

coastal areas, including coastal beaches, marine coastal waters, and the Great Lakes, by explicitly designating them as “unusually sensitive areas.” This will bring more stringent safety requirements to these particularly vulnerable areas like my community. Finally, this legislation would require a report examining ways to improve hazardous liquid pipeline safety through integrity management actions, including an analysis of risk factors that may warrant more frequent inspections.

While nothing can take us back to prevent the Plains spill, this bill as a whole is an important, bipartisan effort to protect my and other communities going forward. And that is why I support it. We must embrace this opportunity for the sake of the health and safety of our constituents and the environment.

I would like to thank Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE as well as subcommittee Ranking Member RUSH for working with me to craft a bill that addresses the failures that led to the Plains spill. I would also like to commend staff from both the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for working in a bipartisan and bicameral way to get to this final product.

Our constituents are relying on us. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I hope we are able to send S. 2276 to the President for his signature in the very near future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2276, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DuBOIS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A “SCHOOL TO WATCH”

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students and staff at the DuBois Area Middle School on being named a Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn School to Watch. This is the 12th consecutive year that the middle school has earned this distinction, one of only two middle schools in the State to do so.

The Schools to Watch program was started in 1999 as a national program to identify exceptional middle schools across the country. As part of the program, State teams observe classrooms; interview administrators, teachers, parents, and students; and look at achievement data, suspension rates, quality of lessons, and student work.

DuBois Area Middle School will be formally recognized at an event coming up on June 25 in Arlington at the national Schools to Watch Conference.

Maintaining this level of excellence over more than a decade is hard work. I have the highest respect for the students, the staff, and the administration at the DuBois Area Middle School. I wish them the best of success in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD ALI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, one of the great joys of representing Louisville in the House of Representatives is that I get to constantly claim that I represent Muhammad Ali and the home of Muhammad Ali. It has always been a source of pride not just to me, but to all of my fellow Louisvillians that we could say that the Louisville Lip, the greatest of all time, called Louisville home.

Now one of the brightest lights in the world has extinguished. Muhammad Ali passed away last Friday after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson’s disease, and the world has experienced a collective grief period. The joy of his accomplishments, the recognition of his commitment to peace, to tolerance, to respect, to love, all of those things, have come from all over the world.

□ 1800

So tonight, some of my colleagues and I have come to the floor to talk about Muhammad Ali, his life, his legacy, personal stories, the impact that he has had on our lives and on this country’s life and on the world. He will be laid to rest this Friday in Louisville. Former President Clinton will eulogize him, and many leaders from around the world will be there to pay their respects.

But I go back many, many years. When I was 16 years old, living in Louisville, having watched him—then, Cassius Clay, an 8-to-1 underdog—upset the great, terrifying Sonny Liston in Miami, and then going to the airport the next day to welcome him home.

I stood outside the airport. There weren’t a lot of people there that day. And as Cassius Clay emerged from that terminal and looked around and drew himself up, I said I had never seen a more beautiful human specimen in my life.

So when he called himself not just the greatest of all time, but the

prettiest of all time, I was not going to argue with him. Of course, I wasn’t going to argue with him about much.

That was my first personal exposure to Muhammad Ali. He was a man who gained fame in a violent game, but he earned his immortality as a kind, gentle, and caring soul. In the later years, when I got to know him better and spent more time around him, that is the one thing that always came through: his wonderful soul.

I don’t know that I have ever known a person or seen a person who got more joy out of making a child smile as Muhammad Ali. And there was never a time when he was in the presence of children where he didn’t make an effort to stop, joke with them, play with them. That was a source of incredible joy for him.

So, as we remember Muhammad Ali tonight, we remember not just his boxing prowess. We remember the courage he showed outside the ring.

He came to age in a very, very turbulent period in American history: during the civil rights demonstrations, when America was experiencing a convulsion over how to deal with the issue of race. And then the Vietnam war—a war whose opposition Ali paid a dear price for in 1967—refusing to be drafted into the armed services, knowing that it would cost him his boxing career, understanding that he might well go to jail and never fight again, but willing to stand for principles. And in doing that, I think he turned the country around and made them view the Vietnam war in a different light. It wouldn’t have happened, but for Muhammad Ali. He was not the only one, of course, but he was the most prominent one.

Later, who can forget lighting that torch in the Atlanta Olympics in 1996, shaking from the Parkinson’s disease that he had, but inspiring millions. And, again, making a statement about disabilities that meant so much to so many.

So tonight, as we hear from various Members about Muhammad Ali, I think what will come through is not just, again, his skills as an athlete, but his contributions as a citizen of the world and someone who has left a lasting legacy, not just on people’s lives individually, but on the civilization as a whole.

I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. I want to thank Mr. YARMUTH for putting together this hour. I think it is important that we recognize icons in our society and people who have contributed so much, as you well expressed, to American culture and to the thinking in our country about war, about race, and about people with disabilities. Those are three very, very major areas that Muhammad Ali had a great impact on.

You related back to when you were 16 years old. I was not quite 15 years old. At that time, my family had moved to Coral Gables, Florida. We lived there

from 1961 to 1964. During that period, Muhammad Ali's second home was Miami Beach and the 5th Street Gym.

During that period is when Ali, as Cassius Clay, had won the Olympic gold medal—and I remember him winning the Olympic gold medal in 1960, in Rome—and when his professional career started. He probably started in Louisville, but he was quickly in Miami Beach fighting.

