request for me to give up my peaceful and loving life to run for Congress as my predecessor, Karen McCarthy, had decided not to seek reelection. I chose, in large part, to pursue this office at the request of Congressman IKE SKELTON.

Mr. Chairman, I have three sisters whom I love dearly. From the age of about 3 to about 7, I made requests repeatedly to my parents for a brother. I'm not even sure I knew how that brother could come into existence, but I made the request nonetheless. That never happened, but I can say here in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, that, if I had had a brother, I would have liked for his name to have been Ike. If I had had a brother, I would have liked for him to have had the patience, the intellect, and the spirit of IKE SKELTON.

There is very little secret around our home as to who is the favorite Congressman for my 7-year-old grandson, Isaac Cleaver. One of the great delights of his life—and probably the older he gets the more significant it will be—is already having been introduced to Congressman IKE SKELTON at an event at Royals Stadium. In that introduction, he said that IKE SKELTON was named after him. So, in our household, from my wife, Dianne, all the way to Little Ike, we all have great admiration and love for IKE SKELTON and his family.

It will be difficult to roam these Halls and not see IKE SKELTON or to come into this hallowed room and not look at the seat where he usually sat and where the Missouri delegation would, from time to time, gather around him. I have said to him and to others in his presence that this man has the ability to walk with kings and Presidents and not to lose the common touch.

As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, IKE SKELTON was one of the most influential human beings, not only in this country but in the world—the most revered Member of Congress by the military of the United States of America. Yet any Member of Congress, frankly, from either side of the aisle, could stop IKE SKELTON and hold a conversation. He never lost the common touch.

It will be difficult for me not to see him in this place. I speak of the man IKE SKELTON from Lexington, Missouri; and I speak of a man whose career in this body will be recorded by historians as a majestic moment for the military of the United States of America.

I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker, because I think IKE SKELTON deserves far more eloquence than I can present. Hopefully, a combination of everything we say will match, in some small way, the elegance with which he served this Congress.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a fellow colleague and a person I have grown to love—our distinguished colleague from the Show Me State.

I was blessed when coming into this Congress that the first committee I was appointed to serve on was the Armed Services Committee and to be there under the guidance and tutelage of IKE SKELTON. I was the last person appointed to the committee that year.

In fact, my mother would often say to me, How come I never see you on C–SPAN? That was because I was sitting behind the camera so they couldn't actually see me on C–SPAN.

But IKE SKELTON, as he does with everyone, treated the lowest member on the committee, who was me, with the same kind of dignity and respect and solid advice as he does with every Member of this Chamber.

IKE SKELTON, as has been said by so many speakers with great eloquence, cares so deeply for his home State, for his community, for his great family, and legacy. Imagine, in this Chamber, sitting and serving with a direct descendent of Daniel Boone and knowing how proud he was of that legacy and how proud, growing up in his great State, he was of his dad, whom I learned about in so many conversations with him, and about Harry Truman and the great history of Missouri.

When you would go there to Lexington, when you would travel and stay at his home—and as STENY mentioned—with his wonderful wife, Susie, who was such a kind, generous and kindred soul mate of IKE's, you would walk around that district and see the respect and the reverence that the people held for IKE SKELTON.

I think I was there to talk about ethanol, but I've got to be honest with you. Joanne Morrison probably knows a lot about it, but I didn't know a great deal about ethanol. By golly, by the time I was through, you would have thought I was an expert at it.

To travel with this man abroad, you see the respect at our war colleges, amongst our military leaders, amongst heads of state, but most important to him are the men and women who wear the uniform of this country.

He carries his legacy, his great family name, his State, his community, and his country. He wears that well on his face. He shoulders it well, but he carries in his heart a love and devotion for the men and women who serve this great country of ours, and everything he has done on this great floor has been on their behalf.

All men and women who serve in our Armed Forces owe such a great debt of gratitude to this humble, passionate servant of our country and the proud standard-bearer of his great State of Missouri in the way that he has held forth on behalf of the citizens he has sworn to serve and the men and women who have represented this great country of ours and who have given the full measure of their devotion.

□ 1810

Like so many here, I love IKE SKELTON. He is a man of the House, a man for the ages because he led with that big heart of his and cared so deeply about people who serve this Nation.

God bless you, IKE SKELTON. We are all better for having served with you.

A TRIBUTE TO IKE SKELTON

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, let me first say that I, too, am here to thank IKE SKELTON for his friendship, for his service to this country, and especially for his friendship to me.

My relationship with IKE SKELTON goes back more than 30 years. I was a teenager when I first met him because he served with my father—both represented the State of Missouri—and I can remember the day he arrived here. I went on through college and happened to wind up serving in the State legislature for 17 years in his district, in Jefferson City, so our paths would cross on occasion.

But ladies and gentlemen, this country will never witness an individual like IKE SKELTON. There will never be another one like him to cast a shadow on this floor. You have served this country and your State well, and you have also given me a great appreciation for our armed services, the men and women who some make the ultimate sacrifice for this country.

As Rev. CLEAVER and others have said, I have also visited Lafayette and have been to IKE's home, but I have also been to the military bases with IKE, to Whiteman Air Force Base where they house the B–1. And he has been my compass in this House on military issues.

He has also been, as Rev. CLEAVER said, a brother to me. I had two sisters, too, IKE. I never had a brother, but if I could ever identify somebody as a brother, it would be you. I know I will miss you. I will miss your guidance, I will miss your mentoring.

We have truly witnessed a legislative giant in our midst. You have done your job, you have done it quite well. I know this won't be the last time that we see each other and I know that you will frequently visit us, but for the Missouri delegation, you were there for all of us.

He was the senior member of the Missouri delegation and never hesitated to