

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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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