

10 cents on the dollar that we give to the schools and not try to dominate those schools from Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I thank BILL GOODLING for that and for all of his leadership for years in the Congress.

TRIBUTES TO CHAIRMAN BILL GOODLING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Ohio (Mr. SAWYER).

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in a few days, or maybe a little longer, all of us will be heading home. Most of us will be flying. BILL will be driving. And for the first time in his more than 25 years in Congress, he will be going home without the expectation of returning for the long term. That will be sad for all of us who have worked with him.

He has provided lessons to us all in more ways than we can count. I want to concentrate on just one though. When most of us go home, we will go home by getting on airplanes. And at some point before that plane takes off, there will be a flight attendant who comes and stands before us and announces all of the emergency procedures and will say that in the unlikely event of an emergency, that oxygen masks will deploy from the compartment overhead. If we are traveling with children, they will tell us to put on our own oxygen mask first and then put on those for the children.

It seems kind of counterintuitive, those of us who care as deeply as all of us do about children. We do not think that that is the right thing to do. But in the end, it is, of course, the right thing to do, because we need to be in a position to take care of those children.

Mr. Speaker, BILL GOODLING has understood that in a way that has borne itself out in policy across this Congress throughout his 13 terms. One of his proudest accomplishments I am sure is the development of the Even Start program. When he was superintendent at Spring Grove area schools, BILL GOODLING noticed that the youngsters who were having the most difficulty in school were often the children of some former students who had also not performed well academically. Working with his best teachers, he developed a program which would provide focused literacy assistance to those children and to their parents at the same time, so that the parents could help reinforce the skills of the children.

When he came to Congress, he developed this into the Even Start program, which has been a model of what it means for parents to be their children's first and most important teacher by

improving the academic skills of the parents themselves.

His work on the National Literacy Act, during a time when we were having enormous difficulty getting anything passed through this Congress, the National Literacy Act was the only education legislation that was enacted into law during that session of Congress.

Today, the Literacy Involves Family Together Act, the LIFT Act, will extend his literacy legacy into the 21st century and beyond.

The truth of the matter is that what the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) implied is a vivid truth in the life of BILL GOODLING. If one has ever really been a teacher, they are always a teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman, We are learning from you still, BILL.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his eloquence.

Mr. Speaker, those of us in Pennsylvania are very proud of BILL GOODLING. I would simply like to add my best wishes to him and my congratulations to him for his long and illustrious career and note in particular with my support and gratitude, his dedication to the concept of local control of education.

Every time we try in Congress to deal with educational matters, we can be accused of trying to interfere somehow with the very valid principle of local control of education. I think that Mr. GOODLING has always held our feet to the fire as an institution to make sure we did not interfere with that. But he has supported notable legislation, like the Education Flexibility Act, which gives more flexibility locally, while also understanding that the Federal Government has a significant role to play in promoting public schools.

I think that BILL GOODLING got that balance just about right, and we will remember his leadership on that, and so many other educational issues, after he has left these halls, but certainly not left our memory. We will be grateful to him for many years to come.

BILL GOODLING, THE MAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, I do not want to talk about the legislative accomplishments of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING). I want to talk about the man.

Mr. Speaker, I had a 26-year business career. I met a lot of business leaders. I was fortunate to have 19 years in State government, and I know most of Pennsylvania's leaders of today. This is my fourth year here in Congress and I have gotten to know many of the fine Members of this body. But in my view, BILL GOODLING is a class act.

BILL GOODLING exemplifies what all Members of Congress ought to be. First, he came here with experiences in a multitude of fields. I think we are always served best by people who have succeeded in what I call the "real world" and then come to government and help us govern, because they have the wisdom and the knowledge from the fields they left.

He was in agriculture, Pennsylvania's leading industry. He was an educator, a top flight educator. BILL GOODLING is the kind of person we would like to have as a neighbor, as a business partner, as a personal friend. He not only is competent and qualified; he is a fine human being. He is an example we can hold up to our young people that this is how they ought to live their lives. Be successful in a field and then give back as he has given.

Mr. Speaker, I guess what has amazed me about the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and it is unfortunate he has to leave before we say these things, but he has been here 26 years. Today, in his final weeks, he still has the passion of his convictions. He still feels passionately about local education and the importance of keeping the decisions locally. He has been fighting tenaciously in his last weeks in Congress espousing things he has been espousing for a long time, but with no less gusto. Not many people do that.

I want the gentleman to know that I admire him. He is a person that I look up to. He is the kind of person that I believe exemplifies what we all ought to be, and we are going to miss him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would say first of all that I know that my colleague from Wisconsin and a long-time member of the committee, STEVE GUNDERSON, had wished that he could be here today as a Member of this body to participate in this occasion.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor and a privilege to learn about education at the knee of BILL GOODLING, a true expert who spent his life in the field. He will be sorely missed.

It is with immense pleasure and honor that I rise to express a few thoughts about my colleague and good friend, BILL GOODLING. I would like to say at the outset that I know that my former colleague from Wisconsin, Steve Gunderson, would very much like to be here today to participate in this occasion. He is a great admirer of Chairman GOODLING.

The Education and the Workforce Committee, formerly the Education and Labor Committee, was blessed the day BILL was first elected to Congress. Drawing on his experiences as a coach, a high school principal, and a Superintendent of schools, BILL has always approached the issue of education with the interests of America's children at heart. I can remember many conversations we have had, especially in the days when we had adjoining offices in Rayburn, discussing ways to more effectively educate the children of his nation.

Given all the work we still have to do in that regard, I hope and trust that those conversations will continue, for BILL's experience, insight, and thorough understanding of these issues are a priceless resource. Both as a member of the majority and of the minority, BILL has maintained his loyalty to our children, often in the face of fervid opposition by many who put their own special interests ahead of the well being of America's kids. His career in Congress is a monument and a tribute to a man of honor, integrity, courage, and vision.

I know there are several other Members here who would like some time to share their comments for Mr. GOODLING, so I won't go into the details of BILL's accomplishments as a Member of Congress. I'm not sure I could do it even if I had all forty minutes to speak! But I would like to say that many, many programs—not just the Literacy Involves Families Together Act, which we appropriately renamed a few weeks ago as the William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program—owe a debt of gratitude to Chairman GOODLING. These are programs near and dear to his heart, and they are a reflection of BILL's tireless efforts and passion for providing the children of this nation, all of them, with the best possible education.

It has been my pleasure and honor to have known Chairman GOODLING for 22 years, and he will be missed—as much as he misses his horses when he's here in Washington—when he retires at the end of this session.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, many of us traveled to southern Virginia to attend the funeral of a good friend and colleague, Herb Bateman, and many wonderful things were said about him at that time. I wish we had been able to have that kind of a meeting for Herb when he was with us.

I am really happy that we are able to stand today and say just a few good things about our good friend, BILL GOODLING.

When the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) was talking earlier about him starting meetings at 9:30, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) remarked about him getting up early, being a farmer; when he started meetings at 9:30, he has already probably been up at 5 o'clock, fed the horses, done the things that he needed to do at the farm and then driven down here from Pennsylvania to start his day's activities in Congress. Or if he did not go home the night before and spent the night in his office, he had already been to the gym and done a good day's work before he started that meeting at 9:30.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with BILL GOODLING. It is ironic that now education seems to be the top issue in the country. He has been speaking about education as a voice in the wilderness for 26 years.

He is a man of integrity and passion. His passion includes many things: horses, music, and golf. And I have

been able to participate in some of those things with him. But really his main passion is education and literacy. He truly cares about helping people through education. His work ethic is second to none. He is a strong Christian and stands tall for what he believes in.

A beloved king once told his people, "When you are in the service of your fellow man, you are only in the service of your God." I know of no one who has exemplified that better than BILL GOODLING. I am privileged to call him a friend.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me join with my colleagues in thanking BILL GOODLING for having the honor to have served with him, in my case, for 10 years, but for his service in the House for 26 years.

BILL's background as an educator for 20 years, as we have heard, brought him to this Chamber with a wealth of experience. He had seen a lot of programs out of Washington, some that worked, many that did not, and brought that knowledge and that background in working with parents and teachers at the local level here to Washington. And over the 10 years that I have been here, I do not think there is any Member of Congress, not of the 435 that are here today, or the hundreds that have come and gone in just my short tenure, who have cared and delivered more on the issue of education than BILL GOODLING. It really is his passion.

And we have heard much about that this morning, but knowing BILL GOODLING for the years that I spent on the committee with him, what a lot of people do not realize is that his interest in music is far beyond superficial. Not only is he part of a singing group, and has been here in town for some 20 years-plus, but he is known for waking up his neighbors and keeping the janitorial staff awake at night as he is playing his piano that he keeps in his office.

Mr. Speaker, I think all of us here are going to regret his leaving and his decision to retire. I can say as someone who spent an awful lot of time with him in an awful lot of battles, I would want him on my side every time.

BILL GOODLING: DEDICATED CHAMPION OF EDUCATION POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I also rise to pay tribute to an individual that is clearly one of the most dedicated champions of education policy in this country, our departing chairman, BILL GOODLING.

As a relatively new member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I can honestly say that Chairman GOODLING has been the best chairman it has been my pleasure to serve with, but also the worse because he has been the only chairman that I have had the chance to work with on the Committee.

Mr. Speaker, what has impressed me over the last 4 years, is an opportunity to sit there in front of him, to watch, listen, to learn, but also to watch how he runs the committee with such decency and fairness. Even though we had some heated discussions, disagreements at times over the best policy to pursue in regards to education, he was always eminently fair and decent in allowing Members to make their arguments during the course of debate.

But what also impressed me about the Chairman was that in the final analysis, everyone knew that for the chairman it always came down to one thing, and that was the kids. And for the chairman, it was really one word that we heard repeatedly during the course of committee work, and that was "quality, quality, quality." I especially appreciated, that emphasis given the fact that I sat right in front of him during committee, so I would be bombarded with quality, quality, quality, every day during the course of debates. Granted, some of that may have gone over my head, but a lot of it did sink in.

I appreciated the chance to work with the gentleman on a few very important education initiatives: the Education Flexibility Act, which will provide local school districts greater flexibility in the use of Federal funds for programs that are working for them at the local level.

The hard work that we put in on the Teacher Empowerment Act, again emphasizing quality. He knew that it does not matter what else goes on, but if we do not have quality teachers in the classroom, we are not going to see the type of student performance that all of us hope to see in the course of education reform.

And the chairman has been one of the strongest earliest proponents of early childhood literacy and family literacy programs. That is why a lot of Members have already paid tribute to him for the work he did with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) on the Even Start program and now the LIFT Act that recently passed in this session of Congress.

These are things that I think we have a lot of hope and promise of building upon, realizing that ultimately it is going to take quality educational instruction to see the type of student achievement that all of us would like to see achieved in this country.

I do not know what the outcome of the November elections are going to be, and I do not know if I would hold much sway in a possible Bush administration if it comes to that, but I for one would be one of the first to recommend under