



JACK KEMP – A GOOD FRIEND OF AFRICA

Jack Kemp, a good friend and real hero to a lot of us that knew him in the Africa advocacy community, died at the age of 73 on Saturday, May 2nd. To many he will be remembered as a visionary in the Republican Party who cut a path as a conservative purist and a fervent advocate of tax cuts. The longtime professional quarterback went on to become a New York congressman, presidential candidate, cabinet secretary and vice presidential candidate. Kemp first gained national prominence with the San Diego Chargers in the early 1960s and then went on to lead the Buffalo Bills to the American Football League championship in 1964 and 1965. He used his popularity on the football field to win election from a Buffalo-area district to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he proudly served from 1971 to 1989. He took ideas seriously and believed very strongly that ideas were the raw materials of laws and that's why he tried so hard to move ideas along. He is to be rightly lauded for all that he was able to accomplish in two distinguished careers as a professional sports athlete and member of the United States Congress.

But there is another side of Jack Kemp that we in the Africa advocacy community will dearly miss - that being his passion for Africa and its people. He was an ardent supporter of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) from the onset and lobbied alongside the Constituency for Africa to get the AGOA legislation passed. He willingly lent his credibility and desire to see Africa benefit from American trade and investments as evidenced by his attendance at several CFA Town Hall Meetings on Africa and was Co-Chairman of the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation's Summits in Africa. He also served faithfully as CFA's Vice Chairperson alongside Ambassador Andrew Young, Mayor David Dinkins and Congressman Ron Dellums and was always available to speak at the African Trade and Investment Roundtables held during CFA's annual Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series. Kemp used his outgoing personality and passion to be a tireless advocate for U.S.-Africa trade and investment,

traveling around Africa spreading goodwill with his characteristic enthusiasm and cultivating opportunities and markets for Africa. In honor of his commitment towards forging a progressive U.S.-Africa trade and investment relationship, the Constituency for Africa will proudly rename its Africa Trade and Investment Roundtable the Jack Kemp African Trade and Investment Roundtable. Indeed while he will be surely missed, he will always be remembered as a true friend of Africa!

The Constituency for Africa, a 19-year old non-partisan/non-profit advocacy organization based in the United States, has a mission to educate, inspire, act upon and inform individuals and organizations about issues and concerns impacting the quality of life for African people. CFA works closely through its strategic partnerships and alliances in the United States and in Africa to provide relevant information and knowledge to increase public awareness and understanding of the ongoing challenges and opportunities on the African continent. CFA remains fully committed to educating and mobilizing the U.S. public on matters pertaining to Africa and as a result has effectively increased the level of cooperation and coordination amongst a broad-based coalition of American and African international organizations, businesses and individuals committed to implementing progressive and consistent policy initiatives that have significantly advanced the transformation, development and empowerment of Africa and African people.

Statement of the Board of Directors of the Constituency for Africa
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