

the IRS running in. The first thing you know is no matter who wins, I lose.

There is no way to win that, because you get involved in a lawsuit to defend yourself against the Federal Trade Commission. What does it do? It costs you a ton of money to defend yourself. It costs time. You spend hours and hours and hours answering all the questions that you must answer because the Federal Trade Commission has come rushing in. No matter there is no point to it. If they are called, they are glad to run in. I presume that maybe they do not have anything else to do, but they are going to go down there and they are going to pick on these guys in Jacksonville, NC.

And this is a managed care company using the Federal Government as a big club to make people, small family businesses, come to work for them at absolutely no way to make a living.

I do not know what we should do about this, but I have been involved in this thing once before in my life. Some years ago when I was President of the Georgia Dental Association, the dentists of Pennsylvania told Blue Cross and Blue Shield, no, thanks, we are not coming to work for you because you will not pay us enough. By the way, that is the parent company of Concordia. Now, this happened. I was involved in this. They said we are not coming to work for you because you will not pay us enough to make a living.

So what do the Blues do? They run straight down here to Washington, get the Federal Trade Commission in on it. The Federal Trade Commission, the entire Pennsylvania Dental Association. By the way, all of the North Carolina Dental Association is being sued now by the Federal Trade Commission.

This goes on for months and months and months. We raised money around the country to help this one little dental association defend itself against the Federal Trade Commission. They got all through and found nothing was wrong, and it cost \$2 million.

These are not rich people that you can just go throw around \$2 million. This is not Ford Motor Co. These are small family businesses, very small businesses, and we cannot continue to allow the Federal Government to be used as a club to beat on your folks in your district.

Mr. JONES. Let me tell you. Mr. NORWOOD, I know we are closing down in another 5 or 6 minutes and will be ready to yield back the balance of our time, but I could not agree more. We have gotten to a point in this country where too many times those people, and you are right about the dentists in eastern North Carolina. Most of the dentists in North Carolina, but particularly eastern North Carolina, these are hard working, family people. They are not multimillionaires, they are not millionaires; they are just people working hard to provide a very valuable service, trying to take care of the people in their community. Yet, as you

said, too many times the Federal Government, whether it be DOD or another agency that you were just talking about, comes down with a heavy hand or club, as you said, and as long as there are people like you and I and many on both sides of the aisle up here in Congress, we are going to fight for that man, that woman, in our district that we feel has not been treated fairly.

If I can before closing, I would like to read, because this is a letter sent to me by an Air Force captain on April 1, 1996. I am just going to read a couple of sentences to you. It says, "Dear MR. JONES: As a member of the USAF stationed at Seymour Johnson in your Congressional District, I am writing to you about the new military dental plan. I attempted to follow my chain of command and in doing so determined this is a Congressional issue."

"According to Champus," and this is a quote, "'there would be no change in coverage' under the new plan."

I am just skipping around in this letter.

"My payments have almost doubled. Personally, I would rather pay the extra \$308 per month" for the service that I had prior to this new company. "I am certain that I am not the only military member. With this problem with Concordia's limits being so low, I can hardly blame dentists for not accepting the new plan."

Let me repeat that again. "I am certain I am not the only military member with this problem. With Concordia's limits being so low, I can hardly blame dentists for not accepting the new plan."

"In all honesty, it gets old having your health packages changed, being told that 'coverage is the same', and discovering that twice as much money is coming out of your pockets."

I want to get that in for the RECORD, Mr. NORWOOD, because again, with all of this 30 or 40 minutes we have had, what we are talking about is American citizens, taxpayers and military. I am going to continue to work with you and your staff to see if we cannot correct this problem. I think it is a problem that has gone too far, to the detriment of taxpayers in my district and some of your friends elsewhere. I am going to work with you and your staff as you work with me and my staff to see if we cannot correct this situation.

Mr. NORWOOD. If the gentleman would yield, I will conclude by saying this, Mr. JONES: I think the people in your district are very fortunate to have you up here. In many cases there is no other advocate for those people. You have military retirees, you have dependents of active duty military people, who are not winning under this program. In fact, they are losing. You are up here defending them. Who else will?

I mean, we do not have any oversight from the DOD. I am glad you are. We have your constituents who provide dental care in your district, my col-

leagues. You know, who is going to help them? They have got a large managed care company coming after them with all the resources in the world. Now they have the Federal Government coming after them through the Federal Trade Commission. Who is going to be on their side in this?

Well, they are your constituents, but they are my colleagues, and I am not going to ever let this go until we give them some protection down there from that big heavy arm of the Federal Government.

Mr. JONES. CHARLIE NORWOOD, I want to thank you for joining me today. I look forward to joining you on this issue. We are going to right a wrong before it is over. I promise you that.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE RON BROWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on the hillside over Bosnia, this Nation lost 33 dedicated and committed Americans. Among those lost was the man we pay tribute to today, Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown. We pay tribute to Secretary Brown because, in the finest tradition of America, he gave his life in service to his country, while performing peace in a region torn by war.

This tribute has been organized by those of us who serve on and have participated with the President's Export Council [PEC], a bipartisan effort with the private and public sector working together for export. Secretary Brown was a public sector member of PEC and the driving force behind a notable private-public partnership, whose mission is to expand the United States' exports abroad.

At the very first meeting of PEC of February 13, 1995, President Clinton attended and Secretary Brown welcomed and swore in the appointees. Secretary Brown emphasized that he would regard the PEC members as the Board of Directors for America's national export strategy, first implemented then in September 1993.

So, Mr. Speaker, we think it is only fitting that the PEC Board of Directors leave a tribute to the person who in our mind was the chairman and chief executive officer of America's effort to achieve free and fair trade, to give a chance to U.S. businesses of all sizes to market their goods and services abroad.

I am pleased to be joined by several of my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, and we will alternate as there are Members available. We will ask Members to limit their remarks to 2 or 3 minutes.

Ron Brown was born in Washington, DC, and you will hear more about that, on August 1, 1941. He was raised in Harlem by his parents, attended

Middlebury College in Vermont, was commissioned an officer in the army and spent time in West Germany and Korea, when certainly the seeds of foreign trade were planted at this time.

He will be especially missed for his work with PEC on behalf of U.S. exports and his effort as the Secretary of Commerce. One of his last appearances in the United States was at the most recent meeting of the PEC. At that meeting, he shared his thoughts and plans on the Bosnia-Croatia trip, as well as the uncommon insight he had gathered about trade around the world.

From this meeting came the proposed statement of principle concerning the Export Administration. Those principles reflected Ron's vision and wisdom, declaring export as a right of every American citizen, not a privilege, his early vision of the Export Administration. As stated, those principles outlined what America's position should be on export restriction, seeking to make sure, as Ron always did, that there is a level playing field throughout the world; that no one nation could assume an unfair competitive advantage in an increasing competitive marketplace. Indeed, Ron's work and the work of PEC makes certain that business of all types, politics aside, would benefit from the renewed trade effort, and they did.

During his tenure, important groundwork was laid, major breakthroughs were experienced, and future prospects for peace and prosperity were cemented. While Ron was deeply committed as a Democrat on the matters of free and fair trade, he was an American first. Party took a second seat to the goals of expanding export.

That reason and other reasons should cause us, both Republican and Democrat, to work together and to honor Ron Brown by committing ourselves to the expansion of America's industries in the benefit of American workers.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to yield time to one who has known Ron Brown for many, many years, and certainly it extends beyond that of trade, in a personal way, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON].

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her leadership in organizing this special order and much deserved tribute.

Ron Brown was my constituent and my friend, so that last week I had one of the saddest weeks of my tenure as the Congresswoman from the District of Columbia. I was, of course, at Dover where the bodies of 33 Americans came home, and then on another evening at the Metropolitan Baptist Church to speak in tribute to Ron Brown, and finally at the funeral at the National Cathedral, where there was an outpouring of people from all over the world.

May I first read the names of all seven of my constituents who perished on that flight. Ronald H. Brown, Secretary of Commerce; Adam M. Darling, confidential assistant to the Deputy

Secretary of Commerce; Gail E. Dobert, acting director of the Office of Business Liaison; Carol L. Hamilton, whose parents I know very well, press secretary to Secretary Brown; Catherine E. Hoffman, special assistant to Secretary Brown; William Morton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Trade; and Lawrence M. Payne, special assistant, Office of Domestic Operations. For all of my seven constituents there is still great grief and feeling in the District of Columbia.

Ron Brown had been a friend for 30 years. When he and I were both young and his wife Alma and I were in a club in New York called Liaison, and Michael and Tracy were born to them, and Johnny and Catherine were born to my husband and me, Michael now has a wife, Tammy, and one of the saddest things to see is Ron with these two babies, these twin sons who were his grandsons. Ron was a wonderful family man. His son, as was said at the funeral, was his best friend.

Ron was a man of extraordinary determination, energy, and ability. Seldom has one American put together so many of the traits necessary for success in public life. As both policy spokesman and politician, Ron Brown excelled, bringing his party back to life again and helping Democrats win; without whom the President said we would not have won the Presidency in 1992.

Yet this was a fund raiser extraordinaire on the one hand, a coalition builder on the other. Any one of those would have been much.

I thank the New Yorker magazine for its comment on Ron in an article called "The Fixer as Statesman." Somehow, this article tries to put together the two parts of this man that so often are seen as not going together.

The statesman, of course, is the commercial diplomat that Ron Brown became, and the fixer is the man who fixed the Commerce Department and the man who fixed the Democratic Party.

□ 1700

The comment by Sean Willents calls Ron silky, shrewd, and supremely self-confident. I do think, Madam Leader, that they capture this man we knew so well. They say he was not a plaster saint. Would he abhor being remembered in that way?

And they call him wordly and capable. They remember that Ron began in the Civil rights movement. So many who have achieved in this country today never would have gotten the chance to showcase their talents were it not for the civil rights movement. Having seen what he could do, because of the opportunity the movement afforded him as the vice president of the Urban League, ultimately Ron then went on to become a top staffer in the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and leader of his party, where he was essentially its titular head for between 1988 and 1992, articulating

policies, bringing people together, preparing the way.

He took the job at the Commerce Department, which was regarded as nothing so much as a bureaucracy, and reinvented it into the kind of department European and Asian countries have long had, a Department that is aggressive in going out and selling the country and the country's business.

Finally, let me say of Ron Brown what is so important to so many. Ron simply saw and understood himself to have no limits. I am not sure all of us understand what an achievement that is in a country where so many still feel bound by race, even if in fact if they would fly they are not bound by race. Ron said let me try to fly, and then he soared. The great tragedy is that had Ron not been killed, there is no limit to where he might have flown.

He simply refused to have an assigned place as a black man. He looked around him, saw other places, and went wherever his talent and energy could go, and they took him very far. I said at the Metropolitan Baptist Church that to many, race is what they believe holds them back. To Ron, race was a contest that you ran and won. With that spirit, so many youngsters caught in ghetto environments today might find the role model for the 1990's.

For my city, the city where Ron was born, the city where he lived when he died, I have asked my constituents not to mourn for Ron. Remember Ron was the happy warrior. I have said to my constituents living in this troubled city, this seriously troubled city because of its financial crisis, to remember Ron as the man who looked to impossible missions and made them possible. It is possible for Ron's birthplace, for the place where Ron lived, to bloom again, as Ron always looked to see what was possible and then went forward. I have said to those I represent: Don't mourn for Ron, try to be like Ron. Ron came, Ron saw, Ron conquered. So can we.

I appreciate the time that has been offered me.

Mrs. CLAYTON. I thank the gentlewoman for her very poignant and personal remarks about Ron.

We have been joined also by one who serves on the PEC, this is the President's Export Council, and what we want to do, indeed, is to remember him in a personal way but also remember him as forging new opportunities for trade, and those of us who had the unique pleasure of serving on that feel that certainly there is a particular loss.

I am going to ask if the gentlewoman from Connecticut, Mrs. NANCY JOHNSON, who is here, if she would make comments. And I understand that on her side—I want to say that this is a bipartisan approach that we were doing, and I am pleased that the gentlewoman from Connecticut wanted to join in this effort, which I think is an appropriate effort.

Our tribute is that Ron served American industries which gave American

jobs, and we as Americans first rather than you as a Republican and I as a Democrat, we are Americans trying to foster the interests of that. So I am pleased that she has come to join us.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Thank you. I thank my colleague for yielding to me. The President and the members of the Cabinet are the President and the members of the Cabinet for all Americans, and I am privileged to be here tonight to help you celebrate the life of Ron Brown and honor him as our former Secretary of Commerce and recognize the leadership he provided and the quality of the job he did.

When I was first elected in 1982, I came here from a district that had been devastated by what we called in those days unfair foreign competition. Some of it was just a very strong dollar combined with an American industry that was not efficient and was not strong. I watched Mac Baldrige try to develop the Commerce Department into a fighting partner with American business in a developing international market. I saw him struggling through, trying to help us see the importance of developing a department of trade.

I saw Mac Baldrige and some of his successors build the capability of the Department of Commerce to help American business get into the export market, sell abroad, be present in other markets in the same way foreign producers were present in our market, provide the same challenge in the world market that foreign producers were providing in our market. And that opening of vision that started with Mac Baldrige culminated in some really remarkable successes under the leadership of Secretary Brown. He understood and developed that in a way none of his predecessors had. Each of them made unique and remarkable and very valuable contributions to beginning to look forward to how the American economy could be strong in the decades ahead and serve our children in the same way it served us and our grandparents and our great grandparents.

But Ron Brown understood, in a sense, in a more practical vigorous way than any of the rest of us the need for the American Government to back, to partner, to encourage, to lead, to pressure, to force, to incite, to get American business to understand their own power in the international market, the quality of their product, the possibilities for them, and he got right out there with them. He got right out there with them in China at a time when, frankly, the State Department was having a little trouble with China. But he understood if you learn to produce and you learn to trade, if you force ideas, if you award intellectual property, if you reward personal energy, we as a Nation will be OK. We will be economically strong and we will be peaceful.

I remember him talking about that connection between prosperity, peace and trade, and in his own way he was

as dynamic and as vigorous and as committed an individual as the world has ever produced in support of business, trade, and the economic strength and prosperity that flows from a dynamic business community in an international market.

He got out there with big companies and small. He got out there in countries like China. He got out there all over the world. And it is tragic but, in a sense, not surprising that he lost his life taking business into what was a devastated, war-torn area, because that was his idea of giving hope to a people torn, devastated; their goods, their economy, their hearts, their minds destroyed by years and years of war.

He understood that the only real bond; that healing would only truly take place when there were jobs, when there was an economy, when there was competitiveness, when there was strength, and that America could not only offer goods but we could offer hope through example. We could offer leadership through guidance.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Would the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. I would be happy to yield.

Mrs. CLAYTON. I wanted to respond to her very, I think, appropriate analogy of his going to both big and large companies. He also, conversely, understood that small and big companies here in America could also experience the value of exports and what that meant to the smaller communities as well as what it meant to the big companies.

As you know, on the export council there are big businesses there, but there are also smaller businesses. Maidenform, for example, is small. It is not a big company, it started small. So it means in my district, its small subsidiary also expands as their products are sold abroad, giving jobs to Americans in their communities.

I think Ron Brown knew what the rest of us have come to understand: that for every \$1 million of export we already create here \$9 million of industry. And some of us do not understand that. I for one, initially, did not have that same appreciation until I was on the Small Business Export Subcommittee and had an opportunity to work with you and others, as well as under the leadership of Ron Brown, who opened, as you say, the hope, the opportunity. And it was about vision and excitement, but also it was about the possibility if people worked together.

And that is why, I think, if we are going to have this expansion and tribute to Ron Brown, it should be about us keeping that going. The greatest legacy to any of us as we leave is for someone to pick up our work and build on it and see the value of it and continue. I just wanted to thank the gentlewoman for her pushing that thought in my mind.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. One of the things that I think is wise to remember from the death of a man like

Ron Brown is that he was extraordinarily capable in many ways, and one of them was that he was an extraordinary mentor.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Yes.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. I had the privilege to travel recently over the recess, and I ran into some of the young people that had worked with Ron. And it was really interesting to me because you do not see this all the time. Cabinet members are not necessarily either warm and fuzzy or mentors. They are important and they do a great job for America. They serve an important need. But Ron has inspired many young minds, and they are there and they will serve us. And they are both parties. Some of them are lifelong, quote, "bureaucrats."

And so he has passed on and was able to pass on a belief and a faith in America, in us as a free people, and in us as a governing democracy, and felt strongly the need for us to be a part of the international community both as an economic force and as a force for democracy.

I thought it was so interesting to listen to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] talk about how he never saw himself as a black man. He saw himself as an American, as a man, as a power, as an individual, and as a proud black citizen. But he never felt anything stood in his way. If he wanted to do it, he had the intellect and resources to do it. And it is that legacy that inspired those he traveled with, that made a difference in the countries he went to. And it is that attitude that he leaves to those whose lives he touched.

I thank my colleague for organizing this recognition of former Secretary Ron Brown tonight. It is well deserved, and I appreciate having had the opportunity to join you.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Thank you for your comments. I appreciate that.

Mr. BEILENSON. Would the gentlewoman yield? Is it convenient for the gentlewoman to yield at this point?

Mrs. CLAYTON. I promise I will get right back to the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER]. We certainly want to have his comments here. But we have also been joined by the distinguished gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] and he wants to make a statement and we would be honored to have his statement.

□ 1715

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman for yielding to me. I want to commend her for having this special order to celebrate the life and the contributions of a great and patriotic American, our now deceased Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who in a tragic event about 2 weeks ago lost his life with more than 30 others in a tragic air crash in Bosnia.

In the days that followed it became very clear to our citizens how much Ron Brown had accomplished in a very

short time at the helm of the Commerce Department. To those of us who serve in the Federal Government, Ron Brown is a well-known figure, a symbol of what is best in our Nation. When you work hard and strive for excellence, you attain it.

I had the privilege of serving with him in matters of concern when he was at the Commerce Department and when his agency was answerable to the Committee on Commerce of which I was at that time chairman and then more recently ranking member.

He had a distinguished career that included military service, served at the Urban League, served at the Democratic National Committee. He was successful in the practice of law and advising heads of state. And he proved time and time again that skill, adroitness, energy, dedication can be an enormous asset in getting the job done.

I will be inserting into the RECORD a number of quotes of distinguished Americans and American businesses about his contribution to our Government. I also want to make the observation that he was one who understood what the Department of Commerce should do. It was his function, as he saw it, not only to provide extraordinary leadership to that agency but also to see to it that it functioned to the fullest and that it dealt with the promotion of trade, jobs, market openings and expansion of opportunity for Americans through the business of exports, because that is where economic success for this country lies.

He was a great human being, a dear friend, and his wife Alma and he were dear friends of my wife Deborah and I. We shall miss him. We shall pray for the repose of his soul, and we shall understand that he brought excellence to the Department in the great tradition of others who had preceded him, first the distinguished Secretary Malcolm Baldrige, who was a great friend of mine and also a distinguished public servant, as also was Secretary Mosbacher, who was a leader of great quality in that agency.

We shall miss Ron. We can dedicate ourselves to carrying forward the practices and principles in which he believed, that market opening and trade, that opportunity for Americans lies in the success of that Department.

I want to thank the distinguished gentlewoman for yielding to me and for holding this special order.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation suffered a severe blow almost 2 weeks ago when it was learned that Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and more than 30 others lost their lives in a tragic air crash in Bosnia.

In the days that followed, it became very clear to our citizens how much Ron Brown accomplished in a very short time at the helm of the Commerce Department. To those of us who serve in the Federal Government, Ron Brown was a well-known figure, a symbol of what is best about our Nation: when you work hard and strive for excellence, you attain it.

Brown had a distinguished career that included military service. During his tenure at

the Urban League, at the Democratic National Committee, practicing law or advising heads of state, Ron proved time and time again to be an invaluable asset to getting the job done.

Over the past year, many working Americans wrote to me about Ron Brown's work at the Commerce Department to promote exports, combat unfair trade practices by our international trade competitors, speed the dissemination of advanced technologies, and conduct research vital to understanding our climate, our weather, and the environment.

Bissell, Inc. in Grand Rapids, MI wrote that his company frequently used the Commerce Department's export programs, and that, "they have proven to increase export sales and thus help the economy of our country."

Viatec, Inc. in Hastings, MI said that, "This invaluable program is an INVESTMENT that produces returns to the American taxpayers with more high-paying jobs, taxpaying citizens, and U.S.A.-purchased materials."

A research group in Ann Arbor said the Advanced Technology Program is, "important in transferring the results of fundamental research into practical products."

Monroe Auto Equipment in Monroe, MI, said that Ron Brown's "aggressive trade promotion policies of our government add value to my company's efforts to compete in worldwide markets."

Perhaps Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer said it best: "The Department of Commerce has been a job-creation machine for the State of Michigan and our cities."

The last time that Secretary Brown appeared before the Commerce Committee, he said the following about his Department: "I am anxious to work very closely with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to make sure we do what is best for the country, to make sure we do what is best to assure long term economic growth and creation of high wage, high quality jobs for our people. I think that no department in government does that more effectively than the Department of Commerce."

Mr. Speaker, today Ron Brown is gone. But his life was one which touched many people, both here and abroad, and his work has left a legacy of accomplishment about the strength of a government that serves its people well. We will miss Ron Brown greatly. But his was a life that mattered, and his legacy lives on.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] also for getting comments from the business community, because I think that is extremely important, because sometimes we think only of politicians or public servants, but Ron Brown also was essential for the ongoing expansion of business opportunity. For business persons to make that tribute I think is appropriate.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITE). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CLAYTON. We are joined by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREU-

TER]. He has been very active on the President's Export Council as well. We are pleased for him to make comments.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as mentioned already with some examples here, Ron Brown was an extraordinarily multitalented man who brought great intensity and scope to his interests and his activities. You heard about his mentoring activities here and how much he stimulated so many Americans, especially young Americans, to take an active role in Government. But I did want to focus my remarks on the tremendous achievements that Secretary Brown brought during his tenure at the Commerce Department to the expansion of our trade and investment opportunities abroad.

On August 4 of last year, when we held hearings in the committee on International Relations about the future of the Department of Commerce, I said during the course of that debate that I was proud to enthusiastically and sincerely commend our late Secretary for his hard work and promotion of American commercial interests. Secretary Brown correctly realized that if the United States economy is to remain strong and vibrant in the 21st century, the United States Government must maintain and fund a comprehensive national export strategy. And he served as a very competent innovative chairman of the trade promotion coordinating committee. In that capacity he recognized, of course, and made it clear to many Americans that the United States economy is already very dependent on exports. He clearly understood that during this decade exports have to account for a much larger part of our economic growth.

Secretary Brown fought tirelessly for American commercial interests, both within the cabinet and abroad. Since taking office, Secretary Brown hit the ground running and immediately received the wrath of the Europeans for an important United States commercial airplane deal with Saudi Arabia, 15 high-level trade and investment missions. And billions of dollars of U.S. export and investment later, we bid the honorable Ron Brown, the former Secretary of Commerce, a fond farewell and thank him for his unmatched advocacy and dedication to American commercial interests. I think he set an important precedent for the Commerce Department and for our cabinet members generally in his focus on international trade and expanding our export base.

As I said, he was a man of multitalented background, a wonderful man, sincere in his working with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. I look back with great fondness at the relationship we had in working for expanding the export base.

I thank the gentlewoman for taking this special order and for allowing me to say a few words about one aspect of Secretary Brown's life.

Mrs. CLAYTON. I do appreciate that. I think the gentleman has experienced a working relationship and particularly in that area about which he spoke. I want to note again for the RECORD that is an effort, the President's Export Council, to have a bipartisan effort. Both Republicans and Democrats should be honoring a great man and that is as it appropriately should be.

I thank the gentleman. I am pleased to yield to my friend, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. CLYBURN].

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I first met Ron Brown in the late 1960s, when all of us were all about trying to find a way to get ourselves and those people that we represented into the mainstream of American activity. I grew to admire and respect him, and there was something about Ron that compelled him to bring along with him all of the young talent that he could muster in order to demonstrate to our great Nation the talent that was there for those who, given the opportunity, could make significant contribution. That to me is the real legacy of Ron Brown.

One of these young talents was the granddaughter of my doctor when I lived in Charleston, Jerry Irving Hoffman, in the late 1960's and early 1970's. And I want to join today with everybody in paying homage to that great spirit that Ron Brown gave to all with whom he came in contact.

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday before last, as I sat in the home of Mr. Brown sharing with his wife Alma, his son Michael and his daughter Tracey, other family members and friends, hoping against hope that something, some good news would come of this event, as we sat there, watching the television, something occurred that stays with me to this day. And it is what I would like to share with all Americans today. There came to the camera a gentleman, I think he was from northern Virginia, who did not make the trip, a CEO who spoke to the world on the fact that for some reason, though he was scheduled to be on the trip, he did not make the trip. And he asked a very cogent question, and I think all of us ought to ask ourselves today, he said that he must now find out why the good Lord saw fit to keep him here. It is his job now to find out exactly what it is that the good Lord would have him do.

I think that is something that all of us who call ourselves public servants ought to be thinking about today. We are left here; we can speak of Ron Brown's legacy. We can pay homage to all that his life meant. But I think throughout it all we ought to ask ourselves the question now, what it is that the good master would have us do.

I would hope that as we go about trying to fulfill the dreams and aspirations of Ron Brown and others like him that we will keep in mind the hope and the aspirations that he gave to so

many and the hope and aspirations that so many are still left looking to us to help fulfill for their futures.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I remember seeing that same executive. He said he was not sure what God had in store for him. So part of our hope is that God has in store for him to help push what Ron Brown started. We are also pleased to have Congressman SHAYS from the Great State of Connecticut join us, and he wants to be a part of this tribute and we are delighted to have him.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I definitely want to be a part of this tribute and join with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who are here to express their love and admiration for a truly great American, a truly fine, outstanding Secretary of the Cabinet, the Secretary of Commerce.

I would first want to express my love and admiration for his wife Alma and for his very distinguished son Michael and distinguished daughter Tracey. I was not able to be at the funeral for Mr. Brown because I had two constituents who also died on that plane. And if I could I would like to just express my love and admiration for Claudio Elia, who died on that plane, and for his two magnificent children, Kristin and Marc, who just were real soldiers during their dealing with their grief, and for his magnificent wife Susan, and also for Robert Donovan, who also died, and for his truly outstanding two children, Kara and Kevin, who just seem to deal with this agony and grief in a way that I could not help admire, and for his precious wife Peg, two people from the 4th Congressional District who died on that plane because they wanted to be with Ron Brown on this very important and, in fact, dangerous mission to bring trade and economic growth and some sense of hope to people in Yugoslavia, to give them a sense that maybe their day would be a little brighter.

I have admiration for Ron Brown for leading this. I did not have direct contact with him in my capacity on the Committee on the Budget or the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, but he came to my office twice to talk about the importance of the Department of Commerce, and I was just struck by his incredible energy, highly intelligent man, and just an admiration for realizing that I was sitting in the same room with an individual who at the depth, I think, of a party challenge, taking on being the chairman of a great party, the Democrat Party, taking on the role of trying to select a Democrat President, a President, electing a very distinguished Governor and thinking that the immense task that must have been as he was talking with me and the incredible talent it must have taken to bring all the different people he had to bring together to accomplish that task.

I am here to salute him as a very capable Secretary of the Department of Commerce, a very capable individual, someone who I respect as being a joy-

ous warrior, someone who I felt instantly I could tell him very candidly what I thought and that he would respect me as another individual in the same environment he was, a political environment.

I think the real tragedy is that not just one segment of our society, not just the Democrat Party, not just the black community, but all of America has the right to truly grieve that we have lost a young man who in the last 5 to 10 years was a dynamic force in this country, who maybe one day would have been in fact President of this United States, who would have been clearly a force in the next decade or two.

□ 1730

So I thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my admiration for him and for being part of this very important tribute. Again, I would close by expressing my love and affection for the family and say that, while I was not in Washington to listen to the tribute the night before, since I was at a funeral service when his service was taking place, but for hours I watched the tribute and wished that I could have been there in person to actually enjoy it even the more. I thank you for this time.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Indeed it was a celebration of his life that we watched, rather than a tragedy.

Mr. SHAYS. It was a celebration of life, period, and of this great country.

Mrs. CLAYTON. We are also joined by my colleague, the great Congressman from Texas, Mr. DE LA GARZA. He has asked to participate as well.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for giving me this time and to join my other colleagues in expressing our sense of loss individually, collectively as a Nation, and even the world, due to the loss of our friend, Ron Brown.

Let me say first that I am mourning his loss because he was my friend. But we as a Nation lost a great American. I cannot add to the adjectives that have been mentioned or will be mentioned about Ron Brown, but I only would like to mention a couple or three of my personal remembrance of him.

One was that he was a man that no task was too small, no challenge was too large. He did what he had to do. He did it in a gracious, eloquent manner also, always without fault, and I would like to remember also that the most minute things and the way that he handled items as a person, all we know as Secretary of Commerce, what he did and how he did it, and throughout the world and here, but before the last Democratic Convention, I called over to the Democratic Committee, and this is when he was chairman of that committee, that I wanted to be sure that some mention was made of agriculture in the speeches and at the convention, and I left it at that.

The next afternoon I had a call from Ron Brown, which I never expected. I

was just speaking with the people that were organizing the program, and he says, "Mr. Chairman, would you think that I would leave agriculture out of this convention?"

I say, "No, I wouldn't have thought so, Ron, but I just wanted to be sure to remind whoever it was organizing the program."

He says, "Well, agriculture will be addressed, and you will be a speaker." And so it was. And so it was.

How it got from the person I spoke to and much lower levels to Ron Brown I do not know, but the only explanation is that he was looking at everything that was going on. And so I had the great honor of speaking at the national convention because of the request of Ron Brown.

Again, also when we were working so hard on NAFTA, most of you, not all of you, remember how he worked on the Hill, how he worked throughout the United States. But I wanted to have a joint meeting with our friends from Mexico, and I appealed to him, if he could be of assistance. His answer to me was, "When do you want me?"

So we set a date. We invited his counterpart from Mexico, and they met in McAllen and Hidalgo, TX, and we had a great meeting, and there I saw him working, the people from Mexico and the people from south Texas.

But one of the most interesting things, and it has been mentioned before, he had a way with young people, children. At the meeting that we had, open meeting with several hundred people, it was a young person that walked up to him and visited with him, and he visited back as if that young man or that young woman was the most important person at that event that day. And there we had Secretary of Commerce from Mexico, the Secretary of Commerce from the United States, assistants, needless to say, the local Congressman, but to him at that point was, and I recall this very vividly, that young lady that was asking him questions about the Department of Commerce and, I think in the end, how she could get a job at the Department of Commerce.

He never flinched or missed a beat, and he says come see me, I will be happy to talk to you.

That is the kind of individual we personally will miss.

Certainly the country has lost a tremendous American, the world has lost a tremendous individual, and I think it has been mentioned before, but the legacy of Ron Brown should be what we continue doing that he did not have time to do. And I hope that that would be our dedication.

I extend on behalf of my district and myself my condolences to the family, to all his family, and we share because it was our loss and we will mourn him. But more so, we should dedicate ourselves to that which he tried to do. To him there was no black, no brown, no white, no red. Everyone was a creature of God from his beginning to the very

end, and that he died on a mission trying to enhance U.S. commerce, but yet trying to help downtrodden people was probably the major culmination, the major thing, of what Ron Brown was.

There was no small, there was no large, there was no one but the individual before him, and I saw him do that, and we will forever remember him in that manner. I thank the gentleman.

Mrs. CLAYTON. I thank the gentleman for those very appropriate and sincere remarks, and I want to insert that he was indeed a friend of agriculture because North Carolina understands that very well, in making opportunities in Russia for turkeys and poultry and other places that we could have in that area.

We are pleased to be joined by a Congressman from Indiana, Congressman JACOBS. He also wants to be a part of this tribute.

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, he was no longer a warrior, but he died in a war torn country.

He died not that others might live, but that others, many others, including Bosnians and Americans as well, might live better.

He was and, in the inspirational sense, remains an authentic American hero. "We shall miss his bright eyes and sweet smile."

May God forgive those who were so ready to bear false witness against him.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Thank you very much.

Congresswoman COLLINS from the great State of Illinois has joined us, and she will now make a tribute.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to Secretary Ron Brown and to express my sincere condolences to his wife, Alma, and to their family. My heart goes out to them because I understand full well what they have gone through, having gone through something like this myself.

Ron was a great man, and we have heard about his strength, his vision, and his compassion for people. Tributes have come from the broadest possible range of people, including the President of the United States and foreign dignitaries, to the lowest ranking workers of the Commerce Department. I believe that these statements best serve as testimonials. They are the very best testimonials to a man many of us had the honor to know and to admire. But let me add just a few observations.

Secretary Ron Brown might best be remembered as a man who saw opportunity where others saw none. He will be missed as a crucial bridge between the privileged and the underserved in our society. For Ron Brown believed, above all else, that the greatest asset America has is the diversity of its population. Secretary Brown understood that America's prosperity depends on our ability to become more competitive in emerging economic markets around the world.

American exports equal American jobs, and he knew this, and that is why he was on the mission that he was on. He knew that developing countries needed real economic investments and not handouts, economic investment with which to demonstrate that a market economy works; economic development, in turn, can lead to real democracy.

And that is what he was all about. He was about building America, about creating jobs, about making sure that democracy is all over this world because we all know that it is a system that has worked and works well, better than any other in the world.

It seems to me that those of us who knew him well and have known him for so many years understood that. We understood that when he smiled, it was a smile of friendship, when he extended his hand, it was a hand of welcome from those across the shores to those of the shores of the United States of America.

When we saw him in office all throughout his many achievements throughout his short lifespan, we knew that here was a man of great thought, of great compassion, of great wisdom.

I stand here because I know that Ron Brown was my friend, and I know in my heart that this country will miss him, a man of his dedication and a man of his strength.

Mr. Speaker, Secretary Ron Brown might best be remembered as a man who saw opportunity where others saw none. He will be missed as a crucial bridge between the privileged and the underserved in our society. For Ron Brown believed above all else that the greatest asset America has is the diversity of its population.

Secretary Brown understood that American prosperity depends upon our ability to become more competitive in emerging economic markets around the world. American exports equal American jobs. Those emerging markets are located in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. America's racial diversity could be our most important asset in corporate efforts to gain market share in these emerging regions. Ron Brown was harnessing our racial diversity in a way that was good for American business, good for American jobs and good for developing nations.

