IN PRAISE OF SADAT

HON. JOHN L. NAPIER
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 28, 1981

Mr. NAPIER. Mr. Speaker, the world is still reeling from the shock of Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat’s assassination. Long will we all suffer in the void that this great loss has meant to world peace.

My friend, William L. Kinney, Jr., editor of the Marlboro Herald-Advocate of Bennettsville, S.C., published his timely thoughts in the October 8, 1981, edition of his newspaper. I recommend this editorial for consideration of the impact President Sadat had on the dangerous and difficult search for peace:

[From the Marlboro Herald-Advocate, Oct. 8, 1981]

IN PRAISE OF SADAT

The world suffered a great loss this week when President Anwar Sadat of Egypt was felled fatally by an assassin’s bullet.

With his death, the problems of the Middle East seem more formidable than with him in command. While many Egyptians wailed and mourned his passing, many Arabs in neighboring countries and Arabs here in the United States rejoiced. To them, he represented one who had betrayed his Arab upbringing. To us, he represented the dominant Arab political figure who wanted to work with the United States and other western nations in keeping the peace throughout all the Middle East.

Sadat was a powerful and important man, yet, you ask, why does a small community newspaper in a small southern community eulogize him?

For many reasons. For one, he was a man willing to do what he felt was right rather than what was popular. Such has been rare among heads of government.

Second. He never forgot his humble beginnings nor his nation’s great past. It was this love of the land and love of Egypt that led him into the role of leadership he exerted in attempting to bring accord among all the nations of the Middle East.

Third, Sadat was brave. How many leaders of hostile nations would have made the magnuminious effort to visit his once-enemy, Israel, and begin the preparation for peace between the two?

Fourth. Sadat had the larger view of the Middle East. He realized that the ability of Middle Eastern nations to survive intact rests with an alliance with the United States and western nations, not with the Soviets. It was he who expelled the 22,000 Russians from Egypt.

Much more could be said of this humble, yet great man. He was a national leader and a great advocate for Egypt.

Yet, he was much more: he was a man who set the kind of example this old world needs if we are to ever find peace.