

vote on National Voter Registration Day, which was an initiative to raise awareness to block the voter suppression efforts with the enacting of voter ID laws by numerous States during the Presidential election this year.

This outspoken, soft-spoken minister can bring the fire when needed. I cannot forget his legendary and enthusiastic speech to Democrats on the pressing issues that affect all Americans, as demonstrated in his 2012 Democratic National Convention speech in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is not afraid to display his passion for what is right.

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Chairman CLEAVER is truly a man on a mission for his constituents in Kansas City and all Americans across this Nation. A crusader for justice, I am proud to serve alongside him in the Congressional Black Caucus and look forward to our continued friendship in the 113th Congress.

I wish him God's richest blessings and continued success.

#### HONORING EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in honoring Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER. I have never had to wait so long to say something nice about a colleague of ours, and that gives you a sense of how wonderful Chairman CLEAVER has been as the chairman of the CBC, as a Member of Congress, and as a human being.

This is a place of hard elbows and harsh tongues, and Chairman CLEAVER has always worked to make us better, a better Congress and better as individuals.

He and I found common ground very early on in our tenure together. I created the House Center Aisle Caucus, and he reached out to me and we tried to figure out ways of injecting respect and tolerance and sensitivity into our discourse on the floor of the House. We share the value that listening is better than shouting and that bringing people together is a more valued tradition than driving them apart.

His leadership of the CBC has inspired so many of us, his ability to drive the CBC forward and, at the same time, to reach even higher. And I know that the incoming chairperson, Chairwoman FUDGE, will pursue those goals with equal tenacity and equal vision.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would say this. Although EMANUEL CLEAVER ascended to the highest position in the Congressional Black Caucus, although he has become a senior Member of this Congress, he has never forgotten that our fundamental ability is to work for those we serve, and he has reminded us every single day that no matter how high you are at any given time, there is always a higher calling. And for that we are forever grateful to Chairman CLEAVER, for his service to the CBC and

his continuing service as a Member of this body. He has made us a better Congress and a better country, and we look forward to continuing to work with him.

#### HONORING REPRESENTATIVE EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 2½ minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my good friend and mentor, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER, the outgoing chairman of the CBC.

An accomplished and esteemed legislator, Congressman CLEAVER was instrumental in orchestrating the CBC For the People Jobs Initiative, which brought together private and public sector entities across the Nation to help the unemployed Americans get jobs.

He also spearheaded voter protection events to bring attention to the State voter suppression policies designed to discourage and prevent African Americans from exercising their right to vote.

Personally, it was my pleasure to get to know Congressman CLEAVER through his relationship with my father, the late Congressman Donald Payne, Sr. However, I became more acquainted with Mr. CLEAVER when I was a candidate for the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey.

Throughout the many encounters with Congressman CLEAVER, he has always shown tremendous leadership, intellect, kindness, and poise. These characteristics were on full display during the passing of my father. My family and I were honored to have Mr. CLEAVER deliver a very emotional and uplifting speech that was felt throughout the church during my father's home-going service in March. His advice and words of comfort during those very challenging times were tremendous help, and I will always be grateful for his unwavering support.

During my transition to Capitol Hill, he offered a great deal of support, oftentimes stopping me in the hallways to ask me how am I doing and how can he help. His assistance has eased my transition considerably, and I am grateful for the profound impact that Congressman CLEAVER has had on me.

In just a few months, I've come to know why my father considered him a great colleague and an outstanding leader. Today I cannot think of a better friend and mentor.

Thank you.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF CONGRESSMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 2½ minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. I don't rise to talk about and to give accolades to Congressman CLEAVER because he has served the Congressional Black Caucus so well. And the reason I don't is because I can't imagine that he won't continue to serve us as he has this capacity to do.

I know that Congresswoman Judge FUDGE is going to do a remarkable job, but there is a uniqueness about Reverend CLEAVER, Pastor CLEAVER, City Councilman CLEAVER, Mayor CLEAVER, Congressman CLEAVER. God has given these terrific assets to be able to take complex, emotional problems and to talk to you like he's known you all of your life as he helps you to work with him to try to find some solution.

Every time I hear him give a talk, I vision him in his church talking about those things that give inspiration to so many people that have lost hope, and especially now, as many have lost their homes and lost jobs.

As we struggle in this Congress today, in trying to bring some balance in terms of our deficit, our spending, as well as our raising the revenue, I cannot help but look at the reverend, Congressman, chairman in terms of the words of Matthew, when Jesus made it abundantly clear that, although the rich were not asking Jesus for comfort as related to providing for the sick and the naked and the poor and the underprivileged, somehow Jesus had said what EMANUEL CLEAVER follows, that it's not what we do here in the Congress for Members of Congress, indeed, it's not what we do for the rich and the middle class, but the basic question we all have to decide is: What did we do for the lesser among us, the vulnerable, the sick, the aged, and the poor?

Certainly, EMANUEL CLEAVER provides a conscience for all of us that are privileged to serve in this august body.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Congress's finest members, Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER, for his exemplary leadership and service to the Congressional Black Caucus.

While Chairman CLEAVER has worked on behalf of the people of Missouri's fifth district for the last eight years, and in service to the people of Kansas City as a councilman and mayor for many more than that, I want his constituents to know the depth, character, and accomplishments of the public servant they are so fortunate to have representing them and Americans across this country.

As Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman CLEAVER has guided its more than 40 members on their mission to extend the promise of the American dream to every community and corner of this Nation. Through his tireless advocacy on issues critical to the African American community and his stewardship of the Caucus's jobs fair initiative, Chairman CLEAVER worked to bring the business community together with the many talented and skilled workers that were disproportionately impacted during this recent economic recession.

He has worked to ensure that every child has an opportunity to receive a quality education; that every man and woman can exercise their constitutional right to vote, and that