

I was privileged to have worked with BILL on the Agriculture Committee for the 10 years that I have served in the House, including having him as my ranking member on the General Commodities Subcommittee during my time as chairman of that subcommittee. As was the nature of the Agriculture Committee in previous years, we worked on a bipartisan basis to ensure the competitiveness of American agriculture on many occasions.

He was a tireless advocate of those less fortunate in our country, particularly the hungry in this Nation. With the bounty produced by his congressional district, I know it was frustrating for him to think that in this day and age that children still go to bed hungry. We are also aware that this concern spanned the continents as he joined our late colleague Mickey Leland and Congressman HALL in working to stamp out hunger in foreign lands as well.

He served the constituents of his district well on the Public Works and Transportation Committee and on the Agriculture Committee. He, like I, represented a district which has a wide variety of agricultural commodities grown, sometimes with divergent views. He was always an advocate for the farmers in his district above all else and fought relentlessly to ensure that their interests were heard. His work on the Public Works Committee also underscored his understanding of the issues of importance to his district—safe drinking water and adequate transportation systems to allow his rural district to complete on an equal basis with their urban neighbors and enjoy the same quality of life.

Mr. thoughts and prayers are with his family, his staff, and the constituents of the Eighth District of Missouri as they mourn their loss and remember the life and times that they shared with him. His death is a loss for all of us and for this institution that he loved, the U.S. Congress.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the distinguished dean of the Missouri congressional delegation, Congressman BILL CLAY, for allowing us this time to pay tribute to our departed colleague, BILL EMERSON. We join the members of the Missouri congressional delegation and, in particular, the people of the Eighth Congressional District in mourning the recent passing of a distinguished lawmaker, a dedicated politician, and a good friend.

I am proud to have served in this legislative Chamber with BILL EMERSON. He came to Washington, DC, with a sense of dedication and the highest level of commitment to public service. Throughout his career, he worked hard and fought for issues which he believed in. Many of us recall that when the Hunger Caucus was abolished, BILL EMERSON joined my colleague from Ohio, TONY HALL, in fasting to bring attention to the issue. On other issues of importance to the Nation, BILL EMERSON was the voice of reason and compassion. He was a courageous lawmaker and a gentleman at all times.

Mr. Speaker, I saw BILL just a few nights ago when he was coming into this Chamber in his wheelchair. I recall that he was in good spirits, and told me at that time that he was still fighting hard and doing all right. BILL EMERSON was that type of champion. The fact that despite his battle, he was here in this Chamber just a few days ago carrying out his legislative duties, is a reflection of his strength of character and commitment to duty. He did

his very best and he served with the highest level of integrity and dignity.

I will miss our colleague, BILL EMERSON. I join my colleagues in extending my sympathy to his wife and members of the Emerson family. We have lost a good friend and America has lost a champion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DREIER). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 459.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1903. An act to designate the bridge, estimated to be completed in the year 2000, that replaces the bridge on Missouri highway 74 spanning from East Cape Girardeau, Illinois, to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge", and for other purposes.

BILL EMERSON MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1903) to designate the bridge, estimated to be completed in the year 2000, that replaces the bridge on Missouri Highway 74 spanning from East Cape Girardeau, IL, to Cape Girardeau, MO, as the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge", and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I certainly do not mean to object, but I would yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin for the purposes of explaining the bill.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, the bill would designate the bridge to be constructed to replace the Cape Girardeau Bridge in Missouri in honor of our late colleague, BILL EMERSON, who passed away last weekend.

BILL truly was a man of the House. He first came to Washington at the age of 15 when he was appointed to serve as a House page. He returned in 1961 and worked on the staff of several Members. After working in the private sector, Bill was elected to the House in

1980 and has won each election since, serving on both the Agriculture and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees.

I had the honor of serving with BILL on the Transportation Committee and always found him to be hardworking, and dedicated to his beliefs and serving his constituents in Missouri. He was never afraid to state his views or take on an issue, and it was one of many traits that we admired about BILL. I remember well his good humor and straightforward manner, even when the committee was considering controversial or difficult matters. But make no mistake, you always knew exactly how he felt about an issue.

In the end, BILL demonstrated extraordinary courage in the face of his illness this year, and he would not, and did not, let it interfere with his daily responsibilities here and in his district.

We extend our condolences to his wife, Jo Ann, to his children, Elizabeth, Abigail, Victoria, and Katharine, and to his staff who worked with him over the years. The Transportation Committee and this House have suffered a great loss and we will truly miss BILL EMERSON.

I urge passage of S. 1903.

Mr. RAHALL. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his explanation and I join him in supporting this bill.

It is indeed fitting that the least we can do to honor BILL EMERSON is to name the bridge that is to be constructed in Cape Girardeau in his memory.

Sine 1980, BILL EMERSON served with great distinction on the Public Works and Transportation Committee, now known as the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, working on behalf of the people of the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri.

In fact, a particular bridge we are naming in his honor today has been a priority transportation improvement project for him, and funds were earmarked for it in the National Highway System designation bill that I managed in the last Congress when I served as chairman of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee.

As we all know and have heard today, Mr. EMERSON, our dear friend, was a gentleman, a great legislator, a family man and a friend to all of us. His memory will stay with us for many years.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RAHALL. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

□ 1745

Mr. VOLKMER. This is something that BILL EMERSON worked on for about 10 years, and working together, he with a bridge in Cape Girardeau, I with a bridge in Hannibal, both across the Mississippi, and also with the Chouteau Bridge in Kansas City. Bill was instrumental in bringing this all about and this is a very appropriate designation in his honor.