In North Carolina, flood waters have destroyed or heavily damaged 3,000 homes and forced 42,500 people to apply for state and federal assistance.

When the waters finally subside, Floyd is expected to be the most expensive natural disaster in North Carolina history, topping the $6 billion price tag from 1996's Hurricane Fran.

FEMA already has approved more than $4.3 million in direct aid to those affected by Floyd, and insurance companies are extending premium due dates an additional 60 days because so many are unable to return to their homes.

At least 1,500 people remain in shelters, spending nights huddled in sleeping bags and days monitoring media reports on the flooding. The American Red Cross has served hundreds of thousands of meals since evacuations for Floyd began, and the organization expects to remain in the region for months to come.

Panicked residents who have lost everything and have watched the media pack up and leave are afraid the Nation has lost interest in their problems.

This resolution is timely, Mr. Speaker, because it sends a message to the victims of Hurricane Floyd that the Nation has not forgotten them, and the Congress of the United States will make sure they get the aid and assistance necessary to rebuild their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON), Members from the region, Members from both sides of the aisle, for coming here to express their heartfelt sympathy, but also for us to collectively focus on the job that remains ahead.

This flood has caused enormous dislocation in our communities. Our neighbors will need our help in the weeks and the months ahead, and this institution needs to retain a commitment to make certain that these folks get back to a life as normal as possible.

I am looking forward to working with our colleagues to assure that that is the end of this event, a successful conclusion that will have the Federal Government working in partnership with the State and local governments and volunteer agencies to make sure our neighbors get back on their feet.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as record floodwaters receded across New Jersey only weeks ago, the damage toll from Hurricane Floyd inched upward in our state. Surging floodwaters caused several hundred million dollars in property damage and claimed four lives.

As officials struggled to cope with thousands of refugees, families were left to deal with contaminated drinking water, highway closures and lingering phone and power outages.

Nine of the counties hardest hit by Floyd have been declared federal disaster areas—including Hunterdon, Middlesex, Mercer, and Somerset counties in my district.

I was able to see firsthand the damage that the hurricane caused. In Lambertville, I toured the Middle School that only days before had 2–3 feet of water flowing through it. Mud covered floors, floating school supplies, and overturned desks scattered the building. Officials there told me they expect the clean-up effort may cost up to $1.5 million.

In Branchburg, I watched as families shoveled mud from their basements—their belongings ruined and homes permanently damaged.

In my Congressional District, there was water everywhere, but none to drink, as flooding contaminated drinking-water sources. More than 200,000 residents throughout the state were urged to boil tap water before using it.

From the scenes of devastation, tales of heroic rescues emerged.

In this time of devastation it gives me some comfort to think on those men and women of New Jersey who thought first of their fellow citizens.

The inextinguishable spirit of the citizens of New Jersey has burned brightly in the days since this horrible disaster. And it will continue to burn as an example for our nation.

However, this spirit alone cannot restore the damage caused by Hurricane Floyd.

While the federal disaster declaration is a substantial step forward in helping central New Jerseyans start to put their lives back together, more immediate assistance is necessary.

In cosponsoring this Resolution, I have pledged my support to continue to work to restore normalcy to the lives of the victims of the hurricane and to renew their spirits by helping them recover, rebuild, and reconstruct. I urge my fellow colleagues to join me.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, New Jersey suffered from some of the worst flooding in 200 years when Hurricane Floyd roared through Jew Jersey in September. Homes, corps, businesses and lives were destroyed.

Floyd is gone, and the flood waters have receded, but many New Jerseyans continue to suffer its effects. Lives were completely disrupted, and they continue to be. Our words here on the House floor have little impact on their suffering, yet they are important because we must ensure that America remembers the havoc Floyd wreaked on New Jerseyans, and the people of coastal North Carolina as well. Furthermore, we must continue to monitor the Federal government's response to this disaster and make sure none of our residents is overlooked.

I also want to take the opportunity to commend the countless men and women who contributed to relief efforts in New Jersey. Whether by wading into the waters to help rescue a stranded citizen, or by aiding with a contribution of time or money to help provide food and shelter for families, many of whom lost everything, New Jersey's volunteers have again demonstrated an admirable commitment to their fellow New Jerseyans, and to them I say, thank you.

To the people of my own district, in Morris, Essex, Somerset, Sussex and Passaic Counties, and elsewhere, and to the people of Bound Brook and Manville, and throughout New Jersey who have lost both their belongings and their faith, let me assure you that Congress has not, and will not forget you.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 322.

The question was taken.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1200

J.J. ''JAKE'' PICKLE FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 559) to designate the Federal building located at 300 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, as the ''J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building''.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 559

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal Building located at 300 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, shall be known and designated as the ''J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building''.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY).

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY), my good friend, for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Jake Pickle was a giant in this House. He was a personal friend of mine. He is so deserving of this honor. Some months ago, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) introduced his resolution. I not only supported it, but I moved it very quickly through our committee. We brought it to the floor. I supported it here on the floor. We passed it, and we sent it over to the Senate in May, I believe.

It was my hope that the Senate would have taken it up and would have acted upon it. That is my preference. But, unfortunately, the Senate has chosen not to act upon it, but rather to pass an identical Senate resolution sponsored by Senator GRAMM from Texas.

As recent as last night, we called the Senate again and asked if they would please consider the House resolution, the Doggett resolution. We were informed, again, in no uncertain terms, that they simply would not bring it up.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are faced with a choice here today, a choice which is not of my making and a choice which I wish we did not have to face. The choice is are we going to take the identical Senate resolution and honor Jake Pickle, or are we not going to pass any such legislation? That is the real choice.

Because Jake Pickle was such an outstanding Member of this body, a great American, I think that we should move ahead. Jake is in his 80's now. He is not in the best of health. He certainly brought great credit to this country and to his State of Texas. Indeed, I have on my coffee table at home his book entitled ''Jake,'' and I recommend it to all Members because it gives extraordinary insight into a very important time in our history.

Mr. Speaker, Jake Pickle is very deserving. I want to see this building named in his honor. The only way we are going to do it is by passing the Senate resolution which is identical to the House resolution. For those reasons that I have stated, I would urge all Members and particularly my Democratic friends because, of course, Jake is and is proud of being a Democrat, so this is a Democratic resolution. And, indeed, I support it and would urge all Members to support it.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), author of the House resolution.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, with our action today, I am pleased that Congress will have finally completed its consideration of the naming of the Federal building in Austin after my predecessor and friend, J.J. ''Jake'' Pickle. This honor is long, long overdue.

For all of those who come to central Texas by air, there is a good chance when they first touch ground, they will land on the J.J. ''Jake'' Pickle runway at our new Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. And if one is interested in higher education or in high technology, one will likely be aware that at the University of Texas we have a J.J. Pickle Research Center on the J.J. Pickle Research Campus from which great ideas and great spin-offs have had much to do with the success of the high-tech industry which has really fueled our progress in central Texas and certainly represents our central Texas economic future.

In a joint project, the City of Austin and the Austin Independent School District have construction under way on the J.J. ''Jake'' Pickle Elementary School, Library, Health Clinic and Recreation Center. They are located in the St. Johns neighborhood and will be opening in the fall of 2001 as, I think, a living symbol and substantive statement about our commitment to equal educational opportunity in central Texas.

To these Austin memorials it is appropriate that we add the J.J. ''Jake'' Pickle Federal Building. This is the place where, from the time of the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson, until his retirement in 1994, Congressman Pickle had his district office; and I am fortunate to have the very same rooms up on the 7th floor of the Federal building in Austin that we are naming today, a place from which most of the important operations of the Federal Government in central Texas are conducted.

Congressman Pickle is the only Congressman that I have really ever known during my life in Austin. He was elected when I was a senior at Austin High School, and he continued to serve until I was elected to succeed him in 1994.

And serve our community he certainly does and continues to do. It was with that service in mind that on February 12 of 1998 I introduced H.R. 3223, the bill that the bill before us today copies verbatim. Unfortunately, even I was surprised at the way this Republican Congress handles such matters. For months last year the Republican leadership permitted consideration of few, if any, bills if they had the misfortune of having a Democratic sponsor.

Finally, on July 14, 1998, with a bipartisan tribute, joined by Democrats and Republicans on this floor, we paid tribute to Congressman Pickle for his service and unanimously passed this bill through the House. My goal in filing H.R. 3223 early in 1998 was to have this bill signed into law by President Clinton in time for a ceremony in Austin, Texas, about October 11 of last year when Congressman Pickle happily celebrated his 85th birthday. My office was assured from the staff of the Senate sponsor of this measure, Senator GRAMM, that we would get this done; that the President would be able to sign it last year; and, of course, this was not done.

So on January 6, the first day of this session when I came down to swear my oath of office along with my colleagues, immediately after doing so, I refiled H.R. 3223 that the House had approved unanimously in 1998, and this year it was H.R. 118. Like most everything in this House this year, progress was painfully slow. But finally, finally on May 4 of this year, we had another bipartisan tribute which I hope Congressman Pickle enjoyed again, colleagues, Republican and Democrat, coming to tell some stories and to pay tribute to his excellent service. And the House again unanimously approved the bill.

On June 16 of this year, my office received a call indicating that the Senate was at last about to approve H.R. 118. So we turned on C–SPAN to watch the happy moment; and, indeed, we learned that at the last minute, apparently at the request of the sponsor of S. 559, that H.R. 118 would not be approved, but S. 559 would be.

Such action is highly unusual, even in this often too contentious Congress. During this year of 1999, three House naming bills of this type with Senate companions where both the House and Senate sponsor filed bills, three House bills have been sent over to the Senate first and each one of them is already law. The same has occurred with the naming bills that have come the other direction where the Senate acted more promptly than the House and the House paid courtesy to the Senate and approved those bills which have been signed into law along with these House naming bills that had no Senate sponsor originally, but were also signed into law.

The Pickle bill is thus the first and the only lone exception from the Lone Star State to the courtesy and the bipartisanship that is normally associated with such matters.

After more than a few unreturned phone calls to staff, I spoke personally with our senior Senator from Texas in August to courteously and respectfully request prompt approval of my House bill. About one month later a Senate staffer again assured my staff that we would get Senate approval of the House bill and that it would be done shortly. During the last month, however, we are back to largely the old unreturned phone call routine.

Now this morning's Republican Whip Notice for this very morning indicates that, like Senator GRAMM's original S. 559, they are designating 33 East 8th Street in Austin to be named for Congressman Pickle. If that address actually represents any place, it is part of a sidewalk in downtown Austin; and I think this error probably results from a Senate author who knows as little of Austin and Austinites, unfortunately, as that measure suggests. Mr. Speaker, I think that Congressman Pickle deserves far better from both the Senate and the House.

A number of strange arguments were advanced yesterday for the belated rush and enthusiasm to approve S. 559, the copycat version of the House bill. Yesterday's Congress Daily quoted a spokeswoman for the majority leader, Mr. ARMEY, as saying the House had to schedule S. 559 this week because it was a way to save time and avoid a

House-Senate conference committee. Of course that was phony because there were no differences between the House bill and the copycat version from the Senate for a conference committee to adjust.

Then other stories were circulated, apparently Mr. Shuster heard one of them, suggesting that Congressman Pickle was in grave health. Well, I talked to him personally just after he returned from his morning jog, and I am pleased to report to the Members of the House this beloved former Member of our body is alive and kicking.

Indeed, our community finds Congressman Pickle still mighty hard to keep up with because of the fact that he is no longer a formal Member of Congress, and only a former Member has not slowed him down a bit. We appreciate his energy and vigor, and we say thanks with the approval of this measure for what he has done.

I have tried to gain some understanding of why it is that we would go through the kind of unprofessional conduct associated with the way this bill has been considered. First I think in this do-little Congress approving naming bills and commemoration of the Leif Ericson Millennium Medal is about all that is getting done, so it is not surprising why Republicans would want to sponsor as many of these measures as possible.

Second, it is not unusual for Republicans to adopt good Democratic proposals. It is said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and who could help but be flattered by Senator GRAMM's enthusiasm for my proposal? Republicans, even in this Congress, rely on the wisdom of FDR, Truman and JFK; and it is hard to hear a quote from Mr. Nixon or Mr. Hoover.

But I think finally it is plain old arrogance. For one form of that arrogance we years ago coined a new word in Texas. It is called ''grammstanding,'' which usually describes the fine art of claiming credit in Texas for what you voted against in Washington.

But I think this silliness is not grammstanding. It is certainly not ''Profiles in Courage.'' I call it ''Profiles in Pettiness.''

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded that it is inappropriate to characterize or cast reflections on the Senate or Members of the Senate either individually or collectively.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill for a great man, Jake Pickle, whose career stood above the kind of deceit and pettiness associated unnecessarily with the process that results in the approval of this very good bill. I urge the House to approve it.

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 559 designates the Federal building in Austin, Texas, as the J.J. ''Jake'' Pickle Federal Building. One may recall this body passed H.R. 118, the House companion to S. 559, a few months ago. We are here today once again to honor our former colleague from Texas. Action on the Senate version will create a more equitable balance between the House and Senate versions of naming bills. Passage today will clear the measure for the President's signature.

Congressman Pickle began his long career in public service by serving 3½ years with the United States Navy in the Pacific during World War II. Following the war, Congressman Pickle returned to Austin, Texas, and held positions in the private and public sectors.

He served his political party ably as executive director of the Texas State Democratic Party. In 1963, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives in a special election to fill a vacant seat.

□ 1215

He was then reelected to the next 15 succeeding Congresses until his retirement on January 3, 1995.

During his tenure in Congress, Jake Pickle was a strong advocate for civil rights. He vigorously advocated and supported such legislation as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act. For over 30 years, Congressman Pickle continuously worked for equal opportunities for women and minorities. As chair of the Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight and the Subcommittee on Social Security, he helped shape the system of Medicare to assure that it fulfilled its intended purpose of bringing basic health care for those in need and timelessly fought for the future of Social Security.

Congressman Pickle was a dedicated public servant who remained close to his Texas constituents. This is fitting legislation that honors him. I support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I am personally disappointed that the leadership has chosen to make the naming of a Federal building in Texas, my home State, a partisan issue. There is something ironic about that, because I have known very few Members of this Congress in my service here that were more nonpartisan, that were more bipartisan than J.J. ''Jake'' Pickle.

But, nevertheless, I come to this floor for the primary purpose of saying thank you to my friend, our friend, Jake Pickle.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, at the outset that it takes a great deal for a Texas Aggie to come to this well of the House to compliment a University of Texas graduate. In this case, I will make an exception. No one deserves accolades better than our friend, J. J. ''Jake'' Pickle.

I love Jake Pickle. To me, he represents the very best of public service, truly committed to helping people for all the right reasons. He epitomizes the very best of public service, someone who has served his country in time of war, someone who continued to serve it in time of peace.

There are a lot of people today, Mr. Speaker, on both sides of the aisle claiming to be the saviors of the Social Security system. We will be debating that issue in the weeks and months ahead.

But in the 1980s, and particularly in the 1983 Social Security bill, Jake Pickle, through his leadership position on the Committee on Ways and Means, truly did help save the Social Security system. Millions of senior citizens, past, present, and future have been and will be the beneficiaries of Mr. Pickle's strong far-sighted leadership in that effort.

We could go on and on about all his many accomplishments, but it is not the accomplishments. It is the character of Jake Pickle that I most admire and love.

I think the Bible verse that says, ''This is the day the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.'' is basically the verse that, to me, represents what Jake Pickle is all about.

When he walks in the room, he brings light and life into that room. He has brought light and life to all of us who have known him. I honor Mr. Pickle today along with my colleagues.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, it is sad to hear that there is a squabble going on about naming this building. Quite frankly, we should keep our eyes on the prize, and that is to make sure that we do name this Federal courthouse after the great Member that we shared some common goals with here, Jake Pickle. I hope that gets worked out.

I would just like to take to the floor to thank Jake Pickle, because I worked for years on trying to change the burden of proof in a civil tax case, and Jake Pickle carried on a strong mantra with the Committee on Ways and Means.

But in the final analysis, he became a pragmatic friend and supporter and ultimately played a key role in the ultimate passing of that in last year's reform bill, even though he was not here.

So I want to say thank you, Jake Pickle. Many of us here love Jake Pickle. I hope we get beyond the partisanship. Keep our eyes on the prize and name that courthouse after our great former Member.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise and support enthusiastically this legislation, S. 559, as a bill to designate the Federal building on 8th Street in Austin, Texas in honor of Jake Pickle.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) who has previously spoken now represents Jake's district. He has twice introduced similar legislation, and he has been a steadfast advocate and supporter of this designation. House Members extend their thanks and gratitude to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) for his diligence in this effort.

Now, honoring Jake in this manner is particularly appropriate because, for 28 of his 31 years in Congress, Jake Pickle had his office in this Federal building on 8th Street in Austin.

Jake Pickle was extremely proud of his Texas heritage, a native of Texas, born in Big Spring in the northwest part of the State. He attended public schools and graduated from the University of Texas in 1938. He was a Federal worker during the Roosevelt administration and then entered the Navy during World War II, serving 3½ years in the Pacific.

Coming to Congress after a special election in 1963, and, of course, he then succeeded President Lyndon Johnson, that was LBJ's District, Jake wasted little time in establishing himself as a congressional leader. He joined only five other southern leaders in voting in favor of President Johnson's Civil Rights Act of 1964. Jake has acknowledged that the civil rights vote was a vote of which he is most proud.

A few months later, Jake Pickle again courageously voted for the Voting Rights Act and then worked for 30 years to ensure equal opportunity for minorities and women.

Jake's committee assignments, including chair of the Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight and chair of the Subcommittee on Social Security. He devoted his time and energies to the well-being of his constituents and developed a reputation for selfless work and tireless advocacy for his fellow Texans.

Those of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with Jake Pickle are happy that this bill is finally here and that he will receive the honor to which he is entitled. It is with great pride that I support the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) and urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Jake Pickle with this designation.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the gentleman yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise as someone who had the great honor and privilege of serving with Congressman Pickle. He served with great distinction, with great commitment to this country, obviously outstanding service to the State of Texas.

But he was a national legislator and brought credit to himself and to our country and to this House as a Member. I am privileged and honored to be among his friends, his former colleagues, and supporters of this legislation.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1¼ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN).

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from West Virginia for yielding me this time and rise in strong support of this bill.

Jake Pickle was a great leader from Texas, served in this House with distinction for many years, and has been followed ably by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT). We have had this discussion many times. I must say that both Jake and his wife Beryl are two true great Texans.

There is a story, and if the gentleman will bear with me on this, there is a great story that is similar to how this bill is being handled, though. There was a dispute in the Democratic Party some years back when it was a split party, and there was an issue of dollars for Democrats, but not a nickel for Pickle because Jake was on the other side of the issue.

It is ironic that today we are considering the Senate bill offered by our senior Senator from Texas, a former Democrat, now a member of the Republican Party when really the bill we ought to be considering is the bill by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) who introduced it first, who is the successor of Mr. Pickle.

I think Jake and Beryl are probably sitting back in Austin watching this on C–SPAN and chuckling to themselves that, even after 30, 40 years of these types of disputes, the House of Representatives today can go back and have the same internecine and warfare that the Texas Democratic Party was capable of doing many years ago.

Jake is a great man. He was a great leader from Texas. This is a good bill, even if it is not the Doggett bill. We ought to pass it.

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that I, too, lived in Austin. I was actually stationed at Bergstrom Air Force Base during the Vietnam period while my colleagues were in school there.

I, too, know Jake Pickle. There is no question that Jake Pickle is a gentleman and a scholar and was truly a credit to this great institution. But today I think that we should keep focus on what we are here about. We are here to name a building after a great man who was a great congressman and a credit to this Nation and to the great State of Texas.

So I urge my colleagues to proceed with this, and we will indeed facilitate naming this building for Congressman Jake Pickle.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, there is no more appropriate person to name a Federal building after than Jake Pickle. Jake has a long and distinguished connection with the city of Austin where this building will be located. Jake was president of the student body at the University of Texas. He went on to work many years in Austin in politics before coming to this Congress. Jake was, in fact, one of the most distinguished Members from our State in the last 30 years.

No person worked harder on making sure that the Social Security system would be strong and would survive well into the next century than Jake Pickle. No person worked harder on behalf of the high-tech industry of Austin authoring and fathering the semi-tech legislation that really created the new Silicon Valley in Texas.

No person served with greater humility, greater humor, and greater distinction than my friend Jake Pickle. I look forward to being with Jake and seeing the name go up on the building.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1¾ minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 1 additional minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that action we take today is marred by process. But I do want to express my great appreciation to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman SHUSTER) for recognizing the impasse that occurred when the other body refused to take up a House version of this legislation and made it clear that the only way to do it is to act on the Senate bill. That is just realism, and I appreciate his desire to, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman SHUSTER) expressed himself so eloquently, his depth of appreciation for Jake Pickle for the service in this body, and it shows what a distinguished leader our committee chairman is and his willingness to act as we have always done on our committee, in a bipartisan manner.

The gentleman from Texas whom we honor with this building naming is a very unusual person, a great Member of this body, and a very unorthodox Member. He did not go along to get along. But he pursued his own beliefs and pursued them vigorously and advocated on this floor and in the Democratic Caucus what he believed in. He was a very

rare article in the House of Representatives.

He always, as our colleagues from Texas have noted, always considered himself President Lyndon B. Johnson's congressman, and frequently would tell us stories about calls he had received, well I can recall this as a member of the staff at the time, calls from the President and later, after Lyndon Johnson's presidency, calls that he would receive from the former President, giving him advice on one or another action.

□ 1230

And Jake was also always very responsive to that advice.

He was a very close friend of my predecessor in Congress, John Blatnick, for whom I was administrative assistant, and I got to know Jake quite well. He served on the Committee on Public Works prior to going to the Committee on Ways and Means and we got to know each other very well. So well that after I was elected to Congress Jake Pickle always referred to me as John. I considered it a compliment. I never corrected him because I thought being associated with John Blatnick was just fine by me.

Naming this Federal building in Austin, I think, will be just as enduring a compliment to this great public servant, and I am really delighted we are taking the action today, finally, to give Jake Pickle the recognition he so richly deserves.

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana for yielding me this time and allowing me to say a few words about Jake Pickle.

I have known Jake literally all my political life, I guess for over 25 years, having served in the Texas legislature since 1973 up until coming to Congress, and Jake was always the Congressman for Austin, Texas.

Having served with Jake from 1993 until he retired, I cannot think of any other Member that deserves this honor of having a courthouse named after him more than Jake, because Jake was such a great Member. He served on the Committee on Ways and Means and he served his community well.

I know in the past, when we have talked about Jake Pickle, I talked about his book, ''Jake,'' and it is a great compilation of stories of his service in Congress. And I was proud a few years ago, for Father's Day, that my daughter, who was at the University of Texas at that time, went over and bought the book and asked Jake to just sign it for me.

Again, I want to congratulate not only the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY), but also the House for doing this for Jake Pickle.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support this bill. This measure designates a federal building in Austin, Texas as the J.J. ''Jake'' Pickle Federal Building. This edifice will truly stand as a striking and fitting monument to Jake Pickle's long and proud legacy of service to Texas.

J.J. ''Jake'' Pickle is a Texas icon whose shadow looms large across the territory from the Rio Grande to the Texas Panhandle. His presence is still runs deep throughout my home State of Texas.

J.J. Pickle is one of the last of the Great Society's old guard of Lyndon Johnson's administration. ''Jake,'' as his friends affectionately call him, put himself through college during the Depression, worked for President Roosevelt's National Youth Administration, served in the Pacific during World War II, founded a Central Texas radio station right after the war, and represented Texas' Tenth Congressional District from 1963 to 1995. He's a Yellow Dog Democrat who never forgot his West Texas roots, and a superb raconteur.

The following anecdote, as told by Mr. Pickle, reveals his strength of character:

Even today, it's hard to believe that just thirty years ago people of color couldn't patronize many of the restaurants, hotels, public rest rooms, or water fountains in America. In retrospect, it's almost inconceivable that those conditions existed just a generation ago. I believe that in 1964 a strong Civil Rights Bill could have passed only under the leadership of Lyndon Johnson.

Nobody else knew how to manipulate Congress so effectively, or hammer through legislation by sheer force of will. And because Johnson was from Texas, he could look fellow Southerners in the eye and say, ''I know what it will take for you to support this.'' He understood the risk.

A week after the vote, I was visiting with President Johnson and Jack Valenti at the White House. Jack commented that he was glad to see me vote for the bill.

I told Valenti it was a hard vote, and then added with feeling, ''I'm sure glad to get that one over with!'' President Johnson was listening and he said, ''Jake, that was a tough vote. But you'll be in Congress for another twenty years (I surprised everybody—it was thirty-one years!) ''and you'll probably have a civil rights vote every year from now on. We've just started civil rights reform, and we're two hundred years behind. We got a long way to catch up. So don't think for a second that you've got this vote behind you!''

As, usual, President Johnson was right. And the fight continues.

Elected to the Eighty-eight Congress by special election, December 21, 1963, JJ Pickle served his constituents for 30 years in the House of Representatives after being reelected to fifteen succeeding Congresses. He was a leader in the fight for civil rights issues and equal opportunity for women and minorities. During his tenure, J.J. Pickle became chairman of both the Ways and Means Oversight and Social Security Subcommittee. It is my pleasure to support this legislation to designate the federal building located at 300 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas as the J.J. ''Jake'' Pickle Federal Building.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support S. 559, a resolution naming the federal building in Austin, Texas after my fellow Texan and friend, retired Congressman J.J. ''Jake'' Pickle.

From his election to the House of Representatives in 1962 to his retirement in 1995, Congressman Pickle was the ideal public servant. I know firsthand how hard Congressman Pickle worked on behalf of his constituency in Central Texas. For over thirty years, Congressman Pickle had pivotal roles in legislation from civil rights to the protection of the environment. Naming the federal building in Austin after Congressman Pickle is an appropriate symbol of our admiration, our respect, and our appreciation for his true public service to us all. It's an honor to take this opportunity recognize a man of great integrity and valor, Congressman J.J. ''Jake'' Pickle.

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 559.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COOKSEY. 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 House Resolution 322 and Senate 559, the measures just considered by the House.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order: H.R. 1663, by the yeas and nays; H.J. Res. 65, by the yeas and nays; H. Res. 322, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1663, as amended.