

The result of his efforts ranged from the creation of jobs for hundreds of thousands of American workers, to a special job for a singular American, Bill Clinton, now President of the United States.

Ron Brown's legacy of achievement is a beacon of hope to all Americans, precisely because he exemplified the possibilities when the higher angels of the American character prevail. He overcame potential limitations, and turned liabilities into assets by dint of commitment, effort, and talent. His was the essential American success story. But his was also a success story for all humanity. Ron Brown was not a selfish person. His life was dedicated to reaching out to others in pursuit of the common good. That legacy is no more poignantly demonstrated than in the young people to whom he gave opportunity and guidance and a chance. Ron Brown did not pull the ladder of success up behind him.

I count myself among the fortunate proteges of Ron Brown. He helped make my history-making election to the U.S. Senate possible. I was only one of many of his students. Several others died with him that day.

Ron Brown's passing has been publicly mourned by millions, and created an opportunity for a public expression of gratitude for his public service. I hope the families of those who perished with him will take some measure of that expression as gratitude in mourning for the lost ones: Ron Brown, Kathryn Hoffman; Duane Christian; Carol Hamilton; Bill Morton; Chuck Meissner; Gail Dobert; Lawrence Payne; Adam Darling; Steve Kaminski; Naomi Warbasse; Kathy Kellogg; Jim Lewek; Lee Jackson; Dragica Lendic Bebek; Niksa Antonini; Nathaniel Nash; Barry Conrad; Paul Cushman; Robert Donovan; Claudio Elia; Leonard Pieroni; John Scoville; Donald Turner; Stuart Tholan; David Ford; Frank Maier; Walter Murphy; Robert Whittaker; Ashley Davis; Tim Schafer; Gerald Aldrich; Robert Farrington, Jr.; Cheryl Turnage; Shelly Kelly.

We will, as a community, have to close ranks to go forward without them, but with God's grace the mark they made in service to us all will carry on.

#### TRIBUTE TO "CHIEF" CHARLES ALFRED ANDERSON, FATHER OF BLACK AVIATION

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, one of the great pioneers of aviation passed away on Saturday, April 13, at the age of 89 at his home in Tuskegee, AL. Charles Alfred Anderson, who as a young boy dreamed of soaring through the skies as a pilot, leaves a legacy of breaking down racial barriers in the field of aviation. He did this by training a famed unit of black fighter pilots during World War II, known since as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Among the members of Chief Anderson's unit were Coleman Young, who later became the mayor of Detroit;

Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, the Nation's first four-star black general; and William Coleman, Transportation Secretary under former President Ford. The inspirational story of the 332d Fighter Group was told in a 1995 movie, "The Tuskegee Airmen."

In 1939, a decade after obtaining his own flying license, Charles Anderson began a civilian pilot training program at Alabama's Tuskegee Institute, now Tuskegee University. In 1940, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visited the campus and decided to take a plane ride. At that time, an erroneously-held view was that blacks could not fly planes. Mrs. Roosevelt brushed aside the nervous warnings of her Secret Service detail and went on a long ride with Anderson, landing safely nearly an hour later.

Soon after, Tuskegee Institute was chosen for an experimental Army Air Corps Program designed to determine whether black men could be successful pilots. The participants, many of whom came from small towns all across America, passed rigorous tests to join what became the 332d Fighter Group. Anderson was the chief flight instructor, thus earning him the nickname "Chief," by which he was widely known throughout the rest of his life.

The Tuskegee Airmen overcame extreme prejudice to win combat status, allegedly only after Mrs. Roosevelt pressed their case with her husband. The unit escorted American bombers over Europe and North Africa, providing a virtually impenetrable shield while downing hundreds of German fighters. After the war, Anderson managed an aircraft-sales business and continued to give flight instruction at Tuskegee. By this time, he had earned the title of "Father of Black Aviation."

Chief Anderson borrowed \$2,500 from friends and relatives and bought a used airplane when he was only 22. He learned to fly by reading books and getting tips from the white pilots who were willing to be cooperative. He eventually became the first black pilot to hold an air transport license. He flew a round trip transcontinental flight in 1933 and is believed to have flown the first land plane to the Bahamas in 1934. He flew up until a few years ago, still willing to teach anyone who wanted to learn.

Chief Charles Anderson was a great American and an outstanding, committed teacher who will forever be remembered as someone who overcame unfair barriers and prejudice to change the course of history. I extend my sincerest condolences to his family in the wake of this tremendous loss and share their enormous pride in all that he accomplished.

#### TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN LAURIE CALVIN BATTLE

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, former Alabama Congressman Laurie Calvin Battle will be inducted into the Bir-

mingham-Southern College Sports Hall of Fame on Saturday, April 27. As a member of the Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 1996, Congressman Battle will be honored and recognized for his many athletic achievements while at Birmingham-Southern and since.

Laurie Battle was born in Wilsonville, AL in 1912, attended elementary school in Jefferson County, and moved to my hometown, Tuscumbia, in 1926. He graduated from Deshler High School in 1930 and went on to obtain his bachelor's degree in psychology at Birmingham-Southern, my alma mater. He later earned his master's degree in sociology at Ohio State University. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, rising to the rank of major, with service in the Asiatic-Pacific theater. He was awarded a Bronze Star for his bravery and remained in the Reserves until 1972.

He was first elected to the U.S. Congress in 1946, serving four consecutive terms from 1947 until 1955. After retiring from the House of Representatives, he began a career in the insurance business in Birmingham. The former Congressman later served as a government relations executive in Washington, DC, and as staff director and counsel for the House of Representatives Rules Committee from 1966-76. He was later a special adviser to the U.S. League of Savings Associations.

Laurie Battle is well-renowned for his athletic ability. Although he is now retired, he still plays paddleball with one of his constituents, former Alabama Congressman Ben Erdreich, now chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board. They play twice a week in the House gymnasium, even as Congressman Battle approaches his 84th birthday on May 10. He was Ben's Congressman when he was in high school in Jefferson County.

I am pleased to commend and congratulate former Congressman Laurie Battle for accomplishing so much during his outstanding and colorful career, and especially for this latest honor of being inducted into Birmingham-Southern's Sports Hall of Fame.

#### KATHRYN HOFFMAN AND GAIL DOBERT—LIVES OF PROMISE CUT SHORT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the tragic plane crash in Croatia on April 3 that took the life of Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown also took the lives of 34 other men and women of great talent, promise, and dedication, including 11 other employees of the Department of Commerce.

Since that tragedy, many eloquent words have been spoken and written about all of the victims. In two of the most eloquent articles I have seen, Michael Wilbon wrote extremely movingly in the Washington Post on April 5 about his friend Kathryn Hoffman, and Cindy Loose wrote equally movingly in the Post yesterday about the