example that Rush Limbaugh has been to me, both as an entrepreneur and as an American. The truth is, he has been an inspiration to many millions of Americans. After Ronald Reagan left the national stage in 1988 and many of us conservatives were searching for a voice and for over 20 million Americans, that voice was and is Rush Limbaugh.

Now, I know something as a former radio professional about the formatics and my colleague (Mr. LEWIS) in the Chamber knows that in radio we learned pacing and how to hook the audience. We know the techniques, and no one is better in that than Rush Limbaugh, in my judgment. But it was not the formatics that drew the audience to Rush Limbaugh; it was not the gimmicks. It was information, verifiable fact and an undaunting willingness to speak the truth boldly.

Rush Limbaugh was not one of those in the media who, in effect, cowered behind that image of objectivity, hiding the fact that he had opinions, biases, beliefs, convictions; but, rather, he never feared being discovered to be an American of strong opinions. In fact, Rush Limbaugh never feared anything. I trust as he faces one of the great challenges of his life in a debilitating impact on his hearing, that that same courage, that same determination is being applied by Rush Limbaugh in the same way that his family is bathing his circumstances in prayer.

I close today, Mr. Speaker, simply by saying that Rush Limbaugh has made a difference in my life, and I say without apology that I believe he has made a difference in the life of the Nation. He has given us an example of a life that is about ideas larger than personal advancement, a life that tries to bring the reality of God's grace in each of our lives and in the history of this Nation before the citizenry every day.

My word to Rush is stay the course, encourage, tear down the strongholds, only be strong and courageous, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will go with you wherever you go.

TRIBUTE TO BEA GADDY: A POINT OF LIGHT, A BEACON OF HOPE

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, Baltimore City Councilwoman Bea Gaddy, who a few days ago succumbed to breast cancer at the age of 68. For decades, Bea Gaddy fed and sheltered the poor and homeless in our city of Baltimore. In 1992, then President George Bush included her among Americans he honored as ''Points of Light.''

Upon learning of Bea Gaddy's death, Maryland Governor Parris Glendening observed that she ''was a beacon of hope for those who felt hopeless.'' She had a unique ability to reach out and help people. She effectively articulated that strong communities are created when we recognize that every member of the community is important.

Mr. Speaker, as the testaments of these national leaders witnessed, Bea Gaddy's vision for America transcended the divisions of race, class, and party that all too often limit our potential as a people. Her legacy was directed to those of us who have the ability to give, as well as to the thousands whom she helped to survive poverty. Every year, hundreds of volunteers and I joined Mrs. Gaddy for the Thanksgiving dinner she prepared for those who were homeless. As I watched her tireless and forever smiling generosity towards others, I realized that God had sent us an angel, that God was reminding us through her that every person has value.

Mrs. Gaddy used her own trials in life as a passport for helping others. Her love for other people, and especially for those in the greatest need, became a force for compassion and change throughout Baltimore and the rest of America. Our hearts go out to Mrs. Gaddy's family as we join them in mourning the loss of a truly remarkable human being.

Bea Gaddy challenged those who came to her caught in the grip of poverty to take control of their own destinies. She helped them to learn the skills of perseverance that would uplift their lives. Bea Gaddy also called upon those of us to whom life has been generous, asking that we share our fortunes and our lives with those who are less fortunate. Poor and rich alike, the people of Baltimore responded to her vision because of the conviction that she had gained from the trials in her life. As I stated at her funeral a few days ago, she fully understood that we are all the walking wounded, and that at some point in our lives, every single one of us will stand like the blind man on the corner of a busy highway waiting for someone to lead us across.

We knew that she herself had been born into poverty during the Great Depression. This remarkable woman had once been forced by her own childhood of poverty to scavenge for food from the garbage bins of restaurants and grocery stores. We, who knew and worked with Bea Gaddy, realized that her life had been filled with poverty and pain. We also knew, however, that she had transformed her life, completing high school, earning a college degree, and marrying a wonderful man named Mr. Lacy Gaddy, who died in 1995.

Bea Gaddy became known and beloved throughout Maryland for those wonderful annual Thanksgiving dinners that she provided to as many as 20,000 needy people. She was admired for her efforts to provide toys to the poor children at Christmastime, for distributing donated shoes and clothing in the winter months, and for the summer camp she helped to sustain. It is less well known, however, that many of the people whom Bea Gaddy fed and encouraged there at her North Collington Avenue row home in Baltimore later returned to volunteer after they had become self-reliant members of the community. Mrs. Gaddy's life teaches us that a saint does more than minister to our needs; a saint also inspires by the witness of her life.

In 1999, Bea Gaddy took her mission on behalf of those whom America had left behind to the Baltimore City Council. During the last 2 years of her life, she continued to work in the community while advocating for housing, employment, and health care programs in the halls of Baltimore local government. We will hold her family in our prayers.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, 600,000 Americans will struggle to find shelter because they have no home to call their own. Nearly one-half of them will have work at jobs this week, but not have earned enough money to afford a home. By the legacy of the life of Bea Gaddy, she offered America a clear vision of compassion and commitment that can address this national tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, a great American is gone from our midst, but we have been empowered to carry on her work.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY SEEKS TO THREATEN MILITARY ACCESS TO RADIO FREQUENCIES AND THREATEN NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, even as I speak today, the Armed Forces of the United States are engaged in combat operations to ensure the security of our people. However, the continued viability of some of the very weapons systems being used now is threatened by a concerted effort to reallocate portions of the radio frequency spectrum from the military to the commercial sector.

This effort is being led by the telecommunications industry, which is seeking access to additional frequencies to support development of advanced wireless services. They have vigorously argued that unless the Federal Government provides access to the 1755 through 1850 megahertz frequency band, the United States will forfeit its leadership of the worldwide telecommunications market.

Now, I do not pretend to know whether this claim is true or not, but I do know that forcing the military to give up this particular part of the frequency spectrum will have a significant negative effect on national security and will put our service members at greater risk.

The importance of this frequency band to the military cannot be understated. The DOD systems that operate on these frequencies are the very core