

When I think of Tom, I think of words like "gentleman." I think of words like "dignity," and I think of words like "respect."

In 1984, we needed the right person at the right time to bring Queens County politics back, and history is something that is ongoing. And you never know when you are creating history or you are part of history. You just do what you have to do. But in 1984, Queens County politics was at its all-time low. So what it needed at that time, at its time of need, was a man of dignity, a man who earned respect, and a man who was honest because we did not have that reputation at that particular time. So Queens was lucky that there was a man that was willing to step up to the plate and become the county leader. And I think that is significant.

And I know he was a Member of this House, and I know that he was a city councilman and police officer, but I want to talk about Tom, that for 20 years, he was Chair of the Queens County organization, and people know that in this day and age that it is a feat that is not often obtained, because what you have got to do is you have got to keep and bring people together. And Queens County, as you have heard already, is the most diverse county in all of these United States of America. So people scratch their heads and try to figure out how did Tom Manton sustain his leadership in the most diverse county in this Nation?

Well, first of all, and you are going to hear me utilizing these words frequently, he earned the respect of people. Some people think county bosses and backrooms and they have got whips and all that kind of stuff and they try to whip you in line. Tom was always soft-spoken and always tried to give you, in a rational way, his viewpoint and how it was best for the whole to do whatever he believed. But even in that, he included people. He did not just say "I am Tom Manton, and this is what I am doing." He brought people around and included them in the process so that when a decision was made, it was made by the entirety. And he had the vision to know and to understand that the county was so diverse that you had to make sure that everybody had a seat at the table.

So, yes, he brought in the first South Asian. He brought in the first Latino. He helped create the first woman borough president and the first African American borough president in Queens County. He had the vision to make sure that you had sometimes somebody who might be a newcomer but had the ability to bring people together to make sure that they were part of it.

And what I also think was unique about Tom, even when he had to say no to you, it was never a personal situation. And I think that you could look and see where many individuals whom he may not have been with initially or had to turn down for one position, but later down the road, he found a way to make sure that that relationship was

reconciled and that person went on to do some other things. He was extremely loyal, which is another fantastic quality that you often do not see.

So I conclude my statements by just saying again, as I started, I have to thank the Creator of all for Tom Manton, because He sent us the right man at the right time to do the right thing for a borough that was desperately in need. He sent the right man at the right time to do the right thing to sit here in the United States House of Representatives. He sent the right man at the right time to have such a beautiful and dignified family as the Manton family. And our hearts and our prayers go out to the entire Manton family.

May his soul rest in peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. LOWEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING THE LATE CONGRESSMAN TOM MANTON

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, Tom Manton was not only a great guy, but for those of us who have been involved in politics, as I said earlier, he truly was a politician's politician. You did not have to ask a question and hear a lot of arguments that you did not understand. Tom would give you a straight answer and save you a lot of time.

But if there was a book written about great Americans or, even more importantly, great New Yorkers and great Americans, Tom Manton really would fit in that profile.

His parents came to the United States from Ireland, and Tom followed the course of not only being a United States Marine but being a dedicated police officer. After that he continued to serve for 14 years in the New York City Council and then succeeded Geraldine Ferraro in the House of Representatives.

All of these things are careers in and of themselves. But to be prepared to be the Democratic county leader of the diverse county that Queens represents really takes an exceptional person, and Tom was just that. So many people have spoken about the opportunities that he has given not only to African Americans, Jews, and gentiles, but the multiracial composition of that great county which we all in the City of New York love, to be able to reach out and to find qualified candidates and to sup-

port them so that in Albany and in the city council, that great county would have representatives that are elected really takes the wand of a magician who recognizes that he, too, came from a community, from a family that were strangers at one time to the United States and especially to New York.

I had a very special relationship with Tom when he was in the city council. I enjoyed working with him in the Congress. And even when he became a county leader, he still would reach over the rivers, over the bridges, to find out how he could put together tickets for the city council and bring about some degree of harmony so that, instead of having fights within the Democratic Party, he would find out how could we put together a package which all the boroughs could agree?

I enjoyed working with him. I would want to thank his beautiful wife, Diane, and the members of his family, for sharing this great New Yorker and this great American with us.

Our prayers and support will be with you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOX). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TOM MANTON'S LEGACY OF INCLUSIVENESS

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, so much tonight has been said about Tom Manton and so much more can be said.

What I would like to do for a couple of minutes is focus on my personal relationship with him and what role he played and the conversations we had about what he saw in the future of the county of Queens and the future of New York politics.

As we know, in our American political system, different generations bring forth different communities wanting to share in the American political dream. And as we know, politics is at the very foundation of our full American system.

From the day I came here in March of 1990, and I came in a special election, Tom Manton was one of two people that stayed very close to me, the other being Mr. RANGEL. In fact, Mr. RANGEL and Tom Manton teamed up a couple of years later to make sure that New York City received a seat on the Appropriations Committee, and it is no secret that Tom Manton and CHARLIE RANGEL accomplished that for me.

But as part of the conversations that we had throughout the years that he