

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as National Welding Month. Welding careers are fundamental to safety and advancing the quality of life worldwide. This month, we raise awareness about the welding industry and its career paths.

The welding industry is a foundation of manufacturing. Skilled welders not only keep products rolling off an assembly line and buildings rising into the skyline, but they also keep the economy booming.

As co-chair of the Bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, recognizing National Welding Month is especially important. Welding is a trade-based education, and students who choose to enter a career in welding can graduate high school with a diploma and certifications in one hand and multiple job offers in the other.

Mr. Speaker, a great example are the 12 high school students from Venago County who recently received their welding certificates through the Community College of Allegheny County at Venago Technology Center.

Students in the program were all juniors and seniors from Titusville, Cranberry, Oil City, or Franklin High Schools. Upon graduating from high school, the students will also have earned 18 full credits through CCAC for their work.

Mr. Speaker, this is what a career in technical education provides. It teaches learners of all ages skills to help them succeed in the workforce.

PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. BARRAGÁN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Parkinson's Awareness Month. Parkinson's disease is a neurological disorder that makes it a challenge to move, speak, and perform everyday tasks we often take for granted. Parkinson's slowly robs people of their independence and mobility.

Nearly 1 million people in the U.S. live with this heartbreaking disease, and my father was one of them. I watched him battle Parkinson's for the last 10 years of his life.

I also want to recognize our colleague, JENNIFER WEXTON, who shared last year that she was diagnosed with a form of atypical parkinsonism, PSP.

She has shared her story and been a strong advocate of the National Plan to End Parkinson's Act, which passed the House as the first-ever legislation solely dedicated to ending Parkinson's.

The House has done its job. I call on the Senate to pass this bipartisan bill. Together, let's honor our caregivers, advocate for research and better treatments, and create a future where Parkinson's is overcome.

□ 1815

CELEBRATING MICHAEL ZADERECKY'S 106TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a patriot and true American hero, Mike Zaderecky, of Parma, Ohio, who just celebrated his 106th birthday.

A 1937 graduate of the now-closed Slavic Village South High School, Mike attended Kent State University before being drafted into the Army.

As a private first class in the 8th Infantry Division, 45th Field Artillery Battalion, Mike served in World War II's European theater, patrolling beaches at Normandy shortly after the landings.

In 1945, Mike returned home to Ohio.

Mike continued to selflessly serve his community as a Parma city councilman and a city heating inspector. After retiring, Mike couldn't help but continue his service, working another 28 years as a bailiff. Known as Uncle Mikey in court, he ran a tight ship, keeping both unruly lawyers and equally unruly youngsters in check.

At a time when membership in veterans organizations is in decline, Mike is a faithful member of American Legion Post 572. He is a true inspiration for young servicemembers returning to civilian life.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Zaderecky for his selfless service and wish him a very happy birthday.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PROTESTS AND STUDENTS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I represent the district where Columbia University is located, and as protests have continued to escalate, I have had the opportunity to meet with many Jewish students on the Columbia campus.

I strongly believe that the ability to peacefully protest is a fundamental American value, and I support a student's ability to free expression. However, instances of anti-Semitic hate speech have left these students feeling scared and alone. I want to tell them tonight: You are not alone.

However, vandalism, breaking the law, and anti-Semitism aren't part of peaceful protesting. As the recent escalation has disrupted campus life and placed students in harm's way, the university must immediately prioritize providing safety and order for all students on campus.

As Members of Congress, we have a duty to pass meaningful legislation to protect students and all Americans against anti-Semitism and other forms of hate, and we will do that.

RECOGNIZING DR. DEVIN STEPHENSON

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the remarkable contributions of Dr. Devin Stephenson to northwest Florida.

He currently serves as president of Northwest Florida State College but will be leaving our community to take a post as the head of Florida Polytechnic.

During his time at Northwest Florida State College, Dr. Stephenson began an aviation institute that has become a center of excellence. He has revolutionized the way our State colleges administer nursing education with some of the best technology in that field in the world, and the dual enrollment charter school at Northwest Florida State College has maintained its position as number one in Florida.

He has done so many things for so many thousands of people. We will miss him greatly as he heads on to his new pursuits, and we wish him well at Florida Polytechnic University.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order hour today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. It is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this joint CBC Special Order hour along with my distinguished colleague, Assistant Leader JOE NEGUSE. For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to honor the life of our late Congressman Donald Payne, a leader of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents he represented, and all of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), who is the assistant leader.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) for her leadership. I also thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Chairman HORSFORD, and all of my colleagues gathered today to honor a great man, a kind man, and a good man, our beloved

colleague, Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.

With incredible style and a bone-deep optimism that was truly contagious, Don was a kind and gentle giant in the people's House. His dedication to the people of New Jersey was inspiring. His good-natured spirit and his humor were a comfort to us all.

Don used his voice, often standing in this very Chamber—delivering more speeches in the people's House in this Congress than any other Member of this august body—to elevate the issues that matter to his community, the people of New Jersey, and the American people. His impact has been felt and will be felt by countless folks across the State of New Jersey and across our great country, including those who benefited from his efforts to expand access to safe drinking water, to implement better pay and safer working conditions, and to do so much more.

Above all else, he was a kind, good, and decent man.

I was proud to call him a friend, as we all were. As we prepare to lay him to rest, our hearts go out to his wife, Beatrice, and their triplets.

May they find comfort in their loving memories of a good, kind, and decent man.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman CHERFILUS-McCORMICK very much for bringing us together to honor this great person.

