

her political career was just changing direction; she then successfully ran for Congress.

Congresswoman FOWLER returned to Washington with an ambitious agenda. She had vowed to make Mayport Naval Station a top priority and she succeeded. Through her position on the Armed Services Committee, she has built a reputation as an advocate of a strong national defense. She has improved the nation's commitment to military personnel and facilities in her district, throughout the nation, and around the world.

Her tenure on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has also resulted in major improvements for Florida. Florida is a rapidly growing state and deserves a greater share of transportation funding. Through Mrs. FOWLER's efforts, Florida is receiving an additional \$440 million annually for its transportation needs. Due to her experience with the Transportation Committee, Congressman FOWLER was named Chairman of the newly created Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Emergency Management.

While making her first run for Congress in 1992, Mrs. FOWLER offered to limit herself to four terms. Although she was asked by her leadership and her colleagues to reconsider, TILLIE is stepping down after four terms. After all, she has accomplished the goals she set out to achieve eight years ago.

We are losing more than an experienced lawmaker, we are losing a good friend. In fact, Mrs. FOWLER has been a good friend to the people of Florida, and perhaps more importantly, the men and women of our armed services. It has been an honor to serve and work with TILLIE and we will miss her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) to honor the remarkable career of my friend and colleague, TILLIE FOWLER.

TILLIE has served the Fourth District of Florida, this body, and her country with integrity and loyalty. She has been a role model and a friend to me during my freshman term here in Congress, and I will miss her greatly.

When I first met TILLIE, I knew we would get along well because of our similar background. TILLIE and I are two of only three Republican women attorneys in the House, and both of us have been very active in our home communities before coming to Washington.

At the time when TILLIE and I graduated from our law schools, there were very few women going into the legal

profession and even fewer options for women attorneys. We had to create our own options, and TILLIE certainly did so by deciding to move to Washington and begin a career in public service.

She worked first as a congressional staffer, then as counsel in the Nixon administration before moving to Jacksonville, Florida, with her husband, Buck, to raise their daughters, Tillie and Elizabeth. TILLIE established a solid reputation in Jacksonville as a local leader long before running for Congress. She was president of the Junior League, chairman of the Florida Humanities Council, and president of the City Council.

Because of this background, TILLIE is dedicated to maintaining excellent relations with her constituents. TILLIE serves her district with pride, which you can tell just by walking into her office. In addition to the Jacksonville Jaguars football helmet proudly displayed in her office, artwork from her district lines the walls, and books around her district decorate the reception area.

From the beginning, TILLIE made strong national defense one of her top priorities. When bases around the country were being closed in the early 1990's, TILLIE fought to ensure that two of the bases in Jacksonville were kept open. Because of such dedication, she is known and admired by the military community.

Our Tuesday Lunch Bunch relies heavily on her expertise in military affairs. As such an effective leader, TILLIE has been the true role model, not only for those of us who follow her in Congress but for people everywhere.

An even greater testament to her character and leadership is that not only do so many Members respect and admire her but that her own staff does as well. Her staff is extremely loyal to her and most of them have been with her for many years.

TILLIE established herself as the leader from her first day in Congress. As a freshman, she was elected co-chair of the Freshmen Republican Task Force; and in her second term, she became a deputy whip. She is currently the chairman of the Committee on Transportation Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Emergency Management and is the senior Republican woman on the Committee on Armed Services.

As Vice Chair of the Republican Conference, she is not only the highest ranking woman in Congress but the first Floridian to hold the position. With such a record of leadership, it is no wonder she was elected unopposed in 1994, 1996, and 1998.

A few weeks ago, I heard a fellow Member on the floor affectionately refer to TILLIE as a real-life Steel Magnolia. I could not agree more. In fact, TILLIE takes great pride in being referred to by Working Women Magazine as a drill sergeant disguised as a Southern belle.

Throughout her career, TILLIE has always been dedicated to standing up for

what is right. The strength of character has made her a great asset to this body.

TILLIE has been a true friend, and we will all miss her leadership. However, I am very confident to say that this is not, as they say, farewell and not goodbye. I know this will not be the last time that we will hear from TILLIE FOWLER. I look forward to seeing what she will do next because I know that, in whatever capacity she chooses to serve, she will serve her country and the good people of Florida with integrity, courage, and unending enthusiasm.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. BIGGERT. I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with those of us who are praising TILLIE FOWLER to tell them that I had the opportunity to be in Jacksonville and give the commencement address to the Jacksonville University senior class; and while there, I had the opportunity to meet with most all of the leaders of Jacksonville.

Up here it is easy almost to be a hero amongst ourselves. But we are seldom a hero in our own hometown. And the respect that TILLIE FOWLER has in her hometown is something that is almost astonishing. Every business leader there praised her. They were so happy to have her here. And they knew that she was term-limiting herself and they knew that she was not coming back, and they were remorseful of that.

I think it is a great compliment that we also recognize that not only is she a hero to us, but TILLIE FOWLER is a hero in her own hometown.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### TRIBUTE TO HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

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

Mrs. THURMAN. Madam Speaker, I too rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary woman and someone I call a friend, the Honorable TILLIE K. FOWLER.

Representative FOWLER is a dynamic and compassionate leader, who I am

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: