

were colleagues in the Texas House and the Texas Senate. We were elected to this office in the same class in 1992.

He was a patriot, a Vietnam veteran who risked his life many times to defend his fellow marines. He was honored with many medals. He was a true American hero.

My colleague, Frank Tejeda, has been an example and role model for many people in many ways. He proved that you can achieve success with determination and hard work. He ended his life with the same quiet dignity he always showed.

Mr. Speaker, I overwhelmingly agree with my colleagues from Texas that we should honor Congressman Tejeda's memory and his family by naming a post office in San Antonio as the "Frank Tejeda Post Office." I urge support for the passing of this resolution and we name this building for a great Texan-American.

My heart and prayers are with his family.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, Frank Tejeda was a quiet and reserved man who truly embodied the spirit of all Americans. The grandson of Mexican immigrants, Tejeda, grew up on San Antonio's tough south side; a place he loved and a place that was always home. Frank Tejeda was an achiever, whether it was in his beloved south side neighborhood, a Vietnam jungle, ivy league universities, or the Halls of Congress. He was a leader, someone others looked up to and revered. Tejeda, who died Thursday after a long battle with brain cancer, was 51 years old.

At 17 years old Tejeda was expelled from school. Tejeda then joined the Marine Corps and soon found himself on the battlefields of Vietnam, something that would shape the rest of his life. During his Marine service, Tejeda earned a Bronze Star, the Commandant's Trophy, Marine Corps Association Award, the Colonel Phil Yeckel Award, and a Purple Heart. His proudest achievements were his military accolades.

The Marines were a way of life for Frank Tejeda and his service to his country did not end when he left Vietnam. Frank stayed in the Marine Corps and later went to officer candidate school where he earned the highest academic average in the history of the corps. Even in Congress, Tejeda was still a marine. He served as a major in the Marine Corps Reserve Capital Hill Unit. Sadly, his greatest military accolade might have come posthumously as he was awarded the Silver Star by Navy Secretary John Dalton at his funeral Monday.

The former high school dropout later returned to school and achieved academic prowess that some probably thought impossible. He earned his undergraduate degree at St. Mary's University. He then received his Juris Doctorate from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California-Berkeley. As great as these accomplishments were, his thirst for knowledge didn't let him stop there. Instead, his quest would take him to the two most hallowed universities in our Nation. First, he graduated with an L.L.B. from Yale and later he received his master's in public administration from Harvard's famed Kennedy School of Government.

Frank wanted to take his knowledge and help people less fortunate than he. He ran for the Texas Legislature and was first elected in 1976. He quickly made a name for himself in Austin where he was a strong advocate for minority issues and fought hard for his beloved

south side. He served 10 years in the Texas House before winning election to the Texas Senate in 1986. In the senate, he helped draw the district he would eventually represent in Congress.

In 1992, Tejeda sought to be the first person to represent the newly drawn 28th Congressional District. The district encompasses south San Antonio and extends all the way to the Mexican border. His popularity on his native south side being what it is, no Democrat or Republican filed to run against Tejeda in either the primary or general elections. He received 87 percent of the vote against a Libertarian that November and was sworn into Congress in January 1993.

In Congress, Tejeda served on the National Security and Veterans Affairs Committees. Tejeda fought hard for a strong military and issues important to veterans. He was a strong advocate for Texas and Texas jobs. He continually fought for Kelly Air Force Base even after it was announced the base would close. Never wanting to lose touch with the people he represented, Tejeda went home to San Antonio every weekend.

Tejeda was a strong family man and a man of faith. Frank left behind his mother, Lillie Tejeda, his sister Mary Alice Lara, his two daughters and his son Frank Tejeda III. Although, Frank may no longer be with us, his presence is still being felt by not only San Antonians and Texans, but by all Americans. As our recently reelected President addressed our entire Nation he could not help but fondly reflect on the service this man of a humble background gave to our Nation. His presence was felt in the gallery as the Nation viewed his mother and sister, the way Frank would have wanted to see them, standing strong.

Frank Tejeda also touched me with his presence, although I didn't serve with him long. I am glad to say I knew this man who touched so many lives in a positive way. Frank Tejeda was a true Texas and American hero. I feel it is only proper that he was born and lies in the shadow of the Alamo.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to Representative Frank Tejeda, who recently lost a long battle with brain cancer.

