



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1996

No. 57

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. WELLER].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 30, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable JERRY WELLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] for 5 minutes.

IN HONOR OF SAM GIBBONS

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor Congressman SAM GIBBONS on the occasion of his retirement at the end of this year. Even before SAM was elected to Congress in 1962, he already had a long and distinguished career. Serving 17 terms in Congress was a fine way for SAM to finish off his remarkable career in public life. Although, I am sure he is not going to disappear. I hear that SAM is gearing up to teach, among other things—not surprising for a man who has spent his whole life serving his country in one way or another.

SAM is most treasured as a hero of World War II. He earned the Bronze Star after parachuting into Normandy on the night before D-day.

SAM served for 10 years in the Florida House of Representatives. One of his proudest accomplishments was passing legislation that created the University of South Florida. Today, SAM is proud to be recognized as the "Father of the University of South Florida."

In the Florida Senate, where he served for 4 years, SAM GIBBONS helped establish Florida's regional water management districts. These districts are important because they have enabled us to repair, maintain, and preserve our precious water resources, not just for our current enjoyment, but for Florida's future as well.

So, when SAM GIBBONS marched into Congress in 1962, he was quite accomplished in many areas of policy. And he went on to tackle Congress in grand style. As a junior Member of Congress in 1965, SAM GIBBONS was chosen by President Johnson to shepherd important legislation such as Job Corps and Head Start through Congress. SAM secured a seat on the coveted Ways and Means Committee and became chairman of its Trade Subcommittee in 1981. One of SAM's finest hours was shepherding NAFTA and GATT through Ways and Means to final passage.

In early 1994, when he became the acting chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, SAM GIBBONS was instrumental in passing a health care reform bill through his committee. Later that year, SAM worked tirelessly to protect Medicare, Medicaid, and welfare from the chopping block.

SAM is also a family man. SAM and his darling wife Martha celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year. His three sons Clifford, Tim, and Mark, his three daughters-in-law, and his five grandchildren will benefit from our loss when SAM returns home to Florida at the end of this year.

SAM has been our leader, SAM has been our mentor, SAM has been our friend. SAM, thank you for all that you have done for Florida, and for our Nation.

In the Bible, there is a passage "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith." SAM GIBBONS has been fighting the good fight, and he has kept the faith. We are so proud of you, SAM. You have been our leader and you have been our friend.

I have a token that I want to give SAM and his wife. SAM, would you come down, please?

A tiny token of our appreciation to you and from me personally as being my mentor when I arrived here.

Mr. GIBBONS. Thank you so much.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. God bless you, SAM, and God bless America.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor today that I rise today to pay tribute to our colleague, SAM GIBBONS of Florida. For 33 years, SAM has stood proudly as a Member of the House of Representatives representing the 11th district of Florida and he will be missed by all for his integrity and dedication to the people of Tampa and to this institution, the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, although every American has a different definition of an hero, I think that most Members of the House would agree with me that SAM GIBBONS has qualities that would qualify him as a great American hero to each and every American.

To some, a hero is defined as a military man who distinguishes himself in battle. As a young captain in 1944, SAM was with 12,000 members of the 101st Airborne who parachuted into German-occupied France, providing key support for the invasion at Normandy on D-day which earned him the Bronze Star.

To some, a hero is someone who has established himself as a leader of men. And if his military service is not enough to prove this, his career in the House of Representatives

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H4121

and Florida Legislature has. As a young member of the then Education and Labor Committee, SAM GIBBONS was chosen to floor manage the Great Society legislation, including the Head Start Program, for President Johnson. Almost 30 years later, as chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, he was able to muster enough support for a health bill that no one thought was ever possible.

To others, being a hero means standing up for what you believe in, no matter what the odds are against you. In my years of Congress, I have not witnessed SAM compromise his views or do something in which he did not believe. His powerful voice resonating in support of the elderly, the children, and veterans will always be heard in the hallways of the U.S. Capitol.

And to others, being a hero, means being a good husband and father. For almost 50 years, SAM has been married to Martha Hanley and they have three sons who have married and have blessed SAM and Martha with five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I close by wishing the best for a great American hero, SAM GIBBONS, as he and his family embark on new endeavors together. SAM has been a great friend to me during my tenure in the House of Representatives and I will miss him greatly.

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to SAM GIBBONS who is retiring from Congress at the end of this year. SAM GIBBONS has served the people of Florida for over 50 years, including 34 in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 11th Congressional District of Florida.

A patriot and dedicated public servant, Mr. GIBBONS was an officer in the U.S. Army force that liberated France and brought about the end of World War II. He parachuted behind enemy lines during Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Normandy on D-day. For his bravery in the service he was honored with the Bronze Star. The young SAM GIBBONS found in military service not only a pride in serving his country, but a philosophy to end war through economic pragmatism. Energized against war from his combat experience, he came to believe that countries which trade together would not fight each other. It was this interest in the benefits of an open, global economy that subsequently guided SAM GIBBONS as a champion of free and fair trade during his congressional career.

SAM GIBBONS has constantly worked to meet the needs of his constituents and improve the lives of Americans during his legislative career. While serving in the Florida legislature, he championed historic legislation that created the University of South Florida and enacted legislation to establish Florida's regional water management districts. SAM GIBBONS was an early advocate of urban-renewal and drafted Florida's first successful urban-renewal initiative.

In the U.S. Congress, he crafted legislation to allow Americans over the age of 55 to protect from taxation capital gains earned from the sale of their primary homes. SAM GIBBONS was personally selected by President Johnson as House floor manager of the Great Society legislation, and he successfully navigated the anti-poverty initiatives—which included Head Start—through Congress.

In 1994, SAM GIBBONS became chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and worked diligently to enact President Clinton's

health care reform plan. In the course of this struggle, SAM demonstrated his ability to run the committee in a collegial and competent manner. During the 104th Congress, as the ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, SAM GIBBONS was an influential leader of the House Democrats in defending Medicare and other important programs.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in honoring SAM GIBBONS as a true public servant. This institution will be diminished by his departure. However, we are enriched by the legacy he will leave. His career is truly a model of public service to be emulated by Members of Congress for years to come. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues tonight to pay tribute to a great Congressman and a good friend, SAM GIBBONS. Many of us have heard SAM tell about the night he parachuted into Normandy with the 101st Airborne. That story typifies SAM and the quality his colleagues have come to value most in him: his courage. In the hedgerows of Normandy or on the House floor, SAM is willing to stand and fight for what he believes.

Throughout his career, on issue after issue, SAM has shown tremendous fortitude. He has never backed down from the principles and values he believes in.

As a World War II veteran and a student of its history, SAM came to understand the critical role of international trade in promoting not only economic well-being but long-lasting peace. He has worked for that vision of peace and plenty throughout his career. As chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, he has worked tirelessly—and successfully—to bring about a fair, open, and free world trade regime. From the Caribbean Basin Initiative to GATT, from customs modernization to a whole range of bilateral agreements, SAM has been in the forefront of every issue. In my own State of Connecticut, where the healthiest part of our economy is the segment that is involved in international trade, there are any number of people and companies whose economic well-being is directly tied to SAM's efforts. And that same story is being repeated around the country.

But I would like to conclude by offering SAM a word of thanks from another group—the Democrats who served with him on Ways and Means. He took over as chairman under difficult circumstances, and became ranking member under circumstances even more difficult. But he led us when we were in the majority, and he kept us on track when we were in the minority. His dedication to our party's principles, his commitment to fair treatment for all Americans, and his confidence about America's economic future have inspired us. On behalf of my colleagues in the committee, I would like to thank SAM GIBBONS for all he has done—for us, for this institution, and for his country.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and admiration that I rise today to pay the highest tribute to my longtime colleague and friend, Representative SAM GIBBONS of the 11th Congressional District of Florida. On this day to celebrate one of America's true military and political heroes, it is only proper that we take time to reflect upon Representative GIBBONS' dedicated service to his district, his State, and his country.

Looking over his record, of 17 terms, you have to be impressed with not only his successes but also with his battles. A listing of Representative GIBBONS' experience and accomplishments is long and impressive, but I will not try to list them all, we'd be here too long.

It is well known that he parachuted into German-occupied Normandy in World War II on the night before D-day. He won the Bronze Star for his service in that major military campaign. Representative GIBBONS has long credited his experiences as a captain in the 501st Parachute Infantry/101st Airborne Division with shaping his fundamental beliefs that have guided him in his public service first in the Florida State Legislature and then in the United States Congress.

Representative GIBBONS' service in Congress has not been quite as hazardous as parachuting into Normandy, even though he would probably agree that there have been several equally long nights preparing for and fighting battles here in the House of Representatives.

Those of us who have served with him in the House of Representatives, and those of us who have had the honor of working with him to craft legislation and compromise, we know SAM GIBBONS as a man of understated wisdom, dedication, integrity, professionalism, and humility.

Since in the mid-1960's when President Lyndon Johnson tapped Representative GIBBONS to be the floor manager for the President's Great Society program, Representative GIBBONS, a son of the South, could talk about the needs of the vulnerable in our society for early education and early child development programs like Head Start. He has demonstrated that a Member with deep convictions, and from the deep South, could be for voting rights and still be re-elected, over and over again.

Representative GIBBONS has a reputation as being a defender of free trade, believing strongly that countries and communities that trade with each other don't fight each other. Some have even called him one of the founders of GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and it cannot be disputed that Representative GIBBONS provided zealous leadership in the negotiations for the development of the GATT.

I had the pleasure of working closely with Representative GIBBONS when he chaired the Ways and Means Committee, and we worked together to craft the Democratic health care reform legislation in the 103d Congress. Representative GIBBONS continues to lead the way toward responsible social and fiscal policy as ranking minority member of the House Ways and Means Committee in this 104th Congress.

Representative GIBBONS represents a district in Florida that some believe is bounded by Disney World and the Gulf of Mexico. That is only partly true. Hailing from southern Hillsborough County, FL, Representative GIBBONS' district is as diverse as America itself.

Representative GIBBONS has a well deserved reputation for creating dialog among parties as diverse as students, shipbuilder, cigar industry workers, and the phosphate mining companies. Large retirement communities call on Representative GIBBONS to be ever vigilant in his shepherding of the Medicare and other social programs.

Mr. Speaker, Representative SAM GIBBONS is truly a representative of his constituents,

often leading where needed. I have been and am proud to serve with him and am pleased to offer my voice to honor him on this day.

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, we are coming to the floor to honor one of the true giants of the House of Representatives, SAM GIBBONS of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, our society often laments the shortage of heroes and positive role models for young people in America.

You don't need to look further than SAM GIBBONS to find both.

For more than 44 years, SAM GIBBONS has sacrificed for his country and represented his fellow citizens honestly and faithfully on both the State and Federal level. He has played an important role in some of the most significant events of the century, from the D-day invasion to the creation of Medicare and Head Start.

Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of SAM GIBBONS are the accomplishments of America. SAM went about doing great things with very little fanfare, and a large dose of humility. Every American living today and those not yet born will live longer, healthier, and more productive lives because of the quiet excellence of Congressman SAM GIBBONS.

Mr. Speaker, SAM GIBBONS established himself as a leader early in life.

More than 50 years ago, SAM GIBBONS was a skinny 24-year-old captain in the 501st Parachute Infantry.

In the dark, pre-dawn hours of June 6, SAM began the long and treacherous campaign to wrest control of Europe from Hitler's iron grasp by parachuting through thick machine gun fire and behind German lines near Normandy, France.

Realizing he was alone and miles from his planned drop point, SAM nonetheless quickly determined his position, picked up other Americans along the way and carried out his mission to capture French towns and prevent reinforcements from reaching German troops battling the allied invasion at Normandy.

Mr. Speaker, SAM GIBBONS helped D-day succeed by carrying out his mission. For his bravery and valor, he was awarded the Bronze Star.

SAM's career in public service began with his election to the Florida House of Representatives in 1952. While there, he passed landmark legislation creating the University of South Florida. In 1958, he was elected to the Florida Senate and enacted the law to establish Florida's regional water management districts.

Soon after coming to Congress in 1962, SAM played a pivotal role in the passage of landmark social legislation. President Lyndon Johnson appointed the junior Congressman as floor manager for much of his Great Society program, including Head Start, still recognized as one of the most successful and cost-effective programs of the Federal Government.

Just like in World War II, SAM GIBBONS was in the trenches fighting for the passage of Medicare and Medicaid, because he understood the fundamental fairness and need to maintain a minimum level of health care for every American.

And when the Republican leadership tried to significantly weaken Medicare by cutting \$270 billion, SAM GIBBONS didn't just roll over, he shouted so that all of America could hear. He told the truth about what deep cuts to the program would do. He woke up Americans with the facts and they started calling their Rep-

resentatives. SAM GIBBONS made people understand that the fight over Medicare was not an academic one, it involved the future of the program 37 million people and their families depend on and care deeply about. The Republican cuts to Medicare didn't go through, and SAM GIBBONS was a big reason why.

Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened when I heard that SAM GIBBONS had decided to retire from Congress. He is my friend, my teacher and a man with so much more to give to this institution. But I know that life goes on, and for SAM, there will be many new challenges and adventures ahead. To SAM and his wonderful wife, Martha, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year, I offer my heartfelt wishes for continued happiness and success.

SAM, the House just won't be the same place without you.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding public servant and good friend, Congressman SAM GIBBONS. I was saddened to hear of his retirement; however, after such an illustrious career, his legacy will live on in this Chamber.

He answered his country's call to service both at home and abroad. At a tender age, he joined the U.S. Army and served with distinction during World War II. For 5 years, he fought courageously against tyranny with the 501st Parachute Infantry/101st Airborne Division. As part of the initial assault landing force on D-day, SAM parachuted onto Normandy beach. He earned a Bronze Star for his bravery on that historic day.

Shortly after the war, he entered State politics and was instrumental in establishing the University of South Florida. On November 6, 1962, the people of Florida's 11th District elected SAM GIBBONS to the U.S. House of Representatives. Since the 88th Congress, he has been an advocate of free trade and a friend to children, seniors, and the disadvantaged.

I served with him from 1965 to 1977, and together we joined in the great achievements of this era such as the creation of Head Start and the enactment of Medicare. Although he served a pivotal role in passing sweeping legislation back then, perhaps his greatest fight was in the 104th Congress. His powerful speeches in defense of programs for the elderly and children exemplified his ardent commitment to those who are powerless in our society.

I will never forget SAM's fiery contributions to the debate on my welfare substitute last March. He fought tirelessly during the heated discussion. His presence on the floor helped gain control as the issue generated passionate remarks from both sides of the aisle. Although the substitute failed, I will always appreciate SAM's support. The record will show his undying compassion for America's children.

Yes, this Chamber will miss SAM GIBBONS, but his retirement is well deserved. From the beaches of Normandy to the U.S. Congress, he dedicated a virtual lifetime to making this country a better place. He has gained my respect and admiration. For his accomplishments and devotion, he will be remembered as the essence of a public servant. My best wishes to you and your family, SAM.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the distinguished gentlelady from Florida, Representative CORRINE BROWN, and members of the Florida congressional del-

egation, for hosting today's special order. We are privileged to join him in paying tribute to SAM GIBBONS, the dean of their delegation and our good friend and mentor.

Once in a great while, we in the House of Representatives witness the loss of an institution within this institution. Today represents such an occasion. For 34 years, SAM GIBBONS has served in the Halls of Congress. Throughout his tenure, he has been a passionate advocate for the citizens of our Nation. Indeed, he has represented the Eleventh Congressional District of Florida with the highest level of integrity and commitment. As one of the longest-serving Members of Congress, SAM GIBBONS is a shining example of public service at its very best. I am proud to join my colleagues in reflecting upon his remarkable career.

Mr. Speaker, SAM GIBBONS began his political rise with his election to the Florida House of Representatives in 1952. Four years later, in 1958, he was elected to the Florida Senate. The highlight of his political career came in 1962 when Florida residents selected SAM GIBBONS to represent their interests in the Halls of Congress. It was an outstanding choice for the State of Florida and the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, SAM GIBBONS brought to the U.S. Congress the drive and determination to represent citizens who are often voiceless in the legislative deliberations. In the mid-1960's, while still only a junior Congressman, President Lyndon Johnson appointed SAM GIBBONS as floor manager for much of his Great Society program. SAM GIBBONS successfully navigated the antipoverty package, which included the Head Start Program, through the Congress. He has also been a staunch supporter of pension reform, and he has played a pivotal role throughout his congressional career in shaping the Nation's tax laws.

Mr. Speaker, SAM GIBBONS has served with distinction as a ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Joint Committee on Taxation. For 13 years, he served as chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade. In this position, SAM has advocated his position on open markets and fair trade. SAM GIBBONS also guides the 23-member Florida congressional delegation where his political insight and legislative skills have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss SAM GIBBONS when he departs the Congress at the end of this legislative session. However, he has created a legacy of outstanding public service that will stand for many years to come. I extend my good wishes to SAM, his lovely wife of 49 years, Martha, and members of the Gibbons family. We congratulate our good friend, SAM GIBBONS, and we wish him many, many years of happiness and good health.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the gentleman from Florida, Mr. SAM GIBBONS, who has distinguished himself over the past 34 years in the House of Representatives through outstanding service to the people of the United States.

Mr. GIBBONS is a World War II hero who parachuted into Normandy on D-day as part of the 101st Airborne. After serving his country in the war, he began his political career while practicing law.

Mr. GIBBONS entered the Florida State House in 1952; 6 years later, he was elected to the State senate. For the past 34 years, he

had admirably served in the House of Representatives for the Tampa area.

Mr. GIBBONS' legislative successes include floor-managing President Lyndon Johnson's antipoverty package, which contained Head Start and other programs.

Throughout his years in public service, SAM GIBBONS has been an unwavering advocate for the least fortunate in our society. He has admirably remained true to his values and principles even in the face of sharp opposition and criticism.

On behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's ninth district, we thank Mr. SAM GIBBONS for his outstanding service.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, it was with great regret that I learned of the retirement of Representative SAM GIBBONS. One of our most esteemed Members, and the dean of the Florida delegation, SAM GIBBONS has decided to retire after spending 34 years working on behalf of America's families.

As a young man, SAM GIBBONS won the Bronze Star for parachuting into Normandy during World War II. After the war, he became a lawyer and served in both the Florida State House and Senate before being elected to Congress.

During his tenure in Congress, SAM GIBBONS has worked to enact meaningful legislation concerning Medicare, Medicaid, pension reform, and trade. In fact, SAM GIBBONS was the floor manager during the 1960's for President Johnson's antipoverty package, which created Head Start and the Job Corps among other programs.

In addition, as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in 1994, SAM guided a new world trade pact, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, through House passage.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in the House with Representative GIBBONS. Clearly, SAM's hard work and dedication to public service have improved the lives of all Americans, and he will be sorely missed. I wish him well in his retirement.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to a man who is a living symbol of what is good about this country. Next January, Congress will lose a fine man and a true fighter who has spent his entire life serving his country in one capacity or another. I want to join my colleagues in wishing Congressman SAM GIBBONS the best of luck.

Congressman GIBBONS recently announced that he will not seek reelection to another term in Congress. While he will be missed by many Members, he has left an indelible mark on the Congress and his own personal imprint on the history of our country.

SAM GIBBONS began his service to his country long before he entered public life and the political arena. In 1944, He parachuted behind German lines into Normandy as part of the Allied Forces that led the United States to victory in World War II. He was awarded a bronze star for his service.

In 1953, he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives, serving in that capacity for 6 years. As a State representative, he helped bring the University of South Florida, one of the finest institutions of higher learning in our State, to his Tampa District. He was elected to the State Senate in 1959.

He began walking the halls of Congress in 1963 and immediately established himself as a prominent voice fighting for the interests of his constituents.

He also played an instrumental role in securing Federal money for the building of the sunshine skyway bridge—one of the true architectural marvels in our beautiful State.

Mr. Speaker, having known SAM for many years, I can tell you that he is genuinely concerned for the welfare of his constituents. While we have often not agreed about certain issues, I have always known that SAM deeply cares about the people he represents—and I respect him for that.

I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating him on his outstanding service to his country and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, in the last 18 months, Democrats like SAM GIBBONS and myself have found our voices in taking on the reactionary and extremist behavior we have seen coming to the fore in this institution. Some may think SAM is retiring at a time when his voice is vital to the rejuvenation of our party. Let me tell you a little bit about the history SAM GIBBONS has created during his tenure as a Florida Congressman.

Since 1965, SAM GIBBONS has been a tireless advocate for the Nation's elderly. We both voted for Medicare during its inception in 1965 and have continued to fight for its funding especially today when the Republicans want to cut it to fund their wealthy tax break. I remember when SAM was floor manager during Lyndon Johnson's Great Society legislation which included programs like Head Start and the Job Corps.

As the chairman and now ranking member on the House Ways and Means Committee I had the honor of working closely with SAM as his committee oversaw the Medicare trust fund and Commerce oversaw Medicaid and part of Medicare.

I have watched SAM GIBBONS grow from a Florida freshman to a virtual institution and a recognized leader in his party. This Congress will not be the same without you. It will have been 34 years since I last knew this institution without SAM GIBBONS and I am saddened to return to that time.

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor SAM M. GIBBONS, a long-time friend. He is now retiring after serving in the House of Representatives for 34 years. He has served the Tampa Bay area well these many years, and his departure will sadden those of us who have served with him and those he has represented.

SAM has been a stalwart member of the Ways and Means Committee since 1969, and he served as chair of the Subcommittee on Trade from 1981 through 1994. In that role, he championed open markets and free and fair trade around the globe, and his accomplishments have been hailed both on the international and the domestic fronts. He became ranking minority member in 1994 and showed the Republican majority that he was not afraid to stand up to them.

The work done by SAM on the domestic front is close to my own heart. SAM helped to guide President Lyndon Johnson's antipoverty package through Congress in the mid-1960's, and is largely responsible for the Head Start Program, which has nurtured young children from poor backgrounds in preparation for school ever since. This is one of the major accomplishments of the war against poverty.

His social conscience will leave a great legacy for years to come. SAM bravely supported

the Voting Rights Act of 1965, helping to dismantle the artificial barriers that kept African-Americans from exercising their constitutional right to vote. He not only supported, but enhanced the anti-apartheid bill that helped to end the apartheid regime of South Africa. He also cosponsored the civil rights restoration bill of 1990.

I have the utmost respect for SAM. I respect his insight into the complex problems of our day and his sound judgment. He is principled, fighting for both personal and party principles. He is feisty and tenacious in pursuing his goals. He would not tolerate distorted exaggerations of the truth, particularly about the state of the poor in America. I will miss him and his leadership. I wish him a most happy retirement.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this time to honor Congressman SAM GIBBONS for his service to his State and his country. I want to congratulate him on his achievements as a Representative and on his decision to retire.

After his 17 terms in office, it goes without saying that he will be missed. I am sure most of you will agree that the House Ways and Means Committee will not be the same after he leaves.

Before becoming a Member of Congress, SAM had already proven himself to be a man of honor and courage. His life has been filled with moments that showed his true merit from parachuting into Normandy during D-day, where he earned the bronze star, to the 10 years of duty in the Florida Legislature.

It was due in large part to his work in the Florida Legislature that the University of South Florida was created, and it is why today he is known as "The father of the University of South Florida."

Which leads us to his 34 years of service here in the U.S. House of Congress. As a member of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee and the Joint Committee on Taxation, he has left his mark on many of the bills passed through Congress. It has been because of his tenacity that bills ranging from Project Head Start to international trade agreements have been moved from committee to law.

I want to reiterate what a pleasure it has been to know SAM and his wife, Martha, and their three sons, Clifford, Tim, and Mark. I have enjoyed serving with him over the years, and I especially enjoyed attending the 40th and 50th anniversary of D-day in Europe with him.

I wish him all the best in his retirement, but I have my suspicions that his face will not just disappear off the scene. He has too much experience in areas that are crucial to the running of this country. I am sure he will pop in now and again to keep the social issues he has worked so hard on headed in the right direction.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my retiring colleague and friend, the Honorable SAM GIBBONS of Florida.

SAM and I have served together on the Ways and Means Committee since 1993. Though I have only had the privilege of working closely with him for the last 3 of his 34 years in Congress, I have quickly come to value his hard work and dedication. The committee has benefited greatly from his years of experience working on behalf of economic growth and fairness for all Americans.

Even in the early days of his congressional career, Representative GIBBONS was a tireless champion of efforts to help the poorest among us. It was under his leadership and guidance that antipoverty initiatives such as Head Start were successfully steered through the House. In his more recent service as acting chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, he committed himself to efforts to ensure that all Americans would have good health care. In this, the 104th Congress, he has continued this long tradition of leadership as ranking member and leader of the Democrats on my committee.

I know that my Ways and Means colleagues and I will certainly miss SAM GIBBONS. His leadership, companionship, good humor, and fierce commitment to what he believes is right make him a valued ally whose presence will be sorely missed.

SAM GIBBONS, A LEGEND IN FLORIDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MILLER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, after my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN], spoke and read passages from the Bible, I thought we should be in the great rotunda or something. We are here to praise SAM, not to bury SAM. SAM is going to be around for a lot longer, both here in this session of Congress but also, of course, I think here in Washington with family here, and also back in the Tampa area.

My congressional district in Florida adjoins SAM's. I was an undergraduate at the University of Florida when he first came here in 1962. You know about SAM. He is a legend in our area. When I first had the opportunity to come to Congress in 1992, I remember meeting SAM and he would introduce me. We would have Florida gatherings, and he would say, "I am so glad that DAN MILLER now has Sun City, Florida."

Sun City is an area that SAM actually helped develop as an area of large retirement communities in south Hillsborough County. They are very Republican oriented and they were not the Great Society Democrat supporters, so they are great for me as a Republican but they always gave you a lot of trouble, I know.

Ms. BROWN was giving us some of the great things that you accomplished, whether it is Head Start and Job Corps or NAFTA and GATT and such. People do not understand our area and some of the great contributions that you have made, and I think I need to bring it to the attention.

You made the contribution to allow golf carts to cross the State highway in Sun City. That is how people get around, is driving golf carts. Instead of having two cars in every garage, you have one car and one golf cart, and it was against the law to have golf carts across the highway until SAM GIBBONS

got involved. I do not think that rates in the category of Head Start, but it is something that you have been helping with the community and the area for a long, long time.

SAM and I do not necessarily agree on all the issues. We have a lot of things we do agree on, and I do respect SAM for believing in an issue and he stands for it. I can tell you two issues in the past couple of years that had strong bipartisan support, and very controversial issues, that SAM was willing to stand up and talk about it and take a stand regardless of what anyone else said within his party or such.

One is NAFTA and GATT. The Florida delegation, 23 strong, we held back, 22 of us, on doing anything on NAFTA and GATT. SAM was right out front all along, saying NAFTA is an important issue for world trade and for our growing economy in this world economy of ours, so he was a leader on that. He did not care that it was not that popular in some areas of Florida, but SAM was willing to stand up and debate that issue.

Another issue, one recently that I was involved in, was the issue of sugar. Sugar is a powerful factor in the State of Florida and a powerful influence. I, along with CHUCK SCHUMER on the Democratic side, led the drive to do away with the sugar program, very controversial. SAM was the only Democrat to stand up and speak on the floor of the House for that particular piece of legislation. We only had half of the Republicans support the legislation, but SAM was willing to stand up there and take a stand.

Last week we had a hearing in Ways and Means talking about a tomato issue and 22 of us signed a letter, but SAM felt strong enough on the issue to say that "I am not going to sign just because all of you all signed it." The point was his basic philosophy on trade and trade issues. I respect and admire SAM for taking that stand.

I also thank SAM for, as a newcomer coming to Washington and never involved in politics, how you and Martha were always so nice to us. We shared a lot of flights to and from Tampa. Your wife has been nice to my wife Glenda, and you have been to me.

And here as a chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, and I was a lowly freshman Republican, you were always friendly and supportive and talkative in sharing your thoughts and ideas with me, and reminiscences. We will miss you. We will look forward to the next 4 months, and I am sure I will see a lot of you in the next years. Congratulations, SAM.

TRIBUTE TO SAM GIBBONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BEVILL] is recognized during morning business for 1 minute.

Mr. BEVILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my long-time

friend and colleague, SAM GIBBONS of Florida.

I was sorry to hear that SAM has decided not to seek reelection in November. I had hoped that he would stay to continue giving our Nation the benefit of his wisdom and leadership.

But, after 34 years of outstanding service in the House of Representatives, SAM certainly deserves a well-earned retirement.

I want to thank SAM for being such a good friend to me over the years. I have certainly enjoyed working with him. And, I also want to thank him for his service to our Nation and to the people of Florida.

SAM is a true hero in my book. His bravery during the D-day invasion of German-occupied France is legendary. One of 12,000 paratroopers who landed behind enemy lines, SAM was awarded the Bronze Star for his World War II service.

He is a dedicated patriot and a dedicated public servant. SAM GIBBONS cares about people and about improving their quality of life. He spearheaded the drive to pass Lyndon Johnson's antipoverty programs in 1965 and he has been a champion for the poor, the elderly and for children ever since.

As chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee in the 103d Congress and as its ranking Democrat in this Congress, SAM has played a key role on critical issues such as health care reform, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and free trade.

SAM has served this body with integrity and deep commitment. He has stayed true to his values and true to the American people.

SAM, I salute you as you approach the end of your congressional career. Your accomplishments are many. They will always be remembered and appreciated.

I wish you and your lovely wife, Martha, all the best in your future endeavors.

SERVICE WORTHY TO BE REMEMBERED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to join my colleagues from Florida and also from across the United States to honor my colleague and my friend, SAM GIBBONS. I came here, too, just 3 short years ago from a different party, from a different philosophy, but I have known SAM GIBBONS for a number of years even before I was elected to this Congress, and I have always held him in the highest respect. So it is indeed a great honor for me to come before the House today to pay tribute to SAM GIBBONS.

Most people do not realize the difficulty of this job. As I said, I have only been here 3 years, and I served in the minority and I served in the majority, and you realize the burdens of responsibility coming and representing