

they house the B-1. And he has been my compass in this House on military issues.

He has also been, as Rev. CLEAVER said, a brother to me. I had two sisters, too, IKE. I never had a brother, but if I could ever identify somebody as a brother, it would be you. I know I will miss you. I will miss your guidance, I will miss your mentoring.

We have truly witnessed a legislative giant in our midst. You have done your job, you have done it quite well. I know this won't be the last time that we see each other and I know that you will frequently visit us, but for the Missouri delegation, you were there for all of us.

He was the senior member of the Missouri delegation and never hesitated to call us together. We have so much cohesion as a State because of his leadership. I appreciate that, IKE. I appreciate how you have taken me under your wing and given me guidance here, and I will love you for it for the rest of my life. As the saying goes, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." But you won't be fading too far.

I love you, IKE SKELTON. God bless you, and God bless the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO IKE SKELTON

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

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to be here this evening to honor a great American. I have had the privilege of traveling throughout the world with IKE SKELTON. One of my first trips was with IKE SKELTON. We went to the Far East. We had Thanksgiving with our troops at the DMZ in South Korea. Subsequent to that, we also took a trip to Bosnia several times, spent one Easter with the troops. So many memories of trips to visit the troops and their families to look at the facilities, to make sure they had all the equipment they needed to have, all the support that we could possibly have been able to give them on the committee.

I have had the privilege and honor of visiting IKE's district in Missouri, and I invited Chairman SKELTON to come to El Paso. I grew up in a little town right outside of El Paso by the name of Canutillo. The main street of this little town was Doniphan Drive. Never did I dream that I had grown up in this environment with a direct connection to Missouri, because when IKE SKELTON came to my district, he immediately recognized the connection. He said, This street was named after Colonel Alexander Doniphan, who was a Missourian and came to Texas to save Texas. Immediately a connection there.

Chairman IKE SKELTON is, in my eyes, a professor of history, a professor of, particularly, military history. We all famously have a list of recommended readings from IKE SKELTON.

I have to confess I haven't read all those books yet, but I am working on it. It gives you a better understanding; but for me, it gives me a unique perspective on who the man, IKE SKELTON, is.

I couldn't agree more with my colleagues here this evening in paying tribute to a great American, a giant that has served this institution with dignity, with honor, with great passion, and with great love and care for our military men and women and for their families.

IKE, it has been a tremendous honor to serve with you. I have learned so much from you that I think, by any measure, if there is a new Member coming here, my recommendation would be to emulate the great Chairman IKE SKELTON.

Thank you. And thanks to the people of Missouri for sharing you for over three decades of great public service to this great country. For me, an honor; for this country, an American legend. Thank you, IKE.

God bless you, and God bless this country.

A TRIBUTE TO IKE SKELTON

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to just add my voice to these remarks this evening about our friend and colleague, IKE SKELTON of Missouri.

He first came to this Congress in 1976 with my predecessor, Congressman Dick Gephardt. That was the first year I voted, 1976. I was a senior in high school that year. And to watch him grow in leadership to become what I believe is really a national treasure—his voice advocating for American troops and their families, his leadership on national readiness for current conflicts and future conflicts that we may face—has really been unparalleled.

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We respect his leadership and what he has done for the strength of this country. In Missouri, he has been a leader. He has been the dean of our delegation.

I had the honor to work with him. I also had the honor to travel with him to visit our troops in Kosovo and elsewhere. And we've seen what he's done to transform two vital military facilities in Missouri—Whiteman Air Force Base and Fort Leonard Wood—to become what they are today.

He's not only a student of history, but he has been a great teacher and a great mentor. He's been a family friend. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with him, to call him "colleague," but also to see his example for public service. He has been a model for what public service is all about.

I know that he has several chapters left to write for what he does to give back to this country and our great State, and we look forward to seeing those for years and years to come.

Best wishes to you, my friend.

HONORING IKE SKELTON

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I rise today to say thank you, thank you to IKE for being such a great mentor, for taking me under your wing, for telling me a little bit about what it was like for you when you chaired the Personnel Committee a number of years ago. And I think you told me that early on, when I came onto the Armed Services Committee, but it was a few years later when I actually had the great honor of chairing that subcommittee. And then I felt such an incredible burden because I thought, you know, IKE has done this before, and how could I live up to who he had been and the way he had cared for the troops and their families and kind of got through some of the really tough times, because when you deal with those issues, you know that you're going to be looking, wanting to do everything in the world when you can't, when there are limits to what you can do.

And I just really remember you telling me about that and letting me know, get in there, but you better do a good job, he said. I want you to do a good job. I don't want you to screw it up. And so I certainly had that burden.

But more than anything else, IKE, you are such a splendid gentleman, and we use the word kind of loosely here. Sometimes I think we often say "to the gentleman from" whatever State that might be. You are the gentleman. You are the epitome of what we all believe to be someone who serves in this body and who cares so deeply and who has such strong principles and who teaches us all. And I think we all want to live up to that standard you set. It's not easy, and you made it really hard for everybody to do that, but I think we all strive for that the best we can.

I know that I didn't have an opportunity to be in your district, but you came to my district. And you and your late wife, Susie, were there, and we had just the most marvelous evening.

I remember I was then at an event that you spoke at, and I remember looking around the room and everybody was just, you know, transfixed, really, on your words. You were telling one of those stories and it went on forever, but that didn't seem to bother anybody. They were just delighted to be in your company and to hear you speak and to hear the way you interacted with all the people in the room, but telling those stories. President Truman, of course, came into that story and your father.