

in a Salute to Dorothy Elskoe by the Resident Calypsonians at the Reichhold Center for the Arts in 1984. Additionally, a resolution for her cultural and civic involvements in the community was presented to Mrs. Elskoe in 1994 by the 20th Legislature of the Virgin Islands. In July 1996, Dotsy was invited to Rio Grande, Puerto Rico by the Mayor of Rio Grande as the Grand Marshall of the Carnival Parade. She received a plaque in her honor for participating and assisting with the carnival since 1977.

Family unity is an important priority in Dotsy's life. This is present from her marriage of 48 years to Winthrop T. Elskoe. Him along with their six successful children—Faye Liburd, Karolyn Roebuck, Monica Rabsatt, Glen, Sandyl and Lori—have been inspirations in all of Dotsy's cultural and civic endeavors. If the preservation of culture is not instilled in anyone else, it is Dotsy's hope that it will be fixed in the minds and hearts of her offsprings and their offsprings. Dorothy views the culture of these islands not as footprints on a beach washed away by every wave and forgotten . . . but as footprints made in wet cement and left to dry . . . engraved and preserved in the minds of our youth forever.

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON FISH

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, as you well know, one of our great colleagues recently passed away, Hamilton Fish, Jr. During a memorial service held in his behalf, Ralph Neas of the leadership conference on civil rights delivered eloquent remarks which I am inserting into the RECORD at this point:

REMARKS OF RALPH G. NEAS AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON FISH, JR.

Mary Ann, Hamilton, Alexa, Nicholas, Peter, others in the Fish family, Speaker Gingrich, Members of Congress, and distinguished guests, I am profoundly grateful and deeply honored to have this opportunity to help celebrate the extraordinary life and legislative career of Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr.

As the Executive Director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the legislative arm of the civil rights movement, I had the privilege of working with Ham Fish on nearly two dozen legislative campaigns between 1981 and 1995. Hamilton Fish was a civil rights champion, a mentor, and a close friend.

During the past week, the press coverage of Ham's thirteen terms in Congress has accurately characterized his personal integrity, his principled leadership, and his courageous commitment to equal opportunity for all Americans.

But, frankly, what I have read does not capture the sheer magnitude of Ham Fish's legislative accomplishments or, very importantly, the manner in which he achieved them. For a few minutes, I would like to share with you my perspective on this great man.

First, let us look at Ham Fish's civil rights record. It was legendary in its scope and breadth. Propelled by an awesome sense of justice and a determination not to rest until he had completed his mission, Ham Fish played an important role in virtually every

civil rights law enacted over the past two and a half decades.

Even during the Reagan and Bush presidencies, when Ham often faced formidable odds, he helped shepherd through Congress nearly a score of civil rights laws. Indeed, during this remarkable era, Ham, along with Don Edwards, his Democratic partner in guarding the Constitution, actually strengthened all the major civil rights statutes.

To sum up all these legislative successes would take up most of the morning. But I would like to mention specifically five landmark laws where Ham Fish was either the House author or the lead Republican sponsor. And, with respect to several of them, Ham was the legislator who fashioned the bipartisan compromise that catapulted the bill toward passage.

The 1982 Voting Rights Act Extension: Extended the Voting Rights Act of twenty-five years, overturned an adverse Supreme Court decision, and extended for ten years bilingual ballot assistance for language minorities.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act (1988): Overturned the notorious 1984 Grove City Supreme Court decision and once again made it illegal to use Federal funds to discriminate against women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and older Americans.

The Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988: Provided at long last an effective enforcement mechanism for the 1968 Fair Housing Act. The 1988 Amendments also prohibited discrimination in housing against families with children and people with disabilities for the first time.

The Civil Rights Act of 1991: Overturned eight Supreme Court decisions that had dramatically weakened our nation's equal employment opportunity laws. And provides, for the first time, monetary damages for women and persons with disabilities who are victims of intentional discrimination.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (1990): Prohibits discrimination against 49 million Americans with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, communications and transportation.

These historic civil rights laws have benefited, and will continue to benefit, millions of Americans. And let me state this as unequivocally as possible: these laws would not have been enacted without Congressman Hamilton Fish. His leadership during the most challenging of times was absolutely indispensable.

But it was not just the quantity and quality of these civil rights laws, or the legislative skills that made them possible, that made Hamilton Fish so special. In fact, his other attributes are what truly set him apart, providing standards of leadership that should serve as a model for everyone.

First, Ham Fish always understood thoroughly the need for bipartisanship. He knew how to build coalitions and forge a consensus. He knew the art of the timely compromise, the good compromise made at the right time that will produce the requisite number of votes, either a simple majority or a super majority, that is needed to enact a law.

The numerical results of the legislative victories I cited previously amply demonstrate this commitment to bipartisanship. The average final passage vote on these five laws was 90 percent of both Houses of Congress. Thanks to Ham Fish and his allies, he past decade and a half has been, legislatively, a bipartisan reaffirmation of civil rights laws and remedies.

Second, while Ham Fish was passionate in his beliefs, civility characterized his every action. He treated everyone with dignity. Few in Washington have matched his ability

to command both the respect and the love of his peers. Time and again he proved that a nice guy can finish first.

Third, Ham Fish revered the institution in which he served. He enjoyed immensely being a member of the House of Representatives and always strove to make the House work. And while the House held his primary allegiance, he also respected the other institutions that comprise the Federal Government.

When the need arose, Ham Fish could be a fierce partisan. But he knew that bipartisan cooperation, not partisan confrontation, must ultimately prevail if government is to function at all.

Finally, and perhaps most significantly, Ham Fish was courageous. Whether it was voting to impeach a President of his own party or standing firm on civil rights legislation, Ham Fish did what he believed to be fair and just.

Last week, Congressman Maurice Hinchey summarized eloquently how Ham carefully balanced loyalty and independence in order to further the national interest. He stated: "Ham was very proud to be called a loyal Republican, but he knew that loyalty does not mean surrender of one's own judgment and temperament * * * He believed that he served his party best when he served his country best, and that he served the country best by bringing the best of his own mind and heart to every issue he addressed."

After he retired from the House, Ham Fish continued to work on behalf of his favorite issues. Just last month the two of us visited Senator Nancy Kassebaum and Congressman Amo Houghton lobbying on behalf of affirmative action and legal services.

As you can tell by now, I cherished my friendship with Ham. He was always there to help, performing any task with graceful enthusiasm. I will miss so much his warm smile, his mischievous sense of humor, and his calm and gentle presence.

As I sat praying at St. Albans chapel this morning, I thanked God for allowing Katy and me the opportunity to get to know Ham. And I was thankful that we all had the benefit of Ham's leadership at critical moments during our nation's past quarter of a century. As we leave the chapel shortly, let us all pray that God will bless America with a few more Ham Fishes.

IN HONOR OF THE SPONSORS OF PROJECT CHILDREN '96

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special group of people, the sponsors of Project Children '96 who have distinguished themselves with selfless dedication to the promotion of peace in Northern Ireland. Project Children is an organization that provides young people from the north of Ireland a respite from the violence which for too long has been a part of their lives. Through their generosity of spirit, the children's sponsors serve as vivid illustrations of the best we, as Americans, have to offer: respect for individual freedom.

Last year at this time, the children who came to visit us from Northern Ireland had a reason to be optimistic about their future. The ceasefire agreement signed in 1994 appeared to be having a positive effect on both sides in the ongoing struggle for freedom. Unfortunately, the past several months have seen a