

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday we will lay to rest a truly gifted friend, colleague, and public servant, Representative from the California's 37th Congressional District, Juanita Millender-McDonald. So today I would like to pay tribute to her legacy.

In 1997 Glamour Magazine wisely named Congresswoman Millender-McDonald as "one of 11 women who will change the world." And even though she has left us before her time, her very significant and meaningful impact on the world is known.

Although Congresswoman Millender-McDonald has crossed over, her actions will continue to reverberate for us and for generations yet unborn.

We both came to the Congress as a result of special elections in 1996. She came on March 25 and I was sworn in on April 26. As a close colleague, I was proud to see her take the helm of the House Administration Committee, which deemed her the "Mayor of the House of Representatives." And, indeed, she was. In fact, she was the first African American woman to chair a House Committee.

Further, within this committee, she was a leader in addressing issues of voting irregularities and voter disenfranchisement.

I also worked closely with her on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for 11 years. And most recently, as Congress worked with the passage of the SAFETEA-LU bill, a major piece of legislation addressing highways, transit, and other public legislation, she was indeed a strong advocate for her district and for her State.

When I served as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I asked her to serve as the chairperson of the Annual Legislative Weekend, and she did with class.

2003, the year that she served as head of the Annual Legislative Weekend, was a very difficult year for all of us. The caucus had several issues to confront: Widespread unemployment, the war in Iraq, and coping with the negative effects of the Bush administration policies. Still, amidst these tough times, she led a 4-day conference entitled, "Collective Leadership—Challenging a Bold New World."

That conference reenergized our constituencies to fight for that better world that she fought for every day.

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald changed the world by being a pioneer, and she paved a path for many to follow. She was the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council. She was the first to hold the position of chairperson of two very powerful California State Assembly committees, Insurance and Revenue Taxation, in her first term.

Here in Washington she gave a voice to the voiceless by speaking out against genocide in Cambodia, Darfur, and other regions of the world. She also addressed global HIV/AIDS, which was a major issue for her, and she conducted an annual march in her district.

During the 108th Congress, she drafted language that was incorporated into the U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act, which authorized funding to reduce mother-to-child transmissions of HIV/AIDS and gave priority in awarding of funds to organizations focused on family survival.

In the 109th Congress, she introduced legislation to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 that would establish a network of pediatric centers in certain developing countries to provide treatment and care for children with HIV/AIDS. She fought tirelessly for women's rights and empowering women to be all that they can be.

As the first Democratic chair of the Congressional Democratic Caucus for Women's Issues, she led the caucus on two groundbreaking meetings, the first with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to talk about the plight of women globally, and another with the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange to develop strategies for increasing women's investments and net worth.

She also worked to give women who served our country in uniform during wartime the recognition which they richly deserved. In this regard, she initiated the first annual Memorial Day tribute to women in the military at the Women's Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, and led the fight to secure \$15 million for the maintenance of that memorial.

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald did indeed change the world, and she will not be forgotten. My prayers go out to her husband and her family.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE). 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.)

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

(Mr. WYNN 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 Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky 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 gentle-

woman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GOHMERT 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

PLAN B

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, some years ago I heard someone say that the secret to life is how you handle plan B. That resonated with me because so few things in this world go exactly as planned. Tragically, for the 3,300 American soldiers who have lost their lives in Iraq, there will never be a plan B. And for more than 20,000 other soldiers, plan B, sadly, will include a wheelchair, a prosthetic limb, a serious brain injury, or a lifetime of posttraumatic stress disorder. And the even greater tragedy is that the sacrifices of many of those courageous men and women could have been avoided had President Bush had a plan B in Iraq.

Many of us saw this coming back in 2002. It was evident that the President's team was either so brazenly self-confident or so badly misinformed that they never saw the need for an alternative strategy, and certainly not for an exit strategy. And now, 4 years after "mission accomplished," there is still no plan B coming from the White House, only a transparent appeal to the national pride that we must win, without regard to cost or duration, and without the slightest understanding of what a victory might look like.

Last night, this body took an important step in the Iraq tragedy. We set a new direction for our effort because the President has refused to do so. We not only provided the resources requested by the President to ensure the safety of our troops, we added funding needed to fulfill our obligations to those troops who have been wounded in action, and to the veterans who have sacrificed so much for all of us. But more important, we have provided the framework for bringing our troops home.

Like many of my colleagues, I would have preferred a stronger measure. While I have never advocated a fund

cutoff as a way to end our combat activity in Iraq, I would have liked to have forced the redeployment of our troops out of harm's way as soon as reasonably possible. But as our extraordinary Speaker has said, we must not let our search for the perfect become the enemy of the good. And last night we passed a good and reasonable approach to ending the war in Iraq.

The President has said that he will veto this bill, and it is clear to me that after 4 years of refusing help or advice from anyone who has not bought into his policy, he is not about to welcome our assistance now. But he should. This bill provides President Bush with the exit strategy he has never had, but which the American people so desperately want. He would be foolish not to sign it.

POVERTY CRISIS IN AMERICA

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

Ms. LEE. Last year, and I guess also nearly 2 years ago, and really for many of our lives, we have known that there is a poverty crisis in America, which is growing. I think what we saw after the terrible hurricanes was that this gap, of course, is widening between the haves and the have-nots, and it is not only in the gulf coast region, it is throughout our country.

While the hurricanes, especially Hurricane Katrina, exposed the disparity for all to see, the fact is, poverty is not just isolated to the gulf coast; it does exist throughout our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the fact and to remind the country that our land really should be a land of opportunity, but the sad reality is that income inequality continues to grow, and more people are falling into poverty than getting ahead. We are heading in the wrong direction, and we need a national commitment to address the growing poverty crisis in the Nation. That is why this week's release of a report by the Center for American Progress entitled, "From Poverty to Prosperity", a national strategy to cut poverty in half, this is a significant contribution to the efforts of anti-poverty activists, and it is a valuable roadmap for concerned lawmakers, like all of us are.

The report found that not only is poverty in the United States bad, it's getting worse. Just consider the fact that over 37 million Americans, more than the population of my home State, are in poverty, and the number has grown by 5 million since the Bush administration took office. One in eight Americans now live in poverty. Poverty in the United States is far higher than in many other developed nations, and poverty and inequality, of course, here is at an all-time high.

The richest 1 percent of Americans in 2005 held the largest share of the Nation's income since 1929, and at the

same time, the poorest 20 percent held only 3.4 percent of the Nation's income.

The report's recommendations are based on four principles: promoting decent work, promoting opportunity for all; ensuring economic security; and helping people build wealth. Based on these principles, the report offered 12 steps, which include raising the minimum wage and indexing it to inflation, expanding the earned income and children's tax credits, promoting unionization by making it easier for employees to vote to join a union, offering child care assistance for low-income families, guaranteeing early education for all, and providing 2 million people with opportunity housing vouchers.

Madam Speaker, you may have noticed that the new Democratic Congress has taken steps toward enacting these recommendations. Additionally, many of my colleagues have been advocating for related poverty alleviation issues and ideas and strategies through the Out-of-Poverty Caucus that I founded, along with my colleagues, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, Congressman BUTTERFIELD, Congressman MIKE HONDA, and Congressman JOE BACA.

In the same vein, I have also introduced a comprehensive package of poverty elimination legislation. These three bills are designed to create leadership, accountability, and the national reevaluation of our economic priorities and developing policies to eliminate poverty in our Nation.

The first bill, H. Con. Res 19, calls on President Bush to submit to Congress a plan, this is just a plan, mind you, to eradicate poverty by 2015.

The second bill, H. Con. Res 10, requires accountability from Congress by requiring the Congressional Budget Office to report the poverty impact of legislation pending before Congress similar to environmental impact statements.

The final bill, H.R. 352, demands a reevaluation of our priorities by rolling back tax cuts for the wealthiest 5 percent and dedicating the funds to poverty elimination programs.

Madam Speaker, fighting poverty really isn't a mystery, it's just not a priority for us, and it's time to make it a national priority. It just requires us to make a commitment to the goal of eliminating poverty and then dedicate the resources to do that.

So I urge my colleagues to join me in this important fight by reading the report, first of all, and cosponsoring these bills and joining the Out-of-Poverty Caucus.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ENGEL (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of a family emergency.

Mr. ETHERIDGE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. SPRATT (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. REYES) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. REYES, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. YARMUTH, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PRICE of Georgia) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, May 3.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1681. An act to amend the Congressional Charter of The American National Red Cross to modernize its governance structure, to enhance the ability of the board of governors of The American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of The American National Red Cross in the 21st century, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 30, 2007 at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1310. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 04-07, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

1311. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 05-07, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1312. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State,