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## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. WELLER].

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 30, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable JERRY WELLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] for 5 minutes.

### IN HONOR OF SAM GIBBONS

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor Congressman SAM GIBBONS on the occasion of his retirement at the end of this year. Even before SAM was elected to Congress in 1962, he already had a long and distinguished career. Serving 17 terms in Congress was a fine way for SAM to finish off his remarkable career in public life. Although, I am sure he is not going to disappear. I hear that SAM is gearing up to teach, among other things—not surprising for a man who has spent his whole life serving his country in one way or another.

SAM is most treasured as a hero of World War II. He earned the Bronze Star after parachuting into Normandy on the night before D-day.

SAM served for 10 years in the Florida House of Representatives. One of his proudest accomplishments was passing legislation that created the University of South Florida. Today, SAM is proud to be recognized as the "Father of the University of South Florida."

In the Florida Senate, where he served for 4 years, SAM GIBBONS helped establish Florida's regional water management districts. These districts are important because they have enabled us to repair, maintain, and preserve our precious water resources, not just for our current enjoyment, but for Florida's future as well.

So, when SAM GIBBONS marched into Congress in 1962, he was quite accomplished in many areas of policy. And he went on to tackle Congress in grand style. As a junior Member of Congress in 1965, SAM GIBBONS was chosen by President Johnson to shepherd important legislation such as Job Corps and Head Start through Congress. SAM secured a seat on the coveted Ways and Means Committee and became chairman of its Trade Subcommittee in 1981. One of SAM's finest hours was shepherding NAFTA and GATT through Ways and Means to final passage.

In early 1994, when he became the acting chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, SAM GIBBONS was instrumental in passing a health care reform bill through his committee. Later that year, SAM worked tirelessly to protect Medicare, Medicaid, and welfare from the chopping block.

SAM is also a family man. SAM and his darling wife Martha celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year. His three sons Clifford, Tim, and Mark, his three daughters-in-law, and his five grandchildren will benefit from our loss when SAM returns home to Florida at the end of this year.

SAM has been our leader, SAM has been our mentor, SAM has been our friend. SAM, thank you for all that you have done for Florida, and for our Nation.

In the Bible, there is a passage "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith." SAM GIBBONS has been fighting the good fight, and he has kept the faith. We are so proud of you, SAM. You have been our leader and you have been our friend.

I have a token that I want to give SAM and his wife. SAM, would you come down, please?

A tiny token of our appreciation to you and from me personally as being my mentor when I arrived here.

Mr. GIBBONS. Thank you so much.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. God bless you, SAM, and God bless America.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor today that I rise today to pay tribute to our colleague, SAM GIBBONS of Florida. For 33 years, SAM has stood proudly as a Member of the House of Representatives representing the 11th district of Florida and he will be missed by all for his integrity and dedication to the people of Tampa and to this institution, the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, although every American has a different definition of an hero, I think that most Members of the House would agree with me that SAM GIBBONS has qualities that would qualify him as a great American hero to each and every American.

To some, a hero is defined as a military man who distinguishes himself in battle. As a young captain in 1944, SAM was with 12,000 members of the 101st Airborne who parachuted into German-occupied France, providing key support for the invasion at Normandy on D-day which earned him the Bronze Star.

To some, a hero is someone who has established himself as a leader of men. And if his military service is not enough to prove this, his career in the House of Representatives

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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