Anyone who ever watches the House of Representatives knew that Mr. PAYNE was first row, first seat. Any President or head of state who came into this body had to pass by him and pay their respects as he paid his respects in return, and practically every day, he did a Special Order on a priority. Whether it was in command of a discussion or what happens in the distinguished visitor's chair, Donald Payne was to be reckoned with.

It is with immense sadness that I rise today to honor our dear colleague. Mr. Speaker, as you can see from the flowers and the black crepe, we are all mourning him deeply.

Donald Payne came from a tradition of leadership, patriotism, effectiveness, and excellence. Public service was in his DNA. Many of us served with his father, Donald Payne, Sr., who was globally recognized as a great leader. Long before Donald Payne, Jr., was here, his father sang his praises. One day, he would replace him.

During his nearly 12 years here in the House, he strengthened our legislative efforts, especially in infrastructure at the helm of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He led a fight to secure clean drinking water for every child.

Indeed, even in what would be his final remarks on the floor, when we heard him just a matter of weeks ago,

he made the case for lowering housing costs and expanding supply, demonstrating his total commitment to working families in the Garden State of New Jersey and beyond.

In our Caucus in the Congress, Congressman Payne was beloved. He was truly beloved. Indeed, all of us who served with him have been blessed by his personal kindness, his sense of humor, and his devotion to finding common ground.

Again, he was respectful of this institution by treating it with great dignity.

The dapperness of his apparel was always a source of joy to us and brightened our day.

Again, I hope it is a comfort to his wife, Beatrice; their triplets, Donald III, Jack, and Yvonne; and the entire Payne family that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for him at this sad time with a special thank-you to them for sharing Donald Payne with us in the Congress.

It is an honor to call him a colleague, and the American people benefited from his leadership and service.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), who is the chairman of the CBC.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, for leading this very important Special Order hour. I thank all of my colleagues who are here and the assistant Democratic leader, Mr. NEGUSE, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight, as our dear colleague would say to his constituents, Mr. Speaker, with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus and, in fact, the entire House of Representatives to remember a man of the people.

The loss we all feel for our dear friend and colleague, Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr., is immeasurable. Words really cannot express how deeply he will be missed by our Caucus, but we want to express our heartfelt condolences and our prayers to the Payne family, to his staff, and to anyone and everyone who knew him.

He is forever in our hearts, and we are so sorry for your loss.

As chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, it is an honor to work with my colleagues each and every day for the betterment of our constituents, this body, and our country. It was an honor to work with a man of such good character, passion, and deep commitment to serving his community and our country as Donald M. Payne, Jr.

He was a kind and thoughtful person, a person who always had a good spirit despite some of the most difficult health conditions that anyone could experience. He always had laughter and a humor about him and an optimism that was truly contagious.

To our Caucus, Donald Payne was prolific, literally prolific, on this floor. He came to this floor to speak for the people. He had a goal of being “the Mi-

chael Jordan of 1-minutes,” and he would go on to win that award not once, not twice, not three times, but five awards in a row. For those who may not know, a 1-minute speech is when you come to this body and bring attention to an issue that is important to the constituents whom you represent.

Despite sometimes not being in the best of health, he found the time and every opportunity to speak to his constituents and to speak on behalf of them.

That is how many of us will remember him. We will remember him with a smile, always dressed to impress, heading to the House floor to speak to the country on behalf of the people and the community that he loved the most.

He was a man of purpose and a man of humility. He was a public servant through and through. This House has been made better for his leadership.

Congressman Payne, Jr., will always be a part of the history that we make here on behalf of the American people. I join my colleagues in honoring his memory, his legacy, and his life by continuing the work to fight for the people on the issues that matter to them most.

May God bless your soul, Congressman Donald Payne. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to know you, to be friends with you, and to serve with you.

Your legacy will live on, and may God bless you.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for me to stand here this evening as I mourn the loss of my dear friend, Donald Payne, Jr.

In my own way, I adopted Donald Jr. and he accepted me as his other mother.

I loved him because he was a fighter. Experiencing his own health problems, he worked hard to address the health problems in our society and to educate and legislate to get healthcare and support for others.

He was a gentleman. All the Members loved, supported, and respected him. All the Members of Congress loved him because of his spirit.

I loved his support for all others when he was having his own problems.

I also enjoyed loving his dress. Mr. Speaker, he had those beautiful bow ties, and he wore those fabulous suits and shoes in all of his colors that he coordinated.

I would compliment him, and we would laugh and joke about the fabulous eyeglasses that he had and on and on.

□ 1830

He was a man of style and fashion. I am going to miss him, and I am going to miss inquiring about his wonderful children, his triplets, and about what they were doing.

Additionally, I am going to just plain be overcome with grief and try to get

some relief in the fact that I knew him, and may he rest in peace.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable man, my colleague and dear friend, Donald Payne, Jr.

Donald was a kindhearted public servant who dutifully served New Jersey's 10th Congressional District. For Donald, like his father, whom he succeeded, representing his district was heartfelt and personal. From the district of that district, he provided invaluable insight to the most profound issues facing our country, from our national security and major infrastructure needs that keep the American people and commerce flowing, to the more personal challenges that we face, like the unique challenges of men's healthcare and overall health policy, and the path our country could chart to address injustice and create equitable opportunities for the country's underserved communities.

He was a vibrant voice in this Chamber every day, a sharply dressed messenger helping to educate us all, communicating the everyday lived experiences of Americans to help craft more compassionate policy, improve the quality of life for all, and help create a more perfect union.

He was beloved on both sides of the aisle and, of course, by his family and the people he served. Though he has transitioned from this life, it is my hope that his spirit remains alive in all of us in all that we do.

To God be the glory for the life and the legacy of Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, today, we mourn the loss of Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., a thoughtful leader, a dear friend, a son of Newark who never forgot where he came from or who he served, a legislator whose kindness brought us together even during the most divisive political times.

I had the privilege of serving alongside both Donald Paynes, but Donald Payne, Jr., served with me on the Homeland Security Committee during his entire tenure in Congress, and he achieved great things.

When he came to the committee in 2013, the world had just come crashing down for parents in Newtown, Connecticut, whose children were gunned down at an elementary school. Donald Payne, Jr., a father of school-aged triplets, vowed to make schools safer in this country. It is because of him, because of his relentless advocacy, that the Department of Homeland Security

is reporting to Congress on school security.

Additionally, it is because of Donald Payne, Jr., who wrote the Homeland Security for Children's Act, that the Department of Homeland Security now must plan for children's unique needs during disasters. Donald Payne, Jr.'s legacy is making children safer.

As we mourn together, let us celebrate together. Every goal, every accomplishment, every move Donald Payne, Jr., made here in the Halls of Congress was in the service to his wife, Bea; his children, Donald, Jack, and Yvonne; the city of Newark; and the people of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District. Donald Payne, Jr., leaves a legacy that they all can—we all can—be proud of.

We note how Congressman Payne was a snazzy dresser. I couldn't touch him, but, in his memory, I am putting on some of his favorite shades for this evening.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have an opportunity to highlight the legacy of our colleague and my friend, Donald Payne, Jr.

Last week, New Jersey lost a great public servant far too soon. Many knew Don for his trademark bow tie, big smile, and friendly demeanor.

Let me tell a bit more about his life and journey. Don's mother died when he was just 5 years old, and after his mother's passing, Don and his siblings were raised by his father. I think many know his father, Donald Sr., also my colleague, was the first Black Member of Congress from New Jersey. He was also a Congressional Black Caucus chairman.

However, Don Jr. tended to the trail blazed by his father by fighting for healthcare for all, delivering Federal funding to the largest and most important transportation project in American history, and replacing lead drinking water pipes that made kids in his district sick. In honor of his father, he led bipartisan efforts to research, prevent, and treat colorectal cancer.

Don was a powerful politician in New Jersey, as both a county commissioner and Newark City councilman. New Jersey allowed you to hold both offices at the same time. Many felt it was a step down for him to come to Congress, but he felt it was an obligation and duty to follow his father's footsteps, and he was determined to make the best of it.

Now, Don was always struggling with health issues from the very first day that he came here, but it didn't stop him from his work, from voting, from doing more special orders than any other Member, as was mentioned by my colleagues tonight. In a town known for sharp elbows, Don always showed kindness. He always took the time to ask how you were doing. He made sure you knew that you had a

friend who had your back no matter what.

Don Payne can serve as an example for all of us. He didn't care if you were Black or White, Christian or Jewish, rich or poor. We were all in this effort together to get things done that would make a difference in our quality of life.

Don didn't worry about himself. He was funny and self-deprecating. If there was anything he didn't like, it was conceit or thinking that you were better than other people. Don's goal was always to help others, and that is what he would ask of us: Work every day to make a better life for your community, your State, and your country.

This week, the American flag flies at half-mast at the Capitol in his honor. We join his wife, Beatrice, and his children, the triplets, Donald III, Jack, and Yvonne, in mourning his passing. Donald Payne, Jr., made his family and constituents proud. His work is done, but it won't be forgotten.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California, (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for bringing us together tonight. It is hard to stand here and look over here. Where is Don? Every night, here he was speaking truth to power.

Tonight, I rise with my colleagues in remembrance of our beloved friend and colleague, Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.

Now, I got to know and love Don before I actually met him. His proud father, our beloved Donald Payne, Sr., made sure of that. The entire Payne family was committed to service, extending to the next generation. Don Jr.'s son was an incredible intern in my office. He was brilliant. He was passionate. He was his father a few years younger. His son, I will tell you, made a major contribution to my office, and we were and became a better office because of Don Jr.

Don Jr. was passionate. He was kind, he was gentle, and a brilliant man who was determined to not let his health challenges stop him from his visionary and his bold work. I remember traveling abroad with him. He would always take time, yes, for his medical treatments and be right back in our meetings, providing his insight on global affairs. He showed us how to live a full life, regardless of his difficulties.

His loss will be immensely felt in New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, where he worked tirelessly to rebuild our Nation's infrastructure, provide clean drinking water for disadvantaged communities, invest in minority-owned businesses, and bring awareness to colorectal cancer in the Black community.

We talked a lot about a variety of treatments for diabetes. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, which funds NIH, he was very instrumental and insightful in helping me with my work with regard to diabetes and cancer.

My condolences go to his family and his loved ones, including his wife, Beatrice, and their three children. I hope that they find strength in their memories and love for this great man who fought the good fight, and he fought a good fight until the end.

May he rest in eternal peace and power.

I thank the gentlewoman again for giving us a chance to speak this evening on behalf of our beloved Congressman, Donald Payne, Jr.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), our Democratic leader.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlewoman for yielding.

It is with great sadness that we gather here today to honor the life and the leadership and legacy of Don Payne, Jr., but also celebrate that life, that leadership, and that legacy of our dear brother, who was a gentle giant; a kind, compassionate man; powerhouse in terms of his legislative capacity, though he didn't spend a lot of time promoting his accomplishments. He just let the work be done and speak for itself.