So he was on the news all the time in Miami Beach and on the sports shows and whatever else, but always on TV and a personality in Miami Beach.

My granddad gave me \$20, which was a lot of money, on February 25, 1964, if I remember—and I went to that fight. I was sitting probably in the highest seat in the Miami Beach Convention Center and watching that fighting by myself. My dad wasn't so much into it, but my grandfather gave me that \$20 and I went to it.

I have got my docket. It's a great looking Clay-Liston ticket, in good shape, and a couple of programs from that event, which I am proud to have. I have been a fan of his, and I know how much of an impact he had on our world.

I was also a boxing fan of Floyd Patterson. Floyd Patterson was a previous champion. The first time that Floyd fought Muhammad Ali, I have to admit that I was cheering for Floyd. Floyd didn't do too well. He hurt his back and was taunted by Ali. He wanted him to say his name. And he punished him pretty good through 12 rounds.

But the second time they fought, which was in the early seventies, Patterson did a lot better. They stopped the fight at the end of the sixth or the beginning of the seventh. And it was closer to even. After the fight, as I understand it, Ali told the referee not to stop the fight because Patterson is fighting so well and he should be able to continue fighting and it wasn't fair to stop it.

I saw an interview with then-Cassius Clay with Steve Allen from 1963 that is on the Internet. In that interview, they said something about Floyd Patterson. First, Clay made a joke and he said that Liston knocked him out twice in one round. And Floyd's jaw was somewhat challenged. He said his leg should sue his body for lack of support. And then he kind of stopped and laughed and chuckled and said: I shouldn't say that; I like Floyd. Of course, that was before. Floyd didn't recognize his new name.

Louisville was the home of Cassius Clay/Muhammad Ali. One of the great attractions in Louisville is the Muhammad Ali Center, which I have had the opportunity to visit and go through. You can sit and watch all of Ali's fights, any one of them. Sit in a chair and push a button and there it is. And just watch any fight. I watched that second Patterson-Ali fight. Floyd was doing pretty good through those six rounds.

It is more than for boxing. It is a center. And it is about what he did for

children and there are a lot of displays about what he did for children and what he did for peace and his efforts around the world. I think that is the great thing about Muhammad Ali. They didn't build a boxing museum. They built a center about all of his desires for freedom and for helping people around the globe and showing we are all one.

As he said back in I think January of this year, his religion of Islam was not about San Bernardino and Brussels or Paris or any other place there have been attacks. Islam was a religion of love, and it should be that way. And it was not the religion he knew. Anybody who thought it was that way and wanted to discriminate against people based on their religion were wrong, because it wasn't that type of religion.

So he was still, up until this year, taking positions of conscience to try to steer people in the right direction.

I keep under my glass on my office desk a quote from Muhammad Ali. It is on a postcard that I got at the Muhammad Ali Center. It shows Muhammad Ali in the ring kind of dancing around. And it says: "The fight is won or lost away from witnesses—behind the lines, in the gym, and out there on the road, long before I dance under those lights."

And it made me think about what we do in politics. Our elections are generally not won—if you are serious about your job and your constituents—right before elections. It is done during your term of office and what you do for your constituents and how you vote and what you do for folks, which is the same thing as a fighter being out there in the gym and on the road doing roadwork, hitting the bag, and training.

So Ali is what I look at when I sit down. It is right underneath my desk. And I see that and he kind of guides me—and he guides everybody—in that way, if you think about that. That is what life is about: preparation and having a plan and taking action to implement the plan.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman from Louisville for organizing this Special Order this evening.

I can't think of an athlete who more impacted my life and certainly the lives of people in our generation.

The gentleman from Louisville started in 1960—or maybe it started when you were 16—but watching then-Cassius Marcellus Clay in the 1960 Olympics in Rome—a legendary Olympics that produced so many highlights of American athleticism, from Bob Hayes to Rafer Johnson and, of course, this young, boyish-looking, but eloquent and masterful heavy-weight that moved like nothing else I had ever seen or would ever see since.

My father worked three jobs. About the only time he was home on a Friday night, we would watch the Gillette Sports Hour, which was the boxing matches that would occur.

My dad loved to follow boxing. He was a big Joe Louis and Rocky Marciano fan. Of course, my dad's generation, when Cassius Marcellus Clay came along, were not happy with his poetry and braggadocio manner. As a kid, we thought it was the coolest thing. And I would always remind my dad that he never made a boast that his fists couldn't back up.

And the poetry. He was ahead of his time in terms of rap, but he also was ahead of his time in terms of what he brought to the sport.

As the distinguished gentleman from Louisville pointed out, when he stepped into the ring with Sonny Liston, we all feared for his life. But as it turned out, he had that speed and that endurance and his incredible skills. He did everything that a boxer shouldn't do, but he was able to do it because of the exceptional ability.

How do I know this? We are fortunate to have in this Chamber somebody who was in the ring with Muhammad Ali. He was in the ring with him, Sonny Liston, and Joe Frazier. BOB BRADY of Philadelphia was a sparring partner and used in the ring.

As you all know, BOB BRADY is a pretty big guy. And he also can move. He maybe doesn't look so nowadays, but he still looks pretty fierce. I wouldn't want to get in the ring with BOB BRADY.

But I asked him once to explain what that might have been like. And he was dear friends with Joe Frazier. He said: But you wouldn't get in a ring with Sonny Liston unless you had a lot of people around you. He said he was the meanest person he ever met or got in the ring with in his life.

