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Stephanie Tubbs Jones

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM OHIO

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES AND OTHER TRIBUTES

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES 1949–2008

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Stephanie Tubbs Jones

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Memorial Addresses and Other Tributes

HELD IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AND SENATE
OF THE UNITED STATES
TOGETHER WITH MEMORIAL SERVICES
IN HONOR OF

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

Late a Representative from Ohio

One Hundred Tenth Congress
Second Session

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BIOGRAPHY

Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was the first African American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Ohio. Congresswoman TUBBS JONES was a lifelong resident of the 11th District, which encompasses most of the East Side of Cleveland and parts of the West Side of Cleveland and includes parts of 22 suburbs.

For her five terms in office, the Congresswoman was a strong advocate for many issues, and championed wealth building and economic development, access and delivery of health care, and quality education for all. The Congresswoman was the first African American woman to chair the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics) and the first African American woman to serve on the powerful Ways and Means Committee. She was an active member of numerous congressional caucuses, including the Congressional Black Caucus.

Congresswoman TUBBS JONES introduced several pieces of legislation including the Uterine Fibroids Research and Education Act to increase funding for research on uterine fibroids and provide enhanced public education about this condition; the Predatory Mortgage Lending Practices Reduction Act, which would require certification of mortgage brokers and enhance penalties for predatory loans; and the Campus Fire Prevention Act, which would provide money to equip college dorms, fraternities, and sorority houses with fire suppression devices. Most recently, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES introduced the "Count Every Vote" Act of 2005 which seeks to provide an all-encompassing solution to a broad range of voting irregularities that occurred during the 2004 Presidential election. She is an original co-sponsor of multiple significant pieces of legislation, including health care for low- and middle-income families and community reentry for ex-felons.

Congresswoman TUBBS JONES made a number of historic achievements in her distinguished career as a public servant. Prior to her election to the House, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES served as the first African American and the first female Cuyahoga County, OH, prosecutor. She was the first

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African American woman to sit on the Common Pleas bench in the State of Ohio and was a municipal court judge in the city of Cleveland.

Congresswoman TUBBS JONES received numerous honors throughout her lifetime including the National Bible Association Capitol Hill Distinguished Leadership Award, Human Rights Campaign of Cleveland Equality Award, Backbone Campaign's Backbone Award, and the Carib News Multi-National Business Conference Marcus Garvey Award.

Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES is a graduate of Cleveland public schools. She received her undergraduate degree from Case Western Reserve University, graduating with a degree in social work from the Flora Stone Mather College in 1971. She received her juris doctorate from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1974. Additionally, she has received honorary doctorates from David N. Myers University, Notre Dame College, Central State University, and Cleveland State University.

An active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, she served on its national social action committee. She was a lifelong member of Bethany Baptist Church in Cleveland, OH, and was a member of its board of trustees.

The Congresswoman was married to Mervyn L. Jones, Sr., deceased (2003), for 27 years and was the proud mother of Mervyn Leroy Jones II.

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

AND

OTHER TRIBUTES

FOR

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

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Proceedings in the House of Representatives

MONDAY, *September 8, 2008*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I seek to be recognized in order to place on the *Record* officially for the first time the passing from this life of our beloved colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES of Ohio's 11th District.

I would like to announce to my colleagues that after votes this evening, we will manage a special bereavement resolution. Many Members, I know, will want to pay tribute to STEPHANIE's beautiful life. We as Ohioans, as Buckeyes, share her son Mervyn's profound sense of loss; but also I know we share an equal gratitude for the manner in which she lived her life and what she contributed, not just to her family or her church family, or her staff, but to our country and indeed to our world.

When STEPHANIE hugged many of us before we left in August, I can tell you I certainly didn't think I would be down here this evening. Any Member who wishes to honor her life can do so after the votes are cast this evening.

Let me just mention to my colleagues that we knew STEPHANIE here as chair of the Ethics Committee and as the first African American woman to serve on the Ways and Means Committee. But her path was not an easy one. Coming from East Cleveland, she was a gregarious leader who blazed many trails.

She was one of the few women who have ever served in the Ohio delegation, and the first African American woman ever to be elected to the Congress of the United States from the State of Ohio. She was the first black woman to become a judge of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, as well as the county's first African American prosecutor.

She gave so much to so many. I always seemed to catch STEPHANIE running through the airport with her suitcase, traveling somewhere, with that boundless energy and that constant smile; and we will pay tribute more fully to her later this evening.

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To her son, Mervyn, who I would expect is listening this evening, we all know that your mother's strength will hold you now in a very profound way; and we extend our deepest sympathy to you. We know that in the years ahead you will come to appreciate even more what her life has meant to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I think my dear colleague, Mr. Boehner, the minority leader, has remarks at this time.

I will be happy to yield you time.

Mr. BOEHNER. Let me thank my colleague from Ohio for her words.

We all loved STEPHANIE. Here is a lady who gave her entire career to public service, and she did so in a way that was gregarious, that was outspoken, loud, if you will.

All of you know STEPHANIE. Her office was next to mine over in the Longworth Building, and we always knew when STEPHANIE was coming back to her office because she would be walking down the hall talking to somebody. But she and I were friends and we were smoking buddies. Now, I know that might offend some of you, but you just never know how well you get to know someone over a cocktail. But here was a lady who blazed a lot of trails, who dedicated her life to public service, and someone that we will dearly miss in this Chamber.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman.

And as I paid my respects at the wake the day before the service, I was reminded I had been in that church twice before to pay tribute to STEPHANIE's father who died during her tenure here, and then her husband who also died. And it was almost hard to walk into that church for the third time, and my respect for her grew even more for the strength that she showed to all of us despite these enormous personal losses that she had borne.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding, let me just say that from 1 Peter 4:10–11, this is what the prayer card said at her funeral service:

> Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

And at the base of the card is STEPHANIE's signature with the words, "I hope I made you proud."

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Mr. Speaker, may I ask now for the membership to rise and pay tribute to the life of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will now rise for a moment of silence in honor of the distinguished gentlelady from Ohio, the distinguished chairwoman of the Ethics Committee, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in order to consider the bereavement resolution in memory of our beloved colleague.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1415

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, a Representative from the State of Ohio.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is with a profound sense of sadness, as well as a deep sense of privilege that I rise this evening to commemorate and to celebrate the life of our friend, colleague, and sister, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES of Ohio's 11th District. This evening, we do this with the deepest gratitude for her life, and on behalf of our entire Ohio delegation, the people of our State, her home city of Cleveland, and citizens far and wide, who were blessed to know and walk, work, worship, and smile along with STEPHANIE.

On the day of her funeral, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, or actually it was the day after, the *Sunday Plain Dealer*, had a very large photo of the memorial service held in Cleveland, Ohio. And the headline read, "STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, 1949–2008: Tears Flow, Laughter Rolls During Memorial Service." And the paper goes on to recount so many beautiful remarks and remembrances that people across this country attributed to her life. We will be placing this in the *Congressional Record*, and as well I would like to read from my home paper, the *Toledo Blade*, way on the other side of the State from where STEPHANIE represented. It stated, "a leader

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passes, the loss of her fighting spirit will be keenly felt, deeply mourned and difficult to replace."

I think this evening, particularly of her son, Mervyn. We wish him comfort, and we wish him her strength as he mourns her passing.

We all know that when you met STEPHANIE, you knew you had met strength. You knew you had met someone who endured struggle. She had a keen intelligence, a high-minded idealism, and wow, her charisma just overflowed.

The other day I was in my district and met a man from Cleveland who had gone to school with STEPHANIE. And I asked, "tell me, was STEPHANIE always that enthusiastic?" He said, "Marcy, I went to law school with her. She never changed."

And from the time she was in her late teens and early twenties to her service here, she had the same boundless energy, drive, and positive spirit.

She was a devoted wife, a beloved mother, a sister to us all, and an elected leader, in that order. And she relished all of her life's roles. Her drive and energy were genuine, and they were infectious. And she carved a nobler path for America with her election as the first African American woman from Ohio to serve in the U.S. Congress. We Ohioans were very proud of her.

I know that I, like my colleagues, have so many vivid lasting memories of STEPHANIE. Upon her first swearing-in, I still recall a little table in a reception hall here where I was able to present her with a single red rose as she was sitting next to her predecessor, Congressman Louis Stokes, and how she poignantly responded. She knew the steepness of the climb.

I recall my efforts to comfort her on the loss of her husband, and she immediately reciprocated as she shared with me, over my Blackberry, a favorite poem from which she drew succor.

Imagine how many memories each of us has, how many thousands of lives she touched, representing a district and State that tested her talents, her spirit, and her conscience daily. She served people well beyond her district, logging thousands of miles in freedom's cause.

I don't think I saw STEPHANIE too many times without that little valise in the back room here. She was always going somewhere. She held a hard job, and she put her entire being into it. She literally gave herself to us. And in her

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memory, we should dedicate ourselves to her unfinished work.

One can imagine how few women have ever served in the Congress from our State. To those afforded the privilege, there is a priceless bond that links our spirits and provides support.

STEPHANIE was such a valued sister. Though her years with us were far too short, her impact endures well beyond the years. She made history. She spoke her conscience, and she reveled in every step of the journey.

Thanks be to God, she did not suffer in the end. The Lord spared her that, perhaps as, through her life, she had endured too much personal sadness and loss that would have broken lesser spirits.

In loss, STEPHANIE's strength strengthens us. Her enduring personal legacy of character and endurance, beyond her milestone achievements, remain the portrait of her life. Our delegation is especially honored to fittingly commemorate her life and achievements here this evening.

[From the *Sunday Plain Dealer*, August 31, 2008]

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, 1949–2008: TEARS FLOW, LAUGHTER ROLLS DURING MEMORIAL SERVICE

(By Tony Brown)

It was a moment that surely would have earned one of the wide, knowing smiles remembered so well by all the friends of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Rep. Tim Ryan of Niles, the man TUBBS JONES used to call her "white son," and fellow Congressman Kendrick Meek of Florida, whom she nicknamed her "black son," had just finished moving tributes to their congressional "mom."

That's when Mervyn Jones II, her real son, slipped out of his front-row seat to join his "brothers" in an intimate, tearful embrace in front of thousands gathered to bid farewell to the first black woman elected to Congress from Ohio.

The three remained locked in each other's arms well into remarks made by former Rep. Louis Stokes, the man whose seat TUBBS JONES inherited in 1989.

After the men returned to their places, Sen. Barack Obama—the son of a black father and a white mother who grew up to become the first black presidential nominee of a major U.S. political party—turned in his chair to console a still-sobbing Meek.

In that moment, amid the grieving and the laughter and the consolation and the stories and the campaign rhetoric of the celebration of a life well-lived, everyone under the vaulted ceiling of Public Hall—all friends of TUBBS JONES—shared in that group hug.

It was a hug that encircled the woman whose body lay in a flag-draped casket that rested on a square of red carpet in front of the stage: Rep. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, who died of a burst brain aneurysm on Aug. 20 at the age of 58.

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Friend was a word heard over and over as the nation's most powerful Democratic leaders, fresh from Obama's nomination in Denver, joined religious leaders and TUBBS JONES' beloved constituents, family and sorority sisters in testifying to the immensity of TUBBS JONES' spirit.

Former President Bill Clinton, not scheduled to speak but unable to help himself, called his relationship with TUBBS JONES "16 years of astonishing friendship."

So astonishing that TUBBS JONES continued to support a failing presidential bid by his wife, Sen. Hillary Clinton, well after many of the congresswoman's constituents had voted for Obama.

"She was not a fair-weather friend," Hillary Clinton told the crowd.

"I certainly know what that means. Now, her friendship was not uncritical. When she was your friend, she felt it her responsibility to inform you of all the matters that needed improvement."

Obama, Clinton's opponent for the party's presidential nomination, also counted himself among TUBBS JONES' buddies.

"I am here today to pay tribute to an extraordinary American and a devoted public servant, a mother, a daughter, a sister, a wife and a dear friend to so many here in Cleveland, so many in Ohio and so many across America.

"And during the most recent contest, STEPHANIE and I were on different sides, and we would see each other, she would say to me, 'This is what it means to be a friend for me.' All I could say is, 'I understand.'"

There were more words of praise and prayer from elected officials, some quoting Shakespeare and Scripture, during the three-hour-and-47-minute marathon of tributes.

Speakers included Sen. Sherrod Brown, Mayor Frank Jackson, Cuyahoga County Commissioner Jimmy Dimora, Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick of Michigan and Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland.

And they told plenty of funny and poignant stories.

Perhaps the funniest and most poignant was recounted by Bill Clinton, who recalled accompanying TUBBS JONES to Puerto Rico on a primary campaign visit for his wife.

"Now, how STEPHANIE became a native Puerto Rican in 15 minutes, I'll never know," Clinton said, warming to his subject.

They went into a shop, Clinton said, where TUBBS JONES admired a piece of locally made jewelry. Clinton bought it surreptitiously and presented it to her.

"She looked at me and laughed and she said, 'You know, I really like this,' she says. 'It's not often a man'll give a woman a piece of jewelry and not want anything for it.' I totally lost it."

So did Clinton's audience. As the laughter died down, the former president moved in for the kicker.

"I looked at her and said, 'STEPHANIE, you have given me and our family more, you have given your people and this country more than you will ever know.'"

In addition to the eloquent politicians who were gathered, there were plenty of just plain friends who laughed and wept and patted each other on the back to the rhythm of hymns like "Amazing Grace" and "Canaan's Happy Shore."

Some of the late arrivals almost didn't make it into the funeral.

At 11:30 a.m., about 30 minutes after the service began, Secret Service officers blocked the entrance. "The event is closed," one told approaching visitors.

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Within minutes, the number lingering at the entrance grew to more than a dozen. They spoke in shared disbelief. "STEPHANIE would not want this," one woman said angrily.

Someone in charge agreed. Within minutes, the officers stepped aside. Newcomers flowed into the cavernous auditorium until well past noon.

One of the most moving speakers the friends of STEPHANIE heard Saturday was no politician or preacher.

She was a 16-year-old named Tiffany Robertson, a member of an all-girls health careers class at Cleveland's Martin Luther King Jr. High School that TUBBS JONES took under her wing two years ago.

"'This is the future,'" Tiffany recalled JONES telling the girls.

The congresswoman took time from her political and legislative schedule to visit the class and take them places. She took them to church one Sunday, but Tiffany had to work.

So JONES dropped by the workplace with Tiffany's classmates in tow.

"We're family," Tiffany told her classmates, who stood in a show of unity with their peer.

"We got to stick together. We got to carry on her legacy. She was steward, protector and advocate to us."

"I will miss her as a friend."

"There's a famous song a few years back . . . and the refrain of the song says, 'If you have a choice, to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance.' And we all know that STEPHANIE didn't sit it out, she danced."

—Tim Ryan, U.S. Representative from Ohio.

"STEPHANIE was the kind of political leader who needed hours to go grocery shopping because everyone she saw wanted a moment of her time, and she willingly gave it. Because if you met STEPHANIE, she was your friend."

—Ted Strickland, Ohio Governor.

"Oftentimes, late at night, on the campaign trail, whether the news had been good or bad, she would have a look in her eye. Sometimes she would grab my hand, and she would say, 'Oh, I miss my husband, I wish he were here.' Well, they are together now."

—Hillary Clinton, U.S. Senator.

"That's not the air show. The rumbling you hear is the rearrangement of chairs in heaven."

—Dennis Eckart, Former Representative standing outside Public Hall as a jet roared by.

"I considered her my congresswoman as well. We talked all the time about statewide issues."

—Michael Coleman, Columbus Mayor.

"Whenever STEPHANIE came in contact with young people, she inspired them, she taught them, she mentored them, she stayed in touch with them. Her legacy is in their legacy."

—Sherrod Brown, U.S. Senator from Ohio.

"Whenever we talked on the phone, she would say, 'Congressman, I love ya.' And I'd say: 'I love you, too.' She was a great congresswoman. She was a good friend. Thanks, STEPHANIE, I love ya."

—Louis Stokes, former U.S. Representative from Ohio.

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"For STEPHANIE, it wasn't enough to rise up from modest circumstances and break so many barriers herself. She had to reach back and pull others through the doors she opened."

—*Barack Obama, Democratic presidential nominee.*

"I want to let you know, Cleveland, that you were represented by one of the best . . . Ladies and gentlemen, she lived a life that was worth living."

—*Kendrick Meek, U.S. Representative from South Carolina.*

"I'll always know her as AUNT STEPHANIE. She had a big smile."

—*Erin Norton, 24, of Cleveland, whose uncle lived next to* TUBBS JONES.

"All the good things she started, it's like she's still living."

—*Schuvar Murray, 37, of Cleveland.*

[From the *Blade*, August 24, 2008]

A LEADER PASSES

Society's downtrodden, disadvantaged, disillusioned, and disconnected have lost an influential voice and ally in Washington with the unexpected passing of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, the first black woman to represent Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The 11th District representative from the east side of Cleveland died Wednesday after suffering a brain hemorrhage.

The loss to Ohio and the nation was described by one of her colleagues as "incalculable," and that was an understatement. It was a setback for the cause of impassioned, committed, gutsy leadership, especially for the district, made up of east Cleveland and its nearby suburbs, which Ms. TUBBS JONES served so tirelessly.

A decade ago, the 58-year-old Democrat was handpicked by U.S. Rep. Lou Stokes to be his successor after his legendary stewardship of that congressional district for 30 years. Over five terms, Mr. Stokes said, "she took it to a higher level, a new level. She made me so proud."

A gregarious leader, she also blazed trails for others with a resume of many firsts—the first black woman to become a judge of Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, as well as the county's first black prosecutor, succeeding the storied John T. Corrigan.

In Washington, she was also the first black woman to sit on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, where she was a force to be reckoned with. Fiercely partisan, but not necessarily predictable, she was that unusual politician who said what she meant and meant what she said.

In 2001, she endorsed an unknown black lawyer for Cleveland mayor over the more politically experienced Jane Campbell, who eventually won. This year, she perplexed—and provoked—her constituents with her unflagging support of Hillary Clinton for president over newcomer Barack Obama.

But her word was her bond, said the Rev. Jesse Jackson. "It didn't waver in the wind." Like all congressional Democrats, she was scheduled to serve as a super delegate at the Democratic National Convention in Denver next week to witness the formal nomination of Mr. Obama as the first black candidate for president of the United States.

Ms. TUBBS JONES, who once said she considered herself a voice for minorities across the country, would have reveled in the moment. The loss of her fighting spirit will be keenly felt, deeply mourned, and difficult to replace.

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Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield at this time to Congresswoman Betty Sutton from the Ohio delegation, the able Representative from Akron-Lorain.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for yielding me the time.

I, too, rise today with heaviness in my heart but also with a deep sense of gratitude and respect for my colleague, my friend, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. Her passing is truly a tragic loss for the people of Ohio's 11th District, whom she loved so very much, and for all of the people who she stood up for across this country.

STEPHANIE was truly a historic figure in American politics. She achieved many firsts and she blazed many trails in a way that only STEPHANIE could. She was the first African American and first female prosecutor in Cuyahoga County, Ohio; the first African American woman to sit on the Common Pleas bench in Ohio; the first African American woman to be elected to Congress from Ohio, and the first African American woman to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee, a job she truly loved.

STEPHANIE attacked her job as a Congresswoman with passion and a contagious enthusiasm on behalf of those she served. She was effective and determined. Her strength exceeded courage. She was fearless. She lived her life and represented her constituents giving it everything she had. She had no time for fear.

Her amazing spirit touched and brightened so many lives, and with every first that STEPHANIE achieved, with every rung of the ladder she climbed, STEPHANIE always reached back to help others following behind. From encouraging the young women and men in her office who interned, to inspiring the young people from her hometown of Cleveland, STEPHANIE was a force. And she loved her staff and spoke of them as family. STEPHANIE was not pretentious. She treated all people as they should be treated, with dignity and respect.

Mr. Speaker, when I first arrived in these hallowed halls in January 2007, I was very fortunate to have STEPHANIE here to help me. She was a colleague and a friend who I could turn to for advice not only on the many crucial issues that we face but also simply on how to navigate this body. And when I thanked her for helping me along, she would always wave a hand in the air and explain, "Hey, we're sisters." STEPHANIE's friendship and mentorship were vital to me, and I am grateful that she touched my life.

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STEPHANIE was honest and loyal. You could count on her word. She was the type of person who could lift up the spirits of those feeling down. She was willing to work with others for the good that was greater than just herself, but she was also tough and willing to fight as necessary to protect the rights of the people of this great country. Nowhere was this more evident than in the fight she led to ensure the integrity of our voting process. STEPHANIE also worked tirelessly to promote home ownership and to help keep families in their homes.

But with all of her achievements, nothing compared to that of the strong young man that STEPHANIE raised, her son, Mervyn. STEPHANIE's face would beam when she talked about Mervyn. There could be no question beyond everything she gave in service, everything she accomplished, they all paled in comparison to how proud she was of Mervyn. She loved him and continues to love him beyond measure.

STEPHANIE also had a beautiful and strong sister who she loved and appreciated so deeply. When STEPHANIE spoke of her sister Barbara, it was clear how special she was to her.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on about the life of this amazing woman. I am so honored to have known her and to have served alongside of her. STEPHANIE was more than my colleague; she was my friend, and we were sisters. I will miss her greatly.

My thoughts and prayers are with her son Mervyn, and her very special sister Barbara, and the rest of her family.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express deep sadness on the sudden passing of our colleague in this House and a member of the Ohio delegation, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

August was a busy month for us. We have participated in events in our districts and meetings in our offices. Many of us participated in our party's Presidential conventions. Unfortunately, too many of these tasks and goals were cut short and cut short too early for our colleague. We grieve her loss here this evening.

Throughout our time together in this House, the members of the Ohio delegation have been a congenial group and not a partisan one. We regularly worked together to share common responsibilities and actions to improve and strengthen our State. STEPHANIE brought energy and enthusiasm to our delegation and to our work, and we will miss her terribly.

As you will hear throughout this evening's remarks by my colleagues, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a

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Member who held many firsts in our delegation. And I won't repeat those because many Members will touch on it.

To me, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was my friendly, outgoing, and upbeat colleague. We often traveled back and forth together in the same plane from Ohio to Washington for our congressional session. I will miss her wonderful personality and the energy she brought to our delegation and to this House.

This morning, when I was getting ready to leave for the airport, I said to my wife, "You know, I'm going to really miss STEPHANIE because we would be on the plane together most of the time, the same flight, and she was always so upbeat and she had the common expression, 'Well, how are you doing today? How are you doing today?'"

Well, we did well together, but I will miss her energy and personality that she brought to the delegation and to this House. I worked with STEPHANIE—her district was not far from mine—and we had a common interest in furthering the medical facilities in Cleveland, Ohio, some of the best in the United States; and it was a pleasure always to work with her and to enjoy her boundless enthusiasm and good nature.

And certainly on behalf of my colleagues in the Ohio delegation, we express our sincere sympathy to her son, Mervyn Jones, and to her sister, Barbara Walker, as well as to her thousands of constituents and to her devoted staff.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands the gentlewoman from Ohio to have yielded half her time to the gentleman from Ohio.

And the gentleman from Ohio reserves the balance of his time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call on the distinguished Member from Cleveland, the colleague of Congresswoman JONES, Congressman Dennis Kucinich.

Mr. KUCINICH. I thank the gentlelady.

When I look at this Chamber this evening, there are so many Members of Congress here, each who wants to pay tribute to her. I'm going to keep my remarks brief, not in any way reflecting the depth of grief that I feel over STEPHANIE's passing.

We shared not only districts—because my district is mostly on the West Side of the Cuyahoga River and hers is mostly on the East Side of the Cuyahoga River—but we shared political careers, having worked with each other for the better part of three decades. And the STEPHANIE that we saw here

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in the Congress, the one of the 100-megawatt smile, the boundless energy, the telling sense of humor, the challenging approach when you may not agree with her, that was the STEPHANIE that I knew for 30 years.

But we also shared a friendship about family. And she went through it in the last years of her life with the loss of loved ones close to her, her father, her husband. And when we would have major events in our lives, like we do with close friends—and she was a close friend to many of us—we would share many of these things. And there was a lot of sadness to share. But there was also a moment when, for me, I had one of the biggest things happen in my life, and STEPHANIE was the first person I wanted to share it with.

More than 3 years ago, I met a woman who walked into my office as part of a meeting for policy, and even though I had a very brief conversation with her, I knew something had happened at that moment. And I just knew at that moment that this was somebody I was going to marry, and I didn't even have a discussion with her about anything except for policy for more than about half a minute. And I ran down the floor to tell my friend STEPHANIE, because that's the kind of friend she was. You would want to tell her when you thought something big was happening in your life.

And so I said, "STEPHANIE, I met her." And she looked at me and her eyes widened, and she gave her big smile, and she went, "Shut up!" And she had that kind of way of assessing things brilliantly and quickly in a manner and a tone and a language that was STEPHANIE.

And she really brought the wisdom of a keen legal mind and melded it with a street sense into this political persona that touched people all over this country and, indeed, in other countries as well. She had that magic.

Her presence is so powerful that I know I speak for other Members when I say that even at this moment, weeks later after her passing, we still can't believe it. That's how powerful a presence she was personally. And when she engaged you, you knew you were in a conversation and it was real.

When Members of Congress arrived to pay respects at the Bethany Church, we saw the sidewalks lined with her constituents. We saw a line to get into Bethany Church that was more than a block long. Hundreds of people waiting in line.

I had the chance to talk to some of them. You could see—you have to look into people's eyes, look at their faces, and you see the faces of people who are struggling with life, who

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are dealing with the kinds of problems that STEPHANIE came to Congress to address: trying to save their homes, trying to save their jobs, trying to keep their families together. And their eyes are searching today because they know they have lost a champion, and it puts such a great responsibility on all of us, a greater responsibility on all of us to uphold those things that she came to Congress for, the basic rights of people.

This was a loss for women who have strived for recognition in this body. This is a loss for African Americans who saw in her a champion, the first African American woman elected to Congress from the State of Ohio.

But what STEPHANIE did, her genius and her magic was she just broke all of the barriers. She went beyond gender and beyond race and emerged to a whole different political element. That's why she can't be replaced. And that's why, long after many of us have left this Chamber, people will still be talking about STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE, we love you, and we will remember you.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Hobson).

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, it's been a tough term for the Ohio delegation. First we lost Paul Gillmor, and now we've lost STEPHANIE. Too early for both of them in their lives. But I think it's these times when people in the country need to know the friendships that happen in this House. We may differ politically on certain issues, but we don't differ when it comes to making friends and friendships here in this House.

STEPHANIE had that beautiful energy that you will hear about and that we will all remember. She never met a stranger. Wherever we traveled in the world, STEPHANIE always had that great smile on her face. Whenever we were in Cleveland together—I have a daughter who lives in Cleveland, and STEPHANIE would give me a ride when I would fly into Cleveland to my daughter's house. She would stop and talk to my grandkids. Even though she was in Dennis' district, she was still working that side of town, too, because STEPHANIE worked wherever she was.

She is a loss to all of us. She worked on issues that transcend this body, these human issues, and the people in her district are not going to forget that, and they truly do have a loss.

We traveled together many times to view the troops, and I just came back yesterday from Korea. In Korea, I talked

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about STEPHANIE to one of the general officers, and he said, "I remember her. When we were in Bosnia, you came there on Thanksgiving and she related to the troops in her own special way and talked to these young people about what they were doing, what they're going to do in the future."

But the most important thing about STEPHANIE is she never forgot who she was. She was a friend to all of us, but she never forgot her district.

One time I talked STEPHANIE into going on a trip with me to Italy, and she said, "I can't go. It's our 25th wedding anniversary. Mervyn and I want to spend our 25th wedding anniversary together." And this was when you could do this. I don't even know if I want to tell this, but she's gone and I'm retiring. So maybe I can tell this story now without going to the Ethics Committee. But I said, "STEPHANIE, we're going to give you a party in Venice. You tell Mervyn it's going to be a very romantic time and it isn't going to cost him a cent." Guess what. They went on the trip.

And even after Mervyn's tragic passing—and I was there with her then—she would recall the great time we had together. And I'm not going to miss her because she's going to be here with all of us, but who's going to miss her is Mervyn II. He's lost not only his mother and his father but his grandparents in a very short period of time, and this is a young man. I hope his aunt can help him, and I hope all of us don't forget this young man and his life. And we're not going to forget STEPHANIE.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Ways and Means Committee from New York City, our beloved colleague, Charles Rangel.

Mr. RANGEL. Thank you so much, Chairwoman Kaptur, for giving me this courtesy and this opportunity.

I was a very longtime and dear friend of Louis Stokes. I loved him, I worked with him, and when he decided that he was going to retire, I did everything that I could to share with him how much he would be missed by his country and by this Congress. But when he had me meet in Cleveland with STEPHANIE. Some of you may have met people that you know that it really wouldn't make any difference what they decided to do. Their intellect, their drive, their personality would make them successful, and especially for a woman and an African American woman in Ohio or any other part of the United States, to be a prosecutor, to be a judge and then to come to the Congress, it had to be extraordinary, the same

way Harriet Beecher Stowe, Fannie Lou Hamer, people of extreme resilience.

And so from then, she said that she wanted to get on the Ways and Means Committee, and boy, the Ways and Means Committee has never been the same since she's joined with us. She would come to the meetings where we would be fighting and arguing and, with a smile, light it up. But that didn't prevent her from getting involved in the argument and many times on a different side of the Chair. But at the end of the day, I knew that once she was convinced that was the way the committee was going, you couldn't stop STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

I say in conclusion, one of the reasons that so many of you must like her, love her is because I don't remember that many complaints that she had about the Chair not responding to the needs of her constituents, especially when the housing market fell in Cleveland.

But so many of you that she brought to the chairman of this committee, that were not on the committee, because you had convinced her that it was important to your community, and she, as a person on that committee, thought we should look into it, and there was never, but never, a frivolous request. Every time she came she had done so much homework that I just know that the gap that she leaves in my heart and our committee will never be filled by anyone else.

I thank you for this opportunity of sharing.

[The revised remarks of Mr. Rangel follow:]

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one of our own; my friend and colleague, the Honorable Chairwoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES who represented the 11th Congressional District of Ohio for five terms. Sadly she passed away at the young age of 59 on August 20, 2008, from an aneurysm in her brain. She is survived by her son, Mervyn L. Jones II, and her sister Barbara Walker.

Congresswoman TUBBS JONES truly was a pioneer. She became the first African American woman to chair the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in the 110th Congress and the first African American woman to serve on the Committee on Ways and Means in the 108th Congress where she played an important role on the Health Subcommittee. She fought tirelessly for wealth building and economic development, access and delivery of health care, and quality education for all. The Congresswoman had the ability to remain grounded and always continued to work and include the interests of her constituents when dealing with issues.

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It was an honor and a privilege to have worked directly with her on the Committee on Ways and Means. On the Health Subcommittee she focused on end stage renal disease (ESRD) disparities and she played an important role in the SCHIP debate. She was a strong supporter of tax provisions designed to encourage the rehabilitation of historic, and other real property, and to encourage community development. Despite her constituency that is mainly unionized, she supported the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement and other free trade agreements as long as they met the International Labor Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Right to Work.

She will be missed by Members on both sides of the aisle and by staff on the Hill who admired and enjoyed working with her as well. We who knew and worked with her will surely be among many who will miss her smile, her tenacity, and her infectious love of life. She leaves us an inspirational legacy, a memorable record of public service and a charge to keep fighting for what is right and just. She will forever be in our hearts.

Mr. REGULA. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Hayes).

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio, the Ohio delegation, and the gentlelady, Ms. Kaptur, for allowing me to be a part of this.

STEPHANIE was a special friend. I am terribly saddened by the untimely passing of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She was someone who cared deeply about helping others, especially those who couldn't help themselves. TUBBS JONES was a wonderful philanthropist and friend. I will miss serving with her as co-chair on the House Philanthropy Caucus.

Representative TUBBS JONES and I began our work in the House the same year together in 1998. I was honored last year to have the opportunity to partner with her to establish the Congressional Philanthropy Caucus, an initiative that she was very passionate about. Her tireless and tenacious advocacy for the philanthropic field, commitment, and leadership was very inspiring and helped to forge new relationships and partnerships between and among lawmakers and grantmakers.

The caucus was formed at the behest of the Council on Foundations, a Washington, DC, area-based nonprofit association of more than 2,100 grantmaking foundations and cor-

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porations. The caucus aims to educate and inform lawmakers about the field of philanthropy.

As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, STEPHANIE stressed the importance of reestablishing charitable incentives that have expired, emphasizing the impact such tools have on giving in the United States and around the world. She was a strong believer that charitable incentives help grow charitable giving to populations in need across the country. Demonstrating her commitment to her charitable values, Representative TUBBS JONES was an original co-sponsor of the Public Good IRA Rollover Act of 2007, H.R. 1419, which proposed to expand the IRA charitable rollover. That act is especially significant to the philanthropic field because it proposes to allow distributions to donor-advised funds, supporting organizations, and private foundations to qualify as charitable giving tools.

In addition, when given the opportunity on the House floor, Representative TUBBS JONES continually advocated for philanthropy, encouraged our colleagues to join the Philanthropy Caucus, and sponsored legislation promoting charitable giving. She met with her foundation constituents just a few weeks ago to discuss their work and contributions to her home State.

Representative TUBBS JONES was a champion for the philanthropic sector and will be greatly missed for her contributions to the charitable giving field.

On behalf of the members of the Congressional Philanthropy Caucus, and the many grantmakers that STEPHANIE supported around the country, specifically Ohio foundations, we wish to offer our sincere condolences and to extend to her family, son Mervyn, colleagues, and staff, our deepest sympathies for their loss.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Scott).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to be able to stand in this House of Representatives and say a few words for my distinguished colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

You know, on everybody's tombstone there are three things. There's first the date you were born and then the date you die, and in between there is a dash. And the question we all must answer at some point is what do you do with the dash. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES did an amazing amount with her dash.

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Born to hard-working, loving parents—Mary, who was a factory worker; her father, Andrew, was a skycap—good, hard-working people, who gave love to STEPHANIE. She rose to become a prosecutor, a judge, a trial lawyer, all the way up to the Congress of the United States.

And I tell you, in between, Mr. Speaker, she learned how to play a mean game of bid whist. But I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, she kept the faith, she finished her course, and she fought the good fight. And therefore, there is put up for STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES an extraordinary crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, appointed and has given to STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and we thank God for sending STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES our way.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. Pryce).

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and thank the Members of the delegation for having this very important time to remember our colleague.

STEPHANIE was a force in our delegation, and she was also an inspiration to everybody here and everybody who knew her. Perhaps we'll never understand or totally accept the reasons that people are taken from us in such tragic and untimely ways; yet there is always some comfort found when we can look at a life and see the great purpose that dwelled therein. And STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES lived with such great purpose and made such a difference, and that will help those of us that she left behind.

The last time I talked to STEPHANIE was not unlike most of us right here, but it was not in this Chamber. It was in her outer office. It was the office right outside the door that is her car. And STEPHANIE was working in her outer office, and she was right by the door. And I passed there, and we were waiting for votes. I knocked on her window, and she said, "Come on in, Deb," and I crawled in her office. I was glad to see it looked sort of like my car. There were papers everywhere. There were books. It was just like an office.

And we started not doing business but just chatting, like so often we would do when we would find a minute together. We talked of such great things in life as my daughter's hair. Now, for those of you who don't know, I have an adopted daughter who's African American, who was born in STEPHANIE's district. And STEPHANIE took an inordinate amount of interest in the lack of quality hair care that I provided to my daughter, and STEPHANIE was great about always giving me

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good advice for Mia, and she wanted to become a greater part of Mia's life.

We had plans to make that happen the next visit to Washington, and I'm sad especially for Mia that that won't happen because STEPHANIE was a wonderful mentor for so many people, women especially. I'm sorry that relationship never took hold, but I will never forget the impact that she had on me.

What a wonderful, strong personality. What a contagious smile, and her laughter and her buoyancy held me up many times when I needed just that extra shoulder.

She had such purpose in her life, and that is her lasting legacy. We will all miss her, especially her family. There are so many that became part of her family. There are so many that she loved and touched in such an important, meaningful way. She will sorely be missed, Mr. Speaker.

I offer my deepest condolences to her family, to her son who will miss her most of all. She was loved by so many, as she so rightly should have been.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to STEPHANIE's colleague from the State of Ohio, Congressman Zack Space.

Mr. SPACE. I thank the gentlelady.

I rise today to remember a dear friend and dedicated legislator, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She was a tireless advocate for justice, a dedicated mother, and a terrific legislator and a fighter for the people of Ohio.

It will be very difficult for me to match the eloquence of someone like Chairman Rangel, certainly the gentlelady from Toledo, the gentleman from Canton, or my friend Mr. Kucinich from Cleveland. But Dennis said something during his presentation that struck me as being extraordinarily accurate.

STEPHANIE did represent this magical, political persona that was melded between her keen legal mind and her street sense. She had compassion, knowledge. She was just a great person and a great legislator. She was a trailblazer, as those from the Ohio delegation have pointed out, in many respects.

But something that many might not know is that STEPHANIE actually had an effect on the people in my congressional district, which is, while sharing the same State of Ohio, a very long way from East Cleveland. STEPHANIE served as an inspiration for women in politics, as well as our African American community there as well. She fought for justice

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and equality at every turn in her career, and this was a tragic loss for the people of Congress and the people of Ohio.

Indeed, I still feel her presence here, and I suspect we will for quite some time. This has been a tragic loss for this body.

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentlelady from Ohio (Mrs. Schmidt).

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a great lady, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Just over 3 years ago, I first saw STEPHANIE in this very room. As I was sworn into office, she came over and greeted me with a great big smile and an enormous hug, welcoming me to this wonderful body. Although we share different political views, STEPHANIE understood that friendship trumped politics. I felt fortunate to call her my friend.

When I went to Cleveland last week to pay my respects, I was welcomed by her wonderful family—her sister, Barbara; her nieces, her cousins, and her wonderful son, Mervyn.

I learned something about STEPHANIE I didn't know. I didn't realize that she was involved in a very famous case, a case that spurred not only a TV show but also a movie, "The Fugitive." It was the Sam Sheppard case. She was involved with that case, making sure justice was done.

I want to say thank you to the Lord for letting us have STEPHANIE as long as we did. We never know when the hour comes that he will come for us. I know that STEPHANIE was prepared for him because she was always prepared for her family and for her constituents, and she had that great big smile. I'm sure that it's there in heaven.

To Mervyn, to Barbara and to the rest of the family, you have my prayers. To the constituents of Cleveland, you have her heart.

May she rest in peace.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield 1½ minutes to STEPHANIE's distinguished colleague from Ohio, our dear friend, Congressman Charles Wilson.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I'm sad to be here this evening, but I'm also proud that we can rise on this occasion to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the honor of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. It's right that we express the condolences of the House of Representatives. I feel like she was a dear friend to all of us, and I know that I loved her and that so many of my colleagues did.

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It came as a terrible shock a week ago Tuesday when we found out that STEPHANIE died, but it's appropriate that we have this resolution we're doing this evening to appropriately honor a devoted American, and STEPHANIE was a devoted American.

Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a champion for the residents in the Greater Cleveland area. She was a tireless voice for our State of Ohio.

She always greeted me with a big smile and, many times, with a hug. It was just the way she did and the way she treated people. A colleague of hers recently said that he felt that STEPHANIE treated people that way because it was almost as if God were watching. She was taken from us way too soon.

Mr. Speaker, her work was not finished. She is counting on us to carry on. My deepest sympathy goes out to her son, Mervyn, to her sister, Barbara, and to her extended family. She will be sorely missed by the Ohio congressional delegation, by all of Congress, and I will miss working with her.

Ms. KAPTUR. I would like to yield 2 minutes to our fine colleague from the State of California, who was such a close associate and friend of STEPHANIE's, Congresswoman Lois Capps.

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my dear colleague from Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in sad support of this resolution to pay tribute to our colleague, the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

As so many have said, STEPHANIE had the gift of making us all her friends and, for me and for others, her sisters.

As has been said, she was a tireless advocate on behalf of working families and civil rights long before she came to Congress, and she continued her devotion to these causes over the last decade. I was proud to work with her in the last few years against a proposal that would have undermined the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Her leadership on this issue was exemplary of her commitment to protecting people against discrimination. I will cherish that opportunity of working with her.

She was also a wonderful and active member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. She co-chaired the Task Force on Women in the Judiciary with her colleague from Ohio and fellow former judge, Deborah Pryce.

She also led efforts to raise awareness and to fund greater research into uterine fibroids. This is a disease that affects

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as many as three of four women over the course of their lifetimes. Yet it's rarely discussed in public. She had the courage to bring this otherwise taboo subject to the forefront in the quest to bring relief to millions of women who have and who will suffer from fibroids.

The people of Ohio and of the entire Congress have lost a true champion. For me, there was a personal bond with STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She lost her husband suddenly after she came to Congress, and I had lost mine recently, and so we had a bond, a sad one, but one that we both cherished. We made an agreement that we didn't need to talk. We just needed, when we saw each other, to give each other a hug, and I will cherish those hugs, and that bond still exists.

I send my condolences to her son and to her family members, and I hope they know that the grief is shared by all of us, and our dedication to upholding the causes which motivated and for which she showed such great leadership will inspire us to continue and, in each of our own ways, to make that legacy that was STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' live on.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield 2 minutes to the Representative from California who was a close colleague of STEPHANIE's, Congresswoman Susan Davis.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor not only one of my colleagues but a dear friend, the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

As we all know, she served the 11th Congressional District of Ohio with dignity and pride, and she represented her district with compassion, always with compassion, fighting for justice and equality.

I was very fortunate because, when I arrived here in 2001, my office was right across the hall from STEPHANIE's, and so you can imagine how embraced I felt by her and by all of her staff, by all of the people who were so close to her, such a loyal group of people.

There have been many stories told this evening, and many more will be told of her accomplishments; there have been many tributes that people have paid to her, but in this very brief time, I just wanted to talk for a minute about how her influence goes far beyond the district that she represented because, for years, Representative TUBBS JONES had been a special guest speaker before a group of young people from San Diego, the Aaron Price Fellows. She always came to those meetings at my request, and was always so enthusi-

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astic. She would just captivate this room of high schoolers, who come from very diverse backgrounds, with warmth and humor. She would weave her congressional experience with her personal stories to excite the whole group, and she would encourage their discussion. She'd love their questions and really would be so energized, energized in that room of young people every year that she spoke to them just as she did every time she spoke on this very floor. I think it says so much about STEPHANIE that she shared her time and a lot of that time with students far from her district.

So, today, we remember her as such an inspirational leader, inspirational for so many—from high school students, to her constituents, of course, and to all of us here—to her colleagues. I am proud to say that I will continue to be inspired by her as I serve in Congress, and I can just think of her saying today, "Hey, girlfriend." So I want to say to her, "Thanks, girlfriend. Thank you for everything."

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlelady from Chicago, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, who was a real soul sister to STEPHANIE.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, STEPHANIE and I were in the same class. We came in in 1998, and immediately bonded as friends and classmates. She and my husband became very good friends. We would joke about it that my husband, Bob, was her boyfriend, and at their last conversation, it ended with his saying, "Love you, STEF," and her saying, "Love you, Bob." I'm jealous of that because they had that moment where they actually said the word that I feel so much tonight, that I loved STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE was a force of nature. She was a big woman and she filled a room. I can just picture her now. Can't you just picture her coming down and speaking from this podium right now and just filling the space with her presence, with her sense of justice, with her passion, and with, of course, her smile? STEPHANIE was fiercely loyal. She was a supporter of Hillary Rodham Clinton's. Some of us were on the other side, but that didn't challenge our friendship.

Connie Schultz, who is a Pulitzer Prize winner for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* said, "Our friendship was forged by her to the bones understanding of what it means to be a woman, willing to stick your neck out for your beliefs."

STEPHANIE was fearless and she was loved. I loved her. I love you, STEPHANIE.

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Ms. KAPTUR. I would now like to yield time to the distinguished Congressman from North Dakota, Congressman Earl Pomeroy, a friend of STEPHANIE's for many years.

Mr. POMEROY. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I doubt our departed sister, STEPHANIE, would ever have imagined the impact she had. In fact, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* referenced her essential humility even when mentioning her personal electricity in this editorial of August 22:

"I have no illusions about myself," TUBBS JONES told the *Plain Dealer* reporter Fran Henry in 1995. "It could all go up in a puff of smoke. I'll never lose sight of that."

STEPHANIE's presence on Earth has come so tragically to an all too early end, but her achievements—rising from the daughter of a factory worker and skycap to the positions of judge, county prosecutor, five-term Member of Congress—have made a lasting impact at each and every step along the way, especially with the many lives she touched.

I was privileged to sit by her on the Ways and Means Committee. You could probably call us the odd couple—a reserved, middle-aged man from the most rural part of our country, teamed with the most energetic, charismatic, bombastic, thoroughly urban STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Over the years, on our committee together, I came to fully understand just how deep and how genuine her passion for others was, especially for those less fortunate, for those needing help. We'd joke about taking turns keeping each other settled down even under considerable provocation sometimes in Ways and Means debate. My counsel of "take it easy, STEPHANIE" would be met in turn with "now settle down, Earl." In one hearing on inexcusable Social Security delays, we both just lost it entirely. I'll never forget that hearing; it's one of my favorites.

One of the greatest compliments I've had in this Congress, in any Congress I've served in, was when she'd call me her country boyfriend. She had the most incredible way of making those she met feel better. In the place where smiles, laughter, and deep compassion are never in sufficient supply, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for his remarks and presence this evening.

I would like to yield 2 minutes now to one of STEPHANIE's sisters here from the State of Texas, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee.

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Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank you very much.

These are such wonderful stories that I'm listening to as we honor STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, so I'm going to speak on some issues that showed her in her fullness and in her love of life.

And that was as a House basketball coach. She was that woman with a smile. She was a Good Samaritan. She was also like Ruth; if she was your friend, she was going to stick with you. She loved life, loved her family. How wonderful it was to be part of her family. And she allowed this Congress to be part of her family because everyone knew Mervyn, her husband; her son; her sisters; her mother and father, who I got a chance to know. But yet when she got on that basketball court and she was the coach, I tell you that was a winning smile, a winning coach, and a winning team.

And there was nothing more exciting than being at the 2008 House basketball team game. This was a game for charity. But you couldn't tell Coach STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES that she was out there for charity. She was out there to win, and you'd think it was the NBA championship, for she ran up and down that court. She gave the best coaching. She told the guys, who happened to be Members of Congress and others, what they could and could not do. And even though she wasn't the referee and she wasn't the penalizer, she'd penalize her team.

And what an exciting time to see in this year's 2008 winning basketball effort, Mervyn, her son, make the winning basketball shot. It was so exciting that those of us that were in the stands ran out onto the court, of course in violation, but we were able to get away with that. And I was so excited, in my short stature of 5′2½″, I asked the greatest coach that I knew if I could work with her next year, and she gave me the greatest honor and said "yes." That was STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, the lover of life.

But yet as a prosecutor, one would think she would be hard nosed and she'd be running toward prosecution and incarceration. But she teamed up with her dear friend Danny Davis, and they shed their light all around this campus, both the House and the Senate, to work on what we call the Second Chance bill.

So I rise today on behalf of the incarcerated whom STEPHANIE loved, whom she gave an opportunity through her work with Danny Davis and those who co-sponsored this legislation, to say to these individuals they could have a second chance.

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May God allow her to rest in peace, but may her star shine continuously through us. We love her and we love her family.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the *Record* the names of the very able staff of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. This staff has endured great sadness, and they have tried to carry on with their leader being in spiritual guidance but not there personally.

I would like to thank, from her district office, Betty Pinkney, her district director; Beverly Charles, her senior liaison; Theresa Lang Coaxum, her health liaison; Sharon Cole, business liaison; and Saulette Reed, her office manager.

And here in Washington, Kimberley Alton, her legislative director; Lalla King Green, her scheduler; Eric Hammond, her staff assistant; Aaron Wasserman, her legislative correspondent; Darrell Doss, her tax counsel; Athena Abdullah, her health counsel; Nicole Y. Williams, her communications director; and Patrice Willoughby, dear Patrice, her chief of staff and counsel, who has tried to stand in STEPHANIE's place during these very difficult days.

Finally, from the Committee on Standards, Dawn Kelly Mobley, the counsel to the chairwoman.

These are wonderful staff people who have STEPHANIE's heart, and we want to do everything we can to help them through this very difficult time. And we thank them for their service to STEPHANIE and serving the people of the 11th District and the people of our country.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the *Record* before I call on our final speaker this story: There were many tributes paid to STEPHANIE at the service in Cleveland. One of the most moving speakers the friends of STEPHANIE heard Saturday from no politician or preacher but from a young 16-year-old named Tiffany, a member of an all girls health careers class at Cleveland Martin Luther King Junior High School that STEPHANIE took under her wing 2 years ago. Tiffany recalled JONES telling the girls "This is the future. You are the future." And the Congresswoman took time from her political and legislative schedule to visit the class and take them places. She took them to church one Sunday, but Tiffany had to work that day. So STEPHANIE dropped by the work place with Tiffany's classmates in tow. STEPHANIE kept her eye on every one of them. "We're family," Tiffany told her classmates, who stood in a show of unity with their peer. She said, "We've got to stick together. We have got to carry

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on in her legacy. She was steward, protector, and advocate to us. I will miss her as a friend."

STEPHANIE had friends of all ages. We thank her for her leadership and for the seeds that she planted in the new growth forest that is growing in Cleveland and growing across this country to which she devoted her life.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call as our final speaker in this bereavement resolution STEPHANIE's very good friend from the State of Missouri, Congressman Emanuel Cleaver.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, when Congresswoman TUBBS discovered that I had three sons who had gone to college on basketball scholarships, she asked if I would bring them here for the annual fundraising basketball game with the Georgetown Law School faculty. None of them could come this year; so I was drafted by STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES in language that I would normally not use during a sermon. But I did show up and immediately became angry because she pulled me out of the game just because I could not make it down the court in a minute in the transition game. So I cheered for the remainder of the evening for our team that Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee mentioned did win in overtime.

But the most significant moment for me came when we all saw the signs that the pages had made for us. They were cheering us on. And the pages sent me a statement that they asked if I would read on their behalf. And I quote:

Ask any one of the pages from the spring 2008 class to list their favorite memories from the 5 months we spent working on the Hill. An anecdote about Ms. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES will likely be included. For some of us it is the unwavering charisma shown when she was the Speaker pro tempore. For others it is the simple act of coming to say goodbye to us at our departure ceremony. For most of us, it is the night of the 2008 home court charity basketball game, where our chants cheering on the Hill's Angels team and the Coach TUBBS JONES rang 10 times louder than the formidable Georgetown students cheering section and led our team to a surprising victory.

That night and for the rest of the time we knew Ms. TUBBS JONES, we weren't just pages sitting in the back of the House. We experienced that night the true strength, pride, and enthusiasm of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, a strength rooted in her devotion to making things better, a pride in her job as a public servant evident every single day, and an unmatched enthusiasm for our service as pages. She was the type of woman you only dream of meeting at some point in your life and the friend we never expected to find in the Halls of Congress last spring.

Just as we will never forget our time as pages, we will never forget STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

—The spring 2008 page class.

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Mr. Speaker, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was my friend. We had the opportunity to spend time together, and I don't want to reminisce and say things that others have already said. Let me just say that I hate death. I hate it. And if I had an opportunity to erase it or kill it, I would. But death, unfortunately, is a part of life and we will all experience it. The issue is not death so much as it is life, and we are granted an unspecified period of time, and many of us deal with those moments with a kind of carelessness that certainly was not planned when we were given our time on this Earth.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was exuberant. She lived her life. She lived it out to the fullest. And I can say that if you understand that life is not a time to just waste and then look at the time of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, you know she understood that. And I would say that death is not a cul-de-sac for some. It's not an end. Death is a beginning. And for STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, it was a comma for a new beginning. She lived her life and she lived it with zest and zeal.

She pulled me in Kansas City on the dance floor in front of hundreds of people and made me dance. I have a photograph of it that I had been hiding, and I am now going to bring out with pride because I think when she did that, she was also saying live your life and live it to the fullest. Never ever allow cobwebs to cover you. If you rest, you rust. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES never rusted.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, in concluding this first hour this evening in honor of our dear colleague STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, let me just say that STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a true mother of this Republic. Let the *Record* show that. Let the *Record* comfort her son in years hence.

I want to say to our dear friend and colleague, Congressman Regula, whose district sort of held STEPHANIE's up on the southern side. I want to thank him so very much, the dean of the Republican side of the aisle, for being here throughout this evening and through the wonderful participation of her colleagues of various persuasions here on the floor. The friendships went beyond party, and I thank the gentleman for his participation.

Mr. REGULA. Well, I would just comment that to know STEPHANIE was to love her. She just had that ebullient personality that you couldn't resist.

I also want to comment on one other thing, and that is that thousands of people in East Cleveland, in her district, have better health care today than they would have without

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STEPHANIE. She focused on the health care assets of East Cleveland, some of the best in the Nation, and as a result, the people that she represented have a better chance to take advantage of the health care facilities. And that's a legacy of STEPHANIE's that most people aren't aware of and yet touches the lives of literally thousands of people.

I congratulate the gentlewoman from Ohio for having this special order tonight because STEPHANIE was special.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you, Congressman Regula, and I want to thank all of our colleagues who have participated this evening. I can guarantee you that every word that is on the *Record* will come to comfort Mervyn and the Tubbs Jones family, their church family, her sisterhood, all the people of Cleveland, all the people who have known STEPHANIE across our Nation. I want to thank our colleagues for their generosity and for their good hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the Ohio delegation stands beside those from the Congressional Black Caucus, that will have the second hour this evening in remembrance of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. We thank them for doing this. I know how much their words will mean not just today but in future years to those who love STEPHANIE always.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight deeply saddened by the passing of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Congresswoman TUBBS JONES was an extraordinary woman, wife, mother, and leader.

Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES made history by becoming the first African American woman to be elected to Congress from her State of Ohio.

Throughout her career, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES demonstrated a serious commitment to her constituents and represented them well.

She dedicated her life to uplift and inspire those around her. Her dedication, strong will, and spirit gave hope to so many people.

Congresswoman TUBBS JONES and her work will never be forgotten as she lives in us all. She has left her mark in history, in Congress, and in our hearts.

I will deeply miss her and my thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the untimely death of Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES gives us pause. There was a great writer who once said that the death of one

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of us diminishes us all. As STEPHANIE's friends and colleagues in the U.S. Congress, we all feel a little lost and a little less because one of our most fearless champions is gone.

Those who are voiceless in America today, who have been left out and left behind, have lost a warrior, a fighter, a crusader who did what she could to defend the dignity of humankind. There was not anything shy about STEPHANIE.

She had the courage, the ability, and the desire to speak up and speak out, to fight for what she believed was right, what was fair and just.

As a fellow member of the Ways and Means Committee, she was very concerned about using the tax code to help lift the burdens of the least among us. I always enjoyed it when she made a statement or questioned a witness. She was a brilliant judge and prosecutor, and that helped make her a gifted Member of Congress.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES will be deeply missed by the Cleveland community, by the people of Ohio, by the citizens of America, by her family, friends, and all of her colleagues in the U.S. Congress. Peace be with you STEPHANIE, my friend. May God Almighty grant you eternal peace.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I first met STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES through her legendary predecessor, Representative Louis Stokes, who described her simply as "full of life." Indeed, she was. And, to have heard her impassioned speech denoting the shortcomings of a housing bill the Congress recently passed, a speech made just before the Congress went on its August break, it was impossible to see her death foreshadowed. Her zeal for public service, her love for the Members of Congress, and particularly of the CBC members, and her commitment to people who needed a hand up from government, defined her life here.

In a larger sense she was a devoted family person. She lost both her parents during her service here, and, I having also lost my mother and father over my years here, gave us the opportunity for quiet reflection on what our parents had meant to us, and helped to deepen our friendship.

She was devoted to the memory of her husband, Mervyn, who died just a few years ago. When I chaired the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, I urged her to join the board, which she did. From that point, she launched the Mervyn Jones Golf Classic which has raised millions in scholarship funds for worthy and needy college students. She was awfully proud of her son Mervyn II, who often came to

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the gym to play basketball with us "old jocks" and often schooled us with his basketball skills.

Her service on the Ways and Means Committee with me over several years gave me insight into her caring heart for health care and human resource issues but also into her competence as an infighter in the legislative process. She made her points, stood her ground, and quite often carried her position. She sought me out after Hurricane Katrina hit my district and my State, offering advice and real help. STEPHANIE identified with human suffering everywhere and wanted to do something about it.

I was stunned and saddened by her sudden and unexpected death as were we all. And it was the hardest thing not to take the plane ride to Cleveland to attend her funeral and memorial service. It was only after the sage and stern advice from my Chairwoman Carolyn Cheeks-Kilpatrick that I reluctantly canceled my trip to Cleveland to attend to the issues back at home with Hurricane Gustav bearing down on our people. I know I was well covered by the Members who did attend and part of me will always regret not being there. But, looking at it from another vantage point—not having fully seen her in death—my memories of her will only be those of her in life—not just in life but "full of life" as Lou Stokes described her.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the loss of my friend and colleague STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a kind and caring friend, a hard-working and diligent colleague, and a committed Representative. She was also a trailblazer—she was the first African American and the first female prosecutor in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, the first African American woman to be elected to serve Ohio in the House of Representatives, and the first African American woman to serve on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was an inspiration to me and to others who aspire to represent their constituents with passion, dedication, and integrity. A champion of voting rights, she stood up for those who lacked a voice to ensure that they are not denied the most fundamental right of our democracy—the right to vote.

In her role as chair of the House Ethics Committee, she led the House of Representatives in ensuring that Members of Congress live up to high standards. She understood that increasing Americans' confidence in their government requires honest and ethical behavior by their leaders.

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All those who loved STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, including her son Mervyn Leroy Jones II, and her sister Barbara Walker, are in my thoughts and prayers.

As we mourn the passing of this intelligent, hard-working, and caring Representative, we celebrate her accomplishments. We are reminded that despite the tragedy of her passing, her life was a blessing for her colleagues, her friends, her family, her constituents, and so many who needed a champion.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing great sympathy on the sudden passing of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a pioneer her entire professional career: She was the first African American and the first female prosecutor in Cuyahoga County, Ohio; the first African American woman to sit on the Common Pleas bench in Ohio; the first African American woman to be elected to Congress from Ohio; and the first African American woman to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee.

As a first-term Member of Congress, my service with STEPHANIE was too short, but I will fondly remember her bright smile and vibrant personality. Her leadership and passion will be sorely missed.

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to STEPHANIE's son, Mervyn Leroy Jones II, and her sister, Barbara Walker.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today joining my colleagues in tribute, sharing kind words and memories of our colleague and dear friend, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

I was deeply saddened when I heard the news of her death. My sincerest thoughts and prayers go out to her son Mervyn, to all her family, and to her friends and supporters during this difficult time.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was an inspiration and a tireless advocate for her constituents. She was a fighter—a strong woman of conviction and intelligence, whose values and experience guided her advocacy and fearlessness.

STEPHANIE broke molds, she broke glass ceilings, and then swept away the stereotypes. STEPHANIE was never one to be absorbed into the folds of a monochrome following. She was outspoken and proactive, bold in demeanor and action. Her always bright and powerful attire spoke to her outgoing personality, which never shied away from a challenge and ap-

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proached every day with enthusiasm and confidence. Her skill in crafting intelligent and responsible legislation shows that she viewed the world through this diverse spectrum of color, dismissing the notion that solutions to complex problems can come from a world of simply black and white.

Justice and inclusion were at the heart of her work. In her 10 years in Congress and her lifetime of service she always put justice, opportunity, and equality atop all other pursuits. STEPHANIE did not come from a life of privilege simply to serve the privileged. She came from a working class community and put her heart and soul into lifting up that community with every step of the ladder she climbed.

I remember how highly coveted she was by the then-members of the Ways and Means committee, when joining the powerful committee soon after her election. My husband Bob served on the then-committee and recognized in her character the genuine desire to serve her Nation, her constituents, and those whose voices had yet to be fully heard. Her experience as a prosecutor and judge gave her arguments tenacity and her decisions finality.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES effectively represented her Cleveland district for over a decade. Yet she never dismissed the acknowledgment that her success as a groundbreaking figure touched many outside her district's boundaries. Her work looked beyond district lines and party lines to affect, inspire, and speak for those in need of justice and advocacy.

My heart goes out to her loved ones. I know that she will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. Her impact will continue to be felt, not only in her Cleveland district and the U.S. House of Representatives, but by the many individuals who benefited from her service.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to mourn the passing of my good friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

While serving with STEPHANIE on the Ways and Means Committee, and more closely on the Health Subcommittee, I experienced first hand what a fierce and effective advocate she was in Congress. She was an uncompromising champion for health care as a right for everyone. Her constant effort highlighting the disparities in our health care system and her tireless work on behalf of end stage renal disease patients made her an outstanding Representative. She is, in a word, irreplaceable.

Her spirited advocacy and commitment to justice and fairness were accompanied by warmth and strong loyalty. Those

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who worked closely with her were privileged to see both her intense passion and joy for her work.

I extend my sincerest condolences to her son Mervyn and her sister Barbara, and the many women and men who counted her among their family and friends. As a colleague and friend, I am honored to have served beside her. She will be sorely missed.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of our dear friend, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. Since her arrival here nearly 10 years ago as the first African American woman elected to Congress by Ohio, she was a tireless advocate for the poor and our Nation's working families. Despite the tremendous personal losses she suffered, including the tragic loss of her sister, her parents, and her husband Mervyn of 26 years, she never wavered in her commitment to the people of Ohio.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES will be remembered as a role model, an ardent and bold voice for progressive causes, and a champion for the rights of the disenfranchised. She will be a tough act to follow. Her remarkable passion and bravery continue to be an inspiration to us all, and we will all truly miss her presence in this Chamber.

Ms. KILPATRICK. I'd like to yield to the former chairman, my predecessor of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman Mel Watt.

Mr. WATT. I thank the gentlelady for convening this special order for us to pay tribute to our friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

In the midst of all our sadness I think the one thing that keeps occurring over and over and over again are wonderful, uplifting, fun stories and memories of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. In fact, I was privileged to share a whole sequence of fun, funny, uplifting experiences with STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and I concur with my colleague, Emanuel Cleaver, who made a comment earlier that this life did not cheat our friend STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She lived and enjoyed every single minute of it. Even when she was working, she was having fun. So I suspect you're going to hear from this group that is coming for this special order more stories about our experiences with her because they were all a series of fun experiences.

Let me start with this experience. Probably 3 weeks before STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' death, 7:30 a.m. the phone rings at my residence in Charlotte, North Carolina, and on the other

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end is STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES saying, "Mel, I got into your city last night at about 10 o'clock. I was on my way from Memphis, Tennessee, where I had been campaigning for a person who was running for Congress, and I was on my way to give a speech in Cincinnati, Ohio, and there was bad weather in Cincinnati, Ohio, and I ended up spending the night at a motel in Charlotte, North Carolina, and I don't have any clothes and I am supposed to be giving a speech in Cincinnati later today. What can you do for me?"

I said, "Well, STEPHANIE, no problem. I will just have somebody pick you up, take you to the shopping center. You can do your shopping, buy a whole new wardrobe." So she went to all this excuse to go shopping.

So that very morning, as soon as the stores opened in Charlotte, one of my staff members had STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES at the mall and she did her shopping and we got her to the airport by 11:30 that morning to catch her flight to Cincinnati. She went to Cincinnati and gave her speech.

Now I missed the opportunity to see the outfits—not one, but outfits—that STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES purchased that morning. She promised me she was going to show me the special outfit that she purchased, and I never got the opportunity to see it.

But as those kinds of stories that make STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES a real person to us, not just a colleague in Congress, but a friend, a peer, a confidant, a person that you knew that if she ever made a commitment to you, would be there come heck or high water. I am cleaning it up a little bit.

She was our friend, a delightful, wonderful person, always with a smile. She never got cheated in this life, because she lived every moment of it.

I thank my colleague for yielding me time. I know there are so many other of my colleagues here to pay tribute. I could go on and on and on, but I won't. I thank you for doing this. My condolences to Barbara and Mervyn and the entire Stephanie Tubbs Jones family.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Thank you very much.

Sister Sister, that is who she was to me. And to Mervyn too, and Barbara and the rest of the family, it has been said, this night is for you. She lives in this Chamber, and she always will.

I yield now to a former U.S. Ambassador to Micronesia, the Congresswoman from California, Congresswoman Diane Watson.

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Ms. WATSON. Thank you so much, Madam Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had some prepared remarks, but I think the intimate stories really speak to who she was and how we felt about who she was.

After the untimely passing of our colleague Juanita Millender-McDonald, STEPHANIE called and she said, "Hey girl, I am coming out there to spend some time. I just want to be in Juanita's space."

So she came out, and I picked her up. And representing Hollywood, I took her with me that weekend, and she met Ben Vereen and she met other celebrities, and she was so thrilled. She said to me, "I'm coming out again, girl. I'm coming out again."

After we had our AKA Boule several weeks ago here and we had our pink and green, she came in the last I saw her in her red. And she came strutting down this aisle, and she said, "See, I got my red on. We are getting ready to have our Boule too." I said, "Well, your red is just a deeper pink." We laughed. And that was the last time I saw her.

STEPHANIE was that kind of person, who, as everyone has described her as being, lived life to the fullest. She was a fighter with a tremendous presence. She stood up for tens of thousands who could not stand up for themselves, and she fought for justice, equality, and opportunity for every American. In her home State of Ohio and in her beloved city of Cleveland, she led the fight for election reform to assure that every American's vote was counted and was valued.

STEPHANIE was also loved and respected by her colleagues here on Capitol Hill, where in relatively short order she was appointed the first, among her many firsts, African American woman to the prestigious Ways and Means Committee. She also served as chairwoman of the Committee on Ethics and made great strides to work across the aisle in a nonpartisan manner.

I admired her enthusiasm for public service, her integrity, her warmth, and her keen intellect. I extend to the family my condolences, to her friends and to all of her colleagues. Her presence will be missed. But I know she is in this assemblage at this moment. Her shoes will be hard to fill, but, STEPHANIE, we feel the surge of energy as we speak of you this evening.

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Ms. KILPATRICK. I thank the gentlewoman from California.

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I yield now to a young man from Newark, New Jersey, chairperson of our African Globalism Committee, the gentleman from Newark, Congressman Donald Payne.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Chairman, the chair of our Congressional Black Caucus who has done such an outstanding job—it is really a great loss. We have this untimely loss of our wonderful friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. A void has been left in the lives of all of those who had the privilege of knowing this remarkable, vibrant, and accomplished woman. It is a loss shared by her family, her many friends, her Ohio constituents, and all of those around our great Nation who looked to her as a champion of justice, a person who was an advocate for the everyday people.

A former county prosecutor, a judge on the municipal court, she went to break glass ceiling after glass ceiling, with her election as the first African American woman to be elected to Congress from Ohio. She tore down barriers here in the House of Representatives when she successfully sought a seat on the Ways and Means Committee, and those walls came down. She was like at Jericho. When she blew that trumpet, the walls just came tumbling down. She was just so full of energy.

In the little time that she was on the Ways and Means Committee, her reputation for fairness was so great that she was selected as chair of the Ethics Committee. To chair the House Ethics Committee, you have to be the fairest person among that body. It is a tough position. So, once again she was called to duty. It is really not an office you seek, it is just something that is bestowed upon you, and when you are asked, you have to take it.

She was a pioneer who forged ahead, not just for herself, because she knew that she was opening doors for others. As co-chair of the Caribbean Caucus, I had the pleasure of traveling with STEPHANIE. We would go to the Caribbean, and she was a great traveling companion. She had a lot of interest in global issues. She was interested in understanding other cultures. She was interested in those people in nations less fortunate than ours.

She was enthusiastic about promoting international trade. She wanted to have economic development to address the problems of poverty and hunger around the world. She wanted to bring more educational opportunities to regions in the Caribbean and other places that we traveled.

Even though she was a diligent public servant, STEPHANIE always found time to laugh and enjoy life. A terrific sports

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fan, she was unrivaled in her enthusiasm for her hometown teams, the Cleveland Browns, the Cleveland Cavaliers, and she even cheered the Cleveland Indians, even though they had not won a World Series since 1948 and she would complain about that.

She was just so proud of Mervyn II. She loved to sail. My brother is a sailor, and they would talk about just getting out. The only water I like is when I take my shower every day, and that is about it. But she loved to sail, and she just knew all about it, and her sister Barbara right there paid attention.

I remember her proud father. He was elderly and he was so dignified. One time we were staying on the same floor at the CBC's hotel where we were, and his tie came loose. He was walking so proud, and I said, "Could I just fix it for you?" I felt good just trying to do something. And he was just so proud. I know how my grandfather was, the dignified black man who had to endure so much. But when they walked, they walked proud and they walked straight as an arrow, and that is how he was.

She was just great. She was my pal. She was my traveling companion. It's just hard to find words for STEPHANIE, full of life, full of energy. I didn't smoke, but I used to tell her she needed to slow down on that smoking. But we did have some times together. I won't get into that. We don't want to get into too many details.

She was good at everything. She did a great job with that tennis and golf tournament every Wednesday at the Congressional Black Caucus lunch. She would say, "You have got to come. You have got to support it, scholarships for children."

It is hard to be in Congress without STEPHANIE there, but we are going to have to remember her. She was my pal.

[The revised remarks of Mr. Payne follow:]

With the untimely loss of our wonderful friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, a void has been left in the lives of all those who had the privilege of knowing this remarkable, vibrant, and accomplished woman. It is a loss shared by her family, her many friends, her Ohio constituents, and all those around our great Nation who looked to her as a champion of justice and also an advocate for their everyday concerns.

A former county prosecutor and judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court, she went on to break another glass ceiling with her election as the first African American woman elect-

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ed to Congress from Ohio. She tore down a barrier here in the House of Representatives when she successfully sought a seat on the Ways and Means Committee, which had no African American woman member at the time. It was a measure of her reputation for fairness that she was selected to serve as chair of the House Ethics Committee.

She was a pioneer who forged ahead not just for herself, but because she knew that she was opening doors for others who would benefit from her groundbreaking steps.

As co-chair of the Caribbean Caucus, I had the pleasure of traveling with STEPHANIETUBBS JONES, and what a great traveling companion she was. She had a strong interest in global issues, in understanding other cultures, and in improving the lives of those in nations less fortunate than ours. She was enthusiastic about promoting international trade and economic development; in addressing the problems of poverty and hunger; and she wanted to bring more educational opportunities to regions where such opportunities were severely lacking.

Even though she was a diligent public servant, STEPHANIE always found time to laugh and to enjoy life. A terrific sports fan, she was unrivaled in her enthusiasm for her teams, the Cleveland Browns, the Cleveland Cavaliers, and she even cheered on the Cleveland Indians, even though they had not won the World Series since 1948—a year before she was born.

She was also very proud of her son, Mervyn II, and she loved spending time with her sister, Barbara Walker. I recall the care and attention she paid to her elderly father; it was touching to see the bond between them when they were together.

STEPHANIE lived life out loud. Her dazzling smile, her passion for causes, and her devotion to her family made her a remarkable person to know.

Her hometown newspaper, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, summed it up well when they wrote that she was "tough, exuberant, passionate . . . a woman from modest means who rose to national prominence."

Our thoughts and prayers remain with her family as we mourn the loss of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES and celebrate her amazing life and legacy.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Thank you, Congressman.

You know, you have heard it said tonight that she was a friend and a leader and intelligent, and you could count on her when she gave you her word. We all felt that. And I

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think as Congressman Payne said, she is in this Chamber, and she will be in this Chamber, and it is our responsibility to carry her spirit and her dedication to building a new America for all of God's people.

The caucus has received many letters and congratulations, condolences, and expressions of love for Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. At this time I would like to put some of them in the *Record*, from the South African Embassy, from the Embassy of Turkey, from the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, and from the Embassy of Colombia. The list goes on and on, and we will be putting them in the *Record* all week long. To you, Sister Sister, you live, and you always will.

EMBASSY OF TURKEY, WASHINGTON, DC,
August 21, 2008.

Hon. CAROLYN KILPATRICK,
Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN KILPATRICK, I learned with profound sadness and regret the passing of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, chairwoman of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and a valuable member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Chairwoman JONES took great personal interest in Turkey and was dedicated to upholding the strong relations, friendship, strategic partnership and alliance between our two great nations. We will always feel her great loss in our hearts.

On this note, I would like to extend our deepest condolences and sympathies to the members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Sincerely yours,

NABI SENSOY,
Ambassador.

SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, DC,
August 22, 2008.

Hon. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK,
Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus,
Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRWOMAN, it was with sadness that I learned of the sudden and untimely passing of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. A spirited Representative from the great state of Ohio, Ms. TUBBS JONES stood up proudly for what she believed in, and her infectious zest for life, her optimism and her service to others, are all the qualities that she brought to the U.S. House of Representatives, and to all that had the pleasure of knowing her, and she will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Republic of South Africa, I hereby wish to convey our sincere condolences to the family, friends, constituents, colleagues and especially to you our friends in the Congres-

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sional Black Caucus, and you remain in our thoughts throughout this very difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

WELILE NHLAPO,
Ambassador.

BLACK WOMEN LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION OF
GREATER CHICAGO, INC., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,
August 21, 2008.

Re death of the Honorable Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Hon. CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK,
Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus,
Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN KILPATRICK: The Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago wishes to honor the late Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES for her numerous accomplishments and achievements in her role as a member of the Ohio Congressional Delegation, an African-American lawyer, and an activist.

As the chairman of the esteemed Congressional Black Caucus, we respectfully ask that you place the enclosed resolution into the *Congressional Record*.

Should you have any questions about our bar association, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

MARY A. MELCHOR,
President, Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago.

Enclosure.

A RESOLUTION FOR
U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES (OH–11)

"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." II Timothy 4:6–8

In commemoration of the life of U.S. Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES (OH–11) from the members of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.:

Whereas, it is with deepest regret that we are compelled to mourn the passing of U.S. Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES on August 20, 2008, the first African-American woman elected to the United States House of Representatives from Ohio; and

Whereas, Congresswoman JONES was a lifelong resident of the 11th District of Ohio, which encompasses most of the East Side of Cleveland and parts of the West Side of Cleveland and includes parts of 22 suburbs; and

Whereas, Congresswoman JONES was in her fifth term in office and a strong advocate for many issues, including championing wealth building and economic development, access and delivery of health care, and quality education for all; and

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Whereas, Congresswoman JONES chaired the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics), served on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, and was an active member of numerous Congressional Caucuses, including the Congressional Black Caucus; and

Whereas, Congresswoman JONES introduced several pieces of legislation including, the Uterine Fibroids Research and Education Act to increase funding for research on uterine fibroids and provide enhanced public education about this condition; the Predatory Mortgage Lending Practices Reduction Act, which would require certification of mortgage brokers and enhance penalties for predatory loans, and the Campus Fire Prevention Act, which would provide money to equip college dorms, fraternities, and sorority houses with fire suppression devices; and

Whereas, Congresswoman JONES introduced the "Count Every Vote" Act of 2005, which seeks to provide an all-encompassing solution to a broad range of voting irregularities that occurred during the 2004 presidential election, and was an original co-sponsor of multiple significant pieces of legislation, including healthcare for low and middle-income families and community re-entry for exfelons; and

Whereas, Congresswoman JONES made a number of historic achievements in her distinguished career as a public servant, including serving as the first African-American and the first female Cuyahoga County, Ohio Prosecutor, the first African-American woman to sit on the Common Pleas bench in the State of Ohio, and a Municipal Court Judge in the City of Cleveland; and

Whereas, Congresswoman JONES received numerous honors throughout her lifetime, including the National Bible Association Capitol Hill Distinguished Leadership Award, the Human Rights Campaign of Cleveland Equality Award, the Backbone Campaign's Backbone Award, and the Carib News Multi-National Business Conference Marcus Garvey Award; and

Whereas, Congresswoman JONES was a graduate of Cleveland Public Schools; received her undergraduate degree in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University in 1971; received her Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1974; and received honorary doctorates from David N. Myers University, Notre Dame College and Central State University; and

Whereas, Congresswoman JONES was an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated and served on its national Social Action Committee; and was a lifelong member and member of the Board of Trustees of Bethany Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio; and

Whereas, Congresswoman JONES was married to Mervyn L. Jones, Sr., deceased (2003), for 27 years and is the proud mother of Mervyn Leroy Jones, II.

Be it therefore resolved, that we, the members of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., pause on this day with abiding sympathy to support the family of Congresswoman JONES;

Be it further resolved, that we offer our admiration, respect, and support of the legacy of Congresswoman JONES and give recognition for the many "firsts" that she achieved as an African-American woman, lawyer, and legislator and an outspoken champion of justice for her Congressional District, the State of Ohio, and the nation;

Be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be given to the family of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES; and a copy shall be presented to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, and the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus at the Democratic National Convention which will take place in Denver, Colorado from August 25, 2008

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through August 28, 2008; and a copy shall also be placed in the archives of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.

Respectfully submitted, this 21st day of August, 2008 by the membership of Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., by Mary A. Melchor, President.

EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA, WASHINGTON, DC,
August 21, 2008.

Hon. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK,
Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN KILPATRICK, I would like to extend my most heart-felt condolences for the passing of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES to you and the members of the CBC.

During my time in Washington, I had several opportunities to meet with Congresswoman TUBBS JONES, and was fortunate to have had the chance to be with her during her visit to Colombia. Her high spirit, sharp mind and positive outlook left a lasting impression, and she will be missed.

Her son, Mervyn Jones, her family, her staff and her colleagues remain in our prayers.

Sincerely,

CAROLINA BARCO,
Ambassador.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield the balance of my time to a young man who has taken this House by storm. He chairs our Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, one of Congresswoman TUBBS JONES' sons, also a member of the Ways and Means Committee. I yield the balance of my time to Congressman Kendrick Meek.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida will control the remainder of the time.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Madam Chairman.

I would like to thank my leader and colleague from the great city of Detroit, Ms. Kilpatrick, for yielding the balance of the time. We will continue to go down the list I have been given here, Mr. Speaker, as we continue to honor our fallen colleague.

Next on this list I have Congressman Danny Davis from the great State of Illinois, a very good friend of the Congresswoman, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues as we come this evening to pay tribute to our colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. I am pleased to follow so many of my distinguished colleagues, because they

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have said so much until there isn't much to say. But the interesting thing is that with STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, you never run out of things to say, because she was so much and meant so much to so many.

It is interesting that when you knew STEPHANIE, you knew her whole family. You just didn't know her, you knew her sister; you knew her father; you knew her mother; you knew Mervyn; you knew her husband, Mervyn the first; you knew Mervyn the second; you knew nieces and nephews; you knew friends; and you almost got to know the whole of Cleveland if you knew STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE, as many people have already indicated, had a great legal mind. Prior to coming to Congress, she served as both a prosecutor and a judge. And the interesting thing about prosecution is that you are generally trying to make sure that the law is upheld, and that once people commit infractions, that they pay a price. Of course, that is what prosecutors often do.

Well, STEPHANIE had another interest in the law, and she wanted to make sure that the law also had a sense of justice. And even though she was a prosecutor, brother Kendrick, even though she was a prosecutor, she was a champion for those who had committed crimes, who had been convicted of crimes, and was one of the staunchest supporters of something called the Second Chance Act.

That is a bill which simply says that once individuals have fallen, that they also need to be lifted up; that once they have had problems, they need to be reclaimed; and, once they had committed crimes for which they may have been punished, they also needed to be redeemed. And so it was very pleasant for me to work with STEPHANIE on the Second Chance legislation.

She befriended people from all walks of life. It didn't matter if they were Democrats or Republicans, or if they had been prosecuted.

As a matter of fact, when I think of her, I often think of the poet Homer, who talked about the kind of house that he wanted to live in, and I think STEPHANIE was an embodiment of that kind of house. He said,

> Let me live in my house by the side of the road, where the race of men go by. Men who are good, men who are bad, wise, foolish. But then, so am I. So why would I sit in the scorner's seat or hurl the cynic's ban? But let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man.

STEPHANIE was indeed a friend to mankind, to humankind.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Mr. MEEK of Florida. I thank you so much, Congressman Davis. And she was very proud of the fact that she was able to work with you on the Second Chance Act, and was there when the bill was signed.

I want to call on my very good friend and STEPHANIE's good friend, I call her my Brooklyn Congresswoman, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke from the great State of New York.

Ms. CLARKE. To my colleague and very good friend, Kendrick Meek, I want to thank you for picking up the mantle. I know that STEPHANIE is watching us and is a part of all that is taking place.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the distinguished woman from Ohio, and I still can't believe that she has transitioned. I have taken the Congresswoman's passing somewhat personally. You have heard many of the Members speak about their relationship with her and the pet names or nicknames that she had for them. Well, mine was Baby Girl.

My sister, friend, mentor, Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, to the Representative of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, Cleveland, Ohio, from the 11th Congressional District of New York, Brooklyn, New York, I love you.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was the consummate public servant. As a new Member-elect to the 110th session of Congress, one of the very first persons to embrace me on the Hill was STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She opened her office, her office staff to helping me to adjust to Washington, to select my staff, and to share with me what her transition had been as she reflected back on becoming a Member here in Congress 10 years previously.

I had the privilege to have been mentored by her, and the one thing I can say is that she was one determined diva. We danced together, we shopped together, we drove together. Three things that I know that she loved to do; dance, shop, and drive. As a matter of fact, she shared with me the fact that if I loved to drive, then I have got to put my staff under reins and get me a car and do my thing, because that is what she had to do.

She worked hard, she played hard, she loved hard. She was proud to represent the people of Cleveland, and she loved her family. She simply adored her son and wanted the very best for him in this life, Mervyn II. She was an inspiration in my life. She loved her country, and she fought for our

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people every day with an abiding commitment to their struggles.

When STEPHANIE entered any venue, the chemistry changed, and the atmosphere immediately acknowledged her presence. Her history, a trailblazer, a fighter for women's rights, women's health, civil rights, civil liberties, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was always on the move for justice and equality. And I learned so much from this woman, and I just feel privileged to have had her as my mentor.

She dedicated much of her life in service to others. She has bequeathed to us a legacy and an imperative for me to do the same. To Mervyn II, to Barbara, to the Tubbs Jones family, to her constituents in Ohio, to her staff in Ohio, to her staff here in Washington, may the love of God be a comfort to you in this time of our bereavement.

Bon voyage, my sweet sister. See you in that great getting-up morning. Fare thee well.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Congresswoman. And I know that Ms. TUBBS JONES meant so much to you.

I would like to call on another good friend and new friend, but a colleague of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, Ms. Donna Edwards from the Fourth District of Maryland, who posted her condolences statement on the 21st of this month, Mr. Speaker, the passing of Ms. TUBBS JONES.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Chairman, I am really grateful to be here this evening to speak of my new colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

When I was first elected to Congress just a few weeks ago, one of the first calls that I received was from STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. And when I came here to this floor to be sworn in to the U.S. Congress as the first African American woman to represent our great State of Maryland, it was STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES who greeted me and said, "Hello, girlfriend. I am a first, too." And I won't forget that. And she knew, not asking me about my office or how I was planning to settle in, but she said to me, "You have a man-child." And I said, "Yes, I do." And to me, that was a mark not just of a colleague and of a politician, but it was a mark of a woman. And I understood from her as a mother what it meant to be a mother to a man-child.

The next question she asked me was whether I planned to play basketball, because she knew that I had coached my son

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in basketball. I am not really quite sure how she knew that, but she did. And so she immediately said to me that not only did I have to play basketball, but I also had to learn how to play golf. And so I am going to take that as her marching orders as I serve in the U.S. Congress, and try to serve in her memory, not just as a great woman, as a great politician, and as a great sportswoman.

And I had the privilege of admiring STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES not in the U.S. Congress but outside and from afar, and the great privilege just prior to coming to serve in this body of speaking at an event with her in the spring. And she lit up the room. And very recently someone in my congressional district asked me, "Did you know STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES?" And however one knows a person, what I could say is one of my favorite words in the English language is ebullient. And STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was ebullient.

Thank you.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much for that very kind and moving dedication to Congresswoman TUBBS JONES.

One of my good friends from California, Laura Richardson, who has taken this Congress by storm and has worked very well in the 37th Congressional District of California, Mr. Speaker, it is very unique having women that have come to Congress because, as you know, the Congressional Black Caucus has been hit hard this particular Congress with losing three women of our caucus in this 110th Congress alone. And all of them played a very substantial role.

This next speaker is, I wouldn't call a replacement, but an addition to that greatness as we continue to march on to allow good representation from all over the country here, Congresswoman Laura Richardson.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Meek, thank you for yielding at this time.

It is interesting, from Florida, you brought up that we as members of the Congressional Black Caucus have lost three great women in this session. And as I came in as a new Member really learning from Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald who I had worked for, when I came into this body, I came into a family. And that was something that Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES taught us; that coming to Congress wasn't about a group, it wasn't just about legislation, it was about people who were committed to

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working together to make our communities better. That is why we came here.

I'll never forget when I stood in this very spot to share my comments of what it was that I hoped to do on behalf of my community, and I knew that Ms. TUBBS JONES was really hurting because she missed her colleague, Ms. Juanita Millender-McDonald. But in that same hand, she knew that, as I stood there, she was willing to embrace me. She was willing to help me. And she wanted to make sure that I had everything that Ms. McDonald had and then some. So I will never forget as I spoke and I turned, and, yes, she was one of those first big smiles that I saw, and she said, "Hey, girl. How are you?" As she would always tell us.

Ms. TUBBS JONES, what I wanted to share with her family and with all of us today are just a couple things. First, what I know of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES is that she was always ready. And I think that is a good lesson, not only for us as colleagues, but as young people coming forward, being ready to seize the opportunity, being ready to speak up and to stand up, and not to hesitate at all.

Another thing that always stood out for me with her was just her knowledge. You heard a lot of people tonight talk about the fact of her law background and all of that. But it was so much that was in her head, so much of what she wanted to take of what she had learned to really change America as we see it today.

And that brings me to my third point about sports, and people have talked about that. Yes, I think we are going to have a big basketball team next year, and I am sure we will work hard to win in her honor. But I want to talk about two other sports that were so special to her.

One, taking her son to the Super Bowl. That was something that she valued and she treasured. And I would challenge all of us CBC members that we need to make sure that he goes next year and the years forward with us and our families.

Two, her love for golf. In honor of her husband, who had also served our caucus so well, we had named the spouse's program after him, and I am sure next year we are going to have to add her name to it.

But also, I want to talk about another sport, and that is just being in the gym. You know, Congresswoman Barbara Lee and STEPHANIE were gym partners, and I just happened to be the beneficiary of being the third person there. And when you hear people talk about the fervor and how vigor-

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ously she approached everything, it wasn't just here at work. It was her on the treadmill, it was her on the Stairmaster. It was her getting ready to come in here and do work. She was always about working hard and really benefiting in any way that she could to help somebody else.

The last two things I want to talk about are, one, her commitment to youth. If you would come on this floor, it was not uncommon that Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES would pull you aside and say, "Girl, I've got somebody I want to you to meet." And if it wasn't a page from her local area, if it wasn't a young intern who she was in the process of hiring, her commitment to young people was second to none. And I have got to tell you, as being a relatively young Member of Congress, it is critical that we take on that mantle. It was something that she knew and she understood more than most, and that was that the development that we do for our future young people is really showing wisdom for the future.

And, last, I want to mention our travels that we had on behalf of Senator Clinton. I had an opportunity to go; Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was the co-chair for her national campaign, and we had an opportunity to travel to South Carolina, to Ohio, to Nevada. I didn't go to Puerto Rico as some did, but she went all over the place. In honor of the sisterhood of the traveling pantsuits, I want to say that Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, when I had an opportunity to go to Ohio, because she was also working in so many other States, her folks loved her.

Her folks still love her. And it was out of that respect that they had for her that anyone who came as her guest, they were so well treated. And my time that I had a chance to spend in Ohio, and to all the young elected officials that she mentored and she helped, being a part of those 8–12 months that we had an opportunity to work, there was no one who ever wearied in her drive. There was no one who ever hesitated. There was no one who worked harder to make sure that Americans really understood the value of what we have in our elected officials.

And so, as I close, I just want to say, my time that I had with Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was to know her love, was to know how sincere she was, and last, she was unwavering when she committed herself to you.

We love you and we love the family. Thank you very much.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Congresswoman.

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Mr. Speaker, I am just going to yield time for my good friend and a good friend of my mother's, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, Marcy Kaptur, who is the dean of women here in the House, longest serving woman on the Appropriations Committee, and also dean of the Ohio delegation that held an hour prior to this one as we dedicated a resolution and condolences of the House to STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

And as she sat here listening to the stories and testimonials of members of the Congressional Black Caucus of how we remember STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, I turned around and I said, "Marcy, do you have anything else that you would like to share with the House?" And she said, "I want to talk about the red dress." So I want to hear this too. I yield to Ms. Kaptur.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Meek). And your mother certainly had a man-child too. And we love Carrie Meek, Congresswoman Meek. I miss her very much, and she must be very, very proud of you. I am certain of that.

We have shared so many memories this evening, and there are very serious ones that I will end with. But I have to say that I can still see STEPHANIE sitting in the Speaker's chair in the reddest of red suits, and she just beamed. And she loved that chair, and she loved that gavel, and she used it. You could hear it ring against the walls when she would hit that gavel down.

I did not know that she was not the only member of a sisterhood that wore those red dresses. It wasn't until her service in Cleveland that I saw an entire street from side to side covered with women in red dresses. STEPHANIE had many acquaintances and many friends. And I know that those red outfits gave her strength, and it certainly brightened this Chamber.

I remember her scarves with the fringes. I don't know where STEPHANIE got all those, but they certainly added a flourish here, and they helped to cheer us up and to add to the full smile, ear to ear, that greeted every person that she ever met.

Now, some of us knew about her cheers. There were many cheers, sports cheers, political cheers, Democratic cheers. She had a chant and a rhyme and a rhythm about her, and she had a presence, and she took those cheers forward. I know one of those cheers, one of the more recent ones with a rhyme was H–I–L–L–A–R–Y. I know that was one of the latest cheers.

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She had a great devotion to youth, to the younger women who are serving in this Chamber, three of whom we just heard from, Congresswoman Richardson, Congresswoman Edwards, and Congresswoman Clarke. And it almost seems somewhat providential that as we lost three women from the Congressional Black Caucus, we have three younger women on the floor tonight. That says something right there. And I have no doubt STEPHANIE is watching over us making sure that the numbers get even better.

I think that her pathbreaking efforts in so many ways put her in the footsteps of Sojourner Truth; particularly, I am woman, I can do anything. I know STEPHANIE believed that to her very core. Her zest for life and her indomitable spirit surround us, surround her son, surround her sister, surround all of her friends, her church friends in Ohio, all of those who came to know her, appreciate her.

I know that Congressman Louis Stokes, her predecessor, feels this loss particularly deeply. I recall with great affection his service here. As the years go on, it is amazing the events that we witness and that we endure.

In STEPHANIE's memory, I want to thank Congressman Meek for holding this special hour on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and allowing me to add a few words to the eloquence that has been spoken this evening in memory of our beloved friend. And I yield back the time you have kindly given me.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much. And Marcy, I just want to thank you for being a good friend of STEPHANIE's, and continuing to carry the flag here in the House.

I would like to bring on another Member, a great Member of Congress, and she is a good, good sister of STEPHANIE's, was a good friend and traveled to Cleveland in between STEPHANIE's departure and her homegoing service to be with STEPHANIE's family. We know her as Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee. She was another fighter here in Congress that sleeps with her fists balled up. STEPHANIE and she were sisters as it relates to that. So my good friend from the great State of Texas, Sheila Jackson-Lee.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I feel like family has gathered here on the floor, and I thank my good and distinguished friend. We are like family. And his mother, and as he has come here, and the extended family relationship.

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So, even as I spoke on the bereavement resolution, I wanted to come and be part of the Congressional Black Caucus special order because I could feel the warmth and spirit just continue to flow through. I hope the *Congressional Record* doesn't mind us talking about spirit flowing through.

I want to acknowledge her staff that is staying here till the end that are in the gallery there, and they are like family as well. We know that STEPHANIE would say she loved her staff, both in Washington and in Cleveland.

Certainly, I think the most poignant moment of the homegoing service was my friend and brother, the Honorable Kendrick Meek, and Congressman Ryan, having stood together, stoically, strongly, and specially to talk about Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES and, as well, as they did so, you could feel in that huge Cleveland Convention Center, everyone just pouring love toward them. I think it drew Mervyn, her son, out of his seat to go up on the stage and to see the most powerful embrace that one could ever see. It will be lasting. I think it will go down in the annals of her record, when you pull her up and you look at this celebration, this homegoing service, you will note that there was this kind of experience, this moving experience. I want to thank my distinguished Member of Congress from Florida, Congressman Meek, for just pouring his heart out during that service. I think all of us just paused for a moment to see the largeness of our relationship with STEPHANIE.

So I wanted to come because I didn't get a chance to just mention more extensively, someone who allowed you to know most of her family members during her time here in Congress. The goodness is I think we should celebrate that her family members lived, her mom and dad lived to see her become a Member of Congress. Her husband, of which, someone mentioned they had celebrated 25 years together or more, lived to see her in the U.S. Congress and enjoyed being part of her commitment to the Congressional Black Caucus, with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. They were a couple. They were a pair.

In fact, I am envious and dream of the fact that I used to hear the stories about the yachting that they did together as a couple, and always said one day I would have the time to go. But just think about how she used her life experiences of joy and large living to touch everyone's life.

When we talked about airlines, when we talked about the troubles airlines were having, I remember her talking after 9/11. She would always get in there that her dad was a sky-

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cap. When they were talking about salaries or talking about working conditions at the airlines, she had an affinity because she would get in there that her dad was a skycap, and she was proud of that.

And I want everybody to know, since we live in this kind of multicultural society, that being a skycap was a big deal for an African American and an African American man. It was middle class, it was a working job that had benefits, but it was an important responsibility. I know that because my uncle was a skycap. So that was an important, if you will, connection for her dad who supported this family.

And of course, her mom and her sisters, and as Congressman Meek mentioned, I had a chance to visit Barbara and Mervyn when I went to visit them at home.

There were friends, and I know that I will get in trouble, but I know that the mayor of Warrensville I believe is the name, Mayor Fudge, a dear friend and a part of the Delta family. But I know the guy that she calls Joe Hewitt; never a single name, just calling him Joe Hewitt, larger than life, someone whom she cared about; he cared about her. We had a chance to enter into fellowship with their family.

So I wanted to come and say that, as we talk about sisterhood, it is really real. And as we talk about traveling with her, it is really real. As we talk about being larger than life, it is really real as well.

I want to close simply by adding to what my good friend, Marcy Kaptur from Cleveland said, as I looked at the three Congresspersons, one each from Maryland, California, and New York, three beautiful young women. And we lost Congresswomen Julia Carson, Juanita Millender-McDonald, and now STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, all mentors. Look at the legacy that they have left.

Look at the legacy of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, who I call a great patriot, a great American, because she could fight you for her love for America. She would not take a back seat. Whether or not she was talking about predatory lending or about health care that did not serve the people well in her community or around the Nation, or those incarcerated persons who were treated unfairly and didn't get a second chance, she still loved America.

So I want to leave us with the words of Sojourner Truth. It was when she was sitting in the back of the room, and it was during the abolitionist movement, suffragette movement. It was crowded, and she saw they saw her hand raise up, and the person called her sir, or indicated that she was

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a man. And Sojourner Truth stood up and said, "Ain't I a woman? I borne 13 children into slavery. Ain't I a woman?"

To STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, there will be no doubt that she was a woman's woman and a leader's leader.

And finally, in closing, I read from Philippians 4:8:

> Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.

Let us think on the life of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and let us, in all of our imperfections, and we have them, embellish those things in ourselves. As the Congressional Black Caucus, let us live on, and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, of which my distinguished colleague is the chair, let her spirit live on as we do her work and do the work of the Lord.

[The revised remarks of Ms. Jackson-Lee follow:]

I rise today with a conflict of emotions to recognize Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. I stand with a heavy heart enriched and gladdened that I had the opportunity of knowing and working with such a beacon of light here in Congress.

Before heading to the funeral I was reminded of the words of Mother Teresa,

> There is a light in this world, a healing spirit—more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force, when there is suffering, and too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.

That is why although I rise with a heavy heart at the loss of a colleague and friend, I stand with a realization and gratefulness for all that Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was able to do for her family, for her constituents, and for her country in her brief time here on this Earth. I also believe that Congresswoman TUBBS JONES is in a better place and is looking down on us with that contagious smile and generous nature that made us all love working with her.

As Women's Caucus and Congressional Black Caucus members, the Congresswoman and I spent a lot of time working together and talking about our lives, our unique work, and the issues facing our Nation.

I had the opportunity to get to know this great woman and learn that she was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where she graduated from the city's public schools, later earning degrees from Case Western Reserve University, the Flora Stone

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Mather College, and Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

I knew that she was a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta; and even more proud to have been married to the love of her life, Mervyn L. Jones, Sr., for over 27 years until his passing in 2003. Together she and Mervyn had one son; Mervyn Leroy Jones II, who was the light of her life.

Like me, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a lawyer who had been a local judge. She served on the Cleveland Municipal Court in 1981, and later on the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County before becoming the Representative for the 11th District of Ohio.

She was selected to be the chairwoman of the House Ethics Committee to watch over the standards of ethical conduct for Members of the House. She also served on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee where she fought for economic development and financial opportunities for all. She was loved by her district, and was routinely reelected against nominal opposition.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES spent 58 years on this Earth. She was a blessing, and her memory will always be a treasure. She was loved beyond words and will be missed beyond measure by all that knew her.

Over the last few months, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES and I traveled across the country together. She was always focused on doing the right thing. She understood that in this unique work of ours we serve the people, but we must also answer to our conscience. Doing the right thing in this job is not always an easy task—but she did it day in and day out as she worked to help the people of Ohio, Americans across this great Nation, and our men and women overseas.

She was an outstanding example of what it means to be a leader. She epitomized service before self. Indeed, as a society, we must do all we can do to build upon the strength of service to help strengthen the fabric of the Nation. I offer the Tubbs Jones family encouragement in their time of bereavement by saying, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Her work on Earth is complete. We join the Lord in saying, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." She was a fighter for issues that affect the least fortunate among us and in all the years she was in Congress—she never forgot that. Now let us not forget her.

The Bible states in Philippians 4:8:

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever

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things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.

Let us remember Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, a public servant, a colleague—a friend.

[From the *New York Times*, August 21, 2008]

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, LAWMAKER, DIES AT 58

(By Dennis Hevesi)

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, the first African-American woman elected to the House of Representatives from Ohio and a leader in the fight against predatory lending practices, died Wednesday. She was 58.

The cause was a ruptured brain aneurysm that Ms. TUBBS JONES suffered Tuesday, Eileen Sheil, a spokeswoman for the Cleveland Clinic, which owns the Huron Hospital in East Cleveland where the congresswoman died, told The Associated Press.

Ms. TUBBS JONES, a Democrat, was in her fifth term as representative of the 11th Congressional District, which includes most of the east side of Cleveland. Two years ago, she was re-elected with 83 percent of the vote. Before her first election to Congress, in 1998, she had been the chief prosecutor for Cuyahoga County in Ohio.

Considered a liberal, Ms. TUBBS JONES was a co-sponsor of legislative efforts to broaden health care coverage for low- and middle-income people and of programs supporting the re-entry of convicts into their communities. She was also the author of legislation requiring certification for mortgage brokers and stiffer penalties for predatory loans.

In June, Ms. TUBBS JONES voted against emergency supplemental financing for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I feel it important that we have a plan for a timely redeployment of our troops from Iraq and Afghanistan before we continue funding what has become a seemingly endless war," she said at the time.

When Congress officially ratified President Bush's re-election in January 2005, Ms. TUBBS JONES joined Senator Barbara Boxer, Democrat of California, in initiating a rare challenge to what has historically been a polite formal ceremony. They were objecting to accepting Ohio's 20 electoral votes for Mr. Bush, citing voting irregularities in the state.

Instead of holding a courteous joint session to certify the election, lawmakers were forced to retreat to their separate chambers for two hours of debate. In the end, the House voted 267 to 31 against the challenge; in the Senate, the vote was 74 to 1.

STEPHANIE TUBBS was born in Cleveland on Sept. 10, 1949. She graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 1971 and received her law degree there three years later.

From 1976 to 1979, she was an assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor. In 1981, she won election as a Cleveland Municipal Court judge, and 10 years later she was appointed chief prosecutor.

As chief prosecutor, Ms. TUBBS JONES was at the center of a controversy in 1998 when she refused to reopen an investigation into the 1954 murder of the wife of Dr. Sam Sheppard, dismissing new DNA evidence that Dr. Sheppard's supporters said would have exonerated him.

The case had received nationwide coverage in the 1950s. Dr. Sheppard spent 10 years in prison before the Supreme Court ruled that his trial had been prejudiced by publicity. He was acquitted at a second trial, in 1966,

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and died in 1970. With the new evidence, Dr. Sheppard's son was seeking to collect damages on behalf of his father. Ms. TUBBS JONES argued that the new DNA results would be inadmissible because the samples were too old.

Ms. TUBBS JONES's husband of 27 years, Mervyn L. Jones Sr., died in 2003. She is survived by her son, Mervyn II.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Congresswoman. It is a very kind tribute and kind words given to our colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to take the remainder of our time to speak a few minutes on reflection of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. I can say that there has been several days of reflection and testimony to her life and her presence here in this Chamber.

I can also share with the House, Mr. Speaker, that this tribute will continue on Wednesday. The Speaker has called a memorial service of the House and of the Congress in Statuary Hall at 11 a.m., so those Members of the House or staff and friends can come and reflect and hear further stories of STEPHANIE and her contributions to this great country.

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation will host a reception for all in the Rayburn Room afterward, where we will post pictures of STEPHANIE and the contributions that she's not only made to this country but also to young people who are walking the Halls of Congress. She spearheaded efforts within the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation to provide internships and fellowships for so many students who ordinarily wouldn't have the opportunity to do it working along with our Congressional Black Caucus spouses.

I came to the Chamber today with mixed feelings. It was a special kind of warmness that hit me when I walked into the Chamber because so many times we would have the chance to laugh and talk about things that took place either over the weekend or over the break. And "Stephanie Hall," like leader Boehner talked about a little earlier today, her office is right down the hall from my office, and we served on the Ways and Means Committee together. So it's almost like not only Congresswoman TUBBS JONES, but her staff and my staff, it was almost like having a good neighbor, someone you can go get a cup of sugar from. Someone you can go sit down and hold common goals with.

And we all know—and you heard a lot of folks saying you're going to miss her because she was one of those individuals who you assumed was just going to pop up at any moment. I was talking with my wife when we attended her homegoing service in Ohio, and she said, "It just seems like

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STEPHANIE's going to walk up behind us and say, 'Hey, what's going on,'" because that was the kind of unique person that she was.

I think during this whole time as I continue to reflect and really live deep in the spirit of how good God is, here in the present to have served with someone like STEPHANIE, to have folks on both sides of the aisle, to have people who know what it means to punch in and punch out every day when they go to work, those that wake up early to catch the bus to go to work, those that are cleaning hotel rooms, those that are driving the carts at Cleveland Airport. There are so many times that STEPHANIE would talk to them and make them feel like real people. All of them, including what we may call the "blue shirts" here in the Capitol Building, those that work here, those that clean, those uniforms, the police officers, everyone knew STEPHANIE for being the person that will treat them the same way they would treat a Member of Congress or a President or a leader of a country or what have you.

I say all of that to emphasize that the best conversation that I keep going back to, and I spoke of this at her memorial service, was a conversation that I had with my mother about STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE was a member of our family. Period. Dot. She would travel to south Florida and would do things together with my mother, and they had a relationship prior to my arrival because they were both Delta sisters. It took me, Mr. Speaker, a while, because my mother and I really work hard to talk every day. I was holding off from calling her because I said I know if I call her, we're going to get in the middle of this conversation about STEPHANIE. And sure enough, we did.

My mother, who I consider the person in my family that's closest to the cross—that's not in the way of saying that she's about to pass on, but she's very spiritual—and a woman who has traveled a similar route as STEPHANIE has traveled in her time. We were talking, and all of a sudden she just rained down on the phone and said, "Kendrick, she had an appointment with the Maker." That has provided more comfort to me, and I believe to others, of saying that why would she have to have such an untimely death. Well, it's not up to us to say what is timely and what is untimely. That's something that's already planned from birth.

Just looking at her trail and her track as we continue to reflect on her light, that God would allow her to play a na-

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tional role in the primary election and to be judged by others and cherished by certain individuals and to be known nationally and internationally for her presence in the primary election, this Presidential election. Then after the primary was over, she was the person who served as the instrument to bring the two that were running for office against one another together in a special way. To be able to work on behalf of Senator Obama, to have that opportunity before her death to bring them together at her homegoing service is beyond coincidental.

So we have to really look at every day, cherish every day as though it's our last day to serve.

STEPHANIE spent a number of days, a number of hours hugging those who may have had some doubt about her judgment and her actions, but that's the kind of person she was because she had this uniqueness that very few may have.

So I close with this, Mr. Speaker, because I almost feel like a visiting Baptist preacher. If I had time, I would really be able to get into the deepness of STEPHANIE's presence, and it will always be here in this Chamber. I'm glad she lived life in the way she did because so many times people say about those who pass and move on, "Goodness. I wish they would have had the opportunity to do this, this, and this," and I can't say that about STEPHANIE because she did it all.

She held all of us up. She will continue to hold all of us up, and as long as I'm a Member in this Congress and a Member of the Ways and Means Committee and serving in the leadership position, she will be someone I will never ever forget because she called Tim Ryan and I—you know, we know about Mervyn—but we were her congressional sons. She would put it this way, "Tim is my white son and Kendrick is my black congressional son." And Tim could not be here tonight, but I know he will be here in the future.

And I want the Members to know that she loved this body. We will forever remember her, and we will continue to have this great celebration of life for the next coming days.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I want to not only thank our chair, Congresswoman Kilpatrick, who serves as the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, but all Members of Congress who have come forth this evening to share words of comfort with the family and the country for such a loss of a great leader, a great hero, and someone who has been an icebreaker for so many people.

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My love and all of our love and our condolences go out to the family and her staff, which was her extended family, here in Congress and back in Cleveland, and to the hundreds of constituents who wrapped the streets to pay their appreciation to STEPHANIE.

May her spirit live long in the Halls of Congress.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. . . . But before I get started, I want to join with my colleagues, my Democratic colleagues, and pay tribute, Mr. Speaker, to STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, the gentlewoman from Ohio. I guess you can say that everything's been said that needs to be said, but not everybody has had an opportunity to say it. I can't improve upon the kind words that we've heard here over the last hour in regard to her life and what a great person she was.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention one thing that I thought about a lot after hearing of her untimely and sad passing. She is the second member, Mr. Speaker, of the Ohio delegation to die in office during this 110th Congress. The first was a member on our side of the aisle—again, very loved and respected—Paul Gillmor. Just like Ms. TUBBS JONES, like Representative TUBBS JONES, as bipartisan whenever he could be, as she was.

I went to his funeral in Columbus, Ohio, the great capital of Ohio. Of the eulogies that were offered on behalf of Representative Gillmor, the very first one, Mr. Speaker, was offered by Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. And it was very touching, very loving. You know, it's a sad thing, of course, her passing. But God has His plan, and we have our plans, but His plan takes precedence over everything we do.

She was a great Member of this body, and I join my colleagues in expressing my sincere sympathy to the family. . . .

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, history will remember STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES as a trailblazer. News reports about her death are littered with firsts: first black woman to represent Ohio in the House, first black woman on Ways and Means, first woman and first African American prosecutor in Cuyahoga County.

Those who worked with her will remember her electric smile, the kind of smile that made you feel like everything would be all right. We will remember her warmth, how she could hug somebody and give them a piece of her high spirits. She had that uncanny ability to make everybody she encountered—from presidents to homeless constituents—feel

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like they had known her for years. Her gift was to connect with people on a purely human level. No pretense. When confronted with immensely powerful men and women, she would treat them with the same casual kindness that won her the love of her constituents back in Cleveland.

Most important, we will remember her courage. STEPHANIE was never intimidated by anybody or anything. When she saw injustice, she did something about it, even when the battle would be difficult and victory uncertain. She spoke for those in need of a champion. In her career, she transcended the barriers of race, class, and gender that continue to undermine the great American creed of equal opportunity. In her work, she helped ensure that those barriers will not stop future generations of Americans from achieving their potential.

STEPHANIE loved warm words, but she preferred strong actions. Let her by example help us to speak truth to power and stand up for justice. The best tribute we could offer to so passionate and committed a public servant is to continue her work.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, mentor, and a true pioneer. Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was taken from us at far too young an age when she passed away on August 20. On August 30, during a memorial ceremony held at the Cleveland Public Hall, I addressed the hundreds of friends and family in attendance to pay tribute to STEPHANIE and I would like to share those remarks here as well:

There was a famous song a few years back called, "I Hope You Dance." And it's a song that passes along some advice to all of us, and the refrain of the song says, "If you have the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance." And we all know that STEPHANIE didn't sit it out; she danced. She danced through this life with a style all her own, and she now gets to dance once again with her favorite partner, Mervyn. Whether literally dancing on the dance floor or dancing through life, she possessed the key quality of any great dancer—she was fearless. She wasn't real concerned with criticism because she got her instructions from the inside. And as Connie Shultz pointed out last week in her wonderful column, "When the rough and tumble side of Cleveland politics reared its head and threatened STEPHANIE, she simply said, 'I don't have time for fear.'"

Gandhi said, "My life is my message." And so it is with STEPHANIE. Her life instructs us that if we live a life without fear, we allow God's light to pour through us, like His light poured through STEPHANIE. We saw this light in her bright smile and her catchy laugh; her high-fives she always liked to give when she made a witty comment; and the nicknames she gave us. As Congressman Meek said, I was the "white son." We felt this light in her passion for justice and her warmth for humanity. Her life teaches us that if we live with courage and allow God's light to shine, we can travel

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further and higher than we ever dreamed; that we can achieve the seemingly unachievable; and that we can break glass ceilings and overcome barriers with grace and joy. Whether it's Mervyn, or Barbara, or her staff, or Members of Congress, or Senators, or Presidential candidates, STEPHANIE's death gives us what she gave us so many times in life—our marching orders: To live a fearless life. To let our light shine. To bring joy and hope. To lift people. To dance. The daughter of Cleveland's life mission. And the credo she asks us to live by is reflected in the short poem called, "I Am One."

I am only one,
But I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But I can do something.
And that which I can do,
I ought to do.
And that which I ought to do,
By the grace of God, I shall do.

We love you, STEPHANIE.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and contributions of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. STEPHANIE was a good friend of mine, and I am still in shock by her sudden passing. She brought energy and enthusiasm, brilliance and dedication to this Congress, and her presence is already sorely missed.

In the weeks since her passing, I have been reflecting on her many contributions to her constituents, her State, and her country, not only most recently in the House of Representatives but also in a lifetime of service. She broke barriers, and in the process elevated the lives of those she touched, both professionally and personally. The first African American woman elected to Congress from the state of Ohio, STEPHANIE has set the bar incredibly high with her dedication and devotion, and paved the way for future generations to follow. As an attorney, judge, and Member of Congress, she worked tirelessly on behalf of reducing poverty, ensuring access to education and affordable health care, and advocating for the rights of minorities nationwide. STEPHANIE and I saw eye to eye on many important issues, whether it was fighting to ensure affordable housing, or for greater protection for Haitian and other refugees, or for the simple notion that every vote should be counted. In the 110th Congress alone STEPHANIE introduced legislation to revitalize low-income communities, protect and ensure voting rights, curtail predatory lending, and provide greater resources for uterine fibroids research, a personal commitment of hers that I know she has carried for many years.

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STEPHANIE and I have similar backgrounds as lawyers, judges, and of course Members of Congress, and thus I have always thought that she and I shared a kinship that went beyond just our professional responsibilities. I hold her in the highest degree of respect and admiration. Since her untimely passing, I find myself recalling her personal inspiration as she and I and so many others in this body continue to fight for a better, more equal, and more prosperous society. She is the very definition of a role model.

Mr. Speaker, STEPHANIE's presence will not be easily replaced, if it ever can. The country should value her service; and I, for one, also value her friendship.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former Ohio Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES and her lifetime of dedication to the people of Ohio and the United States. I was deeply saddened to learn our colleague passed away so suddenly. We have not only lost a wonderful friend but an individual who made a number of historic achievements during her lifetime.

After graduating from law school at Case Western Reserve University, STEPHANIE began her career with Cleveland's sewer district before serving as an attorney with the city's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In 1976, she served as an assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor before her election as Cleveland Municipal Court judge in 1981. Two years later, the Governor of Ohio appointed her to a judgeship with the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County, and in 1991, STEPHANIE was appointed Cuyahoga County prosecutor.

STEPHANIE was elected to represent the 11th District of Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1998. Throughout her 5 terms of office, she strove for advances in health care, economic development, and education. Recently, she had become a leader in the fight against predatory lending practices.

Most notably, STEPHANIE's legacy will be her career filled with firsts. She was the first African American and the first female to serve as prosecutor in her native Cuyahoga County, Ohio. STEPHANIE was the first African American to be chief prosecutor in the State of Ohio's history. She also became the first African American woman to represent Ohio in Congress and the first to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee.

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At the beginning of the 110th Congress, STEPHANIE was named chairwoman of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, of which I am a member.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES will be deeply missed by her family—her son, Mervyn Jones II and her sister Barbara Walker—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere condolences for the passing of the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Not only was she a true hero and noble leader in the U.S. Congress, a trailblazer for all minorities, but she was also a friend who will be dearly missed.

Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' passing is a tragic loss for this Congress and our Nation. Her leadership on the Ethics Committee and on voting rights will never be forgotten. On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we send our prayers and condolences to her family, friends, and staff.

As chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I worked with Representative TUBBS JONES on a variety of projects, including our fundraising efforts for Gallaudet University here in Washington, as well as other endeavors which promoted advocacy for low-income and minority communities.

Having been blessed with the opportunity to get to know her outside the walls of Congress as a team member of the Democratic Congressional Basketball Team, I was impressed by her continually cheerful disposition and lively energy. Due to this vigor, she was always able to spread joy to others and add a positive light no matter the situation.

STEPHANIE's death will be felt by all, not just within the Cleveland community, but also throughout the Nation because of the ideals she stood for. I offer the thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara and myself to Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' son Mervyn and to her family for their loss.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my most sincere condolences on the death of the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

I was extremely saddened to hear the news of Congresswoman TUBBS JONES' passing. Since 1999, she has proudly and honorably served Ohio's 11th District.

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STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was the daughter of an airport skycap. She grew up in Cleveland and graduated from college and law school at Case Western. She began her life of public service when she went to work as a local government lawyer and went on to serve 8 years as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County. As the first African American woman elected from Ohio to serve in Congress, she brought a fresh energy and new perspective to the House. No one was surprised when she quickly rose to a position on the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

I got to know STEPHANIE in my first term in Congress because my office was next door to hers. She was never too busy to help a freshman Member in whatever way she could. Her energy was boundless, and I will sorely miss her smile—it could light up a crowded room. Those who had the good fortune to know this incredible woman know what I am talking about.

During her four terms in Congress, she was a champion for the people of the 11th District. She worked tirelessly to create equal opportunities for all people in this country as she fought to increase the minimum wage, to increase funding to public schools, and to create affordable and accessible health care.

The people of Ohio have lost a great political leader, and we have lost a beloved and respected colleague. We will all miss her friendly smile and her passion for her fellow man.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous sadness that I rise to mourn the passing of our dear colleague, the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES of Ohio. STEPHANIE's death is an unbelievable tragedy for her family and all of us who loved her. It is a tremendous loss for her Cleveland constituents and our Nation. Her passing reminds us how precious life is and how we must treasure the time we spend with our loved ones.

STEPHANIE's absence is profoundly personal for me because she was a very special person and a friend. Many memories and personal stories come to mind when I think of her. She was a caring person who showed her kindness and friendship freely. Her deep, strong, loving voice is memorable. STEPHANIE's energy and strength—almost fearlessness—to fight for what she believed in, and at the same time, be open to opposing points of view was admirable.

I can't count the number of times I watched STEPHANIE on the floor of this House boldly speaking out on behalf of Americans and her Ohio constituents. She was passionate

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and never shied away from fighting for justice, equality, and the belief that this great country can do so much better for so many of the citizens who have been left behind. A powerful voice for justice in Congress and an extraordinary public servant is the best way I can describe STEPHANIE and her legacy.

As the chair of the House Ethics Committee, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES had one of the most difficult duties in Congress. Her experience as a judge and a prosecutor made her perfectly suited for the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Today is STEPHANIE's 59th birthday. It is heartbreaking that she is not here with us, but I am proud to celebrate her life of service and her commitment to both her family and the families she represented. Congresswoman TUBBS JONES was the epitome of a citizen servant and demonstrated to all who knew her a spirit of joy, hope, and compassion. I feel honored to have known her and privileged to have served with her in this House. STEPHANIE will be missed by me and many others, but she will not be forgotten.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our departed colleague the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Many have attested to STEPHANIE's contagious smile and fierce loyalty to her friends. I always respected and admired her. I can honestly say that she was a nice and professional colleague. We spoke for the last time a couple of weeks ago at the Congressional Black Caucus' Annual Retreat in Tunica, Mississippi. I feel a sense of gratitude for our meeting. We talked. We embraced. STEPHANIE expressed her congratulations for my success as a freshman legislator. She spoke fondly of her time in Memphis as she visited her family there.

Over the past decade, STEPHANIE was an undeniable force in Congress. She broke barriers in 1998 by being elected the first African American woman in Congress from Ohio. She persisted over the years and was appointed to the powerful Ways and Means Committee. She served with a sense of pride as the chairwoman of the House Ethics Committee.

STEPHANIE and I co-sponsored a great deal of legislation together. On July 29, 2008, we unified as Members of Congress and passed H. Res. 194: the formal apology for government's involvement in slavery and Jim Crow. STEPHANIE was one of my earliest co-sponsors. She was a community conscious legislator. She fought for the people and sponsored

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legislation on issue areas ranging from community economic development to enfranchisement and retirement security.

I am forever grateful that my last interaction with STEPHANIE concluded with a deep and meaningful hug. My only regret is that STEPHANIE and I will not have the opportunity to work together in the future.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

First, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to her entire family, especially her son Mervyn and her sister Barbara. I want to also offer my condolences to the constituents of Ohio's 11th Congressional District, to all of her many friends, her colleagues—especially in the Congressional Black Caucus—and of course to her staff here in Washington and in Ohio.

On August 20, 2008, the people of Cleveland, this Nation, and the world lost a giant in the fight for equality and justice when we lost my beloved friend and colleague Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

So many know Congresswoman TUBBS JONES for her exceptional work on behalf of her constituents and for the many barriers she broke and trails she blazed as the first African American woman elected to Congress from Ohio, as the first African American woman to serve on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, and as the first to chair the House Ethics Committee.

Congresswoman TUBBS JONES and I came to Congress about the same time. We worked closely together for a decade and she was one of the most remarkable persons I have ever known. Whether it was standing up for Ohio voters and fighting for election reform or fighting to end the unjust war and occupation in Iraq, she always stood on the right side of justice.

She was a political giant, a skilled legislator, an incredible orator, but she was much more than that to me. She was also my sister in arms, my confidant, and my friend. We spent many an evening in Washington together throughout our decade-long friendship.

From attending events together, to just grabbing dinner or an occasional down moment, we've spent a great deal of time throughout the years. We also spent many mornings together. You see STEPHANIE was also my gym partner along with Congresswoman Laura Richardson.

STEPHANIE and I also had the chance to travel together on several occasions to places like Cuba and Israel. I will al-

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ways treasure those times and memories. It was during some of our travel together, and our work together for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, that I got the chance to know her husband, Mervyn Jones, whom she loved dearly and tragically lost in October 2003.

In the wake of his death, STEPHANIE created a scholarship golf tournament in his memory, which has become a successful annual event. I know she would be pleased that a scholarship has been now arranged in her honor.

Unquestionably, her passing has left a tremendous hole in the Congress, in the Congressional Black Caucus, and in my heart. I will miss my beautiful friend and sister, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES so very much.

My thoughts and prayers remain with the Congresswoman's entire family, her son Mervyn, her sister Barbara, her staff, her friends, and her many supporters.

May her soul rest in peace.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues to remember and celebrate the life of a dear friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. It is during times like these that we are both able to smile, thinking about those who we admired and who have distinctly touched our lives—and in the case of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES—touched the lives of thousands of Clevelanders who were so devoted to her and she to them. And of course, we sadly mourn the death of a woman who was dedicated to making the lives of Ohioans and Americans better. From increasing the minimum wage to making health care available to all, STEPHANIE was at the forefront, fighting for all of our families.

Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES is the real-life American success story. Born to a factory worker and skycap, STEPHANIE went to public schools in Ohio, then became a prosecutor and municipal judge and finally, the first African American woman from Ohio elected to the U.S. Congress. Nearly 10 years ago, she was a little-known Democrat from Ohio who rose to prominence becoming chair of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and a member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

Like so many, STEPHANIE was taken from us too soon and too abruptly. I extend my sincerest condolences to STEPHANIE's family and especially to her beloved son, Mervyn. Your mom was a great lady and a wonderful friend. We will all miss her dearly.

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Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of my colleague and dear friend, U.S. Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, who left us far too soon.

STEPHANIE's fearless passion for social justice, unyielding commitment to improving the lives of her most vulnerable constituents, and limitless love for her family and friends, will forever resound throughout our Cleveland community and across our Nation. Her professional achievements were many—her success as a county prosecutor, municipal judge, trial court judge and Congresswoman are well known, but it was her strength of character in the face of personal hardship, her dedication to and ability in helping others and her luminous zest for life that ran through everything she did. It is these attributes, framed by her hearty laugh and generous heart—that will forever be remembered.

STEPHANIE's life touched and inspired countless lives, young and old, and her energy and positivity knew no bounds—reaching from the block clubs of Cleveland, to the Halls of Congress, across the country and around the world. Wherever she went, people were drawn to her quick smile, sharp intellect, easygoing nature, and passion for making the world a better place. The child of devoted, working class parents, STEPHANIE blazed a trail of possibility and hope for women everywhere, especially for African American women, when she made history upon being elected as the first African American woman from Ohio elected to Congress. STEPHANIE was not afraid to stand up against the tide—she was one of the Representatives to vote "no" to authorizing the use of force in Iraq—an action she believed to be a grave affront to the honor of U.S. veterans and the honorable service of our U.S. military women and men.

STEPHANIE's sage advice and ability to get to the heart of the matter was coveted by her family and wide circle of friends. Her warmth, friendship, and loyalty inspired and strengthened the lives of many, including my own. People from all walks of life—from U.S. Senators to the cashier around the corner—called STEPHANIE "friend" and "sister."

STEPHANIE's most cherished roles were as wife and mother. Her unwavering devotion to her family was evidenced her entire life. Together, STEPHANIE and her late husband, Mervyn Jones, Sr., raised their son, Mervyn II, who was heart, soul, and center of STEPHANIE's life.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of my dear friend and confidant, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. Our shared experiences—

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from our Cleveland childhood to standing together in the House of Representatives—was the foundation for a friendship that grew and strengthened over the past 30 years.

Her passing is a profound loss for all of us, and especially for her beloved son, Mervyn, yet her fiery spirit, love for her family and friends, and commitment to serving the most fragile of our society will be forever reflected in those who loved and knew her well—in Cleveland, Washington, and far beyond. The indomitable spirit, love for life, and passion for social justice that defined my friend, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, will live on forever, through every friendship she ever forged and within everyone whose life was improved, inspired, and lifted because of her, and she will be remembered always.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order and pursuant to House Resolution 1415, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

TUESDAY, *September 9, 2008*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, how can words adequately describe someone who is larger than life? STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a change-maker and a risk taker. As a woman, she helped blaze a trail for generations to follow, first in her role as a prosecutor, then a judge, then as Ohio's first African American female Member of Congress.

To me personally, STEPHANIE was a mentor and a role model. She was someone who didn't hesitate to pull me aside when I first came to Washington and give me advice, from my wardrobe to my hair, STEPHANIE kept it real, because that is exactly what she was in every sense of the word.

Above all else, though, STEPHANIE was my friend, and one of my first friends here in Washington. Her room-filling energy, her passion, her dedication, her voice for the downtrodden, all of these will be missed by the people of Ohio.

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Her intelligence, her expertise, her counsel, will be missed by all of us here in this Chamber.

And me? Well, Mr. Speaker, I will miss my friend.

MONDAY, *September 15, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a great woman, my friend and colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

First, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to STEPHANIE's entire family, her son Merv and her sister Barbara. I also want to offer my condolences to the constituents of Ohio's 11th Congressional District, to all of STEPHANIE's many friends and colleagues, and, of course, to her staff here in Washington, DC, and in Ohio.

On August 20, the people of Cleveland, this Nation, and the world lost a giant in the fight for equality and justice when we lost our beloved Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. When I walked on to the floor tonight, I looked for STEPHANIE. She wasn't in the Speaker's chair presiding. She wasn't on the floor moving around, energizing and inspiring our deliberations. It is hard to accept the fact and to believe that her physical presence won't be with us anymore.

So many knew STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES for her exceptional work on behalf of her constituents and for the many barriers she broke and trails she blazed as the first African American woman elected to Congress from Ohio, as the first African American woman to serve on the Ways and Means Committee, and the first to chair the House Ethics Committee.

Congresswoman TUBBS JONES and I came to Congress about the same time. We worked closely together for a decade, and she was one of the most remarkable persons I have ever known. Whether it was standing up for Ohio voters and fighting for election reform, or fighting to end the unjust war and occupation of Iraq, she was always on the right side of history. And, like for many, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a very good friend.

Friendship means different things to different people. STEPHANIE's friendship for me meant trust. She was my confidant. STEPHANIE's friendship for me meant support. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' friendship meant spending girl time, shopping, eating, traveling, talking about matters of the

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heart, like her man-child son Merv, who was her heart and her soul. STEPHANIE's friendship to me meant being for real in discussions about political and legislative issues. And STEPHANIE's friendship for me meant a lot of love.

I always remember last year when my father passed away, the love and concern for me and my family that she displayed. With the loss of her husband, her mother, her father and her sister, she assured me that I needed to grieve, and she called me day and night to make sure I wasn't planning on coming right back to work after the funeral. And, oh, how right she was.

From attending events together, to just grabbing dinner or an occasional down moment, we spent a great deal of time together throughout the years. STEPHANIE was my traveling partner. We shared magnificent experiences in Israel and in Cuba. I will always cherish those times and memories.

It was during some of our travel together and our work together for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation that I got the chance to know her husband, Mervyn Jones, whom she loved dearly and tragically lost in October 2003. In the wake of his death, STEPHANIE created two very successful golf and bid whist tournaments in his memory through the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. And she insisted that her friends and her colleagues participate with her.

She loved young people, and made sure that these annual events helped raise money for countless scholarships. I know she would be pleased that a scholarship now has been established in her memory.

Some have spoken of STEPHANIE's culinary experiences and skills. She would bring some of her fabulous chili here to share with us, and always loved to share her recipes, especially her mustard-based fried catfish and her mother's fried corn recipe.

I can remember calling her on her cell phone one day. She was in a meeting in Cleveland while I was preparing her fried corn recipe. Of course, I didn't quite get it right, so she stepped out of this meeting and she walked me through this recipe, step by step.

We all have so many STEPHANIE stories. She was a woman for all seasons, a devoted mother, a devoted sister, a brilliant legislator, a dedicated Representative of Ohio's 11th Congressional District, and she was a history maker, as the first African American woman to break many glass ceilings. And, yes, she was my trusted friend, a true friend, and a fabulous woman whose smile lifted us all up and forced us to be posi-

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tive, even on days when we were down. STEPHANIE was my gym partner, as we both tried to get our physical fitness regimen back on track.

Yes, the Honorable, and that she was, Mr. Speaker, the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, was a great Congressperson, and she never lost the common touch. She would help people find their seats on the airplane, she mentored young people, and she would constantly remind us to be strong advocates for working men and women. Recalling her father's work as a skycap, she never forgot who she was, and she used her positions to help those shut out and those underrepresented.

So, yes, we owe STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES a debt of gratitude. I thank her son Mervyn and her sister Barbara and her entire family for sharing this brilliant and beautiful woman with us. Her spirit is smiling tonight on us. It continues to move around this floor, nudging us to do the right thing.

May God's grace and His love undergird her family during these difficult days, and may we redouble our efforts in STEPHANIE's memory, our efforts for justice and peace and equality and to make this a better world for all.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the gentlelady from California, our dear colleague, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, and thank her very much for her remarks on Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. We share your feelings and your warmth and affection toward her, and I know that your remarks are of comfort to her son, to her sister, to her family, to all those who are associated with her and, of course, her staff, who must carry on. We thank you so much for that. . . .

WEDNESDAY, *September 17, 2008*

Mr. MCDERMOTT. . . . The passing of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a great shock to all of us who worked with her. We were always impressed by her tireless energy and her infectious smile.

STEPHANIE was a true champion for vulnerable families and children. In fact, her first legislative achievement in Congress was a bill designed to improve training opportunities for caseworkers in the child welfare system.

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In recognition of Representative TUBBS JONES' efforts to help vulnerable kids, this bill [H.R. 6893, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008] names the primary source of Federal funding for the Social Security Act for Child Protective Services after her, as well as making several improvements to the program.

The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program will help at-risk children for many years and decades to come, just as she did during her life. . . .

THURSDAY, *September 18, 2008*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal Act of 2008" with my colleague Mr. Camp of Michigan. Representative TUBBS JONES' life ended as she lived it; by exemplifying concern for the welfare of others. She donated her organs in the waning hours of her life so that the lives of others could continue. In that spirit, this legislation creates a commemorative medal for organ donors and their families, recognizing the brave and selfless act of organ donation.

As I well know from my time on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, Representative TUBBS JONES worked tirelessly to remedy health disparities in our Nation. Organ donation is one area where dramatic health disparities exist, which makes this all the more of a fitting tribute. . . .

This is non-controversial, non-partisan legislation to increase the rate of organ donation while honoring the life and service of our colleague, Representative TUBBS JONES. I ask my colleagues to help bring an end to transplant waiting lists and recognize the enormous courage displayed by organ donors and their families. This bill honors these brave acts, while publicizing the critical need for increased organ donation. I urge swift passage of the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal Act.

MONDAY, *September 22, 2008*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 642, the College Fire Prevention Act. This legislation is the result of the life work of the late Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

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Many of us know the commitment of Representative TUBBS JONES to the cause of campus fire safety. Every September, she would come to the floor to advocate for the recognition of September as Campus Fire Safety Month. Because of her efforts, States around the country also recognized September as Campus Fire Safety Month and helped to make students aware of the dangers they face and to ensure that colleges and universities do all they can to assist students.

H.R. 642 builds on Representative TUBBS JONES' work to protect students on campus by creating a demonstration program within the Department of Education to encourage colleges and universities to install fire sprinkler systems and other fire suppression and prevention technologies in student housing and dormitories. . . .

In passing this legislation here today, we not only honor the work of Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, but we also ensure the safety of students on campus.

I urge the passage of this timely and important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 642, the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act, and I join my colleagues in honoring our colleague.

So often in this Chamber we consider legislation to expand access to college and strengthen our Federal higher education programs. Today, we have an opportunity to discuss the need to bolster safety on college campuses, specifically fire safety.

The timing and the name of this bill are appropriate because this month is often designated as Campus Fire Safety Month, and there was no Member more concerned about protecting our college students from the dangers of fire than the late Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. This bill would honor Representative TUBBS JONES by naming a demonstration program in her honor. . . .

Today, we have the opportunity to honor Representative TUBBS JONES' commitment to the safety of college students and pass a measure that will help colleges keep our young people safe from devastating fires. . . .

Mr. CLYBURN. Let me begin by thanking Representative Susan Davis for allowing me to participate in this session here this afternoon.

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I would like to take a moment to say a personal word about my dear friend STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, who was a powerful voice for justice, equality, and opportunity, who served the people of Ohio's 11th Congressional District and this Nation with passion and dedication. Unfortunately, STEPHANIE passed away unexpectedly last month, and it is a great loss to this cause and to our country.

Throughout her five terms in Congress, Representative TUBBS JONES tirelessly advocated for campus fire safety and was the author of numerous pieces of legislation on the issue. She introduced, and saw pass, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month. She was also the primary sponsor of the College Fire Prevention Act, which she introduced in the 107th Congress and then re-introduced in the 108th, the 109th and the 110th.

I am here today to pay tribute to her efforts as a champion for campus fire safety and am proud to take her place as the lead sponsor of the College Fire Prevention Act so that we can continue her legacy by passing this important measure and renaming it the Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act. . . .

I add my voice to those here today to pay tribute to Representative TUBBS JONES' courageous efforts and say that I am committed to the issue of campus fire safety.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, we're pleased to join our colleagues on the other side of the aisle in paying this tribute to our colleague.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, we come on the floor once again to honor the life and work of the late STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and we do that with this bill, very important bill, H.R. 642, the College Fire Prevention Act. I'm delighted that Mr. Clyburn was able to be here and to continue her legacy in this way.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, as a co-sponsor of this legislation, I would like to thank my colleagues and the Education and Labor Committee for allowing this legislation to be considered today. Additionally, I would like to recognize Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, who during her five terms in Congress, worked to advance fire safety, particularly on college campuses. . . .

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 6469, the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Organ Transplant Authorization Act of 2008. This legislation would provide important new funding for the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. . . .

The bill is aptly named in honor of Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, our Democrat of Ohio who died on August 20, 2008, from a brain aneurysm. Representative TUBBS JONES was a strong and vocal advocate for organ donation during her life and donated her organs upon her passing. It is estimated that as many as 58 people will benefit from her donation. When enacted, Mr. Speaker, this legislation will provide critical funding to ensure the OPTN has resources it needs to continue to perform its valuable services to our Nation. . . .

Ms. DEGETTE. . . . I stand here in strong support of H.R. 6469, which has been named the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Organ Transplant Act of 2008. We named this bill in honor of our dear departed colleague because STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a committed advocate of organ transplantation and was an organ and tissue donor herself. Upon her passing she was able to continue serving her constituents and the Nation by donating her tissue and organs. . . .

This bill is supported by numerous groups, Mr. Speaker. It is a vitally important bill. I look forward to passing it tonight and further continuing STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' legacy of public service.

Mr. COSTA. . . . As a founder and the co-chair of the Congressional Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Caucus, I am very pleased to support this measure before us, H.R. 6469, otherwise known thereafter as the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Organ Transplant Authorization Act. . . .

This bill reaffirms our Nation's commitment to providing lifesaving care through transplantation, and at the same time it honors our late colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, who gave the gift of life by becoming an organ donor after her passing. . . .

I encourage all of my colleagues to join in honoring Congresswoman TUBBS JONES by supporting this bill and by also following her example in becoming organ donors. After all,

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it's perhaps the most precious gift we can give. I know because I am one of those who intends to do just that.

I urge an "aye" vote on this important measure.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. ... We know that we lost our very dear friend in August, a friend who championed health care, who championed her own health system in the State of Ohio. More important, she valued life because she lived it to the fullest. Yet she understood that, in death, you can also give life. This is a great tribute to Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. It reminds us again of the need of organ transplants and of donors in the African American population, which makes up about 12 percent of the Nation's population, about 12 percent of the patients who donate but 23 percent of the need.

So this is an important step forward, this legislation that is now being renewed. It is an important tribute to Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES and to her family. Out of the joyful life that she had, she then gave life in death and reminded us of the importance of organ transplants and of the life they give to others.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Finally, this bill will honor an ardent supporter of transplantation, the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. Before her death, she ordered that when she passed away, her organs be donated to any in need. Her death, while a great loss for myself, her state, and anyone who knew her and loved her, will hopefully serve as an example for her fellow Ohioans and beyond. Congresswoman TUBBS JONES knew, like all of us will, that there is a growing need among the African American community for transplantation. Currently, African Americans make up about 12 percent of the Nation's population and about 12 percent of the patients who donate. However, of all the patients requiring a transplant, 23 percent of them are African American. This disparity is a growing epidemic and must be resolved.

Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES served as a model for how we should live our lives and beyond. I hope that her memory will inspire millions around the Nation to take up the noble cause of saving those who have no other choice. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I would urge the support for and the passage of this bill, not only because of its significance but also in honor of our colleague Ms. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

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Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is with great humility and respect that I present for favorable consideration H.R. 6950, the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal Act of 2008.

Our friend, our respected colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, worked tirelessly for her district, for her community and for people who are underrepresented. As a constant advocate for justice and peace, as a very proud member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health, she was a fervent supporter and leader of efforts to reduce health disparities in our Nation.

This legislation directs the Treasury Department to design and produce a commemorative medal that the Department of Health and Human Services will award to organ donors or to a surviving family member, which is especially fitting to be named in honor of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES for a couple of reasons:

Organ donation is an area where dramatic health disparities still exist. She, herself, was an organ donor, and over 50 beneficiaries have benefited from her gift of life.

The number of Americans affected by shortages of suitable organs for donation is considerable. Nearly 100,000 people are currently waiting for organ transplants, and nearly 2,000 of these are children under 18. The national waiting list grows substantially every year. Since the waiting list began, over 80,000 donation-eligible Americans have died while waiting for an organ to become available. In 2007 alone, over 6,500 people died for lack of a suitable organ.

The men and women who elect to become organ donors are heroes just like our friend and colleague. They have the opportunity to give the gift of life to thousands of Americans who are suffering from debilitating and lethal diseases.

While the gift of a donor is priceless, the enactment of this bill would have no cost to the Federal Government as funding for the medals would come from charitable donations.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6950, the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal Act of 2008.

As everyone in this Chamber knows, the late Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a wonderful woman and a tireless public servant. She sought to use her time each day to serve the people of her district and of this Nation, and the extraordinary generosity she exhibited in so

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many of her actions proves to be one of her lasting legacies. She was also a very joyful woman, and she brought much joy to all of those who were fortunate enough to know her. I include myself in that group.

However, nowhere have her selfless nature and leadership qualities been more apparent than in her decision to be an organ donor. Her untimely death was a tragedy, but because of her decision, others will be fortunate to enjoy the gift of life.

Currently, there are close to 100,000 individuals on the national transplant waiting list. Each hour, this number increases, adding a new name approximately every 16 minutes. Yet, despite how sobering this statistic is and the even harsher statistic that my colleague mentioned, more sobering is the number of people who die while waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. This number is 16 people per day. Understanding that reality, Representative TUBBS JONES did what she always did. She volunteered to give to those in need.

This legislation honors her actions. The bill before us today would establish a Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal, and it would make any organ donor or family of the organ donor eligible to receive the honor. The legislation empowers the Secretary of Health and Human Services to direct the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network to establish an application and assessment process for donors in order to receive the award.

By agreeing to this legislation, this Congress honors the actions of Representative TUBBS JONES and the actions of so many others who sought to give what they could to those in need. This is an important action, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal Act of 2008, and to thank the many colleagues and friends of STEPHANIE's who joined together to bring this bill to the floor.

STEPHANIE's life ended as she lived it; by exemplifying concern for the welfare of others. She donated her organs in the waning hours of her life so that the lives of others could continue. In that spirit, this bill creates a commemorative medal for organ donors and their families, recognizing the brave and selfless act of organ donation. . . .

As an active member of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, STEPHANIE worked tirelessly to remedy health

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disparities in our Nation. Organ donation is one area where dramatic health disparities exist, which makes this all the more of a fitting tribute. . . .

While minorities donate organs in proportion to their population, the rate of organ donations fails to keep pace with the need for transplants in the population. Minority populations account for close to 50 percent of the people who are currently waiting for organ transplants.

I'd like to take a moment to recognize the help of former Senate Majority Leader and transplant surgeon Dr. Bill Frist, for whom this bill was named for when it was introduced earlier this year. Dr. Frist is a tireless advocate of organ donors and their families, and worked on behalf of the Gift of Life Medal Act. I appreciate his graciousness in expressing his strong support for renaming the bill, and I would ask the Chair to have Dr. Frist's letter of support inserted into the *Record*.

I ask my colleagues to help bring an end to transplant waiting lists and recognize the enormous courage displayed by organ donors and their families. This bill honors these brave acts, while publicizing the critical need for increased organ donation, and pays tribute to the selflessness and memory of our colleague. STEPHANIE's dedication to improving health care should be permanently recognized. I urge passage of the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal Act.

NASHVILLE, TN,
September 15, 2008.

Hon. PETE STARK,
Chairman, Ways and Means Health Subcommittee,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Ranking Member, Ways and Means Health Subcommittee,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN STARK AND RANKING MEMBER CAMP: Thank you for your leadership on the Gift of Life Congressional Medal.

Like you, I am truly inspired by those that donate their organs. I can think of no act that is more honorable or selfless, and it is befitting of Congress to pass this act to recognize these outstanding individuals and their families. I was pleased to sponsor this legislation in the Senate.

It is also extremely fitting to name this legislation in honor of the late Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. A tireless advocate for those in need, she cemented her legacy by donating her organs and tissue, which will help over 50 individuals. Her act, and the thousands that have come before it, must be recognized.

Each year, there are nearly 14,000 organs that are donated. As a transplant surgeon, I have seen first hand how lives are transformed through these miraculous gifts. For me, it is a privilege to be part of the transplan-

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tation process. I am continually amazed at the advances in technology that make transplants more successful every year.

While advances are being made, there are still too few donors—nearly 100,000 people are waiting on national transplant lists. To encourage more donors, we should make every effort to recognize those that make this life-saving decision. I believe creating a Gift of Life Congressional medal is critically important to increasing awareness on this issue.

Again, please accept my sincere appreciation for your work and strong support for naming the Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act in honor of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. It is a fitting tribute for such an outstanding and committed woman.

Sincerely,

DR. WILLIAM H. FRIST.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I speak today on a very close subject to my heart, House Resolution 6950, a bill to establish the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal for organ donors and the families of organ donors. Congresswoman TUBBS JONES was a rare breed of person who not only talked the talk, but walked the walk.

Tragedy struck Congress a few weeks ago when Congresswoman TUBBS JONES was taken from us. This brought attention to an issue of vital importance to her and the Nation. Organ transplantation is the greatest gift a person can give. While a majority of them happen while both the donor and the recipient are alive, a large number happen after death. Unfortunately these organs, such as the heart, lung, liver, and kidney, among others, are very hard to come by. In the Congresswoman's home State, only 53 percent of the population are registered organ donors. This is a good start but we must go further.

When a loved one dies, it is never a happy moment; experiences like this always bring sadness and sorrow. When that loved one's death can serve as a beacon of hope for another, it does not lessen the sadness; it allows the family to have a good, if small, memory of the loss of their loved one. When Congresswoman TUBBS JONES passed away, we were all deeply saddened but I think I can speak for more than a few of my fellow Members of Congress when I express the joy and pride I felt when I learned that after years of advocating for organ transplantation, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES left all of her vital organs to those in need. . . .

This bill will do three wonderful things and help the cause that the Congresswoman fought for in all her years serving Ohio. First, it will honor the life of an unwavering advocate of transplant. Naming the medal after her will show all those who come later, that this was a woman deep with pas-

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sion about this important issue. It will shine a light on a life that helped shine a light on others.

Second, this bill will honor those, who like the Congresswoman, have shown their true patriotism to their fellow man or woman and shared with them the greatest gift. These medals are a way that the Federal Government, on behalf of its people, can begin to thank Americans who commit themselves to being organ donors.

Last, this bill will help raise awareness for minority health issues. It was found that African Americans make up a disproportional number of patients requiring transplants and that they wait, on average, longer to receive an organ. When they do finally receive this opportunity, they are sicker and the success rate is not what it could be. We can, and must, do more.

Mr. Speaker, we can do something to help the millions of men and women around the world waiting for organ transplants. We should also move quickly to honor those who have already given the greatest gift there is. As Albert Einstein once said, "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile," and no one exemplified this better than STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. I urge my colleagues to pass this bill to honor her.

THURSDAY, *September 25, 2008*

Mr. HOBSON. . . . There are two people who are not here that were dear friends of mine. Paul Gillmor is one. I wouldn't be here if Paul Gillmor hadn't gotten me appointed to the State senate. And STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES became one of my best friends. We traveled all over the world looking at military bases together. She would, if I flew to Cleveland to see my daughter and we were on the same plane (I didn't have a car there) drive me to my daughter's house and we became true friends. I took her and her husband on their 25th wedding anniversary. She wanted to go on a codel, and I said, "I'll give you the best party that you can ever have if you'll go on this trip and get Mervyn to go with us." And those were the days when you could do that. We had a great party for them. And she was a wonderful Member of this Congress. . . .

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of my good friend and co-chair of the Capital Fraternal Caucus, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. STEPHANIE and I shared a passion to help ensure a secure future for fraternities and sororities on campuses all across the country. Together, we worked to form and mature the Capital Fraternal Caucus to be an organization to celebrate Greek life both as an undergraduate and throughout post-collegiate years.

STEPHANIE dedicated her life to ensuring that every young person had the opportunity for a college education. As a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, STEPHANIE understood first hand the lifelong friendships that fraternities and sororities foster in young people during their undergraduate years. It was these friendships which fostered mutual respect and collaboration of ideas. I am so honored to have shared this friendship with STEPHANIE and to have enjoyed our bonds of Greek life as co-chairs of the Capital Fraternal Caucus.

As the first African American chairman of the Capital Fraternal Caucus, STEPHANIE used her position to champion the Greek cause and quickly became a favorite member of interns working on Capitol Hill who are affiliated with Greek organizations. While always lending a helping hand to students in Washington, STEPHANIE never forgot about the hundreds of thousands of students on every college campus. Through her dedicated work, she helped to pass the College Housing and Infrastructure Act. This leadership was recognized by the North-American Interfraternity Conference who presented her with the NIC's Silver Medal. This is one of the Conference's highest honors which recognizes significant leadership for causes that advance the highest ideals of fraternalism.

In honor of her dedication and enthusiastic work, the North-American Interfraternity Conference is naming a summer program for young people in Washington, DC, after her. The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Memorial Legislative Fellowship will enable outstanding student leaders from fraternity and sorority chapters throughout the country to work with legislative leaders on Capitol Hill to help preserve the rich undergraduate traditions represented by the communities on campuses across the Nation. I look forward to meeting the next generation of leaders which STEPHANIE's legacy will bring to Washington.

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A wonderful example of the type of person our public school system produces, STEPHANIE went on to attend Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Following her graduation from college she began her career in public service by earning a degree in social work. This passion for helping others led her to pursue a law degree from Case Western Reserve School of Law in 1974. Ultimately, STEPHANIE was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1998 and served the 11th Congressional District of Ohio until her untimely and unfortunate death in August of this year.

During her time as a Congresswoman, STEPHANIE never lost her zeal for public service nor her passion to help young people. She constantly sought to improve public schools and ensure that every American student had the best possible education. STEPHANIE was a well-respected Member of this Congress, and her presence will surely be missed.

MONDAY, *September 29, 2008*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud House and Senate passage by unanimous consent of H.R. 7198, the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal Act of 2008. Representative TUBBS JONES' life ended as she lived it; by exemplifying concern for the welfare of others. She donated her organs in the waning hours of her life so that the lives of others could continue. In that spirit, this legislation creates a commemorative medal for organ donors and their families, recognizing the brave and selfless act of organ donation. It is a fitting tribute to her, and I look forward to seeing this program get up and running.

This bill is a modified version of H.R. 6950, which passed the House on September 25, 2008. We modified the bill in order to address concerns from the other body and ensure its passage.

Unfortunately, in modifying the bill, we had to delete findings included in H.R. 6950. I ask to insert these findings into the *Record*.

(1) Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was dedicated to eliminating health disparities and protecting vulnerable populations.

(2) Through her service on the Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, she was a strong voice for

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those who were poor, elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, and disenfranchised.

(3) Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' concern for others was demonstrated by the decision to donate her organs, so that as her life ended, the lives of others continued. . . .

FRIDAY, *October 3, 2008*

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem, written by Mr. Albert Carey Caswell, in memory of our late great colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

The things which matter . . .
The moments which count, the ones all the end which so amount . . .
All in our lives, are all of those things in our hearts of which are so tantamount . . .
The very ones . . .
Which all in the end, are what our souls are really so all about . . .
As to this our world, what we so give no doubt . . . all in these our lives to tout . . .
Are all those things which really matter . . .
Are but the ones, which so make The Angels hearts so shout!
All in the end, are but really what our lives are all about!

The Ways and Means . . .
By which we overcome all the odds, all in our life's themes . . .
Are but the ones, our songs which so make our Lord's heart so shine and gleam . . .
STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES . . .
A Heroine . . . A Pioneer . . . A Champion for Civil Rights so seen!
A great strong great woman of firsts, who but lived The American Dream!
The only thing bigger than her bright big smile . . .
Was but her fine kind and warm heart, that which so caressed all . . . all the while . . .
For in these our short lifetimes, these are but the things you'll find!
For it's how we live . . .
And it's how we lead, all in this world which so helps her to succeed . . .
And who we care for, and for whom we bleed . . . giving to her what she so needs!
Are but All Those Things Which Really Matter . . .
All in these our times, all in these our short lives which we so bring about . . .
All in the end, what really up in Heaven . . . what so matters no doubt!

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Proceedings in the Senate

WEDNESDAY, *September 10, 2008*

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. Voinovich, and Mr. Hatch) submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 654

Whereas STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was born on September 10, 1949, in Cleveland, Ohio, and attended Case Western Reserve University and the Franklin Thomas Backus School of Law;

Whereas, in 1982, at the age of 33, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was elected to serve on the Cleveland Municipal Court;

Whereas, in 1983, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES became the first African-American woman to serve on the Court of Common Pleas in the State of Ohio;

Whereas STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES served as the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor from 1991 through 1999, becoming the first woman and the first African-American to hold the position;

Whereas, in 1998, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was elected to the first of 5 terms in the House of Representatives, where she was a tireless advocate for the citizens of Ohio's 11th Congressional District and championed increased access to health care, improved voting rights, and quality education for all;

Whereas STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was the first African-American woman to represent the State of Ohio in Congress;

Whereas Ohio has lost a beloved daughter and the House of Representatives one of its strongest voices with the passing of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES on August 20, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the loss of the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES and expresses its condolences to her family and friends and to the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio; and

(2) honors the life of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, a highly esteemed and accomplished Member of Congress, dedicated community leader, and tireless advocate for those in need.

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THURSDAY, *October 2, 2008*

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, tragically, a month and a half ago, we lost a wonderful colleague of all of ours, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a wonderful Congresswoman who, whenever you met her, had a big, broad smile on her face. She obviously loved her work on behalf of her country. All of us miss her. . . .

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IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

Ohio's 11th Congressional District

SEPTEMBER 10, 1949–AUGUST 20, 2008

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2008—11:00 A.M.

CLEVELAND PUBLIC AUDITORIUM

601 LAKESIDE AVENUE

CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114

REVEREND DR. STEPHEN ROWAN, OFFICIANT

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Order of Service

Processional
Family of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones

Prayer of Comfort
Bishop F.E. Perry

Scripture
"Old Testament" Psalm 46:1–4, 10–11 Dr. E.T. Caviness

Scripture
"New Testament" Romans 8:35–39, Bishop Lincoln Haughton

Musical Selection
"If I Can Help Somebody" Hattie Johnson

Remarks from Clergy
Pastor Edward Small, Starlight Baptist Church

Musical Selection
Central State University Choir

Special Tributes

Governor Ted Strickland, State of Ohio

Mayor Frank G. Jackson, City of Cleveland

Representative Nancy Pelosi, California,
Speaker of the House

Senator Hillary Clinton, New York

Senator Sherrod Brown, Ohio

Senator Barack Obama, Illinois

Representative Carolyn Kilpatrick, Michigan,
Chair Congressional Black Caucus

Representative Kendrick Meek, Florida,
Chair Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

Representative Tim Ryan, Ohio Delegation

Honorable Louis Stokes, former Congressman 11th District, Ohio

Commissioner Jimmy Dimora, Cuyahoga County

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Order of Service
(continued)

Musical Selection
Cleveland Metropolitan School District Choir

Patrice Willoughby, 11th Congressional District, Chief of Staff

Cynthia Butler McIntyre, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., National President

Barbara Snyder, Case Western Reserve University, President

Dr. Edgar Jackson, University Hospitals

Joe Hewitt, Media Consultant

Tiffany Robertson, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Student

Dorian Jones, Family

Dr. Brad Bayless, Family

Musical Selection
Mrs. Lucretia Bolden

Resolutions/Acknowledgements
Dr. Lanelle Perry

Reading of Obituary

Selection
Bethany Baptist Church Praise Team Choir

Eulogy
John 14:1–3, Reverend Dr. Stephen Rowan

Closing Prayer
Reverend Dr. Stephen Rowan

Recessional
Bethany Baptist Church Praise Team Choir

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Obituary

Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, a native Clevelander, was born to Andrew and Mary Tubbs on September 10, 1949. Her siblings Mattie and Barbara cherished growing up with their younger sister. Stephanie was joined in holy matrimony to Mervyn L. Jones, Sr. in November 1976 and to this union was born Mervyn L. Jones, II.

Stephanie attended Miles Standish Elementary School and was a graduate of the Major Work Program from Collinwood High School. Congresswoman Tubbs Jones received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work and her Juris Doctorate Degree from Case Western Reserve University. She received honorary doctorates from David N. Myers University, Notre Dame College, Central State University and Cleveland State University. She was a lifelong member of Bethany Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio and a member of its Board of Trustees. Congresswoman Tubbs Jones was a lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and served on its national Social Action Commission.

Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones' entire career was spent in public service. She was the Assistant County Prosecutor, serving under John T. Corrigan, and a Trial Attorney at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In 1982 she was elected to the Cleveland Municipal Court, her first elected office. Congresswoman Tubbs Jones made a number of historic achievements throughout her distinguished career. She was the first African-American woman to sit on the Common Pleas Court of the State of Ohio. She became the first African-American and first female to become the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor in 1991. Upon the retirement of the Honorable Louis Stokes, Congresswoman Tubbs Jones made history again when she became the first African-American woman to represent Ohio in the United States Congress.

In Congress, she continued breaking new ground: President of the Freshman Congressional Class, Member of the Congressional Black Caucus Housing Task Force, Whip for Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's Leadership Campaign, Co-Chair of the Platform Committee Democratic National Convention, Co-Chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), Co-Chair Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Retirement Security Brain Trust, Member of the Ways and Means Committee and Chairwoman of the Committee of Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics).

Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones leaves to mourn: her loving son, Mervyn L. Jones, II; devoted sister, Barbara L. Walker; aunts, Lula Robinson (Pratt) of Memphis, Tennessee and Nevora Parker; uncle, Charles Tubbs; sister-in-laws, Garlindine Jones-Grant (Robert), Collette Jones, Leonette Jones-Singletary (Theodore), Dottie Jones; brother-in-laws, Robert Still, Cornelius Jones (Betty); nieces, Lori Rhoane (Rollon), Robin Still, Latesha Jonnes, Crystal Singletary, Deirdra Singletary and Bernadette Jones; nephews, Khari Walker (Barissa), Dorian Jones and Theo Singletary; great nieces, great nephews and a host of extended loving family and many treasured friends. Her parents Mary and Andrew Tubbs, husband Mervyn L. Jones, Sr. and sister Mattie Still preceded her in death.

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Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Public Servant

Educational Honors and Awards: Notre Dame College, South Euclid, Ohio, "*Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters*," Myers University, Cleveland, Ohio, "*Honorary Doctorate*," Central State University, "*Honorary Doctorate of Laws*," and an "*Honorary Doctorate*" from Cleveland State University.

Congressional Caucus Memberships: Democratic Caucus, Black Caucus, Women's Caucus, Children's Caucus, Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, Human Rights Caucus, Congressional Mental Health Caucus, Steel Caucus, Alzheimer's Disease Congressional Task Force, Bi-Partisan Pro-Choice Caucus, Caribbean Caucus, Congressional Biotechnology Caucus, Congressional Fraternal Caucus, Progressive Caucus, Diabetes Caucus, Congressional Arts Caucus, Congressional Manufacturing Task Force, Hungarian American Caucus, Congressional Submarine Caucus, and the Northeastern-Midwest Congressional Coalition.

Civic: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated-National Social Action Commission, Trustee of Bethany Baptist Church, Board of Trustees of the Community Re-Entry Program, Visiting Committee of the Board of Overseers of the Franklin Thomas Backus School of Law of Case Western Reserve University and Leadership Cleveland Alumnae (Board of Trustee, Class of 1984).

Honors and Awards: National Black American Law Student Association, "*Midwest Regional Award*," Flora Stone Mather College, Case Western Reserve University "*Centennial Citation Award*," YWCA, "*Career Women of Achievement Award*," Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, "*Althea Simmons Awards*," Collinwood High School, "*Inductee into the Hall of Fame,*" and Ohio State Bar Association, "*Nettie Crouise Lutes Award*," Cleveland Life Newspaper, "*Best of Cleveland Award*," Gradsnet Foundation of Cleveland, "*Inductee into the Cleveland Educators and Alumni Achievers Hall of Fame,*" International Black Women's Congress, "*Alma Nomsa John Inspirational Award*," Urban League of Cleveland, "*Whitney Young Award,*" "*Inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame,*" NARAL Pro-Choice of Ohio, *Champion of Choice Award,*" Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, "*Patricia Roberts Harris Award for Public Service,*" Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, *Leadership Award*," National Bar Association, "*Gertrude E. Rush Award*," Human Rights Campaign of Cleveland, Equality Award, Essence Magazine "*35 Most Remarkable Women,*" Cook County Bar Association, "*J. Ernest Wilkins Award*," NAACP National Voter Fund, *In recognition of Her Heroic Actions to Protect the Vote of All Ohioans,*" Outstanding Politician Award, NAACP Freedom Fighter Award, Dominion Strong Men & Women Series Excellence in Leadership, Rotary Club, "*International Award,*" Rape Crisis and Essence.

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Let the Work I've Done Speak for Me
"Author Unknown"

May
the work I've
done, speak for me. When
I'm resting in my grave, there is
nothing that can be said. May the work
I've done, speak for me. May the life I've
lived speak for me. May the service I gave
speak for me. When I've done the best I can,
and my friends don't understand, may the
service I gave speak for me. The works I've
done seemed so small. Sometimes, they
seemed like nothing at all. But when I
stand before my God, I want to hear
Him say "Well Done." May the
work I've done, speak
for me.

Pallbearers
United States Military

Honorary Pallbearers
Mervyn Jones, II Robert Still Randy Jones
Robert Norton Robert Grant James Berry
Joseph Hewitt Brad Bayless Khari Walker Al Maples

Acknowledgements

The family of the Late Stephanie Tubbs Jones acknowledges with deepest appreciation your many expressions of sympathy and love. We are grateful for all acts of kindness shown during our hour of bereavement. We thank you most sincerely and pray God's richest blessings upon each of you.

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Governor Ted Strickland. With the passing of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, Ohio and the Nation have lost a remarkable human being and a devoted servant of the people.

Today we face a moment of profound sadness, but we remember a lifetime worthy of great celebration.

STEPHANIE was a woman whose contagious smile, honed intellect and boundless vitality truly made her larger than life.

What some consider the work of politics was, for STEPHANIE, a source of joy. A handshake turned into a hug, a smile into a conversation.

STEPHANIE was the kind of political leader who needed hours to go grocery shopping because everyone she saw wanted a moment of her time, and she willingly gave it. Because if you met STEPHANIE, she was your friend.

To STEPHANIE's son Mervyn and to all her loved ones, I want to extend my deepest sympathies. The tributes you hear today are heartfelt, because the life and work of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES touched the people of the 11th District and far beyond.

In her service as a judge, prosecutor, and Member of Congress, STEPHANIE was time and again a first. First woman. First African American. First African American woman.

One of the many lessons we can learn from STEPHANIE's life and all her firsts is that we need not ever wait for permission to do what's never been done before.

But having had the privilege of serving in the House with STEPHANIE, I know that her purpose was not being a symbol of progress but a source of progress.

On health care, on education, on economic empowerment, the House of Representatives had no more tireless advocate nor stronger voice than STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Everything I know about STEPHANIE tells me that even in our grief she would want us to rejoice for a life well lived in dedication to family, to community, and to her church.

The Scripture reminds us: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth. they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."

As we say goodbye today, we take comfort because STEPHANIE's works will follow her, and they will follow us. Because the doors she opened will never close.

Senator Barack Obama. I'm here today with Michelle to pay tribute to an extraordinary American, a devoted public servant, a mother, a daughter, a sister, a wife, and a dear friend to so many here in Cleveland and all across America.

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Today, we honor not just STEPHANIE's intelligence, grace, spirit, passion, and compassion—but how she used those gifts to help others.

For STEPHANIE, it wasn't enough to rise up from modest circumstances and break so many barriers herself—she spent her life reaching back and pulling others through the doors she opened and along the trails she blazed.

For STEPHANIE, it wasn't enough just to study law and practice law—she spent her life working to shape our laws to honor our best instincts and reflect all our voices.

If this work was hard or overwhelming—if she ever felt any loneliness in so often being first—you never would've known. STEPHANIE wasn't a complainer. And self-pity was never an option as far as STEPHANIE was concerned.

She just set her sights and steeled her will to the task at hand. And when it came to her life's work—the work of fighting for justice and opportunity, the work of tending to overlooked places and being a friend to those who walk alone—she was relentless.

And what struck me most about STEPHANIE was how, even after a decade in Congress, she was so utterly unaffected by the ways of Washington. STEPHANIE couldn't put on airs if she tried. Whether you were an intern or an ambassador, you were treated to that same radiant warmth, that same good-natured ribbing, that same call-it-like-she-saw-it honesty. No one ever felt like a stranger around STEPHANIE.

And even as she endured so many losses in her own life, she never lost her focus on helping others—her heart big enough, and strong enough, and resilient enough to hold her own pain and that of so many who needed someone to ease their load. She was the embodiment of the generosity that comes with grace—and the fearlessness that comes from knowing what really matters in life.

And now that she's left us, we've all got some slack to pick up. We've got some unfinished business to attend to. The business of shaking things up, and asking the hard questions, and insisting on the hard truths behind the official explanations. The business of embracing those who struggle and making their struggles our own. The business of refusing to settle for anything less than what's right and fair and just.

Those were the gifts that STEPHANIE gave us. That was the love with which she graced us—love for her son Mervyn and all her family and friends, love for her native Cleveland,

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and love for this great country she served. And for that, we are all so grateful.

Thank you and God bless you.

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The Honorable

Stephanie Tubbs Jones

September 10, 1949–August 20, 2008

A reception will be held in the Rayburn Room immediately following today's memorial service.

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A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

The Honorable

Stephanie Tubbs Jones

Ohio's 11th District

CHAIRWOMAN, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

SEPTEMBER 10, 1949–AUGUST 20, 2008

Statuary Hall
United States Capitol
Wednesday, September 10, 2008
11:00 a.m.

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LET THE WORK I'VE DONE SPEAK FOR ME

May the work I've done, speak for me.
When I'm resting in my grave,
there is nothing that can be said.
May the work I've done, speak for me.
May the life I've lived speak for me.
May the service I gave speak for me.
When I've done the best I can,
and my friends don't understand,
may the service I gave speak for me.
The works I've done seemed so small.
Sometimes, they seemed like nothing at all.
But when I stand before my God,
I want to hear Him say "Well Done."
May the work I've done, speak for me.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

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PROGRAM

Prelude
United States Air Force Ceremonial Brass Quintet

Welcome
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

Mistress of Ceremonies
The Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
United States House of Representatives

Invocation
The Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin
Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives

Reading
Proverbs 31:8–9
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
United States House of Representatives

Tributes
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Rahm Emanuel
Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus

Musical Selection
"Precious Lord"

Reflection
Mr. Mervyn Jones II

Tributes
The Honorable Donna M. Christensen
United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Kendrick B. Meek
United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Tim Ryan
United States House of Representatives

Benediction
The Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin
Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives

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Speaker Nancy Pelosi. My, my, my, wouldn't STEPHANIE have liked to see this turnout for her birthday party?

When we were in Ohio, I was pleased to take two planeloads of Members of Congress to Cleveland for her memorial service. In that auditorium was a former President of the United States, a former First Lady who is a Senator and was a candidate for President, a nominee of the Democratic Party for President of the United States, her colleagues, her friends, and her family—all gathered together to celebrate the life and leadership of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

I would like to welcome the family and loved ones of Chairwoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES to Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol to join her colleagues in celebrating her life.

All of us in this room loved STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES—though this room or even this building could not hold all those who counted themselves among her friends.

I would like to offer a particularly warm welcome to two members of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' family: her son, Mervyn Jones II, and her sister, Barbara Walker.

Mervyn is named for his father, STEPHANIE's beloved husband of almost 30 years whom we lost a few years ago. With Mervyn here today, we also feel the presence of his loving father. We proudly welcome you to the Capitol, Mervyn. We are your family. Barbara, we welcome you too.

It was once written that the simple act of going to the grocery store could take STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES 2½ hours—because as she crossed items off her list, she added the names and numbers of her constituents in need.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a beloved figure in her hometown of Cleveland, and she loved and served her constituents in return. Their problems were her problems.

Their story was her story—an American story—she was the daughter of a factory worker and a skycap at the Cleveland Airport who went on to chair one of the most powerful committees in Congress.

Her work in Congress was informed by all the greatest things about our Nation: STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a tireless force for justice, equality, and opportunity. She fought to ensure that every American voter can vote. She passed bills to invest in the health of the American people, and to protect children from abuse and neglect.

And in January of last year, she became chair of the House Ethics Committee. There, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

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ably and conscientiously enforced the rules of the House in an evenhanded and nonpartisan fashion.

Though her accomplishments were many, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES had a simple wish. As she said: "I hope I made you proud."

I was proud to be able to appoint STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, the first African American woman in history, to the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

I was proud to appoint STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES as chairwoman of the Ethics Committee.

I know that every person in this room, especially STEPHANIE's family and certainly her colleagues in the Congress, can say to STEPHANIE on her birthday: as a chairwoman, as a Congresswoman, as a Representative of Cleveland who loved her district and constituents, and most of all, who loved her family—you made everyone who cared about you or knew about you, very, very proud. We'll miss you, darling.

Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin. God of blessings, Source of all goodness,

Today, feeling already the absence of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, the House of Representatives gathers to remember, pay tribute, and thank You, Lord, for the gift of her life and presence in our midst.

May the grace of her radiant smile, strong yet gracious advocacy, and ready expressions of faith and love live on in all who knew her and honor her memory.

Grant her just reward and eternal joy for she seized every opportunity to make a difference to bring about Your kingdom of uplifting light and prevailing justice.

We ask this, calling upon You as our Lord and Savior, now and forever.

Amen.

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES once told a reporter: "I have no illusions about myself. It could all go up in a puff of smoke. I'll never lose sight of that."

Few of us can claim to have sight as clear as that. We hear word of a death like STEPHANIE's—a death too sudden to leave time for settling up, for saying goodbye—and our first thought says: "It wasn't her time yet."

But if we are blessed with some of the wisdom STEPHANIE had, maybe that first thought gives way to a second. Maybe the second thought asks: "Who are we to name the right time, for her, or for any of us?"

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We are legislators, and by nature we are good at waiting. We wait for a favorite bill to come to the floor; we wait for a consensus to form; we can wait for years for our chance in the majority. In so many ways, this place runs on patience. But when we lose a friend like STEPHANIE, when we lose her like this, we are reminded that none of us gets to wait forever. There is a time for patience, and there is a time for urgency.

STEPHANIE lived a life of urgency. It was behind her passion for Southern cooking and for sailing the Chesapeake. It was behind her unshakeable friendships and her unbeatable smile. It was behind her unstoppable work for voters shut out, for children abused, for families denied a doctor's care.

Behind all of it were the simple questions: "If not now, when? If not me, who?"

Here in this room, where Presidents and Statesmen sat, where these statues stand in for so many of our heroes, we honor the daughter of a skycap and a factory worker, who rose to be a judge, a leader, a breaker of so many barriers—all on the strength of her conviction that she had no time to lose.

We mourn our friend—and we give thanks for the 58 years that STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES lived so well.

Representative Donna M. Christensen. "Sorry we didn't get a chance to hang out. Safe flight," was the last I heard—via Blackberry—from our dear friend, sister, and colleague as I boarded my second plane on the way home from Tunica.

And if any of us had not ever known true friendship before—we found it in STEPHANIE. I know no one who was more giving than she—and it was that giving to others, being that special girlfriend, that gave her the most joy.

Whether it was the annual basketball game for the homeless, something for her Deltas, or reaching back and helping a young person or a newcomer, giving was what she thrived on.

She came to Congress after me but we shared a very special bond because we both began the 106th Congress honored to be political heirs of Congressman Louis Stokes—she of the district and I of the braintrust.

She took the Congress by storm, same way she did everything else—freshman class president, member of Steering Committee; and on the Small Business Committee—something else we shared. There was no shutting up or shutting down members if she or anyone else had something to say or an issue to fight for.

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Her bucking the system could turn into a full scale revolution on our side of the committee, because when she got her dander up it was always for the right reasons.

That extended to the Subcommittee on Health, a seat she sought and won after developing a fire-hot passion for the elimination of health disparities—a natural because her whole life was about breaking down barriers and eliminating disparities. There were no special interests for STEPHANIE except that of people of color, the poor, disabled, and elderly, and those in any way disenfranchised. No one in this country was going to be shortchanged if she could do anything about it—and she was determined that she could and would!

The committee and subcommittee got a real shakeup when she came on board, and if there is anyone thinking that we are going to let things slide back to normal. Think again.

D.A., judge, Congresswoman, chair, mother, sister, girlfriend didn't come this way for nothing, and she left no void behind. So if you see us a little more bubbly, if our smile is a little bigger, if you see a bit more passion in our work, less tolerance for anything unfair or unjust and a firmer faith in God's omnipotence and love; if you see us grow more strident in our advocacy for those who are always left behind, and if we somehow seem to have more gusto for work and life and love—it's just because we were a part of STEPHANIE's circle of friends and she didn't just up and leave us—she left some of her special gifts with each of us. And if you know STEPHANIE, and I know you did, we better not be messing around. We had better be getting busy!

Man-child Mervyn, and big sis Barbara, she also left you a big family who will always be here for you. We love you as we continue to love her.

She did more than anyone could ask in her too short life. We, her sisters and brothers in the CBC will finish the rest!

Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin. Trusting in God's eternal wisdom and mercy, we have prayed together for STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. There is sadness in taking leave from one another. Yet, we take comfort in the Word of God and what we have shared. We walk in the sure and certain hope that we will all meet again on the last day when God is all in all.

We give thanks to You, Lord, God Almighty, for all the blessings which You graciously bestowed upon STEPHANIE, Your servant and public witness to faith and justice in this life.

We now commend STEPHANIE into Your loving hands, Eternal and living Shepherd of souls. Delivered now from all

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human weakness, bring her to eternal joy and the lasting peace for which she tirelessly worked and longed for all her days. In You and through You she moved, acted, and had her very being, so to You now be all glory and praise forever and ever.

Amen.

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