However, that is work that was transformational. He stood up for the people that he represented in his beloved Brick City of Newark, his beloved State of New Jersey, and for people all across the country, particularly underrepresented communities in the area of healthcare.

He was a champion in providing access and information and affordability to Black men and to other historically underrepresented communities suffering from disproportionate high rates of ailments, and that is a legacy that will be with us in this Congress, in this country, and, indeed, throughout the world for years and decades to come.

It was my honor, along with JOYCE BEATTY and ROBIN KELLY and STEVEN HORSFORD and MARC VEASEY, to come into Congress together with Donald Payne, Jr. He often made reference to the fact that he arrived a few months before us in a special election, so we affectionately called him the dean of the class of 2012. What a great dean he was, what a great man he was, what a great colleague and friend he was, and may he forever rest in power.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, our Democratic leader, for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida has 34 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding.

I rise today on behalf of the people of the Ninth District of New York, the

Clarke family, and myself to remember a true gentleman from New Jersey, the honorable and incomparable Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr.

Just about everyone who was blessed to know my dear friend, Donald, will remember a man with unwavering principles guided by his belief that every American deserves an advocate willing to fight for their best possible future, not to mention his incomparable sense of style. Those bow ties were just classic.

I think back fondly on my time serving alongside Donald throughout his six terms in the House of Representatives and the precious time we shared. We both served on the Committee on Homeland Security together.

□ 1845

One of the memories I have is sitting by his side, deep into the early morning in defense of Secretary Mayorkas during the sham impeachment proceedings, as he admonished those who chose to laugh at the depiction of an officer—as they continued to move different issues forward that were certainly not truthful—on horseback who was using a whip on human beings at the border.

The second instance is of his righteous anger at the existence of a challenge coin commemorating the abuses Black and Brown migrants faced at our southern border.

Each of these stories exemplify the singular commitment to justice and moral courage which defined Donald's tenure here in Congress.

We supported one another in our districts, and we would move back and forth, him coming to Brooklyn, New York, and me going to Newark, New Jersey, to be of support to one another. We shared so much in common: our sense of humor, our sense of fashion, and our genres of music.

We often talked about the fact that when we were younger, we would frequent the same nightclubs right there in Newark, New Jersey, and that was one of our bonding moments.

I can say with confidence that all of Congress will dearly miss Congressman Payne's leadership, kind spirit, and unparalleled dedication to making progress.

So to Beatrice and the triplets, to his loved ones, friends, and staff, I send them love and light and extend my heartfelt condolences during this season of their bereavement.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss my brother and my dear friend.

Rest in peace, Donald Payne, Jr.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands, STACEY PLASKETT.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for anchoring this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that we have gathered here this evening to celebrate the life and legacy of our dear friend and colleague, Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.

When I came to Congress, I knew of his father, Donald Payne, Sr. I had gone to Georgetown's Foreign Service School and all of us Black students knew of the work of his father in elevating Africa, but I came to learn of his son, Donald Payne, Jr., and understood that he was just as passionate as his father; that he, in fact, elevated the legacy of his father by forging his own trail in the issues that were important to him.

We have lost a great man in the House, but Newark, New Jersey, the State, his staff, and especially his family, have lost a dear loved one who can never be replaced.

We must keep his legacy going: the impeccable fashion sense, kind heart, warmth, and a very wry sense of humor, very quiet, but it was there. It was very edgy at times. Donald Payne was, above all, a gentleman. He was a leader in healthcare, specifically with screening for colorectal cancer, Black men's health, and ensuring affordability. He had many initiatives for supporting disadvantaged communities.

I was proud to cosponsor H.R. 3382, the Colorectal Cancer Payment Fairness Act and H.R. 1765, the SNAP Benefits Fairness Act alongside him.

Mr. Payne was an advocate for minority and low-income communities and a voice of support for my home, the Virgin Islands. He was there with us after the hurricanes in 2017 of Irma and Maria. He was a man who always dealt in common sense, in kindness, and what is right, a man that put people over politics and he was our friend. He will be dearly missed.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida has 27 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to Representative BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN from New Jersey.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank the Congresswoman for affording me this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I am heartbroken by the passing of my dear friend, Donald Payne, Jr. Like myself, Don came from a family legacy of public service, and we bonded over discussions of our trail-blazing fathers and the work that they did together in New Jersey.

I cherish the 10 years that I had the honor of working with Don on issues that were important to us, such as access to childcare, improved transportation, and, of course, fighting cancer.

I will especially remember our time on the Homeland Security Committee where we both chaired subcommittees dedicated to protecting vital infrastructure. I loved him like a brother, and he would often call me his "sister-mother" depending upon whether or not I was giving him a hard time about his health or some other issue.

Donald was a dapper dresser, always with matching glasses, matching bow tie, and matching suit. He was a true gentleman, a loyal friend, a great Representative, and my husband and I will pray for his soul and pray for the comfort of Beatrice and their children and family. We loved him dearly.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER).

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for convening tonight's Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the life and legacy of our very dear friend and colleague, Congressman Donald Payne.

Donald, as everyone knows, was larger than life. I love that picture of him, and if you could see it in color, it would be even better because he brought so much color everywhere he went—his suits, his personality. He lit up a room. Not only was he a great friend, but a great father and husband. He was an incredible advocate for his beloved city, Newark, and New Jersey overall, and all the hardworking men and women he represented.

He spent his entire career serving New Jersey, including as a distinguished local official for the city of Newark and of Essex County.

It was such an honor to serve here with Don. When I was first elected, Donald was there for me. He showed me the ropes and shared his wisdom. He was never shy to rib me a little bit in the Jersey way with his humor and his kindness, and his signature bow tie.

His legacy will live on through his advocacy and his tireless championing of issues facing so many Americans: health issues and issues of clean drinking water for families and reliable transportation and great infrastructure.

The mark he left is everywhere in New Jersey, and more than his personality, it is the policies he left behind. He will be missed, but never forgotten. His legacy will live on in a big way in the great State of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with his wife and his three wonderful children. I hope they can find great solace in the work he left behind and the positive impact he had on millions, not just in Jersey, but across our great country.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for having this Special Order Hour.

What a privilege to know Donald Payne, Sr., and to know Donald Payne, Jr.

I sat here tonight listening to my colleagues struggle with how they will describe this wonderful giant of a man, each came with their own excellent presentation, and what should we say about our dynamic duo of dad and son.

I thought, again, how privileged I was and am to have traveled with Don-

ald Payne, Sr., the dad, and to have sat next to Donald Payne, Jr., the son, during the course of Homeland Security and a number of other committees.

Let me tell you a thing or two. Both of them knew how to make you laugh. Both of them had a sense of joy and love for people other than themselves.

To his wonderful bride and his wonderful kids—that I would ask about in the early years—let me tell them that he never forgot them and always loved them dearly.

What I loved most about Donald Payne, Jr., was that he took life's journey, and he turned it into making life better for others. He was not so much worried about himself, but about Newark's journey. He wanted to turn the disease that Black men would always be impacted by into the corner that would help Black men have better health.

He would confront this idea of cancer that was so devastating to Black men, to be able to encourage them to learn about their own lives, and to say we are going to fight this thing and we are going to beat it. That was the way Donald Payne led his life, that the cancer that he had to fight was going to be a cancer that he was going to win.

He believed in encouraging Black men to look at their own health, look at yourself in the mirror, Black men, and stand up and be a man and live a longer life and live the life that we can live together.

Let's not shirk away from the challenges that confront our community. Let us talk about that life and have the best life you can possibly have.

So for a life dealing with healthcare and cancer in Black men, he wanted them to be able to confront it head-on, and we did that.

Isn't it interesting that I remember him garnering \$900 million for a transportation project, the same \$900 million that I got for a transportation project? We were excited that we could take our love of transportation and bring those dollars home to Houston and to New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, there is much more that one can say, but I wanted to bring home the bacon, if you will, and, no, it will not be that. It will simply be the love we have for our fellow human beings, our neighbors. That is what we both hoped that we taught to each other and to our neighbors, and I hope that in spirit he will rest in power and rest in peace.

Let me remind you, Newark, New Jersey, and to his family, whatever he had in life, he was willing to give to others. That is what he will leave us. Whatever he had he wanted to give to someone else. Let us shout and celebrate his life and his legacy. I see you. Rest in power and rest in peace.

God bless.

Mr. Speaker, I come here today to celebrate the life and legacy of our dear Colleague and friend Congressman Donald Payne Jr.

I am deeply saddened by his passing and know that his family are experi-

encing the pain of grieving that only time can ease.

It is my hope that our words tonight on the friend we knew as Donald Payne Jr., will offer some measure of comfort.

Congressman Payne was not only a respected colleague but also a man of vision and compassion for the welfare of children.

I had the honor of arriving in the House of Representatives in 1995, as a freshman while Donald Milford Payne Sr. was serving as the U.S. representative for New Jersey's 10th Congressional District from 1989 until his death in 2012.

I enjoyed sitting next to Congressman Payne Jr. on the House Homeland Security Committee during the 118th Congress and knew him well from our work as Members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

During our time together in Congress we worked together on issues related to equity, justice, and fairness in the provision of federal resources for disaster mitigation, public safety, and border security.

I his work and in our conversations, Congressman Payne Jr. always expressed his devotion to ensuring that the needs of children were met.

In addition to his legislative achievements, he championed the cause of children impacted by disasters and staunchly advocated for and won changes in the Department of Homeland Security's approach in addressing the needs of children during disaster mitigation, evacuations, and recovery efforts.

Representative Payne was a man of great integrity and commitment.

He worked relentlessly to better his community.

He followed in his father's footsteps and became Congressman of the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey in 2012.

And as a Congressman, Donald Payne Jr. cared deeply about his constituents living in the Congressional District-10 and in the great state of New Jersey.

He fought tirelessly for New Jersey families and worked to create jobs and grow the economy.

It was important to him to protect and invest in our children, and to ensure the health and safety of each person who called New Jersey home.

Rep. Payne, Jr. began his long career in public service when he founded Newark South Ward Junior Democrats, becoming its first president.

He also served as an adviser to the YMCA Youth in Government program. He attended Kean College (now Kean University), where he studied graphic arts.

His many accomplishments included being a strong supporter of the Affordable Care Act, which provides thousands of New Jerseyans with access to high-quality, affordable health care.

He also advocated for investing in and protecting the health of our children and introduced the TEST for Lead Act to protect children from lead-contaminated drinking water in schools.

Congressman Donald Payne, Jr. was also a vocal advocate for cancer prevention, introducing the National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Resolution to raise awareness about the need for regular cancer screenings.

He introduced the Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act, so Medicare beneficiaries could get polyp, or cancerous growth, removals covered during routine colorectal cancer screenings.

The bill was signed into law in 2019.

As an addition to this act, Rep. Payne, Jr. introduced the Colorectal Cancer Payment Fairness Act to make sure Medicare provides complete coverage of colorectal cancer screening tests and polyp removals by 2023, so patients don't have to pay for the procedure.

He also introduced the Donald Payne Sr. Colorectal Cancer Detection Act to require Medicare to cover FDA-approved blood-based screening tests and help Americans determine their risk for colorectal cancer.

Throughout Congressman Payne Jr.'s career, he fought to protect the rights of every American.

His unwavering support for equal justice, propelled him to vote for the passage of H.R. 1280, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

This bill increases accountability for law enforcement misconduct, restricts certain policing practices, enhances transparency in data collection and establishes national best practices and training requirements.

Congressman Donald Payne Jr. served as a senior Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and chaired its Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery during the 116th Congress and was Ranking Member in prior Congresses.

He also served as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials for the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In that role, Rep. Payne, Jr. improved passenger and freight rail nationwide.

He protected Americans through his work to improve communications between emergency agencies and provide greater resources to aid victims during and after national emergencies.

During his time on the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, Rep. Payne, Jr. introduced the INVEST in America Act, which became the bipartisan, \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, to provide funds for critical road and rail projects, such as New Jersey's Portal North Bridge and Hudson River Tunnel in the Gateway Program.

Thanks to his efforts, the new law included \$66 billion for passenger rail, the largest federal investment in rail in 50 years, and \$55 billion to replace lead water pipes nationwide. In addition, the law included \$8 billion for New Jersey's highways, \$4.5 billion for the

state's public transit, and \$42 billion to improve New Jersey's traffic safety.

Congressman Payne Jr. built a record of achievement in a divided Congress.

Through his hard work and non-yielding attitude, Representative Payne introduced two bills that were signed into Public Law by President Barack Obama, including the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act of 2015.

This bill ensures that Department of Homeland Security personnel can reliably communicate during emergencies.

He also introduced a bill to secure public areas of transportation facilities, such as airports, which was incorporated into the FAA Reauthorization Act and signed into law in October of 2018.

Representative Payne Jr. fought against discrimination and antidemocratic efforts that would seek to limit voting rights.

And as an original cosponsor of the Freedom to Vote, the John R. Lewis Act of 2021, Congressman Donald Payne Jr. help to restore voting protections from the Voting Rights act of 1965, which was abolished in the Supreme Court decision *Shelby County v. Holder* in 2013.

The Equality Act is yet another bill that Congressman proudly supported.

This bill addresses systemic discrimination in our schools, jobs, and communities.

And for the first time in history, ban discrimination based on actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury selection process.

To empower communities of color, I voted for the passage of the Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans.

This bill will increase transparency, unity, healing, and research to address our nation's historically unequal treatment of African Americans, Indigenous Americans, Latino Americans, and minority groups, as well as the effects of systemic racism.

Congressman Donald Payne Jr. meant many things to many people.

He was a steadfast public servant, a proud father, and loving husband.

Congressman Payne was a dedicated public servant, a champion for his constituents, and a staunch advocate for social justice and equality.

His legacy of service will continue to inspire generations to come.

I offer my deepest condolences to his loving wife Beatrice and their triplets, Donald III, Jack, and Yvonne, colleagues, friends, constituents, and his dedicated Subcommittee staff and personal office staff.

Congressman Payne's memory will always remain in our hearts.

As a legislative body we must continue to forward his vision of justice, equality, and a more equitable society.

Congressman Payne Jr. will be missed dearly.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman

from Minnesota, Representative ILHAN OMAR.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join my colleagues to honor the life and legacy of the late Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.

Donald was one of the first people to say hello to me. I recognized his name as soon as he introduced himself. I had met his father as a young girl in a refugee camp in Kenya. We talked a lot about his father's love and wishing the best for those of us who were born on the Continent and how much he desired to carry on some of that work.

I got to see him almost every single day getting ready to do his 1 minute and I would get an opportunity to check in with him. He not only showed up for every 1 minute every time it was scheduled, but he showed up and fought for his beloved community every day he was in office.

His dedication to following his father's legacy by serving others, his deep human decency, his commitment to the people of New Jersey will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

I will miss our chitchats. I will miss seeing his beautiful smile, and I will miss knowing that he was here to cheer me up.

I am sending love and light to his family, to his staff, and to all the people who loved him. May he rest in power.

□ 1900

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of our beloved colleague, Donald M. Payne, Jr., of New Jersey's 10th District.

He was born into a legacy of service but forged his own path. He was warm, witty, and a warrior—a happy one, but a warrior. A warrior for transportation justice, for workers' rights, for healthcare, for gun safety, for clean water.

He never wavered in his exuberance for life or for this work. He was a prolific orator, especially on the House floor. I will always remember him smiling, nattily attired, wearing a colorful suit, bow tie, glasses, and sometimes a fedora that I would ask him to loan me.

I will remember him heading to the House floor with purpose to speak on behalf of the people and the community that he loved.

Mr. Speaker, Black men deserve to grow old. I am heartbroken as I consider consecutively and collectively the loss of Elijah, John, Alcee, Donald McEachin, and now our beloved Donald M. Payne, Jr. It breaks my heart that we are losing yet another member of our historic Congressional Black Caucus. He was an exemplary Member of Congress and an even better man.

Job well done, Congressman Payne. Rest in peace, in power. Your legacy will live on. Our deepest condolences to Beatrice, to Donald, to Jack, Yvonne,

all of your family by blood and by bond, including your staff.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL).

