

Army National Guard, who was recently named a recipient of the Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award presented by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [NAACP] during its annual conference in Charlotte, NC.

Colonel Thomas was cited by the NAACP for his accomplishments in the military on behalf of the African American community. During the past several years he has focused his efforts on recognizing the contributions and positive role of the African American soldier, and providing young people with alternatives to gang membership and violent behavior.

Colonel Thomas has developed a video and teaching guide that traces the historical contributions of the brave and determined African American buffalo soldiers during the late 1800's. Using the buffalo soldiers as a cornerstone, he has founded a nonprofit corporation in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area that is committed to assisting at-risk children in developing self-respect and social survival skills.

For the past 10 years, Colonel Thomas has spent part of his vacation-time teaching photography and life-skills to inner-city, African American teenagers. He has even met with gang members to assist them in developing positive self-images and respectful views of other men and women.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Lt. Col. Nathan Thomas. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him for his contributions, and in wishing him success in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE JOHN PAUL STEVENS

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring your attention to the following tribute presented by United States Administrative Law Judge John C. Holmes. Judge Holmes had the honor of introducing United States Supreme Court Associate Justice John Paul Stevens when Justice Stevens received an award of merit from the Federal Administrative Law Judge Conference on May 4, 1996.

I have found Judge Holmes' remarks to be a fitting tribute to the distinguished career and character of Justice Stevens. It is, therefore, with great honor that I present to you the following.

Born April 20, 1920 in Chicago, Illinois, John Paul Stevens graduated from the University of Chicago, Phi Beta Kappa, majoring in English Literature. After serving three years with distinction in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he received a law degree from Northwestern University in 1947, magna cum laude, where he was law review editor and order of the coif. He not only graduated first in his class, but received the highest record of academic achievement in the school's history.

He first came to Washington and the Supreme Court in October, 1947 where he served as clerk to Associate Justice Wiley Rutledge.

Returning to Chicago he joined the law firm of Poppenhusen, Johnston, Thompson and Raymond. Hired at the same time was Ed Rothschild, who he hadn't previously

met. Mr. Rothschild relates that the first duty required was the burying of Mr. Poppenhusen who died shortly after hiring them both. The two shortly formed the firm of Rothschild, Stevens, Barry and Myers. Then attorney Stevens specialized in anti-trust and appellate litigation, and had the reputation of analyzing and articulating complex problems in such a fine tuned manner that the result would appear obvious. Mr. Rothschild remembers the Justice as fiercely competitive in all that he did, but adds, "I still beat him at tennis."

Justice Stevens was appointed by President Nixon to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit on October 14, 1970. He was appointed by President Ford as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and took office on December 17, 1975. A prime sponsor was then Attorney General Levi, also an alumnus of the Chicago area, who described Judge Steven's 7th Circuit opinions as "gems of perfection and a joy to read".

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Justice Stevens served on numerous committees, for example as counsel to the House Judiciary Committee, and as a member of the Attorney General's Committee to study the Anti-Trust laws. He has served on the faculty at Northwestern and Chicago Law Schools and lectured at Salsburg and New York Un. Law Schools, authored numerous articles and reviews and been an active member of the American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, American Law Institute and American Judicature Society.

Besides being an accomplished, competitive tennis player, he is an excellent bridge player, having acquired numerous Master Points, an avid golfer and enjoys the opportunity to read and travel.

220 years ago, a great experiment was launched in government from the Eastern shores of this continent in what was otherwise a vast undiscovered virgin land far removed from the feuding and too often tyrannical governments of Europe. Our founding fathers had the profound wisdom to combine an idealistic notion that people could govern themselves through their representatives with the contrasting cynical observation that human nature required that there be checks and balances to prevent undue acquisition of power in one individual or group. And so after much debate they wrote a Constitution that provided for the separation of powers in three branches of government. It was left to the third branch, the Judiciary, to not only settle disputes between parties but also to set the parameters and limitations of the other two branches. At the pinnacle was established a Supreme Court of the United States whose duty it became to interpret the provisions of the Constitution and their application to the ever changing nature of society. The Constitution has served us well; we need only to look at other failed governments and governmental systems, most recently communism, to appreciate the benefits conferred and the freedom provided under it. It has endured as the country has fulfilled its manifest destiny, ended slavery, fostered the industrial and now the technology revolutions, evolved from a rural to an urban society and changed enormously in many other ways. In order to preserve this "living" Constitution a sacred trust is conferred by the today 250 million people of the United States on only nine individuals who have been elevated to the high calling of Justice of the Supreme Court. This sacred trust does not demand that we agree with every idea and interpretation uttered by any one Justice, that would be impossible. But it does require a consistent and conscientious effort by each Justice to place the nation's interest as embodied in the Constitution above all else.

Mr. Justice, you have faithfully fulfilled that sacred trust in the finest manner. For over 20 years now you have applied your wisdom, scholarship and especially integrity to the process of determining and articulating how the concepts as expressed in the Constitution should be applied to the ever changing conditions and circumstances of today's society while still preserving its essential meaning. You have always voted as you believed was right for the country and not necessarily what was currently fashionable. Whether in the majority, in dissent or in concurrence you have used that ability to articulate complex problems into an easily understood and compelling opinion. You have not only served the longest tenure other than Justice Rehnquist on the current Court, but have been the most prolific opinion writer. You have demonstrated a pattern of independent voting concerned more with clear enunciation of believed principles rather than compromise, an overriding belief that the Constitution should be utilized to protect the rights of those who traditionally have been powerless, and an unwillingness to sacrifice constitutional values in the name of administrative convenience. In this highest calling you have served in the highest manner. Your work on the Court has earned you a special place of honor along with the likes of Holmes, Brandeis, Harlan, Frankfurter, Black and others stretching back to John Marshall.

We are in the same business, Mr. Justice. We honor you tonight not only for your lifetime accomplishments but for your qualities of wisdom, judicial demeanor, intelligence, integrity and passion for justice that we all aspire to. You are a model of what the citizenry rightfully requires of the judiciary. Importantly, by your acceptance of our award, you honor us and the work we do as independent administrative law judges. Ladies and Gentlemen please welcome the 1996 Federal Administrative Law Judge Conference honoree, United States Supreme Court Associate Justice John Paul Stevens.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN KUWAIT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine, Paul Bennett of New Albany, IN, contacted me in June on behalf of Robert Hussein, Kuwaiti citizen who converted to Christianity.

I wrote to the Kuwaiti Ambassador, to express Mr. Bennett's and my own concern for Mr. Hussein's safety, and in support of his right to practice the religion of his choosing. In his July 25 response, Ambassador Al-Sabah informs me that the "Government of the State of Kuwait has stated publicly that it will guarantee Mr. Hussein's safety."

I would like to bring my correspondence with Ambassador Al-Sabah on this matter to the attention of my colleagues:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Washington, DC, June 17, 1996.

His Excellency MOHAMMED SABAH AL-SALIM AL-SABAH,
Ambassador, Embassy of the State of Kuwait,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR: I write with respect to the civil court decision of May 29, 1996 and apostasy declaration against Kuwaiti citizen Hussein Qambar (Robert Hussein) and the judge's statement that Mr. Hussein "should be killed."

I am deeply concerned about this call by the judge for extrajudicial violence against Mr. Hussein. I urge your government to take necessary measures to protect Mr. Hussein and request that your government reaffirm publicly the right of Mr. Hussein to practice the religion of his choice, according to articles 29 and 35 of Kuwait's Constitution.

Our two countries enjoy close relations, and I am proud that our soldiers served and fought together in the war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi aggression. As a friend of Kuwait, I would urge you to address the personal safety of Mr. Hussein and take steps to uphold the principles of religious freedom embodied in your Constitution.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

With best regards,
Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON.

EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT,
Washington, DC., July 25, 1996.

The Honorable LEE HAMILTON,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON: Thank you very much for your inquiry concerning the Kuwaiti citizen, Mr. Robert Hussein, who has recently converted from Islam to Christianity.

The Government of the State of Kuwait has stated publicly that it will guarantee Mr. Hussein's safety. A public statement issued by the Ministry of Justice and dated 22nd of July 1996, affirms unequivocally Mr. Robert Hussein's right to practice the religion of his choice with all the freedoms that one commonly associates with religious practices; and further states that it is the duty of the Kuwaiti authorities to protect him against any threats, harassment or abuse, just like any other citizen or non-citizen of the State of Kuwait.

Here as follows are some of the significant facts that must be clarified:

1. Originally, Mr. Hussein's case was brought before the Family Courts system in Kuwait, which is governed by religious law in matters pertaining to marriage, divorce and inheritance, only. As well, this case is a civil case between Mr. Hussein and his wife, involving also child custody. While the courts have ruled in Mr. Hussein's favor in the child custody case, his former wife has appealed the verdict.

2. I wish to assure you that Mr. Hussein has neither been incarcerated nor sentenced to death by the State as has been reported erroneously. Furthermore, though he has been declared an apostate by the Family Court, the only penalty that was imposed on Mr. Hussein was to fine him the nominal court fees.

3. Mr. Hussein's constitutionally guaranteed civil rights remain intact and unaffected by the case. These include his right to own property, vote or receive government benefits. If Mr. Hussein feels that his constitutionally guaranteed rights are being compromised, he may choose to bring his appeal before the appropriate authorities at the Ministry of Justice and/or the Human Rights Committee in the Kuwaiti Parliament. In addition, Kuwait's independent and free press has shown unwavering commitment towards reporting human rights complaints by citizens and non-citizens alike. Kuwait's press remains a testament to our nation's desire for a more open and tolerant society.

In conclusion, let me say that justice, liberty and equality for all citizens are not only guaranteed by the constitution (article No. 35 states that "Freedom of religion is absolute"); but also, Kuwait has had and continues to have a very long-standing tradition of religious tolerance and acceptance. In Ku-

wait today there are at least six churches and no less than 200,000 practicing Christians allowed to worship publicly. As a matter of fact, Kuwait's first modern hospital was built by American missionaries during the first decade of our present century. This enduring gift of the evangelical church of America is a shining witness to the Kuwaiti national character that is based on tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others.

I hope that the above information has helped to clarify some of the issues in the aforementioned case, however, should you require additional information concerning this and any other matter, please feel free to contact the Embassy of Kuwait.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

MOHAMMED S. AL-SABAH, PH.D.,
Ambassador.

TRIBUTE TO CY WAGNER AND JACK BROWN

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Permian Basin Petroleum Association's Top Hand Award recipients for 1996. I cannot think of two more deserving individuals of this prestigious award than Cy Wagner and Jack Brown. These two Midland oilmen are the founders of Wagner & Brown Ltd. They are well-known for their hard work and intelligence in the oil industry which made Wagner & Brown Ltd., a great American success story.

Cy Wagner graduated high school in Tulsa from Central High School and then went on to receive a degree in geology from Oklahoma University. He began his career with Amerada Petroleum in Midland in early 1957. In 1961, he began working for J.E. Jones Drilling in Midland.

Jack Brown was born in Brownsville but grew up in San Antonio. After graduating from Breckenridge High School, he went to Texas A&M for a year and then into the Army, stationed in Japan for 3 years. When his duties to his country were over with, Brown returned to Texas A&M and in 1950 graduated with degrees in petroleum engineering and mechanical engineering. After working as a roughneck in Alice, TX and then in Venezuela for 2 years with Texaco, Jack Brown returned to Texas to join J.E. Jones Drilling in Midland in 1957.

Wagner and Brown formed their own partnership in 1961 and later was joined by landman Deane Stoltz. Most of their activity was centered around the Permian Basin area. By 1967 the group drilled more than 60 wells in the Bagley Field in New Mexico which supplied needed cash flow for larger projects elsewhere.

In 1969 Stoltz, Wagner, and Brown exchanged most of their interest in the Bagley Field for a 25 percent equity position in Tipperary Corporation, to be run by Stoltz, and control of the partnership was turned to Wagner and Brown.

Wagner & Brown, Ltd. began their largest drilling program in 1975 on 30,000 acres of the Conger Field in Sterling and Glasscock counties, and today they run more than 600 wells in this area. The partnership now employs about 200 people and operated over half

of the 2,000 wells in which the two participated in.

Both Cy Wagner and Jack Brown are dedicated oilmen who have strengthened West Texas and this whole country. However, their contributions go much further than the oil industry. Both men have given generously in support of countless local organizations involved in education, culture and community development. They richly deserve the title of Top Hands.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WARREN
WETZEL, M.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Wisconsin-native, Dr. Warren Wetzel, for 25 years an active member of the New York City medical community, died this year.

Dr. Wetzel, a noted authority on emergency trauma, served as director of trauma and surgical critical care at Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn. Prior to joining Kings County Hospital Center, Dr. Wetzel made his mark at the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center rapidly rising from assistant attending surgeon to director of trauma service. He was also an associate professor of clinical surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine extensively lecturing on topics such as: "Urban Trauma," "Changing Patterns of Gunshot and Stab Wounds," "Management of Liver Trauma," and "Management of Bites and Stings."

Through his zealous advocacy for the medical profession, Dr. Wetzel was a key member of various committees including, but not limited to: New York City Trauma Center Advisory Committee; oversight committee, New York State Department of Health Regional Trauma Quality Assurance Grant; residency review committee, State University of New York Health Science Center; and education committee, Bronx Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

As a result of his dedication to helping others, Dr. Wetzel's legacy continues through Doctors Against Murder, a unique nonprofit organization he founded so that doctors, nurses, and other medical professional could educate youth on the trauma of violence. Doctors Against Murder was the first recipient of the National Association of Public Hospital's Jim Wright Vulnerable Population Award, June 29, 1996. The medical profession and the recipients of Dr. Wetzel's efforts will truly miss him. It is my honor to recognize his sterling service, and to introduce him to my colleagues.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3734, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILI- ATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, today I join a bipartisan majority of the House to return our