MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Pursuant to the order of the House of Janu-
ary 3, 2001, the Chair will now recog-
nize Members from lists submitted by
the majority and minority leaders for
morning hour debates. The Chair will
alternate recognition between the par-
ties, with each party limited to not to
exceed 30 minutes, and each Member
except the majority leader, the minor-
ity leader or the minority whip limited
to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman
from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) for 5
minutes.

A TRIBUTE TO GENERAL MICHAEL E. RYAN

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr.
Speaker, this morning I would like to
rise to pay tribute to a great Ameri-

can, General Michael E. Ryan, the
chief of staff of the United States Air
Force. His departure on September 6
last week from active duty signaled an
evolutionary change: the first time in
63 years, if you can believe that, that a
Ryan is absent from the roles of the
United States Air Force. His father,
General John Ryan, also served as a
senior uniformed Air Force officer.

General Mike Ryan’s career spanned
over 3 decades during which he distin-
guished himself as an airman leader
and trusted advisor to both the Presi-
dent and the United States Congress.

After graduating from the Air Force
Academy in 1965, General Ryan began
his illustrious career of faithful service
to this Nation. During his 36 years of service, he
commanded at the squadron, wing,
numbered air force and major com-
mand levels. He flew combat missions in
southeast Asia, including 100 mis-
sions over north Vietnam.

He was a fighter pilot, I can tell you
that. I was one, too; and he was a fight-
er pilot’s fighter pilot.

He also served in key assignments at
the major command level, head-
quarters of the United States Air Force
and the joint staff right here in Wash-
ington, DC.

As commander of the 16th Air Force
and allied forces southern Europe in
Italy, he directed the NATO air combat
operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina that
directly contributed to the Dayton
peace accords. He was the head of the
Air Force at the time when we used the
B-2 bomber to great effectiveness in
that war.

General Ryan is a command pilot
with more than 4,100 hours flying time
in seven different aircraft, including
153 combat missions.

His decorations and medals include:
the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster; the Distin-
guished Service Medal; the Legion of
Merit with two oak leaf clusters; the
Distinguished Flying Cross; the Meri-
torius Service Medal with two oak leaf
clusters; the Air Medal with 11 oak
leaf clusters; the Air Force Commenda-
tion Medal with two oak leaf clusters;
and the Vietnam Service Medal with
three service stars.

After serving as the commander of
the United States Air Force in Europe
and commander of the Allied air forces
in central Europe, General Ryan took
the stick of the Air Force as its 16th
chief of staff.

He has exemplified the quiet dignity
and honor of that office. His leadership,

History has proven that a true leader
sets the right vector and then clears
the path to allow his commanders to
truly command their units.

General Ryan personifies this type of
leader, and I quote, “I do not think
leadership should be personalized. Good
ideas are best when they do not have a
single identity. Leadership is a team
effort.”

I want to take a moment, if I can, to
identify the remarkable accomplish-
ments of General Ryan’s team effort.

He and his leadership team have suc-
cessfully arrested the Air Force readi-

tness decline of the last decade. They
have built stability into the expedi-
tionary operations our Nation demands
by reorganizing the United States Air
Force.

He has led the Air Force retention
and recruiting effort that ensured qual-
ity force was never sacrificed for quan-
tity. He has built a strong Air Force
that exemplified the superb ability of
an all-volunteer force competing in a
strong job market.

He led the effort to provide lifetime
health care and a retirement system
that properly compensates the mem-
ber’s service to his country. He was a
person, and he believed in the people
that were in the United States Air
Force.

In a period of leadership challenges,
General Ryan led our Air Force
through 4 tumultuous years, balancing
reduction in force with increased oper-
ational tasking.

Without question, the United States
Air Force is the world’s premier aero-

cospace force, and our country owes a
debt of gratitude to General Mike
Ryan.

One key contributor to the U.S. Air
Force “One family, one Air Force” and
a person General Ryan owes much of
his success to is his wife, Jane Ryan,
who was instrumental in dealing with
the personnel problems of the military
throughout the Air Force.

With dignity and grace, she selflessly
gave her time and attention to the men
and women of the Air Force family.
Her sacrifice and devotion served as an
example and inspiration for others.

The Air Force lost not one but two
very exceptional people.

Last Thursday’s review ceremony at
Andrews Air Force Base was a dem-
