

somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood and I, I took the one less traveled by."

The road less traveled by, as all of us know who go through a woods, has more briars, has more brambles, has more branches in the way of progress. But if one is prepared to overcome those obstacles, one can prevail and be admired for that victory of the spirit.

I am not objective, Mr. Speaker. KWEISI MFUME is my friend. As the dean of the Maryland delegation, I can say with pride and with conviction that KWEISI MFUME has served the citizens of not only his district but of my district and of every district of our State exceedingly well. But more than that, KWEISI MFUME has been a leader in our country. Indeed, he has been a leader on the international scene.

KWEISI MFUME was picked by his African-American colleagues to lead the Black Caucus here in the Congress. Frankly, it was, perhaps, one of the high points of the history of the Black Caucus during the 2 years of his leadership, in which he became perceived by the President of the United States, by the Speaker of the House, and by the minority leader as an individual of great consequence and conscience, as an individual prepared to fight for that which he believed, an individual who was in the best tradition of service in this House.

There have been some 10,200 Members, citizens, who have been selected by their communities to serve in this House since 1789. Few have served with such distinction as KWEISI MFUME.

KWEISI MFUME called me a few weeks ago, early on a Saturday morning. He informed me before it was to happen that he was going to be selected as the President and CEO of one of the historic and great institutions in this country, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

That organization has done as much for civil rights as any organization in this country, but that organization, frankly, has fallen on hard times. It was confronted with problems of great magnitude, not just financially but in terms of energy and direction and focus and agenda. The genius of that organization was that they looked around the breadth of America and made what I think was the very best possible selection they could have made.

I am sad that they chose KWEISI MFUME, for myself, for my State, but I am glad that he will have an even broader stage, in some respects, on which to work. I am glad that the character of KWEISI MFUME will be associated with one of the great associations of this country.

KWEISI MFUME is on the floor and stands before me just now, and KWEISI, I say to you as a friend, as a colleague, but as well, as an American concerned about my country, concerned about bringing blacks and whites together, not dividing us, concerned about the rise in racism and the lack of understanding between the white and black

communities in America, an understanding which is critical for both communities if we are to be the kind of successful American dream which the rest of the world thinks about and admires.

I want to thank the Speaker for his consideration of my closing with these comments about my brother, the gentleman from Maryland, KWEISI MFUME, who has served his country and his people so well. We wish him Godspeed and great success.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE KWEISI MFUME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. MEEK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my remarks to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER], who spoke earlier, and I recognize the duties of the Chair, having served there for many years.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Maryland, on the gentlewoman's time, for his kind remarks, for his friendship over the years, for leading the delegation, from all of us who served the State of Maryland, and for extending the first hand toward me shortly after my election in 1986. Both he and former Congressman Tony Coelho came to Baltimore at that particular time to find out what it was they could do for me as an incoming Member. It has been that kind of relationship over the years, STENY, and I really appreciate your kind remarks.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. MFUME], it is a distinct pleasure to come to the well and tell you how much we are going to miss you, because you have shown the kind of leadership that is seldom seen, not only in the Congress, but throughout this country. The leadership you have demonstrated was one that was fed by character, one that was fed by dignity, one that was fed by knowledge, one that was fed by your strong desire to bring people together and not to separate them, regardless of their views.

Your name stands with the son of kings, and that you are, you are a son of kings. You are a conqueror. You have shown your lineage by your leadership and your example, which you have shown to all of us. You did not lead by talking. You could not say anything about a sermon, because I think from all of your work, you have shown that you would rather be a sermon than to preach one any day.

You have been the hope of all America, but most specifically, you have been the hope of black America. You have been a hero to us, and you still are. I am greatly saddened, at least I was, when you decided to retire and go

to the NAACP, because I knew you had more and more to give to us, but God saw it better to send you someplace where you would be needed most. So I was saddened, but I was also encouraged, because they saw the same thing that we saw: The ability to lead, the ability to pull people together, the ability to start initiatives that work.

You were president of the Black Caucus for the first 2 years I was here. I say to you, if it were not for your leadership, we never could have accomplished the things that we accomplished. You even took people in the Caucus who were not directly associated with the idea of the kind of movement that you were trying to make, but you were such a person as to allow everyone a chance and to think of their opportunities.

You are a man of class. You are a cut above, MFUME, quite a bit a cut above, because we will never find a father, a leader, a peacemaker, above you in this Congress. I like the way you work with everybody, white, black, regardless of color or creed. You did not play the race card at any time. What you did was to play the people card, and you made that card work for us in the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I think in the end, MFUME, even though I am saddened by your leaving, that your particular dictum may be and your shibboleth could be: Service is the price you have paid for the space which God has let you occupy.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman will continue to yield, I could not, obviously, not respond to your heartfelt comments, CARRIE, and the friendship that we have developed over the last several years working on a number of issues, both here in Washington and down in your district in Florida and elsewhere. It is those kinds of words at this kind of moment that really makes the last 10 years worth more than they might have been otherwise.

I know that words are inadequate on my part to tell you how much you mean to me as a person, and why I will miss this institution, not because of the partisan bantering that takes place, but because of the genuine kind of dialog and fellowship that I have learned to develop and I have learned to develop with people like you. I love you very much. Thank you for your kind words.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KWEISI MFUME ON HIS SELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE NAACP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAYNE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have had the great privilege of serving as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus in the 104th Congress, taking over the reins from my good friend, KWEISI MFUME, who served

with such distinction during the 103d Congress. He has been tremendously supportive and helpful to me, and I am personally grateful for his friendship and encouragement.

Following his election to the House of Representatives in 1986, Congressman MFUME quickly gained a reputation as one of the most energetic and effective Members of Congress.

