

As humans, we cannot rationalize or understand nature's catastrophes. As a country, we must follow our belief that not only is the aid to Mozambique necessary because of our national interests and stability, but also because of our moral interest. If there is any short-term gain in this tragedy, it is an opportunity to pass the test of compassion, charity, and humanity that God administers.

I reiterate and encourage the Members of this august body to support H.R. 431, which will provide humanitarian relief assistance to the Republic of Mozambique.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### TRIBUTE TO VETERAN CONGRESSIONAL AIDE CARY R. BRICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McHUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a sense of mixed emotions, because it is an occasion of good-byes, but it is also an opportunity to recognize the work and career of someone who is very special to this House, and certainly to me personally, my chief of staff, Cary R. Brick. His 30-year Congressional staff career spans the service of three consecutive New York State Congressmen. He really has an uncommon record of service, and I am pleased that I have this opportunity tonight to say a few words.

Cary is the most senior chief of staff in the New York Congressional Delegation, and, in fact, one of the most senior staffers to serve this institution. He began his Capitol Hill career in January of 1969 as press secretary to the late Robert C. McEwen, and later served as his executive assistant. When Bob McEwen retired in 1980, Cary was appointed by his successor, former Representative David O'Brien Martin, to serve as his administrative assistant.

When I was elected following Dave Martin's retirement in 1992, I asked Cary to stay on as my chief of staff as well, and it remains to this day one of the easiest and certainly one of the best decisions I have made in my 7-plus years in this House.

Cary Brick has served our current office, that of my predecessors, and our Congressional constituents with the highest level of dedication and enthusiasm. There are few, if any, communities, institutions, organizations or individuals in our district who have not benefited in some way from his work.

Additionally, as the administrator of my Congressional allowances, Cary has

made it possible for us to return nearly \$1.5 million to the Congressional coffers, without ever sacrificing the needs of the office and our constituents. He has handled his many responsibilities with the highest level of integrity and has gained a well-earned reputation on Capitol Hill as a dedicated professional.

At a time, Madam Speaker, when the Congressional staff turnover rate is estimated to be 40 percent a year, it is unlikely that anyone will ever equal his achievement. His retirement is a loss to the institution of Congress, the people of New York's 24th Congressional District, his fellow staffers, and me personally.

There are many remarkable things about Cary Brick's career as a Congressional aide, but, rather than citing his impressive biography, I would share but a single glimpse into Cary's psyche that I believe reveals much about what makes him particular.

□ 1900

Simply put, Cary loves New York's North Country. Just as Dorothy loved Kansas in the Wizard of Oz, Cary truly believes that there is "no place like home."

Although he and his wife, Erin, have raised two beautiful daughters in their Northern Virginia house, Sarah and Rebecca have always known their home is in New York. His strong ties to the North Country and his strong sense of community have helped him keep that perspective. He never lost sight of what matters most. Although his job brought him to Washington, D.C., Cary embraced, even relished, the fact that he worked for every citizen of New York's 24th District.

Through his service as my chief of staff for the last 7½ years, our interaction has been far more than a work relationship. We have celebrated the many achievements our combined efforts have produced; and there have, of course, been a few disappointments over which we have agonized together as well. He has been my advisor, my confidant, and most of all, my friend. In a town where personal ambition often obscures public interest, I can say without hesitation that Cary's brand of loyalty and friendship has been a priceless gift.

When Cary publicly announced his retirement, one quote stood out as a great "sound bite" that stood out time and time again and on Capitol Hill. He said, "To have been an inside observer of congressional participation and debate in every national and world event during the final third of the 20th century is an awesome opportunity that few others have had." Awesome, indeed.

However, Mr. Speaker, nothing about Cary's quote should lead anyone to believe that he has in any way been on the sidelines or a mere observer. Rath-

er, he has been a soldier on both the front lines and in the war room. His battlefield has been Capitol Hill. From Watergate to the Gulf War to the closure of Plattsburgh Air Force Base, he has earned his stripes through many battles. His weapons have been quick thinking, his unmatched instincts and his constant integrity; and his ammunition has been the power of his words and his proven ability to mobilize forces.

For your uncommon commitment, loyalty and sense of duty, Cary, we all salute you.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield at this time to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), my friend and colleague and neighbor to the south and a good friend and associate of Cary Brick's as well, for a few comments.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding time. I have a prepared statement that I would like to enter into the record regarding Cary Brick, and it was penned by a good friend of his, my chief of staff, Art Jutton who has served almost as long as Cary has. Cary was always referred to as the dean of the delegation because of his seniority. I suspect Art may be in line for that, although Mr. Brick may not want to give up that title.

Cary has been a true exemplary public servant, someone who has served the country well, served his Members of Congress well, served the people of the North Country well. He is a role model for anyone who would be willing to enter public service and suffer the slings and arrows that we take in this business; but he never lost his sense of humor, never lost his wisdom and his ability to stand back from the fray and make a cognitive decision that is always of benefit, not only to the Member of Congress in whose office he served, but to other Members who were smart enough to ask.

So I would like to join my colleague. I identify with everything that he said. I wish the gentleman well in his selection of a replacement, although it is a tough pair of shoes to fill. Mr. Speaker, my best to Cary and his family as he retires.

#### KICKING OFF THE REBIRTH OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DEAL of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the two preceding speakers for recognizing Mr. Brick. All too often I think those that serve us so well do not get the particular commendation that they are so richly deserving of; and I am very pleased that this individual, in the capstone of his