poor people who needed it. We were taking loved ones to prison to see their loved ones who were incarcerated. We were speaking truth to power.

Is this the reason why Fred Hampton was assassinated? Is this the very reason why the Black Panther Party was being viewed by J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI as the number one threat to this Nation? It just doesn't make sense.

Mr. Speaker, J. Edgar Hoover's FBI started a file on Fred and put him on their Agitator Index, listing him as a key militant leader.

They even went so far as to hire a fellow by the name of William O'Neal, a streetwise Black criminal and operative, as an FBI informant who was assigned to infiltrate the Black Panther Party and report back to them about our every move, our every activity.

□ 1845

And then, Mr. Speaker, on December 4, 1969, at about 4 a.m. in the morning, the Chicago Police Department, working in conjunction with the FBI and the Cook County State's Attorney, Edward V. Hanrahan, surreptitiously entered an apartment at 2337 West Monroe where Fred Hampton lived, and where other Black Panther Party members were staying. They came with the premeditated plan to murder Fred Hampton, to murder me and any other party members that they found in that apartment.

They came armed with machine guns, high-powered pistols, and every other type of weapon, intent on killing everyone in that apartment. They came under the guise of executing a search warrant for weapons, but had every intention of murdering Fred Hampton, and others in that apartment. They killed Fred.

Mr. Speaker, let me make it real clear. Throughout American history, there has not been anyone other than