

were the most dramatic in the field of civil rights since the Civil War. Henry B. was in the forefront of the struggle for equality for all minorities, and especially the Hispanic population in his home State of Texas.

Henry was the first Member of Congress from Texas of Mexican heritage. His father was the editor of a Spanish language newspaper, and Henry first made his mark in the Texas State legislature, successfully filibustering against a bill that would have closed Texas schools rather than to comply with the court's orders to desegregate.

He came to the House in a special election to fill a vacancy in 1961, and very quickly established himself in the Congress as an articulate spokesperson for those seeking equality under the law.

Henry's most remarkable accomplishments were as Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services from 1989 to 1995. In that leadership position, Henry served with great fairness, and managed the approval of significant legislation impacting all Americans.

Perhaps the most significant tribute to Henry came from the other side of the aisle, from his former colleague, Representative Joseph B. Kennedy II of Massachusetts, who stated, "This guy defines his party's values."

Henry B. was the last one of our colleagues who was present that tragic day in Dallas, Texas, in 1963 when President John Kennedy was assassinated. He often reflected on the horror of that dark day in our Nation's history, but his faith in our form of government and his hope for the future remained unshaken throughout his career.

Henry was called the spokesperson for the underdog, but in many ways he is a beacon of hope for all of us. Mr. Speaker, I join in extending my deepest sympathies to his widow, Bertha, their eight children, including our good colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ), and most especially, to the people of the 20th District of Texas who have lost their hero, their staunch, devoted advocate.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE HENRY B. GONZALEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute not only to a fine Member of this House, but also to a friend, Henry B. Gonzalez.

When I think of Henry, I think of the tall redwood trees of California. Henry stood just that tall. He was part of the tall timber of America. As we analogize that to the House of Representatives, a lot of those tall timbers have left this

House and this institution, with Henry just having been the last.

When I think of Henry, I think of the personal experiences I had, but most of all, what I conceive his philosophy of life to be. He was a man who held to the statement in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and among those are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Henry was not only a man of this House, a man of Texas, and a great American, but Henry in fact was a man of humanity. I am sure that if Henry's life had extended beyond where it ended and he had the opportunity to survive and offer his leadership, he would have liked to have extended that principle that all men are created equal to all of humanity.

From a personal aspect, I knew Henry in serving in this House for the last 16 years, 14 years with Henry. About 2 or 3 hours of a trip in my district one day with Henry B. Gonzalez was probably the most satisfactory time I have ever spent while I have been in Congress. Henry had that gift of knowing history and not being a revisionist of history, and to tell it as it was as he went through the Johnson-Kennedy years in his early beginnings in this Congress. I will always cherish that moment.

But most of all, Henry was a man of conscience, and sometimes we have less of those men in this House and in this Nation than we would like. He served as an example to young Members such as me in the beginning of my term in this House, and he has done it for so many others, as we have heard today.

As we pay respect to the Gonzalez family for their great loss, we also indicate to the world that it has lost a man of humanity, Henry B. Gonzalez.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), our ranking member of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, when God created all his hundreds of billions of children over the years, he had a very special moment when Henry B. Gonzalez was created. Then, once Henry was born, he must have thrown that mold away, because I do not think we have ever seen or ever will see an individual like Henry B. Gonzalez.

I am in my 13th term. We have had 435 Members of the House in each of my terms. For so many of us, we blur and it is all gray. Not Henry B. Henry B. stands out as unique in our memory. I am proud to be here in honor of that memory.

He was a strong individual, strong-willed about issues that he believed in. What did he believe in? He believed in the poor, he believed in the voiceless. He believed that he had to stand up and speak up for them.

He would be so pleased today, as I know he was before he died, knowing that his work is being carried on by his son, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ), because I'm sure he knows he could not have picked a more able individual to continue the tradition of the Gonzalez family.

I would send to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) on my own behalf, but in a sense on behalf of all people who have ever been touched by the gentleman's father, and that means millions, our heartfelt sorrow to the gentleman, to his mother, Bertha, to the entire Gonzalez family.

I only hope that the spirit of the gentleman's father, the principles that he stood for, the championing of the downtrodden, will never be forgotten by any Member of this House, and most especially by Members of the Democratic Party, his family that he loved so very much also. God bless.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by extending to the Gonzalez family my most sincere condolences on the passing of a great individual, Mr. Henry B. Gonzalez. I was very fortunate to have a chance to serve with him, and it was a fitting tribute to be able to say that I served with someone whom I had respected for so many years and grew to believe was a mentor for many people who thought that oftentimes justice and opportunity would not be there for them.

Henry B. Gonzalez lived to serve the people, to champion the toil and sacrifice of working men and women, to give robust life to their voice, and to defend the precious victories for those whom too often society made winning very difficult.

Whether one was on the front line, in a dark alley, before an unfriendly court, or whether one was just fortunate enough to be in this, the people's House, one could not and will not ever find a greater fighter, a more compassionate and passionate and eloquent advocate, or a more decent and esteemed human being than Henry B. Gonzalez.

For many of us who saw him, we saw when he would be the only one to stand. Sometimes people did not understand why and where he was going, but by the time he was done, that light was very clear at the end of that tunnel. For many, they could not understand how for so many years this man could continue, but he did.

We are very fortunate that we are joined in this House of the people by someone who has had a chance to know him better perhaps than anyone who stands here and speaks, and that is our Congressman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ), who can continue to fight for many of the things that our esteemed friend, Henry B., always stood for.

It is in that vein that I think that most of us come here to say to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ), to the rest of the Gonzalez family, that Henry B. cannot die. He lives, because what he stood for lives in the hearts of people from the beginning of time. And yet, there are people who will need to have Henry B.s because there are those who are still struggling.

I say to the gentleman and to all of the family, Henry B. has not left us, because there are many who wish to keep that fire going, and that fight. I thank Henry B. for having entered into the lives of so many of us, and for continuing to be there as we continue that fight.

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Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA).

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great individual, a pioneer, a leader, a positive role model, a visionary, an individual that had a lot of integrity, exemplified fairness, justice, our American principles, I speak of the late Henry Gonzalez, a father of a devoted congressman, my friend, CHARLES GONZALEZ of Texas.

Let me begin by stating what an honor it has been to serve with Charlie, a member of the Hispanic Caucus. We have fought hard to protect the civil liberties of the underserved in the communities around the Nation, an issue that Henry championed, an individual who was the founder of the Hispanic Congressional Caucus, an individual that believed in protecting the rights of working families, an individual who believed in protecting our communities, an individual who wanted to make sure that we gained respect.

In the Latino community we say "respecto." Respecto is so important to a lot of us. Henry B. Gonzalez exemplified that. He was a beacon of hope. He was an individual that wanted to make sure that every individual had their dreams and their hopes fulfilled. He was an individual that I did not have the privilege of serving with but had the opportunity to meet.

He is a true model for me and many individuals throughout the State of California, throughout the Nation. He will stand up as an individual who exemplified what we all want to be, all of us who are saying Henry B., you provided an opportunity for all of us to follow in your footsteps.

You are a pioneer who has opened the doors for many individuals to pursue an avenue, not only when he became the first Hispanic Representative from Texas, as I am the last Hispanic to be elected in the State of California, we want other individuals to be elected as well.

Henry, you have given us a lot of hope. You stood up for us. You fought for us. You will continue to be in our

history books. As our children will read about you, you have left the legacy of honesty, of fairness, of a devoted father, of a husband.

Henry Gonzalez, you emphasize the meaning of democracy and what can be accomplished when that is structured. You are an individual who has stood up and fought, one who is willing not to take no for an answer, but willing to pursue what needs to be done.

My colleagues and my friends from both sides of the aisle respect his vision and his compassion. I wish the Gonzalez family my deepest condolences on the passing of a true gentleman, Henry B. Gonzalez.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for getting us this extra time.

