

COMMITTEE PRINT
112th Congress No. 5

A Ceremony
Unveiling the Portrait
of
THE HONORABLE
IKE SKELTON

*A Representative in Congress from the Fourth District of Missouri
January 3, 1977–January 5, 2011*

*Elected to Ninety-Fifth Congress and Succeeding Congresses
Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, 2007–2011*



PROCEEDINGS
before the
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

*U.S. House of Representatives
March 5, 2012*

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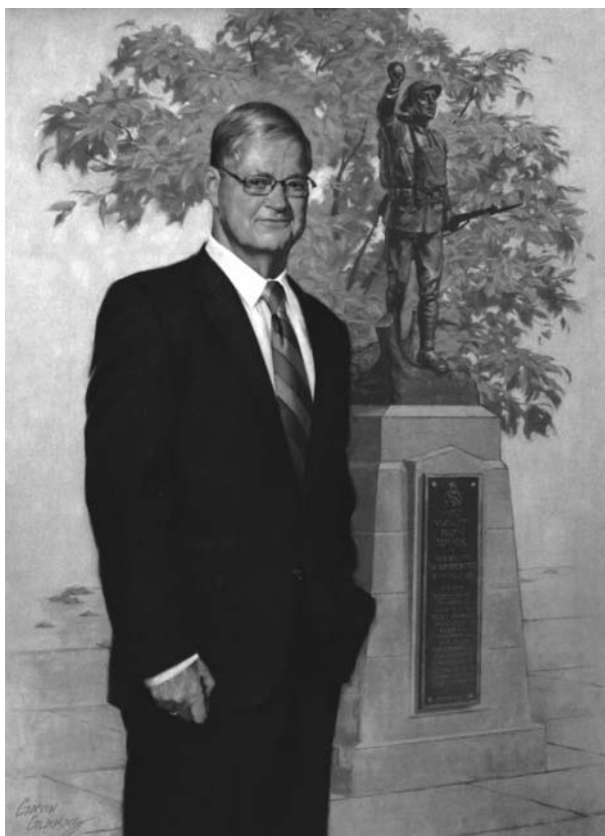
A Ceremony
Unveiling the Portrait
of

**THE HONORABLE
IKE SKELTON**

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Monday, March 5, 2012



THE PORTRAIT

The portrait of Mr. Skelton was rendered by artist Gavin Glakas.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Congressman Ike Skelton (D–MO) represented Missouri’s Fourth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1977 to 2011.

A leader in the House on defense issues, Skelton was appointed to the House Committee on Armed Services in 1981. He served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Forces and Personnel from 1993 to 1994, and as the subcommittee’s ranking member from 1995 to 1998. After serving as the full committee’s ranking member from 1998 to 2006, Skelton held the gavel as chairman of the Committee on Armed Services from 2007 to 2011.

Skelton was a key player in the passage of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. A champion for Professional Military Education, Skelton chaired a House Panel on Military Education in 1987 and 1988, and was known as Congress’ chief advocate for better strategic thinking and improvements in the military’s intermediate and senior level educational programs. During his time on the committee, Skelton warned against further cuts in the defense budget and focused on efforts to improve military pay, health care, and quality of life for service members and their families. He also was instrumental in the enactment of the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, which overhauled the defense procurement process.

Missouri’s Fourth Congressional District is home to Fort Leonard Wood, Whiteman Air Force Base, and the Missouri National Guard Ike Skelton Training Site. Skelton played a vital role in the creation of the Maneuver Support Center at Fort Leonard Wood, and in bringing the U.S. Army Engineer, Chemical, and Military Police Schools to that post. He also helped to secure many new missions for Whiteman Air Force Base, including the B–2 Stealth Bomber and the MQ–1 Predator control mission.

Reflecting his longtime interest in military affairs and military history, Skelton developed his own National Security Book List, a compilation of books Skelton recommends as required reading to all officers in the Armed Forces, to Members of Congress, and to those interested in national security issues. He is the author of *Whispers of Warriors: Essays on the New Joint Era*, published by the National Defense University Press, a compilation of 12 articles written by Skelton that were previously published in military journals, including *Aerospace Power Journal*,

Joint Force Quarterly, Military Review, Naval War College Review, Parameters, and Strategic Forum.

A native of Lexington, Missouri, Skelton is a graduate of Wentworth Military Academy and the University of Missouri at Columbia where he received A.B. and L.L.B. degrees. He was named as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Law Review. Prior to his election to Congress in 1976, Skelton served as Lafayette County Prosecuting Attorney and as a Missouri State Senator. From 1961 to 1976, he was a partner in the law firm of Bradley, Skelton, and Schelp in Lexington, Missouri.

In 2011, Skelton became a partner in the Husch Blackwell law firm, which has offices across the United States, including Kansas City, Missouri, and Washington, DC. He is a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission, an advisor to the Center for New American Security, a distinguished professor at the National Defense University, and a trustee of the Harry S. Truman Library Foundation.

Skelton is an Eagle Scout, a member of Sigma Chi social fraternity, a Lions Club member, and a former elder of the First Christian Church in Lexington. He and his late wife Susan Anding Skelton have three sons and five grandchildren. In 2009, he married Patricia Martin Skelton, also of Lexington, Missouri.

THE ARTIST

Gavin Glakas

Gavin Glakas grew up in Bethesda, Maryland, and studied at Washington University in St. Louis and the Slade School of Fine Art in London.

Following graduation, Glakas spent a year and a half working on Capitol Hill for Senator Harry Reid. He had planned to go to law school, but after an 8-month illness culminating in the removal of a tumor from his lung at the age of 24, he decided to pursue his lifelong ambition of a career as an artist.

Glakas began showing his work in galleries almost immediately and has won numerous honors for his artwork, including awards from the Portrait Society of America and the Butler Institute of American Art. His paintings have been featured in *American Art Collector*, *International Artist*, and *Art Business News* magazines and exhibited at museums and galleries throughout the country.

Glakas' portraits hang in the United States Capitol, Georgetown University, the Ratner Museum, and the Society of the Four Arts Museum in Palm Beach, as well as numerous private collections.

The artist lives in Washington, DC, where he paints full-time and also teaches figure painting and drawing at the Yellow Barn Studio in Glen Echo, Maryland.

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PROGRAM

*345 Cannon House Office Building,
6:30 P.M., March 5, 2012*

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES:

*Mr. Jack Pollard
Chief of Staff to the Honorable Ike Skelton, 1983 to 1998
Mr. Terry Turner*

INVOCATION:

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver II

REMARKS:

*The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member, House Committee on Armed Services
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson
Representative from Missouri
The Honorable Gene Taylor
Representative from Mississippi
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Democratic Whip
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader*

INTRODUCTION OF THE ARTIST:

Mr. Gavin Glakas

ACCEPTANCE OF THE PORTRAIT:

House Fine Arts Board

UNVEILING OF THE PORTRAIT:

Mrs. Patty Skelton

REMARKS:

The Honorable Ike Skelton

Unveiling Ceremony of Portrait of

**THE HONORABLE
IKE SKELTON**

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC.

Mr. POLLARD. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the unveiling of the official portrait of Chairman Ike Skelton.

I am Jack Pollard. In addition to being a former member of Chairman Skelton's staff, I have the honor of serving as co-chair of the Ike Skelton Portrait Committee. The other co-chair is Terry Turner, and our plans were that we would share the master of ceremonies duties for tonight's event. But after returning from 4 days in Arizona late last night, Terry was summoned to a meeting in the Maritime Trades Department of the AFL-CIO in Florida beginning today, so early this morning he boarded the plane to Florida. And you have to admire his willingness to take one for the team.

There are many people involved in preparing an official portrait and planning an unveiling reception. If I tried to thank them all, we would be here all night, and I would leave somebody out. However, many of those who deserve thanks are listed in the program, which I hope you got on your way in.

As many of you know, official portraits of committee chairmen are not financed with public funds, but rather through the generosity of various organizations and individuals. The corporations, labor unions, and individuals who have donated, or have pledged to donate, to Ike's portrait are listed in our program.

We will hear from some outstanding guest speakers leading up to the unveiling of the portrait, but first I will ask Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II, Ike's friend and former colleague in the Missouri delegation, to deliver the invocation.

Congressman Cleaver.
[Applause.]

INVOCATION BY HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER II

Mr. CLEAVER. Good evening.

If you experience the vastness of this crowd, there are two things that should come to your mind: One, the love and respect that we all

have, and those who couldn't get in this room, for Ike Skelton. And number two, you should not say anything negative about anybody from Missouri. There is a great chance that somebody from Missouri is standing next to you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Lord of mercies, we come to You this evening in thanksgiving. We bless Your name and give You thanks for allowing Ike Skelton, Your servant and Your son, to pass this way. Your love has so touched Isaac Newton Skelton that the roots of his human existence have grown deep in the soil of service to his community and to his Nation.

Everliving and evergiving God, You made us a part of what You are doing in this world. And it is worth saying, O God, to You, that You are doing a lot, and that Your servant, Ike has given meaning to the life of Ike Skelton. And may the offering that he has brought to You through his service provide blessings even to unborn generations of Americans. Bless him and his family.

