

portion, of such gold to charitable organizations to assist survivors of the Holocaust.

(b) **AUTHORITY TO OBLIGATE THE UNITED STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—From funds otherwise obligated in the Treasury of the United States, the President is authorized to obligate subject to paragraph (2) an amount not to exceed \$30,000,000 for distribution in accordance with subsections (a) and (b).

(2) **CONFORMANCE WITH BUDGET ACT REQUIREMENT.**—Any budget authority contained in paragraph (1) shall be effective only to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

SEC. 103. FULFILLMENT OF OBLIGATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000, not to exceed a total of \$25,000,000 for all such fiscal years, for distribution to organizations as may be specified in any agreement concluded pursuant to section 102.

(b) **ARCHIVAL RESEARCH.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President \$5,000,000 for archival research and translation services to assist in the restitution of assets looted or extorted from victims of the Holocaust and such other activities that would further Holocaust remembrance and education.

TITLE II—WORKS OF ART

SEC. 201. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Established pre-World War II principles of international law, as enunciated in Articles 47 and 56 of the Regulations annexed to the 1907 Hague Convention (IV) Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, prohibited pillage and the seizure of works of art.

(2) In the years since World War II, international sanctions against confiscation of works of art have been amplified through such conventions as the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which forbids the illegal export of art work and calls for its earliest possible restitution to its rightful owner.

(3) In defiance of the 1907 Hague Convention, the Nazis extorted and looted art from individuals and institutions in countries it occupied during World War II and used such booty to help finance their war of aggression.

(4) The Nazis' policy of looting art was a critical element and incentive in their campaign of genocide against individuals of Jewish and other religious and cultural heritage and, in this context, the Holocaust, while standing as a civil war against defined individuals and civilized values, must be considered a fundamental aspect of the world war unleashed on the continent.

(5) Hence, the same international legal principles applied among states should be applied to art and other assets stolen from victims of the Holocaust.

(6) In the aftermath of the war, art and other assets were transferred from territory previously controlled by the Nazis to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, much of which has not been returned to rightful owners.

SEC. 202. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING RESTITUTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, SUCH AS WORKS OF ART.

It is the sense of the Congress that consistent with the 1907 Hague Convention, all governments should undertake good faith efforts to facilitate the return of private and public property, such as works of art, to the right-

ful owners in cases where assets were confiscated from the claimant during the period of Nazi rule and there is reasonable proof that the claimant is the rightful owner.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1564, the Senate bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HON. SONNY BONO, REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 338) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 338

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Sonny Bono, a Representative from the State of California.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the dean of the California Congressional delegation, is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN).

(Mr. LEWIS of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it was with great sadness that I was awakened in the middle of the night during the recess. I want to share with my colleagues that I was struggling in my subconscious, attempting to put together words that were of condolence to my colleague the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] regarding the recent tragic loss in his family, only to be awakened by a telephone call from a reporter, Jim Specht, who writes for a number of newspapers in our region, Jim told me of the tragic accident that led to the death of our friend and colleague, SONNY BONO.

To say the least, we were all shocked by this development. SONNY BONO is one of those very, very unusual people you meet very rarely in public life or in life in general.

SONNY is survived by his oldest children, Christy and Chastity, and by his lovely wife Mary and their children, Chesare, who is 9 years of age, about to be 10, and Chianna, who is 6.

During the time he was with us, SONNY demonstrated to all of us that he is one of the most unusual characters you could ever meet. But by way of background, SONNY BONO came to California when he was 7 years old and moved to Los Angeles. Following high school he got his first job, that of being a meat truck driver. I think we all know that his heart lay in the entertainment business. In those early days he was developing his skills as a music writer. Often on those trips around the city of Los Angeles making stops for his product purpose, he would also drop off at various locations various songs that he had developed.

SONNY's talent became very apparent to all the world when his then girlfriend, Cherilyn Sarkasian, and he made their first recording together, among a number of recordings that led to that show known as Sonny and Cher. Between 1971 and 1974, Sonny and Cher were among the great hits across the country. They had an impact upon young people of that age that is remembered by all.

Following that work, which eventually came to an end, the partnership came to an end, about 1974, SONNY went on with his business over a period of time. He then took the next step in terms of his most amazing career. In the early 1980s, he established what were to become known as Bono Restaurants, first in Los Angeles, then in Texas. I began to personally get to know SONNY when he opened such a restaurant in Palm Springs, California. At that time, the location of the restaurant was actually in my own district.

In Palm Springs, he quickly became known by anybody who enjoyed both the entertainment as well as the fun restaurant opportunity in Palm Springs. As he developed that process in Palm Springs, he found himself having some difficulty with local government regulations. It seems there was a conflict that arose over a sign that he needed for his restaurant. Local bureaucracy, he would suggest, was getting in the way. That kind of led to a minibattle that caused SONNY a different way, perhaps for the first time, to especially focus upon politics.

With that confrontation, when the local person resisted what he thought was sensible public policy, he indicated that maybe the best alternative for him was to run for office and become that person's boss, SONNY wanted to make sure that sense was made out of local policy. With that, SONNY became the mayor of Palm Springs.

Known by all in Southern California in connection with that, after some time carrying forward that work, he ran for the U.S. Senate. I mention that, even though he was unsuccessful in the primary process, only by way of

giving a preliminary hint of the quality and mix that is the character of SONNY BONO.

The person who won that primary, Bruce Hershenon, along with our colleague TOM CAMPBELL and SONNY all ran in that primary, Bruce eventually won the primary. But in spite of an intense process, SONNY and Bruce Hershenon developed a personal relationship that was as deep as any I have ever seen in public affairs. They were fast friends and loyal friends from that point to this day forward.

SONNY ran for the House of Representatives in 1994 when the seat became vacant, as our colleague Al McCandless decided to retire. With his election who will ever forget SONNY's early stay in the House. I wonder how many of those of you who are here with me today remember that event in which he was a guest during his first term at the annual press club dinner, a black tie affair. You know how we all love those black tie affairs.

SONNY was one of the speakers chosen that evening during his first term, and I remember very, very clearly SONNY's giving formal written remarks, from the start I could sense he was not particularly comfortable with them.

About halfway through the remarks, he turned, and it looked as though somebody was a little perplexed. He said, hey, you are trying to give me the hook, huh, an old slang line for people in the entertainment business to get you off the stage.

With that, Sonny threw aside his written remarks and began talking about his real feelings about his experience in the House. It is really amazing what developed. A half an hour late, he had these cynical press people rolling in the aisle.

SONNY BONO demonstrated his sense about the House and used his sense of humor oftentimes in times of critical circumstance to bring us together.

In our Conference, time and time again, he illustrated that his voice was exactly what was needed to provide the sort of oil that allows us to work together. He did that not only in our Conference, but also on both sides of the aisle as well.

SONNY served with us in the House as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary. He was very active in the war on drugs and demonstrated an ongoing and active interest in copyright law and intellectual property concerns.

You will hear a good deal today about his most important concern as it relates to the environment, for he has been the co-chairman of our task force dealing with the Salton Sea, which, as many of you may know, is the largest inland lake in the West. It clearly involves the most important environmental challenge that faces the United States insofar as the West is concerned.

SONNY also worked on the Committee on National Security and played a very big role in making sure that our Armed

Forces have the quality and strength that are required for this country that now leads the free world.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from California, Mr. BROWN, is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I also appreciate very much what my colleague from California has said about SONNY BONO and giving some of his background before he came to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I recall fairly clearly my own first awareness of SONNY as a part of the duo of SONNY and Cher. I am not one normally given to spending a lot of time with popular entertainers, but I was struck by this couple who made a very great impression on me, and SONNY in particular, because I was not convinced that he had any obvious talents. But he did pass the critical test of being extremely successful and extremely popular, and one cannot quarrel with success.

Obviously, as the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), has already reported, he had talents that extended into a variety of fields.

I first became personally acquainted with him, of course, after he was elected to the Congress, and I observed his operations here on the floor. As with most new Members, it seemed to me he was not quite sure what he was doing much of the time, but he learned with great rapidity. I came to admire the way in which he grasped opportunities to participate in a variety of different issues and generally bring a high degree of common sense to the consideration of those issues.

As my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), has indicated, we became involved, those of us in what we call the Inland Empire region of Southern California, which includes the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial, we became involved as a group, all of the Members from that region, in efforts to achieve some remediation of the problems of the Salton Sea. I will not deal unduly on that at this point.

But we all recall the fact that in the Congress 3 or 4 years ago, the California delegation had somewhat of a reputation as being, shall we say, lacking in cohesiveness. Some of us became concerned with that problem and began to initiate steps to distinguish between those things which were worthy of lack of cohesiveness and those which really deserved cohesiveness.

□ 1330

In other words, we began to try and define those areas where it was appropriate for Congressmen in California to work together regardless of party, and those equally or more important areas where we needed to be divided on the

basis of political principle. And we learned a number of lessons, and we began this process of working together, and my experience with SONNY and my appreciation for him began to rise as I had the opportunity to participate with him in these vital areas which were nonpartisan in their scope, but which related to the welfare of all of our constituents in our respective districts.

I will not belabor the details of this particularly, although I may come back to them a little bit later, but my last recollection of SONNY was in his office in Palm Springs where we had one of the meetings of our task force, we call it the Inland Empire Salton Sea Task Force, and SONNY of course is a cochairman of that task force, brought us together in his office to discuss at that point the impending visit of the Secretary of the Interior. I will tell my colleagues that SONNY's efforts as a co-chairman of the task force were unique and very successful in focusing the attention of the Executive Branch on the need to take some action there.

He was the kind of a person who worked easily to bring people together, and I wish that trait were more common amongst our colleagues. I will always remember him as a gentleman, one who could bring us together, could bring about agreement with regard to critical issues, could identify critical problem areas and focus discussions on them in a way which is not too usual amongst the Members of Congress, and which I think will create a lasting monument to his work as an elected public official.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

(Mr. HYDE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I have a statement covering an outline, a brief outline, of some of the services and contributions that SONNY BONO made as a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, and I am going to ask that that be printed in the RECORD, but I have some remarks I would like to make that are more of a general nature than a specific recitation of his great contributions to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, contemplating the untimely death of our colleague and really our brother, SONNY BONO, forces us to confront the mystery of life and death. It makes us ask the question to which there is no answer in this lifetime: Why me, Lord? SONNY's impact on us was like a skyrocket. It was bright, it was beautiful, and very brief. He left us many examples of how we should understand our vocation as legislators, how we should treat each other as brothers and sisters and of the value of laughter and inner joy.

SONNY, in one brief lifetime, was a resounding success in 4 difficult careers: Songwriting, performing, mayor of an important city, and a Congressman. SONNY laughed often, he loved much, especially his wife, Mary, and his children. He won the respect and the affection of all who knew him. He appreciated beauty and he saw the good in others. He was an authentic free spirit. Among the many lessons we can draw from his example, the one most important to me are three words that his life said to every person, young or old, who has a burning desire to achieve. "Yes, you can."

SONNY, I know you are up there. Do not forget us, because we will never forget you.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow this House will remember in a memorial service the life and work of Representative SONNY BONO, who lost his life tragically in a skiing accident on January 5, 1998. As we convene to reflect on his remarkable life, I would like to recognize his achievements as a valued member of the House Judiciary Committee.

SONNY was not a lawyer, and yet he requested to become a member of the Judiciary Committee out of his concern for the issues entrusted to its jurisdiction. I was happy to recommend his placement on the Committee and I know that I speak for its entire membership when I say that his refreshing approach to legislation and his immediate contributions were appreciated on both sides of the aisle.

How SONNY became a Member of Congress is a classic American tale that should be studied by anyone interested in pursuing politics. Unable to cut through the municipal bureaucracy necessary to simply put a sign in front of his restaurant in Palm Springs, California, SONNY ran for Mayor to fix the problem himself. Elected twice to that position, Sonny succeeded in bringing government closer to the people and in bringing new revenue, including an International Film Festival, to his city and its surrounding areas. Elected to the 104th Congress in 1994, this ambitious freshman's first bill called for another initiative to bring government closer to the people: the appointment of a three-judge court panel, already used in Voting Rights Act and apportionment cases, to hear constitutional challenges to popular referenda voted upon by the entire population of a state. His reasoning was simple: when the citizens of a state vote directly on an issue that is important to their lives, and a direct majority speaks, one judge should not be able to delay the execution of the will of the people of an entire state for years. This sophisticated measure was aimed at addressing the legal aftermath of the affirmative action and immigration referenda in his home state.

SONNY BONO, the self-proclaimed non-lawyer, had to argue for this bill before a Judiciary Committee comprised of legally-trained members. He effectively laid out his case. SONNY's bill was reported to the full House by the Committee. Then, as a freshman, Representative BONO went to the floor of the House armed only with the logic of his arguments and convinced a majority of his colleagues to support passage of his bill.

Mr. Speaker, Congress can be a daunting institution for anyone to master. SONNY BONO, as a freshman, tackled a serious subject like judicial reform and made it his first effort at

lawmaking. His legislation has been reintroduced this Congress and is pending before the Judiciary Committee as part of the Judicial Reform Act of this Congress.

His gifts reflected SONNY's diverse background as a songwriter, entertainer, business owner and Mayor. Those experiences gave him a unique perspective on issues as diverse as tax reform, immigration and intellectual property. As a member of the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, he worked hard to negotiate difficult legal solutions to problems facing the country as the Internet becomes a new means of distributing books, music, software, and movies. To Sonny, these were not just theories to be discussed, they were part of his life. He had the unique distinction of being someone who could understand the practical effects of legislation in this area.

Many of us attended the funeral service in SONNY's home of Palm Springs and saw, along with the rest of the country on their televisions, the hundreds of people who stood in line to pay their last respects to this unique and gifted citizen. SONNY will be remembered as an ambitious member of Congress who represented with distinction the interests of his district and the interests of our country. I join with my colleagues in remembering his political career, and send prayers of comfort to his wife Mary and his children Chesare, Chianna, Chastity and Christy. The people of the 46th District of California are fortunate to have had SONNY BONO as their Representative, and those of us who worked closely with him are fortunate to have experienced his refreshing candor and lighthearted wisdom.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I first met Sonny a little over 3 years ago. The only contact I had with Sonny prior to that is when I had dinner at his restaurant in Palm Springs, Sonny's. We both share that common background. My family was in the restaurant business for close to 45 years.

Three years ago we started this relationship and we became very close, both as friends and as colleagues. We represented most of Riverside County, shared a district line in many communities together. And he always just was so excellent at what he did in representing his constituents, and let me put a word in for his staff, especially Brian, his chief of staff, who did an excellent job for Sonny over the years; Frank, Beverly, the whole staff.

I would like to talk briefly about the last time I saw Sonny. I got a call on a Friday afternoon that, this was two weeks before Christmas, that Sonny wanted to have a meeting, and I am sure all of us were busy, all had things that we wanted to do that Sunday two weeks before Christmas, but Sonny wanted to meet with us, it was important. And we were all there: JERRY LEWIS, GEORGE BROWN, DUNCAN HUNTER, myself, SONNY, meeting in his office to talk about something he loved, something we all care about: The Salton Sea. And for two-and-a-half

hours we sat in his office and we discussed ways we could finally resolve this issue that was important to every one of us. All of us have different backgrounds as both individuals or politicians, but Sonny could bring us all together, and I was thinking about that even while I was driving down on that Sunday that certainly we all cared about the Salton Sea, but we all cared about SONNY BONO, and I think that that was one of the reasons we were there, if not the most important thing, because Sonny was somebody you just liked to be around, somebody you wanted to be with.

So as we come back to Congress for the second half of the 105th, we are going to miss Sonny, those moments sitting back here in the Chamber when we needed that little lift, that joke, that smile. I think all of us will always remember Sonny's smile that we are just not going to have with us anymore. But we will have that memory, and we certainly have all of our prayers for Mary and the children, and we wish them Godspeed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 6 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. CALVERT's recitation of this meeting that brought us together in SONNY's office just before Christmas leads me to offer some additional comments about some of SONNY's unique contributions. He did have a background in business as well as a background as mayor of the City of Palm Springs, and in looking at this new challenge that faced him as a Member of Congress with a huge environmental problem that was getting worse in the form of the Salton Sea, SONNY made several what I considered to be unique contributions to pointing in the direction of solutions.

One of the first things that he did was to bring the group of us together with some consultants who had extensive experience with solving environmental problems and developing unique solutions to ecological and environmental conditions. One of these was an internationally known designer who had worked all around the world and who brought to us the possibility that we could turn a declining Salton Sea, declining in an economic sense, into an asset by doing something that none of us had thought about before, and that was creating islands in the sea which could be developed for recreational and commercial purposes.

That was the kind of thing that SONNY easily perceived that I think was more difficult for the rest of us. We have, of course, some interest in the commercial development of casinos in southern California by Indian tribes, and SONNY established a dialogue with the local Indian tribes who did not have casinos, about the possibility of doing something of that sort. And lo and behold, the Indians were very interested. The idea of building islands which could be developed for recreational and commercial use is now

one of the things which may lead to an economically viable solution to the problems of the Salton Sea.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BROWN of California. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman's discussion regarding the extension of that Sunday meeting where the five of us were together, which is the last time I was with SONNY as well, and the remarks of the gentleman caused me to say that indeed, Congressman BROWN and I have looked at the problems of the Salton Sea for some time, and especially my colleague from San Bernardino County has expressed long-standing concern, since he was born in Imperial County, which has a piece of the Salton Sea, but all of us somewhat frustrated over the years watching this incredible asset deteriorate the way it has.

At one time the annual commercial values surrounding the Salton Sea were about \$100 million a year, and it has come to the point now with a combination of sewage that flows from the New River into the Salton Sea, the sewage that flows from Mexico adds to a tremendous problem. There is salt that flows from the agricultural activities that are adjacent to the Salton Sea. It is a reality that as of this moment what is a very, very important national asset and important environmental asset will all but be wasted and lost unless we take some action in a very short period of time. Maybe 5 years from now it will be too late.

Well, it was SONNY taking over the chairmanship of this task force and helping us all to focus in a special way that the gentleman from California reminds me has helped us crystallize a process here that I think will end up leading to a solution, maybe an expenditure of hundreds, not tens of millions, but hundreds of millions of dollars, but nonetheless, the result on the other end being a legacy to SONNY's service here that is most important.

Mr. BROWN of California. Well, now that the gentleman has made that comment, following SONNY's death there was a major economic conference convened in his district to examine the economic impacts of further decline or revival of the Salton Sea. It was conducted by the University of California based on an economic study that they had made, and this bore out what SONNY's instincts told him I think was possible. The detailed analysis showed that by reversing the decline of the Salton Sea and reviving it as an attractive environmental and recreational location, that this could, by the estimate of the economist who prepared the report, add to the cash flow of the region as much as \$1 billion a year.

Now, this just astounded all of us who had looked at it, and I think SONNY, because of his own keen interest in recreational and economic development which he had demonstrated during his period as mayor, was not as

surprised as some of the rest of us at what the potential was.

□ 1345

Essentially, what this report said, and we will be making a great deal of use of it, is that the economic potential of activities related to a living and vital Salton Sea is probably equivalent to that of the agriculture which is the world's most productive that surrounds the Salton Sea. This is something that we will probably be spending more time investigating and bringing forth, but we owe this to SONNY's instincts as much as anything else.

Mr. Speaker, I will, for the rest of my life, pay tribute to that instinct which gave us the hook, you might say, to create a realistic interest in a practical solution to the problems of this great body of water.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) for having brought this to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have a prepared statement. I am going to do this from the seat of my pants. But that is probably the way SONNY would have done it, so I do not think I will violate any protocol as far as he is concerned.

The distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the Chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, has already indicated that SONNY was a valued member of the full committee. He and I sat on the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, and I came to know SONNY very well in that capacity.

Mr. Speaker, some recent weeks ago a group of mine from North Carolina from my congressional district asked me to bring a celebrity back home for a special event, and I asked them to identify a celebrity since we are not all celebrities here. They mentioned the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LARGENT), the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATT) and SONNY BONO, Steve and J.C. being football luminaries and SONNY the entertainer.

I said, "You all name who your favorite of the three would be." "We don't have a favorite," they said. The chairman finally came to me and said, "How about SONNY BONO? See if we can get him down here."

I went to SONNY, and he responded favorably, and he showed up in Greensboro, North Carolina, at the home of Charlie and Mary Elizabeth Irving back in November. A cold rain had fallen that entire afternoon, and SONNY was the headline. I say to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), he packed them in. They were standing outside as the soft rain fell listening to SONNY talk for 35 to 40 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, time and again he referred to himself as a simple man from the streets; but his words were warmly

embraced not only by those exposed to the rain outside but by those who were protected from it inside.

My constituents who attended that event that night came to know him favorably even though he was only there for a little over 2 hours. In fact, that event, I say to the gentleman from California, may well have been his final public appearance.

Shortly after his untimely death, a syndicated columnist wrote an article that appeared in the largest daily in my district, the Greensboro News and Record, depicting SONNY as a clown, a buffoon, an inept, unqualified Congressman.

My constituents who visited with him that rainy night in November were hopping mad. They weren't angry; they were hopping mad about it. They called our offices down home and up here taking great umbrage in that article.

I responded to the article pretty clearly, refuting and disavowing the unkind and uncivil portrayal of SONNY BONO in her article. Mr. Speaker, I bet 125 to 150 people saw me within 24 hours after my article appeared. They were personally offended by the syndicated columnist's article.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COBLE. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleague to yield at this point because he is raising a very, very important item that kind of goes to the heart of some of the mystery of SONNY BONO.

The early days of SONNY and Cher, it was very obvious that he was the butt of the jokes that were part of their routine. But what was not so obvious was that SONNY was the person who produced those programs. He wrote the jokes and had the strength of character to see the value of his being the butt of the jokes.

The fool in this event involves the person who does not understand that strength and that quality. For SONNY BONO without any question, among other things, understood the value of humor properly placed and the strength it could have in terms of making a point and indeed in terms of bringing people together. It is a quality that is sorely missed by all of us but one that is absolutely needed in a body like the House of Representatives.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from California for his contribution. Indeed, that is true.

In fact, I told one of the columnists who called me for a comment about SONNY as a result of having shared membership on the Judiciary subcommittee I mentioned earlier. I said, oftentimes, he would give the appearance that he just fell off the turnip truck yesterday, but before you knew it the dart was released from his hand and the next time you saw the dart was when you were removing it from your own eye.

SONNY, as the gentleman from California just pointed out, had the ability to laugh at himself. It is too bad more of us on this Hill do not have that ability and do not practice it more often. He was the butt of the joke, and I think he enjoyed being the butt of the joke.

Mr. Speaker, as the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary previously said during his time on this matter, "SONNY, do not forget us," because, as Cher said at the funeral, she said, "He was the most unforgettable character I have ever met."

I can assure you, SONNY, we in this people's House will never forget you.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for this time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM).

(Mr. KIM asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution recognizing the achievement our late colleague, SONNY BONO. His district is only about half an hour's drive from the district that I serve.

I speak straight from the heart when I say that SONNY was a dear friend. One thing I have learned over the last 5 years in Washington is how hard it is to find a true friend, someone who will stay with you during the good times and someone there during not so good times. SONNY was that kind of true friend.

SONNY had a unique ability of mixing humor with hard work. But we will remember him for making us laugh even during the stressful times. SONNY had a serious side too: Helping try to stop drug abuse, trying to improve food safety, trying to rescue the Salton Sea, on and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, he used to joke about my "Southern accent." But I know now everyone, including SONNY, can understand me clearly when I say that, "We all miss you, SONNY."

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) for leading this discussion and this tribute to SONNY BONO.

Obviously, the House lost a star over the break; and I am not referring to SONNY BONO being the star of the entertainment industry. He was a star around here. A star is, what, something in the sky that shines brightly; and SONNY always shined brightly.

His eyes sparkled, and he had a smile that was an uplifting smile. Whenever one felt down or was engaged in a controversy or got a little bit too involved and was a little bit captured by the moment and did not see the big picture, SONNY would always bring us

down to earth and let us realize that, yes, what we are doing is important but not to be so enrapt by it that we lost sight of the values and the things that we really believe in.

SONNY was a star also in the entertainment industry and, as such, when he came here he became a champion of the rights of song writers and other people and for intellectual property issues, which is an issue that is close to my heart. SONNY went out, and he knew this area very well. He knew about song writers and writers and other creative people in our society and made that a point, to be their champion, because that was his area of expertise.

But, Mr. Speaker, his involvement and his activity went well beyond that area. SONNY was a patriot. SONNY ran for office because he wanted to make things better. He was someone from the entertainment industry and at times people would underestimate SONNY for that reason.

It was easy for me not to underestimate SONNY BONO, especially with the excuse of saying he is just a former rock and roll star or an actor, because I had already worked for someone who had been underestimated his entire political career by people who said, "Do not worry about him; he is just a former actor." But just like Ronald Reagan, SONNY BONO, yes, was a former actor, but he was a patriot who had a gut instinct about the people, people as individuals and people as the general public.

SONNY, perhaps one of the reasons he had this gut instinct, the same way Ronald Reagan had this gut instinct, was that he had not been in politics all of his life and he had been in contact with large numbers of people outside of the political context for a number of years. In that, he developed a relationship with people and knew them and appreciated them.

So SONNY contributed a lot during his short time period here. He contributed a great deal to the spirit of this body, and we will miss him. And, as has been expressed here today, I will personally miss him. SONNY was a man I respected deeply because he just knew people. He understood people. He understood the situations, and he was trying to do what he could for his country. What more can people ask than that?

So, with that, I believe in God and I believe in the hereafter and I believe SONNY, just like as has been expressed today, he is with us today and his spirit will be in this hall today with those people who serve in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, he shines brightly now, a star in the heavens overlooking the work that this body does to try to make this a better country to serve our people in the best way we can.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in expressing appreciation

to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) for taking this time and pursuing this very important resolution.

We were all very shocked and saddened, the world was shocked and saddened, with the tragedy that struck SONNY BONO, and I have got to say that I miss him. I think about him constantly. I think about Mary and the children, and I think about the impact that he had on so many of us.

Like most, I plead guilty to having been a little bit skeptical when this 1970s, long-haired, mustachioed, bell-bottomed singer-songwriter decided that he was going to come to the United States Congress, and I wondered what impact it would have.

Then I began to think about what it was that the founders envisaged for this institution. James Madison and Thomas Jefferson both talked about how disparate walks of life should be represented here in the people's House. And, to my knowledge, SONNY was, in fact, the only 1970s long-haired, mustachioed, bell-bottomed singer-songwriter to serve in the institution. So, actually, SONNY BONO's presence here was exactly what Thomas Jefferson and James Madison wanted.

One of the things that SONNY got very involved in, I remember his coming to me shortly after he was elected, and he said, "David, I want to sit down and work with you and the Speaker and others and put together a task force that will underscore the very important relationship that should exist between the Congress and the Republican party and the entertainment industry, the music industry, the film industry, the television industry." He took a very, very important leadership role in pursuing that and did, I believe, a spectacular job.

We have gotten to the point where there is an understanding of how it is that the Republican party, quite frankly, really does embody many of those shared goals: An opposition to censorship and dealing with intellectual property violations, finding new markets for exports coming from the entertainment industry in California. So there are a lot of very important things that have been to this point unheralded that SONNY was intimately involved in.

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I think that one of my colleagues probably said it best in a statement that I read in the paper when he said, many people run for Congress and come to Washington acting like they are very smart, and they are really not too bright. Well, SONNY BONO ran for Congress with this image of being less than intelligent, and it was obvious from his work and his life that he was an extraordinarily bright person.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss him greatly and join in sending condolences, as we all have time and time again, officially here from the floor of the Congress to all the members of SONNY BONO's family.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD), from beautiful downtown San Diego and other territory in California.

(Mr. PACKARD asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I consider it a real privilege to get up on the floor and speak of my friend SONNY BONO. SONNY really became a heavyweight in everything he did. I think he started out perceived as a lightweight in most everything he did, but before it was done, he rose to the point where he really became an influence, a significant influence, in everything he did.

In the entertainment industry he started out conceived as a lightweight and one that would never make an impact, and few people in the entertainment industry have made a greater impact than SONNY BONO has.

Then he went to the city of Palm Springs, was elected mayor. I served as a mayor. I know the impact that a mayor has on a community, and SONNY BONO, I am sure, was perceived initially that it was kind of a fluke that he would be elected. But before he was done, he made a powerful impact upon the quality of life in Palm Springs. It is a better place to live and work than it was before SONNY BONO served.

Then he came to Congress. In the Congress of the United States unquestionably he was perceived to be a lightweight when he came, but it did not take long until we recognized that he carried a powerful wallop and made a powerful influence for good in this institution. He made his mark. He has been a heavyweight in everything he has touched.

I admire him. I love him. I appreciated the work he did. I hope that we will keep him as a memorable Member of this body. It is a better place to serve because of SONNY BONO.

Often our leadership, when things were the most tense in our Conference meetings or in here on the floor of the House, they would ask SONNY BONO to take the edge off of things, to pull our delegation together and to bring us back to reality. And SONNY BONO had an incredible talent of using his wit and his ability with comedy to really bring us back to reality. And then he would always wrap up with a very serious point that he used his tremendous ability at wit to initiate.

I really appreciated that talent in SONNY BONO. He expressed it and used it several times, sometimes at the request of our leadership. I remember NEWT GINGRICH himself asked at one time SONNY BONO to take the edge off of the real tension that existed recently in our Conference. What a masterful job he did of bringing us right back to where we needed to be and accomplished exactly what we needed to be done.

He was a master at it. But he was a heavyweight in everything he did. He

was a heavyweight legislator, make no mistake about it. We are going to miss him dearly in this body.

I truly pray for his family that they will recognize the great service that he has rendered both to the people of America through the entertainment industry, to the people of Palm Springs in his service there, to the people of America in his service here in the House of Representatives. He has truly made his mark in the world. We want to thank SONNY BONO.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) has 17½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) has ½ minute remaining.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

I appreciate that we as colleagues recognize that SONNY BONO belonged to America. SONNY BONO was known to me as a fellow colleague on the House Committee on the Judiciary. He sat on one side as a Republican, I on the other side as a Democrat. But my tribute to him comes more as a believer in his view and the way he carried himself, that he was an American who came here to serve his constituents and to serve this country.

I would remember sometimes he would add to the very serious deliberations that all of us would engage in with just a slight bit of humor. He would always say, I am not a lawyer, and I hear a lot of lawyers talking in this room. But whenever he would offer his insight, it brought about clarity and frankness that we all could appreciate.

He would draw down that pompousness that lawyers may tend to have by just saying to us, make it plain, let everybody understand it. And once we stood back from his challenge, we would say, he is right. What are we doing here other than making sense for the American people. I appreciated that in SONNY BONO, and I thank him.

I think all of us have got a fuller sense of appreciation of what we call changing careers. Everybody was something else when they came to this body. In fact, the Founding Fathers were always something else. They were farmers and artisans and lawyers and teachers. They came and spent a few months here and went back to their work. So what was wrong with being from the music industry and an entertainer? Nothing.

He brought us a different perspective, his sense of humor, but his commitment to the ideals of this country. So I would simply like to say, as a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary where I got to know him most, thank you, SONNY BONO, for what you brought to this body. Thank you, SONNY BONO, for not being a lawyer and

making just plain sense, for I do believe that your presence in this body and your membership on the House Committee on the Judiciary, which was extremely unique as a nonlawyer, added to the processes of government, reaffirmed the Constitution of the United States and as well reaffirmed your place in history.

God bless SONNY BONO and his family, and God bless America.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I know of no other requests for time on my side, but I know that there are on the other side. I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker I rise today to add my voice to the chorus of voices singing the praises of our colleague SONNY BONO. I am not sure there is anything I can say that has not already been spoken. It was with deep sadness that I learned of SONNY's death. In life he was vibrant and witty, always quick to offer a smile, an amusing story or a simple word of encouragement.

Many of our colleagues have shared personal stories about working with SONNY, but I would like to share something a member of my staff just today told me which illustrates why SONNY was loved in life and why he will be remembered in death.

My aide told me of an encounter he had with SONNY in 1995. He was walking between the House office buildings when he encountered SONNY in the street. When they passed, my staffer gave SONNY a puzzled look. SONNY, realizing that my staffer recognized him but maybe couldn't place the name with the face, turned around and said hello.

I tell this story simply because it is indicative of SONNY's engaging personality. In his long and immensely successful career, SONNY never got too big to remember those around him. He was at ease with Hollywood stars, politicians, his constituents and, of course, his wonderful family, and, most important, SONNY made those around him feel at ease.

SONNY visited my district for a Lincoln Day dinner last year and won the hearts of my constituents immediately. In fact, I had to get him out of town quickly because I was afraid they would ask him to move to Florida and challenge me.

I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, not to let stories of SONNY's generosity and kindheartedness overshadow his legislative accomplishments. He was a serious and effective legislator. He was an average guy in a business where we often take ourselves too seriously. He worked diligently on behalf of his constituents, and he entered the political arena for the right reasons. I repeat that. He entered the political arena for

the right reasons, because he saw the problem, in his case, of business shackled by excessive regulations, and he figured the best way to solve that problem was to change it himself. He was a true citizen legislator.

I would like to close by sharing the impression SONNY has left on me. I am sure that those of you who attended his funeral and those who watched on television were struck not by the profound sadness of the affair, but by the joy and happiness which SONNY brought into people's lives. Mixed with the tears of joy and happy memories of SONNY was that unforgettable picture. Each time the television camera cut to a shot of SONNY's picture with that engaging smile, I could not help but laugh and think, that is SONNY. It was almost like he was there. And the thing is, SONNY is here with each and every one of us who had their opportunity to work with him and share a piece of his unique perspective on life.

So let me wish Mary and their wonderful children, Chesare and Chianna, God's blessings. They may have lost a father, but they have gained a House full of aunts and uncles. I think I speak on behalf my colleagues by saying we will always be willing to help whenever it is needed.

SONNY, may you keep them smiling up there.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

(Mr. COX of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, my heart, along with the hearts of all of my colleagues, is with SONNY BONO at this time. I would like to submit my tribute for the RECORD. I am delighted that we are spending this time, and I am delighted we are having a memorial service that we will all attend tomorrow for this same purpose. This Chamber will deeply miss SONNY BONO.

Mr. Speaker, the world watched and mourned as SONNY BONO was laid to rest in Palm Springs a few weeks ago, and many of our colleagues here were among those present. It is a rare person whose passing causes us all to stop and reflect, and I want to take a moment and explain why, to my mind, SONNY BONO's life touched so many people.

I think it is because he was uniquely American. His life was proof of all the things that we believe make America special, and like Ronald Reagan before him, he did it all with the smile and the kind words that come from a man who is at peace with himself and who believes in what he is doing.

The more I got to know SONNY, the more respect I had for him, and the more I counted him as a friend. I don't think anyone in the last 10 years has made me laugh so hard as SONNY, but most importantly, he made all of us laugh at the right times. SONNY knew when things had become too serious, when we were all becoming swollen with our own importance, and when instead of anger and recriminations we needed laughter and unity. He had a

unique ability to use humor to remind us of who we are and what we should be doing.

SONNY's parents wanted him to be a doctor. But he wanted to be in show business, so he went to Hollywood, and took a job that allowed him to pursue his dream—he drove a meat truck. What does this have to do with Hollywood and the music business? Nothing, except that by taking this job and delivering meat along Sunset Boulevard, SONNY was able to drop off recordings of his songs at record companies along his route. This was typical of SONNY's persistence in pursuing his goals—he always believed there was a way, whether it seemed obvious or not. And as we all know, he was right—his records became hits, and he ended up entertaining millions of Americans every week on national television. This kind of confidence is uniquely American—SONNY knew that there would be opportunities, and that all he needed was talent and determination to succeed.

When SONNY left show business, he went into the restaurant business, and in the private sector he learned a lesson that too many people in Washington, DC have either never learned or have forgotten—the government interferes far too much into the private lives of citizens. As a businessman, SONNY found that government thought it could tell him what kind of a sign he could put on his restaurant.

Unfortunately, he discovered, it could—so SONNY ran for mayor and made the changes that he thought needed to be made. The people who had seen what he could do overwhelmingly voted to send him to Congress to give him a chance to make some needed changes here as well.

SONNY was just getting started when he was taken from us, but he had already made a difference. We passed legislation here in the House that he wrote which was designed to protect the voters in my state, legislation that would prevent a single judge from overturning the will of the people as expressed through a statewide ballot initiative.

In short, though SONNY BONO was successful, and though he did serious work, he never took himself, or this body, too seriously. He knew that the important things in life should be enjoying your family, enjoying your work, and chasing whatever dreams you have, whether it's a gold record or a Senate seat. In that, he set a good example for us all.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlemen from California (Mr. LEWIS) and (Mr. BROWN) for arranging this opportunity to memorialize our good friend, SONNY BONO. And it is with a great deal of sadness that I join with our colleagues in expressing our deepest condolences upon the tragic, untimely and premature passing of our colleague from California, SONNY BONO.

It is difficult in our society to achieve any phenomenal success in any given field. SONNY was one of the few people to achieve distinction in four different occupations: songwriting, show business, managing a restaurant business and, most important, public service.

I first came to know SONNY during his first term in the Congress. His knowledge of the copyright law, his dedication to intellectual property rights and his indignation over the pirating of American works by other nations, particularly the People's Republic of China, was one of significant assistance to those of us on our Committee on International Relations as we wrestled with those issues.

He brought to the Congress his experience and insight, which were rare, and he will not soon be forgotten. It was pointed out at the time of his passing that SONNY BONO is one of the few Members of Congress ever to habitually attend hearings of other committees, committees he did not serve on, simply because the subject was of interest to him or because he wanted to learn more about the issue. As a former restaurant owner, SONNY understood and brought to the Congress an understanding of the burdens faced by our small business owners. He had told me that most of us in the Congress cannot truly comprehend the extensive paperwork and the bureaucratic red tape burdening those who merely sought to follow the American dream of business ownership.

As mayor of Palm Springs, California, SONNY understood the problems faced by our local governments in small cities. The television interviews with Palm Springs residents, which were broadcast in the wake of his passing, underscored how much appreciated and loved he was by the residents of his home town in California. He brought to the mayor's office professionalism, seasoned with a generous helping of common sense. His revitalization of downtown Palm Springs with such innovations as a film festival has set a model which mayors and town supervisors throughout our Nation have sought to emulate.

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SONNY will always be remembered in this body for his enthusiasm and his vigor. And at a time in Washington noted for extreme partisanship, SONNY made a point of reaching across the aisle to befriend and to aid all Members of our body. SONNY's heart was as big as the outdoors, and he will long be remembered for his ability to bring people together.