Frank touched many lives as evidenced by the 600 people who attended his funeral mass in San Antonio Monday and the 2,000 others outside the church. He was a man of great conviction and perseverance, a veteran who fought for his country in Vietnam, a leader in the Hispanic-American community of San Antonio and a credit to this governing body.

Throughout his life, Frank Tejeda embodied the qualities of a strong work ethic, rigorous discipline and great honor. During his 4-year tour of duty in Vietnam, Frank distinguished himself as a marine of the highest accord. Wounded in battle, he was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, and continued while in Congress to serve the corps as a member of its reserves.

After his stint in Vietnam, Frank showed great strength of character in attaining his education. Despite dropping out of high school at the age of 17, he displayed the value of an education by earning degrees from such esteemed institutions as Saint Mary's University in San Antonio, the University of California-Berkeley, Yale University, and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

As a public servant, Frank always placed the needs of his constituents first. As a mem-

ber of the Texas State Legislature for 16 years, he was a strong advocate for veterans' rights and the victims of violent crimes. He also fought for minorities in South San Antonio, assisting minority- and woman-owned businesses, and promoting measures to ensure voting rights for minorities.

In his election to Congress in 1992, Frank earned the distinction of being the first freshman to be elected to Congress without opposition from a major party. It was a testament to his rare legislating skills and his unparalleled stature in the community of South San Antonio.

While serving the people of the 28th District of Texas in Congress, Frank earned a reputation as a man of great leadership and vision. He represented the needs of the Hispanic community in his district with distinction. As a member of the National Security and Veterans' Affairs Committees, he used his unique background as a marine and a soldier of the highest acclaim to fight for the needs of our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Frank Tejeda exemplified unmatched character and honor during his life. He will be greatly missed by this governing body.

I join in offering my condolences to the Tejeda family, including his three children—Marissa, Sonya, and Frank III.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say goodbye to a friend. Although many Members of this body have risen and recounted what kind of man, legislator, and public servant Frank Tejeda was, I believe it certainly cannot be said enough.

I had the privilege of serving with Frank on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for 6 years. As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, he was an ardent supporter of our Nation's veterans and their families, and it is little wonder why.

He joined the Marines when he was 17 and served for 4 years. During that time, Frank was sent to Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, the Commandant's Trophy, the Marine Corps Association Award, and the Colonel Phil Yeckel Award for "the best combined record in leadership, academics, and physical fitness." While in Congress, Frank continued to serve in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Frank was a true American patriot. His love and pride for his country was evident to all who knew him. When his country called, he answered and fought hard—putting his life on the line. He knew the price of freedom and did not shirk from it.

There is no question that he served the 28th District of Texas and the citizens of our country very well. I know he will be missed by all those who were fortunate to come into contact with him over the years.

We were all heartened at the way Frank remained strong during his battle with cancer. Whenever I saw him in a committee hearing or on the House floor, I realized just what kind of devotion and commitment he had for his service to his constituents and to his country.

Mr. Speaker, we will all miss Frank Tejeda. I know, however, that his work in this body will serve as a lasting tribute to a man who devoted his life to public service.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this special order in honor of the late but great Congressman Frank Tejeda.

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

There was no objection.

THE PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon in strong support of the President's education initiative. Working together, the Congress and the White House can ensure that every 8-year-old can read, every 12-year-old work the Internet, and every 18-year-old attend college. These are lofty goals. However, if we can fulfill them, we will help ensure that the 21st century, like the current one, is America's century.

Last night the President spoke of setting world-class educational standards. I wholeheartedly support this goal. Setting high standards means challenging our teachers and students to be the very best they can be. It means challenging business to support education. It means challenging legislators at every level to ensure that our schools have the resources they need to provide every child in America with a world-class education.

Mr. Speaker, I want to work with my colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations, Democrat and Republican, to ensure that the Federal Government lives up to its commitment to education.

In the President's State of the Union, the President announced the America Reads initiative, which will harness the volunteer spirit of our citizens and the knowledge of our Nation's educators to ensure that every fourth-grader can read on his or her own.

I am proud that a college in my district, Pace University, is one of the 60 colleges that has already pledged to place work-study students in tutoring programs. This initiative epitomizes the types of activities we all should encourage and support: students working their way through college by helping to improve the lives of their neighbors' children.

My home State of New York is well on its way to setting rigorous academic standards for all children. New York's plan will challenge every school to graduate every student with a diploma that businesses and colleges will recognize as proof of a rigorous education. Those local schools that struggle at first will be given a helping hand and a chance to improve, but no one gets a free pass. I would encourage other States to look at New York's plan as they work on their own State's standards.

Mr. Speaker, some of the greatest support for higher standards comes from teachers and parents, but they cannot turn things around on their own. They do need the Government's help to ensure that every school is prepared for new challenges that await them. Sadly, however, too many of our public schools are in no condition to meet these challenges.

I would hope that my colleagues would check the physical conditions of schools in their own area. I did, and found too many examples of unsafe conditions and serious overcrowding. Last year I released a GAO report, along with my colleague in the Senate, CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN, that confirmed what too many students and teachers already know: that some of our Nation's schools are literally falling down. The problem is especially severe in New York City, where two-thirds of the schools reported that their environment is inadequate for learning. Right now, not far from this Capitol building, there are public schools that were temporarily closed because they are unsafe.

Mr. Speaker, the Nation's adults are letting our children down. That is wrong, and it must change. Last year I introduced the School Infrastructure Improvement Act, which would have provided interest subsidies to schools to make needed repairs. I also offered an amendment in the Committee on Appropriations to provide \$150 million to make urgent repairs in the most dilapidated schools around the Nation. Local communities can sometimes find it just too tough to do it on their own and they need our help.

In response, the President has announced that his budget will include \$5 billion to help finance \$20 billion in school construction and repair over the next 4 years. This money can also be used to help link our schools to the Internet so that one day soon every 12-year-old will be able to walk into his classroom or school library and link up with the Library of Congress or a local university, or a national newspaper, or a student on the other side of the world. I am working closely with the President on this initiative and plan to introduce legislation to help make it happen.

The President's education vision also includes affordable college for every student. His plan includes a series of monumental student aid initiatives that will ensure that cost is no longer an obstacle to a college degree.

His \$1,500 HOPE scholarships, available for 2 years of college, will put a community college degree within reach of every family. More than 4 million lower- and middle-income students would be helped by these scholarships. Families can opt instead for an annual \$10,000 tax deduction to help send their sons and daughters to college. In addition, families could begin saving for their child's future college education while they are still young by opening a tax-free education saving account. These education IRA's will create investment capital for business now, and provide tax free withdrawals for college tuition down the road,

when high school graduation rolls around. And as a mother of three grown children, I know that that time arrives before you know it.

I strongly support these targeted tax cuts to make college more affordable. In addition, the Federal Government must maintain its commitment to grant-based aid for those families and students struggling just to get by each day. The President recognizes this. That's why he has proposed to increase Pell grants from \$2,700 to \$3,000—the largest increase in Pell grants in two decades. Over 3.6 million students now eligible would receive a much needed \$300 grant increase, and an additional 130,000 families could take advantage of the Pell program.

Practically everyone in this body went to college. That same opportunity should exist for all Americans. These proposals will help give them that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, the President's education plan will make it clear once and for all that he is, indeed, the Education President. I hope that when the dust settles and the 105th Congress adjourns next year, this Congress will be known as the Education Congress. I will certainly do what I can to make that happen.

THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, we are here today really to talk about a very important issue. That is the issue of the balanced budget amendment and how Social Security relates to that issue.

TRIBUTE TO THE GREEN BAY PACKERS

Mr. Speaker, before I begin on that issue, I would like to take just a moment to pay special tribute to my idea of some real American heroes, the world champion Green Bay Packers. I would like to express our personal thanks to the players, Coach Holmgren, General Manager Ron Wolf, President Bob Harlan, and thousands of faithful friends all across this country and the Packers as a whole who have now reestablished themselves as world champions in the football world.

There is more to this than just the football world, and I think that is important. While winning the Super Bowl is exciting, far more credit should be given to the Green Bay players, who serve as role models for young people in our communities in Wisconsin. Parents can help their children understand the importance of living their values by pointing to role models who are also on this Green Bay Packers team, such as Reggie White. Reggie's success on the football field has not distorted his Judeo-Christian values. The fame he has earned as minister of defense has not led him to an immoral lifestyle. Instead, he has used his reputation and resources to help those in need. He has set his goals high and worked hard to reach them. He has kept his worldly fame in perspective, and has used it to share an eternal view.