

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBURN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK OF FLORIDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

Mr. Speaker, I want to submit for the RECORD an article that ran in the Sunday September 26 edition of the Miami Herald. This article talks about the achievement the gentlewoman from Florida has made and the obstacles she had to overcome to get to Congress. She was the first African American female to serve in the Florida Senate. And when we both were elected to Congress in 1992, this marked the first time in 127 years that an African American from Florida had been sent to Congress.

This year marks 20 years of service for Congresswoman MEEK. Her constituents are proud of her hard work and the results she brings to her district. She has fought for fairness in the appropriations process, and I am proud to recognize the gentlewoman for her accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am so delighted to hear that the gentlewoman is paying tribute to our colleague, and I hope that the gentlewoman will allow me to mention that she has taken a leadership role in heading the task force on census for the Congressional Black Caucus and that she has been very diligent in her legislative duties here.

I really compliment the gentlewoman for making a record of this because the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is a very worthy person.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON).

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I also want to add my congratulations to our colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), and I commend the gentlewoman for bringing this to the floor and putting on RECORD her achievements.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. THURMAN).

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me, and I really would ask all of my colleagues who have not seen this arti-

cle to read this in the RECORD. It is a wonderful tribute to a woman who has served in her State legislature and is very much admired.

People just came to her to get information and to get help. She was my chairman on the education subcommittee in appropriations when we served together, and she was fairer than anybody I have ever seen because she understood the entire State of Florida, what it meant for rural areas to have funding as well as the urban areas.

We just all love her in Florida, and we all respect her and admire her for the work that she has done. So I would really hope our colleagues do read this article because it is fabulous.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) for yielding to me, and I too would add my voice to the accolades that are being paid our good friend, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

I first met her some, and she may not want me to tell how long ago, 25 or 30 years ago, and I got to know her. I followed her career over the years, and my friends in the State of Florida all have said to me what a great person that she was there in the Florida legislature.

When I came here in the class of 1993, it was a great pleasure for me to be here and to have the opportunity to serve with her. It has been a service that I have enjoyed tremendously, and I can truly say that I do not believe that I would be standing here as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus had it not been for the great support and guidance that I received from her since being here in this body.

The people of Florida should be very proud of her. I am pleased to see it here that her hometown newspaper has paid her such a tremendous tribute. It is one that is well deserved.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. In closing, Mr. Speaker, my favorite saying is, "Let the work I have done speak for me." And certainly Mrs. MEEK's work speaks for itself. In fact, I recommend that she look at serving 20 more years. 20 more years of service from the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) would be a great tribute to Florida and to this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the article I referenced above follows:

[From the Miami Herald, Sept. 26, 1999]

REPRESENTATIVE MEEK MAKES 20-YEAR MARK—MIAMI CONGRESSWOMAN DISPLAYS DEFT POLITICAL TOUCH

(By Andrea Robinson)

WASHINGTON.—Though a morning of angry wind and rain has transformed the nation's capital into a virtual ghost town, an intrepid band of Washington luminaries heads toward a meeting room in a basement of the Capitol.

Among the celebrity attendees: House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, Sen. Bob

Graham, Attorney General Janet Reno and U.S. Reps. Charles Rangel and James Clyburn, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The draw? U.S. Rep. Carrie Meek, D-Miami, who has summoned an obedient cadre of political figures to speak to a group of her visiting constituents. "We're here because Carrie told us to be here," Labor Secretary Alexis Herman says.

This year, Meek marks 20 years of public service, 13 of them in the Florida Legislature. She is the first black Floridian to win a seat in Congress in recent history, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, a four-time congressional winner whose only general-election opponent earned just 11 percent of the vote.

Over the past 12 months, Meek is credited with boosting her district by helping to secure notable federal allocations—\$130 million in employment-zone tax incentives; \$35 million in housing grants to rebuild public housing; \$2.2 million to jump-start a Little Haiti program for troubled children.

But most remarkable, political observers say, has been Meek's ability to play politics in more than one arena. Meek—an unapologetically liberal Democrat—has managed to solidify her standing not only with members of her own party but with those across the aisle.

"She's got a nice way, but she's no push-over," says Rep. E. Clay Shaw, R-Fort Lauderdale. "She has a velvet glove, but sometimes she can have a fist in it. She's so likable that it's sometimes disarming."

#### BOLDLY STEPPING FORWARD

Once a neighborhood activist, she has become a power broker.

Carrie Meek has never been timid. When she started in politics, she was audacious.

In the Legislature, Meek regularly intensified floor debates, once threatening to camp out on the doorstep of a colleague who was reluctant to increase funding for Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Back then, if she thought a particular bill needed to be killed, she waved a black flag adorned with a skull and crossbones, declaring the measure needed to be "black flag dead."

"It's now in the nomenclature of the Legislature. They wanted my son to use it," Meek says, referring to state Sen. Kendrick Meek, D-Miami.

Carrie Meek has established a fairly liberal voting record, generally following Democratic endorsements of affirmative action, abortion rights, gun control, and spending on housing and job creation. She has favored increasing the minimum wage, expanding the rights of immigrants, and giving tax credits to small businesses in her district.

Her current causes: Census 2000, which aims to count minorities fully in the upcoming census, and additional research on lupus, the autoimmune disease that claimed her sister.

Meek has sided with Republicans on some matters, such as opposing military defense cuts or foreign-policy adjustments to ease relations with Cuba.

On voting evaluations this year, Meek scored 95 or better with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the nation's largest public service employees union, and with Americans for Democratic Action, a group that promotes human rights.

She fared worse with business groups, scoring 28 with the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, and only four with the American Conservative Union, which focuses on foreign-policy, social and budget issues.

At a party Sept. 17, 300 supporters gathered on a Washington rooftop to celebrate Meek's