CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

September 10, 2001

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained because of a late flight and could not vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 336 and "yea" on rollcall No. 337.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER

AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1983

Mr. SCHROCK. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 1983.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND DR. JAMES FORD

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

What was truly important: working together to serve people.

Also Jim Ford taught us to take our job seriously, but not ourselves. Which Norwegian or Swede among us will ever forget Jim's endless litany of Ole and Sven stories?

Madam Speaker, we all remember the countless tributes that were directed at Jim Ford as he marked his well-deserved retirement 2 years ago. Jim's many distinguished years of service to the United States Military Academy, 18 to be exact, and his earlier years at Ivanhoe Lutheran Church at Ivanhoe, Minnesota, are well known and well documented.

What is not so well known are Jim Ford's very early years in Minnesota and his legendary escapades as a young ski jumper at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis. Let the record reflect that our former beloved Chaplain, Dr. Jim Ford, still holds the record jump at the famous Theodore Wirth Ski jump, backward.

That is right, when he was a young student at Edison High School in northeast Minneapolis, Jim Ford defied the laws of gravity and common sense and survived a backward jump on this notoriously steep ski slope and lived to tell about it.

We now know backward ski jumping was just the beginning of Jim Ford's high-risk hobbies. From his beloved Harley to his ultralight aircraft, Jim lived life with a special zeal. Whether it was his frequent racquetball games in the House gym or a cross-country ride on his Harley, Jim Ford went for all the gusto.

Madam Speaker, they still talk proudly about their prominent alumnus, Jim Ford, at Edison High School in northeast Minneapolis and Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, where Jim starred in the classroom and also on the athletic field.

"You can take Jim Ford from Minnesota, but you cannot take Minnesota from Jim Ford," was how his Gustavus classmate, the Reverend Bill Albertson, put it. Some of us remember my good friend and former minister, Bill Albertson, served as our guest chaplain here several years ago. Jim and Bill had a great time reminiscing that day. I will never forget our time together.

On behalf of all Minnesotans, Madam Speaker, we salute the memory of the Reverend Dr. Jim Ford and his many accomplishments. He was always there for us in good times, in hard times, in times of joy, in times of sorrow. We thank the Lord for his prayers, his counsel, great wit, compassion, and service.

We also thank God for the way Reverend Ford cared so deeply about our families, our friends, our constituents, our House of Representatives, and our beloved country. Madam Speaker, we...