

10 cents on the dollar that we give to the schools and not try to dominate those schools from Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I thank BILL GOODLING for that and for all of his leadership for years in the Congress.

TRIBUTES TO CHAIRMAN BILL GOODLING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Ohio (Mr. SAWYER).

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in a few days, or maybe a little longer, all of us will be heading home. Most of us will be flying. BILL will be driving. And for the first time in his more than 25 years in Congress, he will be going home without the expectation of returning for the long term. That will be sad for all of us who have worked with him.

He has provided lessons to us all in more ways than we can count. I want to concentrate on just one though. When most of us go home, we will go home by getting on airplanes. And at some point before that plane takes off, there will be a flight attendant who comes and stands before us and announces all of the emergency procedures and will say that in the unlikely event of an emergency, that oxygen masks will deploy from the compartment overhead. If we are traveling with children, they will tell us to put on our own oxygen mask first and then put on those for the children.

It seems kind of counterintuitive, those of us who care as deeply as all of us do about children. We do not think that that is the right thing to do. But in the end, it is, of course, the right thing to do, because we need to be in a position to take care of those children.

Mr. Speaker, BILL GOODLING has understood that in a way that has borne itself out in policy across this Congress throughout his 13 terms. One of his proudest accomplishments I am sure is the development of the Even Start program. When he was superintendent at Spring Grove area schools, BILL GOODLING noticed that the youngsters who were having the most difficulty in school were often the children of some former students who had also not performed well academically. Working with his best teachers, he developed a program which would provide focused literacy assistance to those children and to their parents at the same time, so that the parents could help reinforce the skills of the children.

When he came to Congress, he developed this into the Even Start program, which has been a model of what it means for parents to be their children's first and most important teacher by

improving the academic skills of the parents themselves.

His work on the National Literacy Act, during a time when we were having enormous difficulty getting anything passed through this Congress, the National Literacy Act was the only education legislation that was enacted into law during that session of Congress.

Today, the Literacy Involves Family Together Act, the LIFT Act, will extend his literacy legacy into the 21st century and beyond.

The truth of the matter is that what the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) implied is a vivid truth in the life of BILL GOODLING. If one has ever really been a teacher, they are always a teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman, We are learning from you still, BILL.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his eloquence.

Mr. Speaker, those of us in Pennsylvania are very proud of BILL GOODLING. I would simply like to add my best wishes to him and my congratulations to him for his long and illustrious career and note in particular with my support and gratitude, his dedication to the concept of local control of education.

Every time we try in Congress to deal with educational matters, we can be accused of trying to interfere somehow with the very valid principle of local control of education. I think that Mr. GOODLING has always held our feet to the fire as an institution to make sure we did not interfere with that. But he has supported notable legislation, like the Education Flexibility Act, which gives more flexibility locally, while also understanding that the Federal Government has a significant role to play in promoting public schools.

I think that BILL GOODLING got that balance just about right, and we will remember his leadership on that, and so many other educational issues, after he has left these halls, but certainly not left our memory. We will be grateful to him for many years to come.

BILL GOODLING, THE MAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, I do not want to talk about the legislative accomplishments of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING). I want to talk about the man.

Mr. Speaker, I had a 26-year business career. I met a lot of business leaders. I was fortunate to have 19 years in State government, and I know most of Pennsylvania's leaders of today. This is my fourth year here in Congress and I have gotten to know many of the fine Members of this body. But in my view, BILL GOODLING is a class act.

BILL GOODLING exemplifies what all Members of Congress ought to be. First, he came here with experiences in a multitude of fields. I think we are always served best by people who have succeeded in what I call the "real world" and then come to government and help us govern, because they have the wisdom and the knowledge from the fields they left.

He was in agriculture, Pennsylvania's leading industry. He was an educator, a top flight educator. BILL GOODLING is the kind of person we would like to have as a neighbor, as a business partner, as a personal friend. He not only is competent and qualified; he is a fine human being. He is an example we can hold up to our young people that this is how they ought to live their lives. Be successful in a field and then give back as he has given.

Mr. Speaker, I guess what has amazed me about the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and it is unfortunate he has to leave before we say these things, but he has been here 26 years. Today, in his final weeks, he still has the passion of his convictions. He still feels passionately about local education and the importance of keeping the decisions locally. He has been fighting tenaciously in his last weeks in Congress espousing things he has been espousing for a long time, but with no less gusto. Not many people do that.

I want the gentleman to know that I admire him. He is a person that I look up to. He is the kind of person that I believe exemplifies what we all ought to be, and we are going to miss him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would say first of all that I know that my colleague from Wisconsin and a long-time member of the committee, STEVE GUNDERSON, had wished that he could be here today as a Member of this body to participate in this occasion.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor and a privilege to learn about education at the knee of BILL GOODLING, a true expert who spent his life in the field. He will be sorely missed.

It is with immense pleasure and honor that I rise to express a few thoughts about my colleague and good friend, BILL GOODLING. I would like to say at the outset that I know that my former colleague from Wisconsin, Steve Gunderson, would very much like to be here today to participate in this occasion. He is a great admirer of Chairman GOODLING.

The Education and the Workforce Committee, formerly the Education and Labor Committee, was blessed the day BILL was first elected to Congress. Drawing on his experiences as a coach, a high school principal, and a Superintendent of schools, BILL has always approached the issue of education with the interests of America's children at heart. I can remember many conversations we have had, especially in the days when we had adjoining offices in Rayburn, discussing ways to more effectively educate the children of his nation.