

who live there are privileged to enjoy. The occasion is his 78th birthday, but this tribute could be delivered any day. It is a testament to how universally known, loved and admired he is that you only have to say the word "Luther," and just about anyone will know you are referring to Luther Masingill, who has made Chattanooga's mornings brighter for 60 years.

He signed on as host of his near universally known morning show on WDEF Radio, then an AM only station, on December 31, 1940. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was President then, and we were on the eve of World War II. Luther has seen Chattanooga—and the world—change mightily during his years on the air. Eleven U.S. Presidents as well as numerous Tennessee governors and Chattanooga mayors have come and gone while Luther has held sway on the air. Luther has stayed on, however; and the "secrets" of his success and value to the Chattanooga area have remained the same.

His radio show, now broadcast on WDEF AM and FM from 6–9 a.m. each weekday morning, does not focus on the controversies that tear us apart. By design, Luther devotes his show to the things that bring us together and make us human. Is your dog or cat missing? Would you like to buy or sell an animal? Is your civil club meeting or having a sale? His show is very much about neighbors helping neighbors and swapping information across the backyard fence, or at the grocery store, or after church. And his devoted listeners treat Luther as their friend and neighbor, which indeed he is.

Luther plays relaxing, traditional music in between announcements; and his warm, reassuring voice has made countless folks in Southeast Tennessee, North Georgia, North Alabama and Western North Carolina begin the day in a better spirit, no matter what the day may bring. He also does a spot on the noon news on Channel 12, WDEF television, and he's been with that station since it signed on in 1954.

Today, March 9, 2000, is your 78th birthday, Luther; and so we say a loud "Happy Birthday!" and thanks for all you have done to enrich our lives and communities. And here's wishing you many more years on the air!

**PROVIDE RELIEF TO AMERICAN  
ENERGY CONSUMERS: SUSPEND  
THE TARIFF ON NUCLEAR  
STEAM GENERATORS**

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, in ongoing efforts to ensure safety and efficiency, nuclear power plants must periodically replace their steam generators. When a Florida manufacturing plant closes its doors following the delivery of two steam generators this year, there will no longer be any steam generator producers in the United States. Consequently, the 103 nuclear power facilities located in the United States will have no choice but to import replacement steam generators.

Under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, steam generators imported for use in nuclear power plants are taxed at a duty rate of 5.2 percent (except those imported from Canada,

where a zero duty rate applies). Importing a single \$30 million steam generator results in a tariff of approximately \$1.56 million. Because nuclear plants generally replace two of these generators at a time, the cost of this hidden tax to consumers is considerable. Unless it is addressed, this duty will increase the cost of supplying electricity to Georgia's rate payers by \$2.7 million this year. Such unnecessary expenses are inevitably incorporated into the rate base.

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), at least a dozen nuclear power plants are planning to replace their steam generators over the next several years. Since there are no domestic manufacturers, there is no legitimate reason to continue imposing this duty. American consumers should not be required to bear this unnecessary cost.

Today, with the support and original cosponsorships of colleagues from Tennessee, Arizona, Georgia, and Connecticut, I am introducing legislation that will suspend the duty on steam generators for nuclear facilities for five years, providing significant relief for energy consumers around the country. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

**HONORING NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER JIM GRAHAM**

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina to honor a great American and a true friend to farmers, North Carolina Agricultural Commissioner Jim Graham. When Jim announced that he would not be a candidate for re-election to the post he has held since 1964, citizens of the state could be pardoned if they looked to the heavens for a possible misalignment of the planets. After all, this individual has become a North Carolina icon, beloved by the farmers he promised "to take care of," and by individual citizens who appreciated his unfailing good humor and dedication. "I love my job," Jim Graham said at the end of every speech he gave. He meant it, and the people knew.

Still, North Carolinians will understand and approve of the Commissioner's decision. He is, after all, now 78 years of age; he has served well and long; and he deserves a respite from the day-to-day turmoil that is characteristic of any public office. His friends—and all of North Carolina is filled with Jim Graham's friends—wish for him peace and joy for the rest of his years.

But it will be difficult to conjure up his successor, and he will be missed. It is extremely doubtful that any campaign for Agricultural Commissioner will ever be as colorful as those run by Graham, who could bray like the donkey of the party he represented and was not above making promises that others would never have dared keep. Such as the one Graham made that he would kiss the north end of a mule who was headed south if a particular county would vote Democratic from the top of the ticket to the bottom. And it did, and he did, to the amusement of the whole state's media.

Graham came to the job as Commissioner of Agriculture like an eagle returning to its nest—without hesitation. Reared on a farm in Rowan County, he knows from whereof he speaks when he talks about the "sweat and blood" farmers must expend in order to make a living. From day one, his love for those who till the soil has been unquestioned.

The Commissioner was born on April 7, 1921 to a Rowan County couple, the late James T. and Laura Graham. He attended high school in Rowan County and is a graduate of his beloved North Carolina State University. Graham taught agriculture in Iredell County for three years, then because superintendent of Upper Mountain Research State in Laurel Springs before becoming manager of the Winston-Salem Fair for three years. After a one-year stint as secretary of the North Carolina Hereford Association, he became general manager of the State Farmers Market. Governor Terry Sanford, who never hesitated when the job came open upon the death of L.Y. Ballentine, appointed him Commissioner of Agriculture in 1964.

Commissioner Graham's tenure as Agricultural Commissioner coincided with North Carolina's transition from a largely rural agriculture state known chiefly for its tobacco to the growing Sun Belt technology giant it is becoming today. The Research Triangle was in its infancy when Graham took office. Today, it is the heartbeat of North Carolina, propelling the state into an Information Age where the assumed parameters change by the day.

Jim Graham prospered in that atmosphere, glorifying farmers wherever he went. He also began promoting new crops North Carolina farmers had not grown before. Within the department, he hired good people, insisted that they run an efficient agency, and he expanded the agency as the state grew. He organized state farmers markets in Asheville, Greensboro, Charlotte, Raleigh, and Lumberton, but he also promoted the use of microelectronics technology for the inspection of meat, poultry and seafood so consumers could be protected.

Graham was an early proponent of foreign trade, realizing that North Carolina farmers would be better off if they could sell their products to the rest of the world. Today, the state is one of the leaders in the export of agricultural products. The department ran a boll weevil eradication program that was so successful that cotton is once again a stable crop in the state. The department modernized its soil testing service and promoted it heavily, thereby increasing per acre production for all crops.

Commissioner Graham, ever the showman on behalf of agriculture, was in his element as he grew the North Carolina State Fair into an event that today attracts more than 6 million persons annually. The State Fair is now 10 days of the best that North Carolina farmers, dairymen, and craftsmen can produce, surrounded by enough entertainment to make the Fair an October delight for young and old. Presiding over it is always the "Sod Father" in his cowboy hat and boots, typically with a crowd following him around the fairgrounds.

As Commissioner, Graham has been honored with dozens of awards and distinguished service citations. Catawba College has awarded him the Honorary doctor of Humanitarian Service, and NC State named him the winner of its alumni Meritorious Service Award.

But it is Graham's personality, his inner being, that will be most missed after his retirement. The kind of inner strength that caused him to personally care for his wife, Helen, as they fought the terrible disease of Alzheimer's that ended in her death last year.

Commissioner Graham is the soul of agriculture in this state and was proud of it. North Carolinians will miss him in that office.

They will miss a public servant who never took himself so seriously that he could not reach out and grab a slice of the humor of life—even if the joke was on him.

They will miss a man so genuine that he could tell a newspaper columnist this about his concern for farmers:

"These people are hurting. One fellow wrote me that if we could just pay his light bill, he'd try to get by. That's the situation they're in. I'm worried about 'em."

Can a society ask more of those who call themselves public servant?

Jim Graham has served his state and its people with distinction, with honesty, with hard work, and with honor.

He is a gentleman who is also a gentleman. We thank a Kind Providence that it saw fit to place us on the same Highway of Life of James A. Graham, and allowed us to share that life.

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HONORING LIEUTENANT STANLEY  
WILLIAM KONESKY, JR. FOR  
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE  
COMMUNITY

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**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor my good friend, Lieutenant Stanley Konesky for the invaluable contributions he has made to the Branford community. On Thursday, December 16, family, friends, and community members gathered to show their appreciation on the occasion of his retirement from the Branford Police Department.

Stan's outstanding level of commitment and dedication to the Branford community throughout his twenty-eight year career has been incredible. He has been a driving force in community awareness and public safety locally and nationally, striving to give our families better neighborhoods in which to raise our children. His work has had an invaluable impact on our community and we are all grateful.

Rising through the ranks of the Branford Police Department, Stan has served the community in several different capacities. During his first years as a patrol officer, Stan administered crime prevention and patrol deployment grants and created and implemented the Student Awareness School Program—a program recognized by the United States Congress as an exemplary nationwide program. As he continued his career, Stan undertook several projects focusing on the prevention of youth violence, directing effective programs for youngsters throughout Branford. He also continued to focus on discovering ways to find more state and federal support for Connecticut police departments. His devotion to ensuring public safety led to implementing several state and federal grants, such as COPS FAST, an

earlier version of the COPS Universal Hiring Program. His efforts have also included the publication of several articles in leading crime prevention magazines as well as instructional books on crime prevention. Somehow, Stan also found time to volunteer his time on several committees throughout the Branford community: The Board of Education Strategic Planning Team, the Branford School Base Health Program, and the Branford Volunteer Service Committee have all benefitted from his service. He has also served as the President of the Walter Camp Football Foundation and has generously given his time as a coach for youth baseball and basketball leagues. His unique spirit and commitment are reflected in the 10 medals of commendation, 330 letters of appreciation and recognition from the public, a myriad of community service awards, and a US Congressional Recognition Award. Words alone cannot adequately convey just what Stan has been to the Branford community.

Stan's dedication and generosity has truly enriched the Branford community. His diligence and extraordinary hard work has given police departments across the country and many youngsters access to the necessary support to ensure the safety of our communities, our families, and our children. I have had the opportunity to work with Stan on several different projects and the enthusiasm and excitement he has shown is amazing. I would like to extend my personal thanks to him for all the assistance he has given me over the years. For his many contributions, whether professional or volunteer, I rise today to join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating Lieutenant Stanley Konesky on his retirement from the Branford Police Department. I extend my deepest appreciation and very best wishes as he begins a new career and seeks new goals to achieve.

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HONORING RAY CHAMPINE FROM  
MARTIN, TN

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**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ray Champine, a longtime Postal Service Letter Carrier in Martin, TN, who, with no regard for his own safety, entered the burning home of an elderly customer in order to rescue him. While on his route, Mr. Champine was alerted by a smoke alarm and smoke emitting from the eaves of a house that there was a problem. After asking a neighbor to call the fire department, he bravely entered the house and crawled through the thick, black smoke until he found the elderly man near his bed in the back of the house. Although surrounded by the encompassing smoke and struggling to breathe, Mr. Champine dragged the man away from the fire in order to remove him to safety outside the burning home. He smashed through a window hoping it was the backdoor and local rescuers heard the breaking glass and knocked down the door closest to the broken window. Martin Fire Captain Dickie Hart and Police Captain Don Teal were able to bring both men to safety. Martin Director of Public Safety, J.D. Sanders, praised Mr. Champine and other rescuers, saying, "If they hadn't shown up when they did, both men

would probably have died at the back door. As it is, Mr. Champine without a doubt, is a hero."

Mr. Speaker, I also include an article about this heroic deed for the RECORD.

[Volunteer Voices, Feb. 2000]

"... WITHOUT A DOUBT A HERO"—MARTIN  
CARRIER RISKS LIFE TO SAVE CUSTOMER

Imagine standing in front of a burning building, knowing there's someone inside, and knowing that unless you do something to help, that person is probably going to die.

That's the exact situation Martin, TN City Carrier Ray Champine found himself facing on December 7 of last year. But what he did would definitely fall into the category of "above and beyond the call."

Champine was making his normal deliveries on Oxford Street. He had just put the mail in the box when he heard a high pitched whine.

"I was almost sure it was a smoke alarm, but I couldn't tell where it was coming from," said Champine. "So I went back to the previous house to see if it was coming from there."

As Champine approached Golsby Gatewood's home, he saw a wisp of smoke coming from under the eaves of the house.

"I asked the next-door neighbors to call the fire department, but I knew Mr. Gatewood wasn't real mobile, so I decided to try to help him," said Champine.

After repeatedly calling to Gatewood, Champine finally heard him respond. The front door was unlocked and smoke was beginning to fill the room.

"It was already pitch black inside the house, so I kept calling for Mr. Gatewood," said Champine. "I finally found him near his bed in the back of the house and I tried to help him out the fastest way I could by dragging him out of the building."

But by that time, the fire had spread through the front of the home, blocking the front door. Champine dragged Gatewood to the back of the house then tried to escape by breaking what he thought was the window of the side door.

"The smoke was so thick I didn't realize I was breaking a window that was a few feet from the door," Champine. "If I had known that, I would have just reached out and opened it."

Rescuers who had just arrived on the scene, heard the breaking glass and Martin Fire Capt. Dickie Hart and Police Capt. Don Teal knocked down the door.

Martin Director of Public Safety J.D. Sanders praised Champine's heroic action.

"If Dickie and Don hadn't shown up when they did, both of the men probably would have died right there by that back door. As it is, Mr. Champine is without a doubt, a hero. Without him, there's no question that Mr. Gatewood wouldn't have made it."

Officers on the scene reported that the smoke was so thick in the building that only Gatewood could be seen when the door was opened, even though Champine was standing next to the elderly gentleman.

Champine suffered a cut on his hand from breaking the window, and sustained burns to his face, ears and eyes. He was hospitalized for several days following the incident for severe smoke inhalation.

Postmaster Glenn Shegog added her voice to those who praised Champine.

"Ray is an outstanding employee and a great co-worker and we're all thankful that he's on the road to recovery," said Shegog.

After all is said and done, Champine's only request was a simple one. "I'd really like to find my cap," said Champine. "I lost it somewhere in the house and I'd really like to have it back."