

came between our friendship. We have too little of that in this Chamber. I hope we remember the example of BILL EMERSON and do a better job, each of us, going forward in the tough debates that are ahead.

Third, he was a man of incredible courage. We all watched as he maintained his perfect voting record this year in a state of obviously disintegrating health. It was terrible to watch someone we love like BILL grow sick and obviously failing right in front of us. But he hung in there and there was never any talk of retreat or surrender from BILL EMERSON. He was going to beat this cancer and he was going to be reelected. He was not done serving the people of Missouri. That courage and never, ever stopping, looking forward, and doing his best is something that I will never forget from my friend BILL.

Rest in peace, old buddy.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF BILL EMERSON

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to mourn the passing of our friend and colleague, BILL EMERSON. Being a newcomer to the Congress, I reflected on the words of our colleague from Missouri, Mr. SKELTON, on bipartisanship and actions speak louder than words. So it has been on many occasions when I would see both Mr. SKELTON and Mr. EMERSON sharing a ride across the river to work. In our Cloakroom, there is a picture of a younger Mr. EMERSON and our colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. KANJORSKI, when they served as pages in this institution, helping to bear the stretcher of a wounded Member in a terrible episode in our Nation's history. So, yes, this is a time of remembrance. It is also a time for true bipartisanship.

Mr. Speaker, I recall that in the middle of some troubled times, one political adversary gave his partisan foe some very good advice. It was Hubert Humphrey who told President Richard Nixon to lay out all the facts, and to come clean on certain issues. I daresay, had Mr. Nixon followed Mr. Humphrey's advice, a lot of the problems we faced in this country would have been eased.

In that spirit, Mr. Speaker, without venom or vitriol, in the spirit of true bipartisanship, I would call on this President to release the pertinent documents needed to bring the investigations to a resolute and clear conclusion, so that we may move forward in a bipartisan fashion to clear up questions and to work in a constructive manner in this body.

IN MEMORY OF BILL EMERSON

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, my friend died on Saturday.

BILL EMERSON and I knew each other for many years, traveled together, supported one another in our endeavors in Congress—especially in humanitarian work.

We served the Congressional Hunger Center as cochairmen, and BILL's support during my fast—and during the startup of this nonprofit organization—made a very real, very personal difference to me.

We got to know each other's families, and my family already feel the loss of our good friend. And we all extend our deepest sympathy to his family: to BILL's mother, Marie Hahn; to BILL's wife, Jo Ann; and to their daughters—Elizabeth, Abigail, Victoria, and Katherine.

In the Washington Post this weekend, David Broder wrote that "the companionship that once crossed party lines in Congress * * * has been replaced by a tone of unrelenting enmity." That was never true with BILL EMERSON. He nurtured his relationships with both Democrats and Republicans alike.

Mr. Broder was right in lamenting a political climate that too often is hostile. "It is the personal relationships that determine how much the group will get done," he said—and he is right. But people like BILL EMERSON showed us all that we can work together to make a difference for the people who send us to Washington—and especially for children.

My friend was a decent, wonderful man. He will be missed by many of us, and I will never forget him.

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WE DO NOT REALIZE THE TRUE WORTH OF A GREAT MAN UNTIL HE IS GONE

(Mr. TALENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, we do not realize the true worth of a great man until he is gone. The networks of which he is a part, the man of which he is the hub, slip and shake and tremble. We all feel the insecurity of things if even the strongest among us can be so quickly taken from us. Yet we all realize the impact for good that a good man can have.

So it is, Mr. Speaker, with our dear colleague, BILL EMERSON. Much will be said of BILL in the coming days. I wish to say this now. He was my friend, faithful and just and charitable to me. He served his country. He loved his family. He is now most certainly with his Savior, and I will miss him more than I can say.

AMERICA WILL MISS BILL EMERSON, I MOST OF ALL

(Mr. KANJORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to my oldest and dearest friend, BILL EMERSON. BILL and I knew each other for 43 years. We met in this Chamber as 15-year-olds when both of us were young. BILL was an exceptional young man, very bright, very focused and very dedicated. As a matter of fact, I used to think of him as an American Churchill or a Midwestern Lincoln: a person of great potential ready to be molded, with a big heart and an understanding love for America and what this great democracy is all about. You know, a lot of my friends on both sides of the aisle will miss BILL because he was truly bipartisan in most everything he ever did.

A lot of us know him and know him in different ways, but one does not know BILL EMERSON unless one knows he was not really BILL EMERSON. When I first met him, he struck out his hand and he introduced himself as Norville William Emerson of Missouri. Being a young man from Pennsylvania, I had never heard of a Norville William Emerson from Missouri before, particularly one who talked with a Midwestern twang and almost had hayseed in his hair. But clearly the light and brightness of his mind reflected through his eyes, and he and I became the dearest of friends, roommates for 2 years and fellow pages. And it did not stop there. We spent time together. He visited my home and I visited his, and our families became the closest of friends from my childhood days. We went on to colleges; we shared the hopes of young men and the witness of the great sacraments in marriage. And as we went on through life, we gave advice and thoughts to one another and always remained friends.

We even shared the history of the 90th anniversary of Gettysburg together. I drove through the battlefield yesterday. That is 43 years ago that we stood up there, and I remember BILL well, telling me about his understanding of this great Civil War, this great battle that preserved democracy for America and individual rights for every American then and unborn into the future. He had such a fundamental understanding of it that truly I thought that he could be the next Lincoln coming along.

Well, BILL and I went through life together and shared all those years between then and 1980. He and I ran in 1980 for the House. He was a better politician than I. He got elected, I did not. But we remained close friends and in 1984 I had the good fortune of winning my seat, and we joined each other again after a period of 40 years of having known each other as very close friends.

In this House we tried with other Members, Mickey Leland being one, to form an organization uniting Members across the aisle. We tried to put Republicans and Democrats together as

human beings, as friends, and as Americans, rather than as politicians interested in short-term advantage. BILL was a great bridge builder. BILL had that magnificence to reach out and be understood and trusted. It was not until recently, when I saw him afflicted with his last challenge that I understood the reason why: he had a profound understanding of the basic good nature of man, and that was reflected in his every action.

And, Mr. Speaker, people trusted him rightly so. He had a wonderful grandfather. We shared a love for him together. He has a beautiful mother, a wonderful wife and four beautiful daughters. They will all miss him. We will miss him. America will miss him. But I think, Mr. Speaker, I will miss him most of all.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN BILL EMERSON

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I also stand here in the well to remember our dear colleague, BILL EMERSON from Missouri. I can still see him in the back row, all the way in the back in the last aisle, standing there talking. And many of us used to go back to talk to him and ask him, BILL, what are the nuances of this vote and would he explain it. He was very knowledgeable about different bills on the House floor. But he would also give you a sense of humor, a point about the bill that would make you chuckle and laugh, knowing that sometimes Members were forced to vote on things they did not like, because within the whole bill there would be a small something you did like. But BILL EMERSON had that way.

And I also want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that many times I spoke to him during his illness and encouraged him and gave him several articles, articles which talked about other Americans suffering from cancer and how they met this disease and the type of mind frame they put themselves in and tried to encourage it. But he did not need to be encouraged in terms of a positive attitude because his entire relationship that I had with him and saw on the House floor was one of optimism, one of being a positive American and showing other Americans, through his leadership and through his personality, the purpose of all of us is that we are to be caring and helpful for our fellow man.

So I tell you, Mr. Speaker, when I come here to the well, I can almost still see BILL in the back there, laughing, encouraging all of us, and giving that light chuckle he has, together with the sparkle in his eyes. So I bid him adieu and wish him and his family well and with deepest sympathy remind my colleagues of the great Congressman BILL EMERSON.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN BILL EMERSON

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the remarks of all of those who have spoken here. I have sat here and I wanted to listen to all of the things about the life of BILL EMERSON, because I never was to his house. I did not know his family. But I knew BILL EMERSON, the man, and I knew him as the Congressman, and like each and every one of you, I liked him very much.

We served together on a couple of key issues, one of them the issue of smoking. BILL EMERSON was never one to involve himself in denial. He always was straightforward. He was legitimate. He told you what he felt on an issue. He backed it up and corroborated it with sound fact, data, and analysis.

I just simply want to rise today to say to Missouri, to the family of this fine man, that you elected a great Congressman. He paid attention to detail, he never forgot the constituent matters that are most important. Ladies and gentlemen, we are representatives of the people. Representation is what we shall do, and a prime example of that was BILL EMERSON.

My condolences to the family. I would hope that after all of this, we would reflect on the life of BILL EMERSON, and all of us may be a little better in our service as representatives of the American people.

MY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE BILL EMERSON

(Mr. MICA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, there is an empty seat in the House of Representatives today, and there is a great void that will never be filled, and that is the void created by the death of my friend and our colleague, BILL EMERSON. We will miss him. We send our condolences to his family.

Some of the previous speakers have reflected on BILL and his many contributions. I am not sure if the pages and Members all know about BILL's great legacy, but BILL came here as a page and served in the Congress. I remember seeing back in the Cloakroom, there is a photo of BILL as a young man helping when the shooting occurred in the House of the Representatives. When nationalists fired into the House Chamber, BILL was one of the young pages helping Members back then who were wounded. That picture still hangs in the Cloakroom.

Mr. Speaker, I came here as a freshman just several years ago, and BILL was doing the same thing, helping Members along the way, new Members like myself, to learn more about the

House of Representatives and its procedures and how to go forward. He never changed his role.

BILL EMERSON was a tough bird, too. I remember talking to him as he was undergoing his treatment and giving him encouragement and also asking about some of my own dealings here. Should I move forward? Should I proceed? Sometimes I am pretty aggressive in my service. BILL, whether he was in the wheelchair taking chemotherapy or whether he was advising me as a new Member, he always said, "MICA, give 'em hell." I always admired his counsel and his advice and his determination that we should serve this body with every ounce of vigor that we can muster, and he did that right to almost his last days. Now he has been taken from us.

I remember him coming into this Chamber in his wheelchair and his concern was, and he expressed it to me, was not about his treatment but he said: "Oh, darn it." He did not use those exact terms. His concern was that he did not want to miss his obligations to this body, his service to the House of Representatives. That was his concern right to the end, that he complete his service. We have an example by a life of an individual who served first his family, and then his State, Missouri, and this is a great loss also for our Nation to not having his service here. This Congress has a great void without the BILL EMERSON who had a tough veneer but had a warm heart and a great record of service to this body that will never be matched.

BILL, we miss you. But I want to tell you that I will be out here, BILL, and I will continue to "give 'em hell," as you directed, and do the best I can to serve the constituents of my State like you served your State and our Nation. So long, BILL.

REMEMBERING OUR GREAT COLLEAGUE, BILL EMERSON

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues in remembering our great colleague, BILL EMERSON. I was downstairs listening to a number of the remarks made about BILL's great contribution to the process of representative government, and I would like to take a brief period of time to talk about a very special relationship that I had with BILL.

Back in 1993, following some of the scandals that surrounded this place, in a bipartisan way, we saw the Democratic leadership put together the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress. It was the first time in a half a century that a bipartisan, bicameral effort to look at institutional reform was assembled. I will tell Members that of the large number of Senators and House Members who were part of this organization, no one was