

that she has contributed to our great society.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA
MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first allow me to please say amen to the words of the Honorable MAXINE WATERS.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the superlative life of a superb woman, the Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald. Indeed, she was a devoted wife, a loving mother, a superior scholar, a preeminent educator, and a powerful legislator.

Notwithstanding all of this, Mr. Speaker, she had a positive air and a special flair. She was a pillar of probity. Her integrity was beyond reproach. She was a repository of respect. Her mere presence commanded respect. She was the queen of self-esteem. She was comely, courtly and stately with a positive personality.

We were truly blessed to have her among us, she will surely be missed by us, and I thank God for her.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA
MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. I thank the Chair for recognizing me.

Members of the House, we tend to use the term "friend" very liberally in this institution. We often apply it to anyone with whom we have had more than a casual or passing conversation. Juanita Millender-McDonald was someone that I genuinely viewed as a friend, not in the way the Members of the House use that term but in the way that ordinary people who are watching this on television use it.

There were a lot of days when we sat on this floor and we talked together. There were a lot of days when we sat on this floor and we exchanged confidences. There were a lot of days when we sat on this floor and I spoke to her of my aspirations and my goals and she spoke to me of hers. There were times when I spoke of my family and she spoke of her abiding, continuing faith in her family.

Many people do not realize because she did not speak of it a great deal, but Juanita was from Birmingham, Alabama, and it is a tragedy that a black woman born in 1937 or 1938 felt that she had to leave the State of Alabama to reach her full promise. Juanita did. And it was my State's loss. She went to the State of California, and so many of my colleagues have told the story of her wonderful ascension and her won-

derful career there. But she always retained memories of growing up in the South. She always retained memories of growing up in a segregated environment. And her family, much of it remains there.

Another thing that was not widely known, Juanita's brother, Shelley Millender, was a longtime radio talk show host in the city of Birmingham and I have had a long-time attachment to him. When I ran for this job for the first time, there were very few people who would welcome me onto their programs or into their forums. The very first one to do so was Shelley Millender. He did it constantly and I have always appreciated that.

Juanita's nephew, Shelley, Jr., has become a friend of mine and I always enjoyed telling her how proud she should be of him and how well he conducts himself in the city of Birmingham.

So, Mr. Speaker, what I want to say today, Juanita Millender-McDonald was a phenomenally elegant, restrained and dignified woman. She richly deserved the title Madam Chairwoman that she was just beginning to wear so well, and I will remember my last conversation with her sitting just off this floor. It was not uncommon for us to gather and talk about what was going on as we left the floor. I remember her telling me during that conversation how much she looked forward to her work on the House Administration Committee. I remember her telling me how much she looked forward to several hearings that were upcoming. She never had the chance to do that which she talked about that day. But I will always remember her confidence, her courage, and her decency. And as she and her family watch and as they prepare for God to take her back to her home in heaven, know that the time she spent here was well served and the legacy that she left honors her native State of Alabama, my State, and the State she adopted and served so ably, California.

REMEMBERING JUANITA
MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to send condolences to the family of my colleague, Chairwoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, and let them know that they are in my heart and in my prayers. I also want to send condolences to the people of the 37th Congressional District of California who placed their faith and trust in the strong, dedicated and elegant Juanita Millender-McDonald.

You have heard from some of my colleagues about the many firsts that Juanita achieved here in the Congress of the United States, including serving as the first African American woman

to chair a full committee in the United States House of Representatives. But I just want to take a moment to reflect upon an aspect of her strength that was not readily apparent but clearly on display long before she came to Congress. While some of us have focused on the life that she lived, I want to talk about the Juanita Millender-McDonald who did not believe in self-pity but believed in using what she had to make a difference.

While many of my colleagues will come to this mike and talk about the life that she lived and her service to a grateful Nation, Juanita Millender-McDonald taught us something about character in her transition. No self-pity. Not a single Member of Congress knew that Juanita was ailing and that her ailment was terminal. Juanita did not want to walk around the House of Representatives and have Members of Congress feeling pity for her or feeling sad for her or making special speeches or concessions to her. She wanted all of us to recognize that we live our lives as if life is certain and death is uncertain, when in reality it is death that is certain and life that is uncertain. And, therefore, each of us is under an obligation to do the very best that we can with the time that God has given us on this Earth and in this world.

The Bible talks about serving this present age. "O may all my powers be engaged to do my Master's will." Clearly the type of ailment that ailed our colleague and our close and dear friend, Juanita Millender-McDonald, was not the kind of ailment that strikes one suddenly. She knew about it for quite some time and chose not to share it with Members of Congress. That is a statement about her dignity. It is a statement about her commitment to public service. It is a statement about character. And it is a statement about her strength under extraordinarily life-threatening odds.

Juanita Millender-McDonald was married, she raised five children, and then went to college to launch an impressive and inspiring career at an age when many people start slowing down. She combined higher education with her native Alabama wisdom and she set out to show women and men in life and in death that no matter where you came from, you can go where you want to go. She was a living example of the power of not only keeping your eyes on the prize but putting in the old-fashioned elbow grease to earn it.

No self-pity. She didn't want people looking down on her or feeling bad about her or seeing her physical ailments. No self-pity. She possessed the necessary tough-mindedness combined with the tenderheartedness that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about. She understood, and Dr. King wrote, "There is little hope for us until we become tough-minded enough to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half-truths and downright ignorance. The shape of the world today does not

permit us the luxury of soft-mindedness. A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men and women purchases its own spiritual death on an installment plan.”

