Most notably, he sponsored a section of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 that established the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The EEOC has been a critical tool in efforts to enforce laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability.

Reactions to rising inflation and unemployment in the 1970s, Congressman Hawkins introduced, along with Senator Hubert Humphrey, the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act, better known as the Humphrey-Hawkins Act of 1978. This measure was signed into law by President Carter and proved to be a blueprint for debates on how Government should interact with private enterprise to bring about national growth and fiscal responsibility. And, true to his nature as a defender of civil rights, the Humphrey-Hawkins Act specifically prohibited discrimination based on race, religion, age, gender, or national origin.

On the home front, Congressman Hawkins served his district during a tumultuous time in Los Angeles' history. Gus had been in Congress only 3 years when the 1965 Watts riots occurred, ultimately claiming the lives of dozens of his constituents. He decried the abusive actions of the police, and he redoubled his efforts to secure funds to fight poverty in his district and underserved minority communities across the Nation.

Congressman Hawkins' forceful defense of Americans held back by discrimination and poverty made him both an effective advocate and a devoted mentor to young minority lawmakers. Indeed, many of my colleagues in the House have been touched and inspired by Gus Hawkins' advice and mentorship. I know that my father, who was his counterpart in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, valued him as an ally and deeply respected and admired his leadership role as a civil rights advocate and promoter of equal opportunity for all.

Congressman Hawkins' lifelong commitment to civil rights issues continued even when he left the House of Representatives. Congressman Hawkins will be remembered as an outstanding legislator, a trailblazer, as a trusted mentor, and as a friend.

Mr. TOWNS. Madame Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Perry Pettus. He was elected in March of 2002 to the Village of Hempstead Board of Trustees. Mr. Pettus represents residents of the incorporated village of Hempstead. Mr. Pettus immediately began exercising his leadership as he took on Hempstead landlords over poor conditions in apartment buildings. He utilized his negotiating skills to bring the two sides together to help resolve tenant issues. He has effectively used the media to bring issues to light, not only for exposure but also for problem solving.

As a successful local businessman, Mr. Pettus has brought effective business skills to his position. He has already built business/government partnerships which have benefited the community.

Mr. Pettus resurrected legislation requiring the village to contract a portion of its business with minority contractors and continues to fight for its passage. He has gotten legislation