CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

June 26, 1996

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BILLY wrote the book on kindness and de-
cency. He was a warm, gentle, good person—
the kind we need more of these days.

He loved this institution, he loved the people
who work here, and he loved representing
Missouri’s Eighth Congressional District.

BILLY Emerson worked hard and he worked
well. Thanks to BILLY, the 25 million Americans
who rely on food stamps for sustenance will
continue to get the Federal help they need to
make it from day to day. And that’s quite a
legacy.

As Malcolm Forbes said, “You can easily
judge the character of others by how they
treat those who can do nothing for them or to
them.”

BILLY Emerson treated everyone well—from
the Speaker of the House to the congressional
pages, and everyone in between.

I am honored to have worked with him and
I join the thousands of others in mourning his
loss today.

DEATH OF THE HONORABLE BILL
EMERSON

SPEECH OF
HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 25, 1996

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I want to rise
today to praise my colleague and good friend, BILLY Emerson, who died last Saturday after a
brave struggle against lung cancer. BILLY Emerson
was a true public servant, who cared deeply about his congressional district as well
as issues of global concern.

BILLY served with me on the House Transpor-
tation and Infrastructure Committee, and we
worked together on issues of regional concern
for both Illinois and Missouri. Many of those
problems which affect the boot heel of Mis-
souri are also endemic to southern Illinois; the
need for new infrastructure, good jobs and
public health which is accessible and afford-
able for the people who live there. One project
in particular which BILLY and I recently worked
on was Federal funding for the new Cape Girardeau Bridge; I join my colleagues in ask-
ing the House to name this bridge in BILLY’s
honor.

We had the opportunity to serve together for
8 years, and over those years I learned from
BILLY’s way of working in a bipartisan fashion.
BILLY Emerson knew that progress is not made
with just one side of the coin; it takes balance
to keep moving forward. By working with both
Republicans and Democrats, BILLY Emerson
was able to accomplish things for the people
of his congressional district as well as the Na-
tion.

And the world. BILLY Emerson, along with
our former colleague Mickey Leland, fought for
those people who could not fight for them-
selves—people in Ethiopia, Somalia, and other
countries where citizens starved and were too
weak to make their case to those who could help. BILLY fought for food and nutrition pro-
grams, to provide essential sustenance to
keep people alive.

His legacy will not soon be forgotten. But
his kind manner, his decency, his bipartisan-
ship, and his commitment to caring for other
people will never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELVIRA
GRATTAGLIANO

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
pay recognition to a great American citizen
who will turn 96 years old on January 1, 1997.
Now living in Bergen County, NJ, Elvira Schetino Grattagliano moved to America 85
years ago when she was just a young girl near
Naples, Italy, called Castella Mare Di Stabia.
Ms. Grattagliano exemplifies a role model citi-
 zen. She is always involved in her surrounding
community, and continues to hold a deep in-
 terest in community affairs and the Govern-
 ment. During World War II, Ms. Grattagliano
became very involved with the Red Cross pro-
 gram while her son Harry served under Gen-
 eral Patton, and her other son, Dominick
 served under General MacArthur.

This leads me to her biggest love; her fam-
 ily. Rocco, Dominick, and Elvira were mar-
 ried on December 27, 1927. They were blessed
with three children Harry, Pauline, who is deceased, and Dominick. As a wife
and homemaker, Ms. Grattagliano dedicated
her life to her 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and
10 great-grandchildren. Once her children had grown, Ms.
Grattagliano went into business as the owner
and operator of a grocery and vegetable mar-
ket in Greenville. Once again, thank you, to
Ms. Grattagliano for all her efforts to make her
community a better place and I wish her many
more happy birthdays to come.

SALUTE TO DR. DALE FRANCIS
REDIG

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
salute Dr. Dale Francis Redig who is retiring
from a successful career in dentistry. On June
22, 1996, many of Dr. Redig’s friends and col-
gleagues gathered in Sacramento, CA to honor
him for a lifetime of public service, dedication,
leadership, and commitment.

One of the great honors of my life was to ask
my colleagues to join me in congratulating
him on a sterling career of service to his pro-
fession and in wishing him happiness and
success in all of his future endeavors.

FOSSTON, MN: AN ALL-AMERICAN
CITY

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in con-
gratulating Fosston, MN for being named an
All-American City. This is a distinct honor for
the state of Minnesota and for all the people
of Fosston.

It is difficult for a small town to get the at-
tention of National Civic League jurists, but the
citizens of Fosston and their community lead-
ers did just that. As 1 of only 10 small towns
selected to receive this award, this town of
1,500 people proved that it is All-American,
through and through.

For example, the Fosston school has estab-
lished a program to keep young people in
Fosston after graduation. Todays small town
youth often seek opportunities in larger cities,
but Fosston has developed a program to demon-
strate to high school students that there can
be economic opportunities in the town where
you grew up.

In addition, school and community leaders
have formed a committee to examine both the
opportunities and potential problems that could
lie ahead for Fosston. This kind of future ori-
ented community program makes Fosston
unique among small towns, and a model for
others to follow.

My Minnesota district is made up of numer-
ous small towns just like Fosston, and you will
find the same kind of community pride and in-
volvement in all of them. I will not be surprised