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[Mr. MCDERMOTT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD FORD, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. CLEMENT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Representative HAROLD FORD is serving his 11th consecutive term as Tennessee's Ninth District Congressman. He is the first and only African-American Tennessean elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Prior to his election to Congress, he served two terms in the Tennessee Legislature and represented the same geographic area of Memphis in which his great grandfather served as a squire during the Reconstruction era.

Congressman FORD has achieved an unparalleled reputation of service to his constituents. FORD takes seriously the constitutional Framers' intent of making the House of Representatives "the People's Body." He holds hundreds of townhall meetings throughout the year and his responsiveness to the needs and views of his constituents is legendary. Keeping the Government close to the people is Congressman FORD's top priority.

In Washington, Congressman FORD effectively represents his urban district through his assignment on the powerful Committee on Ways and Means. He is fifth in seniority on the committee and has played pivotal roles in the committee's major legislation including health care reform, taxation, and welfare reform.

During the budget debate in the 103d Congress, Congressman FORD advanced the empowerment zones and enterprise communities provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. He has helped craft this landmark legislation, which is the most significant antipoverty initiative since the 1960's.

Congressman FORD is recognized as a national leader and expert on child welfare because of his service as chairman and now ranking Democrat of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources. In 1988, Congressman FORD worked with then Gov. Bill Clinton to write the most important welfare reform bill to date.

The election of Bill Clinton to the Presidency and the change in power in the Congress, once again placed welfare reform in the forefront. Congressman FORD brought years of legislative experience and an effective working rela-

tionship with the President to the welfare debate. Congressman FORD's consistent support of work, education and training, and child care programs in welfare reform were further bolstered by a recent report by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Memphis.

Congressman FORD is active in social and community activities in Memphis and throughout the country. He is a member of the National Advisory Board of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Metropolitan YMCA Board. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Congressman FORD is the recipient of a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Tennessee State University in Nashville, and a masters in business administration from Howard University in Washington, DC. He also received an honorary doctorate from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, and an associate of arts degree in mortuary science from John Gupton College in Nashville.

Congressman FORD was born on May 20, 1945, in Memphis, and is the 8th of 15 children of N.J. and Vera Ford. Congressman FORD is married to the former Dorothy Boles of Memphis. They are the proud parents of three sons: Harold Jr., Jake, and Sir Isaac. He and his family are members of the Mt. Moriah East Baptist Church of Memphis.

It has truly been an honor to serve with HAROLD. Congratulations on your upcoming retirement from the U.S. Congress and congratulations to Harold Ford Jr. who, as many of you know, recently received the Democratic nomination to represent the Ninth District of Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives. We will miss HAROLD SR. dearly, but I want to wish Harold Jr. the best of luck in this November's election, and I look forward to serving with him in the 105th Congress. He has some very large shoes to fill.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the dedication and hard work of U.S. Representative HAROLD FORD. HAROLD FORD is the first and only African-American Tennessean elected to the House of Representatives. Prior to his election to Congress, Mr. FORD, served two terms in the Tennessee State legislature.

Representative FORD is noted for his work on behalf of his constituency. Partly, as a result of his efforts, Tennessee's Ninth District receives more than its fair share of Federal contracts. Mr. FORD has also held hundreds of town meetings to ascertain the views of his constituents.

Representative FORD is a proven champion of the poor. In Mr. Ford's pivotal role on the Committee on Ways and Means, he advanced the empowerment zones and enterprise communities provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. The measure created six urban and three rural empowerment zones. He has sponsored and cosponsored major legislation on healthcare reform, taxation and welfare reform. Congressman FORD's work on welfare reform, in particular is widely known. During the 103d Congress, Mr.

FORD held 20 hearings on President Bill Clinton's welfare reform measure. As ranking Democrat, Congressman FORD fought Republican efforts to pass a welfare reform bill that would weaken provisions that hurt children.

Mr. FORD has been relentless in his efforts to improve the quality of life for Americans. A recent report by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Memphis stated that the Tennessee JOBSWORK program initiated by Representative FORD has been successful at moving welfare recipients into the workforce. In addition, the bureau reported an average increase in earnings of 163 percent compared with earnings before participation in the program.

Mr. FORD is also active in social and community activities in Memphis and throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, Representative FORD's bold leadership will be missed. I wish Mr. FORD success in his future endeavors.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee, BOB CLEMENT, for allowing us this time to salute our departing colleague, HAROLD FORD. For 22 years, HAROLD has served with distinction as a Member of this legislative body. We will miss him in the days to come and we are proud to recognize him this evening for a job well done.

HAROLD FORD was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1974 to represent the Ninth District of Tennessee. He came to Congress armed with political skill and expertise. HAROLD began his political career at the age of 25 when he was elected to the State house of representatives. During his tenure, HAROLD served as majority whip and chaired a committee that investigated the rates and practices of utilities in the State.

In 1974 HAROLD FORD became the first African-American to represent the State of Tennessee in the Halls of Congress. Throughout his tenure, HAROLD has articulated the needs of those who have no voice in the political deliberations. He has brought compassion to the debate over the reform of our Nation's welfare system. He has advocated the needs of those who live in America's public housing. Further, HAROLD has championed efforts to shape programs that provide education, training, and job skills for our youth. As a member of the powerful Congressional Black Caucus, HAROLD FORD has also been a strong voice in the struggle for justice, civil rights, and equality.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to note that when he was a junior Member of Congress, I had the honor of serving with HAROLD FORD on the House Select Committee on Assassinations. I chaired the panel, which was charged with conducting a 2-year investigation into the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I recall during the course of our investigations, traveling with HAROLD to the Lorraine Motel—the scene of Dr. King's assassination—which was located in his congressional district. I also recall HAROLD as a hard-working and dedicated member of the panel. The hearings and final report were a real credit to this institution and the tireless efforts of members such as HAROLD FORD.

Mr. Speaker, for many years my wife, Jay, and I have enjoyed a close friendship with HAROLD, his lovely wife, Dorothy, and members of the Ford family. As he departs from the Congress, we pause to salute him for his significant contributions to the U.S. Congress