

wealth nor leisure, forging a career dedicated to serving his fellow man. Throughout his significant career, Mr. HOUGHTON represented one of the more economically depressed districts in New York State, a fact that never deterred him from trying to improve the economy of the New York Southern Tier. He was a successful businessman before becoming a politician, and it has been said that he would surely have become a missionary, had he not been elected.

AMO HOUGHTON quickly became one of the most beloved Members from either side of the aisle, most likely because of his unifying nature; Mr. HOUGHTON was not one to participate in partisan sniping, always calling for understanding and compromise. Never neglecting any of New York's citizens, he pledged his complete attention and support to those in New York City, the suburbs and many smaller cities and rural communities, like those in his district.

The House will find itself at a loss without the talents and graces of this remarkable man. It will miss his civility and his wisdom, his spirit and determination, but it will be his optimism for our Republic and his respect for the beauty of human life that will be missed most of all.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the career of Representative JACK QUINN, one of the most optimistic Members I have met. I have had the pleasure of serving with JACK since 1993; he is a man who signified the old values of the Republican Party in New York. Mr. QUINN's respect for the working class, fiscal responsibility and civil rights are lasting testaments to his impressive legacy.

It could not have been an easy task in representing the City of Buffalo, which has suffered so many devastating economic downturns over the past few decades, yet Mr. QUINN was constantly re-elected in a district overwhelmingly comprised of registered Democrats. This fact is a tribute to his keen understanding of the needs of his constituents even where they may contradict with the leadership in the House of Representatives.

JACK QUINN is one of those Members for whom no one has a bad word and with whom no one has had a bad experience. He has the range to be comfortable with factory workers to business leaders to Democrats and Republicans alike. His independent nature and policies are deserving of the highest mark of honor; a man of JACK QUINN's poise and positive energy will be sorely missed in the halls of Congress.

#### HONORING DEPARTING TEXANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to say goodbye to six of my colleagues from Texas who will not be returning to this body next year. All of these men have been dedicated patriots who have served the State of Texas and this country with honor and distinction.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) has faced the challenges of serving as the dean of the Texas Democrats for years and has fought to ensure that the rules of this House are fairly enforced.

This Nation's farmers and ranchers have had no better friend or advocate than the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM). He has been our conscience on fiscal responsibility, and I hope that we will take his remarks last night to heart as we begin the budget debate next year.

After the tragic events of 9/11, we created the Select Committee on Homeland Security. As the committee's first ranking member, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), has fought to increase funding for critical infrastructure protection and has brought national attention to the serious manpower and infrastructure shortages along our southern border.

The Texas border region is losing my colleague and good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ), who has worked tirelessly to address the health care crisis that is facing the southern border communities. As the chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus this past year, CIRO RODRIGUEZ has continued to focus national attention on issues important to the Hispanic community.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) has protected our children through his national leadership on the issue of missing and exploited children.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN) has been a strong member of the Blue Dog Caucus and was instrumental in securing our airways through his work on the Aviation Security Act.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I was proud to serve on the Committee on Financial Services with one of my newer members of the Texas delegation, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BELL). He and I worked on legislation which focused on the financial literacy of all people. I appreciate his strong support of my efforts to improve math and science education in this country.

Mr. Speaker, all of these Members from Texas have given invaluable service to this Nation, and the 109th Congress will be poorer for their absence. I wish them all the best.

#### MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, we just finished our elections, and we hear a lot of browbeating and weeping and gnashing of teeth from the other side of the aisle concerning what went wrong. Goodness gracious, what in the world went wrong? We thought we ran a good campaign. We were ready to elect a President, we were ready to take over the House, we were ready to get the majority in the House and the Senate, and none of those things happened.

Of course the pundits are on television every day, 24 hours a day it

seems, talking about exactly what went wrong. And there is a lot of talk, of course, about the issue of moral values, traditional family values, and Christianity. I am sure that that had something to do with it. But I will stand here today, Mr. Speaker, and say to my colleagues that I ran a race in which I won with 57.4 percent against an opponent on the other side of the aisle who I think was a very strong Christian man, a good man, and one who had great values. But he was running on a party platform that did not embrace those traditional values that mean so much to I think middle America and those of us where I come from in Georgia.

But I think it goes beyond that. I think it goes far beyond that. And I would suggest to my friends on the other side of the aisle, as they try to play Monday morning quarterback and figure out what went wrong, to think about issues like medical liability reform and the fact that the Nation, 75 percent or more, the American people in every poll that has ever been done, are very much in favor of medical liability reform. And yet an issue like that, which really should not be a partisan issue, because there is absolutely no reason why access to health care and fixing a broken system should come down along party lines, certainly did become partisan. It did in this body, and it did in the other body.

In March of 2003, the HEALTH Act was passed in this House Chamber, as my colleagues know, and there were Members of the Democratic minority who voted for the bill, but only a few, only a handful, and practically none in the other body. So today, as we stand here going into the 109th Congress and President Bush's second term, we once again have a chance, an even better chance, I think, to get medical liability reform passed because we have increased our margins in the other body.

So there are a lot of reasons you can look back and try to figure out why you lost, but that is one, I think, that my Democrat colleagues need to take a close look at. When this issue comes before us in the 109th, if you want to do something positive, if you want to respond to the will of the American people, this is certainly a great first step. I would encourage my friends on the other side of the aisle and my fellow Republicans in the House and the Members in the other body that it is time. The American people want this. They need it.

Access to health care is hugely important. We are seeing more and more physicians, and I will get to some specific numbers a little later regarding doctors in high-risk specialties, like neurosurgery, emergency room physicians, and OB-GYN, which is my specialty. I think all my colleagues know that in my prior life I practiced medicine for almost 30 years, and as a pro-life OB-GYN physician, delivering those 5,200 babies. Many of my colleagues in that specialty are dropping