

comes when we open our hearts to Your love. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. HANCOCK] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HANCOCK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE BILL EMERSON

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend we were saddened to learn of the death of one of our colleague, BILL EMERSON, from the great State of Missouri. Many of the Members know that BILL had been fighting a battle with cancer over the last 10 months. BILL lost that battle over the weekend.

BILL served here in Congress for almost 16 years, having first started in 1954 as a page here in the House, then going on to work for various Members as a staffer here on Capitol Hill. He served on the Committee on Agriculture, he served on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and he had a career-long interest in the issue of hunger, serving as the ranking minority member on the Select Committee on Hunger, and then going on to be the cochairman of the Hunger Task Force here in the Congress. His interest in hunger was certainly for those in a domestic purpose here in our country and also around the world.

I share with all of our Members our grief in losing our dear friend BILL. We send our condolences to Jo Ann and BILL's four children, and ask them to remember that BILL EMERSON was our friend, our colleague, and someone we dearly loved.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, BILL EMERSON

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend BILL EMERSON, who died Saturday night at the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

BILL was a truly outstanding legislator who was a great credit to Missouri and to our Nation. He made public

service his life. He reflected all that is good in the political arena. Although he was of one political party and I of another, this fact never interfered with our friendship.

He stood by his principles and fought hard, but political differences never became personal with him.

He was a person filled with honor, one whose word was good. He reflected the people in his district. He was so proud of Missouri. He was also so very proud of his alma mater, Westminster College in Fulton, MO.

The country lost an excellent Congressman, Missouri lost an excellent Representative, and I lost a warm friend.

I know that all of my colleagues join me in extending condolences to his wife, Jo Ann, and to his daughters Elizabeth, Abigail, Victoria, and Katharine.

#### IN MEMORY OF THE LATE BILL EMERSON

(Mr. HANCOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, one minute to express my personal feelings concerning the passing of our colleague, the Honorable BILL EMERSON from Missouri, is very difficult.

BILL EMERSON was a good friend, a trusted confidant, and a great American. He was dedicated to his maker, his family, and to the institution of the U.S. Congress where he served for almost 6 years.

BILL exemplified the qualities of honor and integrity that some would say is now lacking in public elected officials. BILL accepted people as they are and overlooked the frailties of human nature. This is why he will be sorely missed as a voice of reasonable accommodation.

All of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with BILL EMERSON will remember his positive attitude.

My sincerest regrets and sympathy to Jo Ann Emerson and all his family. They will be remembered in our prayers.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE BILL EMERSON

(Mr. POSHARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I have known BILL EMERSON for nearly 20 years. I worked with BILL closely for the past 12 years. He was one of the most solid people that I know. He was common sense, he was decency. He exemplified the principle of integrity in this body and in his life as much as anyone I have ever known.

Some years ago, BILL and I shared a problem between our districts. We needed to keep an old bridge open to Chester, IL, over the troubled waters of

the Mississippi River. We worked together. The bridge is still open today, still serving the basic needs of the people of our districts.

The old bridge symbolizes for me in many ways the life of BILL EMERSON. BILL was always reaching out, always trying to help, always building bridges over troubled waters somewhere in his life. I do not know that BILL ever really demanded a political solution. He was too interested in practical solutions to help his people and to help this country. I will forever be grateful for his true sense of bipartisanship.

I offer my condolences to his family on this day. We will miss BILL a great deal in this body.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE BILL EMERSON

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute my dear friend, BILL EMERSON. BILL EMERSON represented honesty, decency and integrity in this body in a very bipartisan way. Through my many conversations with BILL EMERSON, I learned to understand that BILL had his priorities in order. BILL loved this institution and he loved his country. But above all else, BILL loved his God, and he loved his family. I thank God for the opportunity to have served with BILL EMERSON in this body for the past 18 months. Because of the opportunity to serve with BILL EMERSON, those of us who knew BILL will be better Members of this body. But above all else, we will be better citizens.

#### REMEMBERING BILL EMERSON

(Mr. POMEROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I came down here with a text on one of the many issues before this country. I am putting that text away, because I too want to reflect upon BILL EMERSON and publicly express my deep sympathy to his family.

I served on the Agriculture Committee with BILL EMERSON for the last two sessions. He was without question a tough Republican and we banged heads. Sometimes we banged heads hard. But BILL EMERSON was a man with a very big heart. He has left me with three impressions that I will particularly remember:

The first, he was a man of strong faith. I remember vividly when he presided over the National Prayer Breakfast in 1993, my first year in Congress.

Second, he was a man that approached the duties of a legislator with professionalism. When we would bang heads, we would walk out of committee, and that would be the end of it. We were each trying to do the best we could, we understood that about each other, and our policy differences never