

For a hungry person, there is a truly impressive variety of food to choose from at the Bright Star. The Texas special—consisting of the Greek-style snapper, tenderloin of beef Greek-style, and the lobster and crab meat au-gratin—is an entree that does not escape the memory for years to come.

Sunday lunch at the Bright Star is one of its busiest times. After church services, worshipers will flock from miles around, and sometimes delay their Sunday lunch until 2:30 or 3 p.m. in the afternoon, in order to avoid the overflow crowd.

After a University of Alabama football game in Birmingham, fans who have come up from Tuscaloosa will stop by on the way back after the game. In years past, it was not uncommon to see legendary Alabama football figures like Coach Bear Bryant, Hank Crisp, and Frank Thomas. At the Bright Star, political figures are frequent guests. On one occasion, I ran into Senator SHELBY and former Congressman Claude Harris at separate tables.

The history of the Bright Star is rich and quintessentially American. In 1907, Greek immigrant Tom Bonduris established the Bright Star. When its doors opened, it was only a small cafe with a horseshoe-shaped bar, but it soon outgrew three locations, moving to its present site in 1915. Bill Koikos and his brother, Peter, joined in the enterprise when they emigrated from Greece in 1920. Customers were introduced to a new dining atmosphere, complete with ceiling fans, tile floors, mirrored and marbled walls, and murals painted by a European artist traveling through the area, all creating a pleasing effect reflective of that era. While major alterations have occurred since, the same early 20th-century-style atmosphere has been largely preserved.

The Bright Star's reputation and success are easily measured simply by the satisfaction of its clientele. A place like home was the kind of climate fostered by Tom Bonduris in 1907 and kept alive today by the Koikos brothers and their descendants—Bill's wife, Anastasia, and children, Helen, Jimmy, and Nicholas.

As immigrants, Tom Bonduris and Bill and Peter Koikos knew little of the English language and had few possessions when they arrived in this country, but they worked hard and learned to please their customers. By establishing the Bright Star restaurant as a place of "philotimo"—a place of hospitality from the heart—the Koikos and Bonduris families drew upon the culture and traditions of their ancestors, striking a resounding chord of acceptance with the public which has never faded. They brought with them certain recipes from Greece, and the Koikos family has continued to use these and secret blends of herbs and spices ever since those early days to make their food unique.

Today, the Bright Star is wholly owned and run by the sons of Bill

Koikos, Nick, and Jimmy. Nick oversees the general operations of the restaurant, including the kitchen, and Jimmy serves as the greeter of their patrons and as the front man. Their sister, Helen, also plays an active role, working as the cashier on Fridays and Sundays and generally helping out whenever she is needed. The Koikos family has maintained a high level of commitment to hard work over the lifetime of their restaurant.

The employees of the Bright Star are an integral part of the family there, and many of them have been with the restaurant for many years. I ask unanimous consent that a list of the employees who have been with the Bright Star for 10 years or more be printed in the RECORD following my remarks. Among these are Gwendolyn Atkinson, an employee for 32 years; Mary Sherrod, 46 years; Fannie Wright, 33 years; Walter Hoskins, 28 years; and Nita Ray, 27 years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, the long, dedicated, and loyal service of these employees is evidence of the type of employers the Koikos brothers are and the type of family atmosphere they foster in their restaurant.

As American citizens, business owners, and participants in the democratic process, this family has developed and maintained a reputation envied by all those who look to our shores for a new start in life. Today, Koikos family members are among the best to be found in Bessemer—or anywhere, for that matter—and Alabama has an establishment in which it can take great pride. Likewise, the United States of America is a better nation because of the outstanding contributions of those from other lands like the Koikos family, whose mission has been to contribute, and whose members believe that the American dream can still be realized if one has the courage and determination to work toward that dream.

I congratulate all the members of the Koikos family on the tremendous success of the Bright Star, and I personally look forward to enjoying many more dining experiences there in the future. There are still many items on the menu which I have not yet tried, but hope to sample soon.

EXHIBIT 1

BRIGHT STAR EMPLOYEES OF 10 YEARS OR MORE

Gwendolyn Atkinson—32 years.
Betty Bailey—22 years.
Wanda Little—11 years.
Mary Sherrod—46 years.
Robert Moore—11 years.
Dorothy Patton—19 years.
Felisa Tolbert—16 years.
Carl Thomas—18 years.
Fannie Wright—33 years.
Aareen Tolbert—16 years.
Angela Sellers—13 years.
Marlon Tanksley—13 years.
Walter Hoskins—28 years.
Brenda Adams—12 years.

Fumiko Adams—19 years.
Elizabeth Gardner—19 years.
Nita Ray—27 years.
Rita Weems—12 years.
Anne Mull—15 years.
Marie Jackson—20 years.
Sarah Marshall—10 years.
Anthony Ross—10 years.
Faye Kelley—12 years.
Dale Ware—10 years.
Jerome Walker—10 years.

TRIBUTE TO LOU WHITAKER AND ALAN TRAMMELL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to two outstanding athletes from my home State of Michigan. They deserve our respect not only for their athletic achievements, which are considerable, but for their professional conduct and dedication to their community.

In an age when professional athletes move from city to city, it is refreshing to talk about these two men. Lou Whitaker and Alan Trammell have been the second baseman and shortstop, respectively, for the Detroit Tigers for 19 years. They have played in more than 1,915 games together. That is more than any other set of teammates in the history of the American League.

We can, and should, admire their achievements on the field. Alan Trammell has won four Golden Glove Awards, been selected for the All-Star game six times, and was voted the Most Valuable Player in the 1984 World Series. Lou Whitaker was voted American League Rookie of the Year in 1978, has won three Golden Glove Awards, and has played on four All-Star teams. More uniquely, he is one of only two second basemen in history to have played in 2,000 games, had over 2,000 hits, and over 200 homeruns. I expect that Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker will one day be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame for these achievements.

Even more though, we should admire their dedication and loyalty to a team and a town—attributes that seem increasingly scarce today. Since 1976, they have been a part of Detroit. I have seen many games where Tram and Lou have turned the double play that has become their hallmark. The amazing thing to consider is the millions of fans in Michigan and across the country that have seen that same feat.

Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker, through their consistent performance and grace, have given something special to the people of our State. For that they deserve our admiration and our thanks. They will always have a special place in the hearts of millions who have cheered their feats on and off the field.

A RESPONSE TO ABC NEWS' VIEWS OF THE EARLY ROMAN SENATE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, modern-day life expectancy now tops seventy

years. Compare that to the life expectancy during the days of the Roman Empire, when the average Roman citizen could expect to live approximately 22 years (June 13, 1994, Gannett News Service). Twenty-two years—an amazing fact, especially when we consider that today, one must attain the age of 25 before serving in the United States House of Representatives and the ripe old age of 30 before contemplating service in the United States Senate.

I mention this not as a point of interest, however, but to underscore the fact that the august members of the Roman Senate—many of whom were in their thirties or forties—were, indeed, the “senior citizens” of their time.

Recently, ABC News aired a story in which they questioned the accuracy of two passages in my book, *The Senate of the Roman Republic*. The reporter of this news segment chose to take issue with my assertion that “the Roman Senate, as originally created was meant to be made up of a body of old men.” What ABC News failed to mention, however, was the average life expectancy for that period of time—a mere twenty-two years. If the ABC reporter had just looked up the word senate in *Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition*, he would have seen that the very definition of senate is “literally, an assembly of old men or elders * * *.” Further, when Flavius Eutropius, a fourth-century historian, was writing of the origin of Rome, he made reference to Romulus' creation of the first senate, “* * * he chose a hundred of the older men * * * whom, from their age, he named senators.”

In addition, ABC disputed my claim with respect to the Roman Senate's veto power. As the following excerpts from noted historians will attest, this power of the Senate ebbed and flowed from time to time, but in the main, the Senate preserved, directly or indirectly, its authority and power of ratification or veto over the actions of Roman assemblies. I believe my case is made by the following quotes from prominent historians.

—*A History of the Roman People* (1962) by Heichelheim and Yeo:

The senate possessed still another ancient source of authority summed by the phrases *auctoritas patrum*, which gave it the power to ratify resolutions of the popular assembly before enactment.

—*A History and Description of Roman Political Institutions* (1963) by Frank Frost Abbott:

This view that the senate was the ultimate source of authority was the aristocratic theory of the constitution down to the end of the republican period. . .

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Between 449 and 339, then, in the case of both the *comitia centuriata* and the *concilium plebis*, a bill, in order to become a law, required, first, favorable action by the popular assembly, then the sanction of the patrician senators. . . Now one clause of the Publilian law, as we have already seen, provided that in the case of the *centuriate comitia* the *auctoritas patrum* should precede the action of the *comitia*.”

—*Roman Political Institutions from City to State* (1962) by Leon Homo:

The Senate.—Lastly, the Senate, the stronghold of the Patriciate, which it permanently represented, enjoyed a still more complete right of control. In elections and in voting of laws alike, the decision of the Centuriate Assembly must, to be fully valid and to produce its legal effects, be ratified afterwards by the Senate (*auctoritas Patrum*). Refusal of the Senate to ratify was an absolute veto; it made every decision of the *Comitia Centuriata* null and void, and they had no legal recourse against it.

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So, through the Consuls, the Senatorial oligarchy recovered, in indirect but effective form, the veto, the *auctoritas Patrum*, of which the *Lex Hortensia* had deprived it.

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. . . the Senate, in losing its right of veto, . . .

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Sulla, in the course of his Dictatorship, restored its [the Senate's] old right of veto, but it was only for a short time.

—*A History of the Roman World 753–146 BC* (1980) by H.H. Scullard, FBA, FSA:

Though the Senate was a deliberative body which discussed and need not vote on business, it had the right to veto all acts of the assembly which were invalid without senatorial ratification.

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In all branches of government the Roman people was supreme, but in all the Senate overshadowed them: “*senatus populusque Romanus*” was not an idle phrase.

—*A History of Rome to A.D. 565* (1965) by Arthur E.R. Boak, Ph.D. and William G. Sinnigen, Ph.D.:

The Senate also acquired the right to sanction or to veto resolutions passed by the Assembly, which could not become laws without the Senate's approval.

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During the early years of the Republic, the only Assembly of the People was the old Curiate Assembly of the regal period. . . Its powers were limited to voting, for it did not have the right to initiate legislation or to discuss or amend measures that were presented to it. Its legislative power, furthermore, was limited by the Senate's right of veto.

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The legislative power of the Centuries was limited for a long time, however, by the veto power of the patrician senators (the *patrum auctoritas*), who had to ratify measures passed by the assembly before they became law. This restriction was practically removed by the Publilian Law (339), which required the *patres* to ratify in advance proposals that were to be presented to this assembly.

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Hence it was called the Council of Plebs (*concilium plebis*) and not the Tribal Assembly. Its resolutions, called *plebiscites*, were binding on plebeians only; but, from the late fourth century at least, if the resolutions were approved by the Senate, they became valid for all Romans. In the course of the fourth century the consuls began to summon for legislative purposes an assembly that virtually duplicated the Council of the Plebs but was called the Tribal Assembly (*comitia tributa*) because it was presided over by a magistrate with *imperium* and was open to all citizens. It voted in the same way as the

Council of the Plebs and its laws were subject to the veto power of the Senate.

—*A History of Rome to the Battle of Actium* (1894) by Evelyn Shirley Shuckburgh, M.A.:

. . . the second ordered the *auctoritas* of the fathers (that is, a resolution of the Senate) to be given beforehand in favor of laws passed in the centuriate assembly . . .

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It took from the senators the power of stopping the passing of a law in the centuriate assembly, . . .

Mr. President, though these two matters may seem trivial and insignificant to some, I did want to take this opportunity to assure the readers of my book, *The Senate of the Roman Republic*, that the conclusions drawn are based on a great deal of study on my part. Over the course of many years of research, I have gleaned information, not only from esteemed modern scholars in Roman history, but also from the actual historians of the time. My reference to the Roman Senate as an assembly of old men and to the veto power of the Roman Senate was garnered from these authorities. I recognize that history is sometimes subject to interpretation; therefore, one can only assume that this may have been the premise for the ABC News story.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HUTCHISON). There being no further morning business, morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Sarbanes Amendment No. 2782, to restore homeless assistance funding to fiscal year 1995 levels using excess public housing agency project reserves.

Rockefeller Amendment No. 2784, to strike section 107 which limits compensation for mentally disabled veterans and offset the loss of revenues by ensuring that any tax cut benefits only those families with incomes less than \$100,000.

Rockefeller Amendment No. 2785 (to committee amendment on page 8, lines 9–10), to increase funding for veterans' medical care and offset the increase in funds by ensuring that any tax cut benefits only those families with incomes less than \$100,000.

Baucus Amendment No. 2786, to provide that any provision that limits implementation or enforcement of any environmental