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember our dear friend and colleague, Donald Payne, Jr.

He was a model public servant, a man who represented the best our State had to offer. From a very young age, he strove to make New Jersey a better place for everyone.

He brought his personal experiences to the Halls of Congress, fighting to expand access to healthcare, which no question changed people's lives. He was an expert when it came to modernizing our Nation's infrastructure, and a partner I turned to as we fought together to make the Gateway Tunnel a reality.

As you have heard, Donald was so much more than just an expert policymaker or a thoughtful legislator. He was a kind, kind man. I remember when he said to me one day: "You know, Congress can be a lonely place."

If you knew Donald Payne, it was never a lonely place because he was always looking out for you. He was always bringing a smile to so many faces, even though he was going through such difficult health struggles. He always made time to ask how you were doing.

He always had his bow tie, his sharp suits on, and he would always take a minute to smile when you complimented him and to say how great it was to see you.

He is going to be missed. He was a presence here that will be sorely missed by all of us. It was an honor to call him a friend. It was an honor for many years to call him my Congressman, and it is an honor to speak today of him. May he rest in peace.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM).

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my colleague and my friend, Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.

It is difficult standing in this Chamber knowing that we will never see Donald walk in here and sit with us again. I remember the first time that I sat with him here in these chairs. I was a brand-new Member of Congress, and he was willing to share a quiet moment with me as I was unsure of myself in this extraordinary yet overwhelming place.

When I sought his advice, he told me there is no single way to be a Member of Congress, but he suggested that all of us focus on being ourselves and delivering for our State and our constituents. In some ways, with so much going on, it helped give some clarity and elegant simplicity to this intimidating yet complicated work that we do.

I will remember Donald for his kindness, as many have talked about today. I will remember Donald for the pride he took in his community and his State, and I will remember Donald for his in-

credible dedication. These are the things we would all be proud to be remembered by, the things we carry with us as we pick up his work to move it forward.

He loved his job. It was an honor he never took for granted, and you could see it in everything he did. My thoughts are with his family and his community. Donald, we will miss you.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend and colleague Congresswoman CHERFILUS-McCORMICK for yielding to me.

We are here to honor the memory of a dear friend and colleague, Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., a remarkable public servant and a true champion of justice, equality, and progress. I was honored to serve alongside him on the Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Donald Payne was not just a public servant. He was a force for change, a voice for the voiceless, a beacon of hope for the people of New Jersey and all Americans. He dedicated his career to fighting for racial justice and equal rights. He believed in a future where education was accessible to all, championing free college tuition and sustainable infrastructure that would benefit everyone.

In Congress, he demonstrated exceptional leadership, serving as the ranking member and chairman of the critical subcommittees focused on transportation, infrastructure, and emergency preparedness. His commitment to improving public transportation, expanding voting rights, and addressing the urgent threat of climate change earned him respect and admiration from colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Beyond his legislative achievements, Congressman Payne was known for his unwavering dedication to the well-being of working families and those most vulnerable among us. He understood that progress is measured not only by the laws we pass, but by the lives we touch and uplift.

As we honor Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.'s legacy today, let's commit ourselves to renewing the values he held dear. The Congressional Black Caucus will continue to fight for justice, equality, and opportunity. May we always remember his unwavering belief that our Nation's greatest lies in our ability to lift each other up and build a better future together.

Rest in power, Congressman Payne. Your legacy will continue to inspire and guide us in the noble work of serving the American people. You will be sorely missed, my dear friend, but never, ever forgotten.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding. I rise

today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of my friend and colleague, Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.

Congressman Payne was a fierce advocate and a dedicated public servant who fought tirelessly throughout his distinguished career for the city, county, State, and country that he loved. He wasn't just a Member of Congress. He was a pillar of hope and strength for the communities he served and the people who he represented and who he loved.

He was a mentor and a role model to many, myself included, always willing to lend a helping hand and offer words of encouragement. This institution can be intimidating, but having a big brother here made it home.

His passing leaves a profound void in our delegation and in this institution. The Halls of Congress will be a little less bright and a lot less stylish without him. I will miss the looks he would give me when we were getting into some good trouble in committee or on the House floor. It was a privilege to serve alongside him.

As we remember our friend, let's recommit to the ideals he lived by—justice, equality, and the pursuit of a better tomorrow for all. In doing so, we can honor an incredible Congressman and a man whose life exemplified the best of what it means to serve others. Thank you for everything, Don. We will carry you with us.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is an honor to stand before you today and express my deepest appreciation for Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.'s outstanding dedication and remarkable achievements. As we gather here tonight, I am reminded of the immense impact that one individual can have, not just on their district, but on the entire Nation.

His dedication to addressing critical issues facing our society, from healthcare to gun violence prevention, economic equality to social justice is a legacy that will endure for generations to come. Furthermore, Congressman Payne, Jr.'s leadership on international issues has been nothing short of exemplary.

As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I have had the privilege of working with him on various issues. Let us continue to support and honor his legacy by working together to build a more inclusive future for all Americans.

Thank you, Congressman Donald Payne, for your friendship, dedication, leadership, and service. The 10th Congressional District of New Jersey was truly fortunate to have you as their voice in Congress. May you rest in power.

Congressman Donald Payne would always be here for every Special Order hour. We could all rely on him to be here with his smile and his encouragement. I remember the first days when I first started in Congress, he was always

supportive. He stood with me on issues that affected Haiti and the Caribbean and Black issues. He stood us with us when we had to do Special Order hour and came here. He always had a speech for everyone. He always had a mission to make sure that his district and the communities he served had a place in Congress, but more than that had a voice in Congress.

Donald Payne will be missed, as a great friend to the Congress, as a great friend to me, as a great friend to everyone in Congress who he knew. We will think of him every single day: his smile, his laugh, his joy.

As we remember him today, it is a sad time for us, but we find joy in knowing that he is in a better place.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida has about 3 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, that concludes our joint CBC and Assistant Leader JOE NEGUSE's Special Order hour. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in Congress and the Congressional Black Caucus in honoring a committed public servant and dedicated champion: Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I did not have the blessing of serving alongside Congressman Payne for as long as some here tonight.

But I rise today to pay tribute to a man who showed me the same kindness when we first met as he showed to his lifelong friends and loved ones.

I will never forget his willingness to chat in the cloakroom—to impart some wisdom on this new kid.

When we spoke, Congressman Payne encouraged me to use my voice to help others. He knew, more than most, that the personal is political and the political is personal.

Congressman Payne followed in the footsteps of his father—Donald Payne, Sr.—a former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and New Jersey's first Black Member of Congress.

There is no question that Congressman Payne was a fierce advocate for the interests of his Newark district.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Committee on Homeland Security, he focused on investing in our rail and transit systems, championing men's health for all communities, and keeping Americans safe.

Most of all, he never lost sight of what his neighbors felt and needed. And he was uncommonly open about his personal health and his years-long battle with diabetes.

If there is a lesson to remember from Congressman Payne's service, it is that we can help everyday Americans feel less alone if we lead with kindness, empathy, and understanding.

In this era of infallible politics—where every vulnerability and human moments are picked apart and attacked—is it not courageous to use your struggles to lift those up around you?

Is it not heroic to foster deep connections between the work we do and the struggles that everyday Americans face?

In 2022, when Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act, insulin was capped at \$35 a month cap for Medicare patients.

Congressman Payne's declaration after the bill's final passage went right to the very heart of why it mattered.

He addressed how insulin is life-saving medication for diabetics, highlighting how patients have been gouged for years. And he underscored that no American should choose between food and medicine.

I will always appreciate his fierce advocacy and the warm compassion he showed me when I was first sworn in.

Congressman Donald Payne, Jr. will be sorely missed. May his memory guide us forward as we carry on the legacy he forged in Congress.

□ 1915

FOCUSING ON DEBT, BOND MARKETS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT).

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Arizona for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we were joined in this Capitol by the family of Colonel Ralph Puckett. Colonel Puckett passed away at the age of 97, and in just a minute, I would like to read to you the official citation of his Medal of Honor.

Before I read the Medal of Honor Citation, I want you to recognize this man, outside of being a warrior's warrior, was one of the most wonderful people who I have ever had the privilege to meet. That warrior's warrior, though, had a Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Bronze Star Medals with combat V, and five Purple Hearts, as well as many other awards. What a blessing it was that we, as the United States of America, got to know Colonel Ralph Puckett.

Mr. Speaker, the official citation:

"The President of United States of America, authorized by act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded, in the name of Congress, the Medal of Honor to First Lieutenant Ralph Puckett, Jr., United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.

"First Lieutenant Ralph Puckett, Jr., distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as the commander, 8th U.S. Army Ranger Company during the period of 25 November 1950 through 26 November 1950, in Korea.

"As his unit commenced a daylight attack on Hill 205, the enemy directed mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire against the advancing force. To ob-

tain supporting fire, First Lieutenant Puckett mounted the closest tank, exposing himself to the deadly enemy fire. Leaping from the tank, he shouted words of encouragement to his men and began to lead the Rangers in the attack.

"Almost immediately, enemy fire threatened the success of the attack by pinning down one platoon. Leaving the safety of his position with full knowledge of the danger, First Lieutenant Puckett intentionally ran across an open area three times to draw enemy fire, thereby allowing the Rangers to locate and destroy the enemy positions and to seize Hill 205.

"During the night, the enemy launched a counterattack that lasted 4 hours. Over the course of the counterattack, the Rangers were inspired and motivated by the extraordinary leadership and courageous example exhibited by First Lieutenant Puckett. As a result, five human wave attacks by a battalion strength enemy element were repulsed.

"During the first attack, First Lieutenant Puckett was wounded by grenade fragments but refused evacuation and continually directed artillery support that decimated attacking enemy formations, repeatedly abandoned positions of relative safety to make his way from foxhole to foxhole to check the company's perimeter, and distribute ammunition amongst the Rangers.

"When the enemy launched a sixth attack, it became clear to First Lieutenant Puckett that the position was untenable due to the unavailability of supporting artillery fire. During this attack, two enemy mortar rounds landed in his foxhole, inflicting grievous wounds, which limited his mobility.

"Knowing his men were in a precarious situation, First Lieutenant Puckett commanded the Rangers to leave him behind and evacuate the area. Feeling a sense of duty to aid him, the Rangers refused the order and staged an effort to retrieve him from the foxhole while still under fire from the enemy.

"Ultimately, the Rangers succeeded in retrieving First Lieutenant Puckett, and they moved to the bottom of the hill, where First Lieutenant Puckett called for devastating artillery fire on the top of the enemy-controlled hill.

"First Lieutenant Puckett's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."

Mr. Speaker, may Ralph Puckett, Jr., lie in peace.

Lord, thank You for allowing us the privilege of this man.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I am going to try to explain something. I have come behind this mike a number of times, and I have had a little trouble. Apparently, I am not communicating well, so I am going to try a