

fan and a devoted and lifelong Chicago Bears fan, I rise today to pay tribute to Walter Payton, who died Monday at the age of 45.

Different sports heroes define different generations. For my generation, Walter Payton was the Chicago Bears.

Walter Payton will long be remembered, Mr. Speaker, as a player who rewrote football's record books. He is the National Football League's all-time leading rusher. He ran the ball more times than anybody else in history. On a day in November, in 1977, against the Minnesota Vikings, he set the record for the most yards in a single game, rushing for an amazing 275 yards.

But though these records of achievement on the football field endure, the history of Walter Payton that will be written in books will never compete with the history written deep in the hearts of his fans, for Walter Payton's records are merely the product of his remarkable character and drive.

Walter Payton made football history because of his will and his legendary determination. During his 13 seasons for the Chicago Bears, he missed only one football game, in his rookie year, because of a twisted ankle. In that game, he said he could have played, but his coaches kept him on the sidelines. This is remarkable considering the position he played and the punishment running backs in the NFL must withstand.

Mike Ditka, his former coach with the Chicago Bears, was fond of talking about Payton's unique style of running. There were bigger, faster, and more elusive runners, but Payton was the best running back he ever saw. Payton attacked would-be tacklers, he never ran out of bounds, and was always reaching for the extra yard.

This way of running the ball made him a natural for fans in a city like Chicago that prides itself on its work ethic. As Don Pierson wrote in yesterday's Chicago Tribune, "He captured the soul of a city with work habits and results that made steelworkers and ditchdiggers proud."

But the special thing about Walter Payton was not the 16,726 rushing yards he accumulated in his career. It is the way he lived his life and the kind of person he was. Several of Walter's teammates have, since his passing, talked about Walter Payton's favorite saying, "tomorrow is promised to no one". He played football that way. The way he played was a metaphor for the way he lived, with energy and with enthusiasm. Payton's style of running was aggressive and punishing. He blended a no-holds-barred style with the agility of a ballet dancer.

One Chicago sportswriter said his style was a "combination soul train and freight train." But the name sweetness was not based solely on his style of play. It was based on his personality.

He had an infectious smile and warmth that reached out through the television sets. As a fan, one just knew that here was a guy who was as likable a person as he was a player. That is why, I believe, the people of Chicago were so touched, first by his illness and then by his passing.

When Walter announced his illness, when Chicago saw a man who was so much a part of the life of the city confronting the reality of his condition, we all felt his sorrow. I, like I suspect most Bears' fans, never knew Walter Payton. But his passing has left us, his fans, with a profound sense of loss.

For those of us who are Walter Payton fans, we have to remind ourselves that life is filled with the bitter and the sweet. For me, I find peace in the belief that good people go to heaven. It is nice knowing that today heaven is where sweetness is.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Walter Payton, number 34 for the Chicago Bears. The tragic, and all too early, end to his life on Monday cannot obscure his greatness, not only as a football player, but as a person. He holds eight NFL records, from career rushing yards to number of 1,000 yard rushing seasons to yards gained in a game. He holds 28 Bears records. But the Bears often had great individuals. Walter Payton meant so much more to the team than just individual statistics.

I had the privilege of going to the 1963 NFL Championship game in Chicago where the Bears beat the New York Giants 14-10. Unfortunately, that would be the last time any of us would see the Bears in the playoffs until Walter Payton arrived. And he carried the Bears with his work ethic, determination, and relentless pursuit of excellence. Sometimes it seemed that he was the only weapon the Bears had. But, finally, he led the Bears back to the top in Super Bowl XX. Over the time that Walter Payton played, Chicago saw a renaissance in its sports teams—the White Sox and the Cubs were in the playoffs and Michael Jordan was on his way to taking the Bulls to the top. But Walter Payton was the first and the brightest and the Bears owned Chicago because of him.

More importantly, Walter Payton made his mark off the football field in a way that few athletes do. In truth, he gave back to Chicago more than Chicago could ever have given him. He coached high school basketball, read to children in a literacy program, and made significant charitable contributions during and after his NFL career, including through the Walter Payton Foundation, which funds educational programs and helps abused and neglected children. He was a successful businessman, always into new ventures, from his restaurants to an Indy car racing team.

And clearly, he was a successful father and husband. When his daughter Brittney and wife Connie accepted the Life Award for him at the Arete Courage in Sports awards less than 2 weeks ago and when his son Jarrett addressed the media yesterday, you could see the same poise in them as we saw in Walter. I never had the opportunity to meet Walter Payton personally. But like most Chicagoans,

I felt like I somehow knew him, that he was one of us. And we were all better off for that.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, although it saddens my heart to stand here before Congress today, it is an honor to pay tribute to one of the greatest football players in the history of the National Football League. Walter Payton, a giant of a man, died November 1, 1999 at the young age of 45. He is survived by his wife Connie, two children Jarrett and Brittney, his mother Alyne, brother Eddie, and a sister Pam.

There is a saying that states, "Big things come in small packages." This holds true for Walter. Hailing from Columbia, MS, Walter did not play organized football until the tenth grade. It was in Columbia, where he began to amaze everyone who saw him play. In 1970, Walter attended Jackson State University where he began his assault on NCAA history by becoming the all time leading scorer, a distinction which earned him a fourth place finish in the Heisman Trophy race in 1974. In 1975, Payton was selected by the Chicago Bears as the fourth selection overall. From that point, Payton began a career that would include many awards, including his externalized place of honor at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canon, OH.

The people who were fortunate enough to see him play were entertained at every level. Whether it was a run, block, kick, pass, or a reception, Walter gave the crowd everything at 100 percent. His running style earned him the nickname "Sweetness." To see him punish would-be tacklers was definitely a delight. He was a total player, involving himself in every aspect of the game. He was unselfish in his play and always put the team first. It was this unselfish attitude that fueled the Chicago Bears to a Super Bowl Championship in 1985. A fitting award for a well deserving athlete. In 1987, Payton left the game to pursue other goals. He left the game, but not after setting many records including the all time leading rushing record of 16,276 yards. A record that still stands strong to this day.

After football, Payton became as dedicated to being an effective businessman as he was to being an effective football player. He became heavily involved in auto racing, both as a driver and owner. This led him to many business interests and holdings including an attempt to become the first African-American owner of a NFL franchise. In a world where diversity is expanding and new arenas are being opened for people of color, it is refreshing to know that Walter attempted every day to venture into different markets that were not so accessible before. I had the pleasure of meeting Walter in my office here in Washington. Walter exemplified the same passion and fire for his business as he did for the game of football.

After his final game, Payton was quoted as saying he played because it was fun and that he loved to play. Mr. Speaker, the next time we see a football game where a player dives over the heap for the extra yard or goal line or when a player breaks free from the pack and high steps into an end zone, let's take a moment and remember who introduced these moves to us, let's take a moment and remember Walter Payton.

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, Walter Payton was my hero and my friend. I never met a

man with more heart for the game of football or for people. He wore a perpetual smile. That's what I'll never forget about Walter. He touched my life. I pointed to him when ascribing role models for my boys. And if my three sons have the same zest for life, love for people, and positive outlook on the future, I will be one proud father.

I will greatly miss Walter but I will never forget him. He changed football; he changed the record books; he changed the Bears; he changed Chicago; he changed me. I'm a better man and the world is a better place because of him. I hope the same will be said of me.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, above all else, the death of Walter Payton yesterday calls to mind a simple word: Courage.

Nothing I can say could do justice to the man who brought so much joy and class to the City of Chicago for over a decade. On the field, though he often said he "was not the fastest, not the strongest, not the biggest," Walter Payton was truly a giant. For 13 years he ran roughshod over the NFL, shattering records and defenses along the way. A quick perusal of his statistics reveal a career nothing short of legendary.

For the first several years of his career, he was the lone high-point of many woeful seasons at Soldier Field. Week after week, he racked up the yards . . . while the Bears racked up the losses. That never seemed to effect him on the field. His hard running, his ferocious blocking, and his indomitable spirit never waned during the lean years of the Chicago Bears. Those years solidified his place in football history as the class act who left it all on the field, even in a hopeless game playing for a mediocre team during a disappointing season.

But it was Walter Payton the man—more than the football player—who truly touched the lives of the American people, and especially those of us lucky enough to have lived in and around Chicago, IL, during his career. His old coach, Mike Ditka, said yesterday that "Sweetness" was not a nickname describing Payton's playing, but the way he treated other people. His commitment to his family and friends, to children in the Chicago area, and his deep faith were all evident in his day-to-day life.

Earlier this year, Payton learned of the liver disease which would eventually take his life. Even as it became clear his health was slipping from him, Sweetness again rose to the occasion, never losing hope, and in fact, by all accounts, growing in his religious faith, displaying all the courage and class we had grown to expect from him. Just as he did during those losing seasons early in his career, his courage reaffirmed Lawrence of Arabia's great lesson, that "There could be no honor in a sure success, but much might be wrested from a sure defeat." Facing the most tragic defeat of his life against the most daunting opponent, Walter Payton was the personification of courage, and that is why we honor him here.

Payton once wrote, in a "practice" retirement speech to the City of Chicago and his fans, "If I've done anything that has helped your lives, please use it." It is his courage—even in the face of sure defeat—that I hope will be Walter Payton's legacy to the world, and we certainly should use it.

I recall that courage was defined by a World War II bomber-pilot as, "The guy who was afraid . . . but went in anyway." Whether a defensive lineman twice his size or the debilitating disease which finally tackled him the other afternoon, Walter Payton never failed to drop his head, lower his shoulder, and drive through for a few more yards. We will truly miss him.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, we lost one of football's all-time greatest players and a great American—Walter Payton, who lived in my district and touched the lives of so many on and off the field. After announcing earlier this year, he was battling a liver disease, which later turned into cancer, Walter fought the good fight and kept the faith until the end.

Between 1975 and 1987 there were three given in Chicago: The wind was blowing off the Lake, the Cubs were not in the World Series, and Walter Payton No. 34, also known as "Sweetness" for his silky smooth moves, was in the backfield for the Bears.

Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1993, Walter Payton carried the ball more often (3,838 attempts), for more yards (16,726), than anyone who has ever played the game. There is no question, Walter Payton was the best at taking the ball and running with it. Against Minnesota in 1977, he carried 40 times for 275 yards, a National Football League (NFL) single game record.

It's not that Walter Payton is the all-time leading rusher and holds 28 NFL and Bears records and could throw the most punishing block on the biggest defensive linebackers that made him a great person. Walter Payton was a great man because of his commitment to his family and faith. Being a family man and active in his community, he was regularly seen at St. Viator High School sporting events supporting his son. In addition, Payton volunteered to help coach the boys' basketball teams at Hoffman Estates High School in 1993–1994.

Walter Payton's quiet attitude of giving earned him a spot in the Arlington Heights Hall of Fame in 1988 and 4 years earlier a one-block stretch of downtown Arlington Heights was named Payton Run. Walter Payton owned businesses in my district, two nightclubs in Schaumburg—Studebaker's and Thirty Four's—ran Walter Payton Power Equipment in Streamwood and headquartered his corporate offices in Hoffman Estates. He was also active in several charities and helped whenever and wherever he could in the community. Even though he denied it, he was an all around role model to which every pro-athlete or average "Joe" should aspire.

Quite simply, Walter Payton was a great citizen, on and off the field, who will be forever remembered as a champion. His former coach Mike Ditka once remarked to his players in training camp, "If everyone came to camp in as good of shape as Walter we'd have a good team". He had a superior training ritual. In his 13-year career, he played in pain and missed only one game. Ditka when he came to coach the Bears said "Walter Payton is my idol." Have you ever heard a coach say that about a player? I think a quote that sums up Walter Payton's life was from Coach Ditka when he said, "It's sad to me (Walter's death) because

he had a lot greater impact on me than I had on him. He was the best player I've ever seen. And probably one of the best people I've ever met".

Having lost a daughter to cancer 2 years ago myself, I understand the pain the Payton family is feeling in their loss. I can only assure them that in time, the family will be reunited and what a joyous occasion it will be for the Payton family.

Walter never gave up hope in his fight. It is for that spirit that people everywhere will remember him forever.

WOMEN BORN INTO A WORLD OF VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, during the 5 minutes that I deliver this speech, 33 new lives will begin, 17 males and 16 females. They enter a world on the brink of the 21st century and where possibilities are limitless.

Of the 16 females born during this speech, at least two will be the victim of rape or attempted rape, one of whom will be violated before she reaches the age of 18, five will be the victim of abuse by an intimate partner, and one will be stalked. She will join the ranks of the 1 million women who have been stalked this year. This is the world that these new lives are being brought into.

As a former rape crisis counselor, I know firsthand the devastation caused by this type of violence. I have been in the emergency room when a raped woman has come in to be treated. I have seen the fear, the shock in these victims who have been so horribly violated. In 1998, forcible rape ranked third for violent crimes reported to law enforcement officials, but that number may be grossly underestimated because, according to the Justice Department, only one-third of all rapes are reported to the authorities.

Over the last 2 years, as I worked to develop stronger antistalking legislation, I have met with the victims of stalking and heard of the damage brought on their lives because of the constant threat from a stalker.

My legislation, which was marked up earlier this week in the Committee on the Judiciary, expands and broadens the definition of stalking to include interstate commerce.

□ 1915

This would include e-mail, telephone, and other forms of interstate communications as a means of stalking. In addition, it also expands the definition of immediate family to include persons who regularly reside with the victim.

During the hearing on this bill, one stalking victim testified about her experiences with cyberstalking. This woman was stalked by three people she