And I said: What about Muhammad Ali? He said: There is nothing like him. He said he was a freak. I said: What do you mean, a freak? He said: A freak of nature, because of what he was able to do with his speed, with his grace, and the simplistic thing of just being able to move away, from skills that, when you watch these films today, you are in awe of them.

I can remember coming in and talking about the Ali shuffle when we saw him do that against Cooper in England. No one had ever seen anything like that. And when he came back and he got in the ring and he would dance, you just knew that he was going to win—the confidence that he always exuded.

□ 1815

Then, as JOHN YARMUTH pointed out, he became so much bigger than the sport itself because of his conviction, and he did it during a tumultuous time.

The sixties will probably go down and forever be remembered as a great crucible for the history of this country when, converging at the same time were the civil rights movement, an education movement that was spawned by the launching of Sputnik, the civil rights movement that also spawned the antiwar movement, that spawned the

woman's movement, that spawned the ecological movement—all came about during this tumultuous time.

And who was one of the leaders? One of the most recognized faces in America, beyond perhaps John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, was Muhammad Ali, and he brought so much more because of his conviction.

I remember my experience of meeting him for the first time in East Hartford, Connecticut, working at Woodland Auto Body, putting tire black on cars. If you ever had this luxurious duty, you would not appreciate it.

All of a sudden, this gold Toronado pulled into Woodland Auto Body. Now, most of the people who worked at Woodland Auto Body were of African American lineage. I saw this Toronado pull in—and if you know anything about a Toronado, it has one long window—and when they rolled down the window, there was Bundini Brown. He said: Do you know how to get to WINF radio station?

I said: Well, yes, sir. It's just up the street here.

I looked in the back, and there was Muhammad Ali, and I said: The champ.

I said: Wait right here. And I went inside because I knew my coworkers, who certainly enjoyed seeing me have to put tire black on cars—I came running in and I said: Muhammad Ali is out here. The champ is here.

And they looked at me and said: Yeah, right, and Santa Claus is coming also.

But they came out. And emerging from this gold Toronado was this unbelievably gracious human being, of course, at 6 foot 3, certainly towering above me, and even among some of the brothers who were out there talking. But we couldn't believe that he was actually there in our midst.

If you believe there is a certain aura that people have around them, he had it. He was given a gift, and he used it.

That picture that appeared in The New York Times, with so many athletes of the period, the legendary Jim Brown and Bill Russell all sitting at that table, understanding what this youthful but spiritual individual had done not just for Black America, but what he did for the world in terms of speaking truth to power.

I will always remember that grace and elegance and rooting for him, and even being scared to death, in the Rumble in the Jungle, that George Foreman might do him harm, and said, "Oh, my God. What is he doing, hanging on the ropes?" which later became famous for rope-a-dope.

But he was the most unique athlete that I have ever observed in my life. And beyond that unique talent that he brought to the ring, and those skills that he brought to bear with unprecedented grace and ability, he also made the world a better place, as the gentleman from Louisville pointed out, and distinguished himself far beyond what he accomplished in the ring by his simple pleas to America.

I was so happy to see him, in his later years, atone for some of the cruel things he had said during his life to Joe Frazier and to other people and some of the taunts that he did. It just showed the depth and the character of someone we so admired.

I thank the gentleman so much for allowing me the opportunity to share that reminiscence about The Greatest.

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank the gentleman, and since he referenced the poetry and the facts that Muhammad Ali is sometimes actually considered the godfather of rap, I would like to read one thing that he wrote. This is right after the Olympics in 1960:

To make America the greatest is my goal,
So I beat the Russian and I beat the Pole,
And for the USA won the medal of gold,
Italians said, you're greater than the Cassius
of old.

We like your name, we like your game,
So make Rome your home if you will.

I said, I appreciate the hospitality,
But the USA is my country still,
Because they're waiting to welcome me in
Louisville.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. I thank my colleague, Congressman YARMUTH.

Mr. Speaker, to the rest of my colleagues, it is indeed an honor for me to come tonight to share in the life and the legacy of The Greatest, of the champ, of Muhammad Ali.

Like my colleagues, I followed his career and was mesmerized by his wit, his poetry, and, more specifically, his boxing skill.

But for me tonight, it was a special honor when I became a Member of this United States Congress. It was during the 113th Congress and the 44th Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference. During that conference, each member of the Congressional Black Caucus can submit the name of someone they think has made a difference in the lives of others, whether it was for health care, whether it was for civil rights, or making a difference through philanthropy.

As I thought about all of the individuals that I could submit, I was very proud that I submitted the name Muhammad Ali. It was even a greater honor when he received the most votes from my colleagues, and he received one of our Phoenix Awards, named after Ralph Metcalfe.

So when I stood on that stage before thousands and thousands of individuals, including the President of these United States, President Barack Obama, and watched the video that his family sent because he wasn't able to attend that dinner, I sat there, honored and proud because this Black man made a difference in the lives of so many young children, so many adults. And today, we come here and we salute and we honor a great legacy.

So I want to thank you, Congressman YARMUTH, for letting me make this small contribution.

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS. I thank the gentleman from Louisville.

Mr. Speaker, when I heard of the greatest of all time's passing, my heart was filled and heavy because he was very significant in my life. When you just think of him—and I got to meet him first as a young boy. I was about 10 years old.

My dad was a professional boxer. He is one of 49, one of 49 individuals to get knocked out by Rocky Marciano. But that also brought him into the area where he got to know many of the boxers in training, et cetera. He would train in the same gym in New York where Sugar Ray Robinson was, and where Bundini and Youngblood were, who were always in Ali's corner. So I got to see Ali, this Cassius Clay train at an early age, and fell in love with him immediately.

