

since first being elected in 1960, Henry B. truly paved the way for my being here in Congress. His invincible will, demonstrated so many times during so many battles, served as an example to me, that while the fight may not always be easy, it is always worth waging.

His example set the bar for which all of us aspire. He was a great American, a selfless and principled public servant, the best of the best, a champion for the poor, a voice for the under-represented in Washington.

Only briefly did I have the pleasure of serving with him here in the House. During that all too short time, I can assure you I was eager to glean whatever I could from his treasured house of invaluable knowledge. In fact, not a day passes that I am not mindful of how he commented to me early on that he would never recommend I rope a cow as it is going down the mountain. It was sage counsel indeed, and it has served me well these past several years, as I know it will continue to do in the years to come.

To me, nothing is more important than standing up for what you believe in and having the fortitude to tackle the tough issues. Henry B. did exactly that, and he did it on his own terms and with the utmost integrity.

In closing, I have the greatest respect for all he accomplished, and I will always admire him. Henry B. Gonzalez represents not only the best that Congress can be, but I feel that the best that an individual can be. He was a true and caring representative of people, and I can think of no greater accolade.

I will miss him, Texas will miss him, America will miss him. His loss is truly immeasurable. CHARLIE GONZALEZ, his son, is my friend and my colleague; and I look forward to serving with him in this House of Representatives.

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TIME

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my Special Order be extended by 15 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Another Member may make that request, but the gentleman from Texas may not.

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REQUEST FOR SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, with the consent of the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE), I ask unanimous consent that we extend this special order for 15 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) will control the 15 minutes, beginning at 12:35.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

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TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN HENRY B. GONZALEZ

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, last week we lost an icon in American life. I, like all of my colleagues here, can reflect back on just exactly what Henry B. meant, not just to me and to my family, but to Texans and the Hispanic community at large.

We had the privilege of hosting a retirement dinner for him when he retired a couple of years ago, and I can tell you, everyone that attended that retirement dinner, which was, by the way, televised on C-SPAN later on, commented on the fact that Henry B., while a legend, was an individual that had the common man's touch.

It has been said that to truly make a difference in your lifetime, you have to have the ability to walk among kings but never lose the common man's touch, and Henry B. had that common man's touch. He fought for the things that were important for all of us.

A lot of us here today are here because we stood on Henry B.'s shoulders. A lot of us here recognize that we would not be here had Henry B. not been a pathfinder, had not been an individual that opened the road for the rest of us.

While on the one hand it is a sad time to lose a man, a legend, a Texan, an American, truly a hero for all ages and for all this world, on the other hand it is also a time to celebrate his contributions, celebrate what he means to each and every one of us. And let us never forget that as long as he lives in our hearts, he lives in this world.

So to my good friend and colleague, CHARLIE GONZALEZ, as long as all of us have Henry B. in our hearts, he will never die.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I would say to CHARLIE, each member of our delegation shares in your loss and we express our deep sympathy to you.

I guess the best story I ever heard about your father was really not about his early political races or about his 37 years in the Congress or about how he worked to single-handedly break down racial barriers in our country, but it is a story about how the 70-year-old Congressman slugged a man in a San Antonio restaurant who called him a communist.

Henry B. loved his country. He had the kind of fierce patriotism that has

always driven America. He did not back off, he did not give in, and he was not afraid to take on the most powerful people in Washington, even if they happened to be in his own party.

Henry's early political career was marked with both important milestones and political failures. His success as the first Tejano to hold a seat on the San Antonio City Council, the Texas State Senate and here in the U.S. House of Representatives inspired a generation of leaders in the Mexican-American communities, many of whom are serving with us here today.

But Henry faced setbacks in his life as well. Half a century ago he thrust himself into San Antonio politics by trying to convince several of his friends to run for the legislature. It seems Henry had become convinced that Bexar County needed a full-time domestic relations court, and he knew the only way to get it was to get it through the legislature. After being unable to find anyone else to run, he ran himself. But he lost that first race. Today in Texas, however, domestic relations courts are a common fixture of the judiciary.

As with so many other issues which he championed as the lone voice crying in the wilderness, Henry was a trailblazer, a trailblazer for the downtrodden, the poor, the disadvantaged, the disenfranchised.

Henry B. Gonzalez once ran for Governor of Texas and for the United States Senate, only to come up short. But the fire inside Henry B. was fueled not by personal ambition, but by love for his country and a belief in a higher cause that could not be extinguished.

For 38 years, Henry fought for the cause of justice and equality in this House. He served under eight Presidents and he chaired the powerful Committee on Banking and Financial Services. He was a legend in Washington, a master of constituent service, and a patron saint of San Antonio politics.

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His passion was contagious. His legacy gives all of us the strength to fight, the confidence to succeed, and the resolve never to give up.

That story of the man who called Henry B. a Communist in Earl Abel's restaurant in 1986 reflected that rare combination of passion and character that mark the greatness of Henry B. Gonzalez. It is told that after being hit by the 70-year-old Congressman, that that diner who called him a Communist demanded of Henry B. an apology. Henry said his only regret was that he pulled the punch.

We do not know if Henry really pulled his punch that day, but Henry B. Was a fighter. He was in every sense a great American. If he did really go easy on the man in that restaurant that day, it would have been the only punch he ever pulled.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON).

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding to me.

I started my teaching career in San Antonio, and heard of Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez as I was a young teacher. I remember earlier than that even when he was first elected to Congress.

I remember that as the first Hispanic elected to the House of Representatives from Texas, that he instantly became a role model, not only for Hispanics in my area, but for everyone who believed that our country was changing and that opportunities were opening up for all minorities.

From his first day days in the House of Representatives, Chairman Gonzalez became known as a strong personality who was willing to listen to the other side of the argument, but in the end, was willing to fight for what he believed was right.

Chairman Gonzalez gave a voice to the voiceless, hope to the hopeless, and belief in a future to all of us.

As a college student, I had the opportunity to intern for Chairman Jack Brooks. Getting to see Henry B. during that time in action was one of the highlights of my summer here in Washington, D.C. in the late sixties. I know that that experience shaped how I approached being a Congressman.

So much has been said today about Henry B.'s commitment to the homeless, to the disenfranchised, to the less fortunate. His legacy will live forever and his good work will be continued through his other great legacy, our good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ). I know Henry B. Gonzalez will live on through his work as a Congressman and the impact it had on many of us in this great body.

The State of Texas is a better place, this Nation is a better place, and we are better people because of Henry B. Gonzalez' time on this Earth.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to a friend, a mentor, and a great American, Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez. Henry B., as he was known to his friends, served his constituents and our Nation with honor, dedication, and dignity.

I as a member of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services had the privilege of witnessing firsthand Henry B.'s skill and knowledge of the issues under his jurisdiction as chairman of the committee. I benefited and enjoyed the many stories he delighted in telling about his childhood and his many years in Congress, using his incredible institutional memory to make his point to the committee or to a witness. It did not matter whether that witness was a cabinet member or lobbyist, his lectures did not discriminate.

Henry B. was a courageous leader, never afraid to stand up for what he believed was right, particularly when it

came to consumer protection and public housing. Under his leadership, he managed and led to enactment numerous bills, including complex legislation reforming the savings and loan industry, fundamental reform of the bank regulation, and the last major public housing legislation to become law.

Furthermore, as the first Hispanic Congressman from Texas, Henry B. was a pioneer who helped break down barriers and pave the way for others to follow. His success in spite of his humble beginnings gave hope and inspiration to others that they, too, could achieve their dream through hard work and commitment.

At a time when the American public was growing increasingly cynical about government and politicians, Henry B. was a shining example of what was right about public service, for no one could challenge his integrity, his honesty, or his decency.

Truly, Henry B. Gonzalez was a statesman who served his country and his constituents with passion, compassion, and commitment. He enriched the lives of all who knew him. I will sincerely miss Henry B. Gonzalez, and I am grateful and privileged for having had the opportunity to serve with him.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), Chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I join with our colleagues in paying tribute to a distinguished Member of this body who was a unique lawmaker and spokesperson for his district in Texas. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) for arranging this special order.

Henry B. Gonzalez served meritoriously in the Congress from 1961 until his retirement in 1998. Those 37 years were the most dramatic in the field of civil rights since the Civil War. Henry B. was in the forefront of the struggle for equality for all minorities, and especially the Hispanic population in his home State of Texas.

Henry was the first Member of Congress from Texas of Mexican heritage. His father was the editor of a Spanish language newspaper, and Henry first made his mark in the Texas State legislature, successfully filibustering against a bill that would have closed Texas schools rather than to comply with the court's orders to desegregate.

He came to the House in a special election to fill a vacancy in 1961, and very quickly established himself in the Congress as an articulate spokesperson for those seeking equality under the law.

Henry's most remarkable accomplishments were as Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services from 1989 to 1995. In that leadership position, Henry served with great fairness, and managed the approval of significant legislation impacting all Americans.

Perhaps the most significant tribute to Henry came from the other side of

the aisle, from his former colleague, Representative Joseph B. Kennedy II of Massachusetts, who stated, "This guy defines his party's values."

Henry B. was the last one of our colleagues who was present that tragic day in Dallas, Texas, in 1963 when President John Kennedy was assassinated. He often reflected on the horror of that dark day in our Nation's history, but his faith in our form of government and his hope for the future remained unshaken throughout his career.

Henry was called the spokesperson for the underdog, but in many ways he is a beacon of hope for all of us. Mr. Speaker, I join in extending my deepest sympathies to his widow, Bertha, their eight children, including our good colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ), and most especially, to the people of the 20th District of Texas who have lost their hero, their staunch, devoted advocate.

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TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE HENRY B. GONZALEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute not only to a fine Member of this House, but also to a friend, Henry B. Gonzalez.

When I think of Henry, I think of the tall redwood trees of California. Henry stood just that tall. He was part of the tall timber of America. As we analogize that to the House of Representatives, a lot of those tall timbers have left this House and this institution, with Henry just having been the last.

When I think of Henry, I think of the personal experiences I had, but most of all, what I conceive his philosophy of life to be. He was a man who held to the statement in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and among those are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Henry was not only a man of this House, a man of Texas, and a great American, but Henry in fact was a man of humanity. I am sure that if Henry's life had extended beyond where it ended and he had the opportunity to survive and offer his leadership, he would have liked to have extended that principle that all men are created equal to all of humanity.

From a personal aspect, I knew Henry in serving in this House for the last 16 years, 14 years with Henry. About 2 or 3 hours of a trip in my district one day with Henry B. Gonzalez was probably the most satisfactory time I have ever spent while I have been in Congress. Henry had that gift of knowing history and not being a revisionist of history, and to tell it as it was as he went through the Johnson-Kennedy years in his early beginnings