

Georgia and the university. We will be asking Congress to allocate \$10 million for the building. Georgia Governor Roy Barnes will ask the Legislature for a \$10 million appropriation. And the university will raise the remaining \$20 million for the building.

I was so glad that Senator Coverdell's widow, Nancy, joined us in announcing this memorial last month.

It is my hope that the scientists who gather in this center under Senator Coverdell's name will make great discoveries to improve the quality of life in Georgia and around the world.

In Washington, we have chosen to honor Senator Coverdell's legacy at the Peace Corps, where he served as director from 1989 to 1991. Paul's appointment to the Peace Corps was met with great skepticism at first. But he quickly gained respect by demanding professionalism and by shifting the agency's focus so that more money was spent actually getting volunteers where they were needed.

When the Berlin Wall came down, Paul seized the opportunity to move the Peace Corps into Eastern Europe to promote freedom and democracy. This move not only broadened the agency's mission, but also increased its prestige around the world.

Senator Coverdell also established the widely acclaimed World Wise Schools Program. Under this program, Peace Corps volunteers who have returned to the United States visit schools to give students their impressions and lessons from their overseas service.

To honor Paul's legacy at the Peace Corps, we are recommending that the Peace Corps headquarters offices in Washington be named the "Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters."

We also are recommending the designation of the Peace Corps' World Wise Schools Programs as the "Paul D. Coverdell World Wise Schools Programs."

Paul's dignity and decency inspired countless young people to serve their fellow man in far-away places. It is our hope that we can honor his legacy at the Peace Corps in this lasting way.

Mr. President, I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this memorial for our friend Senator Paul Coverdell, and I yield the floor.

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY U.S. COURTHOUSE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 559 just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 559) to designate the United States courthouse located at 1 Courthouse Way in Boston, Massachusetts, as the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 559) was read the third time and passed.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I should note that Senators KENNEDY and KERRY, I believe, will be prepared to speak on this resolution. This is a resolution designating the U.S. Courthouse in Boston after Congressman JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY. He is an outstanding individual. Senator DODD and I both had the privilege of serving on the Rules Committee in the House with him the famous Rules Committee—and have known him for, I guess, 25 years.

I am delighted and pleased that this bill will name this courthouse after Congressman MOAKLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for taking such swift action to pass the legislation for the naming of the Federal courthouse in Boston after my very good friend and beloved figure in Boston, MA, Congressman JOE MOAKLEY, to rename the Federal courthouse in Boston after him. This measure is a fitting tribute to a wonderful friend, and an outstanding leader, for his long and brilliant career in public service.

Earlier this week, JOE MOAKLEY announced his decision not to seek reelection next year because of a serious illness that has just been diagnosed. In the brief time since his announcement, the outpouring of support and affection for JOE has been extraordinary. The reason is obvious, JOE MOAKLEY is one of the most beloved political leaders of our time. All of us in Massachusetts are especially fond of him. We admire his strength, his wisdom, his leadership, and his dedication to the people of Boston, our State, and our Nation.

JOE and his wife Evelyn made a wonderful team together, and we admired and loved them both very much. Vicki and I have such wonderful memories of the dinners we had together with them.

In addition to this well-deserved tribute today, I hope in the coming months we can return some of the loyalty, the affection, spirit, and support that Joe has given to so many of us throughout the years.

JOE MOAKLEY has always been a fighter. He was a boxer in college and a football star in high school. At the age of 13, he was with his father who was driving through south Boston, when they saw a neighborhood bully beating up a local child. JOE's father pulled the car over to the side of the road and asked his son what he was going to do about that situation. JOE jumped out of the car and went to the aid of the child and stopped the bully.

In all the years we have worked with him in Congress, that is the JOE MOAKLEY we know and love—always fighting

for the underdog and all of those who need our help the most—fighting to provide better jobs, better education, better health care, better lives, better opportunities for the people of south Boston, and Massachusetts, and the Nation. The whole world knows of his magnificent leadership in protecting democracy in El Salvador.

The naming of the Federal courthouse in Boston for JOE is an especially fitting tribute because no one has done more to revitalize the area of south Boston than JOE MOAKLEY. As a child, JOE was a budding entrepreneur. I heard him tell the story about how he and his friends from south Boston used to race down to the railyard, where the courthouse now stands, to meet the trains that delivered farm products to the city. They collected the fruit that fell off the trains and then would sell it in the neighborhood. Their favorite fruit was watermelon because it had the highest resale value.

In half a century, and more, since then, JOE never lost his touch or his commitment to economic development in south Boston. As a Congressman, he has fought vigorously to revitalize the entire community and its neighborhoods for the past 30 years; and what an outstanding job he has done. Thanks to JOE MOAKLEY, the watermelons have long since made way for a beautiful new Federal courthouse, a convention center, the World Trade Center, and several new hotels. South Boston is booming today thanks to JOE MOAKLEY.

When he was not working to revitalize south Boston's economy or clean up Boston Harbor, JOE MOAKLEY was teaching his pride and joy—his french poodle named Twiggy—to sing. I understand JOE and Twiggy used to sing a famous duet to the tune of "Everybody Loves Redheads." JOE sang and Twiggy howled, and everyone loved them both.

When I think about all JOE MOAKLEY has done for Boston and Massachusetts, I also recall how long and hard and well he fought for funds to rebuild the Central Artery, to build the South Boston Piers Transitway, to clean up Boston Harbor, to modernize the Port of Boston, and to preserve Massachusetts's many historic sites—the Old State House, the Old South Meeting House, the U.S.S. Constitution, Dorchester Heights, and our famed historic marketplace, Faneuil Hall. JOE MOAKLEY's efforts to protect and preserve these extraordinary parts of our heritage guarantee they will be part of our State's history for generations to come.

In Congress, no one is more effective on the front lines or behind the scenes than JOE. The dean of our delegation has touched the hearts of all our people, and he has made a remarkable difference in their lives and hopes.

He is a voice for the voiceless, and an inspiration to all of us who know him. He champions the cause of hard-working families and the middle class. And all of us are proud to stand with him in all these battles.

The poet Yeats said it well:

Think where man's glory most begins and ends, and say my glory was I had such friends.

We love you, JOE, and we are very proud of you.

Mr. KERRY addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KERRY.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I thank you and express my gratitude to Senators LOTT, DODD, and KENNEDY for their courtesy and their assistance in helping to bring us to the point where this important resolution has been adopted by this Congress with respect to JOE MOAKLEY.

I thank my colleague for his comments with respect to Joe that we just shared.

In these last hours since JOE MOAKLEY announced his retirement from Congress, we have had the opportunity in our State—and I think many people down here in Washington—to share in a unique outpouring of support and emotion, all surrounding our friend and our colleague, the dean of the Massachusetts congressional delegation.

Today, with this resolution in Congress, we have had the opportunity not only to forever honor JOE, through the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse, but to also share our affection and our perceptions of this very special public servant, public person, this special representative of the people of Boston. We have been able to share that with all of our colleagues in the Congress and, indeed, with our fellow citizens in this country.

On Monday, as Senator KENNEDY just described, JOE shared with his constituents—with all of our State—that he has been diagnosed with an incurable form of leukemia, and that he will retire after he serves his current term in the House of Representatives.

JOE made this announcement together with friends and supporters at the courthouse that he helped to build in Boston, and he made it with a remarkable level of candor, of courage, and with a great, great sense of humor.

When JOE told us of the severity of the illness—and people learned of the severity of that illness—and the nature of the battle that still lies ahead for JOE, I think it reminded all of us of all of the battles that he has fought and, indeed, of the degree to which JOE MOAKLEY is a fighter, a special kind of fighter for the things he believes, and which, most of all, is doing what is right for his fellow citizens.

In all of the endeavors he has undertaken, all the years he has been in Congress, all the important people he has met, and all the important things he has done, this is a man who has never lost his sense of direction, his compass, if you will, which in his case is a special one with a unique sense of direction.

JOE has—I think everyone will agree—come out on the winning side of almost every fight he has ever fought.

He was born and raised—and living a lifetime—in south Boston, MA. JOE is not just from south Boston; he is of south Boston.

He wears those roots proudly as a badge of honor, never shy to admit that, in the end, this is a man who still knows how to settle an argument.

He is a member of a group of citizens we have proudly called our Greatest Generation. He earned his stripes as a member of that generation in a way that was not completely atypical but which I think sort of demonstrates the special nature of his patriotism and his sense of duty.

When he was 15 years old, JOE rose to the call of service to his country by falsifying his birth certificate so he could enlist in the U.S. Navy. He fought for his country, with honor, in World War II.

When he returned home from the South Pacific, he received his education at the University of Miami in Florida, but believe me, south Boston was never far from his heart or his consciousness. He returned home and went to law school at night at Suffolk University. Then he went to work for the people of Massachusetts.

He began his career in public life in the Massachusetts State Legislature at the age of 25, and then, before his election to the House of Representatives in 1972, he served in the State senate and on the Boston City Council. In both his approach and his effectiveness, JOE followed the path that was laid down by his great mentor in the Congress, former Speaker Tip O'Neill, a man who knew himself, who knew what he believed, and who knew there were things worth fighting for every single day.

