

I was privileged to have worked with BILL on the Agriculture Committee for the 10 years that I have served in the House, including having him as my ranking member on the General Commodities Subcommittee during my time as chairman of that subcommittee. As was the nature of the Agriculture Committee in previous years, we worked on a bipartisan basis to ensure the competitiveness of American agriculture on many occasions.

He was a tireless advocate of those less fortunate in our country, particularly the hungry in this Nation. With the bounty produced by his congressional district, I know it was frustrating for him to think that in this day and age that children still go to bed hungry. We are also aware that this concern spanned the continents as he joined our late colleague Mickey Leland and Congressman HALL in working to stamp out hunger in foreign lands as well.

He served the constituents of his district well on the Public Works and Transportation Committee and on the Agriculture Committee. He, like I, represented a district which has a wide variety of agricultural commodities grown, sometimes with divergent views. He was always an advocate for the farmers in his district above all else and fought relentlessly to ensure that their interests were heard. His work on the Public Works Committee also underscored his understanding of the issues of importance to his district—safe drinking water and adequate transportation systems to allow his rural district to complete on an equal basis with their urban neighbors and enjoy the same quality of life.

Mr. thoughts and prayers are with his family, his staff, and the constituents of the Eighth District of Missouri as they mourn their loss and remember the life and times that they shared with him. His death is a loss for all of us and for this institution that he loved, the U.S. Congress.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the distinguished dean of the Missouri congressional delegation, Congressman BILL CLAY, for allowing us this time to pay tribute to our departed colleague, BILL EMERSON. We join the members of the Missouri congressional delegation and, in particular, the people of the Eighth Congressional District in mourning the recent passing of a distinguished lawmaker, a dedicated politician, and a good friend.

I am proud to have served in this legislative Chamber with BILL EMERSON. He came to Washington, DC, with a sense of dedication and the highest level of commitment to public service. Throughout his career, he worked hard and fought for issues which he believed in. Many of us recall that when the Hunger Caucus was abolished, BILL EMERSON joined my colleague from Ohio, TONY HALL, in fasting to bring attention to the issue. On other issues of importance to the Nation, BILL EMERSON was the voice of reason and compassion. He was a courageous lawmaker and a gentleman at all times.

Mr. Speaker, I saw BILL just a few nights ago when he was coming into this Chamber in his wheelchair. I recall that he was in good spirits, and told me at that time that he was still fighting hard and doing all right. BILL EMERSON was that type of champion. The fact that despite his battle, he was here in this Chamber just a few days ago carrying out his legislative duties, is a reflection of his strength of character and commitment to duty. He did

his very best and he served with the highest level of integrity and dignity.

I will miss our colleague, BILL EMERSON. I join my colleagues in extending my sympathy to his wife and members of the Emerson family. We have lost a good friend and America has lost a champion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DREIER). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 459.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1903. An act to designate the bridge, estimated to be completed in the year 2000, that replaces the bridge on Missouri highway 74 spanning from East Cape Girardeau, Illinois, to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge", and for other purposes.

BILL EMERSON MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1903) to designate the bridge, estimated to be completed in the year 2000, that replaces the bridge on Missouri Highway 74 spanning from East Cape Girardeau, IL, to Cape Girardeau, MO, as the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge", and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I certainly do not mean to object, but I would yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin for the purposes of explaining the bill.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, the bill would designate the bridge to be constructed to replace the Cape Girardeau Bridge in Missouri in honor of our late colleague, BILL EMERSON, who passed away last weekend.

BILL truly was a man of the House. He first came to Washington at the age of 15 when he was appointed to serve as a House page. He returned in 1961 and worked on the staff of several Members. After working in the private sector, Bill was elected to the House in

1980 and has won each election since, serving on both the Agriculture and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees.

I had the honor of serving with BILL on the Transportation Committee and always found him to be hardworking, and dedicated to his beliefs and serving his constituents in Missouri. He was never afraid to state his views or take on an issue, and it was one of many traits that we admired about BILL. I remember well his good humor and straightforward manner, even when the committee was considering controversial or difficult matters. But make no mistake, you always knew exactly how he felt about an issue.

In the end, BILL demonstrated extraordinary courage in the face of his illness this year, and he would not, and did not, let it interfere with his daily responsibilities here and in his district.

We extend our condolences to his wife, Jo Ann, to his children, Elizabeth, Abigail, Victoria, and Katharine, and to his staff who worked with him over the years. The Transportation Committee and this House have suffered a great loss and we will truly miss BILL EMERSON.

I urge passage of S. 1903.

Mr. RAHALL. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his explanation and I join him in supporting this bill.

It is indeed fitting that the least we can do to honor BILL EMERSON is to name the bridge that is to be constructed in Cape Girardeau in his memory.

Sine 1980, BILL EMERSON served with great distinction on the Public Works and Transportation Committee, now known as the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, working on behalf of the people of the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri.

In fact, a particular bridge we are naming in his honor today has been a priority transportation improvement project for him, and funds were earmarked for it in the National Highway System designation bill that I managed in the last Congress when I served as chairman of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee.

As we all know and have heard today, Mr. EMERSON, our dear friend, was a gentleman, a great legislator, a family man and a friend to all of us. His memory will stay with us for many years.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RAHALL. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

□ 1745

Mr. VOLKMER. This is something that BILL EMERSON worked on for about 10 years, and working together, he with a bridge in Cape Girardeau, I with a bridge in Hannibal, both across the Mississippi, and also with the Chouteau Bridge in Kansas City. Bill was instrumental in bringing this all about and this is a very appropriate designation in his honor.

I can remember back when I was out at the Cape with others in April, his mom made me promise that when we got the bridge in Hannibal they would have a bridge in Cape Girardeau, and that is happening. And BILL is going to have the best view of anybody. As his mother said, "Bill will have the best view of this bridge than anybody else." Bill, good luck.

Mr. RAHALL. Continuing my reservation of objection, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. SISISKY].

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I am delighted this bridge is going to be built and now named after BILL EMERSON. I did not know BILL EMERSON real well up until last year. We did not serve on the same committees, we were not neighbors and things, but let me just tell my colleagues a little bit. We both got cancer at the same time. Mine was operable and, thank goodness, I am just about cured and doing well. But our friendship developed over this. We compared notes on getting chemotherapy. It is strange.

He used to tell me all the time, "You are going to get better, NORM; you are going to get better." Thank God, he was right. And I kept telling him he was going to get better. He did not get better.

There is something here that I want Members to understand. At one time I made a speech on the floor and started crying that I was very fortunate that I was able to get prescreening, and when they were taking the prescreening out of the Medicare it did not bother me because I could afford to get prescreening. But it is so important to find this dreaded disease early. We put it back in now, the leadership put it back into the budget, which I am very grateful for, and it should have been basically in honor of BILL EMERSON. It is a dread disease.

But I would like to say something else. I know we are not supposed to talk about some of the things that we get in the House, but there is a doctor downstairs, a Dr. Eisold, who came up here every night to check on BILL and I to see how we were doing at the late hours. And BILL and I talked about that and were go grateful just for the caring. They cared, and that was important. And BILL cared.

I used to tell him sometimes at 10 o'clock at night, I said, "BILL, why don't you go home?" He said, "Why don't you go home?" I said, "Well, you know, people are paying me." He said, "They are paying me, too, and I am going to stay here. I am going to stay here." And I tell my colleagues he stayed when he could hardly breathe, and it showed courage. I just cannot say what a loss this is.

I give my sympathy to his family, to a very great and courageous person.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri [Ms. DANNER], a member of our

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, it is and has been my privilege to serve on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with our late friend BILL EMERSON. Many of us will remember the song that was so popular some years ago called "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," and figuratively speaking a lot of times troubled waters seem to trickle down this center aisle separating the two sides of this chamber. BILL served as such an effective bridge when that would happen.

By definition bridges are structures that stretch over divided areas that are best linked together. I believe that is an apt metaphor for BILL EMERSON's service to our Nation. He brought Democrats and Republicans together on so many issues where we really never should have been apart.

It was a real pleasure to have the opportunity to work with him in committee on funding and working on these authorization bills for the three bridges, one which serves his district, one which serves my district, and one which serves the district of the gentleman from Missouri, Congressman VOLKMER.

What really more fitting structure to name after BILL EMERSON than a bridge; he, who, as I said earlier, served as a bridge, and a bridge named in his honor over his beloved Mississippi River serving his deeply loved Cape Girardeau.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY].

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding, and I would like to take this moment to stand and give my sympathy to BILL EMERSON's family.

As the gentlewoman from Missouri, Ms. DANNER, just said, when I think of BILL I can think of a bridge also. A bridge is strong. It can carry people from one part to the other over the turbulent waters. We could not help but watch BILL EMERSON and know that he was a strong man, physically strong and mentally strong. He was strong like a bridge. He could take any weight and he did not complain.

As we sit and watch each other on the floor of the House, we cannot help but look at people and get to know them, and we understand what makes them. I loved to watch BILL EMERSON, because he was a strong man, a determined man, a proud man. BILL EMERSON liked what he was doing. He was proud to be the Representative from Missouri to the Congress of the United States of America. He was proud to represent his constituents and he was proud to do it in a frame that was positive.

How perfect a bridge is for a man like BILL EMERSON. BILL could take that side of the aisle and this side of the aisle and make a complete bridge going back and forth, working with his peo-

ple on his side, working with Democrats on this side. I think we all know from what has been said this afternoon, BILL EMERSON was a bridge, a bridge that we all would like to be so that this body could work.

I think BILL EMERSON is the kind of man that all of us want to be, men and women; a woman wants to be like that as a woman and man as a man, because he understood this body. He understood what made it work. He understood one had to go to the committee meetings; he understood one had to do the homework; he understood that a bill was brought to the floor of the House and Members argued what they believed in and what they thought was right, and that was how the work got done. BILL EMERSON represents this body in its very finest form.

As a woman who lost her husband just this year, I want to say to Mrs. Emerson and to BILL's daughters, right now he is still with you. It is too soon. He has really not gone from you, but you will miss him so, so much. And you have no idea how much you will miss him. But let me say to you today, as we all thank you for letting us know BILL EMERSON, letting him be part of us, as he was you, let me say to you that if it was not for people like you, Mrs. Emerson, and if it was not for BILL's daughters, we could not have Members of Congress like BILL EMERSON.

Because it is only when a family lets somebody go to Congress and lets them do their thing, lets them submerge themselves in this work, because to be a Member of Congress, to work here and to work at home takes incredible hours, hours away from a beloved wife or husband, hours away from children.

So let me say to the Emerson family, we do appreciate what you did. We do appreciate your letting BILL be with us. He did wonderful things for this country, and you were very kind and generous to let him serve in this body as long as he did. He loved this body as he loved you, and it was all one, as he was a magnificent Member of Congress.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I am glad to yield to the gentleman from Florida, [Mr. DIAZ-BALART].

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday at church I mentioned to some ladies before mass began that a dear colleague in Congress was gravely ill and that it seemed that he would soon leave us. I knew not then that BILL EMERSON had passed away the day before, on Saturday. I told those ladies at church that our colleague was a very special man, a very, very good man, who always uplifted our spirits even if by exchanging just a few passing words on the floor of this House.

Mr. Speaker, what a privilege it was to have been able to work with BILL EMERSON. I know that we all pray for him in the firm belief that he is now in paradise and I am truly thankful for the opportunity to have know him.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill to designate the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge" in honor of our colleague who passed away this past, Saturday June 22.

BILL was a valuable member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee who understood the critical role of infrastructure in our society today. So it is particularly appropriate that this replacement bridge in Cape Girardeau, MO—which BILL worked to secure funding for—is to be named in his memory.

Over the many years we served together on the Transportation Committee, I came to appreciate BILL's dedication to our issues. He was a hard worker and a Member you knew you could count on when the chips were down.

BILL always spoke his mind and was not afraid to take a stand on tough issues that he believed in. He remained true to his convictions and yet knew how to compromise in order to achieve his goals.

BILL first came to Washington at the age of 15 when he was appointed a page in the House. After serving as a congressional staffer and in the private sector, he ran for Congress and won the 1980 election. While in the House, he also served on the Agriculture Committee, which was of great importance to his southeastern Missouri district.

The quick action on the part of both the Senate and the House in passing this legislation is a true indication of the respect and admiration we all feel for BILL.

I want to express my sympathies to BILL's family—his wife, Jo Ann, and his daughters, Elizabeth, Abigail, Victoria, and Katharine.

BILL will be missed here in the House. In recognition of his many years of dedicated service, I urge the House to approve this bill to name the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge."

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McINNIS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1903

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF BILL EMERSON BRIDGE.

The bridge, estimated to be completed in the year 2000, that replaces the bridge on highway 74 spanning from East Cape Girardeau, Illinois, to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the bridge referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge".

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to

revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1903, the Senate bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3675, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Ms. GREENE of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-633) on the resolution (H. Res. 460) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3675) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—INSTRUCTING COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT TO IMMEDIATELY TRANSMIT REMAINING CHARGES AGAINST SPEAKER GINGRICH TO OUTSIDE COUNSEL

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas the Constitution of the United States places upon the House of Representatives the responsibility to regulate the conduct of its own Members;

Whereas the House has delegated that responsibility, in part, to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, which is charged with investigating alleged violations of any law, rule, regulation or other standard of conduct by a Member of the House;

Whereas the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has failed to discharge that duty with regard to serious allegations of wrongdoing by the Speaker of the House;

Whereas, although an outside counsel has been appointed to investigate the Speaker, the Committee has failed to allow that outside counsel to investigate serious charges concerning the Speaker's political action committee, GOPAC, and its relationship to several tax-exempt organizations;

Whereas a formal complaint concerning these charges has been languishing before the Committee for more than six months;

Whereas new evidence of violations of federal tax law—in addition to the information contained in the formal complaint—has also been recently reported by investigative journalists around the country;

Whereas the failure to take action on these matters has raised serious questions about the impartiality of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is hereby instructed to immediately transmit the remaining charges against Speaker Gingrich to the outside counsel for his investigation and recommendations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the

floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Chair in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days of its being properly noticed. The Chair will announce that designation at a later time. In the meantime, the form of the resolution proffered by the gentleman from Florida will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair is not at this point making a determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated by the Chair for consideration of the resolution.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 3666) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, and that I be permitted to include tables, charts, and other extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 456 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3666.

□ 1759

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3666) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. COMBEST in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS].