EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE WORK OF MIKE WOODS

HON. BART GORDON
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Woods and his more than 25 years of work as city clerk for the town of Smyrna, Tennessee. Mike’s tenure will soon come to an end. He has decided to retire on November 30.

As clerk, Mike has seen Smyrna grow from a small community with an annual budget of $500,000 dollars and 27 employees to being one of Tennessee’s fastest growing cities with a population of more than 20,000, a current budget of more than $25 million dollars and over 300 employees.

Mike worked hard, along with former Mayor Sam Rice, to make Smyrna the home of Nissan Motor Manufacturing U.S.A., which has almost 6,000 workers. His vision and invaluable experience have served Smyrna well, and the city has been recognized with numerous state and national awards. Mike truly exemplifies the best of public service and will be sorely missed in city government.

I have known Mike since he first began his tenure in Smyrna and consider him a close friend. He has given me lots of good advice over the years, and I thank him for that. I congratulate Mike for his admirable and distinguished career and wish him the best of luck in future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING WALTER PAYTON AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO HIS FAMILY ON HIS DEATH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support this measure that recognizes a true sports hero and legend, Walter Payton.

Payton died of bile duct cancer at age 45. He is survived by his wife, Connie; his daughter, Brittany; and his son, Jarrett. But it is not his death that lingers in our minds. It is his way of life that fills our memories and our hearts.

As a member of the Chicago Bears, Walter Payton stretched athleticism past the bounds of our imaginations. He bullied and wove throughout the football field with a creativity that allowed brute force and artistic expression to merge into one perfect moment. Payton, the National Football League’s leader in yards rushing (16,726) and carries (3,838), was known for his durability. He missed just one game in his 13-year career with the Bears. And during that time, he earned a Super Bowl ring. Payton retired after the 1987 season, and the Bears retired his No. 34. In the first year he was eligible for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, he was a unanimous selection.

But we cannot limit his worth to mere statistics and on-the-field achievement. Walter Payton represented sheer perseverance. Some would call Walter Payton the Cal Ripken of football. I would suggest that Cal Ripken is the Walter Payton of baseball. Indeed, Payton is the very embodiment of the term, “iron will.”

His commitment to excellence and immense endurance makes his death seem all the more unbelievable. But Walter Payton did not lose his battle with liver disease. He simply ran out of time.

During an emotional, invitation-only memorial service that drew about 1,200 people, friends and family remembered Payton’s practical jokes, his passion for those around him, his determination to be the best at what he did, and his generosity.

The public also had its chance to say goodbye during a ceremony at Soldier Field. Thousands of Bears fans filed into the stadium, many carrying signs in tribute and others dressed in Payton’s familiar No. 34 jersey.

Yet, sports aficionados are not the only members of society who claim Payton as their hero. Any American, regardless of race or gender, can identify with Walter Payton. The consummate statesman, Payton carried himself on and off the field with dignity and class. He achieved, yet, he always remained committed to his team—individuality was not his style. It is because of his gentle and caring demeanor that he truly earned his nickname, “Sweetness.” He was as sweet a person in real life as he was to watch on the football field.
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And as an African-American, I am proud that an African-American holds such an imposing NFL record. His rushing record shows that anyone who sets high goals, regardless of race, is a record that will stand for many years and will remain a testament to Payton’s excellence.

Teammate Mike Singletary, one of five who offered a tribute at Payton’s service, said if Payton saw people crying he would say: “Hold everything—I’m on hallowed ground, I’m running hills, I’m running on clouds. I’m running on stars. I’m on the moon.”

“He affected so many people in a positive way, not only through athletic prowess, but through his generosity and for the way he lived his life,” said Ditka, the coach of that Bears team that went 18–1. “Yeah, it isn’t fair. Forty-five years on this Earth, you should be in the prime of your life. But I think it warns us that tomorrow is not promised.”

We will remember Walter Payton and his famous jersey number “34” that he wore first at Jackson State and then with the Bears. We also will remember Payton in his Chicago uniform with his trademark white headband.

But most of all, we will remember Walter Payton for his pleasant smile, his warmth of character, and his will to achieve.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DUB HAYES

HON. RALPH M. HALL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual and close personal friend, James W. “Dub” Hayes of Whitesboro, Texas, who died suddenly on October 3 of this year. Dub was a well-known and well-thought of in Whitesboro and Grayson County as a prominent community leader who genuinely cared about people. His influence will be felt for generations to come.

Dub was honored as Outstanding Citizen of Whitesboro three times—in 1965, 1978, and 1994—a testimony to the contributions he made to the life of his home town. At the time of his death he was serving as a director of the Grayson County College Foundation, treasurer of Whitesboro Citizens for Excellence in Education and a member of the Whitesboro Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

He was an ardent proponent of education, having served for 33 years as a Trustee of Grayson County College and as past president of the Board. He served on the Board from 1965, the year the school opened until 1997.

Dub also served as a charter member of the Texoma Blood Bank Board of Directors, a member of the Grayson County Airport Board and the Texoma Regional Planning Commission, past president of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and Quarterback Club in Whitesboro. Dub was active in the First Baptist Church of Whitesboro, where he served for many years as deacon, treasurer and Sunday School teacher.

Dub and his brother, Ed, owned and operated a retail pharmacy business in Whitesboro for 26 years. Dub also worked as a pharmacist for 15 years at Wilson N. Jones Hospital—and continued working until his death as a relief pharmacist and consultant. Dub will be lovingly remembered as one of those pharmacists who was willing to get up in the middle of the night to fill prescriptions for those who were sick.

He was a member of several professional organizations, including the Grayson, Collin, Cook Pharmaceutical Association, the Texas Pharmaceutical Association, the Texas Society of Hospital Pharmacists and the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

Born in 1925 in Whitesboro, the son of the late James Albert Hayes and Ruth Cherry Hayes, Dub graduated from Whitesboro High School, attended North Texas Agricultural College in Arlington and received his pharmacy degree from the University of Texas. He served his county during World War II in both the Pacific and European theaters. In 1949 he married his wife of 50 years, Ruth Helen Acker.

Dub is survived by his wife, Helen; three children, Diane Hayes Gibson and her husband, Mark; Dr. Jim Hayes of Dallas; and Bill Hayes and his wife, Kelly; four grandchildren, Laura and Robert Gibson and Sarah and Charlie Hayes; brother, Ed Hayes, and his wife, Pat; sister-in-law Marjorie Acker Laney and her husband, Bobby; three nieces and two nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Dub Hayes was a truly great man who lived a life of devotion to his family, his community, his church, and his profession. He was a community leader who led an exemplary life—and he was loved by all who knew him. We will miss him—but his memory will be kept alive in our hearts and in our thoughts—and his legacy will continue to be felt in Whitesboro and Grayson County. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today for the last time during this century, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying our last respects to this outstanding man and great American—James W. “Dub” Hayes.