That is what JOE has done the entire time he has served in Congress. As chairman of the Rules Committee, he did more than steward the course of important legislation and the operation of the House. He fought for an agenda, and he secured its passage into law. He built a reputation as a tough and effective legislator with a real ability to work across party lines and achieve consensus on so many issues. He put many of his opponents in the unenviable position of having to explain themselves to the gentleman from south Boston, a fight that people soon learned they were smarter to avoid.

JOE made it clear there were no borders, no limits that would apply to the fights he would embrace, and he insisted—and I think this is one of the most interesting things about JOE MOAKLEY—that foreign policy was not something foreign, even to the work of a bread-and-butter Democrat from south Boston, but an extension of the ideals he brought to work for his own constituents.

In 1983, JOE was among the first in the Congress to understand the simmering injustice in El Salvador. When he gathered with a small group of refugees from the brutal fighting in that country and listened to their stories,

he was moved again to service. Those refugees told JOE they were in danger of being deported to El Salvador. That lit a fire under JOE MOAKLEY. He understood that being deported back to that country for those people, given their history, would mean death.

A Congressman from south Boston wasted no time in helping people from the southern part of our hemisphere. He sent his top aide, JIM MCGOVERN, to find answers. And, as always, JOE, himself, personally followed through, traveling again and again to El Salvador, heading up the Moakley commission and working to make it possible not just for those refugees to stay in the United States but also to address the broader questions of human rights abuses in Central America.

For more than a decade, JOE kept at it. For 10 long years plus, when a lot of people turned their attention elsewhere, JOE MOAKLEY continued to understand the difference between right and wrong. He fought against hundreds upon hundreds of deportations and, finally, he won an amendment barring them altogether in 1989.

Later that year, when six Jesuit priests were murdered in El Salvador, he led an investigation that pointed to elements of the U.S.-backed military as the murderers. It was quite fascinating, when we listened to JOE at the courthouse in Boston announcing the end of his career within the U.S. Congress—it was fascinating that even as he described himself as a bread-and-butter Democrat and a person who cared always about the issues of all of his constituents in his home city as well as in the rest of his constituency, measured against all the things he had done, he thought he was proudest of what he had done in El Salvador. He thought it so because it was a reflection of the kinds of things he learned from his constituents and from his home, and it reflected the depth of who he was as a citizen of south Boston.

JOE has been delivering for south Boston and the Nation for almost half a century, and he has done it the only way he knows—with hard work, with a smile, and with a special brand of humor. Whether it has been finding money for the "Big Dig," project after project, or for a whole host of other projects in Boston, he has been a national leader on issues from Central America to our relationship with Cuba.

JOE will tell you his secret, whether it is in a senior center in south Boston or when meeting with the heads of state around the world. It is his ability to listen and to remember who he is and from where he comes. And when he completes his 15th term in the House and retires, we will miss his service, his friendship, and his passion, but we will also know that until his last day in office, JOE MOAKLEY will continue to be a giant, caring first and foremost for the people he represents, living by Tip O'Neill's old adage—all politics is local—and with a special Moakley corollary that certain values and commitments are global as well.

He has used his remarkable clout to do what is right for Massachusetts and the Nation. And knowing JOE, having watched him and learned from him, as so many of us have, I know that in these next 2 years this courthouse will not be the only way he will be honored. The fights he will continue to wage for all that he believes, for working people, for jobs, for social and economic justice, will be the ultimate testimony to the full measure of the man whom we pause to honor today, and it will be the real measurement of those values by which JOE MOAKLEY has served.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

COMMEMORATING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1996 TELECOM ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, recently we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the passage of the 1996 Telecom Act. This legislation—a comprehensive overhaul of our nation's laws governing communications—was the product of approximately ten years of hard work by many people. The intent of Congress in passing the Act was to spur competition, promote innovation, and provide new services at lower prices to consumers.

I hoped at the time that we passed the Act that it would have a tremendous impact on the economy, and my hopes were realized. Hundreds of thousands of new jobs were created in the communications sector in the first four years after passage of the Act, and this sector has been a major contributor to the nation's real economic growth since the Act's passage.

The blueprint of the 1996 Act provided industry and the markets the necessary certainty to foster and encourage investment in the telecommunications sector. This investment has occurred despite significant delays in the Act's implementation on the part of the FCC, and more disturbingly, delays related to the litigation of the Act in the courts. I am encouraged by the birth and growth of the competitive local telecommunications industry. Furthermore, I am pleased that two of the regional Bell companies satisfied the checklist required by section 271 of the Act in several states, thus indicating that these states are fully open to local competition. By opening these particular markets fully to local competition, these Bell companies are now able to offer long distance service in these states.

While I am pleased with these positive developments since the passage of the '96 Act, I believe it is time to review the '96 Act to determine whether it needs to be modified to fully achieve its purpose. While competition in many sectors of the telecommunications industry has undoubtedly increased, I believe that the Congress should consider

how to create additional incentives for increased competition in those sectors of the telecommunications industry which remain dominated by a small number of competitors.

While we have seen the new competitive companies emerging in the marketplace with a particular focus on business clients, perhaps there are measures which would make it more attractive to these new companies to aggressively pursue the market for local service to consumers' homes. Although a few states are now fully open to local competition pursuant to the '96 Act's conditions, we need to do more to make it attractive for additional markets to be opened, especially rural markets. Additional inducements may be necessary to speed the process of opening more and more states for local competition, as it appears the promise of allowing the incumbent local carriers to enter the long distance service market may not be a sufficient motivating factor in many states.

I am also concerned, however, that there are significant deficiencies in the enforcement of the '96 Act. While there were encouraging developments in the telecommunications industry resulting from the passage of the Act, I have serious concerns about the health of the new competitive local telecommunications industry and a perception that true competition for incumbent local carriers has not been achieved due to such enforcement failures. For this reason, I believe that the 107th Congress should look closely at these enforcement issues, with a view towards possible tweaks that may be necessary to ensure full implementation of the Act as it was originally envisioned.

I was a strong supporter and key sponsor of the '96 Telecom Act, and I believe that its principles remain relevant and solid. However, a bit of fine-tuning may be in order as we learn from our experiences under the first five years of the Act and look forward to a telecommunications sector which thrives under additional competition, innovation, and consumer choice in the years to come.

FLUNKING AMERICAN HISTORY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, every February our Nation celebrates the birth of two of our most revered presidents—George Washington, the father of our Nation, who victoriously led his ill-fitted assembly of militiamen against the armies of King George, and Abraham Lincoln, the eternal martyr of freedom, whose powerful voice and iron will shepherded a divided Nation toward a more perfect Union. Sadly, I fear that many of our Nation's school children may never fully appreciate the lives and accomplishments of these two American giants of history. They have been robbed of that appreciation—robbed by a school system that no longer stresses a knowledge of American history. In fact, study after study

has shown that many of the true meanings of our Nation's grand celebrations of patriotism—such as Memorial Day or the Fourth of July—are lost on the majority of young Americans. What a waste. What a shame.

In 1994, the National Assessment of Educational Progress assessed fourth, eighth, and twelfth-grade students' knowledge of U.S. history. The results of this study are deeply disturbing. The study divided students into three groups—advanced, proficient, and basic—based on their ability to recall, understand, analyze, and interpret U.S. history. Only 17 percent of fourth graders, 14 percent of eighth graders, and 11 percent of twelfth graders were judged to be "proficient". Over one-third of fourth and eighth graders failed to reach the "basic" level and more than half of the twelfth graders surveyed could not even achieve the "basic" category in the history of their own Nation.

The questions were not overly difficult, especially not for a twelfth grader. One question asked students to name the document that contains the basic rules used to run the Government of the United States of America. Only 27 percent selected the U.S. Constitution as the correct answer. Imagine that—27 percent! How can we ever survive as a country, if more than ¾ of our high school seniors are so ignorant about our basic charter? This deplorable record indicates that too many American children lack even the most rudimentary grounding in U.S. history.

Even more disturbing were the results of a study released last year by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni that tested the knowledge of college seniors who were on the verge of graduation. The organization gave students from fifty-five of our Nation's finest colleges and universities a typical high school-level American history exam. Nearly 80 percent—80 percent!—of these college seniors—the future leaders of our Nation—earned no better than a "D." A mere 23 percent could identify James Madison as the principal Framers of the Constitution; more than a third did not know that the Constitution established the separation of powers in American government; a scant 35 percent could correctly identify Harry S. Truman as the President in office at the start of the Korean Conflict; and just 60 percent could correctly select the fifty-year period in which the Civil War occurred—not the correct years, or even the correct decade, but the correct half-century.

These results are shameful and appalling. Not only are our grade-school students ignorant about their own history, so are our college students. Our children are being allowed to complete their formal educations without any semblance of historical context. To put it simply, young Americans do not know why they are free or what sacrifices it took to make us so.

An American student, regardless of race, religion, or gender, must know