

improving our Federal nutrition programs and to ensuring that needy families do not go to bed hungry.

Bill Emerson was a great Member of Congress. He was a man of the highest character who devoted himself to the cause of reducing hunger and to making this country and this House a better place. My thanks also to the gentlewoman from Missouri [Ms. DANNER], a cosponsor of this important legislation, and a driving force in its enactment.

Mr. Speaker, for Bill Emerson and all the needy families who depend on food donations, I would ask the House give final approval to H.R. 2428, the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his explanation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Bill Emerson good samaritan food donation bill, and I commend my colleague, the gentlewoman from Missouri [Ms. DANNER], for her leadership on this issue. Nothing in this bill supercedes State or local health regulations. However, by establishing national liability standards, this bill will encourage and enable restaurants, grocers and other donors to help feed the hungry.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, to bridging the gap between willing donors and needy families, passage of this bill is a fitting tribute to Bill Emerson's efforts to combat hunger throughout his career in this Congress, and I urge my colleagues to adopt the measure.

Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from California, [Mr. MCKEON].

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, a short time ago we lost one of the most valued Members of this body, Bill Emerson. Today the House has an opportunity to pay tribute to our friend and colleague.

One of Bill Emerson's highest priorities during his tenure in this body was to ensure that our Nation's neediest citizens did not go hungry. One of his final efforts in this regard was to work with the gentlewoman from Missouri [Ms. DANNER] to pass H.R. 2428, a bill which would give the Model Good Samaritan Food Donation Act the full force of Federal law. It was Congressman Emerson's strong belief that enactment of this legislation would increase donations of food to the needy.

On July 12, 1996, this legislation, renamed the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act in his honor, passed the House of Representatives. The Senate completed action on H.R. 2428 prior to the August recess and has returned the bill to this body for final consideration. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, Chairman GOODLING, has outlined the minor changes made to this legislation by the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, we now have opportunity to approve this legislation and send it to the President. At the same time, we will be paying one final tribute to Bill Emerson.

On behalf of Bill Emerson and the needy individuals who will benefit from enactment of this legislation, I urge my colleagues to give final approval to H.R. 2428.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri [Ms. DANNER], one of the chief sponsors of the bill.

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, today, as the House votes on the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, it brings to an end a long, but very satisfying, legislative journey, one in which I was privileged to be joined by my friend, the late Congressman Bill Emerson.

This legislation, which will encourage more businesses to donate food to the hungry, is a fitting tribute to a man who consistently demonstrated an enormous capacity for compassion for the hungry and the less fortunate. Every time another business is willing to donate food and every time another hungry person receives some of that food, it adds to the legacy of Bill Emerson's service to our Nation, as well as his commitment to fighting hunger.

Bill knew, as I do, that we have a responsibility to make certain that those of us who are blessed with ample supplies of food assist those who are not.

As the St. Louis Post Dispatch recently editorialized in support of this bill, "In a Nation that throws away over 13 billion pounds of food annually, it is shocking that even one case of malnutrition exists."

The issue of wasted food was troubling for Bill Emerson, it was troubling for me, and I know that other Members of this body agree that we must act to address this issue.

This is a national issue, but I think it is important to remember that this legislation stems from a local concern. I want to thank Harold Martin, an active community volunteer in the Sixth District of Missouri, who contacted me after a major corporation in St. Joseph stopped donating food, citing the patchwork of different State laws that they had to comply with in order to donate food. That did not make sense to Harold, it did not make sense to Bill Emerson, and it did not make sense to me. That is why I am pleased that the House of Representatives and the Senate also understand what many less fortunate Americans already know, a hungry person is not going to refuse day old bread or perfectly edible leftover food.

Thank you, Harold, and thank you, Bill, for each of you have given in your respective ways a voice to the hungry voices that will now be heard.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2428.

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

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I take this time for the purpose of inquiring from the distinguished majority leader the schedule for today, the rest of the week, and next week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. ARMEY.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am pleased to announce the House has concluded its legislative business for the week. We will meet next Monday at noon, 12 o'clock, September 9, for a pro forma session. Of course, there will be no legislative business and no votes will be taken that day.

On Tuesday, September 12, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. We hope to consider H.R. 3056, the County Health Organization Act on the Corrections Day Calendar.

We will also take up a number of bills under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices as soon as it becomes available. Members should note, however, that we will postpone any recorded votes until 12 o'clock noon on Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 11, the House will meet at 9 a.m. We will then recess immediately for a joint meeting to receive the Prime Minister of Ireland. After the joint meeting on Wednesday and for the duration of the week, we hope to consider a number of appropriations conference reports, among these energy and water, transportation, and the Department of Defense.

Next week we also hope to appoint conferees on H.R. 2202, the Immigration and National Interest Act of 1996.

We will have legislative business concluded by 2 p.m. on Friday, September 13, and hopefully even before that. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. BONIOR. Can I ask my friend from Texas about next Friday. There has been some discussion about whether or not we are going to have votes next Friday. As my friend from Texas knows, Rosh Hashanah begins on Friday and it will not be possible for Members to get home in time for the holiday if we do have votes. I was wondering if my colleague is factoring that into his decisions for the end of next week.