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 rollover No. 336 and "yea" on rollover 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 Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 1983.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a former Minnesotan who devoted his life to ministering to others and who made a huge difference in the lives of the people in this very House for over 2 decades. For 21 years, the House of Representatives was very well served by our dedicated and beloved chaplain, the Reverend Dr. James Ford. Seven days a week, year after year, Jim Ford was here for us and our families in times of deepest need. Jim was always here to encourage, console, humor, and inspire us. That is why all of us were terribly shocked and saddened to hear of his death on August 27. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family: his wife, Marcy; son, Peter; daughters, Julie, Mary, Ellie, and Sarah; sister, Janet; 9 grandchildren; and countless friends all over the world.

So many memories come flooding back at a time like this. Jim Ford leaves a legacy of love and service for his family, friends, and Nation which will be remembered always. His eloquent well-chosen words and ever-present wit helped keep our focus on what was truly important: working together to serve people.

Mr. RAMSTAD. 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 our 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 the Speaker 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