

Dr. BURGESS, I greatly appreciate all of that. As you are leaving Congress, I don't think you can be replaced. There might be 2 or 3 or 10 individuals who can combine to replace your knowledge, but there is no one individual who can do that.

Now, I have to also confess to you tonight that it is not only that we share spots on Energy and Commerce, but we also share an affinity for country music. Earlier this year, at Dr. BURGESS' personal invitation—I don't want anybody else to get mad at him—he invited me to join him and country music legend Randy Travis to discuss some issues related to the rights of performers in receiving benefits.

We have heard about issues from our colleagues on the other side where he was helpful. We heard about the stuff that he has done that has been great. He also has been working right up to the end to try to make sure that, on a myriad of different issues, the American policy is the correct policy.

I can't say enough about what a great asset Dr. BURGESS has been to the United States Congress, to the Energy and Commerce Committee, to the Rules Committee. I am so thankful for his service and leadership.

Dr. BURGESS, I wish you peace, and I hope that your time in Texas or wherever you may end up is a good one. I also hope that you will not be a stranger in the Halls of the United States Congress because, I have to confess again, oftentimes I would receive a phone call: Hey, MORGAN, have you thought about doing this?

I hope to continue to get those calls, Dr. BURGESS. It is always helpful. Thank you very much. God bless you, and God bless your family.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield to DANNY DAVIS from Illinois for his comments.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise to pay tribute to my longtime friend, associate, and office mate. His office is around the corner from mine. We meet each other in the hall almost every day.

I really want to thank him for the tremendous service that he has provided to the people of this country and especially the outstanding work that he has done in healthcare.

I also mention the fact that he is as much of a politician as he is a political person, but a doctor first and foremost.

□ 1945

I thank Michael for co-chairing the Congressional Sickle Cell Disease Caucus and working with Representative LEE and myself, all the many years that we have been a part of that.

I understand that our sickle cell bill is going to be in the CR whenever we get to it, and I also understand that one of the reasons that it is there is Dr. MICHAEL BURGESS.

As he goes, wherever he goes, however he goes in whatever he does, I will just leave him with this old Irish blessing, and that is:

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the Sun always be warm on your back.

May the wind push you forward; and until we meet again, may the good Lord hold you in the palm of his hand.

I wish Dr. BURGESS the best of wishes and good luck. I hope you enjoy your life. We will miss you.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Dr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, this has all been so moving and so lovely, but if anyone tuned in late tonight in C-SPAN, they probably thought I passed because it really did sound like a eulogy.

I am still here, and I will continue to text and call and inform everyone, analyze, as I think Mr. LUCAS put it, I am good at analysis. I will still give the benefit of my insight. I thank Mr. WEBER for doing this. I didn't expect it.

I have got some of my great staff up there in the Gallery who have been watching and hanging on every word. This has been very, very kind. I really don't know what else to say, but I wanted to assure people that I was still here. It has been so moving. People might have thought I had left the building, but Elvis is still in the building.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, Dr. BURGESS has been quite a mentor, quite a friend, and quite an example. As he and Laura proceed on their next step in their history and their work for Texas, I want them to know from us, our deepest gratitude and thankfulness.

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve alongside him and get to know him and to watch him. He probably doesn't know this, but I have a little bit of a sense of humor, and he does too, and we really appreciate that.

Brenda and I will be praying for him and Laura, for his family, for God's blessings over this new chapter in his life. We hope it is filled with joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control, as Galatians 5 lays out in the fruit of the Spirit.

We love what he has done to serve this Nation faithfully, and he is leaving a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

God bless Dr. BURGESS, and may God continue to bless Texas and the United States because of him. We are grateful for him.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am honored to stand here today to express my gratitude to Chairman BURGESS for his years of dedicated service to our country.

Dr. BURGESS has maintained an unwavering commitment to public service, and his steadfast leadership has been a guiding light for many.

As both a skilled legislator and a respected physician, he has worked tirelessly to improve healthcare access and

affordability. Blending his expertise with compassion, he has shaped policies that make a real difference in people's lives.

During the debate on the Affordable Care Act, Congressman BURGESS brought critical insights from his time before Congress.

Given both of our backgrounds in health care prior to coming to Congress, I can tell you firsthand that his efforts to prioritize patient-centered care and strengthen our medical systems will leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Chairman BURGESS has set a high standard for public service—one rooted in integrity, hard work, and a deep belief in the values that make our Nation strong.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank and congratulate Chairman BURGESS for his 22-year career of dedicated public service.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to deliver my final floor speech as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

For 26 years now, it has been the privilege of my lifetime to serve my incredible constituents of California's 12th Congressional District.

I was sworn in on April 21, 1998. The late, great Ronald V. Dellums retired early. I was his former intern, his former staffer, and he was my former colleague, my mentor, and good friend.

Ron was actually the first African-American chair of the House Armed Services Committee, and I remember that day so well. He sat right here and encouraged me to give that first speech and to actually turn around and to sign a petition then calling for campaign finance reform. I was the 218 vote to sign the discharge petition on my swearing in day, which I was very proud of.

Let me just first and foremost start by thanking my staff and all of the members of Team Lee that have worked tirelessly to serve our district 24/7 and to help us achieve so much. These are truly dedicated public servants, and their commitment has undoubtedly left an indelible mark, not

only on myself, but on our district and our country. As I say constantly, once a member of Team Lee, always a member of Team Lee.

Also, let me take a minute to thank my family who has stood beside me through all of the triumphs and challenges of the last 26 years. I could not have done it without them. In 1998, my late mother, Mildred Parish Massey, my late father, Garvin A. Tutt, my stepmother, Reiko Tutt, my Auntie Juanita who passed away at 100, and my Auntie Lois who just passed away at 103, they all were with me. They are not here today, but they have been my guardian angels over the years to guide me and to keep me moving forward.

Also my sisters, Beverly and Mildred were with me, their husbands, Martin and Calvin, and my two sons, Craig and Tony—well, Carl a.k.a. Tony, Carl Anthony Lee. They both were with me. Now, they have their families, and I have five beautiful grandchildren.

Actually, I just have to say, on that day that I was sworn in, I was talking to my dear friend and colleague Congresswoman SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE who was the cofounder of the Congressional Slow Fashion Caucus, and I want to thank her so much because I am wearing the same thing that I wore on April 21, 1998, when I was sworn in.

This caucus is a caucus that is very important because it is creating climate-smart policies to reduce repair and wear and to recycle textiles. The only thing I have done with this outfit is to just shorten it a bit, but it is the exact same outfit I wore on April 21, 1998. I thank Sydney for her leadership. I am the OG of that caucus.

As I look back on my time, though, I feel a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to not only serve my community, but to advance justice, equity, and peace throughout our country and the entire world.

I am a woman of faith. I attended St. Joseph's Catholic School in El Paso, Texas. I was taught by the Sisters of Loretto whose motto is "Going where the need is the greatest" and whose work—and they have acknowledged this since they have been founded—they work for peace and justice, which has informed me since my childhood.

I must, tonight, as I give my last speech on this floor after over 25 years of service, I am reminded of a Scripture, Galatians 6 verse 9, which says: And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Madam Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues who are with me tonight. I want to really say that I love them, I appreciate their support, and that I could not do anything without the support of Democrats and Republicans, friends and colleagues.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus from Nevada, someone who is my sister's Congressional Member, someone who has done a phenomenal job as our chair in leading up to new heights, Chairman STEVEN HORSFORD.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I want to first give honor and to acknowledge a dear friend, a colleague, and a mentor as we take this Special Order hour to thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE. She truly is a gift. She is a treasure, and her service is an example for all to follow.

For 26 years, Representative BARBARA LEE has been an advocate for justice, equality, and peace, both at home and abroad. Her commitment to these principles has set a standard for all of us in this Chamber.

I have had the privilege of collaborating with her on many initiatives, from expanding healthcare access to advancing racial and economic justice. Her leadership within the Congressional Black Caucus as a former chair herself has amplified the voices of marginalized communities and ensured that their concerns are addressed at the highest levels.

Representative LEE's dedication to peace is shown by her consistent stance in foreign policy matters, and it was her lone vote against the authorization for the use of military force in 2001 that showed how she will always stick to her convictions. Representative LEE's impact on Congress, on our communities, on our country, and really on all of us will be felt for generations to come. Her legacy continues to inspire us as we work to uphold the values that she has championed.

I say on behalf of the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we thank her for her service, for her leadership, and for her commitment to justice. She is a dear friend. She is a true colleague, and she has been a mentor.

I wish her all the very best in her future endeavors, and I know that her influence will remain with us for years to come. God bless her. BARBARA LEE speaks for me.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Congressman HORSFORD, for that very sincere and very humbling statement and remarks. I thank him, again, for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. LEE CARTER), who has made her mark in this Congress, not only on behalf of her dear late mother, Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, who we all know that this is her twin right here, but she is doing a great job here. I thank her for being here and upholding her mother's spirit and legacy, but also for charting a course forward.

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, her last name is Lee, and her and my mother were like sisters from another mother. I thank her for being that to my mother, the Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, for her entire term of service, standing up for Progressive values, being part of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, for holding that organization up, and taking it forward and making it so impactful in this body.

I thank her for being there for the first Juneteenth, her family down in Texas, in Galveston. She was so ex-

cited. They were both so excited to see each other, to celebrate freedom, the real freedom for Black people in this Nation.

I hope that we continue—I will continue—I know you will continue to uplift that holiday and make it important for all Americans to understand how we make this a more perfect Union.

I know many will tell of your many accomplishments in working on HIV/AIDS, which is so important, being the lone vote after 9/11, always standing in truth and power, always standing up and never being afraid, never backing down, always being unbosomed.

I thank her on behalf of myself, since she has always been an inspiration to me, watching from behind the scenes, intergenerational leader, guiding the next generation of women, Democrat women, and women across this Nation. I thank her for traveling with my mother, loving my mother, voting with my mother, fighting with my mother, taking pictures of my mother. We will miss her. BARBARA LEE speaks for me.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman LEE CARTER for her leadership and her friendship. I was her mother's personal photographer, and we did travel the world. What Sheila wanted, Sheila got because she was a true warrior woman, as is Mrs. LEE CARTER.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague and very good friend from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE). I visited her district several times as she actually was in a film, a documentary. I thank her for that, the name of it was: "Barbara Lee: Speaking Truth to Power," but she was the star of that documentary.

□ 2000

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. This is a very emotional moment for me to see you leaving this body. You will never leave my presence. You will be part of my life. I am going to follow you wherever you go, BARBARA LEE.

I want to say that BARBARA LEE has always been kind of a broker-dealer to me. She is someone, as her sisters of her Catholic training encouraged her to do, to go where the need is the greatest.

I remember one of my earliest memories of BARBARA LEE was 20 years ago when I went to the first Democratic Caucus and almost got into a fistfight with STENY HOYER as the consultants were urging us not to use the word "poor." Don't talk about poverty. That is kind of a bad message. That won't help us win.

Let me just tell you, I was ready to fight and argue. I mean, I had decided to try and reinvent myself coming from the Wisconsin State legislature to be a kinder, gentler lady from Wisconsin, but already I was stepping into big doo-doo with STENY HOYER, the Caucus minority leader, as STENY HOYER defended our consultant's admonition that we don't use "poor" as a word.

BARBARA LEE not only came alongside me to encourage me and to try and validate me as I argued in my very strident, loud, obstreperous, disruptive way, not only did she come alongside me, but she worked Steny into putting together a task force on poverty and worked him into committing himself on a weekly basis to bringing in speakers, to bringing in experts, to bringing in people to talk about poverty in a way that ultimately, I believe, led us to one of the most revolutionary bills that has ever been passed in this House of Representatives: the child tax credit, as it was envisioned under the American Rescue Plan.

Literally we were able to cut the poverty of Black children in half and cut poverty among all children by 40 percent. We were able to establish and prove and demonstrate that an investment in our children was an investment unlike all the other stuff we talk about like tax cuts are going to pay for themselves. We saw in a very short period of time the return on investing in children. That conversation really was made manifest by BARBARA LEE bringing the issue of poverty to the front.

I was on welfare, and BARBARA was, too. It wasn't something that we talked about. It was kind of an embarrassment; is that right, BARBARA?

Ms. LEE of California. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. That is right. It was an embarrassment, and it was a stigma on us. Welfare queens, that is what they tried to call us.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. It was a stigma, and I was the welfare queen. BARBARA came and befriended me, and she went where the need was the greatest.

BARBARA LEE was our United Nations representative. We talked about all of her international impact, and BARBARA LEE was our Congress United Nations representative.

BARBARA, you did so much in that space to bring the American side to have us visiting the U.N. because there are so many people in the United States that are not necessarily as supportive of the world and the United Nations, but you represented us so well.

We have a country in our own hemisphere, Cuba, that is right in our hemisphere, Haiti, right in our hemisphere, full of people who are poor and destitute and marginalized, and BARBARA LEE being that broker-dealer was not ashamed of them. She was not someone who shied away from them even though there was not only stigma but contempt and disdain and disbelief in them.

BARBARA went to Cuba. She has been to Cuba so many times. The last time she went to Cuba, I went with her, and as she was introducing all of us there, she introduced me and said, well, the reason that GWEN MOORE is here is because she said that if I came back to Cuba one more time without her, she

was going to kill me. That is how I got a chance to go to another country in our hemisphere and really see the resources that this country could bring to us.

That is where BARBARA learned about how people from the United States were going to Cuba—and maybe you could just share with us—becoming doctors at state expense, how they were providing care for people with diabetes without those folks getting amputations.

BARBARA, can you share a little bit about that? This was just revolutionary to me to experience that with you.

Ms. LEE of California. Well, let me just say to Representative GWEN MOORE, I am so happy you came to Cuba in spite of no option for me except to invite you to Cuba because you came back and continued to do the work to help normalize relations with Cuba. All we want are normal relations.

There are so many scientific discoveries that Cuba has developed that Americans could benefit from, and there is much we have developed that the Cuban people could benefit from.

Let me tell you, there is a treatment that prevents amputations from diabetes. Representative BURGESS, who we honored earlier knows about that treatment, Heberprot-P. We saw in the clinics 80 to 90 percent effectiveness used all around the world, but because of the embargo, we weren't able to get a clinical trial here in America.

Well, let me just bring you up to date very quickly. This procedure prevents amputations for those who have diabetes, and, of course, the Black communities, the Brown communities have a disproportionate rate of amputations. This is 90 percent effective. Finally, we got clinical trials here. You talk about not giving up. Finally, finally, there is a company now that is in phase 3—I believe it is phase 3—of the clinical trials, so hopefully we will be able to have this treatment in America. Can you imagine us taking 25, 30 years just to get this far and how many people could have benefited from it?

While we are talking about Cuba, I was recently there, and I will include in the RECORD, Representative MOORE, on your time a letter to President Biden. Many of us have been trying to remove Cuba from the state-sponsored terrorism list. This is from over 130 civil society organizations of Cuba—not the government, civil society. I am going to read one paragraph: “Cuba is not a terrorist state. There is absolutely no evidence that may support a claim otherwise, as has been recognized by the overwhelming majority of the international community and many sectors in the U.S., including a number of U.S. Government specialized agencies that, by the way, attach great value”—mind you, great value—“to their professional cooperation with Cuba in their fight against this scourge.”

Mr. Speaker, I include this letter in the RECORD.

ASOCIACIÓN CUBANA
DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS,
Havana, November 8, 2024.

Mr. JOSEPH BIDEN,
President of the United States.

ESTEEMED MR. PRESIDENT: The purpose of this letter, signed by organizations movements, networks, groups and social actors that widely represent the Cuban civil society, is to request that Cuba be removed from the list of terror sponsoring states.

This measure defined the Cuba policy pursued by your predecessor. It was not introduced by your administration; however, your administration has enforced it; therefore, your administration is held responsible for its serious consequences.

Cuba's designation in that list is arbitrary, and as it is well known, was driven by political motivations. It is also contrary to the norms of civilized coexistence among nations and has highly unfavorable consequences for the operation of the Cuban economy and the well-being of the Cuban people. This action has compounded the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba by the U.S. government and in place for many years now, and which accumulated financial, social and human damages are beyond calculation. A recently observable consequence has been the surge of Cuban emigration to the U.S. using lawfully regular, as well as irregular channels.

Cuba is not a terrorist State. There is absolutely no evidence that may support a claim otherwise, as has been recognized by the overwhelming majority of the international community and many sectors in the U.S., including a number of U.S. government specialized agencies that, by the way, attach great value to their professional cooperation with Cuba in their fight against this scourge.

Further to denying the truth, this designation automatically triggers the application of coercive economic measures that preclude Cuba's access to foreign financial and banking institutions and payment agencies, as well as to sources of financing, technologies, and supplies and materials associated with public services in such basic areas as healthcare and education.

This designation also hinders Cuba's payments for raw materials, food supplies, medicines, fuel, and equipment and related parts and accessories. It also interferes with Cuba's foreign financial operations, including our country's debt settlement transactions. It deals a hard blow to the Cuban tourist industry and discourages Cuba's foreign business relations. And it halts productions and gives rise to supply gaps and shortages.

Our families are suffering the consequences of this unfair label. Our families have endured the wear, pain and loss caused by the application of the coercive economic actions derived from this description.