Number one what you could do when you saw Muhammad Ali, at that time you saw a young man who was confident. And yes, as I hear my colleagues talking about his athletic ability and skills, he had all of that.

But what I would like to talk about briefly tonight, what was the highest of esteem for Muhammad Ali was his brain. There is nothing that Ali did that he didn't think about. Everything that he did, there was a reason for it.

When he first saw this wrestler and how people hated him, this George guy, but he saw how all the people were coming to watch and paying all of their money because they were talking, he was talking. He said here's a good way to promote myself and to make sure that he could make some money, and so he did that.

Then he thought about calling and naming the round that he was calling people in and all of that. And so he did all of those things, but there was a reason for it. He was a promoter. He knew what it took. People at that time, many of them wanted to go see the Louisville Lip shut up, but each time he would win.

What I just want to say about Ali, though, his brain and his heart, his brain and his heart. Because throughout my lifetime, I had several times to be with him and to get to know him a little bit. I will just, for brevity of time, talk about one real quick.

I can recall I used to drive him at times when he was in New York. So I would get in the car, and he would get in the car. Of course, he is the funniest guy in the world. He would be telling jokes and doing everything else. So we were driving down the street in Brooklyn, New York. I remember it like it was yesterday. I stopped at a light. All of a sudden, Muhammad is looking around, and he jumps out of the car. He jumps. There were some kids on the corner. He jumps out, and he goes and starts shadowboxing with them. The kids are saying: Oh, the champ, the champ is here, the champ is here.

He would just talk to them. He was encouraging them to go to school and

encouraging them to do good things. I know because when you listened to all of the stories afterwards, individuals were giving personal stories. Never would you see an individual as popular and well known as Ali where an individual could actually talk about a personal story, because Ali wasn't one that was hidden behind bodyguards or this one or that one. He was one that always wanted to be the man on the street involved with people to make a difference in their life. He set an example for individuals.

So I think of the example, too, because of the size of Ali, I heard somebody talking about the rumble in the jungle. I used to go up to the camp and watch them train in Deer Lake. I was there when he was training for George Foreman. I was there, stayed up there for about a week. There, again, talk about consciousness, he had these huge rocks, talking about all of the great African American fighters before him because he never forgot who he was or where he came from, but he had these rocks there, and he was in the gym training.

I can remember he would get up on the ropes. He put his hands up, and Angelo Dundee would say: Get off the ropes, champ. Get off the ropes. Get off the ropes, champ. You are going to get killed on those ropes.

About the second round of training, he went over, and he said to Angelo: Shut up. I know what I am doing.

Nobody knew what he was doing, but he knew what he was doing. He always outthought everyone. He outthought them. That was the key to this thing, the greatest of all time.

So, Ali, I say this—I say this because I remember you saying this one time to someone:

If you want some gin, I'll get you in 10.

If you like wine, it will be round number nine.

If you think you're great, you'll fall in eight. If you want to go to heaven, it will be round number seven.

But if you want to mix, I'll get you in six.

Talk that jive, you'll fall in five.

If you want to go like old Moore, I'll get you in four.

Mess with me, I'll reduce you to three.

If that won't do, you'll fall in two.

If the crowd wants some fun, you'll fall in one.

Why?

Because I float like a butterfly, and I sting like a bee. That's why nobody mess with Muhammad Ali.

Ali, we love you. We thank you for your contribution not only to Louisville, not only to the United States of America, not only to African Americans and to Africa, but to everyplace on this planet. You are, indeed, God's gift to this great planet. We thank God for your life and times. You will live on forever as the greatest of all time—and the prettiest.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky

(Mr. YARMUTH) for yielding this evening.

I am absolutely embarrassed to come after my friend, Congressman GREG MEEKS.

Why in the world would the gentleman put me on the schedule to come to the podium at this very moment?

But I thank the gentleman, in any event, for his friendship, and I thank the gentleman for his extraordinary leadership. I was in the gentleman's hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, a few weeks ago and absolutely enjoyed going to church with him and meeting many of his friends there in Louisville. The gentleman is a great Member of this body, and I thank the gentleman so very much.

But, Mr. Speaker, I stand with Congressman MEEKS and Congressman COHEN and all of my colleagues today to recognize and to remember a great American, a true American hero. We honor and we remember this extraordinary life and the accomplishments and the countless contributions of Muhammad Ali.

Born just 5 years before me in 1942 in Louisville, Kentucky, Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., was born to Cassius Marcellus Clay and Mrs. Odessa Lee Grady Clay. Those were his parents. On March 6, 1964, when I was a junior in high school, after joining the Nation of Islam, Cassius Clay became known as Muhammad Ali.

□ 1830

Mr. COHEN, I remember it like it was yesterday.

His interest in boxing began at the age of 12 after he reported a stolen bicycle to a local police officer named Joe Martin, who was also a boxing trainer. In 1959, Muhammad Ali was the National Golden Gloves Light Heavyweight Champion and National Amateur Athletic Union champion. After winning his first 19 fights—and that was absolutely incredible, winning his first 19 fights—including 15 knockouts, Muhammad Ali defeated Sonny Liston on February 25, 1964, to become the World Heavyweight Champion.

Muhammad Ali would then become the World Heavyweight Champion in 1964, 1974, and 1978, making him the first fighter to capture the heavyweight title on three separate occasions. In 1981, Muhammad Ali retired from professional boxing and dedicated his life to promoting world peace, fighting for civil rights, hunger relief, and just basic human values.

His humanitarian work included helping secure the release of 15 U.S. hostages. Many of my colleagues may have forgotten about that, but Muhammad Ali helped to release 15 U.S. hostages held in Iraq during the first Gulf War, four hostages held in Lebanon, and conducted goodwill missions to Afghanistan and to Cuba. Muhammad Ali even had the distinct honor of traveling to South Africa to meet Nelson Mandela following President Mandela's release from prison.

Ali received numerous awards in his life following his boxing career, including being inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, receiving the Arthur Ashe Courage Award by ESPN, the Essence Living Legend Award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005 by then-President George W. Bush. The footage of that ceremony has been all over the news for the last few days, and I would encourage all of my colleagues to look at it if you haven't. He was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005 by President George W. Bush and the Otto Hahn Peace Medal for his work with the U.S. civil rights movement and the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I have used enough time this evening. I will simply close. I cannot close like my friend, Congressman GREG MEEKS, did a moment ago. That was a masterpiece, and I cannot wait to see the video of his closing on another day. It was extraordinary.

But I will conclude by saying that Muhammad Ali, the greatest of all time, was not only a champion in the boxing ring, but a champion of human rights and civil rights, who, during a difficult time in our Nation's history, stood on principle to end racism and bigotry in this country.

Muhammad Ali, we love you. May God bless you, and may God bless your family.

To the fans of Muhammad Ali all across the world, I thank you for supporting this great American, and I thank you for allowing us to come into your homes and be a part of this tribute this evening.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank both of my colleagues for allowing me to come before this body to speak on behalf of the people of the city of Chicago, the people of the First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that although Muhammad Ali was and is a native of Louisville—that is his birthplace—I must also claim that Chicago is his adoptive city. He spent many, many years in Chicago. He bought a home on South Kenwood Avenue in my district.

Mr. Speaker, as a young man, a young civil rights activist myself, I can't even express the pride that I had when I would travel down the street and point out to my young sons and anybody else who was with me that that is where Muhammad Ali lives. He was a man of the neighborhoods in Chicago. He touched many people—young people, old people, and people who didn't necessarily share his same political or religious ideas, but he touched them anyhow.

Mr. Speaker, Muhammad Ali was a man for all seasons. Yes, he achieved prominence in the boxing arena, in the sweet science of boxing, but he

achieved greatness because of the life that he led both inside of boxing and outside of boxing.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday afternoons, many of us who had few heroes would gather around television sets and watch Muhammad Ali fight in the heavyweight division against other fighters and other boxers. One of his predictions came true when he defeated and knocked out his opposition in the time that he said he would, and there was a collective cheer that you could hear throughout the neighborhoods of Chicago.

He meant something to me. He meant something to others. Muhammad Ali not only achieved, worked hard, and sacrificed for excellence, but he also inspired excellence in others.

Muhammad Ali would walk down some of the main thoroughfares in Chicago: 47th Street, 79th Street, and Madison Avenue. He would walk down those streets, and the crowds would just gather around him and follow him. His beam in his eyes, the halo and the charisma that he had just made for an exciting time, a grand time for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, Muhammad Ali not only was a great boxer, but he was indeed a man for all times. Look at his following not just in Louisville, not just on the south and west sides of Chicago, but all across the Nation, all across the world, foreign countries, African countries specifically. The same kind of enthusiasm that he inspired, the same kind of reverence that he inspired to the young men and young women in Chicago, you could see the same kind of inspiration ran up in the Congo, in Nigeria, in Zaire, and in other places all across the world.

Mr. Speaker, when he retired, I remember as a freshman here in Congress when we had a session and we honored the 50 greatest athletes of the century. Here were some great athletes, but the one who I wanted to be with, the one who I was most excited about, the one who I wanted to be photographed with was only Muhammad Ali. Bart Starr, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and many, many others were here; but Muhammad Ali was here, and he kind of sucked the air out of the room.

Later, Mr. Speaker, when I chaired the Annual Legislative Conference, for the dinner, the gala—I chaired the gala—I was so honored that he came to me to accept an award from the Congressional Black Caucus with his lovely wife, Lonnie; another great time, another great memory.

But, Mr. Speaker, the greatest honor, the greatest moment of inspiration, my most profound memory of Muhammad Ali was when he refused to go to fight in the Vietnam war. I think, in my humble opinion, had he just been a great champion—we have had other great champions who are African American: Jack Johnson, Sugar Ray Robinson, and many others, many, many others who are great champions. But Muhammad Ali wasn't just a

boxer. He didn't just inspire others to take up boxing.

I was a political activist in the sixties, and Muhammad Ali spoke to the quintessential aspect of all my activism when he said: Hell no, I won't go. Hell no, I won't go. No Vietnamese have ever called me the N word.

And he said it. I don't want to say it on the floor, but he said it.

□ 1845

Mr. Speaker, from that moment on, he solidified his appeal, his essence, his relationships; he solidified himself with all of the struggling people of the Nation, of the world.

Let me just say this: I thought about Muhammad Ali when I heard of his death, and I thought of trying to recapture some of my memories of him—how he walked, his gait, how he talked. I remember his size. I remember the face that was also a beautiful face. He was proud of how he looked.

