

up until this past weekend. After a painful struggle, she's now at peace.

JUANITA and I both came to Congress in 1995. While we were on different sides of the aisle, I always respected her passion for a host of issues, and her willingness to work with the other side to find solutions. At only 68 years of age, it seemed she had many more years of public service ahead of her, and I'm sorry for the loss of a friend and colleague.

JUANITA became a good friend of mine back in 1999, when I was diagnosed with cancer. She made a point of reaching out to me to show her support, and I've always been grateful to her for going out of her way to lend a kind word and a compassionate smile.

Her passing is yet another reminder of how much more work is needed to continue our Nation's War on Cancer, in spite of the progress that's been made so far.

Today we mourn the loss of a friend, and our thoughts and prayers go out to her husband James, and her children and grandchildren.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2045

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise this evening to celebrate the life of my very good friend and colleague, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

I personally have known Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD for over 30 years. Our time together spans back before her days as a Member of this distinguished body when I was member of the Los Angeles Unified School Board and she was there as an administrator and then as a California State legislator. And then on that road she was elected to the Carson City Council.

JUANITA's distinguished life is a life of "firsts." She is the first African American woman in history to chair the Committee on House Administration, which oversees the operation of the House, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institute, and the National Zoo. The Committee on House Administration also oversees all Federal elections. JUANITA worked tire-

lessly to investigate all reports of voter irregularities and voter disenfranchisement. She was one of the first Members of Congress to call for a congressional hearing on reported voting irregularities in the State of Ohio. She played an important role in congressional election reform.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was also the first African-American woman to serve on the Carson City Council and the first to hold the position of chairwoman for two powerful California State Assembly committees in her first term.

Like myself, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD at heart was an educator. After raising five children, JUANITA, at the age of 40, returned to school and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands and a master's degree in educational administration from Cal State L.A.

She spent her early career in the classroom, teaching high school and working at a career center. It is here that JUANITA first demonstrated her ongoing interest in the lives of young people and issues that impact the lives of women and their children. But above all, JUANITA worked tirelessly for all the people in her community. And I want to say, all the people. She was a people person who had an uncanny skill to build and sustain networks.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, JUANITA worked, again, tirelessly to secure much-needed Federal assistance for Southern California's transportation needs, including funding for her passion: for the Alameda Corridor.

JUANITA's passing is a great loss to this institution as well as her constituents and as well as this Nation. She was a great citizen as well as a great person and would have made a lasting and important contribution to this body in her position as House Administration chair. She was making that contribution every single day.

And I would say to her, JUANITA, you missed the caucus. You missed the California Caucus. You missed the Black Caucus.

She said, I am so busy working, I don't have time for the caucuses. She was committed.

And on a personal note, Madam Speaker, when she was sworn in as a Congresswoman in her district, I went there. She had been sworn in here, and when she got up to speak, she said, You know, I was raised on a farm and I married early. And she said, I was so naive, when I had five children one after another, I just knew it was that orange juice, being raised on a farm. So I would tease her. I said, "JUANITA, watch out for the orange juice."

She was one of my closest friends and colleagues. She will be missed. And I want you to know she was raised by a father and her older sisters. She was the youngest. So she said, You know, on a farm we were wealthy. And she said, But it was my father who played the role of both parents. He set down

the principles and values by which I run my life. So in honor of my father, I am adding as my middle name, my maiden name, his last name. So, therefore, she became JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. And if you ever saw her signature, it was one of the most beautiful, graceful signatures. And she always took time to write "JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD." And I would go on correcting people when they said "JUANITA MCDONALD." I said, "No. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD."

So, JUANITA, we celebrate you and we know that you are here in these Chambers today. And to end my piece and allow the others, we did a taping with our voices on it, and at the end we sang to her "Dreamgirls." We will always be dreaming of our JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I join with my colleagues from all across America who have spent much of the evening extolling the virtues of our colleague JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Much has been said, and yet there is much that can, in fact, be added.

As a matter of fact, when I first came to Congress, JUANITA was one of the first persons that my wife and I met. So my wife immediately became a JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD fan. And I said to her, Vera, it is all right for you to be a JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD fan, but don't try to dress like her. We can't afford it.

JUANITA was, in fact, a charming, delightful, snazzy lady, the essence of femininity, but as tough as a nail. As a matter of fact, I don't know if a week went by that I didn't receive some communique from her talking about some issue or explaining something that she had done or something that she had worked on. And as I listened to all of my colleagues talk about her many "firsts," the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council, the first African American woman to render the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address, the first to be named Honorary Curator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, and the first Democratic chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues. Obviously, she was many firsts. And I guess maybe the