For decades, our capacity to normally and effectively satisfy the needs of their members and build, free from foreign intervention, a legitimate and collective project that contributes to our society has been damaged.

Cuba has recently faced a severe energy contingency. It has also been hit by two devastating hurricanes and two earthquakes, which caused additional suffering and material losses to its people and economy. Removing our country from the List of States that allegedly sponsor terrorism would contribute to the economic, social, and psychological recovery of the affected regions and populations, the improvement of our countrymen's living conditions, and the well-being of Cuban families.

Mr. President, all we are asking is that you do what is right before the end of your

term of office and let justice prevail by removing Cuba from the list of terror sponsoring States.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, we have forwarded this letter to President Biden asking him to remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list with at least 20 Members who have signed that letter.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Representative LEE, this is what I admire about you so much: We all go to the White House, and we are in awe, and we shake the hand of the President and the First Lady, and we meet up with them and take selfies with them, and you always put the Presidents to work.

We are going to continue on, and we can promise you that we are going to continue to make sure that we get to normalize our relations with Cuba. George W. Bush, a Republican, you got in his face. One of the things that George W. Bush will always be remembered for is his initiative on HIV/AIDS and saving millions of lives not only in Africa but all around the world. I just want to remind people that here, once again, was BARBARA LEE breaking down a door of stigma. While most people were distancing themselves from HIV/AIDS patients because, you know, people were saying they were in sin, and they had somehow deserved it somehow, BARBARA LEE was one of the people that marched right on up to the White House and made sure that someone in high places like George W. Bush, you gave him the cover to have the courage around this issue and break through that stigma. BARBARA, let me thank you for that. Let me ask you to share with us a little bit more about that journey.

Ms. LEE of California. Representative MOORE, thank you very much for reminding us of that, and let me just say because of Republicans and Democrats we have saved 25 million lives, and we must have a permanent clean extension of PEPFAR. President Bush and I disagreed on every single policy. I voted against everything that he put forward, but we came together to save lives, and I thank him. I thank all of those who up until this point have kept this bipartisan and encouraged Republicans and Democrats to continue to do that. I will be working on this from the outside.

I thank Representative MOORE very much for being here with us tonight, and I hope that you will be able to stay for a few more minutes as soon as I yield to someone else.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. You want me to stop talking?

Ms. LEE of California. No, I have to yield to a couple members, and then I will come back to you if you can stay.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. I will because I need to ask you about a couple more things. I will return to the mic.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) who came to Congress hitting the ground running out of a very personal tragedy of gun violence

in which she lost her son, and here she is moving forward being very successful and making sure that our young people are safe and that gun violence is no more.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. BARBARA LEE speaks for me.

I do rise today to honor my dear colleague and friend, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE from California, who will be retiring at the end of a longstanding and extraordinarily remarkable career in Congress.

□ 2015

Ms. MCBATH. Congresswoman LEE, you are more than a servant-leader to America. You are an example by which countless women of color can seek to emulate as we step up to be the voices of our communities.

You are unabashed in speaking truth to power and unwavering in your convictions for change and your convictions for community and your convictions for helping the least of these. I truly wish there were so many more people here that would stand on those very convictions.

BARBARA, you have never been afraid to stand up and speak out, even when the odds are against you. You inspire me each and every single day. I mean, I see you running around here and making deals and dealing with the people and your bipartisanship and reaching across the aisle. I see you walking these Halls, I mean, literally running these Halls to do the work of the people with new fervor for progress in America.

I am truly going to be so sorry to see you leave. You are such a galvanizing voice. As you continue to transition away from the Halls of Congress, I know that your work is not finished yet.

I am encouraged by everything that you have done here, everything you have done preceding the time that I have come to Washington. I really look forward to everything that you are going to be doing going forward. I know that your work is not finished yet. God is not done with you yet.

I just look forward to the next chapter of leadership, you know, in your life and what that is going to look like for the communities that you represent.

Just as it was expressed even earlier, you know, just like Representative Shirley Chisholm who is, you know, our leader, you have always been unbought and unbosomed. You are a light in this world. You are a city on a hill and a name that is never going to be forgotten.

I want to thank you very, very much. When I first came here, people kept telling me I couldn't be on the Judiciary Committee because I wasn't an attorney and I didn't have the experience and I didn't know how to fight for justice.

You said to me: If this is where you believe you need to be, and we know

why you have come to Congress, I will make it happen.

Thank you for allowing me to use my voice in the Halls of Congress for reform and justice and gun safety and all the things that I so, so believe in. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be able to stand for justice and democracy in these Halls, and I am going to miss you.

Ms. LEE of California. I am going to miss you, too, Congresswoman LUCY MCBATH.

Just look at you and how far you have come in leadership now on that Judiciary Committee and where you are in honor of your son. Just look at what you have done to bring this House together, to focus on the issues of gun violence, working with many, many colleagues.

As I listen to you, I am very humbled by what you said, and I am reminded back of the Scripture:

Let us not grow weary of doing good.

I just want you to stand tall and continue to fight the good fight because the country needs you right here, fighting for life.

Thank you very much. God bless you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my sister, my Palestinian sister whose voice speaks for many, many people in our own country and throughout the world.

RASHIDA TLAIB is not only a voice for people who never had a voice in this body but she is also a great legislator. I always like to tell people, you know, RASHIDA TLAIB cares about clean water. She cares about public safety. She cares about housing. She cares about making sure that her constituents have the best constituent services in the country, as the best Representative who we all model our district offices after.

RASHIDA TLAIB.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman LEE for yielding. Of course, she cannot just let us speak about the incredible, powerful leadership she has had in this Chamber for 26 years.

Of course, I was blessed. I had no idea she was going to be assigned as a mentor to me and then birth the wonderful Grants E-Newsletters because she told me this is what you have got to do is fight for your access and fair share of our resources for our districts.

She got me right on the Task Force on Poverty. Thank you for that.

You have been incredible, again, the last 26 years. Your determination and what I have watched you do has changed this institution forever. You have not only created this amazing momentum and movement around talking about poverty in this institution that really wasn't ready for people like us, Congresswoman LEE, but you pushed back against the stigma in health disparities of our neighbors living with HIV and AIDS when it was unpopular; ending the discriminatory Hyde amendment that restricts access to abortion care when some people in this Chamber would not even say the word "abortion."

You have done so much for all the incredible residents of the city of Oakland and the surrounding communities. I want to take a moment and thank them, thank them for continuing to send you here to this body; to continue letting you change this institution to be better. It will be forever changed because Congresswoman BARBARA LEE served here for 26 years.

There is a saying, Audre Lorde's quote, and it just reminds me of you, BARBARA. She said: "When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

BARBARA, you sat in that well with me when I got censured. You told me to keep my head held up high. In that moment it wasn't just about me but the fact that it was about your character and the fact that you understood what it meant to be feeling alone, even, again, standing up and saying it is okay to speak truth to power, that it is okay to be able to save lives, no matter faith or ethnicity. You did it in such a powerful, graceful way.

I will never forget you. You know I am going to call you all the time. You know I come from the most beautiful, Blackest city in the country. Even though you may not have been born and raised in Detroit, we are going to take you in as one of our own because you have been doing that here in this Chamber and teaching us from afar how to do it right.

Thank you. Thank you for, again, making this institution better. Congresswoman LEE, it is not the same. Because of you, it is now better. It has created space for people like myself, Congresswoman MOORE, Congresswoman MCBATH.

Again, you have opened doors for many of us in this Chamber. Thank you. Thank you for your service to our country.

God bless you.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you, my sister, RASHIDA TLAIB. Let me thank you for your strength and for again being a voice that has never been represented before on this floor. Also let me thank you for staying strong and not growing weary, RASHIDA, because you were my mentee. You were, but it didn't take long for you to get it.

I know you, and I see you. I know what it means to be here. Don't grow weary. Keep at it. Thank you again for being here.

PAUL TONKO, my relatives' Representative and my friend from New York, who I love dearly, thank you for being here this evening. I am going to miss you, but I will be seeing you.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding.

Yes, they are a good family. I enjoy being their Representative.

It is absolutely a powerful moment this evening in the House to hear everyone, your friends, your colleagues, recap the history you have written as a

Congress Representative and the service you have provided in this House.

It is my colleague, our colleague Congresswoman BARBARA LEE that has been a progressive champion and who is a fierce advocate and dear friend during my time in Congress.

BARBARA, what impacts me most is that you are a powerful voice, a very bold voice, a very determined voice, a passionate voice, and oftentimes a lone voice because you felt the moment that challenged you had to be addressed by your fierce loyalty to awesome causes.

Your efforts in this body will be remembered for your courage, your tenacity, and your strength of spirit. You have dedicated your time as an elected Representative to serving those in need, sometimes the voiceless, whether it be the global HIV/AIDS community, those in need of housing or reproductive healthcare rights, and certainly education and fairness in education.

Your advocacy for your constituents in the East Bay area spans decades, ranging from your time as a social worker, as a congressional staffer, as a small business owner, as a State legislator, and certainly your powerful record as a Member of Congress.

I have been honored to work with you on issues that are close to my heart including the entire climate issue, to make certain we hand over our planet in better stead to those who will follow us, certainly the addiction policy efforts that you have made treating those with the illness of addiction with high regard and high priority, and the expansion of STEM education. These are all important areas.

You, my friend, have been a titan of this body. I am honored to have served with you. I think in many of the gatherings that we have had and in offering the official goodbyes, it is so obvious that you are genuine. You are authentic.

As we have heard from your very first moments of life, there was a reason. Your mom shared with the world that you were saved in that moment to live a life of service. It has proven itself so true.

I am honored to be with you. I will take good care of those constituents in the 20th Congressional District.

God bless you, and God speed.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you so much, PAUL, for those words and for your friendship and for your leadership and for being someone who I can talk to confidentially.

You mentioned my mother. Actually, when she was giving birth, she needed a C-section. They would not admit her to the hospital because she was Black. The bottom line is she almost died in childbirth. The bottom line is I almost didn't get here. I almost didn't breathe. My mother almost died. That is where my fight for women's health, for justice, for gender equality began—at birth.

Thank you for that reminder, PAUL.

BOBBY SCOTT is another Representative who is a great leader, who sup-

ports and puts forth policies to help our working men and women, the middle class and low-income people, to really grow the middle class by moving into the middle class. He is also somebody who cares about our young people, education, HBCUs, minority-serving institutions. He is really a man of all seasons.

I just want to thank him. He represents another part of my family in Virginia. PAUL TONKO represents one part of the Lewis family in New York, and BOBBY is my family's Virginia Representative.

Thank you again, BOBBY.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for yielding. This is not about me. This is about you, your legislative legacy. You have done a great job here as a legislator, and you will leave a great legacy.

□ 2030

There are two parts of that legacy that I wanted to emphasize. They have been mentioned already tonight, but the first is the advocacy that you had to create the poverty task force. We raised a lot of money to try to get elected, and poverty is rarely mentioned as an issue. You not only created the task force, but you have also used that task force to create targeted, effective ways to actually address the issue of poverty.

The other is the issue of global AIDS, the global AIDS crisis. Your work with the Bush administration has been phenomenal. To paraphrase Martin Luther King, AIDS anywhere is a threat of AIDS everywhere, and if we don't address it everywhere, it threatens the rest of the world.

Your work convinced the George W. Bush administration to actually allocate the order of magnitude of resources needed. There were discussions of a little here and a little there, but you kept on them until they actually put in the kind of money that was necessary. It is not an exaggeration to say that tens of millions of people are alive today because of your work.

So, I thank you, BARBARA LEE, for all of your work, especially the work for those who would not have a voice without you.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative and Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT, the former chair. I thank him for his leadership. I feel that our children's future is secure with him here.

Again, as he spoke, I have to go back to Galatians 6:9, where I opened, because I am hearing this over and over again: "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

I think all of you have spoken to that not only about myself but yourselves, so I thank you. I just pulled the Scripture out of the clear blue sky tonight thinking about what to say, and all of you are validating this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), who is my

friend and my brother. He is somebody who has worked so hard to make sure that our young people have a second chance. So many have been unjustly incarcerated for nonviolent offenses who should be able to go through rehabilitation, get a job, and go on to live their lives. DANNY is the author of the Second Chance Act. He also has worked on sickle cell, diabetes, and all the healthcare issues. He is remarkable. Thank you for being my friend.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't let the evening go by without coming to pay tribute to BARBARA, one of the fiercest, most courageous, hardest working, and most energized persons I have ever known during my lifetime.

Seeing what you have contributed and the way in which you have done it, as I listen to each one of the people who spoke—World AIDS Day probably wouldn't be taking place. We just celebrated it on the 1st of December, and people all over the country and all over the Nation celebrated World AIDS Day. That is a part of your work.

The focus on SNAP and hungry people, people needing food, that is a part of your work, making sure that people got second chances and that they got money.

Every session, when we get to appropriations, we always say: Are we really going to get the money we need for people to have these programs?

BARBARA LEE is there, and we know that BARBARA has got our back.

The focus on international relationships, I think I got two boxes of Castro's cigars. I never smoked, but I got two boxes of Castro cigars. He would keep us up all night. He never wanted to quit and go to bed. Somebody would have to say: Mr. President, we have got other people to see tomorrow and other things to do.

The whole health arena, how much fun I had working with Clyde and the folks out in San Francisco and Oakland, where when we started with what is known as the federally qualified health centers. When I started, there were 10. Now, there are 1,400 all over America, taking care of more than 30 million low-income and moderate-income people in this country.

So, BARBARA, you have done it.

My mother used to tell us a little poem. She used to say: If you can't be a pine at the top of the hill, be a shrub in the valley. Be the best little shrub on the side of the hill. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be the Moon, be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or you fail. But be the best, the very best, of whatever you are.

That is what you have been. That is what you are. God bless you. Keep on working.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend so much for those beautiful words.

You are the resident poet, we know, but you are able to articulate how the spirit moves in public policy.

So, I thank you for showing us where the North Star is so that we can move in that direction.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Do what the spirit says.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER), who is my neighbor and friend from next door.

MARK DESAULNIER has come to Congress, and we have become very good friends and colleagues. We really chartered some new courses and brought them to Capitol Hill to get our Democratic Caucus to talk about race and racism.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I was a work in progress sometimes. BARBARA would look at me and get that look on her face.

Ms. LEE of California. He has come around all the way, full circle.

Mr. DESAULNIER. I just don't get it sometimes.

BARBARA, as a neighbor, colleague, and friend, I just wanted to come down and thank you and talk about two specific instances where you made me a better person and, as an example of how you have illuminated this country, that if you can't talk about trouble, then you can't talk about love and you can't talk about making people better.

We were down here in the well when I first got here after Ferguson. Elijah Cummings and John Lewis were sitting right there. I can't remember which one of us started this, but the conversation was: If we can't talk about race in the bay area, and gosh knows we have enough trouble there, where the heck in the country can we?

So, we started that. You taught me so much. John Powell from the Haas Institute for diversity is just a wonderful man. All his staff would come to these townhalls. I don't know how many we had, but JUDY CHU, Karen Bass, and TED LIEU came to a very diverse area in our two districts. It was wonderful, and I learned so much about myself and my own biases and prejudices. It was illuminating, too, because I had liberal White Democrats come up to me, I told you this, and say: Why are you doing this?

You had one of those moments where: Why are you surprised?

Then, we brought John back here to the Democratic Caucus, and I am told that, at the time, it was the largest turnout the Caucus ever had because Professor Powell talked about his experience at Ohio State and Cal, his studies on diversity, and why confronting bias and racism was so important for the health of this country. That was wonderful and continues to be, and we are going to continue to do it.

Then, for people who don't know about the Port Chicago 50, it was the largest domestic loss of life in the United States during World War II, when the very segregated, racist Navy was having Black African-American sailors load ships at Port Chicago, which was in San Francisco Bay in my district, in our neighborhood.

These young men came from all over the country in the forties because they wanted to defend America in spite of all of our flaws, particularly from the South. They were told how to load munitions in such a way that was so dangerous and so different from the White Teamsters who did the same work. Because of this disregard, the White officers would actually bet on which group would load more, and they would just throw these weapons into these ships.

One morning, disaster struck. The ship exploded. You could hear the explosion 20, 50 miles away. It rattled windows in San Francisco 15 miles away. We lost over 300 African-American sailors that day.

They had to go down into that water the next day. The ship was gone, and the pier was gone. They went into the water under instruction from their White officers to get the bodies and the parts from their colleagues out of there.

Reading about that in the book and the history about it—anyway, for 80 years, this has gone on. Fifty of those young men who volunteered to serve this country in horrible conditions and who survived were taken to court-martial and got the worst possible sentence, 50 of them, for disobeying an order that they knew was dangerous. They didn't disobey it; they just said: We are brave men, but we don't want to go back to the same circumstances. So for that, they were court-martialed.

Thurgood Marshall helped defend them, and as part of what he said about similar cases: I come not just to defend these men, but I come to defend the sacred creed in our founding documents.

So for 40 years, my predecessor tried to get a change. With your help and for the 10 years I have been here, we have tried to get a change.

Toward the end, I was arguing with the Navy and with the White House. In the last conversation, I was emulating you. I was a little irritated.

I said: Goddamn it, can't we just do this for BARBARA LEE before she retires?

The secret weapon in that was, a month later, the Secretary of the Navy called me and said: We are going to exonerate those sailors.

Those are just two specific examples of how you have raised people up and raised me up, and there is so much more that everyone else has talked about, about poverty and your dogged determination for justice. You have done it in a way that has gone to people who a lot of us wouldn't go to, but you have gone to everyone and went after, as Lincoln said, "the better angels of our nature," and you were able to persuade them.

So, I am going to miss you so much.

Ms. LEE of California. I am right next door.

Mr. DESAULNIER. I know. I know you are going to be coming and using that finger every once in a while saying: Come on, man.

In our districts, if you come to the bay area, you can still see bumper

stickers that say: "Barbara Lee Speaks for Me." Indeed, BARBARA, thank you for speaking for so many Americans.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you what a pleasure it is to work with my friend, Congressman DESAULNIER, because there are very few people who will take on issues that they really aren't quite settled with, and he did.

Race, racism, and systemic racism, all the hate that surfaces as a result, really present a clear and present danger to our country. You as a White man really understood what privilege is and understood what the history is.

I thank my friend very much for being a partner because that is what this is. We all have to work together.

He is supporting my truth resolution, H.R. 40, calling for a truth, racial healing, and transformation commission. Hopefully, we would like an executive order, but what you just said is the rationale, MARK, for why we have to have the truth told about the history of Black people, especially in America, and why only with the truth can we heal, and only then can we move toward transforming this country.

My friend has been an example of exactly what we are talking about. I just want to thank you for your brilliance, your leadership, and your sensitivity.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GROTHMAN). The gentlewoman has 5½ minutes remaining.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

□ 2045

Ms. SEWELL. First, let me just say that we know that BARBARA LEE speaks for all of us. When I first came to Washington, BARBARA, you were a great mentor and friend.

Having studied about Shirley Chisholm, the stories that you told about her were so important. My favorite quote of hers is that: "Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this Earth." Well, BARBARA, you have actually burned a mortgage. You have done so much great work over your time in Washington and in Congress.

Your legacy will loom large over this place. I thank you for guiding so many of us through the appropriations process. I still want a tutorial before you go.

Ms. LEE of California. Tomorrow. Tomorrow. Tomorrow.

Ms. SEWELL. But, when I think about being effective, BARBARA LEE's record is, bar none, one of the most important congressional records that we have.

Your track record on funding, whether that was all of the wonderful stuff you did for AIDS—and I could go on and on and on about how you have truly changed the world.

You have earned the right to retire, but we know that there is no such

thing as retiring, that you go from project to project, and you excel in all.

Do know that this place will not be the same without you here.

I am sorry I am just running in, but I could not miss the opportunity to tell you how important you have been to me and to my office, and I thank you. Saying "thank you" doesn't seem adequate enough but do know that your legacy will live on through so many of the people that you touched. I am just grateful that I was one of the ones that you mentored, so thank you so much.

We love you, BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Well, Congresswoman SEWELL, let me just say thank you. I want to make sure everyone knows you represent Selma, Alabama. She represents the heart and soul of the civil rights movement.

TERRI SEWELL has put Selma and its aspirations and its dreams and its needs on the map of this House of Representatives, and I just wanted to tell you.

Ms. SEWELL. And there was never a time that you didn't come with John to Selma. How many times did you make that pilgrimage on faith and politics? I just want to say thank you. Not only did you bring it, but you brought children from your Martin Luther King Center in Oakland.

Ms. LEE of California. Yes.

Ms. SEWELL. And you also started a program with the children from my district.

Ms. LEE of California. That is right.

Ms. SEWELL. And they got a chance to come to Oakland on the tour.

Ms. LEE of California. So we have this Oakland-Alabama connection.

Ms. SEWELL. We do. We do.

Ms. LEE of California. We have an Oakland-Birmingham, Oakland-Selma connection, which is so important because of you, though, TERRI.

Ms. SEWELL. Well, it is important because of you. We are absolutely following in your footsteps, and you leave huge steps for us to follow. Thank you, and I love you.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you again, and thank you for being here.

Congresswoman MOORE, I have to say I am glad you stayed here throughout this Special Order.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 3 minutes remaining.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me, once again, thank everyone, all of my colleagues, but especially my constituents, who I considered the most enlightened, most diverse and most progressive, yes, congressional district, for giving me the faith and trust to fight alongside you for a better tomorrow.

Also, I just want to say I started with a Scripture, and I want to close with one as I leave this august body.

This is Proverbs 16:3. It reminds us of this. It says: Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans succeed. Now,

this comes from the Bible: Even in retirement, we are called to commit our actions to God.

I believe in the separation of church and state. I also believe in those values that those Sisters of Loretto taught me, and that was to go where the need is the greatest, do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God.

Thank you again, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to all of my colleagues for being here tonight, and thank you to the House of Representatives, both Democrats and Republicans, for, yes, being part of Team Lee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Okay. GWEN MOORE is going to close. Since we have 45 seconds, this is how we do it.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. BARBARA, let me just thank you.

Ms. LEE of California. This is how we play jazz, right?

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Just let me thank you.

You are that same cheerleader who fought to integrate the cheerleading team, but once you got on the team, you were a team player.

The thing that I love about you so much is that, even with how competitive this place is, you always tried to lift people up, to encourage them, to help them get in position. I know so much snot and tears came out of my eyes because I couldn't get on Ways and Means, but you told me: Just keep on and don't give up.

BARBARA, thank you for encouraging us, for loving us, for getting us out of Iraq, your leadership in everything, and bringing us together on a bipartisan basis.

I love you, BARBARA, and this institution will never be the same.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you, GWEN MOORE, and I told you: Don't get weary, and you will get there, and you reap what you sow, and you got it.

Thank you for being our voice on the Ways and Means Committee. God bless you.

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver my final floor speech as a member of the United States House of Representatives.

For 26 years, it has been the privilege of my lifetime to serve my incredible constituents in California's 12th Congressional district.

I'd like to first and foremost thank my staff and all the members Team Lee that have worked tirelessly to serve our district and help us achieve so much. These are truly dedicated public servants, and their commitment has undoubtedly left an indelible mark on not only me, but on our district and country. As we say, once a member of Team Lee, always a member of Team Lee.

I would also like to thank my family, who have stood beside me through all of the triumphs and challenges of the last 26 years. I could not have done it without them.

As I look back on my time in Congress, I feel a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to not only serve my community, but to advance justice, equity, and peace throughout our country and the entire world.

It is a gift to serve, and with that gift, we were able to:

Save twenty-five million lives around the world from AIDS, through the bipartisan PEPFAR program—arguably the most successful foreign assistance program in American history.

Fight back against endless war by securing bipartisan votes to repeal Authorizations to Use Military Force.

As Chair of the Appropriations subcommittee on State & Foreign Operations, I worked to expand investments in diplomacy and development, to build a better, safer world. Specifically, I worked to strengthen our presence and partnerships with Africa and the Caribbean.

As the official Congressional Representative to the United Nations General Assembly, I worked to support greater international cooperation for fighting poverty, discrimination, and abuses of human rights, as well as working towards global peace and justice.

Urge the Surgeon General's office to highlight gun violence as a public health crisis in the U.S.

Author legislation to launch the American Women Quarters program, which honors the contribution of American women by featuring their likenesses on U.S. quarters.

Introduce the first-ever comprehensive sex education bill, aiming to ensure that students receive medically accurate information on sexual health.

Advocate for a shift in federal policy by reducing military spending and addressing the bloated Pentagon budget.

Launch the Ron V. Dellums Memorial Fellowship aimed at boosting the number of minority students in science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics (STEAM) fields through robust financial scholarships.

And help pass legislation that drastically reduced child poverty in the U.S. through my leadership as a member of the Appropriations committee, among many other things.

My final two pieces of legislation serve as bookend moments for me.

Last week, alongside former Senator LAPHONZA BUTLER, we were able to pass legislation that awarded my mentor and friend, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon a civilian from the Congress. The bill was signed by Vice President HARRIS, who is the pride of my Congressional district. It was truly a beautiful moment to witness.

And this week, I'll be introducing legislation to extend the Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, otherwise known as PEPFAR. I worked alongside my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and President George W. Bush to establish this legislation over 20 years ago, and in that time the program has saved over 25 million lives around the world.

President Bush and I disagreed on virtually everything, but we came together to address one of the most deadly diseases in human history. And together we must continue forging ahead to achieve our goal of an AIDS-free generation by 2030.

I'd like to thank the constituents of California's 12th Congressional district, the most enlightened district in the country, for giving me their faith and trust to fight alongside them for a better tomorrow.

They elected me to strengthen our communities. To push back against oppression, mili-

tarism, and corruption. To fight for legislation that embodies our values of justice, equity, and peace for all people—no matter their race, religion, or sexuality.

Fighting this fight on behalf of the East Bay in Washington has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

We've made incredible progress—from critical health care reforms at home and abroad, to lowering costs for working families, to enacting historic climate and gun violence legislation.

We've got a long way to go. But I'm proud of the work we've accomplished together. Let us keep up the good fight.

STOP INSTITUTIONAL CHILD ABUSE ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1351.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate that the last presenter ended with a verse from the Bible. It was a marvelous verse, and that is what this Special Order is going to be about.

Recently, in November, we celebrated, once again, since the year 1941, National Bible Week. This is something that has been declared and proclaimed by every President since Franklin D. Roosevelt, who started this in 1941, just days before we were attacked at Pearl Harbor.

As the world was hurdling toward World War II, it was so appropriate that the country turned to the Bible for sustenance and guidance.

I have been leading this particular commemoration on National Bible Week for—I don't know—8 or 10 years on the floor of the House. This will be my last opportunity because I will be voluntarily retiring from Congress in January.

I want to thank so many people who have helped me during my career, but, most of all, I would like to first thank my Lord and Savior for the oppor-

tunity to represent Colorado's Fifth Congressional District for 18 years.

It is my relationship with Him, with God, who has provided any wisdom or success that I have experienced in my congressional career.

National Bible Week was in November, but that was during Thanksgiving, when we were all out of town, so we chose this week to actually formally celebrate it and commemorate it here on the floor of the House.

This was begun in 1941 as an official National Bible Week, and it is the Bible that led me to a relationship with my Lord and Savior.

I was a freshman at college, and some people talked to me, and they said: Have you ever read the Bible for yourself?

I said: No, but I think I know what is in it.

That is kind of an arrogant and foolish thing to say, but that is where I was coming from in my ignorance, my naivete.

They said: Hey, why don't you read the Gospel of John, and you will understand what the message of the Bible is.

So I did that, and, as I read the Gospel of John, I realized that this is a relationship with the living God that I did not have and that I needed and that I wanted.

John 14:6 is where Jesus says: I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me.

That spoke to my heart, and that is when I began a personal relationship with my Lord and Savior.

My salvation came through reading the Bible, so I am so happy that we can celebrate and commemorate National Bible Week here tonight.

We have some Members of Congress who are going to be speaking about what the Bible means to them personally and what the Bible means to the United States of America, this special and marvelous country that we have the privilege of living in.

As David said in the book of Psalms: Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path.

That is ultimately what the Bible is about. It is a lamp to our feet and it is a light to our path. It guides us day to day as we take footsteps. It guides the path that we see in the future, the direction our lives should go in. So it is a lamp and it is a light. That makes it so special.

At this point, I yield 4 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from the great State of Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank my colleague, Congressman LAMBORN, for once again organizing this important Special Order, as he has done many times in the past. Not only that, but I thank him for his service to this legislative body.

He has been one of the good guys here in this body that has really stood for those principles that really, I think, date back to when our Founding