Mr. Speaker, it is very interesting to see that so many people from the State of Texas, so many people who have served on the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, indeed, so many people who served with Henry B. in the Congress want to participate in the special order.

I think, Mr. Speaker, this is a very special day in the House of Representatives. All of us who serve here have a special honor, but to have served with Henry Gonzalez was a very special privilege indeed. He was a teacher, a teacher about principle, about integrity, about justice.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of serving on the Committee on Banking and Financial Services under his leadership and saw firsthand his determined commitment to addressing the needs of the country's poorest people. He was a fierce advocate on behalf of those individuals and groups many would consider the least among us.

His leadership on many issues from insuring access to safe decent and affordable housing, to improving the living conditions of residents of the colonias made an enormous difference in the lives of countless people around the Nation. He was a passionate person, as we all know and as has been testified to here, but he was an extremely knowledgeable person, a very, very smart leader.

His passion was something that drove him, but his knowledge has benefitted all Americans, including his campaign to open the workings of the Federal Reserve to more public scrutiny, his stewardship of the investigation of the S&L scandal and his legislation to fix the FDIC. His zeal for truth and justice were a hallmark of his decades of public service.

I hope it is a source of comfort to you, CHARLIE, and to your family, that so many people share your grief, and are praying for you at this time. My condolences and those of all of my constituents to whom Henry B. was a hero.

He visited us in San Francisco. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) was on that occasion when we honored Henry B. in San Francisco, and on behalf of those constituents, I extend to you, to your mother, Bertha, and to your entire family our deepest sympathy and our very great gratitude for the life and service of Henry B. Gonzalez.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR).

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to Henry B.'s family, and I would also like to thank them for allowing us to share Henry B. Gonzalez.

Mr. Speaker, Henry B. Gonzalez was a voice and will continue to be a voice for the common person, and one of my highlights being in Congress was having the honor of serving with Henry B. Gonzalez.

I hope as he looks down upon us, it will give us the courage to fight for the common man and make sure that all people have the equality that they greatly deserve.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary public servant from Texas, the late Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez of San Antonio, who died last week on November 28, 2000. Henry B., as he was affectionately known, was an active and beloved Member of the House of Representatives—and my friend—and he will be dearly missed by all.

Henry B. served the 20th Congressional District of Texas for 37 years as a dedicated and respected member of the House of Representatives. He held deeply rooted values and ideals and fiercely fought for those he represented. Henry B. Gonzalez was elected to serve in the House of Representatives in 1961, as the first Mexican-American from the State of Texas, and for the next 37 years he was a force with which to be reckoned. In 1989, he became Chairman of the Banking Committee, and during his tenure he served a critical role during the savings and loan crisis.

Gonzalez was devoted to his family, his profession, and to his community, and he leaves a legacy of service that will be remembered by his many friends and constituents. His Congressional legacy includes bringing the University of Texas Health Science Center and the Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital to San Antonio, as well as securing millions of federal dollars for housing, hospitals, urban renewal and schools, in efforts to make his Congressional district a better place in which to live. As a public servant, his legacy extends to the throngs of his friends and to many people that he never met. Henry B. reached out to try and help anyone in need and he was capable of friendship to those in all walks of life—with equal dignity for all.

It was a sad day for me when Henry B. decided to retire from Congress. As a friend and one of his colleagues from the Texas delegation, I hold the utmost respect and admiration for Henry B. Gonzalez. Like everyone else who knew and/or served with Henry—I felt a close and personal kinship to Henry. We

shared many stories—and critiqued many of our old friends and colleagues. He always found something good and kind to say about those with whom he served. He also was capable of remembering those who slighted him or those he represented. Like the old saying—Henry was very much the epitome of being like fire and water—a faithful friend or a fearful enemy. I was privileged to be his close and personal—and admiring—friend.

Henry B. brought dignity and honor to Congress—and in all that he accomplished. His distinguished career and contributions to the State of Texas will be long remembered, and I would like to take this opportunity to join Charles and the rest of his family, his friends, and my peers in paying our last respects to Henry B. Gonzalez.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, may we do so in memory of this beloved statesman and public servant, the Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former colleague and great member of this body, Henry B. Gonzalez. I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve for over a decade with Congressman Gonzalez, whose life and career were distinguished in so many ways. He is a legendary figure in Texas politics, being the first Mexican American elected to the Texas Senate. He then made an indelible mark on national politics, coming to the House of Representatives in 1961 and eventually ascending to the Chairmanship of the Banking Committee. Known for his great kindness and thorough constituent service, Henry B. Gonzalez was a leader of the civil rights movement, serving as a mentor and role model for people and legislators of all races and backgrounds. In this way, his accomplishments transcended politics to touch our society at large, and it is this legacy that will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, what I will remember most is the courage Henry B. Gonzalez brought to his work, taking on the toughest of issues, time and time again, through some of the hardest times our country has ever seen. He represented as well as anyone ever has the ideals of the Democratic Party, believing intensely in and fighting for the rights of the disenfranchised and the poor. His commitment to equal protection under the law never wavered, working tirelessly for affordable housing and enhanced consumer protections. These were principles which his son and our colleague, CHARLIE, continues to pursue. I wish CHARLIE and his family my heartfelt condolences, and hope we will all remember the example of Henry B. Gonzalez as we go about our work in Congress.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with a mixture of sadness and fond remembrances that I stand before you to mourn the passing of former Congressman Harry B. Gonzalez, a man who served in this House for 18 terms.

On Saturday, I attended Congressman Gonzalez's funeral service in his beloved San Antonio and saw an extraordinary and sincere outpouring of gratitude from the city he served with devotion, honesty and integrity. He served San Antonio not only as a United States Representative, but also as a member of the San Antonio City Council and the Texas Senate.

Congressman Gonzalez, known with affection in our hometown as "Henry B." was eulogized by San Antonio Archbishop Patrick Flores quite simply as a "good and faithful servant." He was—consistently and persistently—a good and faithful servant to his beloved constituents in the 20th District of Texas.

Henry B. was also a staunch partisan and a worthy adversary. He was a man whose life was marked by devotion to family, to community, and to public service.

It was an honor—and on occasion a learning experience—to serve with him in the Bexar County congressional delegation.

In Texas there is a saying, attributed to a Texas Ranger of long ago, that advises that "No man in the wrong can stand up against a fellow that's in the right and keeps on a-comin'." Throughout his extraordinary life of public service, Henry B just kept on a-comin'.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the loss of Henry Gonzalez. Henry was a good colleague, a good friend, and a real champion of the poor and all underprivileged Americans.

In many ways, Henry was a trailblazer. The first Mexican-American from Texas to serve in the House, Henry always fought hard for his constituents in San Antonio. He was in the House for 37 years. His extraordinary length of service was matched only by his commitment to fairness and equality for every American, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity.

Henry was one of the early leaders of the modern civil rights movement. In 1953, one year before the Brown vs. Board of Education decision, Henry was a member of the San Antonio City Council, and he helped pass a measure of desegregate city facilities. In 1956, three years later, Henry won election to the state Senate, and become the first Mexican-American in that body in over 100 years. By the way, he won that race by 309 votes—after three recounts, and it was a good thing that he won.

Because he continued the good fight. In 1957, Henry spent 22 hours filibustering bills that supported segregation.

Henry brought that same spirit to our Congress.

In 1961, he was sworn-in to the House, and as he raised his right hand, left hand, he clutched a bill to end poll taxes, which discriminated against the poor and minorities. And this bill ultimately found its way into the 1965 Voting Rights Act. As a Member of Congress, Henry fought for low-cost housing so people would have a roof over their heads. And he became a real force in our body for the principle of equal opportunity.

Henry was also one of the greatest Chairman of the House Banking Committee. He helped repair the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and he helped steer the country through the savings and loan crisis.

Deeply committed to his constituents and to his Caucus, Henry was a terrific ally who did so much for Democrats because of what it meant for the American people.

Henry's passing leaves us with a void that can't be filled. But we will never forget his extraordinary dedication and service to this Congress and the country. His career is an inspiration to all of us, and humbly, we will work as hard as possible to fulfill his vision for all Americans.

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague for whom I have a profound sense of respect, the Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez of Texas. Congressman Gonzalez has had a long and distinguished career of public service as a pioneer in civil rights.

In the 1950s, Congressman Gonzalez served on the city council of San Antonio where he effectively spoke out against segregation of public facilities. As a Texas state senator, he led an effort to block racial segregation bills aimed at circumventing Brown v. Board of Education and emerged as a leading spokesman for social equality and for bridging racial divides in America.

After winning a seat in the House of Representatives, Henry worked for the passage of a number of legislative proposals of the New Frontier and Great Society, as well as the Equal Opportunities Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Later in his career, his leadership was an integral part of enacting legislation in flood insurance reform, major housing initiatives, increasing accessibility to credit for small businesses, strengthening laws on money-laundering, bank fraud and other financial crimes. Later, he skillfully and adeptly led restructuring efforts of the federal deposit insurance system following the collapse of the savings and loan industry in the late 1980s.

An honest man who dedicated his life to the public good, Congressman Henry Gonzalez served as a role model for all to follow. May God give his family, friends, colleagues and constituents the peace, strength, and understanding to sustain the grief of his loss.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great man and a genuine leader whom we lost one week ago today: Henry B. Gonzalez.

Henry B.—as his friends affectionately knew him—was a pioneer who came from the most humble beginnings. His parents, Mexican immigrants, raised him in San Antonio's West Side in a home with dirt floors and no running water. He experienced discrimination and segregation firsthand during his childhood and youth in Texas.

He defied all odds by putting himself through college, serving his community while at the San Antonio Housing Authority, and later in San Antonio's City Council. He went on to serve as a Texas state senator—the first Texan of Hispanic-descent to do so in over 100 years. He later achieved another first, becoming the first Mexican-American to serve the state of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Throughout his nearly 40-year congressional career, Henry B. served with distinction—always faithful to his morals and beliefs—and as a true Texan—with courage and determination. He was a tireless advocate of the poor and the disenfranchised in our country, and always carried in his heart a special place for the people of his hometown of San Antonio. He was instrumental in the dismantling of segregationist laws in Texas while in the state senate; he led the restructuring of our nation's financial services industry during the S&L crisis as Chairman of the House Banking Committee; and he championed projects and initiatives that brought economic development, access to healthcare, and jobs to his beloved San Antonio.

Beyond Henry B.'s political and legislative accomplishments, he served as a role model for two generations of aspiring leaders. Scores of Texans—young and old, public servants and corporate leaders, Democrats and Republicans—can point to Henry B. as their inspiration and role model. His accomplishments were our accomplishments; for this we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

There's a popular Mexican dicho that states: *El que da camino es por que ya andubo*, which means: "He who makes a path does so because he has walked it." Henry B. blazed a path—not just for Hispanic leaders, but for all leaders, by having the courage to be the first.

Henry B.'s life was a fulfillment of the American Dream—it illustrates the greatness of America and the potential that is in each and every one of us, regardless of skin color, national origin, or economic background. I would like to offer my most sincere condolences to my friend, CHARLIE GONZALEZ, his family, and the people of San Antonio—you are in my prayers. I hope you will find comfort in that Henry B. lives on in the legacy he has bequeathed to all of us.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring our friend, Henry B.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) for his accomodation, and to everyone that has participated today in this special order, something that was so dear to dad.

This is obviously a very bitter sweet experience for a Member to be able to come up and address the House and talk about one's parent. It has been a difficult time for many reasons, many of you could understand, but to pay tribute to dad today here on the floor of the House, he would accept that only if we were paying tribute to all of those who served here before him, with him and after him.

He truly believed this was the greatest institution on the face of the Earth, and I am convinced that he was right. When a Member dies or a former Member dies, I truly believe that all of us show up that next morning, and we all have questions. We do not share these questions with one another for whatever reason, but I think that we question our own mortality to begin with. Then the next thing is we question our investment in our sacrifice as public servants.

Though we all recognize what a great privilege and honor it is to serve, we know the costs, not just to ourselves but to our families. All of you hearing me now happen to be a Member or a former Member know exactly what I am talking about. You start questioning whether you made a difference. You start questioning whether public service was worth it.

I like to think that my dad's life, that even especially in his death, it validates that it is a worthy and honorable sacrifice and that we are recog-

nized and that we do make a difference in our own way not just Dad but everyone else.

Dad would be disappointed because I cannot exactly remember the quotation, but I believe it is from Julius Caesar by Shakespeare and that the good that men do is often interred with their bones.

I think that is everyone's greatest fear but probably more so ours than anyone else because there is so much sacrifice. There is so much hard work, to get here, to remain here, to do that which our constituents have sent us to do in representing their interests.

I want to tell you that at Dad's funeral, there was so much evidence that it does not have to be interred with our bones. That Dad's legacy lives every day in the lives of those that he served.

At the funeral home, at the viewing, at the church, at the vigil at the funeral service, at the cemetery, I cannot begin to tell you how many people came up and told us their individual stories, and for each of the Members here today and those that served before Dad, there are countless thousands of people out there that you have helped that you do not even realize, that they may not be thanking you today and it may be their children or grandchildren that will thank you tomorrow. But it is there for all of us.

That is why I say I think Dad's life and even in death, it validates that public service is the noblest of all callings; that is what my father taught me. Of course, he said that was second only to the priesthood.

For the families of the Members, because I have the distinction of actually having been a child of a public servant who dedicated nearly half a century to public service, as well as the Member of Congress, what it does to our families.

When we were at the cemetery and we were in the family car and we were coming out to go to the plot, there was probably a 90-year-old woman who handed us a little note, and it was just scribbled. And it was to my mother and to all of us in that car, and what it said was, thank you for sharing your husband, your father, your grandfather, and your great grandfather with all of us here in this city.

So I know there will be times for all of us when we wonder, but truly even the public understands the sacrifice. They may not tell you. But they love the fact that our families are willing to share us, because it is that kind of devotion and commitment that it takes.

So do not ever question public service. I can tell you if you are truly committed, dedicated and a humble public servant, as my father was, there are rewards way beyond the immediate. Many times you will not hear about it. My father may have heard of some of it, but he surely did not after November 28th when he passed on. But that is when we have the greatest outpouring.

Again, to everyone that has ever served here, and especially to their staffs and to their families, from the Gonzalez family, thank you so much for making my father's life so complete and making his dream of public service a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit a tribute for my father by his former Chief of Staff and Press Secretary, Gail Beagle.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HENRY B. GONZALEZ,  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS

(By Gail Beagle)

In 1958 then Texas State Senator Henry B. Gonzalez ran for Governor of Texas. I had just graduated with a degree in journalism from Texas Woman's University at Denton, and with \$100 I had borrowed from my life insurance policy I left from my hometown of Nederland for Austin to job-hunt.

In Austin I learned of a fundraiser for Sen. Gonzalez being held at a restaurant called Spanish Village. I took \$10 of my \$100, got a ride with a University of Texas student with whom I had interned the summer before on the San Antonio Light newspaper, paid my money at the door, and told Sen. Gonzalez of my interest in campaigning for him for Governor in Jefferson County. "I will be at my parents' home until I get a job in Austin," I said. "I anticipate I will be there through the Democratic Primary on July 26. Who is your Jefferson County campaign manager?" I asked. "No one," he replied. "You can be the campaign manager there!"

As an active member of the civil rights movement in the 1950's, I very much knew who State Sen. Henry B. Gonzalez of San Antonio was. He was the Senator who delivered in Austin an intelligent, impassioned filibuster against a package of bills promoting and facilitating segregation in Texas. He was a breath of fresh air on the Texas political horizon, a bright and shining star, and a public official unlike any I had ever seen before. It was my thought that I would never see another one like him again.

Subsequently I worked for him in the Texas State Senate during two legislative sessions (1959 and 1961), and served as his volunteer press aide in early 1961 in his bid to replace Lyndon Johnson as a U.S. Senator from Texas, after LBJ was elected both as Vice President and as a returning U.S. Senator. It was a wild and crazy special election with more than 70 fellow Texans battling it out, and with Gonzalez once again going primarily by stationwagon to the 254 counties across Texas.

However, just a few months late in the Fall of 1961, Sen. Gonzalez's great opportunity came with the appointment to the Court of Military Appeals of San Antonio's and Bexar County's long time Congressman, Paul Kilday. A special election was called and after a hard fought battle which brought former President Dwight Eisenhower to San Antonio to campaign for the opposition, Henry B., as he was affectionately called, was elected on November 5, 1961 to serve in Congress.

I had moved to San Antonio from Austin to campaign, and it was from San Antonio that I first left for Washington to serve newly elected Congressman Gonzalez.

HBG was active on many legislative fronts so it was easy to have something to report to the press, and it was easy to get together a good staff because there were so many enthusiastic and well qualified people who wanted to work for him.

The congressional work with the Congressman was fulfilling inasmuch as there was

much to be accomplished with an office holder who with great gusto gave everything to his job as a public servant.

We worked the first six years creating a world's fair (HemisFair) for San Antonio with several pieces of legislation the Congressman succeeded in getting passed in both the House and the Senate and signed by the President into law. The Congressman also sent U.S. Department of Commerce officials to help local leaders make plans for getting the fair underway. At the same time we were helping the Congressman look out for the interests of our military bases in San Antonio, protect San Antonio's primary source of water, write housing and other legislation, and make it possible for constituents to have fair consumer banking practices, as well as many other equitable benefits under federal law.

While we were active in legislative participation, Congressman Gonzalez made sure that his offices in both Washington and San Antonio looked out for the interests of the poor and went to bat for constituents needing help with either the Veterans Administration, Social Security, immigration and naturalization, workmen's compensation, civil service (active or retired), the Armed Services, and other matters relative to federal agencies and departments.

Among other efforts, we also promoted interest among inter-city youth in getting a free college education and becoming military officers through nomination to one of the U.S. military service academies.

I recall with great pleasure the breakfast or luncheon meetings at the House Restaurant at the U.S. Capitol with newspaper reporters, members of the Administration in power, heads of various federal and Texas agencies, an airline safety consultant (who was also a good friend), and countless other friends and constituents (most of whom had their picture taken on the steps of the Capitol with the Congressman!).

While the hours could be long and arduous, especially for Kelsay Meek, who headed the Congressman's (the Chairman's!) Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, and me, we were committed to the level of service that we knew Henry B. wanted to achieve.

The 150 or so former staff members, who served in varying lengths of time with me over a period of more than 30 years either on the personal staff in Washington or in San Antonio, as well as those who served on the Subcommittee (Housing and Community Development) and full Banking Committee, counted it as an honor and a privilege to serve the people's interests with Henry G. Gonzalez.

He lives eternally in our minds and hearts. He now lives with the angels, but we will see him again.

#### PROVIDING PATIENT PROTECTION LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak for a while today about an issue that has been before Congress for several years now and that will be an important issue in the 107th Congress that will start in January, and

that is the issue of providing patient protection legislation to all the people in this country, protection from abuses by managed care organizations, HMOs.

Let me just review for my colleagues, maybe some of the new colleagues who may still be here in Washington after their orientation, where we have been; why we want to do this legislation; why 85 percent of the people in this country think that Congress should pass a strong, a real patient protection bill of rights and it should be signed by the next President of the United States.