And O, God, as I sign off this prayer, I ask that You allow us to understand, as this portrait is unveiled, that those who serve deserve. Amen.

Mr. POLLARD. It is always a pleasure for me to be able to introduce our first guest speaker, who, in addition to his remarks, has an important official function to perform tonight. He and his staff have done so much to make this event a success. Let me introduce the current chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, Congressman Buck McKeon of California.

[Applause.]

REMARKS OF HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services

The CHAIRMAN. I have been to a few of these before, and I have never seen such a huge turnout. And one of them was for me.

Ike, we don't need any words. This is an honor to you, all the people that are here to celebrate your—as Duncan called it—hanging. It is great to be here.

The old committee chairman looks like he is still a kid.

Mr. DELLUMS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. And I saw Duncan here. Duncan is back there. Ralph Hall. Who is that behind you there, Ralph?

You know, I probably met Ike almost 20 years ago when I first came to Congress, but my first real recollection of him is one year we stayed here for the Fourth of July celebration, and we sat right next to Ike and his family, my wife and I. It was the only time we have stayed for the Fourth of July celebration, though, the fantastic show that they held out on the Mall and the fireworks and everything. And it poured.

I mean, it really poured, the whole time. We had our umbrellas, and we were taking turns, you know, putting water down each other's necks, backs. And I saw Ike relate to his children and grandchildren, and I was really impressed.

And then as I got this job, I became the ranking member when John McHugh became the Secretary of the Army, and I got to work with Ike as my chairman, and my respect for him grew. I mean, I already thought he was a great man, but I got to travel with him around the world on a couple different CODELs. The guy is so humble that he always was concerned about everybody else. He never worried about himself. And that was just so impressive.

And when we would meet with leaders of other countries, military leaders or privates, it didn't matter. He treated everybody the same, with great dignity, with great respect. And everywhere we went, they loved him.

And I was so impressed by he always had the right things to say. You know, I don't know when he ever took the time to study. I guess he spent a lot of his time before he came here, because his knowledge of history and of the military—he gave me a book, a list of books to read, 50 books. I think I have read two of them.

But my association with Ike, with him as chairman and me as ranking member, was way too short. Not really, just kidding. But I was thinking he would be the ranking member. And it was a very interesting election. Almost the whole top row. You know, it could happen again in a few months. The country is really, you know, kind of upset with all of us around here right now. I heard somebody interviewed say that—I think it was Paul Ryan on TV. They said, “You know, you are down to 10 percent.” He said, “It couldn't be. I don't think we are that high.”

Anyway, my friend, my chairman of the Committee on Armed Services for the last 4 years, it is just an honor to be here and, as chairman of the committee, to accept this portrait of Ike. It will be hanging in our committee room tomorrow morning for our hearing. And, Ike, it is just great to be able to call you friend, somebody I will always look up to. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. The House Committee on Armed Services has a well-deserved reputation for bipartisanship, which has continued under the leadership of Chairman McKeon and our next speaker. Please welcome another former colleague of Ike's on the House Committee on Armed Services, the current ranking member, Congressman Adam Smith of Washington.

[Applause.]

REMARKS OF HON. ADAM SMITH

Ranking Member, Committee on Armed Services

Mr. SMITH. Thank you. It is a great honor to be here. I came to Congress 15 years ago now and the pleasure of serving on the Committee on Armed Services, and I could not have had a better Member to look up to than Ike Skelton for that entire time. When I first got here, actually Mr. Dellums was the ranking member, who set a great example, and Mr. Skelton picked that up and kept going with it.

If you are a new Member of Congress, if there are any in the crowd or people who have been here, and you want to know, how do you do this job, you can look at the way Ike Skelton did this job, and you can understand exactly what it means to be a public servant. More than anything, Ike cares about people, and he did his job that way. He always knew, whatever the issues, whatever was going on, you treat people decently, and you take care of them. And Ike did that on the committee as the ranking member and as the chairman with incredible dignity, an example that we should all follow.

I guess the two things I remember most about Ike from his service is, number one, it was always about the troops. I traveled with Ike a lot. I never traveled with anyone who was laserlike focused on how are you taking care of the troops? Whether serving overseas, serving here, retired, active duty, Guard, or Reserve, I can honestly say during my time in Congress, there is no greater champion of the men and women who serve this country and the armed services than Ike Skelton.

The second thing is he made this committee stick to its bipartisan roots. Now, he wasn't alone in that; a lot of folks behind me and a lot of folks out in the audience did that. It is a tradition that is carried on from chair and ranking member, throughout my entire time here.

