

I don't usually come over here for these 5-minute speeches or 1-minute speeches, but today I thought I would make an exception to say some things about our outgoing chair.

I want to make two points. First of all, contrary to the perception that's out in the world, there are no bad people in this body. All of us are good people who are here to serve the American people, and our constituents in particular. I characterize us as all good guys—and that includes female in that good guys category too. But then there are people who because of their particular qualities I would put in a category of really, really, really good people. It doesn't take long to detect those people; it comes through in their manner, in the way that they deal with their colleagues and the way that they consult and console you when you really need consultation and consolation; and the way they give you advice or fail to give you advice or don't give you advice when you either need it or don't need it. They're not in the way; they're just really, really, really good people. That's the category in which I would put our outgoing chair, Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER. And his leadership has been outstanding, but it's not that that I came to praise.

The second thing I really want to emphasize about him is that the question I get most from constituents is who's doing something inside you all's institution to make you all more compatible with each other? So every week I look forward to getting in my intra-Congress mail this letter that our outgoing chair sends to every Member of this body, just one or two or three paragraphs, one page—never longer than one page, just giving us some sage wisdom and advice about how to be nicer to each other, how to soften our edges, how to work better together to achieve the aspirations of our constituents and of our Nation.

Those are the little things that people out in the public never see or hear about, and Chairman CLEAVER has set that example. Sometimes I'm sure he feels like he's a voice in the wilderness by doing that, but every single week each of us gets this special appeal from EMANUEL CLEAVER to be what we should be, stewards of our country, and to do it in a way that does not demean our institution and demean each other, and to advocate for what we believe, but to do it in a way that is more human and kind.

So I want to join with my colleagues in thanking him for his leadership, but most of all I want to thank him for the tremendous role model he has been for our institution to try to make our institution a better place in which to serve and to try to make each of us better Members of this institution.

NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, let me also thank Reverend Cleaver. At his request, I campaigned with him and for him and did a series of Social Security events in his constituency. I spent the better part of 2 days with him, and I got an opportunity to see the regard and respect that he was held in by the citizens of Kansas City.

Mr. Speaker, let me address the issue of extending the New Markets Tax Credit. I have fought for this program since its enactment in 2000 because it's a cost-effective way to create jobs and drive investments in communities with high rates of poverty and unemployment. I've seen the amazing results of this initiative firsthand. Let me highlight just some of those Massachusetts projects.

Let me first tell you a little bit about the New Markets Tax Credit. It was designed to stimulate investment and economic growth in low-income communities that are traditionally overlooked by conventional capital markets. Since its enactment, the credit has generated \$45 billion in capital for projects in low-income communities that range from the first supermarket in a generation in southeast Washington, D.C., to the restoration of one of the greatest acoustical houses in the world, the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Furthermore, New Markets' investments between 2003 and 2010 have been responsible for creating over 500,000 jobs in economically distressed communities across the country. These are remarkable results.

Let me share with you another success story from back home that further explains why I'm a big supporter of New Markets: the Holyoke Public Library. Holyoke is a city in western Massachusetts with a population of about 40,000 people. From the late 19th century until the mid-20th century Holyoke was the world's biggest paper manufacturer. In fact, at one point there were 25 paper mills in operation in Holyoke, and that's how Holyoke got its nickname, "The Paper City."

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However, this industrial city's fortunes ebbed when the paper mills closed, and Holyoke now has one-third of its population living below the poverty line.

The Holyoke Public Library project is currently underway and involves renovating and expanding the 110-year-old library and transforming it into a 21st century education and training center.

For many years, there had been very little funding available to maintain the facility itself. And, therefore, over time, the library has substantially aged and deteriorated. Today, nearly 40 percent of the library's interior is seriously compromised and inaccessible to the public. But thanks in large part to New Market's tax credit financing, the Holyoke Public Library is currently being renovated and modernized, and

the new and improved library will provide critical public access to computers and the latest technology.

New Market's tax credits are a good example of how public and private investment can be used to spur community and economic revitalization. New Market's tax credits expired at the end of last year. It's critical that the Congress not leave town until we, once again, extend this program and the opportunities that come with it.

REFLECTING ON CHAIRMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER WITH GRATITUDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the extraordinary leadership of my colleague, Mr. EMANUEL CLEAVER, who represents with distinction Missouri's Fifth District. I want to offer a special word of appreciation for his many years of service, not merely for his constituents, but for his steady commitment to employ the power of his office to ensure our Nation is set on a course where we all succeed.

As chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Mr. CLEAVER used this position of leadership to help elevate and embolden us to address some of the great social and economic challenges of our day, not just for African Americans, but for all Americans.

I am reminded of the evening in North Carolina at the Democratic Convention when he gave that impassioned and fiery speech that brought everyone to our feet. He reminded us that in America our strength is rooted in our Nation's most profound gift—its diversity. He reminded us that no matter how difficult times may get or may be that we must "hope on," and that it is the power of our hope that drives us to not give up when we have failed, but to try again until we get it right.

As I complete my first term in Congress, let me thank the chairman for his counsel, his guidance, and his friendship. He's provided advice and wisdom that as a newcomer to Washington has been invaluable. He's stepping down as the head of the Congressional Black Caucus, but we will all continue to enjoy hearing his reflections at caucus meetings and getting the notes on promoting civility. It's my personal hope that one day he will collect all of these notes and reflections and publish them.

But I did think that I would end with words from that famous North Carolina speech:

Hope inspires me to believe that any day now, we will catch up to the ideals put forth by our Nation's Founding Fathers. It is our hope and faith that moves us. It is our hope that tells us our latter days will be better than our former. It is our hope that instructs us to march on.

I look forward to working with you in the years through the struggles and successes that are in front of us. Thank