I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve with Juanita Millender-McDonald, and once again I send my condolences to those who loved her. The House and the Nation have lost a dedicated public servant and someone who in life and death has taught us the meaning of character.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA
MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor one of our colleagues, Representative Juanita McDonald of the 37th District of California.

Representative McDonald was an extraordinary woman. She was born in Birmingham, Alabama at a time of racial violence and overt displays of the most open and systematic forms of racism. But she did not let that hold her down or hold her back. She went to college in California, she became a teacher in the Los Angeles school system, and throughout her career she used education as an instrument for change.

She was a great teacher, and she used the power of knowledge and her commitment to human understanding to break down institutional barriers and to reach across the aisle.

I think that is why she made so many strides as a Member of Congress. She knew gaining mutual understanding was the only way to build coalitions and lay all differences aside.

That's why her creativity and skillful leadership became legendary. She was the first Democrat to chair the Congressional Caucus For Women's Issues and she used that power to build a coalition between the women of the Supreme Court and the women of Congress. She knew the differences in their roles as public servants didn't matter. She believed all women in government shared a common bond.

She took concerned women of Congress to meet delegates to the United Nations to unify the global struggle against the exploitation of women and girls.

She developed the first National Teen Dating Violence Week as a platform for all women to speak out against a common problem—violence against teen girls. And she was the first Member to bring the head of the CIA to the city of Watts to address longstanding, widespread allegations of drug dumping in that community.

And, of course, she was the first African American to chair a full committee, the Committee on House Administration. This committee oversees some of the great educational institu-

tions of our Nation—the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, the Government Printing Office, and the Capitol Fine Arts Board.

We can only dream about what this great teacher would have done in this capacity. I know she would have used the power of knowledge and education as an instrument of change.

But beyond that, Juanita McDonald was an elegant lady. She may have moved to California, but she never lost her southern charm. She was always a lady—as tough as steel but as sweet as honey. She was more than a colleague. She was our sister, our friend. Juanita was a sharp dresser, and sometimes she would dress to kill. She was beautiful on the outside and on the inside. She had a sweet, sweet spirit, and she will be deeply missed.

Sometimes when she would see me, she would call me Mr. Civil Rights. And sometimes when she would see Sanford Bishop, David Scott and me together, she would say, “What are you Georgia boys doing? What are you up to?”

And when she was planning programs in her district, she would stop by to see members of the Georgia delegation and tell us she needed a box of peanuts. And we would all ante up and make those peanuts available to her.

It is so unreal. It is so unbelievable that we will not see her on the floor of this Chamber again. Life is short, too short. We are here today, and we're gone tomorrow, but her spirit and her memory will live on in all of us.

With the passing of Congresswoman McDonald, it seems the world is a little darker. It seems that a light has gone out. Maybe here in this Chamber and on this Earth a light has gone out. But in another part of the universe Juanita is shining brighter than ever before.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA
MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I had to come to the floor today in remembrance of a phenomenal woman, Juanita Millender-McDonald. My heart is pained and it is unbelievable that we will not see this great woman, at least not on this planet, again. She was a woman that anytime that you saw her, she stood with such dignity and grace. She was a woman who was honest. I can recall when I would go to her and ask her opinion on various issues. She wouldn't tell me what I wanted to hear. She would tell me what I needed to hear. She would tell me what was indeed right. Being the father of three daughters, I can't help but say, Thank you, Juanita. Thank you for being the pioneer that you were. Thank you for blazing a trail, a trail that's so wide for women, all women, like my three

young daughters, so that they can walk now on that path, so that they now can have opportunities that were denied others because you have fought the fight.

In the church that I come from, the question is, have you helped someone, and the song says, “If you've helped someone, then your living shall not be in vain.”

In the life story of Juanita Millender-McDonald, she has indeed helped a whole lot of somebodies and she has made life better for a lot of children yet unborn. She has made history. And in the camera of history and in the camera of life of Juanita Millender-McDonald, it will be recorded that she was a soldier in this thing we call life, and she was a leader for all human beings but in particular to make sure that women, that their tomorrow is better than their yesterday or today.

Juanita, we will miss you, and we know that as you see the good Lord, He's saying, “Well done, Juanita. Job well done.”

THE STATE OF INTELLIGENCE'S
UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is 6 years after 9/11, and reform of the intelligence community continues to be a primary concern for all of us. At the swearing-in ceremony of Director Mike McConnell, President Bush outlined three main categories for improvement: the need to strengthen individual agencies, increase information sharing action and improve the quality of intelligence produced. I wish to discuss this morning what this means.

The intelligence community has established new hiring and employment reforms to strengthen the workforce. Under the direction of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), there is now a comprehensive intelligence community plan that focuses on hiring a more diverse workforce to address the critical need for variety in languages, backgrounds, and skills. He has also appointed a chief of equal employment opportunity and diversity, and has agreed to a set of wide-ranging recommendations that the diversity senior advisory panel made in their report: “Diversity: A National Security Imperative for the Intelligence Community.”

The Director of National Intelligence is also establishing “joint duty” as a requirement for promotion to senior positions. This is imperative in transforming the culture to increase integration and a collaborative nature among agencies. It will also reduce “stovepipe” mentalities which hampered collection efforts pre-9/11. These are important reforms, Mr. Speaker, and good initiatives that have been undertaken to address the human resources challenges facing the intelligence community. I look forward to