EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO RABBI MARK G. LOEB

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, Rabbi Mark G. Loeb, an outstanding religious leader who has served the Beth El Congregation of Baltimore for 25 years. He has led this progressive congregation to its present growth of 1,700 families. Rabbi Loeb is recognized for his scholarship and eloquence. He never fails to enlighten and to challenge an audience.

Rabbi Mark Loeb has made his mark on the national scene as well. His message of tolerance and caring is not confined to his pulpit at Beth El. He has championed any number of social and interfaith causes to improve the common good of people of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds. One of his most prided roles has been that of National Chair of MAZON—A Jewish Response to Hunger. He has also served as a past National Program Chair of the Christian-Jewish Workshop, and he has been a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Christian-Jewish Studies since 1988.

Locally, Rabbi Mark Loeb, has served as Past President of the Baltimore Board of Rabbis and is the current Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Baltimore Hebrew University. He has promoted and instituted a comprehensive Jewish education program at Beth El with a defined expectation that a formal course of study will be followed by both the student and his or her parents. The parents and their children together commit to an involvement in Jewish learning. This program for Jewish education has been used as a model in other Jewish congregations around the country.

Rabbi Loeb is recognized not only for his own scholarship but for his efforts to promote learning as an important link to a meaningful life. He has had a strong personal affinity for opera and has formally critiqued and taught others to more fully enjoy this wonderful art form. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rabbi Mark G. Loeb for his 25 years of service to Beth El Congregation and to many other individuals in the state of Maryland.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE JOE MOAKLEY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on the day all of Washington serves tribute to my friend and mentor Congressman Joe Moakley for his exceptional contribution to our nation, I recognize the apt words of another friend, John Silber, Chancellor of Boston University. John’s eulogy was read by me on February 23 of this year, and I submit it into the RECORD. It expresses what all of us who know Joe know best—he is one of the greatest legislators the House has ever known.

Some call the Senate the “upper house,” the Founders entrusted it with the special power to initiate money bills to the House. As a consequence, for more than two centuries some of our greatest statesmen have understandably had no higher ambition than to serve their fellow citizens in the House of Representatives.

And from the beginning, Massachusetts has been pre-eminent in the highest elective and appointive offices. In the House following his defeat for re-election as president.

In the 18 years that followed, he forged a record of courage, integrity and intellectual distinction that rivaled his achievements on the path to the White House. In 1848, in the midst of a debate in which he was opposing the immensely successful and popular war with Mexico, he suffered a stroke and, too sick to be moved, died in the Capitol building—two days later.

Adams set a standard for Massachusetts congressmen that has never been surpassed. But generations of Massachusetts politicians have stretched to reach the benchmark he established.

In our own time, three members of the Massachusetts delegation have won the highest accolade of their colleagues: Joseph W. Martin, John W. McCormack, and Tip O’Neill Jr., each in his turn elected speaker. The present dean of our delegation, J. Joseph Moakley, has worthily continued this great Massachusetts tradition.

For more than a quarter of a century, he has demonstrated that mixture of profoundly local constituent relations and profoundly national and international vision that is not unique to, but utterly typical of, and pioneered by, Massachusetts. His constituents responded to his service with such enduring approval that when he was asked to speculate on the identity of his successor, he replied, “Until two weeks ago, I didn’t think my successor had been born.” This is not to say that everything went Joe’s way. It would be accurate but inadequate to describe Joe Moakley’s later years as those of a survivor. He has been a survivor of his beloved Evelyn, and he survived medical problems that would have driven most people into retirement to snatch a few years or months doing what they had really wanted to do.

But as Joe has told us, for 30 years he’s been doing exactly what he wanted to do. To adapt the words of William Faulkner in his Nobel acceptance speech, Joe Moakley has not merely endured, he has prevailed. And it is the courage and stamina of such men as Joe Moakley that ensure democratic government will prevail.

As he has told us, with his usual calm candor, his own prognosis is not encouraging. He has said that he will not seek another term, and that he may not finish this one. But whenever Joe Moakley’s term ends, it will be said of him what Thomas Hart Benton said of John Quincy Adams: “And posterity with have found him but in the place of duty!”

Joe Moakley has, at least in one respect, been more fortunate than Adams: For Joe, the place of duty is not only an obligation, but a pleasure.

Joe Moakley exemplifies for us a time an earlier type of the Irish Democratic politician, like Fianna Fail’s Butler, or Fianna Fail’s Coughlan, he is a happy warrior. And we—in Massachusetts and the nation—have been and will be happy in the life and