But, Mr. Speaker, I guess what inspired me most about Muhammad Ali was how he did not surrender his faith, surrender his belief, surrender his core values to the U.S. Selective Service which drafted him.

Mr. Speaker, I don't remember the names of the men who were on that Selective Service committee. I don't remember anything about them. They thought that they were destroying The People's Champion, but they could not destroy The People's Champion. He rose even above all of those people who were officially appointed to bring him down. Nobody could knock out Muhammad Ali, in a real sense.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding, and I thank all of my friends.

We are friends when we come to celebrate someone as potent and powerful and, certainly, symbolic. But we should really recognize that The Greatest, Muhammad Ali, who had many homes—many of us can claim having had the privilege of him walking through many of our streets—was a husband, father, grandfather, and son to all of his family members that loved him.

Today I offer my deepest sympathy to his beautiful wife who worked so hard to create the Muhammad Ali Center, all of his children who gained his magnificent talents in many different forms and capacities, to be able to now not only suffer this loss, but mourn someone who probably in their life created such a space for so many years.

I rise today to join in celebrating—for that is what I would like to do—The People's Champion. He was truly the voice of a generation, advocating for the ending of inequality regarding African Americans, but as well, I believe he stood for opposing injustices all around the world.

The three-time world heavyweight boxing champion helped define the tur-

bulent times in which he reigned as the most charismatic and controversial sports figure of the 20th century. We all know that he was born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr.

Over the past 30 years, he had his own boxing battle. I believe that time after time he knocked out Parkinson's disease because he lived with it, he let others know that they could live with it, and he worked every day to support the advocacy groups who were trying to battle Parkinson's.

I am reminded of a gold medal at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome and being crowned the World Heavyweight Champion so many times. As I had watched him over these past years, the admiration and affection and respect grew much more looking at him as the iconic figure, the real spirit of can-do, the best of America, a man whose faith was very special to him, so much so that he was a conscience objective which was not understood. That Selective Service committee was right in Houston, Texas. He walked those streets, his case was tried there, and victory came because he refused to yield on his principles.

As one of his noteworthy opponents, Floyd Patterson, told author David Remnick some years ago: "I came to see that I was a fighter and he was history."

Ali traded banter with United States presidents and world leaders alike, verbally sparring with musical greats—The Beatles—and shaking hands with Mother Teresa.

His greatest triumph lies in his legacy as a champion, leader, social activist, and humanitarian, but also a mentor by distance of so many boys and girls, particularly our young men.

In my own hometown, a young boxer by the name of Eric Carr, first met him with one of our great sports figures, Lloyd Wells, down at the Hyatt Regency. He said that when the champ met him, the champ treated him like a longtime friend. He played around with him, maybe boxed with him. I may be adding something to it. But Eric Carr, as the day went on—it was in the boxing beginnings of his life—told him he wanted to be a champ just like him. Eric Carr went on to win boxing championships, but he will always remember how real Muhammad Ali was.

Let me say that as he fought for the future, he envisioned that we all would enjoy. I love to hear the bantering because it was wisdom of a philosopher.

His greatest triumph, as I indicated, was a humanitarian. At the apex of his career, lauded for his unparalleled physique and mesmerizing moves—I wish I could do a few of those right now—but he is more than a sum total of his athletic gifts.

His agile mind, buoyant personality, brash self-confidence, wouldn't you love him?

I often remember some of those words that he said:

Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. His hands can't hit what his eyes can't see.

Now you see, now you don't. George thinks he will, but I know he won't. Don't count the days; make the days count. I'm young; I'm handsome; I'm fast. I can't possibly be beat.

But then he said:

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.

And so his inspiration continues.

I would often say that as he lived his life, we took joy.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, let me offer you these words, and let me thank him for the life that he has lived. Let me borrow from Shakespeare and say of Muhammad Ali:

He was a man. Take him for all in all. We shall not look upon his like again.

May The Greatest rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding to me. I still see that "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee."

Muhammad Ali, again, rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of boxing legend and social activist Mr. Muhammad Ali, whose words floated like a butterfly and punches stung like a bee, who died Friday at the age of 74.

The people's champion, was truly the voice of a generation, advocating for the African Americans battling racial inequality.

The three-time world heavyweight boxing champion helped define the turbulent times in which he reigned as the most charismatic and controversial sports figure of the 20th century.

The man who would come to be known as the "Greatest of All Time," was born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. on Jan. 17, 1942 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Despite baffling Parkinson's disease for 30 years Muhammad Ali would live a full and consequential life, winning the Gold Medal at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome and being crowned the world Heavyweight champion an unsurpassed three times.

As one of his noteworthy opponents, Floyd Patterson, told author David Remnick some years ago, "I came to see that I was a fighter, while he was history."

Ali traded banter with United States presidents and world leaders alike, verbally sparring with musical greats the Beatles, shaking hands with Mother Teresa.

His greatest triumph lies in his legacy as a champion, leader, social activist and humanitarian.

At the apex of his career, lauded for his unparalleled physique and mesmerizing moves.

He carried into the ring a physically lyrical, unorthodox boxing style fusing speed, agility and power more seamlessly than any boxer before him or since.

But, he was more than the sum total of his athletic gifts; he was a man of uncompromising principles.

His agile mind, buoyant personality, brash self-confidence and evolving set of personal convictions fostered a magnetism that the ring alone could not contain.

A masterful entertainer, Ali captivated audiences as much with his mouth as with his fists, narrating his life with a patter of inventive doggerel.

He was targeted by his country when, in 1966, he exercised his First Amendment right voicing political dissension and concern for humanitarian observation.

Ali was a purposeful fighter, and even more so, a principled human being, once reminding us all that he would, "Fight for the prestige, not for [himself], but to uplift [his] little brothers who are sleeping on concrete floors today in America . . . living on welfare, . . . who can't eat, . . . who don't [have] knowledge of themselves, . . . [and cannot see a] future."

Ali fought for the future he envisioned and that we all enjoy today.

As a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, he refused to be inducted into drafting leading him to be banned from the sport he loved at the height of his career.

His inspiring courage and anti-war stance helped spearhead the growing anti-war movement of the 1960s.

The press called him the Louisville Lip. He called himself the Greatest.

Ali was the most important political-cultural figure to survive the deadly tumult of the 1960s and flourish during the 1970s.

Ali reawakened the American consciousness stating, "Champions are made from something they have deep inside them—a desire, a dream, a vision."

He eventually retired for good in 1981 and after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1984 as the only fighter to be heavyweight champion three times.

In 2005 Muhammad Ali was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush.

Ali received the President's Award from the NAACP soon after Obama's inauguration in 2009.

In 1996, he was trembling and nearly mute as he lit the Olympic cauldron in Atlanta, but his smile induced a thunderous roar in what was one of the most celebrated Olympics moments ever.

His post-boxing humanitarian endeavors include putting his name to many initiatives for peace and humanitarian aid as well as anonymous donations of millions of dollars to a variety of individuals and organizations surpassing race and class barriers.

Despite battling with Parkinson's disease for three decades, he has inspired millions of people.

His work as a humanitarian has been immortalized in the Muhammad Ali Centre.

Explaining his resolve later in life, Ali said that, "All my life, growing up as a little boy, I always said that if I got famous I'd do things for my people that other people wouldn't do."

"I am an ordinary man who worked hard to develop the talent I was given," he said.

He was truly a legend—a statesman of the people.

Muhammad Ali was a product of America but a citizen of the world, at first hated and misunderstood but eventually beloved for the way he carried himself in dignified decline.

He will remain one of the most well-known and respected sports figures of all time—may his legacy be revered.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me borrow from Shakespeare and say of the Muhammad Ali:

"He was a man.

Take him for all in all.

We shall not look upon his like again."

May the "The Greatest" rest in peace.

THE SAYINGS OF MUHAMMAD ALI—THE GREATEST OF ALL TIME

Muhammad Ali, considered to be the greatest heavyweight boxer, died June 3, 2016 in a Phoenix-area hospital.

He was 74 years old.

Here is a list of some of his best quotes (in no particular order):

1. "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. His hands can't hit what his eyes can't see. Now you see me, now you don't. George thinks he will, but I know he won't."

2. "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."

3. "I'm young; I'm handsome; I'm fast. I can't possibly be beat."

4. "Don't count the days; make the days count."

5. "If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it—then I can achieve it." Jesse Jackson said this as early as 1983, according to the Associated Press, and Ali used it in his 2004 book.

6. "It's hard to be humble when you're as great as I am."

7. "It isn't the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out; it's the pebble in your shoe."

8. "If you even dream of beating me you'd better wake up and apologize."

9. "Braggin' is when a person says something and can't do it. I do what I say."

10. "I am the greatest, I said that even before I knew I was."

11. "Only a man who knows what it is like to be defeated can reach down to the bottom of his soul and come up with the extra ounce of power it takes to win when the match is even."

12. "I'm so mean, I make medicine sick."

13. "I should be a postage stamp. That's the only way I'll ever get licked."

14. "Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare. Impossible is not a potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing."

15. "He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life."

16. "A man who views the world the same at 50 as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life."

17. "If they can make penicillin out of moldy bread, they can sure make something out of you."

18. "I shook up the world. Me! Whee!"

19. "I hated every minute of training, but I said, 'Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.'"

20. "At home I am a nice guy; but I don't want the world to know. Humble people, I've found, don't get very far."

21. "A man who has no imagination has no wings."

22. "He's (Sonny Liston) too ugly to be the world champ. The world champ should be pretty like me!"

23. "I am the astronaut of boxing. Joe Louis and Dempsey were just jet pilots. I'm in a world of my own."

24. "I've wrestled with alligators. I've tussled with a whale. I done handcuffed lightning. And throw thunder in jail."

25. "Hating people because of their color is wrong. And it doesn't matter which color does the hating. It's just plain wrong."

26. "It's not bragging if you can back it up."

27. "I'm the most recognized and loved man that ever lived cuz there weren't no satellites when Jesus and Moses were around, so people far away in the villages didn't know about them."

28. "It's just a job. Grass grows, birds fly, waves pound the sand. I beat people up."

29. "I'm not the greatest, I'm the double greatest."

30. "Live everyday as if it were your last because someday you're going to be right."

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

I yield once again to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, there is so much that has been said appropriately about Muhammad Ali that people in this era might not realize that when he was fighting, all of America really looked forward to his fights and watched them. The eyes of the Nation were glued to the television to see him fight and to see afterwards Howard Cosell speaking the sports talk to him and reviewing those fights.

He was a lot about Louisville. There is a street in Louisville named after him, Muhammad Ali Boulevard, and the Muhammad Ali Center.

Nobody carries on and will carry on Muhammad Ali's love of Louisville more than you, Mr. YARMUTH. I appreciate you having this hour. He was to Louisville in such a great way, and he was a great man to America. I thank you for putting this hour together.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS).

