

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

a Bush administration for Secretary of Education, a person of the integrity and fairness and knowledge that Chairman GOODLING would bring to that position. I wish him well in retirement and I hope he realizes his leadership will be missed on the committee and in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) for yielding me this time. I want to join in this tribute to our chairman, BILL GOODLING.

Mr. Speaker, we have had our battles. They even got to the point one time where he threatened to hit me over the head with the gavel, and I thought the next committee meeting I would come wearing a helmet so that we could continue our amicable discussions.

But I think the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) has hit it on the head. There was a core principle there. And as much as we come from different parts of the ideological spectrum, I was amazed at how well we were able to work together, once I understood the code. The code was simply: You mean what you say and you say what you mean.

BILL GOODLING has held that principle all of the time that he has served on the Committee on Education and the Workforce. We came together to the Congress and served our entire careers on that committee. His focal point was the children and whether or not we really meant what we said. If we were going to have quality, then we were going to have quality and we were going to hold someone accountable for delivering that quality. And if they were not going to do that, we were not going to fund them or we were going to know why.

When we said we were going to fund the excess cost of special education, the 40 percent, in his time as chairman he has moved us further toward that goal than any other single individual. When they said that a diploma ought to mean something, he asked those questions and that is what teacher empowerment was about, whether or not a diploma would, in fact, mean something.

For schools of education where we are turning out our teachers of the future, if they did not know the subjects they were teaching, he wanted to know why, and has dramatically changed the manner in which schools of education will now educate the teachers of the future so they will be better equipped to provide that quality education that has always been at the core of all of his dealings on this committee.

He has not been much for the politics. He has not been much for the posturing. But he has certainly done a great deal for the education and the well-being of the children of this Nation, and we are going to miss him.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to serve with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN GOODLING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (GREENWOOD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, my mother once said to me that no matter how important you think you are, remember that the number of people who come to your funeral will be primarily determined by the weather. It must be a good day today because Mr. GOODLING is blessed with too many speakers, and we will all have to be brief.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss Mr. GOODLING as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and a fellow Pennsylvanian. The children and the teachers and the parents and the school board administrators will miss BILL GOODLING, because he is someone that has become a rarity in this town. He believes that politics belongs on the campaign trail, and here in Washington in the Nation's capital, because we are supposed to do the people's business, we are supposed to compromise. We are supposed to put politics second to people.

BILL GOODLING has done that every day for his 26-year career. It is an honor to serve with him and join in this tribute today.

Mr. Speaker, because time is limited, I will cut my remarks brief and I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, like others today, I am here to recognize the tremendous contribution that Congressman GOODLING has made to this Congress, to this country, and particularly to education.

BILL GOODLING spent his entire career with a focus on education. As a teacher, as a coach, as a guidance counselor, as a school administrator, and when he was elected to Congress by the people from the 19th district in Pennsylvania, he chose to go on the committee that focused on education.

He became the chairman of that committee. He has been a tireless advocate for making public schools better through real reform. He has pursued full funding of IDEA, understanding that the Federal Government needs to first of all keep its word.

As a former college president, I particularly appreciate all the chairman has done to substantially increase the Pell Grant funding. And during his leadership of that committee, Pell Grant funding has increased in a way that it has never increased before.

There are really too many accomplishments to talk about all of them,

certainly the signature piece of legislation, the William F. Goodling Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act. This legislation gives more flexibility to school districts as they try to meet the needs of children, as they try to do what is best for the children of America.

On behalf of America's students, on behalf of America's educators, as the cochairman of the Education Caucus here in the Congress, I just want to thank the chairman for his outstanding record of public service, for his commitment to education, for his great work for the people of Pennsylvania.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, when I hear the name GOODLING, I immediately think of four different words. The first pair is "quality and accountability." We kept hearing that over and over in the committee. And those are very, very important words for us to hear. Will a proposal bring forth quality? Will it provide for accountability?

The second pair of words is "reading and literacy," obviously, very, very great needs in this country. I believe we should improve math and science education in this country, and but the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) is totally dedicated to improving reading and literacy; I totally agree with that as well, because we need to do both.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Committee on Education and the Workforce with Mr. GOODLING. He is an experienced teacher, administrator, and a Congressman. As an educator myself for 22 years, I was delighted to have a person heading that committee who had experience in education too, because there are many people in this world who think they know exactly what is wrong with the schools and how to fix it, but they do not have any experience at it. Mr. GOODLING has that experience, and I was delighted to have him as chairman.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief in order to leave enough time for the chairman himself to speak, by simply saying this, most politicians put their careers first. BILL GOODLING has put children first. Most politicians will compromise at a time to move an inch. BILL GOODLING is patient, but he is always persistent.

He believes in quality education for our children, trained teachers for our children, and local control. America is better off and her children far better off for the service of BILL GOODLING.

HON. BILL GOODLING: A BRILLIANT CAREER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from