But as some of you might be aware, as Buck alluded to with the approval rating and everything, it is not always easy to maintain bipartisanship. Although you may not be aware of this, we have our differences as parties. They crop up every once in a while. So you have to be a very, very strong leader, and you have to prioritize bipartisanship to make it work, and Ike did that time and time again.

And I think that all those of us who serve on the Committee on Armed Services, I think have one thing in common: We think it is the greatest committee in Congress. And it is people like Ike Skelton who made it that way. It has been just an incredible honor to serve with him and to have him as a mentor. He personifies what public service is all about. And like I said, he understood how important our military was and, more important than anything, the men and women who served it.

And I am honored that Ike would give me a couple minutes to say a few words. And I look forward tomorrow morning to look up and

seeing his portrait down in our Committee on Armed Services. It is great to see him. And congratulations, Ike. Thank you so much for all you have done for this country.

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri was Ike's colleague in the Missouri delegation for 16 years. They represented adjoining districts and worked together to do so much for Missouri. But the real reason she is here is she has been Ike's longtime personal friend.

Congresswoman Emerson.

[Applause.]

REMARKS OF HON. JO ANN EMERSON
Representative from Missouri

Mrs. EMERSON. I miss Ike, and I know so many of you all do, too. I miss his presence and his companionship in this House of Representatives.

You know, I have lots of stories that I could tell about Ike. I don't think I should tell but a couple. During the time that my late husband was in Congress, he and Ike became dear, dear, dear friends, and Bill used to drive Ike in to work almost every single day. And when I used to live out in McLean, I would bring Ike in, too, many, many times. And I will never forget—and, Ike, I don't know if you remember this, but remember when President Bush was calling me on the phone—we were on the George Washington Parkway. Of course I shouldn't have been talking on my cell phone. But I get this call, and it is from the White House, and I said, "Ike, oh, my gosh, I know the President is calling me about this particular issue, and I am going to have to tell him no." And he goes, "Okay. Calm down." He said, "Calm down. Just be very direct, and be very honest, and be very gracious, and it will be fine." And I was panicked because it would have been the first time that I actually had to tell the President no.

But anyway, so he dials me, and I answered the phone. "Hi Mr. President. How are you?" "Fine." Chitchat. And then he says, "Well, I was just calling you about Medicare D." And it is not important whether or not people voted for it or not. But anyway, and he said, "I just wanted to tell you that I really need your help." And I said, "Well, Mr. President, I love you, my family loves you, but I can't help you now." And Ike is going, "Yeah, yeah, that is the right way to say it." But he saved me because I really would have stumbled around. And so it was really interesting because the President was lovely about it and said, "Okay, well, thanks anyway. Bye." I got a phone call later from somebody on the staff who was not as gracious.

But I have to tell you one other fun story about Ike. I was driving him home. This is many years ago, back when President Clinton was

still in office. And I was talking about how one of the legislative guys was up seeing me and, I guess, the small group of us who would be considered moderate Republicans. We were back really in favor at that particular time in our lives.

So I was telling Ike about this meeting I had with White House staff. He goes, "Really?" He said, "You know, I have never met with any of President Clinton's legislative staff." And I am saying, "Really?" And he goes, "Yeah." And I said, "Okay. Well, let me set up a meeting for you." And I am thinking, wait a second. But, yeah, it was an interesting time. So he got his meeting, and everything was great.

But needless to say, it was for me very sad when I knew that I wasn't going to be able to continue serving with Ike. On those drives back and forth, I mean, that is precious time that I had that other people wouldn't have had.

And I learned so much from Ike, particularly about history. And I realize that all of the history teachers I had had in high school and professors in college couldn't teach me a thing, but I learned an awful lot from Ike both from his personal experience and from his historical knowledge.

And, Ike, I am sorry. I have not gotten through any of the books on your top 50 list, but I want to tell you this portrait, which we will get to see in just a moment, is going to mean an awful lot to so many of us. It will be a significant presence in the committee room. And I am so grateful for your friendship, Ike, and for the leadership that you have really shown me and so many others. And I hope that the many lessons that you have imparted to us are remembered for a long, long time. Thanks.

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. Now, I was actually in Ike's office when he invited our next guest speaker to speak at tonight's unveiling. And the response was, "I am honored. I will be there." Not "maybe," not "let me check my schedule." And he has made a great sacrifice to be with us today because, as you can see, he has on a coat and tie and regular shoes. Please welcome back Congressman Gene Taylor.

[Applause.]

REMARKS OF HON. GENE TAYLOR
Representative from Mississippi

Mr. TAYLOR. You forgot to mention the socks.

