

He was a great chairman. He was the chairman of both the Judiciary Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, and he did a great job in both areas. I served with him on the Foreign Affairs Committee and I was one of his subcommittee chairman, and I want to tell you, he was a chairman you could be proud of. He was a man who was always ready to listen and work with his subcommittee chairmen and anybody in the Congress to solve problems facing this Nation.

He was known best, I think, for the Hyde Amendment, which stopped Federal funding for abortions, and it has been known throughout the time since that bill passed as one of the great human life amendments ever presented in this body or in the other body as well. He was a fighter. He was the kind of man who was very strong-willed, who would fight like the dickens. But he had a heart that was very, very soft where his fellow man was concerned. When he was on an issue, however, he had a heart that was very, very tough, and everybody that dealt with him knew that.

He was probably one of the greatest orators who ever served in the Congress of the United States in either body. When he came down to speak, everybody listened. You could hear a pin drop. I know when a lot of my colleagues speak today they have to bring the gavel down several times to bring the House to order and ask for regular order, but when Henry Hyde came down on a great cause and spoke, you could hear a pin drop in this place because people knew he had something to say and they wanted to hear what he had to say.

I am very proud to have known Henry. I knew him for over 20 years in this body. I can't tell you or any of my colleagues how great he was and how much I held him in high esteem. He will be missed not only because he was a great Congressman, he will be missed not only because he was a great chairman, he will be missed because he was a great American.

And before I leave, I have to tell you one little story about Henry that he was so proud of. When he went to college at Georgetown University, he played on the basketball team. And one of the greatest players, if not the greatest player of that era, was a man named George Mikan, and Henry used to smile and with great pride tell everybody that when he played against George Mikan, in the second half he held him to one point. And there aren't many people who could do that.

In addition to all of this, he authored the staunchest pro-life legislation in Congress in 30 years, and headed the impeachment hearings against President Clinton. Either of those efforts would naturally incite a whole camp of enemies.

"Henry Hyde spoke of controversial matters with intellectual honesty and without rancor," said President Bush.

"He was gifted as a legislator. There was a time when the Illinois House was divided

evenly and needed 89 votes to pass a bill, and nothing was getting done because of partisan wrangling. People were angry and debilitated.

"Henry stood up and said he had voted against something just because he was on the other side of the aisle, and asked the House to reconsider the last bill on its merits. They wound up going back to the last 32 bills that had failed, and he brought people back into an atmosphere of wanting to work together."

"Congressman Hyde played a big role in crystallizing the issue of abortion as central to politics and the culture," said Father Frank Pavone, director of Priests for Life. "He has always been a driving force in making it clear that abortion is not one among many issues." Hyde, a Catholic, was a vocal opponent of abortion. In 1976 Hyde attached an amendment to a spending bill that banned Federal funding for abortions.

The amendment later become known as the "Hyde Amendment" and has been at the center of the political fight over abortion since its passage.

"This erudite, scholarly man has walked with kings and kept the common touch," Bush stated. "They're quick to say it's not the same Congress without him—but that we're a better country because he was there. And colleagues will always admire and look up to the gentleman from Illinois, Henry J. Hyde."

Born in 1924, Hyde served in the House from 1975 to 2006 and retired at end of the last session. Hyde served as the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee from 1995 to 2001.

In a written statement, BOEHNER called Hyde "a constitutional scholar, a thoughtful legislator, and a passionate orator."

"But above all, he will be remembered as a gentleman who stood as a beacon for the bedrock principles of liberty, justice, and, above all, respect for life," BOEHNER said.

On November 5, President Bush awarded Hyde the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor the president can bestow on an American citizen.

Henry, we miss you, buddy. Godspeed.

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WORLD AIDS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening in recognition of World AIDS Day, which took place last Saturday, December 1.

Now, all through last week and into the weekend, events were held all around our country and throughout the world recognizing World AIDS Day. This solemn day provided us with the occasion to commemorate the lives of those who have died of this disease, more than 25 million people worldwide, and express our solidarity with those

who are currently living with the disease, over 33 million people.

I had the good fortune last week to travel with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation to South Africa, where we celebrated and commemorated World AIDS Day with Congresswoman Dr. DONNA CHRISTENSEN. Our delegation met with the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria in Johannesburg. We spoke to the group about our support for increased funding for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or better known as PEPFAR, and the importance of the private sector in fighting the pandemic. Later, we visited an HIV/AIDS testing site located in the Zola area of Soweto, sponsored by Levi Strauss Red for Life Initiative, Centers for Disease Control, USAID, and State Department and other organizations, and I had the chance to talk to young people about the importance of getting tested and knowing their status.

Together, Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN and I helped lead by example by getting tested publicly, and we noted the very thorough pre- and post-testing counseling as well as the emphasis on maintaining confidentiality. We were very inspired to see young people sign up for testing, and some actually came up and told us that our speeches had convinced them to get tested. This really was remarkable and gave us a glimpse as to what we need to do more and more and more with our young people here in America also.

We ended our trip at the United States Embassy where we helped to hang a giant AIDS ribbon and spoke to the assembled diplomatic corps about HIV and AIDS and the importance of our collective struggle against the disease. We had an opportunity to meet with the great moral and religious leader Bishop Desmond Tutu, and Bishop Tutu had spoken earlier at the Swedish and Norwegian Embassy, and he talked about helping to fight this global HIV/AIDS pandemic just as we helped fight to end apartheid in South Africa.

It was especially important to be in Africa last week, because the discussions with regard to the reauthorization of PEPFAR will be coming up very shortly.

And tonight I must take a moment and ask that my remarks include my sympathy for Henry Hyde, Chairman Hyde's family. I thought about Chairman Hyde during our visit, because we worked together on the initial PEPFAR legislation. He was committed to address this HIV pandemic. He ensured that this bill became a bipartisan bill. And even though we didn't agree on every issue, tonight I commemorate him and I give my sympathy to his family because, as we reauthorize this, his spirit and his hard work and his legacy certainly will prevail as we move forward.

Many of the key issues which remain were addressed in South Africa as it relates to the PEPFAR reauthorization.