A few years ago, there were a series of articles in the New York Post. They had headlines like these, HMOs cruel rules leave her dying for the doc she needs; or this headline, these are the types of headlines that people have seen all around the country, they are not just localized to New York City, The New York Post, what his parents did not know about HMOs may have killed this baby.

As the public became more and more aware of HMO abuses on denials of care that people truly deserved, they needed it to preserve their health and, in many cases, their lives, a perception began that set in in the public about the type of job that HMOs were doing in providing health care for the people who were in those HMOs, that perception was that they were not doing a very good job.

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Once that perception sets in, then one starts to see a phenomenon where people can make jokes about that. In fact, we had a situation in a movie a few years ago with Helen Hunt and Jack Nicholson from a movie "As Good As It Gets," if you will remember, where Helen Hunt is explaining how this HMO is denying treatment to her son in the movie with asthma. Then she uses a string of expletives in describing her HMOs, and something happened that I have never seen happen in a movie theater before. I was there with my wife in Des Moines, Iowa. People actually stood up and clapped and applauded her line because they realized the truth of what she was saying.

Then we started to see cartoons in the newspapers. Here is one: the HMO claims department. We have an HMO claims reviewer. "No, we do not authorize that specialist. No, we do not cover that operation. No, we do not pay for that medication."

Then the reviewer hears something over her little earpiece telephone; and then she crossly says, "No, we do not consider this assisted suicide."

Here is another cartoon that appeared in a national newspaper. This was Don Wasserman from the Boston Globe; it also appeared in the Los Angeles Times: the patient is telling his doctor, "Do you make more money if you give patients less care?" The doc-

tor says, "That is absurd, crazy, delusional." Then the patient says, "Are you saying I am paranoid?" The doctor says, "Yes, but we can treat it in three visits."

Now, this is one of the blackest humor cartoons I have ever seen: we have here a medical reviewer for an HMO. She says, "Kudly Care HMO. How may I help you? You are at the emergency room, and your husband needs approval for treatment? Gasping, writhing, eyes rolled back in his head? Hum, does not sound all that serious to me." Over there, "Clutching his throat, turning purple? Um-hum. Have you tried an inhaler?"

Then she says, "He is dead? Well, then, he certainly does not need treatment, does he?" Then she looks at us and says, "People are always trying to rip us off."

Now, I just recently learned something about this cartoon. The person who drew this cartoon did it from personal experience, from problems that a family member was having with his HMO. But it is not all just jokes, because behind that humor are some real-life cases.

This is a picture of a woman surrounded by her children and her husband who was featured in a Time Magazine cover story a few years ago. She lost her life because her HMO did not provide her with proper care and tried to and did influence the type of treatment she was getting. This little girl and boy would have a mother today maybe if that HMO had not tried to deny her care, had not denied her care.

A few years ago, a young woman was hiking in the mountains about 40 miles, 50 miles west of here. She fell off a 40-foot cliff. She broke her skull, she broke her pelvis, broke her arm. She was lying at the bottom of this 40-foot cliff. Fortunately, her boyfriend had a cellular. They were able to get a helicopter in. This shows her trundled up. She was life-flighted into an emergency room and taken care of. Her life was saved. She was in the intensive care unit for a month or so.

Then do you know what her HMO did? They denied to pay for her treatment. One would say, why would that be? I mean, this was a traumatic accident. Was there something in the contract that the HMO is not liable for taking care of accidents? No. The HMO said, "You know, according to our rules, before you go to an emergency room, you are supposed to phone ahead for prior authorization."

Well, I want to ask my colleagues something. What was she supposed to do in her semi-comatose state as she is lying at the bottom of her 40-foot cliff, with her nonbroken arm, pull out a cellular phone and dial a 1-800 number and get ahold of somebody 2,000 miles away and say, "By the way, I just fell off a cliff. I have a broken skull, a broken pelvis, and will you authorize me to go