Secretary Brown knew that developing countries need real economic investments not handouts. Economic investment will demonstrate that a market economy works. Economic development in turn can lead to real democracy.

While many in the United States are willing to use this approach in Eastern Europe and Asia, there is a conspicuous absence of American investment in Africa. Secretary Brown was especially concerned about the willingness of many in the United States to concede the markets of Africa to its former colonizers in Europe. Unbelievably only 7 percent of exports to Africa come from the United States while 40 percent come from Europe. This makes no sense when the return on investment in Africa is 25 percent, outstripping any other region in the world. Ron Brown was helping American companies change this equation.

Secretary Brown was also a tenacious fighter and advocate. As the ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, I worked with Secretary Brown in opposing efforts to dismantle the Commerce Department. When many political pundits on Capitol Hill were predicting the imminent demise of the Commerce Department because it had become a favorite target of the new majority, Ron Brown never wavered in his eloquent defense of the Department and its employees.

Secretary Brown used his considerable skills to clearly and forcefully articulate the folly of eliminating the Commerce Department at a time of economic globalization. When the central governments of countries like France and Japan are promoting their businesses, the United States Government cannot afford to abandon its efforts to identify and win export opportunities abroad.

Under Ron Brown's leadership, our Government developed a national export strategy to help small, minority, women-owned, and large companies, win export sales abroad. His efforts paid off in more than \$80 billion of foreign sales for American firms that supported thousands of high-paying jobs for American workers.

While Secretary Brown was always open to exploring new export opportunities abroad, he was also never afraid to stand up for the rights of U.S. business in foreign markets. When foreign steel producers dumped steel in the U.S. at below fair market prices, it was the Commerce Department under Secretary Brown that took the action which led to the imposition of duties on foreign steel.

Secretary Brown was also one of the strongest defenders of the United States movie, computer software, and recording industries rights against intellectual property rights violation in China. Secretary Brown firmly believed America's economic strength greatly depends on our ability to safely and freely market intellectual property in foreign markets.

Secretary Brown's efforts were not focused on foreign markets alone. He played an instrumental role in directing funds so that small town throughout our country could gain access to the information superhighway. He insisted that the new telecommunications law, ensure universal service and open access for all communities in our country, including inner city areas. For Ron Brown, the information superhighway represented future social and economic growth. He was determined that all Americans would benefit from these historic changes.

Finally, for African-Americans Ron Brown served as an important role model. His life demonstrated to many young African-Americans that they can thrive in non-traditional roles. As the first African-American chairman of the Democratic National Committee he was the one person most responsible for the election of President Clinton. As the first African-American Secretary of Commerce in our Nation's history, Ron Brown was by any objective standard the most effective Secretary of Commerce I have ever witnessed in my 23 years in the Congress. Ron Brown was a shining example that African-Americans can lead this Nation and the world into the 21st century.

His life was also a caution to African-Americans that your efforts to move beyond traditional roles may be met with resistance. The rules for you will be different than the rules for

anyone else. Therefore, if you are to succeed, you must be willing to outperform others. You will need to work harder, and smarter in order to be successful. But if you stay focused and keep your eyes on the prize, and are given the opportunity, Ron Brown's legacy demonstrates that there is nothing that African-Americans cannot accomplish.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Thank you very much.

We are also joined by the Congresswoman from Maryland.

Mrs. MORELLA. Thank you. I do want to thank Congresswoman CLAYTON for doing this. I think it is very important that we pay tribute to a man who has died too young, who served his country so well, and I know others will join by memorializing Secretary Ron Brown by virtue of submitting statements.

I just want to say that there is a vacuum in the world, there is a vacuum in the country, there is a vacuum in the hearts of country men and country women because of the untimely loss of Ron Brown. He is a man who is dedicated to his country, to his community, to his profession to a "T", to his family especially, and certainly to his friends.

I became acquainted with Ron Brown because as somebody who is involved with the technology subcommittees, as chair of it, under our jurisdiction is the National Institutes of Standards and Technology and the Technology Administration, and obviously all of this is part of the Department of Commerce. I have never found anybody who would work so perseveringly, indefatigably, and with a tremendous sense of humor and with a tremendous ability for what he believed.

As a matter of fact, today we were originally to have had a groundbreaking of a chemistry building on the campus in Gaithersburg of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and a field hearing at the same time because of the passing of Secretary Ron Brown and the high esteem in which he is held by all of those people who are employed not only in all of the facets of commerce and especially the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This has now been postponed for a later date. People were grieving so, that they really felt that they could not go on with another undertaking of that nature. Certainly there will probably be a dedication in a time when it does indeed take place.

I found him to be a man who did have a sense of humor and a sense of commitment, defended his Department very well and could work on both sides of the aisle. There was no real aisle when it came to performing what he truly believed in, and I had the opportunity a week and a half ago to go to India, and I spoke to Americans who were engaged in enterprises in India as well as the Indian nationals who were involved in industry and business.

□ 1745

They mourned, they mourned greatly the passing of Ron Brown. It occurred

at that time, because there had had a very successful trade mission just last year which opened all kinds of avenues and markets for America to participate in the great world market.

Mr. Speaker, I simply feel that, as Shakespeare said, the force of his own merit led his way, and indeed it did. He will be missed. He will, however, go on, live on in love, and I hope he will be an inspiration to us. I offer my condolences, obviously, to his beloved wife Alma, and to his two children, Michael and Tracy.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we also join with the gentleman from the Virgin Islands [Mr. FRAZER] who will join in this tribute to Ron Brown.

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentlelady from North Carolina for holding this special order for the late Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown.

Secretary Brown served our Nation with distinction, service, and honor. He provided the vision, and the leadership to promote American business abroad. He understood that in order for American business to succeed abroad they needed to have the full support of the U.S. Government. He used his office to open doors and provide opportunities for large and small businesses. This support is characteristic of how Secretary Brown served this Nation and American business with distinction.

Secretary Brown was accessible and available to the people of the Virgin Islands. He sent his Assistant Secretary for Economic Development to assess the rural economic development needs of the Virgin Islands and to map out a strategy. It was Secretary Brown who understood how vital the U.S. tourism business was to the Virgin Islands and was working with us to help promote tourism through the international trade administration.

Secretary Brown elevated the Commerce Department to a new standard of honor—where business and government can work together for the good of the Nation. Today, the Commerce Department is at the international vanguard for American business. This stature is due to Secretary Ronald H. Brown's vision, leadership, and astute business intellect.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we will ask the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] if he will share also. I have been advised that we have 3 minutes remaining, unfortunately, to all those who would participate in our tribute.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor and tribute to our late Secretary of Commerce, Ronald H. Brown. No words I can utter on this House floor today can do justice to this great man, patriot, and public servant. I want to personally express my great sense of loss at the passing of this good and decent man and extend my condolences to his family: to his wife Alma, his son Michael, and his daughter Tracy. Their loss, Mr. Speaker, is our loss, our party's loss, and our Nation's loss.

I first met Ron Brown more than 30 years ago while vacationing on Martha's Vineyard. I was immediately struck by his boundless energy, charisma, sophistication, and style. Even back then, one only had to spend a little time with Ron to know that he was a rising star. And so I was never surprised as I followed Ron's career and watched this man grow and develop, first as a young lawyer, then as a leader in the National Urban League in New York and later here in Washington, as the chief counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee and later as a partner in a prestigious Washington law firm and as the chairman of the Democratic Party.

Ron Brown was born in Washington, DC, and raised in Harlem, NY, and though he worked his way to the heights of the business and political worlds in our Nation, he never forgot where he came from. He never forgot how to speak with people. He never forgot who it was that needed help and hope and opportunity. Ron spent his life and gave his life creating opportunity for those less fortunate, for those who had not yet climbed up the economic ladder.

Ron Brown was a bridge-builder. Through his actions and his words he was working to build what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called the beloved community, a community at peace with itself, where people are not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. Ron believed in creating opportunity for all Americans and he used his position as Secretary of Commerce to promote American business abroad and economic development in communities where it was desperately needed.

Robert Kennedy was fond of quoting George Bernard Shaw: "Some men see things as they are and ask why." Shaw wrote, "I dream of things that never were and ask why not." Ron Brown did dream of things that never were and ask why not. He dedicated his life and gave his life to promote the country that he loved and to better the lives of the people of this country.

Ron Brown will live in the annals of American history, not just as the first African-American Secretary of Commerce, but as perhaps the best, most effective, and most accomplished Secretary of Commerce in the history of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I, like so many others will miss Ron Brown. His energy could light up a room. His enthusiasm could inspire people to reach their greatest God-given potential. His vision and foresight returned the Presidency to his party. His counsel and guidance and wisdom will be sorely missed as we tackle the problems that face our Nation. One of what President John F. Kennedy called our best and our brightest has been taken from our midst.

Those of us who knew Ron Brown were more than lucky, we were blessed.

Again, I want to extend my condolences to the Brown family and thank

you, Mrs. CLAYTON, for arranging for this special order.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on a hillside over Bosnia, this Nation lost 33 dedicated and committed Americans.

Among those lost was the man we pay tribute to today, Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown.

We pay tribute to Secretary Brown because, in the finest tradition of America, he gave his life, in service to his country, while promoting peace in a region torn by war.

This tribute has been organized by those of us who serve on and who have participated with the President's Export Council [PEC].

Secretary Brown was a public sector member of PEC, and the driving force behind a notable private-public partnership, whose mission is to expand U.S. exports abroad.

At the very first meeting of PEC, on February 13, 1995, President Clinton attended, and Secretary Brown welcomed and swore in the appointees.

Secretary Brown emphasized that he would regard PEC members as the board of directors of America's National Export Strategy, first implemented in September of 1993.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we think it only fitting that the PEC "Board of Directors" lead a tribute to the person who, in our minds, was the chairman and chief executive officer of America's effort to achieve free and fair trade and to give a chance to U.S. businesses of all sizes to market their goods and services abroad.

Ronald Harmon Brown was born in Washington, DC, on August 1, 1941.

He was raised in Harlem by his parents, attended Middlebury College in Vermont, was commissioned an officer in the Army and spent time in West Germany and Korea—surely the seed of foreign trade was planted at this time.

When he left the Army, he joined the National Urban League as a welfare caseworker, evidencing early in his career a dedication to public service. At night, he attended law school.

Shortly after law school came his first foray into politics, when he was elected district leader of the Democratic Party in Mount Vernon. Immediately, he became known as one who could build bridges and close divides.

In 1973, he moved back to Washington, DC and, following a series of public and private-sector positions, on February 10, 1989, he was elected by acclamation as the first African American chair of the Democratic National Committee.

The rest is history, as Ron went on to help elect President Clinton and to be asked to serve as Secretary of Commerce.

In a relatively short period of time, he made giant strides, distinguishing himself, making his mark in many places, leaving his permanent imprint on the sands of time.

Neither race, nor color, nor religion, nor background, or any of those false barriers stood in his way. We could always count on him to fight another fight, to write another chapter, to run another race. Secretary Ron Brown will be sorely missed.

He will be especially missed for his work with PEC in behalf of U.S. exports and his efforts as Secretary of Commerce. One of his last appearances in the United States was at the most recent meeting of PEC. At that meeting, he shared his thoughts and plans on the

Bosnia/Croatia trip, as well as uncommon insights he had gathered about trade around the world.

From that meeting came the proposed PEC "Statement of Principles" concerning export administration. Those principles reflected Ron's vision and wisdom—declaring exporting as a right of every American citizen, not a privilege, as early versions of the Export Administration Act had stated.

And, those principles outlined what America's position should be on export restrictions, seeking to make sure, as Ron always did, that there is a level playing field throughout the world and that no one nation could assume an unfair competitive advantage in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

While those proposed principles reflected Ron's views, they were shaped and will be reshaped by all members of PEC, public and private, and certainly included the view of those business and corporation representatives who served.

Indeed, Ron's work and the work of PEC made certain that businesses of all types, politics aside, could benefit from the renewed trade efforts, and they did.

During his tenure, important groundwork was laid, major breakthroughs were experienced, and future prospects for peace and prosperity were cemented. And, while Ron was a deeply committed Democrat, on the matter of free and fair trade, he was first an American. Party took a second seat to the goal of expanding exports.

Ron knew what many of us have now come to know. For every \$1 million we make available to finance exports, we generate a \$7 million return, and, more importantly, we create new jobs.

In the First Congressional District of North Carolina alone, there are more than 450 companies that manufacture goods of foreign markets—and nearly two-thirds are small- and medium-sized businesses, employing less than 100 people.

All in all, eastern North Carolina ships more than \$1.3 billion of goods overseas each year. Indeed, in 1994, 270,000 new jobs were attributed to North Carolina, exports, generating some \$13.7 billion in revenue, a 21.7 percent increase. In 1994, North Carolina ranked 10th in the Nation in exports.

More and more, the economic well-being of our region and our State depends on our ability to sell our products to other countries.

Clearly, our ability to generate good jobs in the future is tied to exports and the ability of local companies, small and large, to exploit opportunities in other countries.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Procurement, Exports, and Business Opportunities of the House Small Business Committee and an appointee of PEC, I have learned a great deal about the relationship between exports and better jobs.

I have come to appreciate eastern North Carolina's unique combination of harbors at Wilmington and Morehead City, a strong interstate system, and a state-of-the-art air shipping facility at the proposed Global Transpark in Kingston which makes our area particularly well-suited to be involved in the export boom.

I've been working with community leaders to have the proposed Global Transpark designated a free-trade zone, which would make it a hub for international shipping. If we are successful, the seafood caught off our shores

in the morning could be someone's dinner in Japan the next day.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, for every \$1 billion in exports, 20,000 jobs are created.

U.S. exports of goods and services can reach \$1 trillion by the beginning of the next decade and can produce over 6 million new jobs. This could mean, by the year 2000, more than 13 million Americans who will be earning their living as a direct consequences of exports.

But businesses, large and small, usually face three challenges when they begin to look to other lands, gaining access to the capital needed to open new product lines or modify existing ones for overseas consumers, attaining technical training vital to dealing with other governments, and finding the information about regulations, American and foreign, and trade practices in other countries.

Secretary Ron Brown, through the Department of Commerce and the President's Export Council had undertaken, like never before, to remove those barriers to exporting, to overcome the challenges.

Mr. Speaker, the greatest tribute we can give to Ron Brown and those 32 other Americans who perished in Bosnia, is to keep their work going and make their dreams come true. That is a tribute in which Democrats and Republicans, small, medium, and large businesses, and Americans of all stripes can join.

Growth in real incomes and living standards depends heavily on trade.

Secretary of Commerce designate Mickey Kantor recently noted that expanding trade is critical to creating good, high-wage jobs.

The 11 million Americans who owe their jobs to exports are earning 13 to 17 percent more than those in nontrade jobs. Ron Brown had the right idea.

I invite my colleagues to join me in keeping that idea burning and in creating a living legacy for a man who lived his life in sacrifice so that millions of his fellow citizens could live their lives in pride.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the memory of the late Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown. A true leader. A successful, fearless man who loved the big things: his family, his friends, his country, his work, his African-American heritage. And those are the important things. He was passionate and devoted to each. To his wife, Alma and his children, Michael and Tracey, please know that no man could have lived a more blessed and successful life. God be with you.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Ron Brown. Secretary Brown's tragic death on April 3 robbed our Nation of a highly distinguished and talented leader. Throughout his career, Ron Brown made the most of every challenge that confronted him. As Secretary of Commerce and in his other work, he dedicated himself to creating opportunities for others.

I first met Ron when he ran Senator EDWARD KENNEDY's 1980 Presidential campaign. But I didn't begin to fully appreciate Ron's talents until 1991, when, as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, he asked me to join him as treasurer of the DNC.

In that capacity, I witnessed first hand Ron's vision and leadership. He had an uncanny ability to bring disparate factions together and a capacity of persuasion that was literally un-

paralleled. I believe it was Ron's early work on the Presidential campaign of 1992 that enabled then-candidate Bill Clinton to emerge from the Democratic Convention with the momentum and resources that ultimately resulted in his victory.

Another of the many distinguished legacies that Ron Brown leaves is the dramatic results of his tireless advocacy on behalf of American businesses in his 3 years as Secretary of Commerce. Ron worked closely with businesses large and small to identify new opportunities and to promote American products. He recognized the tremendous potential that foreign markets held and knew that American firms must seize this opportunity if our Nation was to thrive as it entered the 21st century.

He worked effectively as a peer with the most powerful business leaders in our Nation, yet Ron Brown never lost his ability to identify with and related to average Americans. He was greatly beloved in his boyhood home of Harlem and left strongly positive impressions among the people he came into contact with while traveling throughout the country.

Ron's leadership, keen intelligence, and passion will be greatly missed by all those who knew him personally and his loss will continue to be felt by many more whom he impacted through his work. I am a better person for having known Ron Brown, and I deeply mourn his passing.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, we are all horrified by the untimely death of the Honorable Ronald Harmon Brown, a man of incredible ability who was loved and respected across the globe. In searching for words to appropriately honor him, I recalled the following tribute, which I had the privilege of inserting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on August 4, 1995.

TRIBUTE TO SECRETARY OF COMMERCE RONALD H. BROWN

Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to return to our districts where many of us will be meeting with community and business leaders concerned about economic development opportunities in our neighborhoods, I want to use this occasion to salute the outstanding accomplishments of a gentleman who has worked tirelessly to promote the cause of business and economic opportunity throughout the United States and abroad. The Honorable Ronald H. Brown, our distinguished Commerce Secretary, is to be applauded and commended for the outstanding job that he has done in serving as the administration's enormously adept "Pied Piper" of economic opportunity and empowerment.

Ron Brown is the 30th United States Secretary of Commerce. In nominating him to this auspicious post, President Bill Clinton noted that "American business will know that the Department of Commerce has a strong and independent leader and a forceful advocate." Those of us who have been privileged to know Ron can attest to his outstanding leadership acumen and his tenacity and considerable powers of persuasion. He is a skillful negotiator and an indefatigable advocate on behalf of America's economic interests abroad as he seeks to expand and open markets for American-made products around the globe.

Ron's career has been structured around public service and helping to make America a better place for all of her citizens. A native Washingtonian, he grew up in New York where his parents managed Harlem's famous Hotel Theresa. He attended Middlebury College in Vermont and received his law degree from St. John's University. He is a member of the New York Bar, the District of Colum-

bia Bar, and is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

A veteran of the United States Army, Ron saw tours of duty in Germany and Korea.

Secretary Brown has had an eclectic career. He spent 12 years with the National Urban League, serving as Deputy Executive Director, and General Counsel and Vice President for the organization's Washington operations. He also served as Chief Counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee. He is a former partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Patton, Boggs, and Blow. And who among us does not remember the brilliant job that he did as the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee and 1993 Inaugural Committee.

As Secretary of Commerce, Ron has traveled extensively, promoting the administration's trade policies and forging sound private/public sector partnerships. Following the Los Angeles, Northridge earthquake in January 1994, Ron was one of the first cabinet officials on the scene, working with local, State, and Federal officials to identify and earmark funding sources for businesses severely damaged and/or destroyed in the quake. He has since returned to the quake damaged areas on several occasions to survey the progress made by programs implemented under this aegis.

Ron maintains a schedule that would tire men half of his age. Yet he is always prepared to go wherever he is needed, and he always does it with aplomb and with a spirit of unyielding optimism that inspires all around him to achieve the same level of commitment.

In addition to his weighty responsibilities as Commerce Secretary, Ron serves on several presidential boards and councils. He is a member of the President's National Economic Council, the Domestic Policy Council, and the Task Force on National Health Care Reform. He serves a Co-Chair of the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, the U.S.-Russia Business Development Committee, and the U.S.-Israel Science and Technology Commission.

Secretary Brown is also a member of the Board of Trustees for Middlebury College and is chair of the Senior Advisory Committee of the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to have this opportunity to commend my good friend, Secretary Ronald H. Brown, on the fine job that he is doing as our Secretary of Commerce. He has led an exemplary career, and I have no doubt that he will continue to lead and inspire. Please join me in applauding him on an outstanding career, and in extending to him, his wife Alma, and their two children, attorneys Michael and Tracy, continued success in the future.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note with appreciation the many achievements and inspirational life of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. With his constant good will and hard work, he was able to build bridges where there once were valleys and hope where there was once despair. Secretary Brown used the power of the Commerce Department to find ways to give opportunity to ordinary Americans, to generate jobs for the American economy, and to build futures for American citizens.

One could look at Ron's life as a series of firsts. That would be a disservice, for in fact, his life was a series of first place and solid accomplishments. Ron Brown always believed that we would succeed. Whether as a student at Middlebury, staff person to Senator KENNEDY, or top campaign aide to the Senator, Ron was a success. As chairman of the

Democratic National Committee, Ron was a success. A lawyer, a skillful negotiator, a pragmatic bridge builder, and past highly successful chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Secretary Brown strongly believed in the promise of America and aggressively advanced polices and programs to accelerate the Nation's economic growth and create new jobs and opportunities for all American people.

Under his leadership, the Commerce Department became the powerhouse envisioned by President Clinton. Secretary Brown promoted U.S. exports, U.S. technologies, entrepreneurship, and the economic development of distressed communities throughout the Nation.

He led trade development missions to five continents, touting the competitiveness of U.S. goods and services. During his tenure, U.S. exports reached a record high, America regained its title as the world's most productive economy, and exports and technology were key contributors to the millions of new jobs created during the first 3 years of President Clinton's administration.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers go out to his wife Alma, son Michael, and daughter Tracy. Their strength and courage were displayed during Secretary Brown's funeral service and they should be forever proud of their husband and father.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor the memory of former Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown, an American pioneer, patriot, and hero. Secretary Brown was also a dear friend. I am sure that my sense of loss is shared by many who work, or have worked, on Capitol Hill. In 1979, Secretary Brown became the first African-American to serve as a chief counsel for a standing Senate committee when he took over the Senate Judiciary Committee. As was the case throughout his career, his service on the Hill helped to chart a new course of participation for African-Americans within the corridors of political and public policy decisionmaking.

Being the first, being the only, being a pioneer, was the former Secretary's calling card. He was the first African-American to join a social fraternity during his undergraduate days at Middlebury College. An Army officer, he was the only African-American officer in his unit during his tour of duty in Germany. He was the first African-American partner in the law firm of Patton, Boggs & Blow. He was the first African-American to head a major political party. Finally, he was the first African-American to head the Department of Commerce.

Upon nominating Ron Brown to be the 30th U.S. Secretary of Commerce, then-President-elect Clinton declared, "American business will know that the Department of Commerce has a strong and independent leader and a forceful advocate." The President could not have been more prescient, nor could have made a more brilliant appointment.

Under the leadership of Secretary Brown, the Commerce Department became one of the major success stories of the Clinton administration. He launched a national export strategy predicated on the very basic idea that American exports translate into jobs and opportunities for American business and working people. In the pursuit of this strategy, Secretary Brown conducted trade mission after trade mission abroad. He traveled most often to what he liked to call the big emerging markets of Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

The trip on which Secretary Brown and his 34 colleagues lost their lives was typical of his missions. It was visionary in the most practical sense of the word. It was practical in the most visionary sense of the word. He had the vision to see that beyond the horrors of war wracking Bosnia and Croatia, lay opportunities for American business to be of service, as well as to engage in commerce. He was grounded enough in the realities of that conflict to understand that the road to peace lay in the rebuilding of those shattered communities.

When Secretary Brown's plane crashed into that mountain on the way to Dubrovnik, an American patriot became an American hero. He is no less a hero because he died in an accident. He is no less a hero because some persons serving in this Congress have spent an inordinate amount of time besieging him and undermining the Department he led so brilliantly. He is a hero because he died in the service of this Nation, pursuing its interests at the cutting edge of diplomacy and peace-making.

I would be remiss if I did not comment on Secretary Brown's meaning to me as an African-American public servant. Secretary Brown could not be mistaken for anything else than what he was, an African-American. He did not deny that fact, nor did he allow that fact to limit his personal or professional horizons. To be sure, Secretary Brown did everything within his power to help African-Americans. Beyond that, he did everything he could to find points of convergence between the interests of America, African-Americans, and Africa. But he never allowed himself to be the black Secretary of Commerce, nor, for that matter, the black head of the Democratic National Committee, or the black anything else. Ron Brown was the Secretary of Commerce, in the service of each and every American, hyphenated and unhyphenated.

It is often said that a picture is worth a thousand words. I agree, a thousand and sometimes more. The picture that I have in mind is that of President William Jefferson Clinton presenting an American flag to Mrs. Alma Brown at Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, April 10, 1996. That picture says it all. Secretary Brown's life was a life of service in the public arena in the pursuit of justice and opportunity. It was the life of an American pioneer, patriot, and hero.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pause with my fellow colleagues to remember our friend Ron Brown. As many have already said, Ron Brown was an exceptional person with a deep love for his family, friends, and country. Today, I would like to honor his memory by celebrating some of his achievements as Secretary of Commerce.

Our record in international trade will ultimately define the future prosperity of our Nation. The ability of our work force to meet the new challenges of the global economy and compete for high-skill high-wage jobs of tomorrow will be critical. No one understood these principles more than Ron Brown.

As Commerce Secretary, Ron Brown expanded our international role by reaching out to countries all over the globe, and by strengthening the foundations of our domestic economy. His work to improve our trade balance, increase overseas opportunities, and create domestic jobs helped to prepare the United States for the next century. In my State

of Rhode Island he genuinely made a difference.

Last summer, Secretary Brown visited with me in my office to discuss the many programs at Bryant College that focused on improving our State's economy by investing our resources in international business. We talked about Bryant's existing initiatives like the Rhode Island Export Assistance Center and their innovative International Trade Data Network [ITDN]. The purpose of ITDN was to help create and distribute practical information and data that will enable businesses to effectively and realistically target their export efforts to actual opportunities. For Rhode Island, the programs at Bryant were a way to reduce the effects of defense downsizing and struggling economy.

Secretary Brown saw the impacts that international trade could have on local economies and later visited Rhode Island twice to see Bryant College and various other initiatives first hand. He took the time to investigate our latest ideas and offer the support of this Department. Truly, Ron Brown led by example.

In the end, Ron Brown died as he lived: a dedicated patriot who selflessly give his all for friends and country. As a nation we are forced to continue without him, but his time with us all will be remembered as a time of progress, learning, and achievement.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my fellow colleagues to pay tribute to a truly great American, the late Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown. To many of us, Ron Brown was not only a cabinet member with an impressive record of accomplishment, but he was also a dynamic party leader, a trailblazer in the business world, a ferocious advocate for the business community as well as those in need, a role-model for blacks and whites alike, and a dear friend.

I will remember Ron for his charming and captivating persona, for his astute mind, and for his love of country. Ron Brown was full of energy and enthusiasm in each endeavor that he undertook. As Chair of the Democratic National Committee, Ron utilized his skills in bringing people together and motivating them to work toward a common goal, and that propelled the Democratic party to victory in 1992.

In his capacity as Commerce Secretary, Ron Brown was masterful in seeking out and opening up new markets to U.S. businesses. I know firsthand of his tremendous talent in bringing together the public and private sectors in partnerships. A perfect example of this is in my home district of Rochester in which Ron displayed his immense support of Eastman Kodak Corporation's efforts to halt unfair trade practices that were detrimental to Kodak. Upon Ron Brown's insistence, the International Trade Commission concurred and steps were taken to address the inequities.

Ron was such a wonderful and unique leader because he recognized his role as Commerce Secretary was broader than simply promoting American business and trade in foreign lands. He also used his position to help ensure the peace and stability that would provide the foundation for a stable economic base in tormented nations such as Bosnia and Croatia.

Ron died in the midst of an important mission. And he died doing what he did best: building bridges between people and building bridges between nations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in extending my deepest sympathies

to Alma Brown, Ron's children, and all of the family and friends of this extraordinary man. His presence will be sadly missed by the entire Nation.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, in the few days since Ron Brown's death, it has already become a cliché to speak of his brilliant political career—of his pioneering role as party leader, and his efforts to almost single-handedly redefine the Commerce Department and its influence on the American economy. For those of us who considered Ron a friend, it is reassuring to know that the country remembers him as fondly we do. But when there are so many tangible achievements to celebrate in a man's life, it becomes harder to recognize what is less tangible, but perhaps more important.

To me, there is a reason that Ron Brown broke down so many barriers in so many aspects of his life, and shattered so many preconceptions about politics, race, and America's place in the world. For all his practical and political talents, Ron Brown was an idealist, pure and simple. His goals for himself, his party, and his country were always based on what should be, and not on what others thought could be. That is a rare quality in a politician, and a rare quality in a human being. But it is why people loved and respected Ron Brown, and were so often willing to abandon their own goals and egos to work with him for that higher purpose.

I first began to work closely with Ron when he became chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1989, around the same time that I became House majority leader. It may be hard to remember just how bad prospects seemed for the Democratic Party at that point, and how few people believed that our party could ever again capture the hearts and minds of the American people. Ron Brown was not only an unflinching optimist—often the only voice of optimism at those early meetings and strategy sessions—but a man who believed so strongly in the bedrock principles of the Democratic Party, he refused to accept any reason why America would not rally around Democratic ideals and candidates.

There is no question in my mind that Ron Brown was the driving force behind Democratic victories in both the 1990 midterm elections and the 1992 Presidential election—and that he worked and sweated for those victories not out of some desire for narrow political gain, but because of his unshakable faith in the Democratic Party as the party of progress for average, working Americans. He never forgot where he had come from, and who he wanted to help.

Much has been said in recent days about Ron Brown's ability to heal divisions, to reconcile warring factions, to focus on what united people as Democrats, or business leaders, or Americans. He truly believed that you could always accomplish more by working together—by bringing others along with you. That may be why he established a unique precedent in working so closely with congressional leaders as party chairman. He really did bring the Democratic Party together—sometimes almost one person at a time. To see the depth of his empathy and understanding—to see how far he would go to understand divergent people and opinions, and then to find the common ground between them—was to see the very essence of leadership.

As Commerce Secretary, Ron Brown dramatically expanded his mandate, reinvigorat-

ing the Foreign Commercial Service, and becoming a booster of U.S. exports on a scale that had never before been seen. He poured his energy and passion into his work at Commerce, much the way he had done so at the DNC. I admired the aggressive manner in which he led that department, even in the face of partisan political pressures to play a lower profile.

Our country could use another Ron Brown. For he pushed boundaries and broke down barriers almost instinctively, intuitively, as if he simply refused to acknowledge they were there in the first place. Perhaps, in that sense, we can find some shred of meaning in Ron's terrible death—because no risks and no naysayers could ever have kept him from exploring new terrain, reaching for new challenges, and trying to redefine the world in which we live. That he managed to do all those things in so few years is a powerful legacy indeed.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join members of the President's Export Council today in paying tribute to Secretary Ron Brown. Ron Brown was a personable individual and a master of the art of politics. He served his country and his party with distinction. I worked with the Secretary during his tenure as Secretary of Commerce and was always impressed with his dedication to economic growth and jobs. We shared the goal of promoting U.S. exports, as Ohio has become a leader in the export of goods to other countries. The objective of his final mission was again to facilitate the movement of U.S. goods into overseas markets, thereby working to keep good jobs here in the U.S. I extend my sympathies to Secretary Brown's family and friends.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in both sadness and mourning to extend the condolences of myself and my family to Mrs. Alma Brown, their two children Michael and Tracey, and to the entire Brown family. Your husband, father, and mentor was indeed a unique man who graced the institutions which he diligently served.

He was a man committed to the service of his country and to the fulfillment of a promise he had made to himself and the community that surrounded him in his youth. It was a promise that compelled him to demonstrate time and time again that America's diversity was a strength and not a weakness. It was a promise that elevated him from his beginnings in Harlem to the position of Secretary of Commerce where he served with distinction and ultimately died in that service. And above all, it was a promise that drove Secretary Brown to tirelessly break down the barriers that divided people.

Ron Brown was a lawyer and skillful negotiator who became the first African-American chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Secretary Brown strongly believed in the promise of America and aggressively advanced policies and programs to accelerate the Nation's economic growth. He also became the first African-American to hold the office of U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and through his outstanding inspiration, vision and force of will, left an indelible stamp upon the Department of Commerce.

His list of achievements reads longer than the endless accolades that have adorned his passage from this world into the next.

Secretary Brown worked endlessly to champion the role of civilian technology and techno-

logical innovation as the means to ensure American job creation, economic prosperity, and a higher standard of living. Under his tenure, he worked to establish a nationwide network to help small businesses. He led trade development missions to five continents, touting the competitiveness of U.S. goods and services. Under his leadership, U.S. exports reached a record high.

Ron Brown worked vigorously to remove outdated government-imposed obstacles that hindered U.S. exports, and he strongly believed in the competitiveness of American business. His dream was to make America stronger, and he remained steadfast to this commitment. Under Secretary Brown, United States exports to Japan increased by one-third. He advocated for \$80 billion in projects and supported hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs. His vision and leadership included his understanding of the vital link between our economy and the integrity of our environment. He furthermore understood the critical importance of protecting intellectual property worldwide, and to this purpose he negotiated with countries around the world.

There was a purpose to Secretary Brown's commitment that found fruition in his constant struggle to transcend all barriers. It is indeed befitting that this dedication will serve as his legacy; a befitting legacy that will outlive the demise of its creator. His passing will not detract from the quality of his achievement, but will rather inspire us all to achieve more from ourselves.

His premature departure not only leaves a void, it also leaves a tradition that has taught America how to face and overcome adversity. His passing compels all of us to take note of his outstanding determination and pay respects to his commendable achievements. On this day, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a man who served his country faithfully in both life and in death.

TRIBUTE TO SECRETARY OF COMMERCE RON BROWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE].

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is much that many of us can say about our good friend and public servant for this Nation, Secretary Ron Brown. I simply want to say to Alma, Michael, and Tracy and the family, we loved and respected him; but to America, he was a leader beyond leaders. He realized that American business meant American jobs.

As a member of the Committee on Science, I saw his dynamic leadership in support of advanced technology, recognizing that was the future of America. So it is my commitment to his family and to his legacy that I will continue to work toward creating jobs, and I leave this tribute to Secretary Ron Brown:

Isn't it strange that kings and queens and clowns that caper in sawdust rings and common people like you and me are builders for