I tell you, I am absolutely honored to be here. I am honored to be in the presence of some of our former chairmen. I was lucky enough to serve with six great chairmen. And I think it is a great honor that both of the living former chairmen are here tonight.

Thank you for being here with us, Ron.

And, Duncan, if you are still here, thank you for a great job.

I went and visited with the staff today, trying to put my remarks together, and asked them a simple question: "Can you ever remember a single time that Ike Skelton said 'I?'" Because if you think about it, in all the years that I have known him, up until August of 2005, it was always "Susie and I." And now after Susie's death, it is "Patty and I." But here is a man responsible for a \$500 billion budget who never once said, "I want." It was always, "What is best for the troops? What do the men and women in uniform need? What is it that we can explain to the American people that this is in their best interest?"

Ike hosted a meeting with Stephen Ambrose one day. He was up in town looking for money for the D-Day Museum, and he went around the room. And finally, Ike had his chance to ask him a question. He said, "Dr. Ambrose, what was it that was different about the American GI?" And Stephen Ambrose looked at him and he said, "When the Japanese came into a town, terrible things were going to happen. Women were going to get raped. Kids were going to get bayoneted. Old people were going to be murdered. The same thing with the Nazis. But when the GIs came into a town, things were going to be okay."

For the decades that he served on the committee, when people went to Ike with a problem, whether it was one trooper who deserved a Purple Heart, a unit that needed a piece of equipment, a ship that needed to be built, an airplane that needed to be built, health care for—first for our retirees and then for guardsmen and reservists, when you knew if you made a decent case to Ike Skelton, things were going to be okay. He was going to make it right.

So, Ike, for your many, many years of service to our country, but, most of all, for making things okay for the men and women in uniform, thank you and God bless you.

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. No one should be in the unenviable position of following remarks by Congressman Taylor, but our next guest speaker is one of the few who is up to the task. We are honored to have with us the distinguished Democratic Whip, Congressman Steny Hoyer of Maryland.

[Applause.]

REMARKS OF HON. STENY HOYER

House Democratic Whip

Mr. HOYER. Thank you very much, Jack.

At 17, he attended the inauguration of Harry S. Truman. Truman, as all of you know, is not here tonight, but if he were, he would be saying to all of us, "Well done, my friend from Missouri. Well done." He would be proud of our friend.

I am sure Gavin Glakas is here.

You had an extraordinarily difficult task. sir. The quality of the character of Ike Skelton. The visage, I am sure you got right. I haven't seen the portrait, and I am convinced that you will get the character right as well.

Ike Skelton is my brother. He and I are Sigma Chis. And we have one other Sigma Chi in the audience. Missouri has been well served. I love Ike Skelton. And I want to observe that I am so pleased that one of Missouri's favorite sons is here to honor Ike as well, our friend, the former Democratic leader and my candidate for President a couple of times, Dick Gephardt from Missouri.

[Applause.]

Mr. HOYER. Ike, I carry around our little card here that is the Jordan Standard. There were seven founders of Sigma Chi, and Jordan was one of the founders, and he wrote a standard of what they were looking for in people to ask them to join together in this fraternity. There are seven standards: A man of good character. How extraordinarily well Ike Skelton and the four generations of Skeltons who are Sigma Chis complied with that requirement.

A student of fair ability. Now, Ike went a little overboard with respect to that, and he became a Phi Beta Kappa. There weren't a lot of us in that category.

With ambitious purpose. But Gene Taylor said it right: His ambitious purpose was not for Ike Skelton; it was for his country and the troops who kept it free.

Always, as Gene Taylor said, a congenial disposition. My, how they got it right on Ike Skelton. Never an angry word, always a listening ear, always an understanding heart.

Possessed of good morals. In a time when the country is very concerned about its government—not in terms of partisanship, but just its government—Ike Skelton has been an example of honesty, integrity, patriotism, compassion, and service.

Having a high sense of honor. My, how well that describes my friend Ike Skelton.

And a deep sense of personal responsibility.

That is what the brothers of Sigma Chi were looking for when they voted to accept Ike into their company. None of them could possibly understand how their brother Ike Skelton would so extraordinarily well represent those standards.

Ike, you have served our country well. You were blessed with Susan and now blessed with Patty. Thank you. Thank you. A great American, Ike Skelton.

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. It is now time for our final guest speaker. She has the distinction of having been the highest ranking woman in the history of the United States Government. It is my honor and privilege to intro-

duce the current Democratic Leader, former Speaker, Nancy Pelosi of California.

[Applause.]

REMARKS OF HON. NANCY PELOSI

House Democratic Leader

Ms. PELOSI. Good evening, everyone. We always seem to have a little problem with the acoustics in Cannon, and I hope that you have heard everything that has been said about this great man.

It is an honor for all of us, Mr. Chairman, to be with you this evening, to be with you and Patty and your family for the unveiling of your portrait. It is a real testament, an eloquent statement of friendship and respect and admiration that so many people are here tonight. In fact, we outgrew the Armed Services room. Two former chairmen, Mr. Dellums and Mr. Hunter—there he is, Duncan Hunter—and so many members of the Missouri delegation, including our esteemed former Democratic Leader of the House.

The current chairman of the committee spoke so beautifully about your bipartisanship, as did our ranking member as well, Mr. Smith. So it is an honor for me to join them, to join Mr. Hoyer and others, in singing your praises.

Steny mentioned that 63 years ago, you traveled from Missouri, from Lexington, Missouri, to the United States Capitol to see President Harry Truman inaugurated for his second term. That day President Truman spoke about the importance of leading with humility. Leading with humility would come to define this young man's career in public service, because that young man was Ike Skelton, who embodied Midwestern humility and patriotic leadership throughout his 34 years in the House of Representatives.

In 1962, President Truman himself would personally urge Ike to run for Congress. Though it took 14 years for Ike to take the President's advice, when he ran, he won, in 1976. He did so with the endorsement of Mrs. Bess Truman.

Congressman Skelton's highest inspiration in Congress was to be the chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, and how proud we all were, and happy, the day he took the gavel of the committee. He knew that protecting the American people is our first responsibility. We take that oath of office to protect and defend, and he helped us honor that responsibility every day he was here, especially as chairman.

He worked against what he called the chasm between those who protect our freedoms and those who are being protected. Our troops were first in his mind. My colleague from Mississippi, Mr. Taylor, has addressed that. As all of us who served with him knew, those troops were first and foremost officially, professionally for him. But he was very excited about his family, their service to our country, and their barbecue

sauce, which I have in my kitchen. As a reminder, I could use a little more, Ike.

But back to our men and women in uniform, including his own children, Ike always treated our men and women in uniform as if they were sons and daughters to him. Indeed, again, his own son, Ike, Jr., is a Navy captain and Jim an Army colonel.

Others have spoken about traveling with Ike, and I had that privilege. And it is true, when our troops saw him, they knew they saw their champion. And we have traveled abroad with him, visited our troops in theater, visited them in hospitals, in Germany, wherever. But I will never forget a trip that I took with Ike—it has to be a decade ago—to his own district, to Fort Leonard Wood, to Camp Whiteman. And there we met the pilots, we met the soldiers, we met everyone. But we met the community. They turned out by the hundreds for a community luncheon, a tradition there in friendship to the Army base and Camp Whiteman.

And we know how respected Ike Skelton is in the Congress. We know the esteem in which he is held by everyone who served with him. It was wonderful to see the esteem in which he was held in his own district at that base because they knew the man had arrived. He came. It was just really remarkable to see how universally respected he was. He knew almost everybody on a first-name basis. He took great pride in what he was able to do for the base. I don't think any of them were earmarks or anything like that. But nevertheless, whatever it was, he made a tremendous difference.

I don't know how they do it in Armed Services, but it was magical. And our troops then were—they were flying into the theater every day, weren't they, Ike, at that time? They were flying in and coming right back to Missouri within 24 hours, 48 hours. So they were in danger, but they were thrilled to see Ike Skelton.

So I know that I speak for all of our Members of Congress. And we have acknowledged our chairman. I want to acknowledge some of the women here: Susan Davis, Madeleine Bordallo, some of the women members of his committee who are here to pay their respects to him as well.

I know in this case, Ralph Hall, my friend, that I can speak for Democrats and Republicans alike when I say that it has been an honor for each and every one of us to call Ike Skelton colleague, and a privilege for some of us to call him and Patty dear friends.

Congratulations on a well-deserved honor, Ike Skelton. Congratulations. Thank you.

[Applause.]

INTRODUCTION OF THE ARTIST

Mr. POLLARD. There could have been no artist more appropriate to paint Ike's official portrait than Gavin Glakas. We have all known about Gavin since 1983, when his uncle Tommy Glakas began a long career on Ike's staff as a military legislative assistant and later as Democratic staff director on the House Committee on Armed Services.

Gavin is a native of the Washington, DC, area, but he had the good judgment to pursue his higher education in the State of Missouri at Washington University in St. Louis, where he received a bachelor of arts with a major in history and a minor in painting. I would have said "great judgment" if Gavin had just chosen to pursue his education at a location about 120 miles west of St. Louis.

Like many of us here tonight, Gavin worked on Capitol Hill as a legislative correspondent for Senator Harry Reid. But unlike most of us, certainly me, he had a gift. After a serious illness, he decided to develop that gift and pursue his goal of becoming an artist on a full-time basis. He studied at the Slade School of Fine Art in London, England, and at the Art League in Alexandria, Virginia. And as his portraits and other paintings have been exhibited, his reputation has grown. His portrait subjects include Mrs. Harry Reid, which hangs in Senator Reid's office; and former CIA Director George Tenet, also an uncle, for Georgetown University.

The official portrait of Chairman Ike Skelton will be Gavin's first portrait to be displayed in the U.S. House of Representatives. I predict that it will not be the last. I am happy we have finally reached the end of this portrait process, but I will miss Gavin. I think I speak for everyone on the portrait committee and for Ike when I say that he has been a delight to work with. We wish him continued success in his life and his career.

Ladies and gentlemen, Gavin Glakas.

[Applause.]

Mr. GLAKAS. Thank you.

Thank you, Ike.

Mr. POLLARD. For one time in his life, Congressman Cleaver had it wrong. You probably weren't standing next to necessarily a Missourian; you were probably standing next to a member of the Skelton or Martin family. And Ike has asked that I recognize those members of the family that are here. Two of Ike's sons are here with their families: Colonel Jim Skelton and Anita Skelton with their daughters Sarah and Abigail.

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. Page and Caroline Skelton, their son Page, Jr.

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. Now, not attending because he is stationed in Italy with the U.S. Navy, Ike's oldest son, Navy Captain Ike Skelton, Elena Skelton, and their two boys, Alexander and Conor.

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. Ike's brother and his family are here. I should say Ike's younger brother and his family are here: John and Kathi Skelton, their son John Skelton and—two of their three sons. John Skelton is here, Major Steve Skelton, and Steve's wife Amanda.

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. And we also have Ike's cousin and his wife, Dr. Earl and Francesca Skelton.

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. From Patty's family, we have four daughters, two sons-in-law, and three grandchildren: Julie Sheerman, Cathie Martin, Mary Kozlowski and Jim Kozlowski; Robin Hanley and John Hanley, and their children, Patty Hanley, Carly Hanley, and Jay Hanley.

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. Now for the big moment. Patty, if you will take your position with Ike, and we will unveil this great portrait that Gavin painted.

[Whereupon, the portrait was unveiled.]

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. Well, that was the moment we all were waiting for, but now is the moment Ike has been waiting for. I get to recognize him for a few remarks.

If we had a Hall of Fame for members of the House Committee on Armed Services, Ike Skelton would be in it, even if he had never had the opportunity to be chairman. His accomplishments, many of which are listed in our program, and all of the things our speakers said, they make that very clear. But there is no such Hall of Fame; all we have are these portraits you see on the wall in room 2118 in the Rayburn Building. And the rules are clear: You don't get a portrait unless you have been chairman of the committee. So I am very thankful Ike was able to become chairman. Not only did our Nation get his leadership of this important committee for 4 years, but we also get to have this wonderful portrait to recognize his service.

Those of us here tonight, those of us who worked for him or with him, indeed everyone who knows him, will long remember Ike and all that he has done. But now future generations will be able to see this portrait, and maybe they will ask, "Who is that? What did he do?" And the hope is that they will take the time to learn about this man, his remarkable career, and a life well lived.

Ladies and gentlemen, the person we are all here tonight to honor, Ike Skelton.

[Applause.]

REMARKS OF HON. IKE SKELTON

Mr. SKELTON. Thank you, Jack, and ladies and gentlemen. The famous Roman orator once said that gratitude is the greatest of all virtues. And this evening I am so grateful for this singular honor of unveiling this portrait to the Committee on Armed Services.

I thank my former colleagues, Emanuel Cleaver, Buck McKeon, Adam Smith, Jo Ann Emerson, Gene Taylor, Steny Hoyer, Speaker Pelosi—it is good to see my old friend Dick Gephardt, once again—for their overly generous remarks as well as for their friendship through the years.

My brother John, who is with us here this evening, would agree with me that were our parents still with us, our mother would believe everything my colleagues said, and my father would be amused.

And, Speaker Pelosi, our family will always be grateful to you for your thoughtfulness in planting a tree on the Capitol grounds in memory of my late wife Susie.

[Applause.]

Mr. SKELTON. To Jack Pollard, Terry Turner, and Tami Plofchan, thank you for your hard work in putting this event together and for overseeing this portrait from its inception.

Patty and I are pleased to welcome each one of you to this memorable evening, friends from congressional days, neighbors from Missouri, and family. All of you are making this evening so remarkable to remember.

The young artist Gavin Glakas did a superb job. And I told him initially that I wanted to resemble a movie star like Clark Gable of “Gone with the Wind” fame. And Gavin remarked that he would be pleased to put a moustache on the painting. That ended that conversation. I predict that years ahead, Gavin Glakas will have a lifetime’s worth of portraits throughout Washington.

Gavin, thank you.

Mr. GLAKAS. Thank you, sir.

[Applause.]

Mr. SKELTON. A special appreciation also goes to my Missouri neighbors who elected me to the House for 17 terms, to my dedicated and loyal personal staff, and to the incredibly able professional staff of the House Committee on Armed Services. It is daunting to realize that my portrait will be hanging with all of the outstanding chairmen of this committee who have served since the committee’s inception in 1947.

I first joined the Committee on Armed Services in early 1981 thanks to my mentor and my friend, Missourian Dick Bolling from Kansas City. At that time our country’s military was reeling from the failed Desert One hostage rescue attempt in Iran. I visited some military installations and several ships, and found our military personnel to have low morale, and to be undertrained and underequipped.

During my years on the Committee on Armed Services, we did some good things. We provided excellent training and equipment, family housing, world-class ships and planes, and better personnel and vehicle protection. We passed the Montgomery GI bill. We increased the authority and stature of the Special Forces. We passed the Goldwater-Nichols Act, which restructured the Joint Chiefs of Staff and required jointness across the services. We required the war colleges to increase their rigor and to instruct in jointness, and we reformed the acquisition system.

Our committee was productive and helped our military to be the world's finest. Our counterpart in the other body, the Senate Armed Services Committee, was an excellent partner in this endeavor, especially with the leadership of Sam Nunn, John Warner, Carl Levin, and John McCain.

In anticipation of this evening's event, truly a milestone, I reflected on the good fortune and ironies of my life. I was a high school sophomore at Wentworth Military Academy in my hometown of Lexington, Missouri. It was my dream to attend West Point and to have an Army career. That dream was shattered later that year by a serious illness that landed me as a patient in Warm Springs, Georgia. The irony is that as a Member of the Congress, I nominated cadets to West Point, and I was on the committee that had West Point and the entire military within its jurisdiction.

As a young teenager, I was fascinated with airplanes, and my first job was at the old Lexington airport. My duties included raking the dirt hangars; washing the airplanes, mostly Piper Cubs. My interest with airplanes continued as a Member of Congress, and I successfully urged the Air Force and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to station the new B-2 wing at an airport near my hometown of Lexington, Whiteman Air Force Base.

After graduating from law school, I asked two people to sign my application to become a Missouri bar member, my lawyer father and the highly respected dean of the Lexington lawyers, Horace Blackwell. Horace Blackwell had a son, Menefee Blackwell, who was raised in Lexington and attended Wentworth Military Academy. Menefee went on to graduate from college and law school and began his practice in nearby Kansas City, in 1939. Along came the war, and he went off to the Army, returning as a major and having earned the Silver Star. He founded a Kansas City law firm, which has grown to a national law firm with offices here in Washington and across the country. It is with this firm, Husch Blackwell, that I am now a partner, ironically a firm that has its very roots in my hometown of Lexington, Missouri.

Well, this is a proud moment and a humbling moment all rolled into one. This portrait could well be said to be my legacy. But the work goes on. The poem that came out of the First World War, "In Flanders

Fields," contains the phrase, "We throw the torch; be yours to hold it high." And the torch of national defense is thrown to Buck McKeon and Adam Smith and their colleagues, and I am confident that they will hold it high and make us proud.

President Harry Truman would tell of the grave marker at Tombstone, Arizona, which read, "Here lies Jack Williams. He done his damnedest." In the years ahead when all the names and all the faces on the Committee on Armed Services have changed, it is my sincere hope that some member of the committee, when looking upon this portrait, recalling the challenges of yesteryear, will say, "He done his damnedest."

Thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr. POLLARD. Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes our portrait unveiling ceremony; however, we have the room for a little while longer. The photographer is still here, and Ike has agreed to stay. I know I had to cut off the receiving line, so if any of you want a chance to try to get a picture with Ike and Patty or at least say hello, please feel free to do so. When you do leave, please be sure to pick up a print of the portrait, which will fit nicely inside your program.

Thank you for being with us on this special occasion.

[Whereupon, at 8 p.m., the portrait unveiling concluded.]

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