

wonderful people back home. He understood the legislative process. But most of all I found him, as so many, many did, as a friend, a true friend.

What he leaves today is more for those who follow us in this Chamber and who lead and will lead America in the days and years ahead; to the pages, which he once was, to the young people who he spent so much time with in his office and back home in the Eighth District of Missouri, for he was truly a role model.

I hope and pray that his memory will live in those young folks who will stand in his shoes, in our shoes in the years ahead. We miss him, but we revere his memory. We always shall.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BILL EMERSON

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our former colleague, the gentleman from Missouri, Bill Emerson, who passed away a year ago after a long and valiant battle.

Bill was known for his bipartisan ship, his ability to bring people together to work on hunger. Bill and I and the gentleman from Ohio, TONY HALL, and a few others were in a small covenant group that met every Tuesday in the Capitol chapel to talk with each other, to pray with each other, and to support each other.

I was privileged to know Bill. He was a person of character, a person of courage, a person of integrity. Bill loved history more than anyone else that I knew, and Bill loved to talk about Lincoln; Bill loved to talk about Winston Churchill.

I can see where Bill is; in heaven where Lincoln and Churchill and Bill are talking together, and Lincoln is talking about how it was in the 1850's and 1860's, Churchill is talking about how it was in World War I and World War II, and Bill Emerson is talking about how it really was in the 1970's the 1980's and the 1990's.

Bill made every effort to live by the principles of Jesus, and he set an example for this entire Congress to live by. Every time I see the gentlewoman from Missouri, Mrs. JO ANN EMERSON, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. KANJORSKI, and the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. SKELTON, who he rode with, and many others, I think of Bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BILL EMERSON

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to join with the gentlewoman from Missouri, Mrs. JO ANN EMERSON, and other distinguished Members to pay tribute to Bill Emerson.

So many of us like to say that this is my best friend, the great gentleman from Missouri, et cetera, et cetera, but I can tell my colleagues that Bill Emerson was a good friend.

Like the gentleman from Virginia, FRANK WOLF, said, Bill and I traveled together. We ate dinner together often. We, the gentleman from Virginia and I, met every Tuesday at 4 o'clock in the chapel and prayed together. We talked about our families. Our wives knew each other. Our children knew one another.

Bill was a great man. He taught us a lot about what it was like to be a humanitarian. He taught me a lot about agriculture and about being a great example.

My son and he had a special thing, too, because they both had cancer at the same time and they died within a month of each other. Bill would always send my son cheesecake every week from this famous place in his hometown of Girardeau, I believe, and my son always looked forward to it.

So I loved this guy and I really miss him. He was a great man, and the gentlewoman from Missouri, Mrs. JO ANN EMERSON, is carrying on in the great footsteps of her husband.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with JO ANN EMERSON and other distinguished Members to remember and pay tribute to Bill Emerson.

Occasionally, during the course of our work here in Congress, the word, "friends," is used lightly. But, I can say that Bill Emerson was truly my good friend. Bill and I knew each other for many years. We worked together, traveled together, and spend time together outside of work as well. Our families knew each other and became close.

I know that Bill was also a friend to many other Members of this body. He cultivated relationships with both Republicans and Democrats, judging his colleagues not by their party affiliation, but rather by their integrity, dedication, and willingness to serve. His own integrity and dedication were unmatched. Even after he was diagnosed with cancer, he continued to work and serve—not to score points or garner sympathy but because that was simply the kind of man he was.

Bill was also a true friend to the needy. He worked endlessly to ease the pain of families and children suffering from poverty. I was honored to serve with him as cochair of the Congressional Hunger Center and work with him to educate the Congress and the Nation about hunger.

Bill was a good man with a truly humanitarian heart. He taught me a lot about serving others, about being a good legislator, and about the true meaning of friendship. I miss him.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BILL EMERSON

(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, Bill Emerson was a colleague to all the Members that are here on the floor. To

me, he was my oldest and dearest personal friend.

As all my colleagues have learned, as we go through life, particularly in politics, friends and associates come and go, but our real friends are from our childhood. Bill and I were fortunate enough to meet at the tender age of 15, and I do not think there was ever a year that went by in our lives that we did not have an opportunity to get together, visit with each other or talk with each other. I went through many of his trying times and many of his joys in his lifetime.

Bill Emerson represented something that I want to speak to, because I think it is germane. Maybe we should think about forming the Emerson Society. Because Bill, whenever I look in the back of the Chamber, I see a little smoke and I know that you are still standing at the rail.

He was the type of guy, although he was a Republican and I a Democrat, with whom I could argue and disagree on philosophy and on ideology. But on humanity we agreed.

He was a man that understood the traditions of this great body and of opportunity. He and I served here as young pages and then came back to this great House as Members.

He suffered great pain as he saw the stress of conflict that grew in the 1980's in this House. And toward the end of his life, I think that was the most disappointing part that Bill experienced—that Members could lose civility, comity, and respect for each other above and beyond the disagreement that they had; that it had started to go to personalities.

If Bill were here today, he would say, wait a minute, life is very short; we are here in a very honored and sacred House that has great traditions. From a small Nation in its formation in 1789 until 1995, we have become the model, the ideal of the world, and the hope for humanity. He would ask why can we not walk across the aisle and get to know each other as human beings, identify what we have in common, and find that we have much more in common than we have in disagreement. He would also say that when we disagree, they should be honorable disagreements. Because Bill reflected that most of all, as the gentlewoman from Missouri, Mrs. JO ANN EMERSON, has said.

I remember Bill talking about his most honored day when he thought about leaving the House, because he thought the Republican Party would be the perpetual minority. And I am probably a little bit to blame, because I said it was my prediction that his opportunity in the Sun was just around the corner. And he stayed that extra term or two and finally made it.

The most important moment of Bill's life, I think, was on the first day of the 104th Congress, where after 14 years of

having been in the House of Representatives and 43 years since the last Republican majority, he had the opportunity to assume the gavel and the Acting speakership of the House.

Those Members that were here during Bill's term know that when he exercised that gavel, he was truly a Speaker pro tempore for the whole House. He was not just a Republican.

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I hope that my friends on both sides of the aisle—and I have been on both sides of the aisle in my life—take a moment to reflect that, when we lose our bearing, when we let anger rule over our reason, that there were people like Bill Emerson that understood what this institution is all about. That is, we should go to the basic core of humanity, reach across the aisle, take the opportunity to walk and sit with our adversary, find out what we can agree upon, and work toward it together, as opposed to conflict, arrogance, and just meanness.

Bill would be disappointed today if he saw the continued decline in of the demeanor of the House. I would hope that maybe we can think about putting together the Emerson Society and say this is the bottom and let us get together. It is very close. We have a lot of work to do. Let us try to do it in the tradition and in the spirit of my friend, Bill Emerson.

TRIBUTE TO BILL EMERSON

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I have many fond memories of my close personal friend and colleague, Bill Emerson. Probably one of my fondest memories is of the very first day that I was sworn in as a Member of Congress in 1995. My wife and I attended the Speaker's prayer service that morning, and Bill stood up and he said something that I will never forget. He introduced us freshman Members to the prayer breakfast that is held by Members of the House every Thursday morning and he said, "If you attend that prayer breakfast and you pray with your colleagues on both sides of the aisle, when you disagree with those colleagues on the floor of the House, you will do it in a much more civil manner."

Bill Emerson was right. As we are starting off here today, it looks like it is one of those days that, if Bill were here, he would remind us of that. Bill represented in this body everything there is about honesty, decency, and integrity. There are only two things that Bill loved better than this House, and that was his God and his family. I thank God that Bill Emerson served in this body, and I thank JO ANN and the girls for sharing Bill with us. This great country that we live in is a much better country because Bill Emerson served with us.

TAX CUTS

(Ms. STABENOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I first would indicate that I did not serve with Congressman Emerson. I have served with the gentlewoman from Missouri [Mrs. EMERSON]. And if he is half as good as she, I missed serving with a wonderful man and appreciate the comments today.

Mr. Speaker, I am rising to speak to the issue of tax cuts today. We have a bill in front of us that came from the Committee on Ways and Means that, unfortunately, does not do what constituents in my district in Michigan need to have done.

When I supported the balanced budget agreement, I did so assuming we would take those precious tax cut dollars and focus them on the hard-working, middle-class families in my district and around the country. And instead, what we have is 80 percent of those tax cuts, when fully implemented, going to the top 5 percent of the public, once again, with the philosophy that somehow if the rich get richer, it will trickle down to each of us.

The folks in my district, who work hard every day, want to be able to have help to send their children to college, work hard, be able to sell their homes. I would like very much to see that tax relief bill go to hard-working families.

TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, any excuse is a good excuse if you do not want to do something. There are some here in Congress that would use any excuse to vote against tax relief for working Americans. Let us look at the capital gains tax relief. One popular excuse is it is only for the rich. Yet the IRS tells us that nearly three out of four that will benefit from this make less than \$75,000 a year.

Economists tell us that it will not cost anything, it will not reduce the Federal revenue; in fact, it will increase the Federal revenue. And let us look at the \$500 per child tax relief. Some will say you do not deserve it if you make more than \$40,000 per year. I guess if you make more than \$40,000, they think you are rich and you should not control more of your own money, so they would vote against any tax relief.

There are those that think working Americans do not deserve tax relief today. But remember, any excuse is a good excuse if you do not want to do something.

NO TO MEGAN'S KILLER

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Jesse Timmendequas, the convicted killer of 7-year-old Megan, is now pleading for his life. Megan's killer told the jury, "I am sorry and I pray for Megan every day. And I ask you to let me live." Unbelievable.

Did this bum ever consider the screams and pleadings of little Megan? Think about it. Megan's killer now wants a roof over his head, three square meals, air-conditioning, a law library, cable television.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Enough is enough. Megan's killer should be put to death. I say good night, sweet prince. Go and plead your case with the demon himself.

I yield back the balance of any more of these types of crimes.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM ON LAKE TAHOE

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, recently the White House announced the dates for the President's Forum on Lake Tahoe. At this conference, both the economic and environmental challenges that face the Lake Tahoe Basin and its surrounding communities will hopefully be addressed.

Among these concerns are the need for alternative forms of transportation and to address the fading clarity of the water, which is decreasing at an alarming rate of over 1 foot per year. This forum represents an important first step in the fight to preserve the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Equally as important, this forum represents the ability and the willingness of environmental and private property interests to work together toward a common goal. Through the two community forums and three workshops prior to the event, people from all levels of government as well as local residents will have a voice in this forum. Because of this cooperation, both private property owners and Government representatives will have constructive input.

The Lake Tahoe Basin has become a place for everyone to enjoy and share. From the idea that all people should share this beautiful work of nature has come the realization that we are all responsible for its well-being.

Mr. Speaker, Lake Tahoe is a national treasure that must be preserved, and this forum will help us reach this goal.

DAY-CARE CREDIT

(Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I stood here talking about the millions of families that were going to lose part of their child credit if, in fact, they took their day-care credit, millions of families.