

has served this body with integrity and dedication. I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle today in bidding him farewell.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this tribute to the gentleman from California (Mr. DELLUMS).

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2625, RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-411) on the resolution (H. Res. 344) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2625) to redesignate Washington National Airport as "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport," which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 107, CONCERNING ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND SANCTIONS PAYABLE BY THE WHITE HOUSE HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-412) on the resolution (H. Res. 345) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 107) expressing the sense of the Congress that the award of attorney's fees, costs, and sanctions of \$285,864.78 ordered by United States District Judge Royce C. Lamberth on December 18, 1997, should not be paid with taxpayer funds, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

FURTHER TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RONALD DELLUMS AND THE NAMING OF RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the Majority Leader.

Mr. DeLAY. Mr. Speaker, I came down to the floor to take a special order to talk about another Ronald; but I am going to take this opportunity to talk about this RONALD that I have come to respect, a gentleman that, when he was Chairman of the then Arms Services Committee, was one of the most giving, open, and stalwart, a real stalwart man when he was Chairman.

I was shocked this morning. I knew it was coming, but I was shocked this morning as I was sitting in that chair waiting for 1-minute, and the Chair read the gentleman's resignation.

It came home that the gentleman from California (Mr. DELLUMS) is actually leaving this House. We are losing one of its finest Members, a Member that I have great respect for, because he always did his homework, was so articulate and eloquent on this floor.

He always got my attention when he stood up and took the microphone. He would stop every Member in their tracks to hear what he had to say, and there are very few Members that have served in this body that can claim the respect that both sides of the aisle had for the gentleman from California.

And the incredible reputation that the gentleman from California (Mr. DELLUMS) has brought to this House; he has elevated this House. He has elevated the distinction of this House by serving here, and this House will greatly miss him when he leaves.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH).

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, let me just say that there really are not enough minutes here for me to speak, and I am going to have to visit my friend in his office, my great friend, Mr. DELLUMS.

He and I started hanging out together. That early day, I was very much alone, as you remember, RON, because a lot of Republicans could not figure out why you and I had become such great friends; and it is so amazing to see so many Republicans come to the floor and salute you.

The fact is that we relate to each other best when we can touch each other's hearts; and it really does not matter in the Congress of the United States if, at the end of the day, whether we think differently. What matters at the end of the day is, are we honest of heart and are we willing to put ourselves on the line for what we believe in. That is why people come here today and salute you, because you are pure of heart, and you do put your shoulder to the wheel to try to bring about change.

No one ever questions your sincerity or your dedication to your country. That is why I feel so strongly about you.

But it is not as a colleague, is it, Ron, for you and me? RON DELLUMS came to my wedding; and he gave me an elephant, a crystal elephant, which was hard for him to begin with, not give me a crystal donkey, right? He gave me a crystal elephant.

He wrote a note to my wife and to me, and it said: Dear JOHN and Karen, no matter where I am and no matter where you are, you should know that I love you both.

That may be one of the most prized, maybe is the most prized gift that I have ever received from anybody in the House of Representatives. Because no matter where you are, my wife and I love you and yours, your family. You

are going to leave here, but you are not going to be able to get away from me, and I am not going to be able to get away from you.

You are a very special man that has been able make all of us feel better about our work in the House of Representatives. But what I am most proud of is that I have made a lifelong friend who will stand with me and I with him no matter what the circumstances, no matter what the day. Whether the sun shall rise or whether the rain shall fall, we will be together for the rest of our lives.

God bless you and Godspeed, friend RON DELLUMS.

□ 1730

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and I thank my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM). I think in this time of personal acknowledgment, when we all have issues to discuss, I think we should let the American people realize that we are part of the human family. I have said to someone that I was going to come and hug the gentleman on the floor so that I might get some time to be able to share my thoughts. And I did not hug the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), but I appreciate him realizing how important it is for me to come and share some very personal moments.

RON, my dilemma and my frustration, my sadness is that I cannot say that I had 30 years or 10 years or even 5 years. But I think I have reminded you on a regular basis that I got by extension some of the kindness and the love and the brotherhood that you shared with our mentor and friend from Texas, Mickey Leland. It was through Mickey that the 18th Congressional District, the people of the 18th Congressional District got to claim RON DELLUMS.

I would say to you that I am sad that you are not my President, not my Secretary of Defense or my national security chairman, if you will, or advisor to the President. I would have liked that, though I respect all that you have done and what you chose to be.

Interestingly enough, we have words on paper, but I want to just say these words as I share briefly with you, this is your story. It is his story, the story is yours of what you have done for this Congress and for the American people. We could come here and humorously talk about the time that he came first to this body and first to the committee that you chaired and had to sit in one chair with another colleague of yours, Pat Schroeder. We can all laugh about that, but we can take the intensity of the time and how unique you were. But we can also take from that that you did not lay down the gauntlet, refusing to continue and persevere, and you wound up as the chairman of the Committee on National Security, now

named, and as well you now pose in that committee with the most striking portrait that I think we will ever see and your humorous comments to the artist who said, do you want me to take this wrinkle out, this blemish out, this wrinkle out. And you said, absolutely not. It took me a long time to get all these warts and wrinkles and I want everybody to realize it. I am proud that you did that.

