

sorry to say is retiring this year from Congress after 8 years of dedicated service to the people of Florida.

As the daughter of an esteemed and respected member of the Georgia legislature, Mrs. FOWLER grew up with a commitment to public service. Certainly, in the Fowler family, you could say the apple does not fall far from the tree.

After serving as a White House aide during the Nixon administrations, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER) moved to Jacksonville, Florida, to start a political career of her own. From 1985 to 1992, she served on the Jacksonville City Council with distinction. During that period, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER) became the council's first woman president.

Her experience in Jacksonville prepared her to seek higher office by shaping her into an innovative and effective leader.

After being elected to Congress in 1992, Representative FOWLER secured appointments on both the House Committee on Armed Services and on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. She also earned the esteemed title of Vice Chair of the Republican Conference, making her the highest ranking woman in the Congress and the first Floridian to hold a position in the elected majority leadership. She also serves as the deputy majority whip.

Representative FOWLER has continually and successfully worked in a bipartisan way to improve the quality of life for Floridians. I have had the privilege of working closely with Representative FOWLER on several key bills for the State of Florida. I will always greatly appreciate Representative FOWLER's willingness to build bipartisan coalitions for the betterment of our State.

A primary example of her ability to foster bipartisan consensus in the House evolves around our State's great need to develop alternative water sources. Together, Representative FOWLER and I authored an alternative water source development bill that overwhelmingly passed the House this session.

The measure would provide a 5-year Federal grant program to fund water projects designed to meet Florida's growing demands for water through planning and advanced technology.

I am pleased to say that Congresswoman FOWLER is among the many members of the Florida congressional delegation who are committed to improving and securing Florida's water supply for generations to come. This is an issue of great concern to Florida, where a booming population threatens to strain existing drinking water resources.

I have always admired TILLIE's foresight in addressing this potential future problem by reusing and reclaiming alternative water sources. This is the best way to prevent a drinking water

crisis from occurring in the State. Her help in furthering this legislation promises to one day benefit all in Florida's communities.

I have been further impressed by Congresswoman FOWLER's efforts to improve Florida's highways and to expand access to mass transit. In 1998, Congresswoman FOWLER, through her position on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, was able to secure millions of dollars in additional Federal funding for Florida's transportation needs. Her hard work and commitment to passing these bills underscores once again her dedication to the people of Florida.

TILLIE FOWLER is also an advocate for maintaining our country's strong national defense. In that role, she has worked to improve the lives of our men and women in uniform and our Nation's veterans.

Among her many accomplishments, she was instrumental in the passage of expanded health care benefits for military retirees, which were included in the U.S. Department of Defense Conference Report. This shows her true commitment to honoring our Nation's promise to its veterans and military retirees.

I would also like to take the time to commend Congresswoman FOWLER for her work to promote the humanities. As a past chairwoman of the Florida Humanities Council, she brought her appreciation for preserving culture with her to Washington.

In recognition of her contributions, Representative FOWLER was awarded this year the Distinguished Service Award by the National Humanities Alliance.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the Honorable TILLIE K. FOWLER, a woman of integrity, perseverance, and honor.

2115

We are so grateful for her devoted service to the people of Florida. I wish her well in the years ahead and I hope she will continue to stay active in the community. After all, Florida needs dedicated public servants like TILLIE FOWLER, whose legacy will live on in the many lives she has touched.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. FOWLER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4811, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. CALLAHAN submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 4811) making ap-

propriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 106-997)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4811) "making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes", having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert:

Section 101. (a) The provisions of H.R. 5526 of the 106th Congress, as introduced on October 24, 2000, are hereby enacted into law.

(b) In publishing the Act in slip form and in the United States Statutes at Large pursuant to section 112, of title 1, United States Code, the Archivist of the United States shall include after the date of approval at the end an appendix setting forth the text of the bill referred to in subsection (a) of this section.

And the Senate agreed to the same.

SONNY CALLAHAN,
JOHN EDWARD PORTER,
FRANK R. WOLF,
RON PACKARD,
JOE KNOLLENBERG,
JACK KINGSTON,
JERRY LEWIS,
ROGER F. WICKER,
BILL YOUNG,
NANCY PELOSI,
NITA M. LOWEY,
JESSE JACKSON, Jr.,
CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK,
MARTIN OLAV SABO,
DAVE OBEY,

(except for cap adjustment),

Managers on the Part of the House.

MITCH MCCONNELL,
ARLEN SPECTER,
JUDD GREGG,
RICHARD SHELBY,
ROBERT F. BENNETT,
BEN NIGHTHORSE
CAMPBELL,
KIT BOND,
TED STEVENS,
PATRICK LEAHY,
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG,
TOM HARKIN,
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
PATTY MURRAY,
ROBERT C. BYRD,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

The managers on the part of the House and Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4811) "making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001", submit the following joint statement to the House and Senate in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report:

The conference agreement would enact the provisions of H.R. 5526 as introduced on October 24, 2000. The text of that bill follows: