

time. In an era that predated Bill Clinton's decoupling of human rights and trade, Scoop Jackson and Charlie Vanik insisted that the Soviet Union respect human rights before it could receive most favored nation trading status. Because of Scoop Jackson's and Charlie Vanik's courage and commitment, hundreds of thousands of oppressed people—mainly Soviet Jews—were able to leave tyranny behind and start new lives as free people.

Madam Speaker, it is no longer fashionable to talk about the linkage between human rights and trading privileges. But, if anything, the issue is even more relevant today than when Charlie Vanik stood up for oppressed people. That's why I say Charlie Vanik was ahead of his time.

Just ask Wei Jing Sheng, who continues to fight for human rights for the millions of oppressed people in China. Ask the family and friends of Santiago Rafael Cruz, who was murdered earlier this year in Monterrey, Mexico, where he fought hard to get human rights for peasant workers.

We see the trafficking in human beings from Mexico to the United States. But the proponents of free trade fundamentalism still deny any linkage between trade and human rights. We see the gross human rights abuses in China and the growing unrest among rural people there. Yet we're told there's no connection between trade and human rights.

Despite all the abuses that perpetrated against poor people around the world in the name of globalization, the free trade crowd refuses to acknowledge any connection between trade and human rights.

We see all these things and we can't help but wish for more Charlie Vaniks—for more Members like him—genial, compassionate and humble public servants who have the eyes to see injustice and the heart to do something about it.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to former Congressman Charles Vanik, a long-time representative of northeast Ohio and a strong human rights advocate.

While I did not serve with Congressman Vanik in Congress, his work to improve the quality of life for others is well-known. Throughout his 26-year career in Congress, he worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents and on the issues that he cared about, including: Social Security, Medicare, the environment and trade.

As many of my colleagues have mentioned, Congressman Vanik is most widely known for co-authoring an amendment to the 1974 Trade Reform Bill with the late Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson that linked a country's favored trade status to its record on human rights. Specifically, their Jackson-Vanik amendment tied the former Soviet Union's trade status to its willingness in allowing freer Jewish emigration. As a result, an estimated 2 million Jewish citizens were permitted to immigrate to other countries.

Congressman Vanik also worked with Congressman Ralph Regula to create the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and was involved with the important work of cleaning up of the Great Lakes.

Madam Speaker, Ohio, our Nation and the international community have lost a true public servant with the passing of Congressman Vanik. I join my colleagues in honoring him and in expressing our condolences to his family.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to join in the tributes to the life and career of former Ohio Congressman Charles Vanik, who passed away in August at age 94.

Born in Cleveland in 1913, Charles Vanik recognized the call to service long before his 26-year House career began. After earning his law degree, he was elected to the Cleveland City Council and the Ohio State Senate—all before the age of 30. His career in elective office was interrupted by World War II, where he served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres as a member of the Naval Reserve. Following the war, he held a judgeship in Cleveland prior to his election to Congress in 1954.

As my colleagues have noted in prior Floor tributes to Congressman Vanik, his congressional legacy was defined by his many contributions to human rights around the world—especially through what came to be known as the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. This measure, which passed with broad bipartisan support, requires the United States to gauge the human rights records of foreign nations when assessing potential trade deals. As a result of Jackson-Vanik, the Soviet Union was compelled to allow more than two million people of faith to escape the religious persecution they faced under this cruel regime. The Amendment made Charles Vanik a target of scorn from the Soviet-controlled media—something he wore as a badge of honor.

Throughout his career, Congressman Vanik well served the people of his district and fought for freedom around the world. I offer his family and loved ones my condolences at their loss.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former Congressman Charles Vanik, who passed away earlier this year. There are two things we do in Washington—politics and policy. Congressman Vanik excelled at policy and understood politics well enough to make a difference with the policies that he fought to see enacted. A champion of the underdog and an unflinching advocate for

the poor, Congressman Vanik's legacy was solidified in 1974 by the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the Trade Reform Bill linking the former Soviet Union's trade status with the ability of Russian Jews to emigrate freely.

Congressman Vanik served in the House from 1955 to 1981, representing his Cleveland-area constituents well. A 13-term veteran of the U.S. House, Congressman Vanik graciously stepped aside from his original district in 1968 to make way for Louis Stokes, who became the first African-American Congressman from Ohio. He also had his own particular style, and those privileged to have served with Congressman Vanik remember his black suits and bow ties in addition to his utter disdain to having to raise re-election funds. His constituents responded to his hard work and his commitment to them by continuing to re-elect him, proving that a hard-charging public servant who's in Congress for the right reasons will be returned to continue his work.

Congressman Vanik's public service began after graduating from Western Reserve University and Law School when he entered the Navy during World War II. Following the war, he served as a municipal judge and in the Ohio Senate before first running for Congress in 1954.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with Congressman Vanik's family and friends, and we are grateful for his dedicated public service.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay respect and tribute to former Rep. Charles Vanik of Ohio, who died Wednesday August 31 at his home in Jupiter, Florida at age 94.

Looking back at the career and mission of Representative Vanik, it is an utterly refreshing example of a legislator who didn't let politics get in the way of his goals and vision for his constituents and people all over the world. Many of my colleagues have already mentioned the historic Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Reform Act of 1974. This critical human rights legislation was the mark on the map for Charles Vanik with regards to those outside the state of Ohio, but for us Ohioans, we know Congressman Vanik as a lifelong stalwart for all of those who are socially and economically oppressed.

Charles Vanik led a life of complete selflessness. After receiving his law degree he was on the City Council and in the Ohio legislature where he was valued for his consistent effort and achievements. He then joined the Navy during World War II. After his time in the service, Charles Vanik became a municipal judge until 1954 when he first ran for Congress. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee with jurisdiction over tax law, Congressman Vanik was known for his fights against big business tax breaks in the halls and corridors of Congress as he was known for his signature bow ties.

Congressman Vanik served honorably and long as a dedicated public servant. Mr. Vanik,