You have always been willing in debate to listen to the other fellow or the other lady. You have always been willing, though you have had an independent voice in time of crisis, and I came here during Bosnia, and you were eloquent in explaining to those who would be for or against what your position was, so I think that in this Congress we have been blessed, one by your power and your eloquence, your love. I have been blessed by brotherhood through Mickey. His family has been blessed. His boys have been blessed because they know RON DELLUMS. And certainly I would say that you have taken the responsibility of chairmanship, and I respect the leadership role of our majority leader and our majority whip, in this instance the gentleman from Texas (TOM DELAY). They have to gather people together. You had the chairmanship. Therefore, you had to gather people together. But as the chairman, you wielded a lot of power.

I think the American people need to realize that you never impeded someone else from gaining, from expressing, from fighting and from being successful. That is key. Robert Frost said that the road less traveled by, and that has made all of the difference. I believe that you went the road less traveled by for the other road was so very crowded but an easy road to travel. You took it upon yourself to say, as the others go this way, I am going the road that may be the most difficult or the bridge or the mountain most difficult to climb.

As I close, so many of us always quote Dr. Martin Luther King. I have always said that he left us a legacy, whether we realize it or not, more than his actions during his life but it was his words. And we always quote the famous words that he offered about the content of one's character not being judged by the color of one's skin. I always believe that those words are easy to say. But it is really doing and acting upon those words, to really have character that others can watch and see and feel and touch and say, I like that guy. I like that lady. I like what they exude or what they stand for.

So I simply want to say that my frustration comes to a close. The words are not enough. They are not eloquent enough. They are not spiritual enough. They are not strong enough. I am leaving sort of not complete because I do not feel that I have captured your spirit of who you are. But I hope you know by my presence here this evening by a small measure you not only have my love and admiration and respect, but the people of the 18th Congressional

District and the spirit of Mickey Le-land watches you every day and wishes you the very best with your family, continuing to be strong.

I always tell my children, fly high where the eagles fly, fly high where you belong. God bless you, RON DELLUMS. God bless you and your family. The United States is blessed by your legacy and your story. God bless you.

With the announcement of his sudden retirement from the Congress last month, Representative RONALD V. DELLUMS, the esteemed Former Chairman of the House National Security Committee (previously called the House Armed Services Committee), began to write the final chapter of a brilliant legacy of public service spanning well over three decades, that simply can not go without recognition.

After a distinguished tour service in the United States Marine Corps, Congressman DELLUMS began to prepare himself to pursue a career of helping others. Congressman DELLUMS was the first member of his family to attend college, and completed his studies with a Masters degree in Social Work from the University of California. The Congressman's chosen field was that of psychiatric social work before he realized his true calling was in the area of public interest.

While serving as a well-respected community activist in the Bay Area, Congressman DELLUMS was persuaded by friends that he could be an even greater good to the local community by serving on the Berkeley City Council. The Congressman consented to these requests, and was elected to the Berkeley City Council in 1966. After four years on the City Council, in 1970, Congressman DELLUMS challenged the incumbent of the Ninth Congressional District of California, and won. From this point on, I guess one could say that the "rest was history".

DELLUMS, upon his arrival in Washington in 1971, emerged as one of the most controversial figures on Capitol Hill. Always willing to be a balanced and independent voice in times of crisis, Congressman DELLUMS soon rose to national prominence as one of the most intelligent and articulate members of this Congress. Congressman DELLUMS was widely recognized as the kind of man that did not just give lip service to his announced legislative priorities, but actually worked tirelessly to meet these objectives in order to better serve his constituency and the nation at large. There is only one word that can accurately describe a man like this, integrity.

Mr. DELLUMS, first as Chairman of the Acquisitions Subcommittee and then as the Full Committee Chairman, showed the kind of exemplary dignity befitting of the Chairman's gavel. Even though, Congressman DELLUMS was always an advocate of lower military spending, he never used the power of the Chair as a means of impeding any opposing views held by his colleagues. DELLUMS used only his intellect and his vote as a way of expressing his views on pending legislation, and I am sure that this is how the framers of the Constitution envisioned a Congressional Representative would conduct his or herself.

I honestly can not think of a higher compliment to give to a lawmaker than to say that he consistently stood upon their convictions in the face of opposition with honor and dignity. RONALD V. DELLUMS, without exception, remained this kind of man of convictions, during

his nearly thirty years of service in the United States Congress, and this must be applauded. Like Robert Frost said, Congressman DELLUMS took "the road less traveled by, and that has made all of the difference". In conclusion, I believe that few will disagree with me when I say, Congressman DELLUMS, it is unlikely that we will see your kind again any time soon, rest assured that your labors in this place will not be forgotten.

Mr. DELAY. I thank the gentlewoman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), my dear friend.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding to me. This is really special for me because quite often it is hard to say you are wrong. When I came to Congress, I did not respect RON DELLUMS. Coming out of the military, I had preconceived ideas, notions. As a matter of fact, I thought he was unfair at times, and we even came once, when there was an issue on the conference where they had 14 Members one year on conference, and I had winnowed my way to number 13, and then they cut it to 12. I came to the chairman and said, Mr. Chairman, you are unfair. It got pretty heated right back here in this back room. And both of us in the heat of the battle looked at each other both with tears in our eyes, and we ended up embracing each other, I would like to state for the record in a manly way, Mr. Speaker.

But since then I think over these past few years, I say quite a few years since I have been here, Ron and I have become good friends. And it does not mean that we do not differ on issues. I disagree vehemently with national security issues with my friend from California and come from a different perspective. But I want to tell you one thing, one of the hardest things that there is on this floor, and I think my colleagues would agree with, is when you are really dedicated in your heart trying to help something and someone accuses you, whether it is cutting education or cutting Medicare, and you are trying your best to do what you believe is right for this country, RON DELLUMS never did that. He always spoke to the issue. He never spoke through partisanship or anything. I think that is part of the reason, RON, that you were fair. I was wrong.

I think there is a Jewish proverb that I think that best exudes what the gentleman from California represents. It was taken from a movie called the Jazz Singer. He and I are old enough to remember Al Jolson. And then Neil Diamond later played in that movie. But it was about a father who had lost a son, not to death but to an argument. And the father wanted his son to be a cantor, and the son wanted to be a jazz singer. And there was so much conflict between them that the father ripped his coat in a Jewish fashion and disavowed that he had a son. I have two daughters. You can use this same proverb. But the proverb goes like this, the

father calls to his son and says, son, come home. We have argued too long. And his son replies, father, I cannot. There is too much between us. And the father replies, son, come as far as you can, and I will come the rest of the way.

RON DELLUMS has always come the rest of the way. I think that is why most of us, even though we disagree a lot of times with politics, do I want you as President? No. Do I want you as Secretary of Defense? No. But I want you as my friend for life, and I want you to always know you are welcome at my table in my home with my family. God bless you, RON.

Mr. DELAY. I thank the gentleman from California.

For other Members on the floor, I came down to the floor to give another kind of special order, so I have agreed to two more speakers, and then I will go to Mr. DELLUMS. Then I have to, because I am running out of time, go to my special order.

I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Texas allowing me to speak.

The tribute that we have witnessed this evening on the floor of the House of Representatives has never been equal. I took out an hour special order that was used. The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) took out an hour which was used. We are very grateful to our friend from Texas for allowing us to have a few more words of tribute honoring RON DELLUMS.

This gentleman will be sorely missed. But I tell you, RON DELLUMS, that this tribute that we have participated in and witnessed this evening hopefully in days and years ahead will warm your heart to know of the friendship, the respect and the affection with which we hold you. We wish you the very, very best in the days to come.

Just the other day you received a distinguished service medal from the Secretary of Defense. He told a story about how Bishop Tutu was honored. And he spoke about how the words "thank you" sound so little but yet mean so much. So let me say to my friend, thank you.

Mr. DELAY. I thank the gentleman from Missouri.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague from Texas yielding to me. It indeed is a great honor for me in just a few moments sharing the thoughts that I shared personally on more than one occasion with and about my dear friend RON DELLUMS. It is one thing to talk about how you feel about public affairs. It is one thing to talk about how you feel about friends and family. But if you have spent much of your life in a thing called public affairs and serving people, it is impossible to begin to tell

your colleagues and your friends just how much you would wish that your life could in a small part emulate that which has been my experience with RON DELLUMS.

I first heard about this fellow at a time when he certainly had no idea that I might be around. I was then a graduate intern in the San Francisco area, assigned as a part of that work to the East Bay Labor Council where I had the privilege to spend a good deal of time with a fellow by the name of Jeffrey Cohelan. When I really heard about RON DELLUMS was a few years after that when RON DELLUMS had the audacity to run against Congressman Cohelan in a primary and defeat that incumbent Member of the Democratic Party in the House.

RON DELLUMS, from the perspective that was a Republican perspective, was from the radical left. I mean, indeed, he was the heyday of the Berkeley days. And my perception of him was so different than one could get from afar by way of just that background and experience of mine. I mean, he beat a guy who had been good to me, and he was obviously one of these guys from the nutty left.

And then years after that, as I began to look at public affairs in a different kind of way, recognizing that very few of our problems are solved by partisan politics alone, recognizing that the importance of work in public affairs comes down to the quality of the people that we attract. It says on one of those buildings in California, bring me men to match my mountains. And in many a way, our people have a way of doing that regardless of the label.

RON DELLUMS is one of the great Americans to ever serve in the House of Representatives. I want to say that from the bottom of my heart, but I want to say much more than time will allow. So I will take this moment to tell RON that the time that we have spent together here on the floor, the time we have spent together, special time in other parts of this building, I have grown to have an affection for you that I can express about few others outside of my family, there are few that I care for more. RON DELLUMS is exactly the kind of person that gives me hope for the future of our society as well as the future of our government. If we can continue to attract people of this talent, of this ability to communicate verbally and otherwise, people who really care as he cares, then the country, the Republic and indeed much of the world, not only will be better for it but has a great future in reflecting upon his work.

□ 1745

RON, God bless you and your family, and to say the least, we will miss you. So farewell, my friend.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, as usual, when we get on the floor, we have to yield to more Members, and I will yield to the other Californians that are here. But I warn anybody that may be on

their way over to the floor, that in 5 minutes I am going to take my special order.

So I will yield to the gentleman from California, (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Well, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding to me. I appreciate the fact that he is on the floor tonight to take special order time to talk about another great Californian, Ronald Reagan, and we are taking that time to talk about another great Ronald, RONALD DELLUMS, both from California, and I appreciated the gentleman's yielding.

I am here as a relatively new Member, only having served 5½ years in the House. But I think that the history of the 70s, the history of the 80s, the history of the 90s saw incredible change in our country. And this House, during all that period, probably spent more time discussing our national security, our national defense, the Vietnam War, Panama, and the Middle East. We had lots of problems.

Probably history will point out that the most talked about person of these eras, two-and-a-half decades, is going to be RON DELLUMS, because in the people's House, he was an unusual person. He represented people that had not been represented before in Congress. He spoke about unusual ideas, many of which were unpopular. And they became the position of our Nation. He just said them before anyone else.

He provided new leadership. Nobody of African-American descent had ever been chair of the Committee on Armed Services. And the fact he was taking that chair and had the opportunity to be there, he had life threats against him in this building as a Member of Congress.

So as a newer Member to the people's House and one who is interested in the history of this House, I think that RON DELLUMS' legacy will be something that will be talked about for decades to come. Our country will be proud of him, and is, but most importantly our grandchildren will know about RON DELLUMS.

You served us well. You will be remembered forever. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, it is with both honor and sadness that I rise to pay tribute to one of our colleagues, and a fellow Californian, RON DELLUMS, who is retiring from Congress after nearly three decades of service in the House of Representatives.

RON has had a long and honorable career in public service, and his district knew him well long before he ran for Congress. He was involved in social work, economic development, and community politics for many years before being elected to the Berkeley City Council in 1967, a momentous time in Bay Area politics. Three years later, he ran for Congress for a seat which had been held for decades by the Republican Party. RON not only won the seat, he has kept it ever since, frequently winning by sizeable margins.

Needless to say, RON came to the House of Representatives in 1970 as one of the most

progressive progressives. When he joined the Armed Services Committee, he was considered so extreme that he had to fight—literally—for a seat on the dias. Knowing his views were in the minority, RON nonetheless spoke out eloquently and repeatedly against bloated and wasteful defense spending. His speeches on the subject stand among the very best ever delivered on the floor of the House: well-reasoned, intelligent, compelling, and eloquent.

As many will attest, one of RON's greatest talents is his ability to balance his strong, outspoken beliefs with a deep sense of fairness. I was honored to serve under his leadership when I served on the Committee on Armed Services; in fact, RON was my first Chairman when I came to Congress in 1993. As the most junior Member of the Committee, RON accorded me the upmost respect and assistance, for which I am deeply grateful. As Chairman, RON was always open, fair, and willing to listen to all arguments, whether he agreed or disagreed with them. His respect for the minority, acceptance of opposing views, and tremendous rhetorical skills are worthy of emulation by those in positions of leadership.

RON's long tenure attests to his effective service to his district. So beloved is RON that some of his constituents have actually become offended when someone dares challenge him in an election year. Indeed, RON's stature is such that he is known and admired by people throughout California. I know that some of my constituents were just as sad to hear of RON's retirement as those from his own district.

It has been a tremendous honor to serve in the House of Representatives with RON DELLUMS. The Bay Area, the State of California, and the U.S. House of Representatives will greatly miss his presence, and I wish him and his family the very best in the years ahead.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. Well, it is actually the gentleman from New York.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the gentleman.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the majority whip for yielding me this time, and it just shows that RON DELLUMS is appreciated all the way from California to New York, across the country and then back.

One of the nice things about serving in this body, and this is my 10th year in this body, is when you first come to Congress you meet people who are giants, you meet people you have read about, you meet people you have seen and that you really did not know. And the thought that you, as an elected Member of Congress, as a new Member, are a colleague of somebody whom you have heard about and read about and seen is really something to behold.

I felt that way when I first came to Congress, and I still feel that way with regard to RON DELLUMS. And I would never have forgiven myself if I had not come to the floor this evening to say just a few words in tribute to RON, because you can never say enough to really capture the whole image of the man.

I think of all the people I have served with in Congress, there is nobody

kinder, there is nobody greater, there is nobody who cares more about this country. There is nobody who is a better friend than RON DELLUMS. We have broken bread many times together at lunch and had many, many great talks.

At first RON DELLUMS came to my attention when he was leading the protests against the Vietnam war. And a lot of us at that time felt as he did, but he seemed to capture everything and knew just exactly what to say. And in the course of the 10 years I have served with RON, I have never known anyone to have more integrity, more concern for this country, more love for this country, more love for the people with whom he served in the House of Representatives.

We are really going to miss RON. It's very nice, RON, to be able to hear people say all these nice things about you while you are still alive. It is really, really nice. But I think you can see from the heart both sides of the aisle, people who would call themselves liberals and conservatives and moderates and everything in between, are all saying the exact same things.

And at a time in Congress when many people do not agree with many other people, we all agree about one thing, and that is that RON DELLUMS is a class act. Thank you, my friend. I am going to miss you, and I hope you will keep in touch. But you have served this country well, you have served your friends well, and class act is really the word.

And I want to thank the majority whip for granting me the time.

Mr. DELAY. And, Mr. Speaker, once again I apologize to the gentleman from New York, but well said.

My last Speaker is the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. And, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for letting us do this. I promise I would have been here earlier, but I was on an airplane coming from a very rainy, rainy California.