As a member of the Banking and Financial Services Committee and the Small Business Committee, he has been active on a wide range of issues, including the development of minority business opportunities. He was successful in adding minority contracting and employment amendments to the Financial Institutions Reform and Recovery Act. He also played a leading role in strengthening the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Community Reinvestment Act. In addition, he was actively involved in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

Congressman MFUME's election by this colleagues to serve as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus came at a historic point in time. President Clinton had just been elected along with 110 new Members of the House of Representatives. The Congressional Black Caucus had grown to include 39 House Members and 1 Senator.

Congressman MFUME took on the task of chairing the Congressional Black Caucus with the same enthusiasm and tenacity which he brought to all of his other successful endeavors. He broadened the scope of the Caucus, reaching out to members of the business community, building new coalitions, and seeking the ideas and input of young people.

While Congressman MFUME's presence in Congress will be greatly missed, we are thrilled that he will be using his talent and exceptional leadership ability to re-energize one of our Nation's most prominent civil rights organizations, the NAACP.

Having joined the NAACP myself as a high school student, and later serving as the president of New Jersey youth councils and college chapters of the NAACP, I know the potential the organization has to guide our community through the challenges that lie ahead. In fact, I had the honor of attending the NAACP convention in 1957 when the prestigious Spingarn Award was bestowed on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As the next leader of the NAACP, Congressman MFUME will be following in the distinguished tradition of such giants as W.E.B. DuBois, Walter White, Roy Wilkins, and Benjamin Hooks. I am certain that he will approach the job with the same passion for justice and equality as these heroes of the past. Just as his chosen name indicates, no obstacle will impede this "conquering son of kings" from achieving his goals.

Let me just close by saying that Congressman MFUME has been an inspiration to all of us, and to many people, young and old, throughout this country. His rise from his Baltimore neigh-

borhood to the halls of Congress, his success against the odds and his belief in himself remind us of the immortal words of Rudyard Kipling, that success will come "If you can dream, and not make dreams your master; if you can think, and not make thoughts your aim; if you can meet with Triumph and Disaster, and treat those two imposters just the same * * *. If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they are gone, and so hold on when there is nothing in you except the will which says to them: hold on * * *."

Again, we congratulate Congressman MFUME and look forward to our continued association as he takes on this exciting new challenge.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

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Mr. MFUME. First, Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for his words regarding the time that he and I have shared and many of the things that I have worked on here in the Congress and to say to you, DON, how much I appreciate the way you have also had the opportunity to lead this caucus, as have Congressman TOWNS, Congresswoman COLLINS, and others who are here on the floor.

It is a very difficult task. In fact, it is one I say that everybody ought to have the opportunity to do just once, just once.

But you are a great friend and your words are very heartfelt. I thank you for taking the time to come over here today. I almost feel like I am being memorialized, but I knew it is from your heart, and I appreciate all the time we have spent together here and throughout the country, and I wish the best for both you and your family.

TRIBUTE TO KWEISI MFUME

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands [Mr. FRAZER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to join my colleagues in the special order honoring Congressman KWEISI MFUME. For the past 8 years Mr. MFUME has served this body with distinction and honor.

He led the fight for fairness and equity in Federal contracting for small and minority businesses. During the 103d Congress Mr. MFUME chaired the House Small Business Subcommittee on Minority Business. Under his leadership the committee investigated Federal agencies who were in noncompliance with Public Law 95-507, the Small Business Act. As a result of that investigation those agencies have established small disadvantage business offices and are meeting their contractual goals for small and minority businesses. Mr. MFUME is a master nego-

tiator. He has the ability to listen, synthesize, and reach compromises when a impasse seem inevitable. He has negotiated with Members on both sides of the aisle, because he is open-minded and does not let ideology prevent him from getting the job done.

The U.S. House of Representatives is a better place because of Mr. MFUME's leadership. Members who have served with him always respected his ability to build consensus. I know these qualities will be tremendous asset to him as he goes forward to be the chief executive officer of the NAACP.

For those who will ask why would KWEISI MFUME leave one of the safest districts in this body, it is because he is a selfless person.

Mr. Speaker and other Members, there is no doubt in anybody's mind that KWEISI MFUME would be elected if he chose to run in November and Novembers and Novembers after that, but he is leaving what is obviously, as we said, a safe seat to take on the task of the NAACP at a time when it is most troubled and needs leadership. I, too, applaud the NAACP for choosing the best person to sail the ship out of troubled waters.

Mr. Speaker, KWEISI MFUME has caused many young people, especially black African-American males, to recognize the political side of the country, and because of him, they are coming forward in large numbers and partaking.

KWEISI MFUME, I applaud you for the service to this body. I wish you well, and I thank you for being a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA].

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add my voice to the chorus of colleagues who are singing the praises of KWEISI MFUME. We both were elected to serve the people of Maryland during the 100th Congress. I have enjoyed his friendship, and I have appreciated his courage and determination to fight for those Americans whose voices are often not heard in the halls of Congress.

KWEISI MFUME grew up on the streets of west Baltimore where he was known as Frizzel Grey. The people who still live there are proud of KWEISI, proud that he made something of himself. The old neighborhood is deteriorating and impoverished, but KWEISI keeps going back there—to his roots. He believes that the work he has been doing in Washington can only be relevant if it has an impact on his old neighborhood.

Although he has been an outspoken advocate of equitable and excellent education for women and minorities, scholarship wasn't always high on KWEISI's agenda. He was a high school dropout who hung out on Baltimore's streets drinking and swapping stories. He turned his life around during the 1970's when he changed his name and worked toward a high school equivalency degree. Then it was on to Morgan State and Johns Hopkins University.