

Mr. Speaker, for over forty years, the Congressional Black Caucus has strengthened and enhanced the work of the people's house.

It does so by carrying into this Chamber the voices of millions of Americans who for too long in our history were denied a voice.

It represents millions of our citizens who contribute greatly to building our economy, defending our hard-won freedoms, and fighting for equal justice and equal opportunity for all.

The Congressional Black Caucus has long been the conscience of the Congress. And since he arrived here seven years ago, EMANUEL CLEAVER has been the conscience of the CBC.

Rep. CLEAVER—as most of us who serve with him know, but many Americans might not know—wears multiple hats, also being an ordained Methodist pastor.

Pastor CLEAVER is frequently called upon to deliver words of wisdom in the weekly meetings Democrats hold for our caucus, and he uses those opportunities to tell us parables intended to teach that behind every bill and every vote is a human story—real lives and real consequences.

Though he will be stepping down as its Chair, I know Rep. CLEAVER will continue to do his part to ensure the CBC retains its position as a moral guide in this House.

That we never forget the real people behind the policies we act on here—people struggling to be safe in our cities, pursue educational opportunities, access health care, and find good jobs.

The CBC may be called, in many respects, guardians of our American dream.

And I thank my friend—Rep. CLEAVER, Mayor CLEAVER, Pastor CLEAVER, Chairman CLEAVER—for being a steady captain of that guard over the past two years.

He surely leaves large shoes to fill, but I know Rep. FUDGE will do a great job at the helm as the CBC's new chair.

And I look forward to working as closely with her as I have with Rep. CLEAVER to help extend the promise of the American dream to all our people.

#### THANKING THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. QUAYLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the people of the Third Congressional District of Arizona, who put their trust and faith in me to represent them in the 112th Congress. The people of our district are good, hard-working Americans. They value their family, their country, and their freedoms. It was an absolute honor to serve them in this Congress.

I would also like to thank my family and friends for their unwavering support throughout my life. Without them, I would not be here today.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to thank my tireless staff both here in Washington and back home in Arizona. Their dedication to our district and to our country was something that was amazing to watch. And over the course of 2 years, working day and night, they became a lot more than just people I work with. They became extended family. And I thank them for that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to finally thank, more importantly, my wife, Tiffany, who, a few years ago, made me the luckiest man on the face of the Earth when she said "yes" to be my wife. I want to thank her for all of the sacrifices that she has made so that I could be in this House. She has held down a full-time job, all the while playing both mom and dad to our daughter, Evie, when I was away from home. I can never thank her enough for all that she has done.

Mr. Speaker, the past 2 years have been an interesting ride, primarily because it was highly unlikely that I would ever speak on this floor. You see, Mr. Speaker, if you had asked me 5 years ago if I would ever run for public office, I would have said "no." And not because I don't value and honor public service. I certainly do. But it's because the environment that I grew up in, I saw the bad side of politics and I didn't know if I wanted to put my family through the same trials and tribulations. However, that all changed as I witnessed our country continuing to stray from its founding principles, and if it didn't reverse course, we were going to lose countless generations because of lost opportunities.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ran for office not for a title, not for some unhealthy desire to be the center of attention, but to serve my fellow citizens and to be a part of a movement that would reestablish the belief that our country's greatness comes from its people and not from the government and to make sure that America remains the last great hope on Earth.

Two years ago, we sat out to accomplish those objectives. We didn't succeed—not for the lack of trying. We did take steps toward solving the biggest and most severe issues that we face. We must build on this and not shrink from solving the fiscal disaster that awaits us if we do nothing.

Mr. Speaker, as this Congress comes to a close in the next couple of weeks, I'm confident that the Members of the next Congress will rise to the occasion and provide the solutions to a worried Nation. However, my confidence is not limitless. If petty politics drives policy decisions, if one group is pitted against another for political gain, if personal destruction drowns out personal accountability, then, sadly, the legacy of our great Nation will be forever altered and the world will be a dimmer place.

I hope and pray this does not happen, Mr. Speaker. But as I said, my confidence is not limitless.

#### HONORING EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. I rise to join some of my fellow colleagues in recognizing and honoring a distinguished gentleman serving in the Congress of the United States, who is the

chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and that is Representative Reverend EMANUEL CLEAVER.

God has a way of having the right person serve at the right time and in the right place, and we have such a person in our chairman, Chairman CLEAVER. Chairman CLEAVER took office at a time of great turmoil and tumultuousness. This country was experiencing and we were at the height of perhaps the most devastating financial crisis since the Great Depression.

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Chairman CLEAVER turned that situation into a tremendous positive by bringing his insightfulness and by helping to share with the entire Nation that while we did have great economic calamity, for every sector in our economy nowhere was that damage as greatly felt as in the African American community. We were blessed to have a chairman who could articulate it with the sensitivity and with the intelligence and with the intellect to be able to express those very serious concerns that were impacting the African American community in a way and in a manner that it enveloped the entirety of the entire population of our country.

Chairman CLEAVER became chairman at the time of the height of the tumultuous health care debate, where there was great passions that were brought to bear and expressions of demonstration where hundreds of thousands of people gathered here in Washington to express their concerns. But Chairman CLEAVER provided a calmness, an impact that helped us to navigate those troubled waters very, very successfully.

When it came time to look at the disparities of this economic impact and joblessness, he initiated job fairs in every congressional district all across this country that helped people be able to get jobs. He addressed the health disparities—particularly as they impacted the African American community—in a way and in a manner that everyone was able to accept the reality.

So, we thank you, Congressman CLEAVER, for the outstanding job that you have done, and we want to thank God for sending the right person to us at the right time. Thank you, Chairman CLEAVER. It is my great honor to serve with you. Thank you for your outstanding service.

#### EXPRESSING THANKS TO CHAIRMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleagues in expressing thanks and giving praise to our outgoing chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. He's not leaving Congress, he's just leaving the chairmanship of the Congressional Black Caucus.