Mr. Speaker, I join in extending my deepest condolences to SONNY's widow, Mary, to his children, and to the many Americans who loved and respected SONNY BONO. He was a voice we needed. SONNY will be sorely missed.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader of the House.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much and commend him and the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) for bringing this special order so that all of us would have an opportunity to speak

about our fallen colleague, SONNY BONO.

I certainly rise first with sympathy and condolences for his family. This is a horrible loss to them and we send prayers of understanding, prayers of comfort for this time of great sorrow in their lives.

We all speak today with a very heavy heart and great sadness that this would happen. It is always tragic when we stand here to eulogize a fallen colleague, but it is much more difficult and sad when that colleague is taken from us at the pinnacle of their life, before their time.

SONNY BONO brought his wonderful spirit and sense of humor to all of us here in the Capitol, here in the House of Representatives, and a good sense of humor is always bipartisan, and SONNY BONO was. He had a good word for everyone, Republican, Democrat. He had a kind word for everyone. He was never, that I could see, in a bad mood. He was always in a good mood. He was never pessimistic. He was always optimistic. He was always very, very optimistic that we could solve our problems.

He brought another great gift. He brought the gift of humor. He had the facility to, no matter how important the situation, no matter how tense, no matter how much controversy surrounded an issue, he would bring his wonderful sense of humor that made us all laugh, made us all stop, and made us all consider whether or not we really wanted to be as serious as we were about a subject.

But I want to say that he always took his office and the issues facing this country seriously. He always reminded the rest of us about one thing; that as important as the issues are, as seriously as we take ourselves, we were basically sent here to address the needs and concerns of a half a million people in our districts, and there was nothing that SONNY took more seriously than that. He cared about the people he represented and he worked in their behalf. This, of course, is a message that all of us must remember every day that we serve.

Fate robbed us of the presence of SONNY BONO, but fate will never take away his spirit from the people's House of Representatives. I commend the gentlemen. We will all miss SONNY BONO, and our hearts and prayers go out to his family at this time of great sorrow.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) has 6 minutes remaining. There is a total of 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY).

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of a gentleman who changed not only many of us personally but who changed this institution overall. SONNY BONO truly was the Will

Rogers of this Congress. He was a man who brought common sense and the reminder to all of us that what really matters is what happens to America, not what happens to those of us in Congress. He reminded all of us that the people who are really important are not people in Washington, D.C. but the people out in the rest of America.

I think that I had the privilege of knowing SONNY actually before the other Members of Congress for a lot of reasons, not just because I was from California but because myself and SONNY BONO ended up being seated together during freshman orientation, and it was my privilege to learn about a man who had gone through many things, who had accomplished many things without all the benefits and advantages that many of us here in Congress had.

SONNY BONO was a man who was able to remind us again and again that we are not what is essential for America, but what we do for the American people is what is absolutely essential. SONNY'S legislative packages were not highlighted with great press conferences and great activity, but things like defending the right of the initiative of the people's vote by requiring three judges to review the citizen's initiatives before it is overturned was basic, strong, good legislation, not just for California but for all of America.

SONNY BONO'S position on the Salton Sea that the Federal Government and the State government and local communities should work together to help clean up environmental problems was a strong message that SONNY BONO was able to send us.

Mr. Speaker, SONNY'S death hit many of us very, very personally. Mary Bono and her children had their husband and father taken away from them at a very critical time in their life, and our hearts go out to Mary and the children. Congress may think about the fact, and those of us that knew SONNY may say, Congress will not be the same without SONNY BONO on that front aisle reminding all of us to be up front. I think what we need to remember is Congress will never be the same because SONNY BONO sat in that first aisle and was so up front.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, those of us who gather today gather to celebrate the life of a man who, while small in physical stature, had a giant heart and a remarkable way of putting us all at ease.

We were both elected in 1994, and having grown up watching Sonny and Cher, he was an instant celebrity to us and to many Americans. But he was also one who found time in his day to help give an idea, an insight, a solution to a problem that many who had graduated from college could not think of because it was not in a textbook. SONNY BONO lived a life of having to struggle and survive and prosper by in-

genuity, hard work and determination. So his solutions were not always something you would find in the Harvard Law Review, but really something he scratched out when he was working as a restaurateur, a songwriter, a creative partner in Sonny and Cher.

He did a lot for his country and a lot for his district by bringing that simple sense of purpose to this Chamber, a Chamber that is rich in history and sometimes too steeped in tradition to recognize that there is a time when we all have to just laugh and say we are Americans first, we are not partisan gladiators in a war, but we are Americans. And SONNY had that wonderful ability to bring forth that smile and that spirit.

He worked on, as the gentleman from California (Mr. BRIAN BILBRAY) said, the Salton Sea, and labeling of produce, and so many other issues that affect us, but he was, at the bottom of it all, most proud that he was a husband and a father, proud of what Chastity was doing in her life now, proud of the two children he was raising with Mary, proud of the work he had done with his partner and collaborator, Cher, and I guess proud of the fact that he got to serve in this great Chamber as a Member of the United States House.

For that bit of opportunity that all of us knew him, we thank God for the richness that he blessed us with giving us SONNY. We thank the people of California for sending him. And we really thank Mary and his children for sharing him with us. It takes a lot to be in this body. It takes a lot from our families and our families deserve all the credit. Not the Member, but the family, for enduring the sacrifice that it takes to serve this country.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentlemen from California (Mr. LEWIS) and (Mr. BROWN) for bringing this. This is not easy. I think it is easier for me today than it was for some of us when we went to SONNY'S funeral.

SONNY had a unique way about him to make every person he met feel as though they were his friend, and that they were his only friend and that they were his best friend. He had a unique ability to do that. He did not care who an individual was. And I think that is why so many people in America feel as though when SONNY passed that we all feel a loss because he had an impact on so many people. Yes, my heart goes out to Mary and the children, but to everyone who feels as though somehow their life has been diminished because of the loss of SONNY BONO.

We have also been enriched. I wanted to say here that when I think of my good friend SONNY, his office was right next to mine, we sat next to each other for three years on two different committees, and when I think of SONNY, I think of an individual who is good natured. He had a winning smile and

charm. He had the power of the twinkle in his eye. When he got the twinkle in his eye, everyone better look out because he was going to suck us into his excitement. He brings out that youthful excitement.

He was a charming, simple person. He had a quiet unassuming way about him. I think it was because even though he recognized his fame, he was humble and gracious because he had lived the peaks and valleys of celebrity status. So he said basically do not take yourself too seriously. Remember why you are here. SONNY was amused by the political fakery that he would see in this institution. So he kept himself very simple and he would remind us all the time by doing different things.

I have to take a moment, if I may, and share with America that SONNY served on the Committee on the Judiciary, and he was not a lawyer and he did not care for lawyers. I know he once said the Committee on the Judiciary would be a great committee if it did not have so many lawyers on it. He was the only nonlawyer on the Committee on the Judiciary.

One day the gentleman from Florida (BILL MCCOLLUM) had introduced the Youth Predator Act. Some on the committee were upset about the word "predator," and we debated the word all day. Now, SONNY was exhausted by lawyers playing their word games and debating one word all day, and we were going into the night and all of a sudden the rear doors of the Committee on the Judiciary burst wide open, and here comes a gentleman in carrying in these stacks of pizzas. SONNY grabs the microphone and he asks for the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) to yield to him and he asks for a recess because he has bought pizzas for everyone.

Basically what he was doing was saying just calm down, relax, let us think about who we are and how we serve. And that was one of the great attributes of our dear friend. He taught us all by his words and his actions not to take ourselves too seriously and to remember we are here as the public servants.

I think of my dear friend. He had a heart alive to all of the beauties of nature. And as soon as he found out that I was a Frenchman, because he could not understand how "Buyer" could be pronounced Buyer, and I explained to him, he would tickle me sometimes and called me Monsieur de Buyer. So to my good friend I refer to you as a la mode, which is French, according to your style, SONNY.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution, H.R. 338, memorializing SONNY BONO.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent, since our time is running out, for an additional 20 minutes to complete the discussions regarding this resolution.

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

Hearing no objection, an additional 20 minutes is granted to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIBBONS).

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for yielding this time to me. In addition to the speakers of the last hour, I too would like to rise to pay tribute to our late colleague, SONNY BONO.

When often asked to describe SONNY BONO, we here on the floor would fondly refer to him as the Will Rogers of Congress. His humor lightened our lives, those especially of us who were lucky enough to have had the opportunity to know and to serve with him. His klutzy exterior often masked the articulate intellectual interior of a man who was committed to ending the scourge of drugs on our country.

When he saw the rock culture of the 60s turning to the drug culture of the 60s, SONNY BONO said no. He was outspoken in his opposition to drug use throughout his career as an entertainer as well as a public servant. He was a dedicated husband and father who placed the well-being of his family above all.

While in Washington, SONNY preached a message that each of this body would do well to remember: "Take your job but not yourself very seriously."

Farewell, SONNY. May God bless your family. This country will miss you.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

□ 1430

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), and I know that this is a difficult task for him to undertake. When one orchestrates the goodbye to a good friend, it is not an easy thing to do; and I appreciate the dignity and the concerns my colleague has shown for all of us in dealing with this very, very tragic task that befell him.

Mr. Speaker, we are too much divided by parties, by ideology. Obviously, division properly pursued is at the heart of democracy. That is what we enshrine, the right of people to differ. But recently in American politics, and maybe in the politics of other places, differences have deepened in ways that are not necessary and are not healthy. Personal enmity too often has accompanied honest differences on issues; and, for me, the greatest loss that we

suffer in SONNY BONO's death and for many of us he was a good friend. So we lose the personal sense.

I must say, of the large number of people I have gotten to meet, of all of them, SONNY was probably the hardest guy to be unhappy in his presence. There was about him a determination to seek out the most cheerful and the most upbeat in any situation. He radiated that, and he shared that, and we benefited from being in his presence. But we lose as an institution someone who was dedicated to the proposition that ideological and partisan differences were a good thing and part of our democracy, but that when personal enmity entered into it, it poisoned the process.

SONNY BONO did more to counter that tendency inappropriately to personalize disagreement than anybody. He was someone who it was hard to get mad at. He was someone who sought out the common humanity that he had with others.

As an analyst, Mr. Speaker, he was extraordinary; and he showed that talent early on in that wonderful monologue he performed in 1995 at the Press Club Foundation. Because what he did, this was a man who was a first-rate entertainer. He was a man who understood how you make yourself appealing and enjoyable to audiences. In the best sense of the word, he was a man who was determined to ingratiate himself to others, not by giving away principle but by being someone who other people enjoyed being around; and he studied how you did that in the entertainment context.

And what was extraordinary was that, within a few weeks, he observed how Members of Congress did that here; and he did some great analytical work looking at the place as a theater, a small house today, but sometimes that happens. He understood this place as a theater, and he understood that important element of it, and with the good humor and with the lack of malice that drove everything that he did, in my experience, he shared that with people. That understanding of the legitimately theatrical effects that impacted our politics was an important thing that he shared.

I also benefited, as many did, by his expertise of the field of intellectual property, where as a song writer he knew a great deal and made a very significant contribution to the Committee on the Judiciary. Indeed, I believe there were times when he might have been a little bit chagrined if people knew exactly how serious and thoughtful he got when we dealt with some of these very complicated and intellectual property subjects; and I am very glad now that just before we adjourned he passed in this House and I think they became law two important pieces of legislation dealing with protection of rights of property owners.

There was controversy over them, and SONNY weighed in and was critical in our passing these bills regarding the

La Machia and La Cienega cases and other contexts people could look up.

Finally, I just have to return to the personal. SONNY and I and our partners, his wife Mary and my partner Herb, went to dinner one night at Galileo. It was an interesting night, Mr. Speaker. It was a night we thought we were going to adjourn and all the Democrats voted not to adjourn and the Republicans double-crossed us by voting also not to adjourn, Mr. Speaker. They kind of surprised us.

So Herb and Mary were kind of waiting for me and SONNY. There was kind of a lot of confusion that night because we did not know whether we had adjourned or had not adjourned, and we had to choose between adjournment and our dinner reservations in Galileo. Actually, in the end, I think we managed to get both an adjournment and dinner; and the four of us, along with the movie director John Waters, had a wonderful time.

Herb had that same reaction to being in SONNY's company that I did. He was just a wonderfully good friend. He was a man who understood the meaning of friendship, was dedicated to it and understood the importance to our democracy of injecting some of that spirit in here. We will all miss him.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the comments of my colleague the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

I wonder if my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN), would like me to yield time for any closing remarks?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN).

(Mr. BROWN of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, just one anecdote that I recalled after I sat down about SONNY. That is, amongst many times that I met with SONNY, there was one occasion when he did not show up; and that was most unusual. I had difficulty understanding why until an explanation was offered.

This particular meeting, which I think involved a visit from the Secretary of the Interior to SONNY's district and to the Salton Sea, came at a time when he had already scheduled some other activities with his children; and he missed this very important high-level meeting because he placed his previous commitments to his children above anything else. I think that speaks a lot to the nature of the man and where his priorities really were.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, let me express my appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) for his participating in this very important session today; and I would join him in extending appreciation to the Speaker, as well as the minority and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) for their giving us time tomorrow, for we will have a memorial service for SONNY BONO at 10 in the Hall of Statutes, a very unusual opportunity for the House.

One of my colleagues mentioned that he will never quite forget that twinkle in the eye that SONNY always carried with him on or off the floor. SONNY also had this wonderful smile that just absolutely melted anybody who would even consider challenging him on one issue or one problem here or there.

We all know of SONNY and Cher. Many did not have the opportunity to participate in a very small service that took place a couple of evenings before the formal funeral service, but there Mary and Cher were both present. They are dear friends who together spent those several days nurturing their children in this time of pain and sadness. But the poignancy of their relationship is a reflection of the quality and strength of our friend, SONNY BONO.

I must say that we all remember SONNY and Cher by way of perhaps their first hit record, which was entitled, "Baby Don't Go." We all know of "I've got you, Babe." SONNY has had an impact upon all of us in many a way throughout his lifetime but certainly during his service in this House.

I want to express both condolences but also deep appreciation for some others as well, the staffs of SONNY BONO both in California and here in Washington, especially Brian Nestande, his administrative assistant; Beverly Swain and Frank Cohen.

Further, let me say in conclusion that SONNY has made a difference in the House of Representatives in that he strove to make certain that we did all in our power in spite of our differences from time to time to work together in a nonpartisan way on behalf of the people of this country.

To quote and join one of my colleagues, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN), let us all say we are going to miss you, babe.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to support this resolution honoring our late colleague, SONNY BONO, who was taken from us so tragically. My prayers and condolences go out to his wife and family.

I was fortunate to get to know SONNY during his distinguished service here. I, like many of my Republican colleagues, took advantage of his popularity and hosted him for an event with the Lake County Republicans in my district. SONNY's speech was better attended than when I invited different members of our Republican leadership. His witty storytelling brought down the house. I laughed so hard I had tears in my eyes. SONNY was scheduled to return next month to my district, and he will be missed.

His self-deprecating humor belied a sharp intellect. It was not an intellect bred of school and books—it was an intellect borne of the school of hard knocks. Despite his lack of formal education, he succeeded in his every endeavor—songwriter, singer, mayor, Member of Congress. Although he faced many obstacles, his quiet determination overcame them. For all of these unusual achievements, he earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

SONNY was a favorite of my children in particular. I was very grateful to SONNY for the time he spent with my daughter Rachel, whom I lost to cancer last month. Last fall, SONNY took Rachel out to lunch and had his picture taken with her. I will treasure that photo of the two of them, each taken from us too early. When my other kids learned of SONNY's death they said they were sure that the first person he would see in heaven would be Rachel. I am sure that the two of them are enjoying life in a better place—in the company of our Lord.

Again, I want his dear wife and family to know that they remain in our prayers. I would like to close by thanking the Dean of the California delegation, JERRY LEWIS, for sponsoring this resolution.

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for a few moments in which to pay respect to our late colleague, SONNY BONO.

SONNY's office is just across the hall from mine, and we often walked together to the House floor. We both served on the House National Security Committee, and I came to appreciate his open-minded and bipartisan approach to tough problems. I will also miss his self-deprecating charm, which he often used to disguise his seriousness of purpose.

In the past two years, Congress has lost four of its sweetest and most decent members—Frank Tejeda (D-TX), Bill Emerson (R-MO), Walter Capps (D-CA), and, earlier this month, SONNY BONO. Frank's office was also on our hallway, immediately next to mine.

It's a sad time for Californians. And, I also want to extend my condolences to SONNY's wife, Mary, his children, and the members of his staff.

SONNY, we'll miss you, babe.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the news of SONNY's untimely passing was greatly upsetting to me. SONNY was an upstanding leader in his community, a good family man, and a solid legislator. He served his constituents in southern California well and brought a certain spirit and vitality to all that he did in Congress that will not soon be replaced. This is truly a great loss.

As a dedicated public servant, SONNY used both wit and wisdom to serve the interests of his constituents. Although he may best be remembered for his success as an entertainer, SONNY quickly earned the reputation in Congress as a highly skilled and intelligent legislator. As an instrumental member of the Salton Sea Task Force, he has used his insight and his intelligence to make great strides toward returning life to the Salton Sea south of Palm Springs. In addition, his deep concern for the direction of our nation led him to become a top fundraiser for the Republican Party and a leading advocate for a drug-free America.

Mr. Speaker, SONNY was a man of substance with both passion and abilities not to be underestimated. I am fortunate to have worked closely with SONNY on several occasions and will hold dear to me memories of his character, sense of humor and deep desire to get things done. My heart goes out to Mary and his family. He will be truly missed.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE SONNY BONO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of section 3 of House Resolution 311, 105th Congress, the Speaker on Friday, January 9, 1998, did appoint the following Members to attend the funeral of the late Honorable SONNY BONO.

Without objection, these names will appear at this point in the RECORD.

There was no objection.

The list referred to is as follows:

Mr. DELLUMS, California, Mr. GINGRICH, Georgia, Mr. ARMEY, Texas, Mr. BROWN, California, Mr. STARK, California, Mr. MILLER, California, Mr. WAXMAN, California, Mr. DIXON, California, Mr. FAZIO, California, Mr. LEWIS, California, Mr. MATSUI, California, Mr. THOMAS, California, Mr. DREIER, California, Mr. HUNTER, California, Mr. LANTOS, California, Mr. MARTINEZ, California, Mr. BERMAN, California, Mr. PACKARD, California, Mr. TORRES, California, Mr. GALLEGLY, California, Mr. HERGER, California, Ms. PELOSI, California, Mr. COX, California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, California, Mr. CONDIT, California, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, California, Mr. DOOLEY, California, Mr. DOOLITTLE, California, Ms. WATERS, California, Mr. BECERRA, California, Mr. CALVERT, California, Ms. ESHOO, California, Mr. FILNER, California, Ms. HARMAN, California, Mr. HORN, California, Mr. KIM, California, Mr. MCKEON, California, Mr. POMBO, California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, California, and Mr. ROYCE, California.

Ms. WOOLSEY, California, Mr. FARR, California, Mr. RIGGS, California, Mr. BILBRAY, California, Ms. LOFGREN, California, Mr. RADANOVICH, California, Mr. CAMPBELL, California, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, California, Mr. ROGAN, California, Mr. SHERMAN, California, Ms. SANCHEZ, California, Mrs. TAUSCHER, California, Mr. HYDE, Illinois, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Louisiana, Mr. SHAW, Florida, Mr. SAXTON, New Jersey, Mr. COBLE, North Carolina, Mr. WELDON, Pennsylvania, Mr. McNULTY, New York, Mr. PAXON, New York, Mr. WALSH, New York, Mr. BARTLETT, Maryland, Mr. BUYER, Indiana, Mr. DICKEY, Arkansas, Mr. KING, New York, Mr. LINDER, Georgia, Mr. MCINNIS, Colorado, Mr. QUINN, New York, Mr. SMITH, Michigan, Mr. BARR, Georgia, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Georgia, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Idaho, Mrs. CUBIN, Wyoming, Mr. EHRlich, Maryland, Mr. FOLEY, Florida, Mr. FOX, Pennsylvania, Mr. GANSKE, Iowa, Mr. HAYWORTH, Ari-

zona, Mrs. KELLY, New York, Mr. LATHAM, Iowa, Mrs. MYRICK, North Carolina, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Washington, Mr. NEY, Ohio, Mr. TIAHRT, Kansas, Mr. WELLER, Illinois, Mr. KUCINICH, Ohio, and Mr. THUNE, South Dakota.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE JOHN MOSS

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have the sad duty to make an announcement to the House jointly with my dear friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN). It is our sad duty to announce the death of our former colleague and dear friend, the Honorable John Moss from California.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my dear friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN); and then we will have further comments at a time later.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding; and I, too, wish to participate in this notification to the House of the death of John Moss.

John was a dear friend, a man who reflected the best in California and whom I felt some rather deep bonds with because of certain similarities in our careers. I think we both came to Congress with the reputation of being somewhat of a maverick, and we felt the consequences of that for a while.

John was a man of deep commitment to his principles and deep loyalty to the concerns of his constituents in his State. He came here 10 years before I did, but after I arrived we found we had a similarity of interests.

I remember in particular that when he decided to give up his place on the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy he insisted that the leadership appoint me in his place, and he was sufficiently adamant that he refused to resign from the committee until he had received the assurances that that would take place.

Of course, the committee was abolished shortly after that, so the results were not all that earth shaking. But I remember John's commitment which he had made to me that he would make sure that I did replace him, and he kept that commitment.

He was a great man, and I thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for allowing me to participate in recognizing that.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN), the dean from the California Democratic Delegation; and I want to express my personal sorrow and grief at this event and also to extend the commiserations and condolences of myself and my wife, Deborah, to John's wonderful widow Jean and to his daughters, Jennifer and Alison, and to his four grandchildren.

As mentioned by the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN), John Moss was

a man of enormous vigor, great courage, enormous energy, who maintained a real sense of responsibility to the people he served and also a sense of outrage about wrongdoing. He served in the House from 1953 to 1978; and I had, with the exception of 2 of those years, the privilege of sitting next to him on the Committee on Commerce, where he was a chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and where he was also the chairman of other subcommittees with important responsibilities.

He has left us a great heritage, protection of consumers, not the least of which by the Consumer Product Safety Act. He also was one who believed in open government; and he was the author of the Freedom of Information Act, which he led the fight to see enacted. He also was the author of the Federal Trade Commission Improvements Act and scores of other pieces of legislation of importance to the people of this country.

His action with regard to the Freedom of Information Act was something which led to open government in which people could have reason to trust not only their government but that their interests were fully and properly considered and cared for.

His wife Jean and he had a great romance, and they greatly loved each other and had a long and happy life together.

John, as I mentioned, served from 1953 to 1978. He died on December 5, 1997. He was a great American, a real patriot, a distinguished Member of this body, a great public servant, and a man whom we will all miss. He was also a man whose contributions to the well-being of this country and to the dignity and to the effectiveness of this institution were great indeed.

□ 1445

We will miss him, we will pray for his soul, and we extend our condolences and sorrow to his dear wife Jean and to his daughters Jennifer and Allison.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 21, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit correspondence received from the White House on November 20, 1997 at 6:50 p.m. and said to contain a letter from the President dated 11/20/97 regarding the Line Item Veto Act and "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998".

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.