

since first being elected in 1960, Henry B. truly paved the way for my being here in Congress. His invincible will, demonstrated so many times during so many battles, served as an example to me, that while the fight may not always be easy, it is always worth waging.

His example set the bar for which all of us aspire. He was a great American, a selfless and principled public servant, the best of the best, a champion for the poor, a voice for the under-represented in Washington.

Only briefly did I have the pleasure of serving with him here in the House. During that all too short time, I can assure you I was eager to glean whatever I could from his treasured house of invaluable knowledge. In fact, not a day passes that I am not mindful of how he commented to me early on that he would never recommend I rope a cow as it is going down the mountain. It was sage counsel indeed, and it has served me well these past several years, as I know it will continue to do in the years to come.

To me, nothing is more important than standing up for what you believe in and having the fortitude to tackle the tough issues. Henry B. did exactly that, and he did it on his own terms and with the utmost integrity.

In closing, I have the greatest respect for all he accomplished, and I will always admire him. Henry B. Gonzalez represents not only the best that Congress can be, but I feel that the best that an individual can be. He was a true and caring representative of people, and I can think of no greater accolade.

I will miss him, Texas will miss him, America will miss him. His loss is truly immeasurable. CHARLIE GONZALEZ, his son, is my friend and my colleague; and I look forward to serving with him in this House of Representatives.

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TIME

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my Special Order be extended by 15 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Another Member may make that request, but the gentleman from Texas may not.

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REQUEST FOR SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, with the consent of the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE), I ask unanimous consent that we extend this special order for 15 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) will control the 15 minutes, beginning at 12:35.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

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TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN HENRY B. GONZALEZ

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, last week we lost an icon in American life. I, like all of my colleagues here, can reflect back on just exactly what Henry B. meant, not just to me and to my family, but to Texans and the Hispanic community at large.

We had the privilege of hosting a retirement dinner for him when he retired a couple of years ago, and I can tell you, everyone that attended that retirement dinner, which was, by the way, televised on C-SPAN later on, commented on the fact that Henry B., while a legend, was an individual that had the common man's touch.

It has been said that to truly make a difference in your lifetime, you have to have the ability to walk among kings but never lose the common man's touch, and Henry B. had that common man's touch. He fought for the things that were important for all of us.

A lot of us here today are here because we stood on Henry B.'s shoulders. A lot of us here recognize that we would not be here had Henry B. not been a pathfinder, had not been an individual that opened the road for the rest of us.

While on the one hand it is a sad time to lose a man, a legend, a Texan, an American, truly a hero for all ages and for all this world, on the other hand it is also a time to celebrate his contributions, celebrate what he means to each and every one of us. And let us never forget that as long as he lives in our hearts, he lives in this world.

So to my good friend and colleague, CHARLIE GONZALEZ, as long as all of us have Henry B. in our hearts, he will never die.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I would say to CHARLIE, each member of our delegation shares in your loss and we express our deep sympathy to you.

I guess the best story I ever heard about your father was really not about his early political races or about his 37 years in the Congress or about how he worked to single-handedly break down racial barriers in our country, but it is a story about how the 70-year-old Congressman slugged a man in a San Antonio restaurant who called him a communist.

Henry B. loved his country. He had the kind of fierce patriotism that has

always driven America. He did not back off, he did not give in, and he was not afraid to take on the most powerful people in Washington, even if they happened to be in his own party.

Henry's early political career was marked with both important milestones and political failures. His success as the first Tejano to hold a seat on the San Antonio City Council, the Texas State Senate and here in the U.S. House of Representatives inspired a generation of leaders in the Mexican-American communities, many of whom are serving with us here today.

But Henry faced setbacks in his life as well. Half a century ago he thrust himself into San Antonio politics by trying to convince several of his friends to run for the legislature. It seems Henry had become convinced that Bexar County needed a full-time domestic relations court, and he knew the only way to get it was to get it through the legislature. After being unable to find anyone else to run, he ran himself. But he lost that first race. Today in Texas, however, domestic relations courts are a common fixture of the judiciary.

As with so many other issues which he championed as the lone voice crying in the wilderness, Henry was a trailblazer, a trailblazer for the downtrodden, the poor, the disadvantaged, the disenfranchised.

Henry B. Gonzalez once ran for Governor of Texas and for the United States Senate, only to come up short. But the fire inside Henry B. was fueled not by personal ambition, but by love for his country and a belief in a higher cause that could not be extinguished.

For 38 years, Henry fought for the cause of justice and equality in this House. He served under eight Presidents and he chaired the powerful Committee on Banking and Financial Services. He was a legend in Washington, a master of constituent service, and a patron saint of San Antonio politics.

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His passion was contagious. His legacy gives all of us the strength to fight, the confidence to succeed, and the resolve never to give up.

That story of the man who called Henry B. a Communist in Earl Abel's restaurant in 1986 reflected that rare combination of passion and character that mark the greatness of Henry B. Gonzalez. It is told that after being hit by the 70-year-old Congressman, that that diner who called him a Communist demanded of Henry B. an apology. Henry said his only regret was that he pulled the punch.

We do not know if Henry really pulled his punch that day, but Henry B. Was a fighter. He was in every sense a great American. If he did really go easy on the man in that restaurant that day, it would have been the only punch he ever pulled.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON).