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

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA SAUNDERS

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing, I rise in tribute to Ms. Virginia Saunders, Program Operations and Evaluation Specialist for congressional Documents, in the Office of Congressional Publishing Services at the Government Printing Office, who died June 19, 2009, as she was entering her 65th year of dedicated Federal service.

Ms. Saunders was the recipient of other tributes in this House from my friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), when she reached the 50th and 60th anniversaries of her Federal service. Recently she was the subject of a profile in the Washington Post.

Born in Darlington, Maryland, Ms. Saunders spent her entire career in service to her fellow Americans. After working briefly at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, she joined the GPO in February 1946, as a war service junior clerk-typist in the division of public documents, stock section. Two years later, she was promoted to indexing clerk and earned subsequent promotions in the same classification. In 1958, she was promoted to library technician. Becoming a congressional documents specialist in 1970, she was then promoted to supervisor of the congressional documents section in 1974. In 1983, Ms. Saunders assumed the position of congressional documents specialist in the congressional printing management division, and in 2004—with 58 years of Government service behind her—she was promoted to her current position.

Since 1969, Ms. Saunders was responsible for the Congressional Serial Set, a compilation of all House and Senate documents and reports issued for each session of Congress. Published continuously since 1817, and distributed to the House and Senate libraries, the Archives, the Library of Congress, and Federal depository libraries nationwide, the Serial Set joins the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in offering students and historians a rich insight into the world of our Government. In the words of historian Dee Brown, the Serial Set "contains almost everything about the American experience . . . our wars, our peacetime works, our explorations and inventions . . . If we lost everything in print, except our documents, we would still have a splendid record and a memory of our past experience." As the GPO’s 1994 Report of the Serial Set Study Group pointed out, researchers and librarians agree that the Serial Set is "without peer in representative democracies throughout the world as a documentary compendium." This was the document that Ms. Saunders prepared faithfully for Congress and the American people for the past 40 years.

Throughout her career, Virginia Saunders worked tirelessly to improve the Serial Set. In late 1989, she submitted a suggestion regarding the appendix to the Iran-Contra Report to Congress, which contained identical reports from the House and the Senate. She proposed that this 40-volume publication be bound only once for the Serial Set volumes of House and Senate reports that were sent to depository libraries. This common sense idea resulted in a reduction of 13,740 book volumes to be bound, saving the taxpayers more than $600,000. In recognition of her work, Ms. Saunders received a letter of commendation from President George H.W. Bush, who said, "You have demonstrated to an exceptional degree my belief that Federal employees have knowledge, ability, and desire to make a difference."

Ms. Saunders generously shared her knowledge of the Serial Set with document librarians across the country. She delivered presentations at library associations and conferences and was an invaluable resource to the library community nationwide. In tribute to her work, in 1999 Ms. Saunders received the James Bennett Childs Award from the Government Documents Roundtable of the American Library Association, one of the library community’s highest honors. TheALA honored Ms. Saunders’ “distinguished contribution to documents librarianship,” and paid “grateful recognition” to a lifetime of exceptional achievements in this important field of endeavor.

Recently, Ms. Saunders told the Washington Post, “As long as my health is pretty good, I intend to hang in with my boots on. I have to keep this program going.” Shortly afterward, in a statement released by the GPO, she said, "I never thought I would thank the good Lord for work. Retirement has crossed my mind, but what else would I do? This is where my heart is." On behalf of the Joint Committee on Printing, I offer condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Virginia Saunders, and extend our gratitude and commendation for her lifetime of work on behalf of Congress and the Nation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 22(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

**NOTICE**

Incomplete record of House proceedings. Today’s House proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.