constituent service. Simply put, no one did it better than John Paul. Every day he prayed to our Lord for the strength to overcome pride and self-concern in order to always be mindful of the needs of others. Looking back on his life, I would say he was blessed with just that, and for it our State and our Nation will be forever grateful to him for his service.

Madam Speaker, on Saturday, John Paul Hammerschmidt will be laid to rest. As we prepare to say our final good-byes, I would ask for a moment of silence to honor one of the finest examples of statesmen this Chamber has ever seen.

Rest in peace, John Paul.

HONORING JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, John Paul Hammerschmidt was truly a visionary champion for Arkansas' conservative values in Congress, but we will all remember him for his humble dedication to our country and to our State. His leadership inspired new generations of Arkansans, including all of us rising today to honor his memory.

A supremely successful ambassador for his district and, in fact, the entire State, John Paul helped build the airport and interstates that allowed northwest Arkansas to blossom into the success story it is today. Ten years ago John Paul said: ''We are all put on Earth to serve others, and being a Congressman gives you a lot of leverage to really serve a lot of people.''

Congressman Hammerschmidt truly embodied the spirit of public service, and his legacy is a powerful reminder for all public servants of why we are here and who we represent.

□ 1915

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

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

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas' great leaders—and my friend—former Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt.

For the past three decades, I have known and admired Congressman Hammerschmidt, and I have long respected his commitment to public service.

One of his most important actions was his legislation that made the Buffalo River the country's first National River, ensuring the preservation and protection of that extraordinary treasure designed by God's own hand.

Before John Paul's engagement, the Buffalo had been slated for a Corps of Engineers dam project, which would have destroyed the natural majesty that generations of Arkansans continue to enjoy.

Arkansas' wilderness advocate and poet, Bill Coleman, captures the area's mystique:

> Giant bluffs rise like medieval castles above this ancient river, sending us back to a time when all our land was wild.

Congressman Hammerschmidt also served as a freshman Congressman with my former boss, President George Herbert Walker Bush, and these two great men became fast friends from their time in the Air Force through being freshmen in this great body together.

They were close political allies, and Congressman Hammerschmidt was quick to support President Bush in all of his Presidential runs. The two men shared victories, defeats, joys, and sorrows throughout their great decades of personal friendship.

President Bush once said of John Paul:

> He did something I could never do; he beat Bill Clinton.

I am humbled to have had the opportunity to know and learn so much from Congressman Hammerschmidt. He will be greatly missed.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt began his service as a Member of this body from my home State of Arkansas in 1967, the year that I was born. He did so for 12 terms, long enough for me to grow up, graduate from college, get a job, and get married.

His love for Arkansas and America was evident in his service. He was a champion for his district and our State. He was a tireless advocate for all his constituents on both sides of the aisle and worked hardest to do what was right for the citizens of Arkansas.

He served his country and fellow man with honor, both in the military and in Congress, leaving a lasting legacy and setting the bar high for those of us who follow him in service.

Congressman Hammerschmidt was from the beautiful Ozark hills, and many times, the people of Arkansas and America were blessed by the leadership of a gentleman from the hills who served his Creator by serving others.

As we remember his service, may we all continue to look to the hills and be comforted by the words of the psalmist who wrote:

> I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
> My help cometh from the Lord, which made Heaven and Earth.
> He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
> Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
> The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
> The Sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the Moon by night.
> The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
> The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

PROTECTING ADOPTED CHILDREN ACT

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, earlier today, I introduced the bipartisan Protecting Adopted Children Act, a response to the many problems and potential dangers associated with the term ''rehoming'' adoptive children.

Families involved in this underground practice are connecting online and making dubious or outright illegal arrangements to give away their children to strangers, often with forged or fake documentation. Some children are even transferred to individuals with a criminal history, including abuse or neglect.

Madam Speaker, my legislation provides States with the resources to help adoptive families receive pre and postadoption counseling, social skills training, and mental health services. It also expands the training of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to include combating the illegal transfer of a child.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues who have joined me in cosponsoring this bill, and I encourage the House to take swift action to protect these vulnerable children.

SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today as cochair of the Congressional Nepal Caucus to express my deepest condolences to the people of Nepal who are now recovering from a catastrophic earthquake that hit this prior Saturday.

When you see the devastation, you will find that—and all the final results are not in—early reports are that over 4,000 individuals lost their lives and several thousand were injured.

Whatever the damage, the United States stands ready to assist in any way. I want to say thank you to the leadership of our U.S. Embassy in Nepal and thank you to the Government of Nepal for their early and coordinated response.

To the people of that region, let me say that the United States stands with you in these difficult times. We will continue to pray for those of you who have lost your loved ones and continue to pray for the safe recovery of those who are still lost.