

After pursuing his studies, Mr. Mercado decided to devote himself to helping others. He made extensive trips throughout the world. Through his top-rated television show on Univision, numerous books and public appearances, Mr. Mercado has raised the quality of millions of lives with entertaining, helpful advice on matters of health, family, love, and finance. In addition, he has been involved in numerous charities because of his concern for the well-being of the community and the world. Mr. Mercado has given special attention to the betterment of children's lives everywhere.

Mr. Mercado combines a flamboyant, outgoing nature with a genuine concern for people. He is not afraid to be outlandish, but he is also sensitive enough to care about his audience. Perhaps, he is so popular, because his audience knows that behind the showmanship is an entertainer with a heart of gold.

It is an honor to have such an outstanding and considerate individual visit my district. Walter Mercado demonstrates the positive influence one person can have on the lives of many. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of Walter Mercado, a remarkable man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was attending a function in my congressional district. As a result, I unfortunately missed several votes. Had I been here, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 248; "yea" on rollcall 249; "yea" on rollcall 250; "nay" on rollcall 251; "yea" on rollcall 252; "nay" on rollcall 253; "nay" on rollcall 254; "nay" on rollcall 255; "nay" on rollcall 256; "nay" on rollcall 257; "nay" on rollcall 258.

CLINTON WELFARE REFORM

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, it was not a month ago that the President praised the Wisconsin welfare reform plan. Once he got the headlines he wanted, the backpeddle began. The Clinton administration's wavering on Wisconsin's plan is just another in a long history of broken promises on welfare reform.

Throughout 1992, candidate Clinton talked time and again about the need for welfare reform. It has been almost 4 years and his only action on welfare reform has been to veto the reform, not once, but twice. In February of this year, the President supported a bipartisan welfare reform plan unanimously approved by the Nation's 50 Governors—Republican and Democrat alike. Within a month Secretary Shalala said the President would veto the plan.

It is clear the President does not mean what he says. In spite of all of his talk, he is wed to the status quo. By contrast, my Republican colleagues and I are committed to ending welfare as we know it. Congressional Republicans have proposed and passed genuine

welfare reform that moves people off of the welfare rolls and onto payrolls.

If we are to have real welfare reform, we must take power out of the hands of Washington bureaucrats and give it back to the people and the States. Not many people, outside of the White House, believe that the Washington welfare bureaucracy—which has presided over the past 30 years of failure—knows more about welfare reform than the States who have proven track records. It is high time the President stopped talking out of both sides of his mouth and began welfare reform in earnest.

WILLIAM H. NATCHER BRIDGE

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 1996

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I support the consideration of H.R. 3572. This legislation, which is the same bill the House passed last Congress but the Senate failed to act on, acknowledges the contribution of one of our dear friends and colleagues, William H. Natcher of the State of Kentucky, by designating the bridge on U.S. Route 231 crossing the Ohio River between Maceo, KY and Rockport, IN, as the "William H. Natcher Bridge". It is only fitting and proper that a major infrastructure project serve as a long and lasting monument in honor of Bill Natcher. He worked closely with the then-Committee on Public Works and Transportation to provide funding for the construction of this project.

For over 40 years, Bill Natcher worked tirelessly to serve his constituents and the Nation. His public service record is exemplary with having never missed a day of work and with having cast 18,401 consecutive rollcall votes until advised by his physicians to remain at the Bethesda Naval Hospital to receive medical treatment.

Mr. Speaker, more importantly, the character of the gentleman is what set him apart from many of his colleagues. He was a courteous, dignified, and considerate human being whom we all loved and respected. Throughout Bill Natcher's tenure in the House, he enjoyed tremendous respect. He exhibited true leadership virtues during his service as chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and as chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. Under his tenure, all 13 appropriations bills were enacted on time, without the need for a continuing resolution.

In the 103d Congress, this committee worked closely with the gentlemen from Kentucky and was extremely proud of his willingness to work together to support legislation that maintained the integrity of the legislative process.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor and privilege to have served for over 19 years in the House with my friend and colleague, Bill Natcher. I am pleased to support this legislation as a testament to the tremendous work he did for the State of Kentucky, its Second District, and the Nation, and I urge approval of the bill.

TRIBUTE TO TOP COAST GUARD OFFICER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Capt. Eric Staut, commanding officer of the Coast Guard Training Center in Petaluma, CA, who retires this month after 30 years of impeccable service to our country, our Coast Guard, and the Petaluma community.

Captain Staut's extensive accomplishments and experience in the Coast Guard include serving as district chief of operations, law enforcement staff chief, commanding officer of two air stations, and chief of enlisted personnel responsible for the management of the Coast Guard's 30,000 member enlisted force.

I had the pleasure of working with Captain Staut when he was the commanding officer of the Coast Guard Training Center, Petaluma. Through his creative, proactive, and skillful leadership, the training center has become one of the most efficient facilities in the Coast Guard. Under Captain Staut's command, the Petaluma Training Center went from being on the chopping block to receiving the Unit Commendation Award, which is the highest unit award in the Coast Guard. According to the Coast Guard's Commandant who awarded this prestigious commendation, the staff demonstrated dynamic leadership and innovation in the quality of training and support services. It was Captain Staut's natural leadership that helped shape and enrich the minds and hearts of the students and staff who take pride in the work they do and in the place they serve. His leadership, hard work, and dedication have tremendously affected countless lives.

On June 25, 1996, Captain Staut will be relieving his command of the Petaluma Training Center, but he will forever remain a vital link to the history of the Petaluma area, and the west coast, for the honors and successes he brought to the center and for helping keep the only Coast Guard Training Center on the west coast. I urge my colleagues to please join me in saluting Captain Staut, and wishing him and his wife, Carolyn, much success with their future plans.

EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUES EXCELLENCE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding dedication and effort of a group of students and their teacher from my district. The students are from East Kentwood High School and their teacher is Deb Snow. Earlier this spring, Ms. Snow and her 22 students competed in the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution national finals and won the region three award. The award is presented to five schools, from each of five geographic regions, with the highest cumulative score during the first 2 days of the national finals. This remarkable feat was accomplished while competing against 49 other classes from around the country.

The We the People the . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program encourages high school students around the country to better understand the history and principles of our Nation's constitutional government focusing on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. After extensive preparation in their respective schools, students compete in a challenging 3-day competition that includes a simulated congressional hearing. During the competition the students are judged on their oral presentations, their knowledge of constitutional principles, and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues. The program is the most extensive of its kind.

I am extremely proud of the students from East Kentwood who made numerous sacrifices to represent our district and State in this competition. Advancing to the national finals and being recognized as one of the top schools in this competition is no easy task. These students made a commitment to succeed and followed through on their goals. The students who studied long hours to reach the finals were: Katie Bacon, Ryan Brubaker, Dan Bush, Brad Busse, Brian Busse, Nathaniel Cartier, Jamie Cassis, Stacy Corsaut, Michelle David, John Defouw, B.J. Desmond, Brian Dishinger, Ryan Eavey, Chris Frazier, Andrea Hudson, Mark Hulbert, Rachel Katonak, Winnie Lee, Kurt Leland, Chris Magnuson, Emily Peterson, and Beth Zoller.

The students are not the only ones who give their all for this competition. They are fortunate to be under the tutelage of their teacher, Deb Snow, who goes above and beyond the call of duty of preparing students for this competition. Under her leadership, East Kentwood has enjoyed frequent success in the We The People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. Her dedication and passion for teaching should serve as an example for other teachers to follow. Congressional district coordinator Donald Fink and State coordinator Linda Start also play important roles in East Kentwood's success. Their guidance and planning efforts were extremely beneficial in helping the team advance to the national finals.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to take this time to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of this team. The valuable lessons learned through competition and teamwork will help prepare these students for the challenges that lie ahead in their adult years. I want to thank the students and teacher Deb Snow for serving as excellent representatives of the Third District. Again, my deepest congratulations and my wishes for continued success in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES G. MCCLUSKEY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Dr. James G. McCluskey for his 37 years of service as pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN. His leadership and service has truly blessed Wallace Memorial Baptist Church.

Today Wallace Memorial is one of the largest churches in the east Tennessee area with over 3,000 members. It is devoted to its mis-

sions outreach which was inspired by Dr. Bill Wallace, after whom the church was named.

Dr. McCluskey joined Wallace Memorial as its pastor in 1959 when there were approximately 45 members. At that point, he had held several different high level positions with many agencies and ministries. He had served as the president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Tennessee Baptist Pastor's Conference, the Tennessee Baptist Youth Evangelistic Conference, the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, and senior teacher for Evangelism Explosion International. Additionally, he had traveled to several foreign countries on mission work.

Most importantly, his love for Christ and his mission to share that love with others has guided Wallace Memorial as the church's membership and programs have grown over the years.

Dr. McCluskey has said that the inspiration of his own growth has been "a wonderful wife and family who sustained and were encouraged. She has been the most stabilizing and encouraging. The church will miss her more than they miss me."

Several church members are sad to see the McCluskey family leave. Theresa Wilson described it best when saying:

For the 14 years that I've been a member of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church and have known Jim and Lib, their ministry has been an example of putting Christ first and self last. Their leadership has always been full of energy and enthusiasm for the Lord and his church. We will sorely miss Jim and Lib and we are thankful for their years of service.

Rev. Jim McCluskey recently told the Knoxville News Sentinel: "The Church is not built on me, but on Christ. The best is yet to be. Move onward, upward and forward and give new leadership the same following they gave me."

I request that a copy of the article that recently appeared in the Knoxville News Sentinel be placed in the RECORD at this point so that I can call it to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

MOVE ONWARD, UPWARD

(By Bill Maples)

Wallace Memorial Baptist Church at 701 Merchant Drive is a huge edifice. Its auditorium seats hundreds. It has a reputation for its far-reaching mission outreach and for its Christmas and Easter programs. It has 3,162 members.

But its members are feeling a painful sense of loss this weekend. Dr. James G. McCluskey, its pastor for 37 years, is preaching his last sermon on Sunday. He is retiring.

"There are other things I want to do but not in a full-time pastorate," he says. He mentions consulting, teaching, substitute preaching.

Then, too, there are children and grandchildren he and wife, Elizabeth, want to visit more, and some traveling they want to do.

Dr. Roy T. Edgemon, director of discipleship and family in the development division of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will serve as interim pastor.

The church is having a reception at the church Sunday, April 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. The public is invited.

It has been a colorful voyage. Wallace Memorial has grown from 45 members when it was founded in 1952 to more than 3,000 members today. What made it grow so rapidly?

"Wallace Memorial was well-born," McCluskey says. "It was started by Arling-

ton Baptist Church in a growing community. It has had good lay leaders and good followers."

Asked what has been the strength of his own growth, McCluskey says, "A wonderful wife and family who sustained and were encouraging. She has been the most stabilizing and encouraging. The church will miss her more than they will miss me."

Before they were married April 2, 1953, she was Elizabeth Ann Peters of Knoxville. Known to members as "Lib," she is a consultant in working with children with the Sunday School Department of the Tennessee and Southern Baptist Conventions. She has been a trustee with East Tennessee Baptist Hospital since 1989 and is president of the advisory board of the Carson-Newman College of Nursing. The couple has four children and eight grandchildren. One son and one son-in-law are ministers.

Jim McCluskey, as he prefers to be called, grew up in Chattanooga and earned his bachelor's degree from Carson-Newman in 1952. He went on to earn the master of divinity and master of religious education degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary. He has held two other pastorates, in Squiresville and Lawrenceburg, Ky. He came to Wallace Memorial in 1959.

He has held various high-level board and advisory positions with at least two dozen ministries and agencies during his career, including president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; denominational speaker at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference, Tennessee Baptist Youth Evangelistic Conference, Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly; and senior clinic teacher for Evangelism Explosion International. He has traveled to several foreign countries on mission work.

Wallace Memorial has always emphasized mission work. It has sent forth 42 persons from among its members as spiritual leaders—ministers, ministers of music, teachers and laypeople involved in spiritual missions.

It has sent more than 101 mission teams to foreign and American locations on mission and mercy trips. These included emergency disaster teams sent to hurricane locations. Its annual mission giving is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

One impetus for this enthusiasm is the inspiration for the church's name—Bill Wallace, a native of Knoxville who died a Christian missionary martyr in China in 1951. When his body was returned to the U.S., he was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. The funeral was held at Wallace Memorial. A room containing Wallace's memorabilia has been set aside by the church.

Many members have come forward with a farewell word for the McCluskeys. Typical is that of Theresa Wilson: "For the 14 years that I've been a member at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church and have known Jim and Lib, their ministry has been an example of putting Christ first and self last. Their leadership has always been full of energy and enthusiasm for the Lord and his church."

"Jim and Lib have truly made Wallace Memorial feel like a large family through their loving and caring attitudes. Wallace Memorial as a church family has been truly honored to have been under the leadership of Jim McCluskey as our senior pastor for the past 37 years. We will sorely miss Jim and Lib and we are thankful for their years of service."

What message does Jim McCluskey leave with the church? "That the church is not built on me, but on Christ. The best is yet to be. Move onward, upward and forward and give new leadership the same following they gave me."