

as compared to when the Democrats were running the show, pushing for socialized medicine, and pushing and passing the largest tax increase in the history of the country, pushing for all kinds of new regulations on the American families and businesses.

Republicans got in there, worked for balancing the budget. Now for the first time since 1969 the budget is balanced.

Medicare reform. 1995, when the trustees said Medicare was going broke, went in and on a bipartisan basis saved and protected Medicare.

And on the economy, by slowing down the rate of growth in government the economy has moved, and here is an indication of it where the Dow Jones industrial average in 1994 was at 3800. By 1998 it had gone towards the 9,000 level. That means lots of new jobs for American workers, and that shows what kind of a difference the ballot box can make.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICAN AND MINORITY FARMERS ACKNOWLEDGED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of a forgotten component of today's farm debate, the African American and other minority farmers.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress is working at revealing speed to fashion a package of disaster assistance for our Nation's farmers, only some of our most needy farmers do not qualify, and more do not even know about it. The President has requested \$7.1 billion in emergency relief for Congress to consider, and we have heard the moving testimonials about low prices and devastating drought.

However, African American and minority farmers have borne a weight even more severe than heavy debt and poor harvesting, that of discrimination and racism. This discrimination has been acknowledged by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Secretary Glickman personally told me that this issue was a priority for his office. Now unfortunately even the Inspector General of USDA indicts Secretary Glickman as the culprit in the lack of relief for America's minority farmers.

I say no farm relief unless minority farmers and African American farmers are included.

REPUBLICANS HAVE WON THE WAR OF IDEAS

(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, balancing the budget, cutting taxes and reforming the welfare system, those are things of which both Democrats and Republicans are very proud. I remember that in speech after speech over the

last several months people have said, "Gosh, why do you all let Bill Clinton take credit for balancing the budget, cutting taxes and reforming welfare?" And I am reminded of that great, great sign that appeared on President Ronald Reagan's desk in which said:

"There is no limit to what you can do as long as you don't care who gets the credit."

Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that we as Republicans have, in fact, won the war of ideas. We, in fact, have been the ones who for years have been advocating balancing the federal budget, cutting taxes and reforming our welfare system.

So while Democrats and Republicans alike can take credit for it, I am particularly proud that it was our party, the Republicans, who consistently argued that for years, and we are today enjoying the benefits of those very important policies.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4194, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 574 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 574

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my very dear friend from South Boston, Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this rule waives points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 4194, the VA, HUD and independent agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1999. A key element of this rule is that it permits the inclusion in the conference report of the public housing reform bill that the House passed last year with substantial bipartisan support. That legislation will provide more flexibility

for local housing authorities and greater housing opportunities for the working poor. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO), for his successful efforts in moving this good government reform bill forward.

I would also note that the conference report provides nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars more than the President requested for various veterans assistance programs such as medical care and research, and at this point, Mr. Speaker, having said that, I am going to move into a very, very important issue here, and I am going to take time and encourage my colleagues to join me as we pay tribute to the guy who has done more than almost anyone for veterans in those areas of medical care and research, and I am referring of course to my great pal from Glens Falls, New York, the distinguished chairman who will be retiring: JERRY SOLOMON.

Nobody has worked as aggressively and as tirelessly on behalf of our nation's veterans and for all those programs that benefit them than JERRY SOLOMON.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), as I said, will retire this year after two long decades of very distinguished service here in the House of Representatives. During the last 8 years he served as the top Republican on the House Committee on Rules, and during the last 4, as we all know, and especially the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) knows this, JERRY SOLOMON has served as chairman of the committee. I know I speak for many of his colleagues in Congress, his constituents in the Adirondacks and other parts of New York, our men and women in uniform and the millions of veterans who bravely serve their country when I say that we will all miss the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON).

Jerry was first elected to Congress as part of the very distinguished class of 1978, which includes, of course the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH), my colleagues from California, JERRY LEWIS and BILL THOMAS and a number of others. But the legacy he will leave behind is as impressive as some who have served in this institution for generations.

Inspired, as I was, by President Ronald Reagan, JERRY SOLOMON has worked to strengthen the morale and preparedness of our military and to make the government fiscally responsible by rooting out waste and inefficiency. He is a principal author of the line item veto legislation that was enacted in the Congress in 1996. He fought tirelessly for the defense build up of the 1980s that led to the end of the Cold War. At a time when the all volunteer Army is serving our Nation well, JERRY reminds us every year of the pending dangers that loom on the international horizon by his spirited advocacy of the Selective Service program. His unquestioned patriotism and love of country

have been a source of leadership and inspiration to those who have been fortunate enough to spend their entire lives in a world free from global conflict.

But if there is one legacy that JERRY SOLOMON can be most proud of, Mr. Speaker, it can be found in the veterans programs and their funding levels contained in the appropriations bill that this rule makes in order.

As a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, as my late father was, he served during the Korean war and was a former Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. There, as I said, there was no better advocate for our brave men and women who have made sacrifices for our country and for the freedoms that we enjoy, and there is no one more committed to the long-term success of our military. Serving with JERRY SOLOMON on the Committee on Rules and on the front lines to implement the policies of Ronald Reagan has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my years here.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my very best wishes to JERRY and his wonderful wife, Frieda, and their great family as he pursues what I am sure will be another long and very distinguished career in the years ahead.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will urge adoption of this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MOAKLEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, my dear friend from California (Mr. DREIER), for yielding me the customary half hour, and, Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this rule, and I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend and for a few weeks remaining my chairman, JERRY SOLOMON. I think the VA, HUD and independent agencies rule is really the perfect place to pay tribute to JERRY.

Mr. Speaker, during his 20 years in the Congress, JERRY SOLOMON has been a tireless defender of the American veterans. Many fights up in that Committee on Rules, I saw him put people in their place because they did not feel that the veterans role was still important. He has worked harder than just about anybody to make sure that the men and women who gave themselves in defense of this country are treated with the honor and gratitude that they deserve. And he is so proud of his beloved Marine Corps that he still gets the Marine Corps hair cut, and I do not think anything has touched him more than receiving the Marine's Iron Mike award.

At a time when our national security is threatened by more regional unrest and threats of terrorism than large global conflicts, many people overlook the contributions made by America's fighting men and women, but not JERRY SOLOMON. JERRY has been at the forefront of nearly every debate on vet-

erans' health, veterans' pensions, the POWs, the MIAs and also defense spending. In fact he will find any way to sneak his military service into about any conversation.

I have sat next to JERRY SOLOMON for many years, and I have to say that I preferred having him on my right. But he has been a very dedicated chairman, and, believe it or not, Mr. Speaker, he has even granted a few open rules.

Alongside his favorite President, Ronald Reagan, JERRY fought the spread of communists all over the world. From insisting on a balanced budget to a shrinking Federal Government, JERRY has been a dedicated soldier of the conservative movement.

As chairman of the Committee on Rules, JERRY filled those shoes as well as anybody that handled that committee before him. He served with distinction, and he has done his party a great service. It has been a great pleasure for me to be working with JERRY. Even though our ideologies are 180 degrees apart, we still have a fond friendship for each other which shows that opposites really do attract.

But his district has been very fortunate to call him Representative, and I have been fortunate to call him my friend.

So JERRY, *semper fi*.

I rise in support of this rule and congratulate my colleagues JERRY LEWIS from California and LOUIS STOKES from Ohio for their good work on this bill.

Although at one point the VA/HUD conference report contained some pretty awful Housing language, it has been removed and the bill is much better for it.

This bill funds Americorps, boosts veterans medical programs, and fully funds clean water action. It provides \$3.7 billion for the National Science Foundation which I completely support. In this high-tech era we cannot devote too much time or energy to advancing scientific research or training our children to take that research over.

This bill provides housing for the elderly and the disadvantaged. It fully funds section 8 and public housing modernization which I can say, as a former resident of public housing, is tremendously important.

I urge my colleagues to support this rule and support this conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Bakersfield, California (Mr. THOMAS) with whom, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) came to the Congress.

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1030

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, apparently there is a long list of people who want to get their licks in, so we apparently have only a brief period of time.

The one thing that I enjoy almost as much as anything since I came to Congress with JERRY was to indicate that

he is leaving with my ability to say Mr. Chairman. When we first came, we were not completely believing that we would ever, ever be able to be in the majority. It was a long difficult haul. But JERRY was key to making it happen.

There are a lot of people around here who hold a lot of opinions and we never really know where they stand. Neither of those are a problem with JERRY. He believes certain things. He believes them very strongly. He will let us know exactly where he is on those issues. That means that it is a joy to work with him—if we are on the same side. If we are not, it is full combat. Since we are almost always on the same side, it has been an absolute pleasure to work with him.

Just one short vignette to give my colleagues the feeling of how wonderful it has been over these last 2 decades. We were freshmen, and there were 35 of us meeting out at the Marriott for our orientation. I came late actually. I replaced a Member who had died after the primary in 1978.

On my left was Dan Lundgren as a freshman Member now running for Governor of California. On my right was JERRY SOLOMON. JERRY leaned over and talked to Dan and said, "Dan, I really admire you. You ought to run for freshman president." Dan felt pretty good, so he stood up and said I am announcing for freshman president. I did not say anything and moved to JERRY, and JERRY stood up and said "I am announcing for freshman president."

With JERRY, we know exactly what we get; and the saddest thing of all is we are not going to get him anymore.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MOAKLEY. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, are there no Democrats on the other side who want to talk either about this spectacular conference report or the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON)?

Mr. MOAKLEY. I do not think so.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman just spun around. I am sure they will be breaking down the doors to come in here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Charlotte, North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), a member from the Committee on Rules and my friend.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I do rise today in honor of our chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), and to say that our committee is a small one, but it is definitely dominated by the humor and the kindness and actually the temper of our chairman.

There is no better place than today in VA-HUD to honor him, too, because no one has worked harder for the veterans of this country than Jerry has. I know New York State is going to name a veterans' cemetery after him.

He is a true hero in the likes of Ronald Reagan whom I know very much that JERRY totally supported and is very pleased to be cut out of that same mold.

My first impression of the chairman was actually when I was here my first year and in the leadership, and Mr. SOLOMON challenged somebody to step outside. I thought, gee, that is really different. Fortunately, I was never challenged myself personally to step outside, thank goodness.

But his humor is interjected in everything we do, and we very much appreciate that. Sometimes in serious moments in committee meetings or leadership or other places, why, JERRY will come up with something that just totally breaks the ice and makes everybody laugh.

One of those times was, very recently, we were discussing the very serious problem of the year 2000 and what is going to happen to all of our computers. JERRY sat down and was talking about it, and he said, you know, that TY2 thing. Everybody just broke up, which I thought was really great.

Anyway, we are going to truly miss him, and I want to say that he is very much a great patriot of our country.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my dear friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for many years, I used to go to lunch in a little restaurant in Little Havana in that section of Miami. The restaurant was called La Hacienda. It was near the courthouse. Other assistant State attorneys would go to lunch there as well as public defenders and police officers.

Very often, also having lunch at La Hacienda was an accountant and businessman named Oliver Martinez. Now just imagine someone as pleasant and charming as JERRY SOLOMON. It was impossible not to like Oliver, and we became very good friends.

Oliver Martinez is a cousin by marriage to JERRY and to his lovely wife Freda. Oliver would always say "My cousin Jerry is a very important Member of Congress." He would talk about how proud he was of his cousin JERRY.

Well, years later, it was my privilege and my honor to be elected to this Congress in this miracle of freedom and human dignity known as the United States of America, and I met Oliver Martinez's cousin JERRY. I learned that, indeed, he was an important Member of Congress. I also learned that he was much more than that.

JERRY SOLOMON is the personification of what is greatest about America. If one had to use only one word to describe JERRY SOLOMON, and many other words accurately describe him, such as integrity and patriotism and decency and talent and loyalty and friendship and courage and energy, but if I had to use one word with which to describe JERRY SOLOMON, I could do it. That word is character.

When you are able to spend 4 years working in the Committee on Rules

day in and day out under the leadership of JERRY SOLOMON, Mr. Speaker, you understand what the word character is all about. You also learn what hard work means in the context of teamwork.

It has been my immense privilege to become a friend of this extraordinary American patriot, an extraordinary American patriot devoted to his family and to his colleagues, generous in spirit, gracious to all, but unyielding in his defense of America, its people, and their freedom.

I will truly miss his daily counsel and guidance. I will never be able to fully reciprocate his graciousness. To my leader and chairman and to Freda and the entire family, may you enjoy many, many more years of health and happiness, and may God's grace be forever with you.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when my dear friend the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) asked me if I had any speakers, the reason there are no people, we have a very important Democratic caucus going on right now. I know there would be teams and teams of Democrats ready and willing to say something nice about JERRY, but they are tied up in a very important caucus.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MOAKLEY. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, tell them to cancel that meeting and get over here.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Maybe if JERRY would change the rule to increase the time.

Mr. DREIER. Where are your priorities?

Mr. Speaker, I yield a minute and a half to the very distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), our majority leader.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for yielding. And certainly the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) is correct, we have no doubt about it, if, in fact, the democratic Members of the House of Representatives did not, in fact, have things far more pressing to do they would be here, JERRY, in large numbers to celebrate your leaving. I would say to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), we understand that and we appreciate it; there is no doubt about it.

JERRY SOLOMON is one of the fortunate ones. Those of us that have the great privilege of coming to Washington and working on behalf of our friends and neighbors back home also often come to the House of Representatives as our first stop, and those of us that I think that are fortunate enough to perceive early that the House of Representatives is a unique place in the history of the world, I think of it as the most unique institution of freedom in the history of the world, soon fall in

love with this institution. I think JERRY SOLOMON has clearly done that, and I tell people often, and I think, JERRY, you, must, too, say I love the House of Representatives; I love its procedures; I love its camaraderie. I even like some of the partisan fights we have here because we are all working here in this House for things in which we invest so much of our life's heartfelt belief, and JERRY has done that.

He is an intense man. He is a colorful man. He is a funny man on occasion. On occasion, he is an angry man. He can be a stubborn man, but he is also a joyful man.

JERRY, congratulations to you to have come to this town to begin your service in Washington. To spend your time in this wonderful place, until your retirement, I think is an extraordinary privilege.

I laugh when I think back. I am sure it was for you, JERRY, like it was for me and for all of us when we first came to town, we were the new kids on the block. There was not a lot of fanfare. There was not a great deal of notice and, to a large extent, when in fact we were noticed at all it was only to ask, who is that guy?

Then we worked and we did our job and we made our associations and we made our mark and we tried this legislation and we tried that legislation. We fought against legislation. We worked with our colleagues. We invited them outside. We even talked about horse whipping on occasion.

After all of these years, to look back, JERRY, on that anonymity, where you must have felt like all of us do, a little insecure, a little worried, will I fit in here, to think that now after all of these years you are retiring, the amount of time and attention that goes to the celebration of your retirement, what a mark you have made. People that hardly noticed you when you came here have their hearts filled with joy that you are leaving.

There can be no doubt, there can be no doubt, that JERRY SOLOMON will be a memory to those of us who have had the privilege of serving with you, Jerry, and you will be a part of these halls forever and ever, as I hope we will all have a chance to earn; just a little bit of a time where our ghost might be welcome back here. Sometime way off into the future when there is a heated debate on this floor, in the middle of that debate we will all hear a voice come out, ringing through the floor, saying, "step outside." I look forward to seeing the wonderment on the faces of the Members as they ask, who was that guy? Where did it come from? But we will know.

Thank you, JERRY, for the privilege of being a colleague.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, having spent more time in the woodshed than probably any of my colleagues, thanks to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), I know the feeling that was just mentioned by the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. Speaker, I yield a minute and a half to the gentleman from Lincoln, Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), a classmate of the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON).

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as a classmate, as a friend, as a long-term colleague of the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), I am pleased to say a few words about him. There is much that could be said about his many very positive contributions to this Congress and to the governance of this Nation.

Our colleague from New York and I have worked together on so many issues. Of course, we have had our policy disagreements from time to time but they are few. Our wives also have become very good friends. Sweet, long-suffering, patient Freda and my wife Louise, are good friends, and JERRY SOLOMON since you are a marine, and I dare not say former marine, in addition to his public service, after retirement from the House, can now devote more attention to trying to bring to order that moving mountain he calls his dog before it chews up all of his wife's carpets and tears up the entire lawn.

Quite seriously I would like to focus on just one aspect of this gentleman's very distinguished service and that is his service and contributions in the North Atlantic Assembly and his focus on NATO issues. JERRY SOLOMON has served as a House delegate to the North Atlantic Assembly since 1982 and he has served there for us with great distinction. He is currently one of the two longest serving members of the House delegation. In that capacity, he served with distinction as the chairman of one of the five committees there, the Political Committee, for the entire maximum length of time for that position. He currently is the North American vice president for the North Atlantic Assembly.

That parliamentary group of NATO countries has had a dramatic effect, I might say, in helping the delegates of the countries of the former Warsaw Pact to understand their parliamentary role in a functioning democracy. Additional, Representative SOLOMON, among other things, has been in the leadership of that NAA effort to help our colleagues from the associated member nations of Eastern and Central Europe.

I also would say that the time he spent here in this House preparing the entire Congress, including our Senate colleagues, for the upcoming vote on NATO expansion, and his strong, and I think correct views, on the necessity of NATO expansion, were a major contribution to the success of the recent enlargement round for NATO and for the enlargement rounds yet to come.

Beyond that, our distinguished colleague from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) has focused necessary congressional attention on the nations of the Caucasus

region and on the Central Asian republics and for that we are very grateful and benefitted as Americans. So, JERRY SOLOMON, my colleague, friend, and classmate of 20 years, I say for the American delegates to the World Atlantic Assembly and for so many of us in this Congress, well done. We do not expect you have completed your public service but this part of your career is approaching an end and we thank you.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), a dear friend, a man who served with JERRY on the Committee on Rules for many years.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) for introducing me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and colleague from the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON). He is a very distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules, who will be retiring at the end of this Congress and we will miss him.

□ 1045

Being chairman of the Committee on Rules is a difficult job. It is by design one of the most partisan positions in the House, yet the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) has succeeded in winning the respect of committee members on both sides of the aisle. Being in the minority sometimes is not a lot of fun, and oftentimes when we get run over by JERRY he does do it with style, I will say that.

Despite the strong differences of opinion in the Committee on Rules, he has maintained an atmosphere of collegiality that is too rare in the House these days. JERRY and I both share a passion for people that are hurting and certainly for reducing the suffering of oppressed people the world over, and he has been very generous with me in support of my efforts to aid the victims of dictators and totalitarian regimes, and I thank him for that.

JERRY is a man of sincerity and integrity. He is committed to his causes. He is one of the giants in the House, and his expertise, drive, and dedication have been an enormous influence in shaping the legislation that has passed through here.

Good luck, JERRY. We will miss you.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 1½ minutes to my friend from Metairie, Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON), the very distinguished chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

(Mr. LIVINGSTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, to my friend JERRY SOLOMON, let me say that our friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) just said being in the minority is not very fun. We know that, but we also know that being in the majority is fun. And my colleagues on the other side of the aisle knew it

for so long: 40 years. We had an opportunity, and it has been a wonderful opportunity for me, to share that change of life from minority to majority with my friend, a former Marine and long-time Congressman, the Chairman of the Committee on Rules, and a public servant par excellence, JERRY SOLOMON.

He is a great American. He is a patriot. He is a man who means what he says and says what he means. If you do not like it, he will step outside with you. The fact is, though, that everyone respects him. People always wonder when Members retire about who will be missed and who won't be. I happen to think that he will be one of the most missed Members. He is one of the most colorful, one of the most dedicated, and one of the most hard-working. The Washingtonian magazine did say he was one of the most hard-working, and I think it was on the money there.

I am going to miss that big file folder with "Solomon" written on it being carried to and fro. I am going to miss our conversations about the dairy farmers, and I know that as soon as that subject comes up next year I will be hearing from him. But we want to wish you and Freda, bon voyage.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that I know that JERRY is listening to all of these accolades, and I know last week some people had some nice things to say about him. They were talking about how warm JERRY SOLOMON was, what a warm fellow he was, so JERRY went back and looked up "warm" in the dictionary. It says, "not so hot." Only kidding, JERRY.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), my dear friend, just to show how bipartisan this is, the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues from the State of New York and throughout the Congress, we find it hard to believe that our distinguished colleague, the chairman of the Committee on Rules, is not going to be with us following adjournment of this session.

As senior Republican of the New York Congressional Delegation, I express my regrets on behalf of our entire delegation that our dear colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) has chosen to step down after 20 years of distinguished service in this body.

I came to know and admire JERRY soon after he came to Congress in 1978. His experience as a Marine, as a town supervisor, a county legislator and member of the New York State Assembly, as well as his experience in the insurance business, brought to this Chamber an outstanding combination of experience, balance, public service, and most of all, common sense. JERRY's ability to forcibly, and I underscore

forcibly, articulate an issue, his energy and, most importantly, his integrity, personified the Congress to many of us.

JERRY, like myself, is a graduate of the New York State Assembly, a superb training ground for legislators, and he worked well there. JERRY acquitted himself meritoriously in that body, his constituents having promoted him to the Congress and keeping him here for some 20 years. I especially appreciate JERRY's leadership role in helping to champion our cause of POWs and MIAs in Southeast Asia, one of our major priorities.

It is well-known that JERRY has had a deep interest in foreign policy and was a strong defender of our United States national security interests. Thus, it was no surprise when he joined us on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in the 98th Congress in 1983, and I was privileged to serve with him on the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific under the tutelage of our Ranking Republican, Joel Pritchard of Washington. That was the only Congress during which we served together on a subcommittee.

JERRY went on to become the Ranking Republican on the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights in the 99th Congress. Even after leaving our committee in 1989 and joining the Committee on Rules, JERRY has continued his strong interest on issues that affect U.S. economic and national security interests. JERRY has been a battler for human rights and against oppression wherever it has reared its ugly head in the world.

My nickname for JERRY is "the battler," because he battles so ardently for his views, but he also enjoys a well deserved reputation for always being willing to listen to the other side.

The job of chairman of the Committee on Rules, a chief legislative traffic cop for this institution, is not an easy task, and JERRY has met those challenges in balancing the many diverse views that have come his way, like so many cars at a busy intersection during rush hour, with aplomb, fairness to all, and good humor, and with his good partner, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY).

JERRY has also been a true and loyal friend of the veteran. His support for their well-being has made him one of the most beloved of all of our colleagues to them. It was of great comfort to our entire New York Delegation to know that JERRY was there to help when it was learned that the VA was shortchanging our New York veterans' hospitals.

In other areas, especially the efforts to prohibit the desecration of our flag, as well as to bring jobs to New York with a good working wage, JERRY has been a dedicated foot soldier.

So in closing, let me say that when JERRY leaves us, I, regrettably, will be the only committee chairman left in our New York Delegation. JERRY's sage advice and friendship is going to be missed by all. To JERRY, to Freda, to

their 5 children, I extend my best wishes for their health and happiness in the days ahead and remind them that they will always be welcome and always have a home here in the Congress.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to my very good friend, the gentleman from Atlanta, Georgia (Mr. LINDER), a valued member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, it is a treat for me to be able to be here on this Tribute to JERRY SOLOMON Day.

About 3 years ago a huge battle over an amendment broke out on the floor of this House and it created quite a stir, and people came running to the floor of the House to see what the problem was, and I figured and discovered that JERRY SOLOMON was right in the middle of it. A senior leadership aide, those are the ones who are quoted more often in Roll Call than leadership, a senior leadership aide walked over to me and said, what is JERRY doing? I said, you need to understand something. JERRY is a Marine, and he is going to take that hill whether you like it or not.

He has been since he was a Marine a public servant, both to his neighborhood and his community, his State and his Nation. And he has been an inspiration to all of us.

I have been privileged for 4 years to serve on the Committee on Rules with him, and he is a fighter, but a fair fighter. Always insisting that the minority have an opportunity to be heard too, always insisting that all sides of an important issue get aired on this floor in terms of an amendment or an opportunity for debate.

I do not know that I have ever seen anyone enter into more fights and scraps and battles than the chairman of the Committee on Rules, but I do not believe he ever has left behind an enemy. Adversaries, yes; enemies, no. This is a great tribute to a public man, and I am honored to have served with him.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY), who is a fellow New Yorker with the person we are honoring here today.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Massachusetts for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, when I get up in the morning, the first 2 things I do are to thank God for my life and thank veterans for my way of life, because if it had not been for the men and women who wore the uniform of the United States military through the years, I would not have the privilege as a citizen of the United States of America of going around bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the earth. Freedom is not free. We have paid a tremendous price for it.

I shall always be grateful to those who, like my brother, Bill, made the supreme sacrifice, and to people like that man right there, JERRY SOLOMON,

who served with distinction in the United States military and then came back to our home region in upstate New York, was a successful businessman, but more importantly in my eyes, who entered a career in public service. From the local government roles to his national role today, he has rendered such outstanding service.

I have been in the United States Congress for half of JERRY SOLOMON's tenure, and what a privilege it has been, JERRY, over these past 10 years to serve with you, as a team, because together we have accomplished a great deal for the capital region of the State of New York, and I will not go into those items right now. But one day on the steps, I think I was in my first or second term, we were having pictures taken with our respective constituents and JERRY grabbed me and asked the photographer to take a picture of the 2 of us. He later inscribed that photo and sent it over to my office and it is on my office wall today and it will stay there, and it says, "Mike, thank you for being part of the 1-2 punch for the capital region of New York." Let me acknowledge, there was never any doubt about who was number 1 and who was number 2.

But I want to say to my friend, JERRY, what a great honor it was, and it has been, to be number 2 on that team with you. And today I want to look you in the eye and say thank you for your service to our country, number 1, for the tremendous service you gave to your constituents throughout your long and distinguished career; and most importantly, thank you for what you gave to me. You have been a true and loyal friend, and while you are leaving here, and I regret that deeply, the one thing I take comfort in knowing is that that wonderful friendship will continue.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Redlands, California (Mr. LEWIS), my very good friend, and the man who will be managing the conference report when we finally get to that point.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) yielding me this time.

I simply wanted to rise to let the House try to remember the good old days of the House of Representatives. It was just after the election of 1978 that the real bomb-throwers came to the Congress. I mean there were the likes of NEWT GINGRICH, JERRY LEWIS, JERRY SOLOMON. I remember saying to JERRY one time, I do not sell life insurance, I help people buy it. We were the only 2 insurance agents in our class. He said, my, God, I wish I had thought about that.

□ 1100

JERRY kids me a lot about the fact that he has mellowed over the years. Many of us, JERRY, have mellowed. But also in this business, while we come

with preestablished notions about the way the world should work in the toughest business in public affairs, you do not understand that working with other people and recognizing that most issues have little to do with partisanship, per se, compromises, the way you move towards your objective in terms of the future of the country, not a Member in the House has done more of that kind of growing than JERRY SOLOMON.

He has made a tremendous contribution to the House. He has told us all time and time again that we can work together if we will. And while he pounds his hand on the table, at the same time with a soft velvet glove he gets an awful lot of work done that very few people will understand.

His district will have great difficulty ever replacing the quality and mix that has been JERRY SOLOMON in this House. I am proud to be his friend.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations, who is also retiring, my dear friend.

(Mr. STOKES asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks of my other colleagues and the tributes paid here today to chairman of the Committee on Rules, JERRY SOLOMON. As a Member of the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations, I can personally attest to the great respect that I have for the gentleman from New York and the manner in which he has represented the citizens the New York and the veterans of this country.

All of us on that subcommittee became used to JERRY monitoring everything we did for veterans. We also knew that if we did not do what he felt should be done in any particular bill, that we would hear from him either when we went before the Committee on Rules or on the floor of this House.

I had the opportunity to appear before JERRY SOLOMON on several occasions when I chaired the VA-HUD Subcommittee on Appropriations. I have also appeared before him on numerous occasions as the ranking member of the subcommittee. I have to say that I did not always get what I wanted from him, but I was always accorded a full hearing and a patient understanding of my concerns. JERRY was always courteous and considerate.

I have always enjoyed watching JERRY in action on the floor. He is animated, passionate, and a real showman. No matter how much one may disagree with him, you must also always admire him.

All of us, also, JERRY, admire your fierce patriotism and your love of this

country. You have had a great career in the House. You have been a credit to this institution and to our Nation. As we both end our careers here at the end of this term, I just want you to know that it has indeed been a great honor for me to have served with you.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania (Mr. MCDADE) the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, who also is joining that very distinguished group with Mr. SOLOMON and will be, unfortunately, retiring at the end of this term.

(Mr. MCDADE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDADE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the able gentleman and next chairman of the Committee on Rules for yielding me this time. I am grateful for the opportunity to join in this tribute to the distinguished gentleman from New York, my good friend, JERRY SOLOMON, chairman of the Committee on Rules.

JERRY SOLOMON showed himself to be a patriotic champion for conservative causes as well as a masterful legislator. He has done yeoman's work. We have all benefited from the "wisdom of Solomon," and so has the Nation. As the Marine, Semper Paratus became more than a model for JERRY SOLOMON. It is his creed. He is genuinely always faithful, and it is part of what makes the gentleman from New York such a tenacious advocate for our Nation's citizens, veterans, workers, GIs and the list goes on and on.

Throughout his career, the gentleman from New York has worked to protect our Nation's proud ensign and promote the fiscal prudence that has led to the elimination of the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, I know that JERRY is not going to retire, so I will not use that word. He is much too active to do what retirement often means to people. And I wish to you and your wife, Freda, much success and happiness in your new life.

I was looking forward, JERRY, to perhaps playing a game of golf with you. I thought maybe he does not golf. Maybe we could go fishing. I found out that JERRY does not fish much. What JERRY did is work, work with that huge envelope of material in front of him. You have been a great, great credit to the House, and we appreciate it.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pasco, Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), a very valued member of the Committee on Rules and my good friend.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for yielding me this time. It is my pleasure to be here to pay tribute to the chairman of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON).

Mr. Speaker, I have been using this first time on the committee to observe

how really a master runs a very political committee, and I think the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) has done a remarkable job.

I first was aware of JERRY SOLOMON when I ran for office in 1994. I think on a weekly basis I would get faxes from his campaign office on various issues that JERRY SOLOMON felt very strongly about. I have to say, I agreed with a vast majority of what he said, which I think is a compliment to him. There are some things I disagreed on. But there was one thing that came to my mind about JERRY SOLOMON and that is this: He is very, very opinionated in his positions, as people have mentioned before, and yet here he is a chairman of a committee that is probably the most political committee in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I think the way that the gentleman has chaired that committee over the 2 years that I have been on it, and the 2 years prior to that time, has been very commendable. Probably the greatest measure of how well he has carried that out is that everybody on both sides, we hear today on the Democrat side, on the Republican side, that the gentleman has been very, very fair in carrying out his duties as chairman of that committee. That is probably the best measure of success.

One last question I would like to ask. What really is in that folder that you carry around?

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I can recall being at a committee hearing when JERRY was presiding and after we recessed, an elderly gentleman came up and said, "Mr. SOLOMON, I have been watching the way you move here in the Rules Committee." He said, "could you give me a copy of the rules by which you run the committee?" JERRY took out a picture and just autographed it and said, "Here it is."

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say to JERRY, I really hate to see you leave. I seem to have a strong affinity with the older yet really good men in the Congress, JERRY.

Everyone keeps addressing JERRY as a New Yorker. But many should know that he is also a Floridian. And he is sort of a little enigmatic to me at times in that he always tells me, "Carrie, you get exactly what you want when you come before the Committee on Rules." But you know what, I do not. But I do not feel badly about it because JERRY has a way of turning you down with a smile. He shows no animosity. He shows no partisanship. He just tells you "no" when he does not agree with you. I appreciate that about you, JERRY.

I think you can be identified with several identifiers as I see you. Number

one, you are very tenacious. There is a bulldog in him and he does not give up very easily. He makes his point on issues that are important to him. He smiles, he listens, but he never agrees, but he is fair.

He is determined to represent the best in this Congress, and that is fairness. And even in his conservative nature, he is able many times to express issues from both sides of the point.

I like JERRY also because he loves his wife. Some never mention their significant others in this Congress, but JERRY does. He talks about his wife. He talks about his family. He believes in the things that he comes to this well and purports to be.

I like him because he is a clever strategist, a good politician, but he is not hypocritical. That is, he espouses his point of view, and, of course, he is able to do that in a very, very intelligent manner. He is funny. He is honest.

JERRY, I want to thank you for your dedication to the veterans of this country and the way you have expressed your concerns before this Congress. We are going to miss you, JERRY. Thanks for serving with us this time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Wood Dale, Illinois (Mr. HYDE), my very, very dear friend, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, which has gotten a little attention in the last 24 hours or so.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, saying good-bye is one of life's least pleasant tasks, especially when it is people you love, people you have grown to respect and count on. This year, and at the end of every Congress, we say good-bye to so many wonderful people. But JERRY SOLOMON is quite special.

I could describe him as a perfect blue-white diamond in a sea of zircons, but that makes the rest us zircons and that might not be the most apt description.

JERRY, they have talked about your fierce patriotism, about your loyalty to the party, about your energy, your activism. I just want to say two things about you.

One, I know of your personal physical courage, spiritual courage. It is rare and it is marvelous. But most of all in a time of overpowering cynicism, you have proven by your 20 years here in Congress that politics can be a noble profession, because you have brought real nobility to it. We will miss you.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) just alluded to Mr. SOLOMON's wife. When I first heard about Mr. SOLOMON's wife, I pictured a big, burly woman with a submachine gun guarding his premises in New York, as he brought up in one of the debates on gun control. Then I saw this beautiful, petite young lady in the Committee on Rules and I said, "Are you still sitting at the window with that rifle?" She denied it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I was over in my office listening to the proceedings here. I did not realize that this tribute to JERRY was going on, but I wanted to come over and participate in it. And while I was walking over here, of course, I was reminiscing about my relationship with JERRY over the years, if one could call it that.

I first met JERRY almost a quarter of a century ago. I had just been elected to the New York State Legislature, and it was late in the year, 1974, I think December. And I was going through the legislative office building, and the place was pretty dark and empty. I walked down the hall, and all the offices were dark. There was no one there, except I came upon this one office with the door opened. I looked inside, and there was someone working assiduously at a desk. It turned out to be JERRY SOLOMON.

Mr. Speaker, that is the first time I met him. He made an impression on me that particular occasion, only because I remember it after all of these years. And that impression was not a false one. It was a very accurate one. The impression was simply this: that this was a man who was dedicated to his work; this was a man dedicated to his profession and to the people who elected him; this was a man dedicated to his work.

He has lived up to that impression every single day that I have known him in the intervening 24 years. I served with JERRY for a short time in the State Assembly and then he was elected to the Congress, and then I knew about him only from time to time, and we would run across each other, reading about him in the newspapers.

Then when I came here a few years later to begin to serve with him, I could witness again that same kind of energy, that same kind of enthusiasm, that same kind of dedication to his profession, to his work, to his constituents, and to his beliefs.

JERRY and I differ on issues, and we have from time to time from the very beginning, and we continue to differ on some issues and will for the rest of our lives, I feel safe in saying. Nevertheless, I bear for him the greatest respect and admiration because he is an example of the total absence of ambivalence.

□ 1115

He believes in things. He believes in them fully, firmly and devoutly. You never have to question yourself with regard to where JERRY stands on any of the issues. He is very happy to tell you, and to tell you in the most direct and forthright way.

So it is with a sense of sadness that I see him leave this chamber, but also with a sense of joy for him and for his family, because I know that he is going on to a new and productive life. And whatever it is to which JERRY dedi-

cates himself, that will have the full devotion of a very competent man, indeed.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Corning, New York (Mr. HOUGHTON).

(Mr. HOUGHTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Massachusetts said something about referring to a dictionary and trying to find out the definition of the word warm. I tried to do the same thing. I was thinking of JERRY as a great marine, a model marine, and I looked up model and it said miniature replica of the real thing. So I decided I would not use that.

However, I do think of an article I read many years ago written by Bob McNamara, when he left Ford Motor Company and he joined the Defense Department, and he described people in positions of importance, of leadership. And he said there were two types of people; people who were sort of judicious and passive and sat back and made their judgments; and the others, who were active and pushing and doers and enablers. JERRY, you represent the finest of that, and I am honored to have served in this body with you.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TORRES), a fellow Member who is also retiring.

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great honor to stand here with so many of my colleagues and pay tribute to a great American, JERRY SOLOMON. And as has been just mentioned, he and I will exit here together. We will not be here next term. But I feel a good feeling leaving with a person like JERRY SOLOMON from these hallowed chambers.

I have watched him over the years perform his job, as many of my colleagues here have mentioned, with great diligence and great dedication. Tough, but with well meaning in his heart. Honorably. We talk about an ex-marine, a model marine. That he is.

I had the distinct privilege to travel with him to South Korea recently where we visited the DMZ, and I was so proud to stand with him on that line where he described his negotiations with the North Koreans, along with former Representative Sonny Montgomery, as they negotiated to bring back American bodies from that war-torn land. It was, indeed, an inspiration to be there with him.

I would say to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that he would have been proud of JERRY. I saw JERRY act as a statesman in the way he handled discussions in the Middle East, in central Asia, and in the Far East on many questions that are so close to the people in this body; peace negotiations, the discussion on the financial markets, the discussion on NATO questions. He, indeed, epitomizes a great

statesman, here in the House and abroad, and we were all so proud of him.

We hate to see you leave, JERRY, I know, but I am going with you. So I hope that on some occasions we will come back here to meet again. I wish your wife Freda, an elegant lady, the best, and you and your daughter the best ever. Thank you so much. It has been a pleasure to serve with you.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Sanibel, Florida (Mr. GOSS). We are all very gratified that our colleague from Sanibel has returned and that his wife is recovering well.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS).

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished friend from California (Mr. DREIER) for his words and the well wishes, as does my wife, and I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be here for this occasion to speak about the distinguished gentleman from Glens Falls, New York. He is a very unique Floridian. He is the one who went the wrong way. He was born in Florida and went to New York. Most of New York is coming to Florida, as we know, and we welcome him and we hope to get JERRY back, and Freda and others, back to Florida. We would be proud to have you.

I think of a lot of things when I think about JERRY SOLOMON and my years of service with him. I started out being one of four on the Committee on Rules when he was the minority leader for us. I learned an awful lot. Then he did something magic and suddenly we were nine and the majority, and I have learned even more having him as our chairman.

I think of energy. I think of vitality. Every time I think of JERRY, I think of a marine. Just find me a hill to charge up. He has got nonstop energy and will take on anything.

And in this town particularly, I think of forthrightness. With JERRY SOLOMON, I do not think it is a question of having to read the tea leaves. If you have not figured out where he stands, listen to him for a minute, he will tell you very clearly. I think of integrity, professionalism, knowledge-ability.

I know, from my travels with Mr. SOLOMON around the world, from the love of his family, the love of his friends for him here and abroad, that he will not be forgotten. The wisdom of SOLOMON will endure very definitely, the reputation of SOLOMON will endure, and we all hope that SOLOMON will endure, and we look forward to working with him now and forever.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Glenwood Springs, Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS),

another valued member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Committee on Rules has ably served our country, and I can tell him that I have always looked at him with a great deal of respect not only as chairman but like a big brother.

As I hear the stories, I first of all want to affirm that Freda is a wonderful, wonderful person. I wish she could be on the House floor. I wish our rules allowed her to be here to receive some of these tributes as well.

But I do want to very quickly relate a story about how dedicated, in the marine type of environment, that our chairman is. Tragically, he lost a constituent in my district, in a river. And as my colleagues know, the Rocky Mountains can be terribly unforgiving. So the chairman called me up and said, look, we have this body, a constituent, and the family is grief stricken. I want that body recovered.

I said, Mr. Chairman, you do not just recover these bodies that easily. It is somewhat of a difficult task. He said, I will bring in the Navy. I said, no, do not bring in the Navy. It will take a while for this thing to come up.

The next day we had Navy helicopters in my district, we had Navy frogmen in my district. And the worst editorials I have ever gotten from my newspapers were because I knew JERRY SOLOMON and he brought in the military into the wilderness of Colorado.

At any rate, you did succeed in your mission. You are dedicated to your constituents, you are dedicated to this country, and you are also dedicated to your colleagues. You have helped us a lot. So I want to confirm all those compliments and that we are going to miss you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN).

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding me this time. There are too many people on that side, JERRY, so I had to come over to my good friends on this side of the aisle to get some time for you.

I want to say, on behalf of all of us in New York, and I just left the American Legion's conference over in the Cannon Building, to come over and thank you on behalf of all veterans and all American Legion members and all citizens for your work on the flag amendment. We appreciate that deeply.

Also, as a New Yorker, when we first came here, now three terms ago, a bunch of us were just dropped into the U.S. Congress and then they told us about something they called the committee on committees. We could not believe there was such a thing, but it was you who helped and guided us.

I guess what I want to say on behalf of a lot of us, JERRY, as a former schoolteacher for many years up in Buffalo, New York, you have probably served, without even knowing it, because of your example and your dis-

cipline, as a teacher to many of us. And I am not talking about staff members, and not about the pages, I am talking about other Members of Congress. And for that, and all the other things you have heard here this morning, we thank you very much.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Richmond, Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), one of my classmates, and the very distinguished chairman of the Committee on Commerce.

(Mr. BLILEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. Like the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HENRY HYDE) said so eloquently, it is always hard to say goodbye.

JERRY is everything, but especially a patriot. We know about his efforts to create the Department of Veterans Affairs, about his efforts to pass a law that says if you do not register for the draft, you do not get any Federal funds or aid; if you are a college or university, and you do not allow military recruiters on your campus, you do not get any aid. His tireless work for Taiwan and the relationships between Taiwan and the United States. His tireless work to not forget Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia; that they should be members of NATO. And I know he will continue to work on that when he leaves this great body.

But I would like to remember some of our travels with the North Atlantic Assembly. I remember particularly one time going with him to Maras, Turkey. We went on a boat up a river. It kind of reminded you of Moses and the papyrus and the reeds along the Nile. We got a terrible rain but we got up there.

Another time we were in Brussels and we had a meeting with Sir Leon Britton, who represents very ably the European Community and the European Union on trade, and he really took on Sir Leon, so much so that, and these meetings with the Europeans always start late and finish later, but this one finished early. They were dumbfounded. And his great debates with the liberal labor member from Great Britain on defense, Bruce George.

Mary Virginia and I loved being with JERRY and Freda. We will sorely miss you, Mr. Chairman. You have been a great friend. We have not always agreed, but you have always been helpful and a great inspiration to all of us. Godspeed.

JERRY SOLOMON is a true American patriot. He is an ardent anti-communist who supported the policies of Ronald Reagan. These policies brought down the Berlin Wall and won the Cold War. JERRY was only in his second term when Reagan entered office but Reagan knew he could count on JERRY to lead the charge on his anti-communist policies.

Love of God, love of family, and duty, honor, country best describe JERRY. As a Marine, JERRY know peace did not come cheaply. JERRY fought strenuously for causes he cared

about as our colleague. His love of God and country guided him in his legislative accomplishments on Capitol Hill.

His most significant accomplishment was the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs. During the bill signing, President Reagan paid tribute to JERRY. President Reagan remarked, "We have it this year because Marine veteran Congressman JERRY SOLOMON worked to make sure the job would be completed before Congress adjourned."

In JERRY's unabashed style, he passed legislation which barred federal aid to those who refuse to register for the Selective Service; he also championed legislation that halts federal aid to colleges and universities that bar military recruiters from campus. And next year, JERRY, it will be the year a Constitutional Amendment banning flag burning passes both the House and the Senate and is sent to the States for ratification.

JERRY, my friend you have a lot to celebrate in your retirement. In 1978, when you were first elected to Congress, the Soviet Union and the spread of communism was running rampant. America was told by its President we were in a great malaise. Well, JERRY did not believe America's best days were behind us, and neither did a former Governor of California.

Ronald Reagan believed in a Shining City on the Hill when he entered the White House. So did JERRY and I. We worked to strengthen the military because peace through strength is the only guarantee that America's freedom will be secured. We worked to pass President Reagan's tax cut that led to the longest peacetime expansion of the economy. JERRY was a leader on the war against drugs.

Your leadership will be missed by many of us in Congress. JERRY, thank you for your friendship and camaraderie for the last 18 years. I have enjoyed traveling with you on our important North Atlantic Assembly missions.

I wish you and Freda well in your retirement. You fought the good fight for the country you have loved. We owe you a debt of gratitude for your service to our country. The country is in better shape since you entered Congress 20 years ago. America's best days lie ahead and I know JERRY will never stop fighting for his country and his beliefs.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Ocala, Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, JERRY, it is with joy but also with sadness that I come down here in this short amount of time to tell you what a great guy you are and how much we are going to miss you.

I think a lot of people do not realize JERRY was an entrepreneur, an insurance agent. He was making a lot of money. And for him to come here, he gave up a lot of his business. It has been quite a sacrifice. In fact, I imagine he would be a multi-millionaire by now if he had still kept his business.

Many of my colleagues talked about his experience in the Marine Corps. He also has served with distinction as an active member of the Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion

and the Marine Corps League. So I think his patriotism is there for all of us to see.

This gentleman also served with distinction on the Foreign Affairs Committee and on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. And we talk about his great distinction as chairman of the Committee on Rules, but those committees also were his forte. In addition, he is a former chairman of the Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Task Force, and is still an active participant in this task force.

He has been identified with various issues, but the issue that I really identify with him is the second amendment and the fourth amendment. I will never forget on the House floor, in the evening, when Mr. SOLOMON stood up to argue for the right to bear arms, in which he talked about his wife alone in upstate New York. There was silence and quiet, stillness on the House floor, when he said, she is alone tonight, and I want to ensure that my wife, who is alone, should have the right to protect herself against unwanted intruders. I know his debate and his expression carried the day.

So we all know of JERRY SOLOMON'S patriotism. We know he has the wisdom of Solomon, and we are going to miss him. He certainly lives up to the Marine Corps motto: *Semper fidelis*. Always faithful. God bless you JERRY SOLOMON and God bless America.

□ 1130

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I want to look you right in the eye, Mr. Chairman, because this is a special day.

When I first came to this Congress just a few years ago, I was looking for this "Mr. Chairman," Mr. SOLOMON. He was described to me as a shy and retiring person, someone whom you might not often know what his opinion was; quite the contrary JERRY SOLOMON did let you know where he stood. After a few times on the floor, someone came to me and said, "You know, you are just as shy and retiring as Chairman SOLOMON." That was a compliment.

Mr. SOLOMON, our experiences together were quite interesting. I came frequently to the Rules Committee, and I would like to thank you, for even though disagreeing with me, you treated me fairly and gave me the opportunity to express my views and to come to the gateway committee and say that I think this particular legislation should be done this way or that way.

This is an appropriate time to give you honor and appreciation, for you helped us understand the ultimate sacrifice made by veterans, those living today as well as those in the military who gave their lives for our country. We thank you for that.

One of my fondest memories since I see Chairman GILMAN sitting next to you, was that I was able to join you

along with Chairman GILMAN when we honored the fallen men in World War II and honored them by placing wreaths on their graves in Europe. That was a particularly special occasion for those of us who claim birth after World War II, for it helped us understand fully what this country's freedom truly means.

I applaud you also for the love that you express for your family, your wife, your daughter, and that great New York community that has a lot of apples in it which you represent. Finally, I just simply wanted to thank you for teaching me a thing or two about the Rules Committee, however, I also want to let your colleagues know and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), whose service I appreciate, I will be back. We look forward to being with you in the future. Mr. SOLOMON, Godspeed!

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it is a great tribute to the gentleman from New York that more than a couple of people want to talk about him; as some said celebrate his planned departure.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we extend the allotted time 5 minutes for the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) and 5 minutes for our side.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is allocated an extra 5 minutes as is the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY).

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to my very good friend, who also is retiring, the gentleman from Naperville, IL (Mr. FAWELL).

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding time. JERRY, I want you to know that I am not going to miss you in the 106th because I am not going to be here, either. But I know that Congress will miss you very much.

You are the leader of the Rules Committee. You are a leader in many ways. I would describe you simply as a leader of men and people in general. There are two kinds of people I have been told in this world when faced with a problem and they ask either how can I help or what is in it for me. In politics sometimes it is the latter, where the ego takes control. I have never found that to be the case with you. I have found that what you see is what you get in JERRY SOLOMON. You know exactly where you do stand and basically that means that here is a man who is very interested in serving people because he is empathetic and concerned about people. Time and again I can say as one who did not serve in any committee with you, that when I was in trouble on the floor, many times I was in trouble, you were there. Many times when I did not even ask you, you would come down here, when I was a pork-buster,

for instance, and time and time again you did give me so much help.

You are a man that believes in giving. You know that by giving, that is how you receive. You know that by loving, that is how you really are loved. That is why the people in this Congress, I think, think so very much of you. You got a big file, but you do not need that. You are a big man, anyway.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) the ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleagues for extending the time. I never would have forgiven myself if I had not been here to join with my colleagues to say thank you for the friendship that JERRY has extended to all of us in this Congress. It is great being an American. It is great being a Member of this august body. It is even better being a New Yorker type of an American, but for those people that have never been able to serve in the past, it was a different atmosphere than we have today, and the friendships that we made then have proven that no matter how testy the issue, no matter how partisan the House, it has never really affected the friendships that we have had over the years.

In the Rules Committee, whether in the minority or as the chairman, the courtesy, the professionalism that has been extended even when you know that you are not going to get what you want, you leave knowing that you have been treated fairly. Certainly as the dean of the New York State delegation where we have political views from the left and the right, you have been the hub, JERRY, for all of us, because no matter how contentious the issue, you have always maintained a friendship, your smile, and your personality.

I would just like to say in closing, however, that once you came to me and indicated that I had been in combat in Korea with the Marines and you were semper fi-ing and everything to me, and I wondered whether or not you really had the right guy and whether you were so friendly because you thought I was in the Marines and I had to tell you, that, no, it was my son that was in the Marines and I was in the Army, and I often wondered as to whether or not it made a difference. But I value your friendship. You have made a great contribution to this House, but more importantly in the lives of those of us who have been fortunate enough to serve, you have made a difference.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, my friend from New York (Mr. RANGEL) has just touted the greatness of being from New York. I think it is great to be from California.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to my fellow Californian, the gentleman from Newport Beach (Mr. COX).

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California for yielding time. It is fitting that we are here on the floor giving tribute to JERRY SOLOMON under a structured rule that limits the time for debate. Most of us would like to take an hour at least to say what we have on our minds and in our hearts.

When 48 years ago JERRY SOLOMON left college to volunteer for the Marine Corps, to deal with the Communist invasion of South Korea, he started a lifetime of service to his country. As I look on the floor and see the portraits of George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette, I see two men whom we can see in JERRY SOLOMON, soldier statesmen who loved their country even when for them it was just an idea, the idea of freedom to which JERRY has committed his life.

There was somebody else that I met and had a chance to work for that I thought was unique, President Ronald Reagan. I worked for him in the White House. I was quite sure that I should have given up my job in California and come to work for Ronald Reagan because there would never be another one like him, but I found here in the House of Representatives one like him, one very much like him, JERRY SOLOMON, the chairman of the Rules Committee, who is tough as nails on issues, just like Ronald Reagan was, but who interpersonally is friendly and courteous and respectful of his colleagues and of his constituents. He smiles a lot. Because just as much as he loves his country, he loves life. He loves his family, he loves this institution, and I daresay in our better moments all of us. Your way, JERRY, your sense of patriotism, your love of everything in which you have involved yourself is contagious. You have brightened this institution for a generation. You have brightened my life. Even when you are not here, when you come back as maybe a Supreme Court Justice to give us shorter, more to the point opinions, we will always know that we are your friends and you ours. Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve with you.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY).

Mrs. KELLY. JERRY, you have been such a great friend and a neighbor of mine ever since I came to this body and really before I got here in 1994, 1995. But mostly you have been a mentor to me. You have been a true leader of this House. You have built support for various legislative initiatives over the course of so many years. The experience you have brought here to this body has made the body a better place. It has brought more of New York common sense to Washington than many of the others of us. You have stood, you have fought not only for the Nation but you fought for our State and our Nation as a whole. I think that is a wonderful attribute, JERRY. So many people are here that do not speak with

quite as loud a voice as you have, JERRY, and I have to tell you, that strong, loud voice is something we New Yorkers love and appreciate and are going to miss tremendously. The House is going to seem less next year. That is because the very large role that you, JERRY SOLOMON, have crafted here in Congress is going to be empty. So those of us from New York will continue to build consensus and make the bills we pass good for New York and this Nation we will try to make as good as possible, but we will do that with you in our hearts, JERRY.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to my very good friend, the gentleman from Winter Park, FL (Mr. MICA).

(Mr. MICA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, and my good colleague Mr. SOLOMON, I am really sad that JERRY is leaving us now. He served 10 years with my brother Dan Mica and the truly sad part about his leaving is after 6 years, he no longer calls me Dan.

All kidding aside, Mr. Speaker and Mr. SOLOMON, at a time when our country is really cynical about its leadership in Congress and politicians in general, I cannot think of anyone who has set a better example by his life and his conduct than JERRY SOLOMON. JERRY SOLOMON has been in all instances a national leader, someone who typifies what people want of their individuals who serve in politics. He came from business, gave up his fortune, time with his family to dedicate it here to his country.

JERRY SOLOMON, I tell you this from the bottom of my heart, I know is a true patriot and his top priority has been those who wear the uniform and his daily concern has been to strengthen our national security. No one exemplifies true patriotism more than JERRY SOLOMON.

Lastly, JERRY SOLOMON, if you do not know him or have not known him, is a family man. No one greater sets an example for this country or for this Congress than JERRY SOLOMON and the example he has set as a family man. I salute everyone and particularly JERRY as my friend and will miss him, but he has a special place in all of our hearts and our memories.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FOX).

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a great individual, a role model Congressman, JERRY SOLOMON from New York. He has showed in every way he has worked, whether as an advocate on the floor, whether in committee work, the perseverance for the people.

□ 1145

His high character shows about what he is all about, a proud veteran, a Marine's Marine, someone who fights for

not only people from New York but all across America, for veterans matters, for military matters, for anything that matters to the people of this country. He has been fair, he has been compassionate, he has been our great friend, and I look forward to seeing him be back on the floor, and hopefully maybe some day in the Senate, maybe some day President.

Mr. Speaker, I know he wants to retire from this body, but we need him back for this country because he has been a fighter for the people, he has done a great job, and we could not be more proud of him.

God love you and your family, may God's blessing be on you from every day here forward.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kennedyville, Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), fellow Marine with the gentleman from New York, Mr. SOLOMON.

Mr. GILCHREST. JERRY, I guess some decades ago when you occasionally were barely able to hold up your M-1 rifle because you were holding it for hours in the rain with sand fleas on that glorious place called Paris Island you did not really dream of serving your Nation in this capacity as an U.S. Member of Congress. But those early days on Paris Island gave you a sense of pride, not pride in yourself, but pride in America, and your presence here on the House floor has lifted us up with your pride because your pride comes from your love of your country, your love of your colleagues, and so that gift that you have given to us has been enormous.

I heard one time, JERRY, from a Marine that there are five words that make up a person's life, and you really are the epitome of those things when someone gets to know you personally, and that is humility, commitment, compassion, faith and love. And that is being American, JERRY, and you have given us quite a gift.

So we salute you. Semper fi.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Staten Island, New York (Mr. FOSSELLA).

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for yielding this time to me, and I have been listening to this tribute to an American original. The gentleman from upstate New York is the essence of what this country really is all about, the notions of liberty and freedom. But more important, the willingness to die for those things.

I have only been here about a year, and I have not had the privilege of serving for the 20 years that so many other Members of this body have had to serve with JERRY SOLOMON. But in less than a year I have come to respect the man who is the benchmark for integrity, and in days when there are so many relatives around in terms of,

well, it is relatively okay or it is okay for now, JERRY SOLOMON represents the notions that there are absolutes: truth and integrity.

The people of upstate New York are some wonderful, wonderful people, and they represent the best of this great country, and they have exercised their great judgment for the last 20 years in sending us an American original. Mr. SOLOMON, as the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. Kelly) said, you are a mentor to many of us. I salute you.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to another great gentleman from New York (Mr. FORBES).

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from California for yielding this time to me, and it is with great emotion frankly and eternal respect for my good friend, JERRY SOLOMON, who served not only this Nation so ably, but the people of the 22nd district, and I remember almost 23 years ago when I first met JERRY SOLOMON, and at the time he was a member of the Assembly of the State of New York and distinguished himself there as a champion for the Empire State and took that great leadership role that he had in New York and brought it to Washington when he was elected in 1978. And for me it has been a wonderful ride with JERRY.

JERRY, you are truly, as my friend from Staten Island noted, you have been a mentor to many of us. I remember as a young staffer in the State Assembly how you at that time became a role model and, even more so, when I was distinguished and allowed to represent the first district of New York.

I have to tell you that it is with great sadness that we watch as you prepare to accept new challenges at the end of the year. You have served this Nation so ably.

And when I think of terms like "a man of the people," I mean, my colleagues, you must know that JERRY SOLOMON treated the 22nd district and worked so hard every day as if it was a cliff hanger for him. He would drive up and down the Northway and the Thruway and Route 9, and at a moments notice he would stop in on a community and meet with constituents, any group of constituents, and he did that, and he never took the people for granted, he worked very, very hard. And frankly when I think of terms like "patriotism" JERRY SOLOMON to me embodies all the best attributes of patriotism. He has been not just a role model, but a dedicated patriot, and God love you JERRY, and Godspeed.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to extend the debate for 5 minutes on each side.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member for

yielding this time to me and thank him also for giving me this opportunity to speak about our mutual friend and colleague, Mr. SOLOMON of New York.

Mr. SOLOMON and I have nothing in common politically; is that not correct? However I have enjoyed following his leadership on human rights issues throughout the world where he has been an unsurpassed champion. It speaks, I think, to how the House used to be that people so far a part on the political spectrum could come together and work on an issue.

I first became acquainted with Mr. SOLOMON and his magnificent wife, Frieda, in the North Atlantic Assembly proceedings and saw his leadership on behalf of our country there, and, yes, his patriotism there. When he became Chair of the Committee on Rules, although that meant the Democrats were no longer in power, he always with a smile either granted an amendment on those rare occasions or with a smile turned down an amendment or even admonished us, but always with a smile.

But the one overriding observation I would like to make is how devoted Mr. SOLOMON was and is to the district he represents. Every time he spoke on the floor he spoke from the perspective of his constituents and certainly his conscience and the Constitution, but never forgetting his constituents. How many times you took off that jacket and showed us that shirt that used to be made in his district demonstrating his concern for the workers in his district, and in that way workers throughout America who are caught up in this change of globalization.

So on behalf of my own constituents, Mr. SOLOMON, I want to thank you for your leadership on human rights issues throughout the world, I want to thank you for your leadership on behalf of American workers, I want to thank you for your cooperation from time to time, but even when not cooperating, always with a smile. And I want to wish you and Frieda all the best as you go forward.

Thank you for your service. Congratulations on your decision. We will miss you. It is hard to imagine the House of Representatives here without Mr. SOLOMON and without the famous Solomon folder.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Jacksonville, Florida (Mrs. FOWLER), my good friend.

(Mrs. FOWLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to a good friend for his leadership and his service to the American people. As my colleagues know, in addition to being an advocate, strong advocate, of conservative ideals, JERRY has always been concerned about our issues of national security. As has been mentioned here several times today, he is a former Marine, fought during the Korean war, and he has always remained semper fi

to his country and the duty of protecting its military interests.

It has been said that the test of a vocation is the love of the drudgery that it involves, and I do not know for sure if JERRY loves that aspect of serving as a chairman of the Committee on Rules, but he certainly deserves all of our heartfelt thanks for his service in this difficult and sometimes very thankless job.

So as we approach the final days of the 105th Congress, I wish JERRY and his wife, Frieda, the best of luck. I know they are going to enjoy the time they can now spend with their family, including their six grandchildren, but I will say I am going to miss a good friend, a good adviser. I went to him so many times for advice, and it was always good.

So, JERRY, we wish you well, and we will truly miss you.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Somerset, Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), my good friend.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what we will do around here for opinions when JERRY SOLOMON leaves. I suspect we will find a way to give opinions, but certainly the opinionated Mr. SOLOMON, the Marine that is still a Marine in this body is someone we are going to miss, all of us.

You always knew where JERRY SOLOMON stood. He was not hesitant to let you know what his feelings were about a given topic, and that continues to this day. We need more of that around here, but certainly JERRY SOLOMON gave us during his tenure here his ideas and his passionate feelings about every issue that hit this floor, and that is what we admire about him. We admire his honesty and his truthfulness and his integrity because you knew exactly what he was telling you came from directly in the heart, and that heart was of course made of solid gold, molded during some of our Nation's most tumultuous times in Korea in combat and otherwise.

So, JERRY, we are going to miss you. Your service, especially these last few years as the traffic cop of all legislation coming to the floor of the House, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, is a service that is a pretty thankless job, but we are all here to say thank you.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Enterprise, Alabama (Mr. EVERETT) my good friend.

(Mr. EVERETT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with all these great things that have been said about Jerry Solomon, but I also like to tell the Members something that is going to surprise them.

I got here in the 103rd Congress, and there were two Members from a little

place called Midland City, Alabama, population 400, myself and my friend Earl Hutto, the gentleman from Florida. We found that we lived in the same house in this small Dale County, Alabama town. Well, also my good friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHN LEWIS) is from about 18 miles up the road, just over the Dale County line in Pike County, Alabama. Being very proud of that, I told JERRY SOLOMON the story one day, and he started laughing.

I said, "What are you laughing at?"

He said, "You don't know where I'm from?"

I said, "Well, I guess you're from New York. You've represented them now for 18 years."

He said, "No, I'm from Echo."

Mr. Speaker, Echo is 7 miles from Midland City, Alabama, and then had a population of about 40 people. We had in the 103rd Congress 4 U.S. Congressmen from a rural southeast county of Alabama.

I recently, last week, gave JERRY a note from a relative of his who stated how much his Dale County family they loved and admired him. JERRY, I think you have heard here today we love you, and we admire you, and we are going to miss you.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to get to rise and say a few words for JERRY SOLOMON.

I served as a Judge for 12 years in Texas. I was 10 years in the Texas Senate. I have been up here 18 years. As my colleagues know, part of the compensation we get for public service is getting to know people like JERRY SOLOMON. I know of no one in the years whom I have met all through the years, anyone that has influenced me more or that I have been more impressed by or that I would rather be a role model for my sons than this man we are honoring here today.

□ 1200

I know there is a tombstone in Blairsville, Pennsylvania that says "Stop here my friend and cast an eye. You are now; so was I. As I am now, you will be. Prepare for death and follow me." And, JERRY, somebody added later, "To follow you, I am not content until I know which way you went."

Let me tell you we know which way you are going. You are going home to a family that loves you. You are going home to a district that respects you. You are going home to a country that you served well. You lit the fire to the Reagan revolution here. You are my kind of guy.

God bless you. And how lucky I am to have known you and how lucky the people are to have come home.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pleasantville, Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON).

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my admiration

for a Member of Congress who I think is unique. If I had a list of top 10 effective Members of Congress to affect this country, JERRY, you would be in it and near the top.

JERRY, I admire your tenacity, your toughness, your intensity, but your soft and gentle kindness and good spirit. Now those yet good spirits may change when people cheat you or lie to you or are unfair. But that is the way it should be.

I admire that you fear nobody, that it does not seem to matter what the issue is. You do not show fear. You do what is right.

I admire how you fought for our veterans and how you fought for the defense and sovereignty of America as much as anyone in this country ever has.

JERRY, you are the kind of Congressman I hope to be. You are the kind of person I want my son to be like. You are a model to us all, and you have made a huge difference as you have served us here, and I thank you.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent again that we extend the debate for 5 minutes on each side.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Reno, Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from California, for yielding to me. I find it a true honor as a freshman to be here standing and addressing my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), because you do not have to be here 20 years, as I have been only 1 year, to find him to be a true friend and a man that we all look up to.

I say, as we look out today among our colleagues here, we are approaching the end of an era at the end of the 105th, the era of Solomon in this Congress. The gentleman from New York will be truly missed as a gentleman who fought for veterans, fought for the flag, fought for this country.

I think of General MacArthur when he said, and I will paraphrase, "Duty, honor, country." Those three hallowed words mean and reflect all that you can be, all that you should be, all that you will be. I think those of us who admire JERRY SOLOMON believe those three words are indeed the reflection of JERRY.

JERRY, as you go home to your family and a loving constituency, I want to wish you the very best and to your wife and family as well. I salute you for your hard work, your dedication, and your friendship in this body.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Hartford, New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a special pleasure for me to be

here in this well to talk about a man with whom I have had some of my fiercest battles with in my service in these 16 years in the Congress and some of the most pleasant satisfying victories.

I know of no individual who is a better friend of the veteran, of the farmer, of the working men and women in America than JERRY SOLOMON. He will be missed for all the right reasons.

He is as conservative as any Member of this House; but underneath that hard veneer, he has got a heart as big as all outdoors. There are a lot of people who have benefited from the service of JERRY SOLOMON in the Congress of the United States. So it is a privilege for me to be here in this well saluting this very distinguished American.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Syracuse, New York (Mr. WALSH), one of our distinguished cardinals.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for yielding me time to come here and say some nice things about my friend, JERRY SOLOMON, as so many others are.

You are rich in friends, Mr. Chairman, and it is deservedly so. You are truly one of the leaders of our country. You are truly the leader of the New York State delegation. I owe you my position that was just mentioned on the Committee on Appropriations. Without your strong support, fiery support, I probably would not be there. So I am indebted to you for that.

You are a gentleman, a soldier, a Congressman, and a true defender of this country, its flag, and its veterans and all its marvelous institutions. We thank you for your sense of humor and, more importantly, we thank you for your sense of honor.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my good friend, the gentleman from Huntington Beach, California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, JERRY SOLOMON has given a new meaning to the words "the wisdom of Solomon." All of us who have served with him, and I have served with him for the last 10 years, understand what that means.

JERRY SOLOMON, first and foremost, and this is, I think, the word that best describes JERRY, is that JERRY SOLOMON is a patriot. That is what America has always depended on, the likes of JERRY SOLOMON. I am very proud to have served at your side, JERRY. JERRY SOLOMON is a patriot. JERRY SOLOMON is courageous. He is a man of integrity.

To all of us who you are leaving behind, you are leaving behind friends. You are a good friend. We respect you. We admire you. We wish you luck, JERRY. Thank you very much for the service you have done for the United States of America. You have done a good job for our country.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my friend, the gentleman from Saint Joseph, Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it has been a great delight for me to serve as Speaker pro tempore during part of this great tribute to a wonderful man who loves this House, JERRY SOLOMON.

I have had the opportunity to know the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) for a long time from my days when I served for Ronald Reagan and now as a Member of this House. We all love this House. No greater love comes from a man with terrific respect, JERRY SOLOMON.

It is a great tribute to you that, as you finish this year, we have a balanced budget; and now we can, in fact, use that surplus to reduce the debt. That is the next battle.

I can remember the days and the issues where we met together on so many different times moving the Solomon budget. Yes, it was bipartisan. We got one Democrat, we got 19 Republicans, and we fell far short of getting the battle won. But somehow, some way, today we prevailed.

It is because of your great efforts in so many different ways that we do love this House and we love the men and women who serve it. Thanks to people like you, a man with courage, with heart, thoughtfulness and compassion, a great man that we look forward to seeing again. Thank you, JERRY.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close this debate by saying that this was clearly one of the most moving testimonials, to a Member who is going to retirement, that I have seen in the 18 years that I have been privileged to serve here.

Many people have talked about great things but one of the things that struck me is this issue of sacrifice. It is a privilege for all of us to serve here, and most everyone enjoys their service, but, in fact, there is sacrifice that goes with service as a Member of the United States Congress.

Those of us who sit on the Committee on Rules have had the opportunity on many occasions to hear JERRY SOLOMON refer to the fact that when he came to the Congress he had to sell his real estate, his securities and his insurance businesses, and, in fact, has been a sacrifice for him.

We often hear of our Founders who gave their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. We are glad that JERRY has not given his life and we know that he has not given up his sacred honor, but we know that he did have to give up much of his fortune to do that. So he has made a great sacrifice.

His book, *The Balanced Budget*, has been a dream that he has had for many, many years, long before he came here. I am very gratified that we have been able to pass the first balanced budget in a quarter of a century while JERRY was here serving as a member of that committee.

God and the voters willing, I will have the chance in the 106th Congress

to keep the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) sitting at my right as the ranking member, and to try to fill JERRY's shoes as chairman of the Committee on Rules.

It will be an impossible task, but I have been privileged to enjoy his encouragement and support for the many years that I have served there.

Mr. Speaker, while I know the time is rapidly coming to a close, I yield one minute to my very, very dear friend, the gentleman from Glens Falls, New York (Mr. SOLOMON).

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I will not take but a minute because there are a lot of things I like to brag about that I am good at but I am not good at this. I am afraid of what might happen if I stood up here and talked too much because I am an emotional person. In 20 years, I have had some emotional events on this floor. Some that I'm proud of, some that I might not be so proud of.

I can recall something a couple of years ago. I was raised by my grandmother and my grandfather. They were of Scottish descent and they always taught me first and foremost that you always respect and honor women. And I remember I got into a debate late one night with the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), on that side of the aisle, and I did something that I was always ashamed of because I was rude to a woman. I was rude to a Member of this body, and that is something we should never, never do.

I would just tell the Members that we can be emotional, we can be opinionated, as I am, but we should always be respectful of each other.

Ron Dellums, like the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), is on the opposite end of the political and philosophical spectrum from me. Ron Dellums and I had some tremendous battles on this floor but we always walked off the floor and we were friends afterwards. That is what will make this place a success, and I would just thank all of the Members for their remarks. It means a great deal to me.

I better not talk any longer, but I will say this right now, I am going to invite all of the Members, men and women, the Members of this body, to step outside so that I can hug the women and shake hands with the men and tell them how much I love and respect this great institution. It has been a great honor and privilege to serve here for two decades and I have cherished every minute of it. I thank all of you for your generous remarks. I love you all.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there is a large group of people who are unable to speak here on the House floor. They sit here regularly; they work upstairs in the Committee on Rules, on many occasions around-the-clock, and I would like to, on behalf of those members of the staff

of the Committee on Rules, say how much they will miss the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) and how much they have appreciated their great time of service with him.

Mr. Speaker, I will say that there are many other Members who have indicated to me that they would like to have had the chance to participate in this tribute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), but because of the exigencies of their schedule they were unable to.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this tribute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) that surrounds House Resolution 574.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my many colleagues on both sides of the aisle to offer a many-gun salute to one of the clearly most vigorous, admired, and truly respected leaders ever to come to these Halls of Congress.

My colleagues, this courageous and dynamic Marine veteran who arrived on the Hill twenty years ago has not only been a credit to the Marine Corps in terms of the vitality and drive with which he discharged his duties, but also to this House to which he has for so long given so much of his energy and good judgment. These Halls will remain desolate for a long time after our very good friend GERALD SOLOMON has departed.

As the Chairman of the Rules Committee, one of the most important and difficult tasks on Capitol Hill, JERRY attacked his work with a spirited dedication rarely seen on the Hill. Involved in every serious piece of legislation, his ability to control the flow of business and determine which alternatives should be brought up for a vote has been close to legendary.

The 22nd District of New York, which includes much of Hudson Valley, has been a Republican area since the birth of the Republican Party, and JERRY SOLOMON has aggressively supported most of the conservative programs of the Party, reflecting his own convictions and those of his loyal constituents. Year after year the voters have returned him to office by wide margins because they could see that GERALD SOLOMON was no sleeping Rip van Winkle, the legendary figure which Washington Irving placed historically in JERRY's district high up on the Hudson River. According to the story, Rip van Winkle slept for twenty years. No one can accuse JERRY SOLOMON of sleeping during the twenty years he has been the two-fisted Representative of the 22nd District of New York.

My colleagues, we will not soon again see the likes of this genial and industrious Marine veteran who has easily earned the warm friendship of so many of his colleagues in this maelstrom of legislative activity.

May he find real solace in retirement on the quiet banks of the Hudson and in the hollows and the hills of upper New York area of his youth. We are sure that JERRY will not be satisfied with just an occasional short emulation of Rip van Winkle, because we really expect

that he will father a memoir or two, giving his perspective on his many years of generous and cheerful jousting on the Floor of this House.

We will sorely miss this good man, a friend of so many and a model for every new member to emulate. We would be most unhappy if JERRY did not come back to the Floor often to reacquaint us all with the cordiality and enthusiasm with which he so often greeted us these many years. God bless, JERRY, and God-speed!

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak in tribute to JERRY SOLOMON and his many years of service and leadership to this country.

Chairman SOLOMON is a strong, effective and passionate chairman of the Rules Committee. He is a true Leatherneck—no-nonsense, patriotic and capable of getting the job done.

I had the pleasure of working closely with JERRY SOLOMON on the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act—which has effectively ended the irresponsible practice of Congress passing the bill to state and local governments and the taxpayers they represent. JERRY's commitment to unfunded mandates relief—and his tireless advocacy were key to passage of this landmark legislation.

JERRY has also been one of the most vocal Members of Congress in the vital fight to reduce drug abuse in this country. I've been pleased to work with him on a number of issues—the Drug Free Communities Act and the recently passed Drug Demand Reduction Act. There is no member of this body more committed to reducing substance abuse than JERRY SOLOMON. The issue burns in his heart.

The U.S. House of Representatives is losing a real fighter in JERRY SOLOMON. Happily, he is leaving the Rules Committee's gavel in capable hands, but we'll miss his drive, energy and determination.

I know Chairman SOLOMON will be watching C-SPAN in upstate New York to keep an eye on us, and I hope and expect to continue to hear his firm and passionate voice on issues of concern to our country.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, what can I say, at the end of this Congress America is going to truly miss one of its great Conservative leaders.

The powerful Chairman of the House Rules Committee, JERRY SOLOMON will be retiring to pursue new opportunities.

This former Marine, serving the United States House of Representatives since 1978, has been known for defending the American flag, fighting the war against drugs, protecting our nations veterans, the interests of our nations military, and running a committee that is fair to this body and fair to the American people.

Not only has Congressman SOLOMON been known for his policy, he is also known for his great sense of humor, his devotion to his family, and his pride in his work.

Congressman SOLOMON, it has truly been an honor serving this great nation together, and you will be greatly missed. I wish you, your wife Freda, and your entire family all the best.

As a veteran, and man who loves this country, as I know you do, today sir I salute you for your hard work, honesty, integrity, and devotion to this country.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about a great friend of mine who throughout

his congressional career has been a strong and passionate leader whom I am personally proud to have served alongside of in the House of Representatives.

He is a loyal patriot to his country and devoted husband and father to his family. No one can doubt his allegiance to the Marine Corps and no one can doubt his sincerity nor his passion to serve his country.

I have had the privilege of traveling with him as members of the National Security Committee and throughout our travels have gotten to know him on a personal basis. His strong devotion to our country and military has been an inspiration to me. Every place we traveled, he was always interested in the issues of that country and how the United States could act on those issues and provide leadership.

I wish him happiness and a long productive life in his retirement. We will greatly miss his presence in this House.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, although I am one of the newer Members of this body and have had the privilege to serve with Mr. SOLOMON for only one term, I am very sorry to see him leave us. When I first came to Congress, Mr. SOLOMON asked me to call him JERRY, but I have never been able to do that. Not because I didn't feel close to him but because I have such a deep respect for him both as a person and as a public servant that I felt that he deserved a title reflecting that respect.

Sometimes as Members of Congress, we don't always treat each other or this institution with the respect that it deserves. We let partisanship cloud our better judgment and we aren't very civil in our debates. Although Mr. SOLOMON and I couldn't have held more opposite points of view on certain issues, I always felt that we could be open and honest in our disagreement. And we would always part ways, maybe disagreeing but with a mutual respect for each other and our differences. He is a true gentleman, one that will be greatly missed by this body and the New York delegation in particular. God's speed, Mr. SOLOMON, and thank you for your years of service to this country and to New York.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Chairman of the Rules Committee, my friend JERRY SOLOMON.

JERRY SOLOMON was one of the first members I met when I came to Congress six years ago as a freshman. I had never served in a legislature before and the challenges of Washington seemed overwhelming. He was a cool veteran with many years of experience. From his initial hello and genuine interest in making sure I got off to a good start, I knew JERRY SOLOMON was a colleague I could respect and trust. I'm proud to call him a friend.

As a little boy growing up in Seoul, Korea during the war, my family and I were rescued by the U.S. Marines from the living hell of communist North Korean occupation. I will never forget the sacrifices these brave Americans made to save a little soul like mine far, far away from the comfort and safety of their own homes. Their caring attitude, determination and patriotism made me want to be an American right then and there. Now, I don't think JERRY SOLOMON was one of the Marines who came down my street, but he very well could have been. Even today, many years after his service in the Marines, JERRY still embodies those same qualities and that same Marine can-do spirit. He's what America is all about.

As a faithful and effective Representative, I know that his constituents in upstate New York will miss his service in the House as much as the rest of us will. After 20 years in Congress, Chairman SOLOMON can retire, though, knowing that he has left a very positive and enduring legacy for others to follow. Good luck, JERRY.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 574, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 574, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement see proceedings of the House of Monday, October 5, 1998, at page H9359.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4194, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1215

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As this bill went off the floor not so long ago, we may all recall that we spent much of half a day discussing my colleague, my chairman, and now the ranking member of this subcommittee of appropriations, the gentleman from Cleveland, Ohio (Mr. STOKES). We are not going to repeat that extended period this go-round, but it certainly should be brought to the attention of Members and his friends that the gentleman is in the process of presenting his last bill on the floor of the House of Representatives.

This conference report involves all of the funding for programs that are very important to the American public, those that relate to veterans' medical care, for example; all of the many pub-

lic housing programs, the funding for the Environmental Protection Agency, the funding for NASA and the like.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) we all know is an appropriator's appropriator, but the gentleman has done another thing during this legislative year. He wanted to make sure that each of us remember that before appropriations there was authorization. And so just to make a demonstration of that fact, this year he has accomplished that which is almost unbelievable to those of us who have watched this process for some time. He has snuck into this little package just about 60 pages of minor legislation that deals with his favorite field, and that is the field of housing. For working with our colleague on the banking subcommittee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) on this side and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) on the other, the gentleman from Ohio has proceeded to include what was the Housing Reauthorization Act within this appropriations bill, a bill that is called a "must-pass bill."

Now, frankly, those who really know the gentleman know that he actually went about this because his friend and the ranking member of that same subcommittee of the Committee on Banking has his last bill on the floor today as well, and that is the bill that was tucked away here, and I was quite surprised when the gentleman brought this to my attention, and he was going to such an extent to recognize the years of the very capable work of our friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

So there are many details that I might go over with my colleagues regarding this bill, such as the fact that within VA medical care we are some \$300 million over the President's budget in that category of funding. We are responding to the crisis that is ahead of us that deals with NASA's funding because of problems in Russia and some changes of government in the European space agencies.

In the meantime, I will spare my colleagues those details, for we all have heard this bill discussed in great detail before.

So I look forward to further conversation with my friend from Cleveland (Mr. STOKES).

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is not without a certain bittersweet feeling that I rise today in support of this conference agreement. This is the final appropriations bill that I will help bring to the House, along with the chairman of the subcommittee, the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS). Thanks to his leadership and patience, we present today a balanced, bipartisan conference report that is worthy of the Members' support.

In many ways the bill we present today is better than the House-passed

version. I will mention several instances that demonstrate this point. First, while the House bill included no funding for Americorps, the conference provides the Senate amount of \$425 million. Given the President's personal interest and commitment to this program, I think we all realize there would be no bill without this funding.

Several environmental provisions that were of great concern have been modified, including the ones dealing with the Kyoto protocol, Mercury, and contaminated sediment dredging.

The House provision regarding domestic partners that would have restricted funds available to the City of San Francisco has been dropped. One-half of the reduction to the housing opportunities for persons with AIDS program imposed by a floor amendment has been restored. More than one-half of the House-recommended increase for veterans' medical care has been retained without any adverse impact on the Federal housing administration. Mr. Speaker, 50,000 new housing vouchers have been included to help families make the transition from welfare to work. This is a significant increase above the levels originally recommended by both the House and the Senate.

The Housing Authorization bill, which my chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) has just made reference to, H.R. 2, has been included. Now, this version has been crafted by a bipartisan group from both bodies and has the support of the ranking Democrats involved in the negotiations. I want to take a moment too to say, as did my chairman, that we really owe a debt of gratitude to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) for the excellent work he did, along with the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) in giving leadership to the bill that we now include in H.R. 2 as a part of the Committee on Appropriations.

I want to take a moment too, Mr. Speaker, just to say that one of the things I have enjoyed so much working from the appropriations aspect has been the great work that has been done over on the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity by its ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY). I do not know of anyone in the House that has any greater knowledge or greater commitment to those who live in public housing and who has been the kind of an expert he has been in trying to get the kind of legislative reforms that would help those people who are relegated to public housing have the kind of decent housing that they are entitled to live in. I just want to take a moment to commend him for the great work he has done as he too prepares to leave this body.

I might say also I have talked with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and he supports H.R. 2 that has been included in this bill.

Although I have not seen a formal statement of administration policy on

the conference agreement, I believe this compromise should be endorsed by them. I am hopeful this measure will soon be signed into law so that the departments and agencies funded in the bill can have the benefit of congressional guidance and drop out of the continuing resolution.

Now, although we have not been able to do everything in this bill that I would like to see or that the administration would like to see, I feel that given the constraints under which we had to operate, the conferees have done a very credible job, and no small part of the credit belongs to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), our chairman.

Rather than go into detail about the specific provisions of the conference agreement, I would like to take just a moment or 2 to tell the House what a pleasure it has been to serve on this subcommittee with the gentleman from California. He has been patient, courteous to the extreme, always willing to listen and try to accommodate opposing views, but all the while nudging and cajoling and moving the process forward.

This is a very large and complex bill with many diverse elements that are sometimes pitted against one another. It is a difficult task to navigate this legislation through the minefields and the shoals that could easily torpedo it. It is a testament to the gentleman's legislative skills that once again he has been able to bring to the House a free-standing bill deserving of the support of all of us. I count the gentleman not only as a valued colleague, but also as my personal friend. Along with my wife, Jay, I look forward to many more years of friendly association with you, JERRY, and with your lovely wife, Arlene.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to express my personal appreciation to the subcommittee staff director, Frank Cushing, for his professionalism and for the manner in which he has worked with me and the other members of the minority. I also want to express my appreciation to Paul Thomson, Tim Peterson, Valerie Baldwin, Dena Baron, who is a detailee to our subcommittee, along with Jeff Shockey and Alex Heslop on the chairman's personal staff. My special thanks also to 2 members of the Minority staff whom I have grown to be very close to and who have both been invaluable to me, Del Davis and David Reich, along with Fredette West of my own congressional staff.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG).

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the VA-HUD conference report. I extend congratula-

tions to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES).

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the VA-HUD Conference Report. I want to commend Chairman LEWIS and Ranking Member STOKES for their leadership on this bill. This is a good bill that contains many important provisions, one of which I would like to highlight this morning.

During the VA-HUD Conference last Thursday, I worked with my colleague, the senior Senator from West Virginia, on a provision to protect workers, manufacturers, farmers, and every citizen in this country from the devastating impact of mandated greenhouse gas reductions required under the Kyoto Protocol. The product of this carefully crafted agreement will prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from implementing the Kyoto treaty through "back door" regulatory actions.

Specifically, the Conference Report language reads as follows: "none of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be used to propose or issue rules, regulations, decrees, or orders for the purpose of implementation, or in preparation for implementation" of the Kyoto treaty until it has been ratified by the Senate.

The Kyoto Protocol is a bad deal for the American people. It would exempt the developing world from having to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, placing the entire burden on the United States and other industrial nations. This exemption creates an enormous loophole for nations like China, India, Mexico, and Brazil which are estimated to be the largest emitters of greenhouse gases in the next century.

This gross inequity will have a chilling effect on the U.S. economy. Those who can least afford it would be hardest hit by increases in the cost of electricity, gasoline, food, and other goods.

Mr. Speaker, the language included in this Conference Report is critical to stop the implementation of a fatally flawed treaty. I urge every member of the House of Representatives to support the VA-HUD Conference Report and this vital funding limitation.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SOLOMON), the chairman of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

I am only going to take a minute just to, more than anything else, praise and commend the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) for the outstanding job that they have done, not just on this bill but on the bills that they have brought to this body every single year for so many years under the chairmanship of the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and before that, the chairmanship of my very good friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES).

When we look at this particular appropriation bill, to think that the Veterans' Administration is getting \$42.6 billion out of a total allocation of \$70 billion, and that is outstanding. I know we will have Members that say it is not enough, and maybe even I think it may not be enough, but my colleagues have

such a difficult situation as they deal with not only the Veterans' Administration, but the Department of Housing, which is extremely important and very costly; when they are dealing with the Environmental Protection Agency; when they are dealing with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and just dozens and dozens of all of the other independent agencies.

I do not know how my colleagues do it with the allocation that they get, but they have done a tremendous job, and I just want to sing the praises of both of my colleagues and their staffs on both sides of the aisle. Because they are good, but they would not be as good if they did not have the great staff to go with them. So I salute all of my colleagues, they have done a great job. And I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) for all of his service.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned a few moments ago in my remarks the outstanding job that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) has done with reference to the inclusion of H.R. 2 in this bill, and it is indeed a pleasure for me to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank my good friend, the gentleman from Cleveland, Ohio (Mr. STOKES) for the tremendous job that he has done, not only in this particular bill, but in so many other bills over the years of making sure that the poorest people in our country are provided the basic protections that I think all Americans believe in. I also want to thank the gentleman from Ohio for the tremendous years of service that he has provided all of the people across this country, not just in his own home district, but any poor American who feels that they can look to their government for a helping hand from time to time ought to recognize that behind the helping hand of the government was always LOU STOKES' long shadow. I am just so honored to be able to have worked with him in this process on bringing this bill to the House floor this afternoon.

I also want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for the fine work that he continues to do and will continue to do into the future in terms of looking out after the Nation's housing needs, in particular.

It is important that we understand that we have a major commitment to housing our poor and our senior citizens, our elderly people across our country, and it is only through the generosity and the willingness of people like LOU STOKES and Chairman LEWIS to take stands to protect those people that we are able to bring this bill to the floor.

I also want to pay particular thanks to my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) who I crashed with more than once over this piece of legislation, but I am glad to say that

we both found ways of working together and coming up with what I believe is a very, very good compromise.

I said to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES), I have never heard more nice things said about he and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), and even the Boston Herald wrote a nice story about me yesterday.

□ 1230

I was figuring that I would highly recommend quitting, if Members want to get good press around here. Maybe I should recommend that to a few more guys on the other side. But nevertheless, I do want to say a brief word about this legislation, because I do think it is important.

We have a basic principle in America that we are going to look out after the poor. We are going to make sure that they get protected when they need a helping hand in terms of housing. And what we have done is seen this country, over the course of the last several years, house over 3 million families in our country. What we have not done, however, is provided them the necessary subsidies to keep those housing units in good shape.

As a result, every American is now familiar with the sight of some monstrosity that is called public housing that is deteriorating, that is full of very poor people and full of violence and crime and drugs. And people say look at public housing, it simply does not work.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that if we continue to have policies where we just concentrate the poorest of the poor in large public housing units and do not provide them with the subsidies they need to keep those housing units in decent shape, we are going to see further deterioration. If we do not, in fact, provide the funding levels to make sure that the apartments are kept up and what we end up doing is just concentrating the poor, then we see the deterioration.

If, in fact, on the other hand, as the Republican chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) had proposed, that all we do is simply bring in more moderate-income people into public housing, that might solve the issue of looking at buildings and saying, well, they are in much better shape. The problem is what it does do is it leaves the very poor without shelter.

So, what we found is a way of making certain that we provide protections for the very poor, and that is a great tribute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) in terms of their capability of finding us an additional 50,000 vouchers to make certain that any poor person that is going to be displaced by the basic provisions of this bill are, in fact, going to find their housing needs met by our country in any event.

There are also some other protections that come in the form of the

Brook amendment, which continues to be in place, but we do make certain that other kinds of requirements making certain that there are not work disincentives in the bill are eliminated.

I am happy to say in working with Secretary Cuomo that we have been able to raise the FHA loan limits, which will open up home ownership opportunities for millions and millions of families all across this country. And I think that HUD today is an agency that has come back a long way from the days of an agency that was full of difficulties, of bureaucratic anomalies and all sorts of issues pertaining to how public housing and assisted housing was getting built. It is now an agency that is well-run, and I think that people on both sides of the aisle have recognized the fact that there has been professionalism brought back to HUD, and we now see the Congress of the United States being willing to pump billions of dollars worth of increased funding into this agency and into the housing units that it provides to the poor.

So, I want to very much thank my friend, the gentleman from New York (Chairman LAZIO), for the great leadership he has shown and tell him what a great pleasure it has been to work with him over the course of the last few years, and I look forward to working with him for at least a few more days.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO), the chairman of the subcommittee of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services that deals with housing, as I thank him for his cooperation and fine work this year.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin with a few "thank you's" of my own. First of all, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) for their assistance and for their leadership in helping to bring this bill to the floor and for allowing us on the authorizing side to carry almost 400 pages of authorizing provisions that comprise the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act to this floor.

I would be remiss if I did not also at this time thank another important person, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), who was responsible for helping to craft the rule, not just this time, but on three earlier occasions that helped bring this to the floor.

JERRY SOLOMON is a great New Yorker. People say JERRY is three things. He is a marine, he is a Republican, and he is an insurance agent, not necessarily in that order. He has always been a man who has done great service to this body, who has brought honor on this institution, and so it is my pleasure to tip my hat as I say to JERRY, "Good luck as you just 'step outside.'"

Let me thank also my staff who have been very important to this. This process began over 3 years ago, Mr. Speaker, in my office when we got out a

chalk board and started developing policy about what we needed to do after visiting a number of different public housing authorities that were just devastating in their impact on tenants.

I want to thank Paul Callen from the Legislative Counsel's Office, who worked countless long hours when we knew there was going to be final legislation and kept on redrafting and redrafting. He was enormously helpful, and personifying the very best of the staff work in this House. Aquiles Suarez, Clinton Jones, Sarah Chapman, Richard Scott, the staff director, Joseph Ventrone and David Horne, who as counsel to the committee literally bled and sweated through this process. I want to thank all of them for their extraordinary hard work.

I want to thank the House leadership. As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker, this is the third incarnation of this bill. Three times this bill was passed on the House floor, once in the last Congress in a bipartisan fashion with over 100 Democrats supporting, once this Congress with over 70 Democrats supporting and virtually every Republican supporting this monumental reform of public welfare, and a third time as part of VA-HUD. This legislation really is the second step of reforming the welfare system by reforming public housing. And I want to acknowledge the work of my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY). And as I bid him a farewell after this week, I want to say it has been a pleasure to work with him, and I compliment him for his very good work.

This Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act speaks to the concepts that we hold dear as Americans of family, of accountability, of responsibility, of working, of stronger communities, of safer communities, of empowerment of the individual and of neighborhoods over Washington institutions.

We have in this bill made significant changes that remove the disincentives to work.

There are more tenant choices in this bill, giving tenants the incentive to go to work and to have a family without being punished by the perverse rules that have punished work and punished family.

We allow tenants to use vouchers for home ownership, giving them an opportunity of the American dream.

This is a victory of one, dynamic vision of public housing over a static vision. One is to defend the status quo, which we reject here and which we have rejected in the past, and the second, which we embrace today, which is to create a dynamic environment in public housing where the working poor and the people who are not employed can live together; where people can fulfill their greatest ambitions, including going to work or creating a family; where we remove the sense of despair and loss and a sense of failure with success, with a sense of opportunity, with a sense of progress, with a sense of growth.

We embrace in this bill a policy that encourages an American work ethic. We say that community service is very important to build our own communities. People in public housing deserve to live in peaceful enjoyment in their own apartments just like other Americans. We screen out people who are violent criminals. They will not even get a first strike. They will not get into public housing. For people who disrupt other tenants in the halls, they will be removed from public housing.

We say to public housing authorities that work well and to the successful public housing authorities that they will be rewarded with more flexibility. We are going to trust them. We are going to reject the immorality of rewarding failure and penalizing success. We will look at public housing authorities that have been doing a poor job year after year after year and say, "No more." No more are we going to throw good money after bad. And, in fact, we are going to expect performance. We are going to expect that our dollars are going to be used effectively. We are going to expect that people will have a chance to be transformed. We are going to expect that good tenants and good neighbors are going to be embraced and celebrated.

This bill is every principle that we say as Americans we support. I have had the opportunity to visit many housing authorities in many urban areas. In New Orleans I spoke with a cabdriver who came from the very housing authority that I was going to visit and refused to take me there because he said it was too dangerous for me. Yet children are expected to grow up there. Families are expected to be formed there. Lives are expected to be nurtured there.

That is not right, Mr. Speaker. This bill marks a pivotal point in transforming those housing authorities. In Chicago, which I visited 4 years ago, there are the Robert Taylor Homes, with broken windows and garbage in the hallways and drug addicts controlling hallways, broken playgrounds, abysmal maintenance, money wasted, nobody working. Four years later, that reality is still the same.

This bill marks the turning point. This bill embraces a sense of change, of transformation, of expecting success, of not tolerating family deterioration, of embracing accountability and responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I feel passionately about this. I feel passionately about the House success in making this happen, because I know in my heart that without this bill, the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act being on this VA-HUD bill, we would not be at this point. We would not have the parties at the table. We would not have agreement, and we would not be able to promise the change and improvement and opportunity that we are going to promise to public housing residents throughout America.

So, I urge passage. I thank my colleagues. I thank the House leadership

for their extraordinary efforts on our behalf. I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. LEACH), chairman of the full Committee on Banking and Financial Services, for his trusting me and his help throughout the process. And again, I want to thank Mr. LEWIS (of California) my colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations for their patience and for their leadership.

TITLE V OF THE FY99 VA/HUD APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT, "THE QUALITY HOUSING AND WORK RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1998" SUBTITLE SUMMARY OF MAJOR PROVISIONS

The short title of the bill is the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. The bill removes disincentives for residents to work and become self-sufficient, provides rental protections for low-income residents, deregulates the operation of public housing authorities, authorizes the creation of mixed-finance public housing projects, and gives more power and flexibility to local governments and communities to operate housing programs.

Generally provisions are effective for Fiscal Year 1999. Specific provisions are made effective for Fiscal Year 2000 primarily due to budgetary impact.

SUBTITLE A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Declaration of Policy and Public Housing Agency Organization. States that it is the policy of the United States to assist States and political subdivisions of States to remedy unsafe housing conditions and housing shortages and to vest in public housing agencies (PHAs) the maximum amount of responsibility and flexibility in program administration. Recognizes that the Federal Government cannot through direct action alone provide for the housing of every citizen, but must promote the independent and collective actions of private citizens to develop housing and strengthen neighborhoods.

Requires that the board of directors of a PHA include at least one resident of assisted housing (who may be elected by the residents, if provided in the PHA plan). Exceptions to the requirement are (1) where the PHA is required by State law to have a salaried, full-time Board of Directors, or (2) where a PHA oversees less than 300 public housing dwelling units and no resident has agreed to serve on the Board.

Minimum Rent. Provides that a public housing authority may establish minimum rental contributions of not more than \$50 per month. Establishes certain mandatory financial hardship exemptions from the requirement.

Determination of Adjusted Income and Median Income. Defines "adjusted income" for purposes of this Act to mean the difference between the income of the members of the family residing in a dwelling unit or the person on a lease and the amount of any income exclusions—some of which are mandatory—for the family as determined by HUD. Mandatory exclusions are for: (1) elderly and disabled families (\$400); (2) medical expenses; (3) child care expenses; (4) allowance for minors residing in the household; (5) certain child support payments; (6) spousal support expenses, (7) earned income of minors. PHAs may establish other permissive exclusions, such as for excessive travel expenses, for example.

A twelve-month mandatory income disregard is established for persons who have been unemployed for 1 or more years and who obtain employment, whose income increases as a result of participation in a family self-sufficiency or job training program, or who was within six months assisted under

any State program for temporary assistance for needy families (TANF).

Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Transition provisions which maintain the Family Self-Sufficiency requirements for vouchers currently used by PHAs in such programs, maintaining current obligations but eliminating program requirements prospectively.

Public Housing Agency Plans. Requires each PHA to submit a plan, composed of an initial five-year plan showing the PHA's statement of needs and goals for that period (updated every five years), and a moral detailed operating plan, which shall be submitted annually. The contents of the annual plan (which may be submitted as part of a comprehensive housing affordability strategy) much include, among other things, information on the housing needs of the locality, population served, method of rent determination, operations, capital improvements, unmet housing needs of families with incomes less than 30 percent of median, homeownership efforts, and efforts to coordinate the program with local welfare agencies and providers and other items. One or more resident advisory boards must be established by the PHA, and the plan must be developed in consultation with the resident advisory boards. The Secretary may grant waivers from some of these requirements for PHAs managing less than 250 units.

Discusses the standards by which the Secretary may review PHA plans, notice of approval or disapproval, treatment of existing plans, and authority of a public housing authority to amend plans. Enhanced rule-making procedures are required to ensure sufficient participation by public housing agencies and other appropriate parties in developing HUD regulations governing the plan.

Community service and family self-sufficiency requirements. Requires adult residents of public housing to contribute no less than 8 hours of work per month within the community in which the adult resides, or to participate on an ongoing basis in an economic self sufficiency or job-training program. Annual leases are required in public housing. Annual compliance reviews are required for the work requirement, and leases shall not be renewed unless a resident is in compliance with the work requirements. Exceptions from community work are provided for working families, senior citizens, disabled families, persons attending school or vocational training, or physically impaired persons. PHAs may administer work requirements through resident groups or third-party nonprofit organizations.

Income Targeting. Forty percent (40%) of public housing units are reserved for families whose income does not exceed 30 percent of area median income ("AMI"). Seventy-five percent (75%) of Section 8 vouchers shall be reserved for those whose income does not exceed 30% AMI. A PHA shall be able to reduce targeting requirements in its public housing program, with regard to specific projects that are located in poverty census tracts, by offsetting increases (on a one-for-one basis) in Section 8 targeting ("fungibility"). A floor of 30% is established in public housing, so that reductions in public housing targeting levels will not result in less than 30% of public housing being reserved for those at or below 30% of area median income. Current law requirements are maintained for Section 8 Project-Based projects, but targeting is reduced to the same as in public housing (40%) of those under 30% of AMI). Targeting changes are effective upon enactment of the Act.

PHAs are prohibited from concentrating the poorest families only in certain developments. A PHA is required to submit with its annual plan an admissions policy, for review

by HUD, designed to encourage income-mixing of residents. PHAs may offer incentives in connection with such admissions plans. Certain income and eligibility restrictions may be waived by an authority that provides units to police officers, law enforcement and security personnel.

Repeal of Federal Preferences. Permanently repeals imposition of federal preferences. Appropriations acts have repealed such provisions annually.

Joint Ventures and Consortia of Public Housing Agencies. Authorizes PHAs to enter into consortia with other PHAs, or into joint ventures with third parties, to administer public housing programs or the provision of supportive or social services to public housing residents.

Public Housing Agency Mortgages and Security Interests. Authorizes PHAs to mortgage or grant security interests in any public housing project or property of the PHA, subject to terms and conditions prescribed by the Secretary. No action taken may result in any liability to the Federal Government.

SUBTITLE B—PUBLIC HOUSING

Public Housing Capital and Operating Funds. Provides general parameters for developing capital and operating funds for distribution of funding to PHAs. Funding for the Capital Fund is \$3 billion for FY 99 and such sums as may be appropriated annually thereafter through FY 2003. Funding for the Operating Fund is \$2.818 billion for FY 99 and such sums as may be appropriated annually thereafter through FY 2003. Mandates that such formulas include a factor that would reward superior performance by PHAs.

Beginning in FY 2000 and thereafter, PHAs shall have the ability to use up to 20 percent of their capital grants for PHA operations. Beginning in FY 99 and thereafter, PHAs with less than 250 units are afforded full flexibility between operating and capital funds.

PHAs that receive income from non-rental sources may retain and use such amounts for the benefit of low-income housing purposes without any decrease in the amounts otherwise received by the PHAs under this section.

Total Development Costs. Deletes from the calculation of total development costs the costs associated with demolition of public housing projects, or the costs of remediation of environmental hazards associated with public housing units. Excludes HOME and CDBG funding from total development cost limitations.

Family Choice of Rental Payment. Families residing in public housing will have a choice as to whether they would rather pay a flat rent for a unit, to be established by the public housing authority for each unit in its inventory, or to pay no more than 30% of the family's adjusted income as rent. The purpose is to allow public housing authorities to create rental structures that would reflect the asset value of the unit, similar to the private rental market and which would remove disincentives to families obtaining employment and achieving self-sufficiency, while maintaining income protections for the residents.

Site-Based Waiting Lists. A PHA is given authority to establish site-based waiting lists notwithstanding any other HUD handbook or regulation, provided such site-based waiting list is in compliance with civil rights laws.

Pet Ownership. Residents of public housing may own one or more common household pets subject to the reasonable requirements of the public housing agency and in accordance with state and local laws and regulations.

Conversion of Public Housing to Vouchers. Permits public housing authorities, in accordance with the PHA plan, to move toward a voucher program for certain buildings after a cost-benefit analysis of maintaining and modernizing the building as well as an evaluation of the available affordable housing. Mandates that a one-time cost assessment be done of every public housing project within two years of the date of enactment of the Act to determine the relative costs of converting the project to vouchers versus maintaining it as public housing.

Transfer of Management of Certain Developments to Residents. Allows residents or non-profit resident management corporations to assume the responsibility of managing or purchasing a development. Allows a public housing authority to contract with a resident management corporations to manage one or more developments.

Homeownership. Authorizes PHAs to design homeownership programs for sale of public housing units to public housing residents, to entities for resale to residents or other low-income persons, or directly to low-income persons. There is a downpayment requirement, the amount of which is determined by the PHA, for the purchase of any unit to be provided by the purchasing family. Resale restrictions are imposed on purchasers for five years after sale to prevent purely speculative purchases. Homeownership programs under this section are not subject to the demolition or disposition requirements. Allows high-performing PHAs to use proceeds from disposition of scatter-site public housing to purchase replacement scattered-site housing which will be considered public housing.

Required Conversion to Tenant-Based Assistance. Contains a mandatory conversion provision requiring PHAs to provide housing assistance in the form of vouchers in lieu of continuing to subsidize certain distressed developments. Requires notification of tenants in public housing developments subject to conversion and provides them tenant-based housing assistance or occupancy in a unit operated or assisted by the PHA. Authorizes the Secretary to determine whether a PHA has failed to comply with this subsection and, in such case, to withdraw funding from the development.

Mixed-Finance Public Housing. Provides authority for PHAs to develop mixed-financed projects, which may include projects containing some public housing units with non-assisted market rate units. PHAs may provide assistance to such developments from operating or capital funds, in accordance with regulations established by the Secretary of HUD, in the form of grants, loans, guarantees, or other forms of investment in the project. Allows PHAs to deposit certain grant funds in escrow accounts for use as collateral in connection with certain tax credit development financing.

SUBTITLE C—SECTION 8 RENTAL AND HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE

Merger of Certificate and Voucher Programs. Merges and consolidates the Section 8 certificate and voucher programs. Allows PHAs to establish a set of local preferences based on local housing needs and priorities. The screening and selection of tenants shall be the responsibility of the owner. PHAs are given the power to terminate contracts with owners who fail to evict tenants that engage in activity which threatens the health, safety or peaceful enjoyment of the premises of other tenants or that is drug-related or violent criminal activity.

Administrative Fees. For FY99, sets administrative fees for public housing authorities at 7.65 percent of grant amount for the first 600 units at fair market rent for a two

bedroom and 7.0 percent of the grant amount for all units in excess of 600. The Secretary may increase this fee in certain circumstances.

Advance Notice to Tenants of Expiration, Termination or Owner Non-renewal of Assistance Contracts. Authorizes a Section 8 owner and HUD to enter into a five-year renewal agreement, whereby the owner agrees to continue in the program each year for five years provided funds are appropriated. Owners who enter into five-year agreements with HUD are not required to provide annual notice to tenants. For owners who have not entered into five-year renewal agreements with HUD, they shall provide notice to tenants which shall include certain required information.

Homeownership Option. Allows public housing authorities to use funds under this title to assist a low-income families trying to attain homeownership through lease-purchase programs. HUD is authorized to establish a demonstration homeownership program.

Authorizations. Contains a specific authorization for FY 2000 and 2001 of an amount sufficient to fund 100,000 incremental vouchers under this section for each of those years; authorizes such sums for FY 99 through FY 2003 for relocation and replacement housing, witness relocation, and other uses.

SUBTITLE D—HOME RULE FLEXIBLE GRANT DEMONSTRATION

Flexible Grant Program. Provides localities with substandard PHAs a "home-rule flexibility option" that would allow them great latitude to design and implement creative solutions to local problems. Jurisdictions with PHAs that rank in the lower 40% of HUD assessment scores are eligible to develop alternative housing programs and apply for waivers from certain existing program rules. PHAs classified as "high performers" under HUD assessment scores would be excluded from eligibility. HUD has discretion to approve programs from up 100 jurisdictions over four years (throughout 2002). HUD would enter into "performance agreements" with the jurisdictions setting forth specific performance goals.

SUBTITLE E—ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCIES

Study of Alternative Methods for Evaluating Public Housing Agencies. Requires that a study be conducted of alternative methods to evaluate the performance of public housing agencies. HUD is to contract if possible with the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) to conduct the study. The findings are to be reported to Congress 12 months after execution of the contract.

Expansion of Powers for Dealing with PHAs in Substantial Default. Authorizes the Secretary to (a) solicit competitive proposals from other entities to manage all or part of the authority's assets, (b) take possession of all or part of the authority's assets, (c) require the authority to make other arrangements to manage its assets, or (d) petition for the appointment of a receiver for the authority, upon a substantial default by a housing authority of certain obligations. Mandates that after two years of being designated as a "troubled" PHA, the Secretary shall take one of the prescribed actions unless HUD determines that the PHA has improved its performance by more than 50% as measured by HUD assessment scores. The Secretary may provide emergency assistance to a successor entity of an authority. Allows an appointed receiver to abrogate contracts that impede correction of the default or improvement of the authorities classification, demolish and dispose of assets in accordance with this title, and create new public housing authorities in consultation with the Secretary.

Audits. Provides that the Secretary may withhold amounts from assistance otherwise payable to a PHA for purposes of paying the reasonable costs of conducting an independent audit of the PHA.

SUBTITLE F—SAFETY AND SECURITY IN PUBLIC HOUSING

Provisions Applicable to Public Housing and Section 8 Assistance. Provides that the National Crime Center, police departments, state law enforcement agencies designated as registration agencies under a state registration program, or other law enforcement agencies shall provide to the PHA upon its request information regarding the criminal background of an adult applicant for housing assistance. An applicant must be given an opportunity to dispute any such information. PHAs may be charged a reasonable fee for provision of the information.

Screening of Applicants. Provides that a family is ineligible for federally-assisted housing for three years if evicted by reason of drug-related criminal activity or for a reasonable time (as may be determined by the PHA) for other criminal activity. A PHA or owner of federally-assisted housing shall establish standards prohibiting admission of persons or families who the PHA reasonably determines to be using an illegal substance or whose use of illegal substances or alcohol would interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

A PHA or owner of federally-assisted housing may deny admission to any applicant household that, during a reasonable period prior to applying for housing assistance, had engaged in any criminal activity. A PHA or federally-assisted housing owner may require that an applicant household prior to admission authorize the PHA to obtain any relevant criminal records from the National Crime Information Center, police departments, and other law enforcement agencies.

Termination of Tenancy and Assistance for Illegal Drugs Users and Alcohol Abusers. Requires a PHA or owner of federally-assisted housing to establish safeguards and lease provisions allowing termination of assistance to residents who the PHA or owner determines to be engaging in the use of a controlled substance or whose illegal use of a controlled substance interferes with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

Ineligibility of Dangerous Sex Offenders. Requires that owners prohibit admission to federally assisted housing to any household that includes any individual who is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program.

SUBTITLE G—REPEALS AND RELATED PROVISIONS

Repeals Relating to Public Housing and Section 8 Programs. Repeals numerous obsolete individual public housing grant programs and authorities.

Amendments to Public and Assisted Housing Drug Elimination Act of 1990. Amends certain provisions of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, which allows the Secretary of HUD to make grants for use in eliminating crime in and around public housing and other federally assisted low-income housing projects. An authorization of \$310 million is provided for FY 1999, and such sums as may be appropriated through FY 2003.

Treatment of Occupancy Standards. Prohibits HUD from Establishing a national occupancy standard. Mandates that HUD publish by Notice in the Federal Register the contents of a HUD memo (the "Keating Memorandum") setting forth HUD's standards for enforcement with respect to discrimination complaints involving familial status.

Income Eligibility for HOME and CDBG Programs. The HUD Secretary shall within 90 days of enactment of the Act grant for not less than 10 jurisdictions exceptions to the limitations based on percentage of median income applicable to those jurisdictions under the HOME and CDBG programs.

Use of Assisted Housing by Aliens. Makes certain technical drafting corrections to the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (the Immigration Reform Act). The corrections are necessary to prevent a PHA from having the option not to enforce the provisions of the Immigration Reform Act contrary to the intent of Congress.

Protection of Senior Homeowners Under Reverse Mortgage Program. Permanently authorizes HUD's reverse mortgage program and establishes a limit of 150,000 mortgages. Requires that the Secretary consult with consumer groups to identify alternative approaches to providing consumer information regarding home equity conversation mortgages. Provides that HUD shall develop restrictions to prevent the elderly from being defrauded by third-party financial advisors. The Secretary is required to issue rules that would ensure that the mortgagor does not fund any unnecessary or excessive costs of obtaining the mortgage, including costs for estate planning, financial advice, or other related services.

Native American Housing Assistance. Makes technical amendments to the Native American Housing Act of 1996.

Amendments to Rural Housing Programs. Simplifies and expands Single Family Loan Guarantee Homeownership Program by basing homeownership opportunity solely on individual income, up to 115 of Area Median Income rather than area loan limits. Authorizes a permanent extension of undeserved areas program that requires a 5% set aside of rural housing programs for undeserved areas. Preference [current law] for these area will be given to projects where poverty is 28% or greater and where 13% of the housing is substandard.

Authorizes permanent extension of Section 515 program (Rural Multifamily Direct Loan Program) of rental housing for very low, low and moderate income families, the elderly and disabled in rural areas through direct government loans to eligible borrowers to construct or to acquire and rehabilitate rental housing.

Authorizes permanent extension of non-profit entities that requires that 9% of Sec. 515 funds be allocated to non-profit groups.

Authorizes permanent extension of Sec. 538 program (Rural Multifamily Loan Guarantee Program) to allow the USDA Secretary to guarantee eligible loans for the development of rural rental housing.

Requires the USDA Secretary to guarantee rural multifamily loans (Sec. 538) where funds from tax-exempt bond financing are involved and therefore expands the base of funds a group may use to leverage funding for rural multifamily housing.

Expands non-profit participation in Sec. 514—Farm Labor Housing by making limited dividend partnerships, controlled by non-profit corporations, eligible for farmworker housing loans and therefore expands the base of funds a group may use to provide farmworker housing.

Eases rules on Farm-Labor Housing and Rental Assistance by permitting seasonally operated farmworker housing projects to be funded on an operating basis and therefore eases paperwork burden by permitting project rents to be based on the area income of farmworkers rather than individual income.

Reauthorization of National Flood Insurance Program. Authorizes homeowner's flood

insurance by extending authorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for homeowners through FY 2001.

Extends emergency implementation of NFIP to the end of 2001 by allowing certain communities lower flood premiums while in the middle of implementing mitigation and other flood control plans that ultimately reduce the community's risk for flooding.

Assistance for Self-Help Housing Providers. Expands competition of Self-Help Housing Program (SHOP) by requiring HUD to make self-help housing program nationally and regionally competitive. [Program provides funds for infrastructure and land acquisition to groups who sponsor self-help housing programs. Program started in FY 1996 with \$40 million, assisting over 4,000 homes at an average government cost of \$10,000 to provide homeownership.]

Extends time to complete FY96 SHOP projects by extending from 24 months to a total of 36 months the time grantees may use funds under this program to build housing. Extends SHOP program for FY 1999 and FY 2000 by granting two year extension.

Special Mortgage Insurance Assistance. Updates underutilized FHA program for high-risk borrowers by providing limited mortgage insurance for high-risk borrowers who participate in CDFI led pre- and post-purchasing counseling for mortgages under \$70,000 and requires participation through a certified CDFI who will share in any losses incurred.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to acknowledge the tremendous work, and one of the great aspects of working in the Congress is to see the tremendous diligence and dedication of the staff. I particularly want to thank Angie Garcia and Rick Maurano from the Committee on Banking and Financial Services for their hard work on the housing bill. Also, Scott Olson from my own staff, who has really worked very, very hard on this bill, and also Del Davis and David Reich for the hard work that they have done to continue to protect the interest of the poor who occupy our housing units.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), the ranking member on the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

(Mr. LAFALCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time very much.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report providing appropriations to VA-HUD and Independent Agencies for fiscal year 1999. First of all, I, too, want to join in the plaudits of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) for the tremendous staff work that we have received on this bill from both sides of the aisle, and he has enumerated the individuals.

As on every bill, there are some individuals in the Congress who are deserving of special attention. Certainly the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) the ranking member, certainly

also the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

I point out in particular the work of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), not because they are partisans on my side of the aisle, but because they will be leaving Congress this year, and this legislation can stand as one of the most significant hallmarks of their work here, something of which they can be very, very proud.

We would also be remiss if we did not acknowledge the tremendous impact and influence and tenacity of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary Cuomo, in attempting to come up with a bill that everyone could support. If it were not for that tenacity, that doggedness, that perseverance, we would not be standing here today as we are. So I applaud him, too.

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There are many reasons to support this bill. Core HUD programs, such as the modernization program for public housing; the Section 8 incremental account; the McKinney homeless programs, all receive needed increases. \$42.6 billion is provided to veterans programs in benefits, \$439 million more than requested by the administration. And the AmeriCorps program receives \$22 million more than provided last year.

Most notably, however, the VA-HUD conference report includes landmark public and assisted housing reform legislation. The legislation, which was a product of months of bipartisan negotiations between Members of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services and the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, represents a balance between the need to reduce the concentration of very poor families living in public housing and the necessity to preserve adequate housing assistance for the very poor. I think that balance was achieved, in part because the authorizers agreed to establish targeting requirements that far exceed the provision in the original House-passed bill, H.R. 2, which I had to oppose. That balance, however, was enhanced by the work of the appropriators to fund new units of Section 8 assistance for those with families working to move from welfare to work. I do not think we would have had an adequate balance without those additional units of Section 8 housing.

Today, I rise in support of the conference report providing appropriations to VA-HUD and Independent Agencies for fiscal year 1999. As Ranking Member of the Banking Committee, there are many reasons to support this bill. Core HUD programs, such as the modernization program for public housing, the section 8 incremental account, and the McKinney homeless program, receive needed increases. \$42.6 billion is provided to veterans programs and benefits—\$439 million more than requested by the Administration. The AmeriCorps program receives \$22 million more than provided last year.

Most notably, however, the VA-HUD conference report includes landmark public and assisted housing reform legislation. The legislation—a product of weeks of bi-partisan negotiations between the House and Senate Banking Committees—represents a balance between the need to reduce the concentration of very poor families living in public housing and the necessity to preserve adequate housing assistance for the very poor. That balance was achieved, in part, because the authorizers agreed to establish targeting requirements that far exceed the provision in the House-passed bill, HR 2, which I opposed. The balance, however, was further enhanced by the work of the Appropriators to fund new units of section 8 assistance for those with families working to move from welfare-to-work.

This balance, however, did not come easy. For years, the Congress has deliberated upon dramatic reforms to the public and assisted housing programs which serve over 4 million low-income, American families today. But today, I believe the four-year campaign of Congressional Democrats, the Administration, and tenant advocates against onerous rent reforms and irresponsible targeting levels has finally brought positive results. Policy issues of most concern to me and my Democratic colleagues—including maintaining affordable rents for tenants; reserving an adequate number of units of public and assisted housing for the poor; streamlining the administrative burdens on Public Housing Authorities (PHAs); and replacing dilapidated housing with sustainable, mixed income communities—have been resolved fairly and appropriately in this conference report.

For instance, the report targets 75 percent of section 8 tenant based housing and 40 percent of public housing for “very poor” families, those with incomes at and below 30 percent of the area median income. If a PHA has housing developments located in areas where there are high concentrations of very poor families, it may reserve up to 10 percent fewer units of public housing for the very poor as long as it increases the number of section 8 assistance reserved for the very poor from 75 percent to 85 percent. The conference report also provides that tenants may choose either an income-based rent of up to 30 percent of the tenant's adjusted income or a market-based rent. Protections for tenants who choose to pay a market-rate rent but then suffer a change in income making the market rent unaffordable, or who choose to pay an income-based rent and benefit from an increase in income, are also provided.

I do want to point out, however, that I would have preferred a less punitive resolution to the “community work” requirements promoted by my Republican colleagues. The conference report goes too far in making the requirement a condition of occupancy and authorizing a PHA to evict a tenant found in non-compliance. Certainly, I support encouraging all Americans to contribute to their community. But I cannot support an approach that could result in evicting families from public housing for failing to volunteer in their community.

I am also concerned that the conference report includes the Home Rule block grant that permits localities to apply to HUD to administer their public and assisted housing programs. Despite the fact that this provision was strongly opposed by PHA and without vocal support from the mayors or cities, the con-

ference report permits 55 localities served by a troubled PHA and 45 localities served by a non-troubled, non-high performing PHA to apply to receive public housing operating and capital funds and section 8 funds directly and to administer comparable housing programs with such funds. I intend to closely monitor the implementation of this program to ensure that localities continue to serve as many families in need as possible and preserve the public and assisted housing stock as affordable housing.

Again, I want to express my appreciation to Secretary Andrew Cuomo and my colleagues on the Banking Committee—Chairmen LEACH and LAZIO, Ranking Member KENNEDY, Chairmen D'AMATO and MACK, Ranking Members SARBANES and KERRY—for working with me to develop a thoughtful and progressive public and assisted housing reform bill which I am proud to support.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

(Mr. LEACH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague for yielding me this time, and let me just echo the comments of so many about the distinguished service of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LOU STOKES), whose friendship is much appreciated; as well as that of the gentleman from New York, (Mr. SOLOMON), who, through the Committee on Rules, has truly shaped the agenda of the last two Congresses.

Second, I would like to thank my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. JERRY LEWIS), for working with the authorizing committee in such a forthright way, in an appropriations context, which is a rather unusual circumstance but much appreciated.

Second, I would like to underscore, as the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), and most of all, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) have, that included in this appropriations bill is the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998, which represents the first major updating of our public housing laws since the depression.

This landmark legislation is one of the two or three most important issues before this session of this Congress. Outdated laws and programs are replaced with a new empowering approach for people in our smaller communities as well as our larger cities. There is much to be proud of in this bill, home ownership, local control, volunteerism, and empowerment, to name a few.

On a philosophical note, I am reminded of a speech given last year by the British Prime Minister Tony Blair. He stated: “In the 1960s, people thought government was always the solution. In the 1980s, people said that government was the problem. In the 1990s, we know that we cannot solve . . . problems . . . without government, but that

government itself must change if it is to be part of the solution."

Mr. Speaker, both the majority and minority members of the Senate and the House committees of jurisdiction, and as has been mentioned here, our extraordinary staffs, as well as the administration, led by Secretary Cuomo, worked tirelessly to craft a reasonable and responsible approach to reform public housing programs in a manner that I believe will achieve efficiencies at the Federal level and advantages at the local level, and empower some of the most needy in our society with the resources to become self-sufficient and to make decisions based on responsible choices.

The Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 makes necessary changes to be part of the solution. It symbolizes many things, not the least of which is that serious legislation can be considered during times of difficulties between the administration and the Congress.

Finally, let me just conclude by stressing again the extraordinary work of the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) in putting this bill together; the extraordinary thoughtfulness and cooperation of the ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY); as well as the ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE); and, of course, the thoughtfulness of the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS); as well as the full committee chairman, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON).

I strongly urge support for this legislation. And I would be remiss if I did not say that I am very proud of this particular work product of this Congress.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Science.

(Mr. BROWN of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding me this time, and I will try to be brief.

I believe that we have before us an excellent bill, H.R. 4194, which, while not perfect, and no bill can be, goes a long way toward dealing with a lot of the problems which I have, particularly in my role as the ranking member of the Committee on Science. These problems involve NASA, the National Science Foundation, EPA research, and other related matters. Overall, the bill deals positively with all of these agencies, and I am proud to support the bill and acknowledge the fine work of my two good friends, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), and our ranking member, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES).

I think perhaps more important than the matters that I have mentioned relating to the jurisdiction of the Com-

mittee on Science is the precedent set in this bill for approving authorizing legislation dealing with the housing problems that are the subject of this bill. This probably represents a greater degree of cooperation between authorizers and appropriators than we have seen in the history of this Congress. And by sheer coincidence, I spent part of my time in the last week drafting a revision to the rules of the House which would facilitate exactly what has been done in this bill, and it requires only rather minor changes in the wording of the rules. This will, of course, if appropriate, be brought up for discussion when we reorganize in the next Congress.

In addition to what I have already said, praising the overall impact of this bill, let me make special mention of the cooperation that I received from the committee in dealing with a small but I think significant program involving cooperative research between the U.S. and Mexico.

We have been working for a number of years establishing a joint U.S.-Mexico research foundation. And, of course, any time we try to do something new, we run into lots of problems. I would say that the work of the gentleman from California and the gentleman from Ohio has been critical to solving these problems, which are procedural in large part. The amount of money involved is not all that great. But I want to express my deep appreciation to them for their willingness to assist on this matter, and I am sure that the results will bear fruit that they will be proud of in improving our relationships with our neighbor to the south in future years. I look forward to continuing to work with them, assuming I am fortunate enough to be reelected in the years ahead.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to just take a few seconds to pay tribute. I missed an opportunity to pay tribute to a great American, a great marine, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), chairman of our Committee on Rules. And Godspeed. He is one of our greatest.

I want to pay tribute also to the chairman of this committee, and thank him for all the help that he has given my community and the Nation.

And I want to pay a special tribute to an individual who I consider to be one of the strongest legislators in the history of our Nation, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LOU STOKES), the first African American to be a cardinal in the Congress of the United States. Absolutely amazing. He is certainly one of the best.

Now, the business. I want to thank the committee for including the language of my bill, which will extend housing counseling services to veterans

who are in danger of losing their homes. In addition to that, I want to thank them for the money for my community, hard-pressed, that will turn an old abandoned hospital into a community asset.

I also want to thank them once again for including "buy American" language, so that when these funds are spent, these agencies will keep in mind the fact that American taxpayers are American wage earners, and American wage earners are those who have American jobs. People have American jobs because Americans, as consumers, buy American products. And when our government buys, they should consider buying American.

So with that, in closing, I do want to make this last tribute on this appropriation bill to be handled by the distinguished Member, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES). My community wants to thank the gentleman for all he has done for the Nation, for the State of Ohio, and for the 17th Congressional District of Ohio. Without a doubt, his legacy will long be remembered and felt here and he will be deeply missed.

I thank the chairman for all his help.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, as the representative of one of this country's largest public housing populations, I strongly oppose this conference report. The public housing provisions in the agreement will only ensure that the difficult lives of the extremely poor become a nightmare.

Over the years, the nature of public housing has changed. Clearly, reform has become necessary. But the provisions in this report represent a significant departure from our national commitment to helping those most in need. This report simply gives up on housing the very poor.

A year ago, when the Republican leadership brought these provisions to the floor, they left little hope of a bright future for public housing tenants. Democrats fought hard and won on some points of basic fairness. Although this conference report eliminates some of the worst provisions in that bill, it still does not pass the compassion test.

Decent and affordable housing will remain out of reach for millions of the neediest families. People affected by this legislation are some of the most vulnerable members of society. Many of these families are working to become self-sufficient. We should be addressing those issues instead of unraveling one of our most vital safety nets.

My colleagues, if we are going to reform public housing, we must do so in a reasonable and compassionate way. Preserving rent limits and improved targeting are only a small step. The question we must ask ourselves is whether the poorest families are going

to be better off. The answer is clearly no.

I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this conference report.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. SHEILA-JACKSON LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kindness and for yielding me this time.

Let me pay special tribute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) for the leadership that he has shown in Congress, and over this particular legislation that impacts so many Americans. We thank him for his leadership. And the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), we thank him for cooperatively working with the gentleman from Ohio. They have been a dynamic team.

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I somewhat disagree with my good friend from New York on the pain of those living in public housing. Might I say that although there are some points of this bill that I certainly appreciate in this appropriations bill and agree with, but I do want to acknowledge that there are hardworking Americans in public housing, those who want to live at a higher level, and I am concerned that some of these elements may not do that. Frankly, I think the forced volunteerism certainly begs a lot of concern about putting something on one group of people because they happen to be in public housing.

I do applaud the fact of the reinstatement of the 1937 act which allows public housing residents to be hired. It is important, however, that we look to improve their working and living conditions. I am glad, however, of the \$283 million for 50,000 new Section 8 vouchers. I encourage our community, the City of Houston, to use those vouchers. We have 10,000 families living on Section 8.

I also am glad that NASA is funded and particularly the Space Station. I think it is extremely important that we have continued research in support of the Space Station, the money tagged for minority research and education programs, and I am delighted that we are moving in that direction.

The National Science Foundation also will continue to be able to do its research and work extensively on teaching our children math and science and helping those teachers who need professional development.

For once we have recognized the value of the AmeriCorps Service. I thank the gentleman from Ohio and the House committee and this conference committee for understanding that young people are out there working to improve the lives of Americans. AmeriCorps has been finally funded so that those young people can go to college and help child care.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I say thank you for the veterans' support and thank

you for the money for Covenant House that will help young people be housed in Texas. The runaways will now have a place to live because of the support of Covenant House in Texas.

I would ask the gentleman from Ohio to continue his good work and continue his good service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opinion on H.R. 4194, the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations for FY 1999. Although the measure has some redeeming elements, I am still unhappy with some of the provisions.

First, this is a VA-HUD Appropriations bill, not a public housing authorizing bill. For the life of me I cannot figure out the why of the provision requiring unemployed public housing tenants to contribute eight hours of community service each month to remain in public housing. The 13th Amendment of the Constitution states that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude will be permitted except for a punishment of crime where the party shall have been duly convicted." Forcing people into mandatory community service so that they can remain in public housing amounts to nothing less than slavery. This mandate would thrust this country back into the dark ages of slavery by encouraging forced labor of individuals who are down on their luck.

However, I am very relieved that as part of a deal with the Clinton Administration, we now have 50,000 new vouchers for Section 8 housing residents. In the city of Houston, there are approximately 10,000 families living on Section 8 assistance and approximately 15,000 families on the waiting list for Section 8 assistance. These additional vouchers in this bill are sorely needed to provide housing assistance to Americans with low incomes. This definitely makes this bill a lot more viable, especially for the Members who represent large urban areas where these needs are vast.