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. YARMUTH for hosting this hour.

Muhammad Ali was a good friend. He was someone that I had known that I had worked on some projects with. But more than that, my husband was one of those athletes. My husband was then the linebacker for the Cleveland Browns when Bill Russell and my husband, Sidney Williams, and Jim Brown all got together to support Muhammad Ali when, of course, he was not allowed to be a conscientious objector and was threatened with prison.

I got to know him sometime after that. We used his home for a very special event. I got to know his former wife, Veronica, and his children. One of his children worked in one of my programs.

This comes at a very difficult time for all of us. I loved him because he had courage. He had the courage to give up his career, had the courage to threaten to be imprisoned, and had the courage to fight. The Nation of Islam stood with him, and these athletes all stood with him. He was a great man. When he said he was The Greatest, he really was, because he was an unusual extraordinaire.

I will be at the funeral on Friday. I will be there with the family and the rest of the athletes that are still living that are going to be there to honor him.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

I yield again to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for a quick comment.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Mr. YARMUTH and say that I couldn't leave the mic without acknowledging that George Foreman is in Houston, and Evander Holyfield, only to say that the people that he fought became his dear friends. I know they would want me to say that.

Thank you so very much for allowing us to pay tribute to The Greatest.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, as we wrap up this tribute to the life of Muhammad Ali, I just want to express what I know all of my colleagues would feel, and that is our outpouring of love and support for Lonnie, his wife of 25 years, his many children, and his extended family. Lonnie's love and dedication inspired and energized Ali, even when his body was failing him. I know that the hearts of this body as well as the world go out to her and the rest of Muhammad Ali's family.

May he rest in peace. I thank him on behalf of everyone for his great contributions to humanity.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a man who was a three-time heavyweight champion of the world, a victor at the Supreme Court of the United States, and one of the most remarkable men of the 20th Century—a man who truly earned his title: The Greatest.

Muhammad Ali was born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. in Louisville, Kentucky on January, 17, 1942. By age 18, he was the Light Heavyweight Gold Medalist at the 1960 Olympics. In 1964, he won the heavyweight world title. He would go on to hold that title—off-and-on—for another 15 years.

But Muhammad Ali was not merely one of the greatest fighters in history—he was also a champion of justice in a country struggling to find its way. Like Detroit's own great champion, Joe Louis, he was a lightning rod for controversy. His success angered those who disagreed with the simple principle that a person's worth was never lessened by the color of their skin. He showed courage when he stood up for civil rights at a time when it was dangerous to do so. He never backed down, never allowed his voice to be silenced because of his faith or his race. He was an example for countless men, women, and children who needed one.

Beyond his work in the ring and as part of the civil rights movement, Muhammad Ali was also an advocate for peace. He grew into his faith in a way that shows that Islam is a religion of peace and America is a place of tolerance when—at great personal cost—he spoke out against the Vietnam War. As a conscientious objector, he was stripped of his title and unable to fight for three years during his prime.

Convicted of refusing to report for military service, he appealed to the United States Supreme Court, where he won a unanimous (8-0) opinion reversing his conviction.

A champion boxer, a champion for civil rights, and a champion of peace—it is not possible to overstate Muhammad Ali's achievements. He was quite simply, The Greatest.

We will mourn his memory going forward, and we will remember him for his work. Most of all, we will continue to draw strength and inspiration from a man who knew the true meaning of being a Champion.

STOP THE FRANK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 60 min-

utes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I am slow to come to the floor because you can't compete with a Muhammad Ali commemorative Special Order. That is too much passion to follow. I just have little old legislative business on my mind. I am not talking about changing the world. I am just talking about changing our little part of the world.

I don't know if you remember, Mr. Speaker, when you first got here, you had to go downstairs and sign your name so that we could use that instead of a postage stamp on every piece of mail that you sent out the door. It is called the franking privilege.

I have a bill—that is H.R. 1873—that TAMMY DUCKWORTH and I introduced together to abolish that franking privilege. It is not going to take a lot to get that done. It is something that is within the complete control of us here in this institution, but it has been a challenge that is hundreds of years in the making.

I put mine on here, Mr. Speaker. This is my signature there on the front of every envelope I send out. If you want to know how to forge a check in my name, all you need to do is look at any envelope I send out the door.

Back in the day, had we been here in 1817, it might have been hard to find a postage stamp. In the name of getting congressional business done, the law of the land, carried over from England, was that you could sign your name on all of your government documents in order to get that important government business done. You couldn't just walk down to the local grocery store and buy stamps. You had to have a mechanism for getting your constitutional responsibilities accomplished.

□ 1900

We do that still here today. In these cynical times, Mr. Speaker, I would tell you that I hear most often from folks that they think one of two things is going on with the franking privilege: one, that we are involved in some sort of incumbent protection plan—self-promotion here in this institution, self-glorification—by sending our names out on the front of all of the mail that goes out the door. If not that, I hear the second criticism, which is, ROB, why do Members of Congress get free mail? The Postal Service is in dire straits—free mail for all Members of Congress.

It is not free mail. For every letter that goes out the door that reads "ROB WOODALL" up at the top, I get a bill. I get a bill from the United States Postal Service for what a stamp would have cost had I put it on that letter. For every piece of mail that goes out the door with "ROB WOODALL" written up at the top, I get a bill from the Postal Service for whatever the bulk rate would have been for the large amounts of mail that I send out the door. It is not free mail for Members of Congress. I want to dispel that myth.