

human beings, as friends, and as Americans, rather than as politicians interested in short-term advantage. BILL was a great bridge builder. BILL had that magnificence to reach out and be understood and trusted. It was not until recently, when I saw him afflicted with his last challenge that I understood the reason why: he had a profound understanding of the basic good nature of man, and that was reflected in his every action.

And, Mr. Speaker, people trusted him rightly so. He had a wonderful grandfather. We shared a love for him together. He has a beautiful mother, a wonderful wife and four beautiful daughters. They will all miss him. We will miss him. America will miss him. But I think, Mr. Speaker, I will miss him most of all.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN BILL EMERSON

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I also stand here in the well to remember our dear colleague, BILL EMERSON from Missouri. I can still see him in the back row, all the way in the back in the last aisle, standing there talking. And many of us used to go back to talk to him and ask him, BILL, what are the nuances of this vote and would he explain it. He was very knowledgeable about different bills on the House floor. But he would also give you a sense of humor, a point about the bill that would make you chuckle and laugh, knowing that sometimes Members were forced to vote on things they did not like, because within the whole bill there would be a small something you did like. But BILL EMERSON had that way.

And I also want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that many times I spoke to him during his illness and encouraged him and gave him several articles, articles which talked about other Americans suffering from cancer and how they met this disease and the type of mind frame they put themselves in and tried to encourage it. But he did not need to be encouraged in terms of a positive attitude because his entire relationship that I had with him and saw on the House floor was one of optimism, one of being a positive American and showing other Americans, through his leadership and through his personality, the purpose of all of us is that we are to be caring and helpful for our fellow man.

So I tell you, Mr. Speaker, when I come here to the well, I can almost still see BILL in the back there, laughing, encouraging all of us, and giving that light chuckle he has, together with the sparkle in his eyes. So I bid him adieu and wish him and his family well and with deepest sympathy remind my colleagues of the great Congressman BILL EMERSON.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN BILL EMERSON

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the remarks of all of those who have spoken here. I have sat here and I wanted to listen to all of the things about the life of BILL EMERSON, because I never was to his house. I did not know his family. But I knew BILL EMERSON, the man, and I knew him as the Congressman, and like each and every one of you, I liked him very much.

We served together on a couple of key issues, one of them the issue of smoking. BILL EMERSON was never one to involve himself in denial. He always was straightforward. He was legitimate. He told you what he felt on an issue. He backed it up and corroborated it with sound fact, data, and analysis.

I just simply want to rise today to say to Missouri, to the family of this fine man, that you elected a great Congressman. He paid attention to detail, he never forgot the constituent matters that are most important. Ladies and gentlemen, we are representatives of the people. Representation is what we shall do, and a prime example of that was BILL EMERSON.

My condolences to the family. I would hope that after all of this, we would reflect on the life of BILL EMERSON, and all of us may be a little better in our service as representatives of the American people.

MY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE BILL EMERSON

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, there is an empty seat in the House of Representatives today, and there is a great void that will never be filled, and that is the void created by the death of my friend and our colleague, BILL EMERSON. We will miss him. We send our condolences to his family.

Some of the previous speakers have reflected on BILL and his many contributions. I am not sure if the pages and Members all know about BILL's great legacy, but BILL came here as a page and served in the Congress. I remember seeing back in the Cloakroom, there is a photo of BILL as a young man helping when the shooting occurred in the House of the Representatives. When nationalists fired into the House Chamber, BILL was one of the young pages helping Members back then who were wounded. That picture still hangs in the Cloakroom.

Mr. Speaker, I came here as a freshman just several years ago, and BILL was doing the same thing, helping Members along the way, new Members like myself, to learn more about the

House of Representatives and its procedures and how to go forward. He never changed his role.

BILL EMERSON was a tough bird, too. I remember talking to him as he was undergoing his treatment and giving him encouragement and also asking about some of my own dealings here. Should I move forward? Should I proceed? Sometimes I am pretty aggressive in my service. BILL, whether he was in the wheelchair taking chemotherapy or whether he was advising me as a new Member, he always said, "MICA, give 'em hell." I always admired his counsel and his advice and his determination that we should serve this body with every ounce of vigor that we can muster, and he did that right to almost his last days. Now he has been taken from us.

I remember him coming into this Chamber in his wheelchair and his concern was, and he expressed it to me, was not about his treatment but he said: "Oh, darn it." He did not use those exact terms. His concern was that he did not want to miss his obligations to this body, his service to the House of Representatives. That was his concern right to the end, that he complete his service. We have an example by a life of an individual who served first his family, and then his State, Missouri, and this is a great loss also for our Nation to not having his service here. This Congress has a great void without the BILL EMERSON who had a tough veneer but had a warm heart and a great record of service to this body that will never be matched.

BILL, we miss you. But I want to tell you that I will be out here, BILL, and I will continue to "give 'em hell," as you directed, and do the best I can to serve the constituents of my State like you served your State and our Nation. So long, BILL.

REMEMBERING OUR GREAT COLLEAGUE, BILL EMERSON

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues in remembering our great colleague, BILL EMERSON. I was downstairs listening to a number of the remarks made about BILL's great contribution to the process of representative government, and I would like to take a brief period of time to talk about a very special relationship that I had with BILL.

Back in 1993, following some of the scandals that surrounded this place, in a bipartisan way, we saw the Democratic leadership put together the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress. It was the first time in a half a century that a bipartisan, bicameral effort to look at institutional reform was assembled. I will tell Members that of the large number of Senators and House Members who were part of this organization, no one was