I tell RON this story because it made such an impact on me. RON DELLUMS came to my district and spoke in front of a group of my friends. He spoke outside and the birds stopped singing because they were listening to him. There was not a person listening that had a dry eye. Every single person in that group, and there was at least 100 some people, had a story that they remembered about RON DELLUMS and what he has done for this country. So then I had the fortune to come here and work with you, RON, and I am so privileged that that has been part of my growing up here as a very junior Member of this Congress.

And I appreciate you for daring all of us in this House of Representatives by giving us the challenges to go and do more than we thought we should do and could do. You dared us to not just settle for what is politically possible. You dared us and you inspired us to think beyond the day-to-day battles, to look at the big picture; to think about what we are doing and how it relates to

our children, our families, our seniors, our communities. You did not ever have one small vision of what you were doing and talking about.

I, like those ahead of me, could go on and on, but I want to tell you, RON, that I have always thought of you as the dean of our delegation, of the Bay Area delegation, the California delegation; the person that has taught me the most about integrity. But what I am going to miss the most with your leaving us is that booming voice here on this House floor. I am going to miss that. I am going to miss your leadership and I will miss your message, but I will not forget it. Thank you for being my friend.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DELLUMS) for a response.

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague from Texas for his generosity, and in respect to the special order that the gentleman is calling, I shall be brief and I appreciate his gesture of generosity to my colleagues as well as to myself.

First, let me say in a humorous spirit, to capture the notion of my colleague from New York, it is kind of like a funeral, but the marvelous thing is I am still alive to hear it and to walk away, and so that is good. Hopefully, at some point before my service has ended on Friday the 6th, I will have some opportunity to take the well and to speak to all of my colleagues about what for me has been an extraordinary journey of 31 years across four decades in public life, 27 years of them here.

Suffice to say at this moment that I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. IKE SKELTON) for setting up this special order and to all of my colleagues who took the time to participate. My heart is full at this moment. My heart soars like an eagle at this moment. And in the course of these few hours, I have felt every emotion from laughter and joy to tears and sadness.

Just suffice at this moment to say that I never came here to become a celebrity. I never came here to become a big personality. I am just a guy from the Bay Area who came here to try to do a job. I have been extremely honored to serve in the Congress of the United States. Late night talk show host jokes about politicians notwithstanding, it is indeed an honor to have gotten up every single day to march to the floor of the United States Congress with life and death in my hands, along with 434 other colleagues, to try to shape the course of history in this country and throughout the world. It has been an extraordinary honor.

Later, hopefully, I will be able to say more, but I leave without cynicism. The day that I take the plane out of Washington for the last time, know that I go with my optimism and my idealism intact and that I will miss all of you here, friends and foes alike, supporters and adversaries alike.

We have become a family. You are part of my consciousness. Those of you

I had to challenge, stay up to 3 and 4 and 5 in the morning to try to be sharp enough to debate you because I figured you would be up to 3 and 4 getting ready for me, hopefully, we made each other better people. I am a better person for having served here.

Thank you very much for an evening that I will remember. It has been a most stunning and extraordinary and amazing evening. I am full by the evening and I am humbled by the evening. I thank you for your generosity, and I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I can only say that it is indeed a tribute to have as many Members come down to this floor. It shows you what kind of man the gentleman is. He is a great American, as the gentleman from California says, and the House will remember him and revere him and he will go down in history and young people will read about him. So we say farewell, but we always want him to come back.

I also rise to pay tribute to another Californian, another Ron, one of the greatest Presidents of this century, Ronald Wilson Reagan.

Now, later this week the House will take up a bill that will name the National Airport after Ronald Reagan. This legislation will be a fitting tribute to the greatness of Ronald Reagan. It will signify the soaring spirit of this man who did so much to lift the spirits of the American people.

Now, some people, especially my colleagues who occupy the far left of the political spectrum, disagree with this legislation. They say that we should not name the National Airport after Reagan because of his actions with the air traffic controllers. Well, let me just set the record straight. By breaking the PATCO union, Ronald Reagan struck a blow for the American people and for the American taxpayer.

Let me quote President Reagan. "I believe in the collective bargaining in the private sector. I do not believe in it for the public sector because I do not believe that public employees can be allowed to strike. Public employees are striking against the people, and the people are the highest sources of power, other than the Lord himself, that the government has."

Ronald Reagan sat a very important precedent when he battled against that union. He established that no special interest could hold hostage the whole of the American people. Some Democrats may not appreciate that principle. After all, the Democrats are the party of the special interests.

Ronald Reagan was a President of principle. That is why the American people still love him so much. That is why we will celebrate his birthday this week. They knew where he stood on any issue. They knew he believed in the American spirit and that he lived the American dream. Born in a small town in Illinois, Ronald Reagan came not from a background of wealth or privilege. He worked his way up from tough circumstance to become the

President of the United States, a President we could all believe in.

It was Reagan who said, "Don't let anyone tell you that America's best days are behind her; that the American spirit has been vanquished. We have seen it triumph too often in our lives to stop believing in it now." Today, we need a President who stands for the best that America has to offer. Ronald Reagan was that kind of President. We still feel the impact of the vision of Ronald Reagan: It is a vision of hope, a vision of opportunity, a vision of faith and a vision of freedom.

It was Ronald Reagan who said that the government was too big and it spends too much. It was Ronald Reagan who said the answer to government that is too big is to stop feeding its growth. It was Ronald Reagan who said raising taxes will not balance the budget, it will only encourage more government spending and less private investment; raising taxes will slow economic growth, reduce production and destroy future jobs, making it more difficult for those without jobs to find them and more likely that those who now have jobs can keep them.

□ 1800

It was Ronald Reagan who campaigned so effectively for a line item veto, something that my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), worked so hard to get signed into law. It was Ronald Reagan's wife, Nancy, who led the fight against illegal drug use. Her campaign that urged children to "just say no" inspired the American people to take responsibility for their actions. It also inspired a 67-percent drop in illegal drug use. Now that is the kind of moral leadership that we need. It is leadership based on the principles of freedom and personal responsibility.

Today we are working on an agenda that is inspired by the Reagan vision for America, and this agenda has four pillars: First, we want to make the Government smaller and smarter so that it takes up no more than 25 percent of the average family's income. Americans are overtaxed, overregulated and overgoverned. It is not right that most people spend half the year working for the Government.

Mr. Speaker, I just challenge the American people who, during this week, look at today and tomorrow. Today, the American people are still working for the Government. Tomorrow, it will not be until after lunch that they start working for themselves this week. Over 50 percent of the American family's income goes to the Government.

If we add up local, State, and Federal taxes and the cost of regulation, 50 cents out of every hard-earned dollar goes to the Government. No wonder it takes one parent to work for the Government, while it takes another parent to work for the family today.

Washington confiscates too many of the hard-earned dollars, spends too

much; it wastes too much and has too much power and authority over our lives. This was true when Ronald Reagan was president, and it is still true today. The only way to return power and authority from Washington back to the people is to limit the amount of money politicians get their hands on in the first place.

Look at what is happening to the Clinton budget that was introduced just yesterday. All of a sudden, the President and the politicians have found what they think are surpluses in our budget. Because of a good, sound, fiscal policy, we actually may balance the budget and surpluses may flow. And what is their first reaction is to raise the size of government, start taxing and spending again.

Think about it. Just think about it. The less that we send to Washington, the less Washington can waste. Hard-working Americans deserve a break today, and we are committed to keeping more of their money in their pockets and less in Washington.

Our focus in 1998 will be to increase family income by cutting taxes and making Government more accountable for the way it spends the people's money.

But tax relief is only the first step. The only way to ensure limited government and individual freedom is to eliminate the IRS as we know it today. We believe it is morally wrong for a free people to live in fear of any government agency. We believe it is morally wrong for citizens in a democracy to be assumed guilty until proven innocent.

Yet even IRS reform is not enough. The real problem lies with the Tax Code itself. It is too long, it is too complicated, and it is simply unfair. It makes lawyers and accountants rich and the rest of us poor. It punishes achievement and discourages hard work and savings and innovation.

Mr. Speaker, let us replace the Tax Code with a new system that is fair, consistent, easy to understand, easy to comply with, and less coercive and intrusive. We need a Tax Code that encourages savings and investment. Most importantly, we need a Tax Code that confiscates less for Washington and keeps more in the people's pockets. Now, that is a Ronald Reagan vision.

A second pillar of our agenda is education. A philosopher once said that "only the educated are truly free." Our schools have to improve if we are going to protect our freedom. Nothing is more important than the education of our young people.

I have struggled with this issue. Because, while I believe that education should be a top priority for the American people, I also believe that this priority is best accomplished at the local and the State level. But I do believe that the Federal Government can play a role and that role should be in promoting greater freedom and greater choices for the parents of our children.

Our education plan proposes fundamental change. Official Washington

now has 760 education programs and 39 different bureaucracies, spending over \$100 billion a year. It is mind boggling. That does not make any sense. It does not make any sense for Washington to tax the people's community and then graciously give back the money with all kinds of strings attached.

We want to cut those strings. We want to remove outdated rules and restrictions that are holding back our schools from the future. Even the best teachers cannot get results when their school is a dangerous, violent place.

We hope the President will stop his opposition to our proposal to give freedom of choice to low-income families in Washington, D.C. These families have children who are stuck at dead-end, drug-infested schools. We want those families to have the same option exercised by all of us, including the President and the Vice President, the option to choose the kind of education that best meets the needs of their own children. Republicans believe that American education should be the best in the world.

The third pillar of our agenda is the war on drugs and crime. When a mother sends her son off to a foreign war, she worries ceaselessly about his safety. Yet every day, every day, millions of mothers put their children on the school bus and send them off into a domestic war zone. Ronald Reagan understood the plague of drugs and he stood firmly against illegal drug use. He was a role model for the American people.

The leadership from the White House today is less clear, and that explains our current problems. Teen drug abuse has reached epidemic proportions, and there are no safe havens from this insidious modern plague. Overall, teenage drug use has nearly doubled in the 1990s; and, perhaps most frightening of all, nearly half of all 17-year-olds say that they can buy marijuana within an hour.

The scourge of drugs and horrible violent crimes are reminders that a good economy is not everything. We have to guard against America becoming rich in things but poor in spirit, and that starts at the top with our police and our elected leaders of this country.

Too often I think Government's well-intentioned programs have backfired, have led to dependency and illegitimacy and despair in the area of welfare, for example. We have some solutions to this problem.

First, if we wish to solve the drug crisis, we have to start with the family and the school and in our churches and synagogues. Teens with families that eat together and play together and pray together are the ones that are least likely to try drugs. If the battle against drug abuse is waged at home, the war is half won. Ronald Reagan understood that fact, and his lovely wife Nancy's campaign to "just say no" was effective. We need that kind of moral leadership in the White House today.

Second, parents must demand that their schools be made drug-free. We

need to empower teachers so that they can kick drug dealers out of their schools. We have to demand accountability and zero tolerance by principals for any drug use on school grounds; and if those principals do not adhere to zero tolerance, we need to get rid of those principals and replace them with ones that will.

Third, the Federal Government has an important role. We must do a better job in defending our borders, our national borders, from drug dealers. We have to be more diligent in our policing and arresting and prosecution of anyone who sells this poison.

Next, we need to get as tough on these people as they are on us, ending parole for violent offenders, increasing prison capacity, mandatory penalties for crimes committed with a gun, cracking down on juvenile criminals, and making the death penalty a very real threat. If we are truly committed to protecting the innocent, we must do more to punish the guilty.

Finally, we have to set examples for our children. For those who say that sin is not important, that morals are not important, that setting examples are not important, I say no wonder we cannot win this war.

The fourth pillar of our agenda for the future is also a part of the Reagan legacy. Ronald Reagan signed the law that saved Social Security for the next generation. Now we have to take steps today to save and strengthen Social Security for the next century. Today, more young people believe in UFOs than believe that they will ever see a Social Security check; and we have to make this system one that all Americans can believe in.

President Clinton's proposal to hold on to any surplus until we reform Social Security is just flat wrong. In fact, it does not even make any sense. I believe that this is just a sneaky way for the Government to keep more of the taxpayers' money. But we need to fix Social Security. Ultimately, it comes down to the question of control. Who should make these key decisions about the people's retirement? The people or the Federal Government?

Now, we believe that the American people need to play a more active role in designing a retirement system that they can control, and I think we can design a better system that all Americans will believe in. A national commission or a national debate with the active participation of the American people will help us design such a system. Such a debate would be a further reflection of the Reagan legacy.

According to press accounts, Bill Clinton is worried about his legacy once he leaves office. The legacy that a president leaves is not just the legislation he signs, not the programs that he proposes or even the speeches he makes. The legacy is also the vision he promotes for a better America.

President Reagan saw the brighter side of an American dream. He saw a land of boundless opportunity and a

people of boundless energy. He saw an America that served as a shining city on the hill, an America that served as a beacon of light for the rest of the world. He believed that a government that preserved freedom was a limited government that knew its role in society. He believed that freedom, coupled with personal responsibility, created wealth and fostered happiness. He knew that the world was a dangerous place and that an America was a force for good in making it a less dangerous place. He also knew that the position of the president of the United States was not only a job but also a symbol of freedom to people across the world.

Reagan also knew that, as president, he did serve as a role model for the Nation's youth; and he did his best to bring dignity to the office and to the Nation. I knew Ronald Reagan. I served under Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan was a friend of mine.

President Clinton, you are no Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan had his enemies, but even his enemies respected his vision of America. They had no choice.

□ 1815

I wanted to wish President Reagan a happy birthday, and I am sure that the current fight to name the National Airport in his honor bewilders him and Nancy. It bewilders me. But we should not let this partisanship get the best of us. We should adopt Ronald Reagan's good humor and push forward on this legislation. It will be the best thing we can do for the image of this city and the image of our capital.

Mr. COX of California. I wonder if the gentleman would yield.

Mr. DELAY. I would love to yield to the gentleman that worked for Ronald Reagan in the White House, the gentleman from California and the Chairman of the Policy Committee, Mr. Cox.

Mr. COX of California. I thank the whip, and I thank him especially for his inspiring remarks about an inspired man, a hero of mine and his and so many Americans.

What happened during the 20th century, which really spans Ronald Reagan's lifetime, was nothing less than the rise of totalitarianism as a model of the state and its defeat in the great war, World War II, that our folks, some of us here in Congress, fought in, and its defeat subsequently in the Presidency of Ronald Reagan, when he led the victory of the West in the Cold War, and he led the intellectual victory that results now in Democrats and Republicans agreeing on the central point that free enterprise, not a state-run economy, is the model for America and the whole world and for the creation of jobs and opportunities for people everywhere.

In that sense, Ronald Reagan, while he was a Republican by registration at the end of his life and a Democrat to campaign for FDR and Harry Truman earlier in his career, was really a person who transcended partisan politics.

He had Democrats and Republicans voting with him every single time he did one of the great things for which we remember him. Of course, that was the good Democrats and the good Republicans who always were siding on the majority with Ronald Reagan. But it took those Boll Weevil Democrats to join with the Republicans in the House to bring us those incredible tax cuts.

I remember when President Reagan spoke when I was a freshman here in Congress, having worked for him in the White House, he spoke to us towards the end of his term, in January, but he did not stand at your lectern, he stood at the one on the other side, which is, of course, where the Democrats address the House, not Republicans.

Halfway through his remarks, some of us, since he was speaking only to the Republican Conference, I am sure you remember it, some of us thought he just made a mistake and didn't understand how the House worked and showed up on the wrong side of the aisle. But halfway through the remarks he crossed over to the lectern you are speaking at right now, and he said, I am crossing the aisle right now to talk to you because that is what I did midway through my adult lifetime: I changed parties, and, as he was always so fond of saying, I didn't leave the Democratic Party, some of the people in the Democratic Party left me.

Nowhere was that more true than in the area of foreign policy and national security, because while Ronald Reagan was winning the Cold War in Europe, bringing about ultimately the collapse of the whole Soviet empire and the freedom of what we then referred to as the captive nations of central Europe and the Baltics and so on, he also was fighting for democracy right here in our hemisphere, nowhere more forthrightly than in Central America.

I remember what was at stake at that time. I remember that the Sandinistas, the Communists, with the aid of Soviet troops, Soviet military spending, Soviet advisors, Bulgaria and East German advisors, were building a very expansionist Communist state that threatened the new democracies of Central America in the 1980s. Not only Ronald Reagan but many in Congress felt very, very strongly this had to be stopped and contained. The Sandinista Communist Government of Nicaragua, which had come to power by force, told all the workers who they were supposed to be liberating that the right to strike was now abolished; it would be illegal to go on strike, because this was, after all, a Communist government and they didn't allow such things.

They shut down *La Prensa*, the main newspaper, that had been such a wonderful outlet for the views of competing political interests in Nicaragua, and they assassinated the editor of *La Prensa*. The editor's widow, Violeta Chamorro, quit the revolutionary government of Nicaragua to fight for democracy and to talk about democracy,

to the extent that the government would let her, in the pages of *La Prensa*.

Well, in this climate, the President sought humanitarian and military aid to the people who were fighting to get democracy back in Nicaragua, and the United States Senate went along with him. He asked, because everything hinged on the vote here in the House of Representatives, to come and stand where President Clinton just stood the other night, to address us about the importance to the whole world, and certainly to the cause of democracy, of winning this battle and of sending that aid to the freedom fighters in Nicaragua.

But the Speaker of the House turned him down. So I got a request from Don Regan, then the Chief of Staff, to answer this legal question, if you will: Can the Speaker of the House, Jim Wright, turn down the President of the United States when he asks to come and address the body? Has this ever been done before in American history? Is there precedent for it, and can he get away with it?

Well, it turned out as a matter of tact, judgment and political comity, it was a huge mistake, but as a matter of law, yes, the Speaker of the House had the right to bar the President from coming to address the Nation and the Congress, which he did.

President Reagan was not a lawyer, so while I was disappointed to have to give him that legal answer, what he said in reply, very quickly, was, "They have TV's up there on Capitol Hill in their offices, don't they?" Of course, you know what happened. The President went on national television and addressed the country and, incidentally, all the Members of the Congress in their offices, and as a result of the speech that the President made explaining his case, laying it out, just as Harry Truman did, he pointed out in that speech when he was seeking aid to stop communism in Europe after the war, he won.

Here in the Democratically-controlled House of Representatives, where the Speaker of the House prevented the President from speaking and making that pitch, the vote was 221 to 209 for the Edwards-Skelton-Ray-Chandler amendment to the MILCON bill, the military construction appropriations bill, and we provided \$100 million in humanitarian and military aid, which the Senate had already agreed to, to the freedom fighters in Nicaragua.

Of course, Violeta Chamorro became the democratically-elected President of Nicaragua, and Nicaragua, along with Guatemala, Honduras and the rest of the nations enjoying democracy in Central America, became part of this late 20th-century tide against statism, against communism, for free enterprise, for democracy, for individual rights, for the right to strike, for free press, for all of the things that communism was against.

So, when I think of that story, I think not only of what Ronald Reagan accomplished, but what it tells us about who he was. He was not a creature of Washington. He was much closer to the American people than he ever was to politicians on Capitol Hill. Even those of us who are now in Congress who so strongly support and agree with everything Ronald Reagan did understand the reason we love him is because he is just like we are when we are at home with our constituents, not like all the back room wheeling and dealing that we see here on Capitol Hill.

He is a remarkable figure, and I considered it an honor to have worked for him. I am delighted that very shortly in honor of his birthday we will be naming, in bipartisan fashion, I am quite sure, just like everything Ronald Reagan ever accomplished, we will be naming the National Airport in bipartisan fashion, the National Airport, the Ronald Reagan National Airport. It is a small thing to do in honor of a very, very great man.

Mr. DELAY. I thank the gentleman from California. His words are like a paintbrush, painting who the real Ronald Reagan was. Many of us that serve in this House serve in this House because of his inspiration, and getting us involved in politics and dragging us out of the private sector, and making us stand up, as he did, for freedom and personal responsibility. I appreciate the gentleman for coming down and helping me with this special order.

DEVELOPMENTS IN ARMENIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to my colleagues and the Armenian people, as well as the American people, about the situation in the Republics of Armenia and the Nagorno Karabagh.

I had actually planned to come to the floor of the House to discuss my trip to the region of Armenia during the January break and the peace process in Nagorno Karabagh and the American role in that process, and I hope to do that during this time. But events today in Armenia require that I first provide an update on important developments in the past few hours.

Earlier today, Armenia's power, Mr. Levon Ter-Petrosyan submitted his resignation. According to wire service reports, barely five hours ago, President Ter-Petrosyan announced, "That I have faced demands to resign. Considering that in this situation exercising the President's constitutional powers may cause a serious destabilization of the situation, I accept this demand and announce my resignation."

Given president Ter-Petrosyan's academic background, it is not surprising his resignation speech, broadcast on