

(Mr. McCLINTOCK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF AMERICA'S PEACEMAKER,
AMBASSADOR RICHARD
HOLBROOKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHAUER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I am saddened by the occasion on which I come to the floor of the House, but it is a privilege to be able to speak about a great American, for we do not capture the life and the legacy of great Americans. We find ourselves forgetting. Some would say, if we don't remember the past, we are doomed to repeat some of those hills and valleys in the future. Tonight, I want to remember Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, whom this Nation lost on Monday evening.

It is important that his story be told for I would like to know him and for this Nation to know him as America's peacemaker, but many will say that peacemaker had a tough edge.

Before I start, I want to mention his family and express my sympathy to them for their loss—to his wife, his two sons, and his stepchildren—all who loved him so very, very much.

What I would say to you is that this was an action man. He was someone who threw himself into the world of diplomacy. Frankly, there was no challenge of peace too difficult for Ambassador Richard Holbrooke.

One newspaper, USA Today, calls him as he is known in the headline—Bulldozer, Giant of Diplomacy Holbrooke Dies.

Among his credits, the 1995 Bosnian pact, but Richard was also known around the world for being unending and unceasing in his commitment to solving a problem, and he would ask you to work with him to solve that problem.

Henry Kissinger said, If Richard calls you and asks you for something, just say, "Yes." If you say, "No," you will eventually get to saying "yes," but the journey will be very painful.

Ambassador Holbrooke was not prepared to give up. He learned to become extremely informed about whatever country he was in. He would push for an exit strategy and look for ways to get those who lived in a country to

take responsibility for their own security. He didn't mind getting engaged and involved with those who lived in faraway places, whether it was Vietnam or whether it was Bosnia—the resulting agreement, the Dayton peace treaty. The Washington Post headline credited him with deft maneuvering that resulted in that peace treaty. He brokered the accord in Bosnia. He was seeking peace in Afghanistan, and he refused to give up.

So, tonight, it is important that we remember this man, this gentleman—this giant of a man, large in size and with the capacity to do much. America was saddened by his loss. In particular, I note that Ambassador Holbrooke always accepted the call to duty, whether it was as the U.N. ambassador or whether it was as the special envoy which President Obama called him to be. In the time of sadness, many came to present and to give their thoughts. Let me share with you some of those words.

For nearly 50 years, Richard served the country he loved with honor and distinction. He worked as a young foreign service officer during the Vietnam war, and then supported the Paris Peace Talks, which ended that war.

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As a young assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, he helped normalize relations with China. As U.S. ambassador to Germany, he helped Europe emerge from a long Cold War and encouraged NATO to welcome new members. The progress that we have made in Afghanistan and Pakistan is due in no small measure to Richard's relentless focus on America's national interests and pursuit of peace and security. He understood in his life, his work, and his interests that they encompass the values that we hold so dear, and as usual, amidst this extraordinary duty, he also mentored young people who will serve our country for decades to come. One of his friends and admirers once said that if you're not on the team and you're in the way, God help you. Like so many Presidents before me, I am grateful that Richard Holbrooke was on my team, as are the American people. President Barack Obama.

I remind you, like so many Presidents before me, I'm grateful that he was on my team. The President understood the kind of strength that Ambassador Holbrooke had. This sounds just like him: If you're not on the team and you're in his way, God help you. But remember, he was doing it for the good of this Nation and for the good of the world.

Another comment on his great life: In a lifetime of passionate, brilliant service on the front lines of war and peace, freedom and oppression, Richard Holbrooke saved lives, secured peace, and restored hope for countless people around the world. He was central to our efforts to limit ethnic cleansing in Kosova and paved the way for its inde-

pendence, and he found a way to break the stalemate in the talks in Cyprus.

Little known to many people, I was proud to nominate him as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations where he helped equip the U.N. to meet the challenges of our 21st-century world. Former President Bill Clinton.

Let me just reiterate these words. He helped restore hope for countless people around the world. I remember engaging with Ambassador Holbrooke in the early stages of my congressional career, and I remember him as the United Nations ambassador: resilient, joyful, persistent, determined, ready to tackle the world for peace. He wasn't bored with his job. He was never bored. He was always ready to do what was right.

Another comment on his life: Richard Holbrooke was a larger-than-life figure who through his brilliance, determination and sheer force of will helped bend the curve of history in the direction of progress. He touched so many lives and helped save countless more. He was a tireless negotiator, a relentless advocate for American interests, and the most talented diplomat we have had in a generation. Vice President JOE BIDEN.

Other words pouring out for him and toward him: From his early days in Vietnam, to his historic role bringing peace to the Balkans, to his last mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard helped shape our history, manage our perilous present, and secure our future. I had the privilege to know Richard for many years and to call him a friend, colleague, and confidante. As Secretary of State, I have counted on his advice, relied on his leadership. This is a sad day for me, for the State Department and, yes, for the United States of America. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Some would say that States and defense, power and diplomacy, sometimes did not match or mix, but Richard Holbrooke knew how to walk that line. Ambassador Holbrooke was one of the most formidable and consequential public servants of his generation, bringing his uncommon passion, energy, tenacity, and intellect to bear on the most difficult national security interests of our time. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

He never lost time fighting for ideals he believed in. He never lost touch with the problems faced by millions of people he never knew. And he never lost hope that those same people could live in peace, security, and safety. Indeed, he shared their vivid aspirations. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mike Mullen.

You can see that he interacted with these leaders of our present government and past government quite frequently. He was a frequent visitor to the White House. Those who worked in this area and those who did not knew Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, and he drew the admiration and respect and sometimes the intimidation of those who watched him work and wondered