Although this bill continues our current trend of reducing NASA funding, I do appreciate the appropriations provided for this very important and very vital agency. By funding NASA at \$13.7 billion, we will continue to viability of several important minority and gender-oriented programs. Also, \$55,900,000 is tagged to fund minority research and education programs, \$10,000,000 above the requested amount. Such appropriations are necessary and will insure the successful development of minorities and women in the fields of science and engineering.

The Appropriations Committee graciously raised the level of funding for other space-related programs. For instance, the funding for the Near-Earth-Asteroid budget was increased by \$1,600,000. It is equally important that grater funds are provided for the Mars 2001 program, and the Life and Microgravity Science Department.

I also thank the Committee for providing funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF). We should always strive to continue advances in scientific research and development. The Committee has funded the NSF at \$3.4 billion. Although the levels is \$146 million below the Administration's request, it is good that we continue to support this significant Foundation. More specifically, appropriations for necessary upgrades and overhauls of important research and regulatory equipment are continued. Other provisions aptly address the NSF educational budget, which assists K-12

schools to teach their children about math and science. Funding for this budget is \$10 million over last year's budget. However, I am concerned at the refusal of support of the Kyoto Global Warming Treaty. There are also some other research on the EPA that we must fix. The preservation of our environment is very important.

Finally, the budget for the Corporation for National and Community Service, better known as AmeriCorps, was zeroed out in the House version of the bill. I was astonished at this move. AmeriCorps has valiantly served our country during its short existence, and I hope that we will continue to support it. I believe that any program as positive as this, which highlights the American virtue of volunteerism and altruism, should be continued indefinitely. I am very pleased that the other body added the \$426 million back in for 1999—equal to the 1998 funding.

I am also grateful that the Conference bill includes \$42 billion in VA programs and benefits. This Report includes much needed funding for medical and prosthetic research, service connected compensation benefits and pensions, and major construction of veterans' facilities. I love our veterans, and I am glad that the Congress remains vigilant in taking care of those who have served our country through military service.

Lastly, I am very pleased that the funding for Covenant House has been added to the bill and \$300,000 for the city of Houston. Covenant House Texas, located in Houston, is a non-profit agency which provides shelter and comprehensive service to homeless and runaway youths under the age of 21. There is a tremendous need for these programs in Texas, to serve at risk, young people who have had little in their lives in the way of basic education, career training, and independent living education. I thank both the chairman, Mr. LEWIS, and the ranking member, Mr. STOKES, and to all of the conferees for ensuring that this much needed program was included in the Conference Report.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

When the VA-HUD appropriations bill was passed by the House in July, it contained numerous provisions in the accompanying report that were intended to interfere with the implementation of our environmental laws. In the legislation now before us, I see that the conferees have improved most of these anti-environmental riders. However, there is still some potentially damaging language in the bill and I want to mention some of these specific provisions.

The report urges EPA to start over in their efforts to clean up air pollution in our national parks. I understand this language was included by the Republicans at the request of coal-burning utilities in Colorado.

In the mid 1970s, there was growing public concern regarding air pollution clouding the beautiful vistas of our national parks. As a result, Congress directed EPA to address the problem in

the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977. After a stalled effort, the program was improved and strengthened in 1990. Unfortunately, just as this program was finally beginning to be implemented, the program was stalled for 9 years by an anti-environmental rider attached to this year's highway bill. The language in the VA-HUD appropriations bill now adds insult to injury by urging EPA to start over and not encourage the States to even plan or think about addressing this serious issue.

There is language in this bill which is intended to prevent the reduction of mercury emissions from power plants until after the turn of the century. There is language which is intended to slant implementation of our pesticide safety laws in favor of pesticide chemical companies at the risk of public health. Additionally, there is language designed to interfere with the dredging of PCB contaminated sediments in our rivers and our lakes.

Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat comforted by the chairman's past assurances that this is all report language and is not binding on the agency. However, it is now up to Carol Browner, the Administrator of the EPA, to take the chairman at his word and to deal with or to ignore some of these harmful provisions. I am pleased that the bill before us is better than the one we passed through the House. I wanted to put in the RECORD some of my concerns.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just by way of a brief reaction. I could not help but pay close attention to the comments of the gentleman from California, for he was expressing concern about report language in the bill, and we have discussed this before. He knows the relative impact of report language. But what he may not know is that for the riders he is really concerned about, we had serious discussions and negotiations and work with the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) who was the key player involved in all of this and want to make sure we understand that he is a Democrat, that we recall that.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the conferees, especially the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) for the outstanding work that they did on the housing report. Gone are the heavy-handed provisions that would have mandated community service for unemployed residents of public housing. In its place this bill requires either 8 hours of community service or 8 hours a month of participation in an economic self-sufficiency program. This is real problem-solving without the insensitive and stoic responsibil-

ities to existing circumstances in public housing that we witnessed earlier in the process.

When I look at my congressional district in Chicago, where only 18 percent of the residents of Dearborn Homes are employed, where only 9 percent of the residents of Robert Taylor A are working; where only 9 percent of the residents of Stateway Gardens are working, there is clearly a need for job training. I believe that this is where we need to direct our focus. This is a most welcome undertaking and is proof positive of the type of agreements this body can reach. I thank the conferees for an outstanding piece of work.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), a hardworking and very dedicated member of the VA-HUD subcommittee.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank our leader LOU STOKES who is retiring from Congress. I thank Chairman LEWIS. The two of them have what I have always described as a dynamic duo. With the fact that they work so well together as a member of that conference committee, the work was sometimes strenuous and caused us to have to make hard decisions, but they were good decisions.

At first I was a little bit dissatisfied with H.R. 2, but after the many compromises that were made, particularly those compromises that had to do with additional Section 8, also additional public service for the people who are in such distressed conditions, I want to give my full support to this conference report and hoping that the volunteerism that perhaps is forced on some of the residents will cause them to make this a virtue and work this into what they will give to society.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD).

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report and to pay tribute to the leadership of this giant LOU STOKES, this gentleman and giant. The gentleman from Ohio deserves special praise for helping to produce today what will be his final VA-HUD appropriations bill. He was able to work with both the administration and his very able and amiable friend and chairman of the committee the gentleman from California to produce and craft a bill that includes a landmark housing reform package that provides opportunities, responsibilities, is less onerous and gives more autonomy to local public housing authorities.

The gentleman from Ohio is leaving a great legacy to this Congress. He has done so much to honor our veterans, to improve the lives of millions of Americans by expanding affordable housing, cleaning up our environment and advancing medical research in my district and districts around the Nation.

On a personal note, Mr. STOKES and Mr. CLAY and Mr. Dellums and Mr. RANGEL are like fathers to me. I have

known them since I was a child. Aunt Jay and certainly Judge Stokes, and Chuck and Shelley and Lorie are like cousins. He will be missed not only by those of us in this House but those throughout this Nation. He is one that has provided me with great counsel and advice since being in the Congress and just on a very personal note, I want to say to my friend and uncle and father figure Mr. LOU STOKES, thank you for what you have meant to me, thank you for what you have meant to this Congress and thank you for what you have meant to this Nation. You are indeed a true patriot and you will be missed.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA).

(Mrs. ROUKEMA asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I know there have been wonderful accolades given to the chairman and other members of the committee, the ranking member, and I want to join in that. I particularly want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) and the public housing provisions in this bill. Having been a member of the Banking Committee for a good number of years and the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Housing, I know what a giant step of reform this is. I want to commend them. But I especially want to reference the fact that the money was put in to deal with the veterans' needs in States like New Jersey and other States. After all, when our veterans served, they did not serve one region of the country or another. They served all Americans.

I just want to congratulate the committee for doing what is fair and right for all the veterans no matter what States they live in, and particularly for our veterans' hospitals in New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Conference Report for H.R. 4194, the VA, HUD Appropriations Act for FY 1999. This is a very good Conference Report with many strong aspects.

Public Housing.—This Conference Report includes H.R. 2, the Public Housing bill. I want to commend Chairman LAZIO for his strong leadership on this effort.

Our public housing programs have been a failure. For years I served as the Ranking Minority Member on the Banking Housing Subcommittee. While we made repeated attempts to address the waste, fraud and abuse inherent to our public housing system, this is the first time we have had a comprehensive plan offering effective solutions.

We have made great strides in reforming our welfare system in an effort to give people the hand up they need rather than a hand out. With the passage of this Conference Report, we move a step closer to completing the job of reforming our welfare system. These reforms are real and help people by giving public housing families the tools they need to achieve financial independence.

Ramapo.—In addition, I would like to thank the Chairman for his hard work and dedication. I would like to thank him and the Committee for including a grant to Ramapo College.

This grant will help to offset the cost of constructing a Center for the Performing and Visual Arts that will serve all the people of northern New Jersey.

Moderate Rehabilitation.—I would also like to thank the Chairman and the Committee for including language on Moderate Rehabilitation contracts. Moderate Rehabilitation properties are vital neighborhood assets in many lower income communities that hold neighborhoods together.

Veterans.—But, I would like to take the rest of my time to speak on an issue that is vital to the veterans of New Jersey and the Northeast. This Conference Report contains language that urges the Veterans Administration to provide for a one time credit of \$20 million to the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Three, which serves veterans of New Jersey and the Northeast. This language is right and fair. The veterans served their country, and there should be no difference on their care and treatment according to state or regional locations. This Conference report puts the money back and brought equity for all our veterans.

A General Accounting Office (GAO) study revealed that the Network 3 returned \$20 million for the Fiscal Year 1997 budget to the Veterans Administration national offices in Washington. According to the GAO, the Network 3 Director found "no prudent use" for these funds.

At the same time this money was returned to Washington, my office had numerous complaints from the East Orange and Lyons facilities. Most recently, a patient at Lyons Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which mainly serves psychiatric patients, was found dead after wandering off site unsupervised. He was missing for three days and found only 150 feet from the Hospital's administration building. It is also interesting to note that due to funding restraints, New Jersey's VA hospitals have eliminated over 240 jobs. It is obvious to me that the \$20 million could have been spent in many prudent ways.

The crisis facing our veterans, brought about by implementation of the VA's new funding formula known as Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA), has negatively impacted funding of veterans' health care in New Jersey and the northeastern United States. New Jersey and the Northeast will lose millions of dollars over the next several years.

To save money, the VA has cut back on numerous services for veterans and instituted various managed care procedures that have the impact of destroying the quality of care the veterans receive. For instance, the VA has reduced the amount of treatment offered to those who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and reduced the number of medical personnel at various health centers.

As a result of these cutbacks on top of the \$20 million give away, there has been an erosion of confidence between veterans and the VA. This erosion threatens to destroy the solemn commitment that this nation made to its veterans when they were called to duty.

This credit of the \$20 million will help to restore the confidence of our veterans in the VA. I call on the Secretary of the VA to act immediately on the Committee's direction after this bill is signed into law.

I thank the Chairman and urge adoption of this Conference Report.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO).

(Mr. VENTO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Agreement on H.R. 4194, the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations for FY 1999.

Overall, I am supportive of the funding levels for the Veterans programs and for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. I have concerns about the wisdom of limiting the implementation of the Kyoto global warming treaty in the manner prescribed. It is short sighted to ignore the facts that are building on global warming and it is more short sighted for the United States not to be taking a lead role in the international community on these efforts to control greenhouse gases. So, although this bill has been tempered from what was in the House bill it is still overreaching. It is also regrettable that this bill contains hundreds of millions of dollars of earmarks among housing and environmental programs, continuing a usual pattern for this bill that I find less than appealing, with the limited funds available, the report picks winners and losers for such funds based on nonobjective criteria.

There is always too much to say about appropriations bills that cover the whole range of issues and programs that we have before us. That task has been multiplied by the inclusion of the authorizing legislation, H.R. 2, which has many provisions that I have worked on over the past few Congresses.

I do support the agreement brought together in this bill on H.R. 2. Because I have not had adequate time to study the nuances of all the language, I cannot unequivocally endorse the entire product. I remain concerned about the community work requirements and the inclusion of the Home Rule Flexible Grants Demonstration program in the agreement and have some concerns about the potential negative effect of public housing operating subsidy and modernization formulas that are as of yet, not created and therefore, untested. The final provisions are limited in scope and time and attempts to avoid duplication with other Federal requirements.

Nonetheless, I must praise those who came to this agreement for moderating the House bill which was extreme in its so-called reforms. From not repealing the 1937 Housing Act to providing much better targeting of scarce housing resources to the very poor, this agreement is a significant improvement and a reasonable compromise. The inclusion of this agreement today shows that Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) can be given flexibility without destroying the underlying protections for those in need of housing assistance: the Brooke amendment which limits families' rent contributions, and targeting of 75 percent of Section 8 assistance vouchers and 40 percent of public housing units to the very poor.

I am pleased that some form of the changes I had worked on for several years in Housing Authorization bills in the past three Congresses have been included in the agreement. In particular, I refer to the expansion of the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP) to a more comprehensive crime oriented program which had been called COMPAC. Section 586 of the bill does make

amendments to PHDEP to assure that this program, already effective in many cities across the country, can be improved to include the eradication of drug-related and violent crimes, primarily in and around public housing buildings with severe crime problems. While not entirely including my COMPAC provisions that were in the House-passed bill, these changes will link community policing efforts and local anti-crime efforts with public and assisted housing security and crime reduction initiatives. I am concerned, however, that in lieu of an actual formula for distribution of the crime and drug elimination program funds to PHAs that apply and demonstrate security and crime reduction needs, there is only a preference for PHAs that have previously received funds under PHDEP with a small, undefined "set-aside" of funds for a "class of public housing agencies that have urgent or serious crime problems." I believe the latter is an attempt to assure medium- to small-sized PHAs have an opportunity to receive funds even if they have not to date, and thus would not be subject to the preference for funds over the next four years. I would also hope that either in developing the preferred set of PHAs and the special class of PHAs, that HUD will fairly allocate these funds across the country to PHAs like St. Paul that have received funding in the past, and to others that have needs that have not received PHDEP monies.

Thankfully, the agreement does not create the ill-advised Housing Accreditation Board that the House bill was to have foisted upon the system, regardless of whether it is necessary. The creation of a commission to study the effectiveness of current public housing performance assessment is a much better outcome and should be more useful and cost effective in the long-run than super-imposing a new government bureaucracy.

As the work of the appropriators, I wish to thank and commend the Conferees for including some relief, though not all that we hoped for, on the matter of tenant notification of the prepayment of a mortgage on the apartment building in which they live. As Members may recall, I offered an amendment to provide for 12-month of notice to affected tenants based on a Senate amendment accepted in the VA-HUD bill. However, the amendment was out of order at that time as it was legislating on an appropriations bill. Thankfully, we are over that hurdle by a long shot in this bill with extensive authorization to say the least. Since then, I have been working with my Minnesota colleague from St. Paul's sister city, Minneapolis, to ensure that tenants, state and local governments, and advocates have advance knowledge of prepayment, in part to enable them to the degree it is possible, to preserve the existing assisted housing. Without Preservation funding requests from the Administration and without the appropriations of funds for preservation, the real heavy lifting to keep affordable housing units isn't likely to be possible. I hope this policy path will change in the future. Until then, this notice is a small step forward to give tenants in states like Minnesota which has developed its own funding program for preservation the opportunity to preserve a few buildings. I will continue to work to see that the federal government pulls its share of the weight on preservation and provides adequate funding by whatever means are available so that it is a true partner to the states and our citizens in this endeavor.

I am also very pleased that the Conference agreement has included an increase of the FHA loan limits: an increase in the floor to 48% of the Freddie/Fannie conforming loan limit that is almost as much as the 50% of the conforming loan amendment that I had offered successfully in the 1994 housing bill that died in the other body, and, an increase to \$197,620 for the FHA ceiling that will help many middle income and first time home buyers in high cost areas. Both of these increases should be helpful to keep this program relevant in the market place and making it more responsive to the actual cost of building and buying a home in large and small, rural and suburban, urban and ex-urban real estate markets across the country. The five years delay in responding to the changes in the market speak to a need for autonomy for the FHA, administration so that the program is not hobbled by political limits. It is good to note, as well, the permanent authorization of the popular and proven FHA HECM program, better known as the Reverse Mortgage program for Seniors.

I do note that the Conference Agreement provides almost a billion dollars, or \$975 million, for homeless assistance, thirty percent of which is targeted to permanent housing assistance. While I am pleased with that funding level for the HUD McKinney programs, I do regretfully note that the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Grant program has remained level funded at \$100 million and would point out that the matching requirements have been diluted. Hopefully those who receive such funds will maintain their current efforts.

The Appropriations Conferees should be praised as well for the 50,000 incremental, or new, vouchers that this bill providing funding for. Democrats in the House have long been fighting for additional section 8 assistance, so it is indeed a good bill that can bring those new Section 8 vouchers to fruition. I would only note that I am a little concerned that many of those vouchers are earmarked for certain cities in a way that may not be what is reflected by actual need for the vouchers. Furthermore, the one-year commitment for the redefined vouchers continues to snowball into a larger commitment each year. Without a multiyear commitment the public and assisted housing sponsors have no clear long term policy from the Federal Government.

I would be remiss not to note the inclusion of \$426 million of funding for the AmeriCorp program and \$80 million for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, two Administration programs of which I am very supportive. As a supporter of the effective Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation and its Neighborhood Housing Services, I am pleased at the \$90 million allocation of which \$25 million could be used for a pilot home ownership initiative.

Mr. Speaker, it has been six long years since we have openly wrote a comprehensive housing policy measure for our nation into law. This product on balance is positive, but a weak substitute for what needs to be done our nation is on the CUSP of a Housing Crisis our Budget priorities and the agenda doesn't effectively deal with it. The Congress has been reduced to reacting to the crisis and while this measure is a positive step it is not the answer to the issue.

Nevertheless, I ask my Colleagues to support this Conference Agreement which has

been tempered in many ways from the House-passed VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies appropriations bill that I could not support when it was considered earlier this year. Hopefully, we will see this kind of balanced and fair compromising as we continue to wrap up the appropriations bills this Congress, in the week ahead and beyond.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It has been a tough bill to craft. This bill is always a very tough bill to craft. Thanks to the leadership of the gentleman from California, we have crafted a bill that I can commend to all of the Members as being a good bill.

In closing, I want to take once again just a moment to say, we could not bring a better bill to the floor than this bill, the last bill on which I will be the ranking member of the committee.

JERRY. I want you to know, I am proud of this bill, I am proud of my association, of my friendship with you. It has been a great honor to serve with you. I am very proud to commend this bill to all the Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. By way of closing the discussion on this bill, I first want to take a moment myself to express the same level of appreciation and respect to our very fine staff that was expressed by my colleague LOUIS STOKES earlier: Frank Cushing and Del Davis, Paul Thompson and David Reich, Valerie Baldwin, Fredette West; Jeff Shockey of my personal staff and Alex Heslop who have helped so extensively with this work. Tim Peterson and Dena Baron. And, of course, LOUIS, Arlene Willis had something to do with all this.

An item that may or may not be known by the gentleman from Ohio because in this world that we work in, there are no secrets, but you never can tell, we might have preserved one. Mr. Speaker, there is one matter that I do want to bring to the House's attention. It concerns my good friend LOUIS STOKES. For 24 years, the gentleman from Ohio has served on this subcommittee, what is now called the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies appropriations subcommittee, first as a member and then as chairman. While he is now ranking member, he will always be my chairman.

During that time, he has always been a strong supporter of veterans, and that is especially true for minority veterans. Among other things, LOUIS STOKES has worked to get the VA to reach out to minority veterans. He has worked to get VA to increase the number of minority employees in higher grades. He has worked to get the VA to make certain that more contract funds were available to minority firms.

LOUIS STOKES served honorably in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946. To honor and to recognize Congressman STOKES' long and distinguished career

in support of veterans and veterans programs, the conferees on the VA-HUD appropriations measure have, I would say discreetly, my staff wants me to say secretly, agreed to rename the Cleveland VA Medical Center at Wade Park as the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that all Members will agree that it is both fitting and proper to name the Cleveland Medical Center for our friend and colleague LOUIS STOKES.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference agreement. I especially want to congratulate the gentleman from California, Chairman LEWIS, and the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. STOKES, the ranking member, for their evenhanded bipartisan work in putting together this difficult piece of legislation.

The bill has broad support from both parties and in both Chambers. In numerous ways this conference report addresses our nation's critical priorities and gives support to areas in need. This bill includes funding for the construction of a Greater Sacramento Urban League office on Marysville Boulevard in Del Paso Heights, California. This project will symbolize the renewal of hope and revitalization of one of northern California's most depressed areas.

According to the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), the area where this project will be suffers from an unemployment rate of 22% and a per capita income of only \$5,551. Del Paso Heights is extremely economically depressed and suffers from a decaying infrastructure. The SHRA has also found that 31% of the residents receive AFDC and 40% live below the poverty line.

This earmark to help move the Greater Sacramento Urban League offices to this area can help turn these numbers around. Last year alone, 100 young people earned their G.E.D. from their Project SUCCESS program. 150 people graduated from their office technology program and 25 students earned certification as nursing assistants/health aides. Over 2,700 people have learned about HIV/AIDS prevention and personal responsibility. They have also helped over 1,000 people develop job readiness skills and placed 300 people in jobs.

I was also pleased to find that funding was made available for the new City of Citrus Heights, California. These needed funds will go towards the transitional costs that are associated when an area of this size becomes its own city.

In particular, these funds will be used for the continuation of the efforts of Citrus Heights to address and mitigate long term solutions to the problems that are priorities to the city and may not have been priorities to the county that they belonged to last year.

The County of Sacramento also received another year of funding for the Sacramento River Toxic Pollutant Control Program and the Combined Sewer System in the EPA section of the bill. These are vital multi-year projects that will help ensure the health and well-being of Sacramento's residents. Both projects are part of Sacramento County's long-range pollutant control plans, and I am pleased to have been able to support these projects over the past several years.

In short, this is a bill that is of benefit to my congressional district, my state and the entire

nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4194, the FY1999 VA/HUD/Independent Agencies Conference Report.

While there are many parts of this bill that I am proud to support, I am especially pleased that the Housing Opportunity and Responsibility Act, H.R. 2, was included in this Conference Report.

Mr. Speaker, it was not too long ago that the House considered and passed H.R. 2, which represents the first significant reform of public housing in several years. Among other substantial improvements, the bill eliminates many current obstacles that local housing authorities face in receiving funding. During the consideration of H.R. 2, I worked diligently with my fellow colleague from Pennsylvania Representative RON KLINK to successfully include the text of a bill we crafted, the Community Right To Know Act, as part of H.R. 2.

The Community Right to Know Act, H.R. 212, requires local public housing authorities to notify, and consult with, potentially impacted local governments when negotiating any settlement of, or consent decree for, significant litigation regarding public housing assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Thanks to our hard work and persistence, the House passed our bill in the form of an amendment unanimously, by voice vote last year.

When the House considers this Conference Report today, we will be requiring HUD to consult with local communities before they attempt to implement any housing program. This is especially important to my constituents in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, where they have been working hard to implement the Sanders Consent Decree, a housing desegregation class-action lawsuit which involves HUD and the Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA).

The Consent Decree states that HUD, ACHA, and the plaintiff's attorney's will work to end alleged discriminatory housing policies in the County and distribute 100 public housing units throughout the County rather than concentrating them in blighted areas. Disputes stemming from the consent decree began early in the implementation process when HUD, ACHA, and the plaintiff's attorney's, as members of the Sanders Task Force, decided to schedule closed door meetings in which the general public was not invited.

To make matters worse, the Task Force does not include community leaders, private citizens, local officials or any Congressional Representatives and has made little or no effort to consult with citizens in developing their plans. As a result, the Task Force's initiatives are often ill-advised and poorly managed.

The Klink-Doyle "Community Right to Know" initiative would prohibit closed-door meetings and allow the public at-large to voice their concerns, comments and make suggestions as to how to implement consent decrees, and other HUD programs in the best possible manner. I am especially pleased that the House and Senate Conferees included this bill in this Conference Report.

This Conference Report is the product of a compromise between the Administration, the House and the Senate. I am proud to support this Conference Report and urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 4194.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure and I would like to express my appreciation to Chairman LEWIS and Mr. STOKES for crafting a bill that is both equitable and fair to veterans, homeowners and renters and supporters of cleaner environment.

It is never an easy task to establish the right priorities and funding levels for the Veterans Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but the conferees appear to have done so once again.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the spirit of compromise that was reached between the Administration, the authorizing committee and the appropriations committee on legislation that will substantially rewrite public housing programs.

Last year the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2, the Housing Opportunity and Responsibility Act, by a vote of 293 to 132. The public housing reforms contain key elements of H.R. 2, but are responsive to concerns raised by the administration and many low income housing groups.

I am especially pleased to see that all parties agreed to retain tough screening and eviction procedures that cover not just public housing but privately-owned publicly assisted housing.

As you know, I have a personal interest in the expedited eviction procedure.

Unfortunately, it took the tragic death of Alexandria police officer Charlie Hill before HUD began to explore procedures to expedite the eviction of drug dealers from public housing projects. The police and the community knew who the drug dealers were, but every time they attempted to do something, they were stymied by the legal aid advocates. Fortunately, Alexandria was successful and the city's subsidized housing units are a far different place to live in today.

The expedited eviction procedure works but it needed to be strengthened further.

Today's legislation builds on past efforts by permitting housing authorities to access criminal records for screening and evicting tenants. It also extends these useful tools to private owners and managers of Section 8 housing.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill, it deserves strong bipartisan support.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference report. I am pleased that it increases funding for veterans health, public housing, and services for some of our most needy citizens. I remain concerned that under the VERA formula, Connecticut veterans may face additional cuts in their health services, and I look forward to working with the VA and the rest of the Connecticut delegation to address this problem.

I am pleased that the report includes language which directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to revisit its flammability standards for children's sleepwear.

In 1996 the CPSC voted to weaken the standards for children's sleepwear which protect children from being burned. Those standards, which had been in place for more than 20 years, required children's pajamas to be made from material which self-extinguishes if it catches on fire. The standards are credited with saving tens of thousands of children from injury and death.

The language in the conference report gives the CPSC the opportunity to examine all the data and revoke, modify or retain its weakened standard without waiting for the numbers of children burned to rise.

I am proud to join Congressmen WELDON and ANDREWS, Fire Marshalls, Chiefs, and fire safety organizations from around the country in supporting this language and calling on the CPSC to return to its original, protective standard. This is truly a matter of life or death for many children, and I appreciate the assistance of Chairman LEWIS, Ranking Member STOKES, and all of the conferees in addressing this important issue.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Chairman LEWIS and Ranking Member STOKES for their leadership in crafting this Conference Report.

As always, my good friend from California has presented this House with a bill that will improve the livelihood of our nation's veterans, preserve housing programs and maintain our commitment to scientific excellence at NASA, the National Science Foundation, and the EPA.

We are all aware of the Chairman's dedication to a healthy environment. By authoring the California Clean Air Act, Mr. LEWIS made possible the environmental advancements our region in southern California has experienced in recent years.

I share his dedication to clean air and a healthy environment. And I stand in strong support of the language in the Conference Report regarding the Administration's misguided Kyoto Protocol.

I went to Kyoto last December and talked to many of the international key players there. I was interested to hear from Chinese representatives that they had no intention of adhering to this international agreement.

Because China will become the number one emitter of Carbon Dioxide sometime in the next two decades, the treaty doesn't work.

I also held three hearings in my Science Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment before attending the conference. At those hearings, top climatologists told us that no clear scientific evidence exists indicating that there is human-induced global warming.

So, the treaty will not work and the science doesn't show that we need it. But that is not the only reason to support the language in the Conference Report.

I also support the language because it stops this Administration from implementing the Kyoto Treaty without Senate ratification. If they were able to do so they would be ignoring the sanctity of the Constitution.

If the President believes this treaty is good for America, let him send it to the Senate so it can be weighed on its merits in a full and open debate. That is what the Constitution demands.

Again, I thank Chairman LEWIS and Ranking Member STOKES for their excellent work on this Conference Report and urge a yes vote.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, the Kyoto Protocol is a bad deal for America. In the face of inconclusive science, this treaty goes too far, too fast, and involves too few countries. The fact is that, even if we stopped operating every car, truck, boat, train, and airplane in this country, the energy savings still would not be enough to meet the U.S. commitments under the Protocol.

Moreover, under this treaty, all of the burdens are imposed on the industrialized countries, while the developing countries enjoy all

the benefits. Huge emissions producers like China, India, South Korea, Brazil, and Mexico are totally excluded from any commitments. As a result, even if every developed country were to achieve its emissions reduction obligations, there still would be not net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Without global participation, this country could well face crippling economic consequences: the elimination of millions of American jobs, significant increases in our energy prices, and deterioration of our standard of living. Given the scientific uncertainties, we don't need a Kyoto Protocol that hampers our future and leaves this country incapable of coping with real crises. Needless to say we cannot countenance any Administration attempts to make this treaty a reality before it is submitted to the Senate for advice and consent and before Congress can agree upon any necessary implementing legislation and regulations.

The Clinton/Gore Administration has recognized the Protocol's deficiencies and promised that it will not submit this treaty for ratification until there is "meaningful participation" by developing countries. Under Secretary of State Elizenstat also has repeatedly disavowed any intention of the Administration to implement the Protocol before it is submitted to the Senate.

But these assurances notwithstanding, EPA has taken actions that strongly suggest that the Administration may be trying to jump the gun on Congress and issue rules and regulations through the back-door. Take for example, EPA's attempt to cap carbon emissions in the Administration's electric utility restructuring plan. An internal Agency memorandum that was provided to my Subcommittee revealed that EPA saw this proposal as a "concrete step to move forward domestically on global warming while continuing to work for progress internationally in follow-up to Kyoto."

In a hearing before my Subcommittee, an EPA official also testified that the agency has the authority to regulate the carbon dioxide that we exhale every day as an air pollutant under the Clean Air Act, as if it were the same as other air pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, or mercury, that are already regulated.

We have to pass the bipartisan funding limitation in H.R. 4194 to put the breaks on back-door regulatory actions. We cannot allow EPA to make an end-run around fundamental democratic procedures to advance the Administration's social engineering.

The Kyoto Protocol is a fundamentally flawed treaty. Our only safeguard against this bad deal is our constitutional process of Senate advice and consent. The Clinton/Gore Administration must be held to its promises to Congress and the American public, while the treaty remains a "work-in-progress," and while the Clinton/Gore Administration continues to "explore" ways to achieve "meaningful participation." This is a global issue. "Meaningful participation" must mean global participation by all countries. We will settle for nothing less.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference report and ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I first would like to thank Chairman LEWIS, Congressman STOKES and the Subcommittee staff for their guidance throughout the year. As all of know this is the

final VA, HUD Conference Report for LOU STOKES. Having served with LOU on this Subcommittee for four years I know that he will missed for his insight and knowledge of the vast array of issues that face this Subcommittee each year. LOU, you have made serving on this subcommittee a educational experience and I wish you all the best in your retirement.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report is a balanced one. It provides funding for many vital programs for our nation's veterans, for protection and preservation of our environment, for meeting the housing needs for our elderly and disabled and for scientific research and discovery.

In total this report provides over \$93 billion for the Departments of Veteran Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and 17 independent agencies and offices. Nearly half of the bill's funding supports the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to provide health care, housing and benefits.

As a member of this subcommittee I am pleased that this bill provides increased funding for the VA Health Care System. However, I remain concerned over the way the VA has chosen to implement the Veterans Integrated Network System (VISN) and intend to continue to follow this implementation very closely. Funding has increased each year for the last three years yet some area networks are not seeing any increases and in fact are receiving cuts in funding and services. As implementation continues, I intend to make sure that the quality of care for our veterans continue at a very high level.

During subcommittee mark-up I offered report language, accepted by the Conference Committee, which would require the Veterans Administration to give back \$20 million to VISN 3. These funds were wrongly given back to the VA Headquarters any my report language will rectify this situation. There is no doubt that VISN 3 can use this funding and I will continue to monitor this situation to see that the VA uses this funding to provide services to my state's veterans and does not divert this funding for administrative needs.

In addition to veterans funding, H.R. 4194 provides funding for the Section 811 program, housing for people with disabilities, at \$194 million, \$20 million more than the President requested and the Section 202 program, housing for older Americans, at \$660 million, \$501 million more than the President's request. Both of these programs are working extremely well at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and I am pleased that the Committee provided increased funding for them.

The conference report also continues a set-aside program that the Committee started two years ago to meet housing needs for people with disabilities. The Committee has included \$40 million for tenant-based rental assistance to ensure decent, safe, and affordable housing in communities for low income people with disabilities. I am also pleased that the Conference Committee has included language to direct the Secretary of HUD to use his waiver authority to allow non-profit organizations to apply directly for these funds instead of through a Public Housing Authority. It is my belief that this change will provide better access to housing for more individuals with disabilities. I sincerely hope that Secretary Cuomo and I can continue our mutual goal of giving more individuals with disabilities the opportunity to live independently.

On another issue, this report includes an increase for the National Science Foundation. Specifically, the bill includes \$3.7 billion for NSF, \$242 million over last years funding level. This increase will go along way towards moving scientific research forward. Scientific research has been a high priority of mine since being named to the Appropriations Committee and I am pleased that the FY99 Conference Report continues to emphasis the importance of basic science research.

Finally, there continues to be a desperate need for Superfund reform and change. The program needs to be re-authorized and it needs to promote actual clean-ups based on sound science, not the rhetoric of political science. Polluters need to pay and steps need to taken to assure that public or private funds are used for environmental clean-up, not to sustain endless litigation. Comprehensive reform is needed in order to continue a strong viable program.

Mr. Speaker, this is a balanced conference report and it deserves our support. I urge my colleagues to adopt this conference report.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to rise and say a few words to my friend and colleague, HARRIS FALWELL. In the short time that I have served as Ranking Democrat on the Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations, I have found him to be thoughtful in pursuit of bipartisan agreement and compromise. When I first assumed the ranking position on that Subcommittee, HARRIS extended himself to me as a gesture of his trademark comity and friendship. Although we come from ideologically different perspectives, I appreciated the fact that he was open to debate and discussion on many issues. In fact, he encouraged it.

One of the most rewarding experiences I had while working with Chairman FAWELL was when we collaborated to introduce the Savings Are Vital to Everyone's Retirement (SAVER) Act, which was enacted into law last December. He solicited and encouraged input from all of our colleagues with an interest in this issue. As a result of the bipartisan participation, this effort was successful in creating a number of initiatives, both public and private, aimed at increasing public awareness about the importance of preparing for retirement. This project culminated in the first White House Summit on Retirement Savings.

Because of his leadership and legislative achievements, he served the 13th Congressional District of Illinois with distinction. I wish Chairman FAWELL continued success in his next endeavor and look forward to working with him again.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today for the NASA funding provided in this bill. Last year at this time, there were rumors floating that NASA's proposed budget was going to be cut by \$1 billion in 1999. This would have seriously damaged NASA's programs. Mr. WELDON and I rallied support for NASA. 201 Members of Congress signed a letter to the Speaker arguing for stabilization of NASA's budget. The \$1 billion dollar cut was avoided in the President's budget as a result of the overwhelming bipartisan support which NASA enjoys in the House.

Today, I am very happy to see an increase in NASA's budget to \$13.7 billion. This is more than the President's request and more than

the House and Senate in the VA-HUD Conference Report. NASA is a government agency that looks to the future. For every dollar we invest in the space program, we receive a return of at least \$2 in direct and indirect benefits. With the International Space Station program close to launch and assembly, it is crucial that NASA receives no further cuts. I am especially pleased to see that more money is included for aeronautics research and for life and microgravity sciences, research areas at NASA Lewis Research Center in my district.

NASA Lewis is NASA's Lead Center for Aeropropulsion and also a NASA Center for Excellence in Turbomachinery. Microgravity research in combustion and fluids is also performed at Lewis.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, as I congratulate LOUIS STOKES on his fantastic career.

□ 1315

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). All time having expired, without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 7, rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 14, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 483]

YEAS—409

Abercrombie	Calvert	Dreier
Ackerman	Camp	Duncan
Aderholt	Campbell	Dunn
Allen	Canady	Edwards
Andrews	Cannon	Ehlers
Archer	Capps	Ehrlich
Armey	Cardin	Emerson
Bachus	Carson	Engel
Baesler	Castle	Ensign
Baker	Chabot	Eshoo
Baldacci	Chambliss	Etheridge
Ballenger	Chenoweth	Evans
Barcia	Christensen	Everett
Barr	Clay	Ewing
Barrett (NE)	Clayton	Farr
Barrett (WI)	Clement	Fattah
Bartlett	Clyburn	Fazio
Barton	Coble	Filner
Bass	Coburn	Foley
Bateman	Collins	Forbes
Becerra	Combest	Ford
Bentsen	Condit	Fossella
Bereuter	Cook	Fowler
Berman	Cooksey	Fox
Berry	Costello	Frank (MA)
Bilbray	Cox	Franks (NJ)
Bilirakis	Coyne	Frelinghuysen
Bishop	Cramer	Frost
Blagojevich	Crapo	Furse
Bliley	Cubin	Gallegly
Blumenauer	Cummings	Ganske
Blunt	Cunningham	Gejdenson
Boehlert	Danner	Gekas
Boehner	Davis (FL)	Gephardt
Bonilla	Davis (IL)	Gibbons
Bonior	Davis (VA)	Gilchrest
Bono	Deal	Gillmor
Borski	DeGette	Gilman
Boswell	Delahunt	Gonzalez
Boucher	DeLauro	Goode
Boyd	DeLay	Goodlatte
Brady (PA)	Deutsch	Goodling
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart	Gordon
Brown (FL)	Dickey	Goss
Brown (OH)	Dicks	Graham
Bryant	Dingell	Granger
Bunning	Dixon	Green
Burr	Doggett	Greenwood
Burton	Dooley	Gutierrez
Buyer	Doolittle	Gutknecht
Callahan	Doyle	Hall (OH)

Hall (TX)	McCarthy (MO)	Ryun
Hamilton	McCarthy (NY)	Sabo
Hansen	McCollum	Salmon
Harman	McCrery	Sanchez
Hastert	McDade	Sanders
Hastings (FL)	McDermott	Sandlin
Hastings (WA)	McGovern	Sawyer
Hayworth	McHugh	Saxton
Hefley	McInnis	Schaefer, Dan
Hefner	McIntosh	Schumer
Herger	McIntyre	Scott
Hill	McKeon	Serrano
Hilleary	McKinney	Sessions
Hilliard	McNulty	Shadegg
Hinchey	Meehan	Shaw
Hinojosa	Meek (FL)	Shays
Hobson	Meeks (NY)	Sherman
Hoekstra	Menendez	Shimkus
Holden	Metcalfe	Shuster
Hooley	Mica	Sisisky
Horn	Millender-	Skaggs
Houghton	McDonald	Skeen
Hoyer	Miller (CA)	Skelton
Hulshof	Miller (FL)	Slaughter
Hunter	Minge	Smith (MI)
Hutchinson	Mink	Smith (NJ)
Hyde	Moakley	Smith (OR)
Inglis	Mollohan	Smith (TX)
Istook	Moran (KS)	Smith, Adam
Jackson (IL)	Morella	Smith, Linda
Jackson-Lee	Murtha	Snowbarger
(TX)	Myrick	Snyder
Jefferson	Nadler	Solomon
Jenkins	Neal	Souder
John	Nethercutt	Spence
Johnson (CT)	Neumann	Spratt
Johnson (WI)	Ney	Stabenow
Johnson, E. B.	Northup	Stark
Johnson, Sam	Norwood	Stearns
Jones	Nussle	Stenholm
Kanjorski	Oberstar	Stokes
Kaptur	Obey	Strickland
Kasich	Olver	Stump
Kelly	Ortiz	Stupak
Kennedy (MA)	Owens	Sununu
Kennedy (RI)	Oxley	Talent
Kildee	Packard	Tanner
Kilpatrick	Pallone	Tauscher
Kim	Pappas	Tauzin
Kind (WI)	Parker	Taylor (MS)
King (NY)	Pascarella	Taylor (NC)
Kingston	Pastor	Thomas
Klecza	Paxon	Thompson
Klink	Payne	Thornberry
Klug	Pease	Thune
Knollenberg	Pelosi	Thurman
Kolbe	Peterson (MN)	Tiahrt
Kucinich	Peterson (PA)	Tierney
LaFalce	Pickering	Towns
LaHood	Pickett	Trafigant
Lampson	Pitts	Turner
Lantos	Pombo	Upton
Largent	Pomeroy	Vento
Latham	Porter	Visclosky
LaTourette	Portman	Walsh
Lazio	Price (NC)	Wamp
Leach	Quinn	Waters
Lee	Radanovich	Watkins
Levin	Rahall	Watt (NC)
Lewis (CA)	Ramstad	Watts (OK)
Lewis (GA)	Rangel	Waxman
Lewis (KY)	Redmond	Weldon (FL)
Livingston	Regula	Weldon (PA)
LoBiondo	Reyes	Weller
Lofgren	Riley	Wexler
Lowey	Rivers	Weygand
Lucas	Rodriguez	White
Luther	Rogan	Whitfield
Maloney (CT)	Rogers	Wicker
Maloney (NY)	Rohrabacher	Wise
Manton	Ros-Lehtinen	Wolf
Manzullo	Rothman	Woolsey
Markey	Roukema	Wynn
Martinez	Roybal-Allard	Yates
Mascara	Royce	Young (AK)
Matsui	Rush	Young (FL)

NAYS—14

Conyers
Crane
DeFazio
English
Hostettler

Brown (CA)
Fawell
Kennelly
Linder

NOT VOTING—11

McHale
Moran (VA)
Poshard
Pryce (OH)

Ryun
Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Schaefer, Dan
Schumer
Scott
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sisisky
Skaggs
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (OR)
Smith (TX)
Smith, Adam
Smith, Linda
Snowbarger
Snyder
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Stokes
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Talent
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thompson
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tierney
Towns
Trafigant
Turner
Upton
Vento
Visclosky
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Weygand
White
Whitfield
Wicker
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Yates
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1334

Mr. LARGENT changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 483 on H.R. 4194 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 483 on October 6, 1998 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4276, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. MOLLOHAN

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. MOLLOHAN moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 4276 making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and related agencies, be instructed to not concur in any Senate legislative provisions or any extraneous legislative provisions, which are outside the scope of Conference, which could have the effect of causing a Government shutdown.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN).

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have made the motion to instruct conferees on the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill. In order to make clear that on one this