

And that's not all that can be said about Bill. He is also one of the finest auctioneers Middle Tennessee has known.

Bill Collier, his wife, Patricia, their three children and two grandchildren are a tribute to the values we as Tennesseans consider so important and we wish him the best.

An article published in the News-Democrat in Waverly under the headline "Collier Looks Back at His Career" is printed below in honor of Bill's public service and dedication to his family.

[From the Waverly (TN) New Democrat, July 9, 1999]

COLLIER LOOKS BACK AT HIS CAREER
(By Grey Collier)

Work to become, not to acquire.

This quote by Elbert Hubbard in Monday's Tennessean might be best exemplified by Humphreys County native William H. (Bill) Collier.

Collier, who last weekend was honored by having a section of the newly-widened Highway 70 in New Johnsonville named for him, has long worked for the good of his home county.

Collier promised to try and get the bypass in Waverly when he ran for the state representative in 1984.

"We got the first three phases in Waverly funded," Collier said.

"Then we realized we needed to get it through New Johnsonville."

Upon entering his first term in the state legislature, Collier went to bat for the county immediately.

"I was in a meeting and an aide come to ask if he could do anything for us," Collier said. "I told him I wanted an appointment with Gov. (Lamar) Alexander."

At the time, there was a recession going on and Consolidated Aluminum had closed. "I told him about the shape Humphreys County was in and that we needed a bypass to bring in business," Collier said.

"He told me I was the first freshman (new representative) who spoke with him so candidly and he was going to help me," he said.

Soon after, Alexander made a visit to the county and plans were announced for the bypass.

"Our last conversation before (Alexander) left office was about the bypass," Collier said. "He said, 'Bill, the money is in the budget for the bypass, don't let anything happen to it.'"

Collier was successful in getting on the transportation finance ways and means committee which was also a big help in getting the bypass financed and built.

"John Bragg was the committee chairman and told me he had heard all he wanted to about 'that bypass,'" Collier said. "I told him he would stop hearing about it when it was built."

The completion of the by-pass is one of Collier's favorite accomplishments, but there are others as well.

He acquired a \$250,000 grant for factory building in the Waverly Industrial Park and a \$50,000 grant for a feasibility study of the state park in New Johnsonville.

"Those are the three things I am most proud of," Collier said. "But I have to attribute all of my accomplishments to the good help I had from local leaders and other politicians—especially Sen. Ben. Riley Darnell."

Collier did not run for reelection in 1994 due to health reasons. That ended his 10 year tenure in the legislature and a 22 year political career.

A Humphreys County native, Collier was born in the Big Richland community. He was employed with TVA for 10 years as an iron worker and foreman.

In 1957 he attended Reppert Auction School and began working part time as an auctioneer and real estate agent.

"I felt TVA and went full time as an auctioneer and real estate agent in 1960," he said.

His office was located on Main Street. At that time there was only one other real estate office in Waverly. How times change.

Since then he has not only conducted hundreds of auctions, but also took part in training a few.

"Governor Buford Ellington appointed me to the auction commission over west and part of middle Tennessee for five years," Collier said.

He was also an instructor for five years with the Nashville Auction School.

"I have five auctioneers at Collier Realty and have taken an active part in training all of them," he said.

He worked alone for three years before Gene Trotter came in as an auctioneer and Shirley Rochelle as a real estate agent. Nancy Trollinger worked as Collier's secretary for 20 years.

When he entered the legislature he took on Kenneth Dreaden as a partner so that he could devote more time to his political office.

In 1967, Collier married Patricia Fowlkes Collier. They have three children, Greg Gunn of New Johnsonville, Allyson Haggard of Okeechobee, FL, and Daniel Collier of Waverly.

He has two grandchildren, Connor Gunn, 6, and Mollie Collier, 3.

These days you are most likely able to catch him at the office where he still goes daily. Otherwise, he is likely to be sitting on the front porch swing, sharing Diet Coke and peanuts with his granddaughter.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEDICATED
SERVICE BY MR. ROBERT TOBIAS

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Robert Tobias on his outstanding service as President of the National President of the National Treasury Employees Union and wish him continued success as he engages in other professional challenges. I am proud to count Bob as my constituent and I thank him for the assistance he has given me on behalf of federal employees.

During the past 31 years that he has spent with the NTEU, Bob has been an effective advocate of federal employees, working his way up from staff attorney, to general counsel, to executive vice president, and finally, in 1983, to National President. Over these 31 years, NTEU has grown from 20,000 members in one agency to 155,000 members in 22 agencies.

During his impressive career, Bob received numerous Presidential appointments and awards: President Bush appointed him to the Federal Employees Salary Council; and President Clinton appointed him to both the National Partnership Council and the Commission to Restructure the IRS.

Bob also has been at the forefront of recent government reform efforts through his membership in the National Commission on Restructuring the IRS. The Commission's work

was the basis for the most far-reaching changes in the agency in nearly 50 years. Currently, he has been nominated to serve on the IRS Oversight Board and is awaiting Senate confirmation.

Bob's leadership style is firm but fair, and he is on the cutting edge of new developments in labor relations. I have worked personally with Bob on many issues, and often times we met with great success.

For example:

We collaborated on establishing the Fair Share formula, which prevented a large FEHBP monthly premium increase, thereby insulating federal employees and retirees from the full rise in health care premiums.

We worked to strike Medical Savings Accounts as an FEHBP option MSA's would have resulted in "cherry picking," and increased FEHBP premiums by siphoning off relatively healthy enrollees into catastrophic/MSA plans.

Bob's expertise on these issues was invaluable.

A glimpse into some of his other accomplishments further illuminates the reasons why Bob is such a great source of information and expertise. Through collective bargaining, Bob reached important agreements regarding: Quality of work life; developing the first national alternative work schedule; and child care facilities.

Bob was also instrumental in the Hatch Act reform, which allows federal employees to exercise their rights to participate in political activity.

Bob's work does not stop with advocacy on behalf of the NTEU. All federal employees benefit from his efforts, at the bargaining table and in the courtroom. He has used litigation to protect federal employee rights in a number of landmark cases. For example:

Bob worked on a Supreme Court victory just this year that established the right of federal employees and their collective bargaining representatives to initiate midterm bargaining;

Bob successfully sued Presidents Nixon in 1975 and Reagan in 1981 to obtain back pay for federal employees; and

Bob achieved a federal court victory that gave federal employees the right to engage in informational picketing.

I wish Bob the best of luck in his teaching and writing endeavors. His recommendation for the next National President, NTEU Executive Vice President Colleen Kelly, has a tough act to follow. The wonderful staff at NTEU will ease her transition, while Bob's legacy will benefit federal employees for generations. I heartily thank Bob for his devotion and service to civil servants. Shakespeare could have had Bob Tobias in mind when he wrote in Henry VIII: "The force of his own merit makes his way."

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2670) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, five years ago next month, Congress passed and the President signed into law the most comprehensive piece of Federal anti-crime legislation in history. Now, the Majority seems intent on slashing funding for the centerpiece of that bill—the COPS program. In that time, COPS has provided law enforcement agencies in my district and across the nation with critical funding to fight and prevent crime. In my district, communities in Hunterdon, Monmouth, Mercer, Middlesex, and Somerset counties have received more than \$14 million to fund the addition of 290 officers to the beat.

The creation of the COPS program was a breakthrough in law enforcement. By funding additional officers, critical technologies, and valuable training, COPS has been a catalyst for the revolutionary shift to community policing.

COPS and community policing have put us on the right track. Crime is at its lowest level in more than a quarter of a century. Violent crime is at a 27 year low. The murder rate is lower than it has been in three decades. And the police chiefs and sheriffs in my district consistently tell me that we could have never achieved this much without the additional officers and technology funded under the COPS program.

In May, COPS provided for the 100,000th officer and some think this means that we can pat ourselves on the back and declare victory. I disagree.

Crime is still too high. While we have made progress, violent crime is still six times higher than it was in 1962. And more than 18,000 people were murdered in the U.S. last year. We can and must do more.

That is why I support continuing the COPS program to add 30,000 to 50,000 more officers to the street. Every major law enforcement group, as well as the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities support this proposal.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot afford to play politics with the safety of our communities. Congress should reauthorize and fully fund the COPS program.

INTRODUCTION OF HEALTHY START LEGISLATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of our nation's infants and their mothers.

As a parent, I understand that children flourish in our society when they have a healthy environment to develop and learn. But most importantly, they must have a healthy start at life.

Sadly, however, four babies die each hour and 33,000 babies die each year in the U.S. before they are a year old.

In 1992, 17 out of 1,000 babies born in my home district of Baltimore City did not live to see their first birthdays. In the most deprived

neighborhoods of our city, that rate was 20 out of 1,000!

Poor women were effectively shut out of affordable prenatal care and often had children who were severely underweight or born with birth defects that could have easily been prevented through adequate medical treatment.

However, our city's infant mortality rate has dropped 31 percent since the implementation of Healthy Start. In fact, in the two neighborhoods where Baltimore's Healthy Start Centers are located and easily accessible, the rate has been slashed a staggering 61% from earlier rates. The national infant mortality rate is also at a historic low of 7.1 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1997, and the proportion of mothers getting early prenatal care is at a record high of 82 percent.

Healthy Start is a phenomenal program that empowers urban communities to fully address the medical, behavioral, cultural, and social service needs of women and their infants by building strong coalitions and commitment among families, volunteers, the private sector, and health care and social service providers.

I have seen the difference this program has made in saving the lives of our children and their parents, as well as transforming the lives of the men and women who work for the program. The employees and volunteers have developed invaluable skills and a sense of pride in their service to nurture families.

As such, I will reintroduce legislation that I sponsored during the 105th Congress that makes the Healthy Start Initiative, which began in 1991 as a demonstration program, a permanent one.

I believe that as lawmakers, we have a duty to our nation's mothers and their unborn to: encourage women to make healthy choices during pregnancy by seeking prenatal care; reduce infant deaths and promote the birth of healthy babies; and provide healthy environments in which these future generations can flourish.

Healthy Start has been a successful component to accomplishing these goals and should be a permanent instrument in our efforts to cultivate healthy children.

Let's make a permanent difference in the lives of our nation's children. We owe every baby a healthy entrance into this world and each deserves a healthy start!

I urge support of my Healthy Start legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT DOUG VERISSIMO

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, after World War II, in order to continue public interest in naval aviation, Admiral Chester Nimitz formed the Blue Angels. In June 1946, this elite group performed its first demonstration. The Blue Angels have performed for over 322 million people in the fifty-three years since that first public flight. Their aerobatics, skill and precision have amazed and entertained people of all ages. However, these pilots do much more than just fly these supersonic planes. They represent the Navy, the United States Armed Forces and the entire nation at public func-

tions. They are role models to children and adults, demonstrating the values of successful people—teamwork, education, preparation and respect.

I would especially like to commend Lieutenant Doug Verissimo, a native of Massachusetts. Currently the #5 Lead Solo Pilot in the Blue Angels, Lt. Verissimo earned his commission and wings of gold in July 1989. He joined the Blue Angels in October 1996. Two constituents of mine—Mr. and Mrs. Carney Clary of Holden, Massachusetts—met Lt. Verissimo in 1997. Since that time, the Clarys have followed Lt. Verissimo's career. They relayed to me not only his eagerness to speak to children and adults and his commitment to his unit, but also his talent in talking to young people about the benefits of a good education and striving toward a dream. At this point, I would like to enter into the RECORD the letter from the Clarys documenting the extraordinary actions of Lt. Verissimo.

On August 21 and 22, Massachusetts will once again welcome the Blue Angels as performers. Lt. Verissimo will perform his naval duties and will demonstrate the kind of role model he is as he meets and greets the adoring fans of the Blue Angels. I welcome the Blue Angels to the Commonwealth, and I commend Lt. Verissimo for his hard work and dedication to the Blue Angels, the Navy and to America.

HOLDEN, MA,
January 24, 1999.

Congressman JAMES MCGOVERN,
*House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCGOVERN: Congratulations on your re-election. I am writing you this letter per your request after speaking with you at the Worcester Airport on August 27, 1998.

My name is Carney Clary. I reside in Holden having been born and raised in the Grafton Hill section of Worcester. I am married to the former Sheila Haran (a relative of Dan Foley) and are the parents of three children and grandparents to four. I am a three year veteran of the United States Army serving in Korea from 1955-1958. For the past 35 years I have been employed as a Police Officer in the City of Worcester. I am an avid aviation fan and attend all air shows by our own and foreign military services. I am considered the guru of aircraft and their performances by my colleagues and friends.

I spoke to you about a young Naval Aviator from Falmouth, MA who currently flies with the United States Naval Flight Demonstration Team "Blue Angels", 1st Lt. Douglas Verissimo, who last year was the navigator and this year is flying the #6 opposing solo slot. Please bear with me while I attempt to explain to you why I feel this young aviator deserves the Navy Commendation Ribbon and Medal as well as nomination to the next highest rank.

A Naval Reservist Chief Petty Officer, a friend of the family, who was on active duty serving at the Plantation St. Naval facility in Worcester made arrangements for my wife and I to partake in a social brunch with the Blue Angels Pilots in the Officer's Club on Friday, June 7, 1996. Shortly before this planned event the Commanding Officer grounded the Blue Angels in what was billed as a "Final Farewell to Boston or the S. Weymouth Naval Air Show."

The time is now June 28 and 29th 1997. My family attended the Airshow at Quonset State Airport in N. Kingston, R.I. where after the performance of the Blue Angels, the pilots come to the spectator line and sign