

REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF
GEORGE O. WITHERS**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, this is the time of year that we say farewell to some old friends. That's never easy. But it is even harder when the friend in question spent considerable time and energy helping make us all look good.

George Withers, who is leaving the Armed Services Committee staff at the end of this year, came to Capitol Hill in 1978. He had served his country in the Navy during Vietnam. But he has spent twenty-four years proving that national service doesn't end when you take off the uniform. As legislative director on a personal staff, then press secretary and a professional staff member of the committee, George has made America better every day.

A lot of young go-getters come to work on the Hill, Mr. Speaker. But George proved that you don't have to be obnoxious to get things done. His real sense of decency and values have provided a reference and example for not only the Armed Services Committee staff, but all of us who worked with him.

George has been the conscience of the committee staff. He is a devoted advocate for those Americans who most need and deserve Congress's protection. Discussions of national security can get pretty esoteric, but George makes sure that we keep our focus on people, both those in uniform and those our military exists to protect. As a former enlisted man and NCO, he never lets the former officers on the staff forget who the real troops are.

Mr. Speaker, while our staff works in a non-partisan way, George is a determined, thoroughgoing, old-school Democrat. But look at the pictures on his office walls. Yes, he has photos of himself with our former colleagues Ron Dellums and Silvio Conte. But there's John Kasich, too, and President Bush. All of which speaks to the fairness and openmindedness with which George approached his job. He lets his political beliefs inform his work, but never get in the way of doing what was right for the country.

To my way of thinking, George has only one flaw. The B-2 bomber is the pride of Whiteman Air Force Base, in my district. George led the fight at the staff level against the B-2, and succeeded for quite some time. In gratitude for George's exemplary service, I promise not to have one named for him.

In recent years, George's primary duties have concerned the military construction budget. Every member of this body whose district has received military construction funds—and that's most of us—has George Withers to thank.

But he was also our committee's driving force on policies concerning Latin America. Whether the question was the naval bombing on Vieques or the United States' role in Colombia, George fought for a sensible, humble foreign policy.

George's decency doesn't stop at the Capitol door, either. When he isn't here—during the few hours each year we let the staff out—George actively supports charities. He loves riding his bike, and he loves it even more when he's getting contributions for every mile he rides.

While he will tell you that he loves his work here, just ask him about his children, Sam and Lizzie. You'll see what love really means by the sparkle in his eyes. And we were all thrilled when George married Donna earlier this year. His departure from our little world means that he will have even more opportunities to love and care for them, and even his cat, Tom. But I warn you, George, cats don't always love you back.

I will miss George Withers cheerful counsel personally. The Congress will be poorer for his departure. But the real accolade is that people around the world who will never know his name have better lives today because George Withers was part of this House.

HONORING HERBERT D. AND
ELEANOR MEYERHOFF KATZ**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor community leaders, Herbert D. and Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz, for their strong commitment to the Jewish community on a local, national, and international level. Their dedication and distinguished leadership has enabled many communities to be stronger and more vibrant while maintaining a deep connection to their Jewish roots and culture.

As a couple, Herbert and Eleanor have served as a model for the concept of charity. However, each has taken on numerous leadership roles on their own. The United Jewish Community of Broward County was formed under the direction and guidance of Mr. Katz. He is a past-president of the Jewish Federation and was an integral leader in the creation of the UJCBC, which combined two existing federations and now serves the 3rd largest Jewish community in America. Mr. Katz's other posts include: President of American Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Vice Chair of the United Jewish Appeal; recipient of a Presidential Appointment to Board member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council; Secretary/Treasurer of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee; University of Pennsylvania Associate Trustee and Chairman of the Board of Overseers for the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz is a graduate of Wellesley College, and has been heavily involved in education. Mrs. Katz is a long-standing Board member of the Jack and Rose Orloff Central Agency for Jewish Education. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of Hillel, The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, Chairman of the Board for Curry College, a Board member for the Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, a past president of the Beth Shalom Day School and the Jewish High School of South Florida, and a committee member for the Jewish Federation of South Broward.

Mr. and Mrs. Katz were also instrumental in establishing the Chair for the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Katzs have played an integral part of life in South Florida. Their commitment and love for their community has led them to take

a leadership role in the Community Capital Campaign for the United Jewish Community of Broward County, with the new Eleanor M. and Herbert D. Katz Building, which will house many religious organizations and serve as a focal point for Jewish life.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a truly special occasion that I stand here today and commend these fine individuals for their outstanding achievements and service to the world community. Their unparalleled dedication to the ideas of community serve as an example for us all.

COMMEMORATING THE 50-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT**HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. DOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Westlands Water District, which celebrates its 50-year anniversary on November 17, 2002. I have the privilege of representing many Westlands water users in Congress.

The Westlands Water District encompasses over 600,000 acres, of which 560,000 acres are applicable for irrigated agricultural production in Fresno and Kings counties. Westlands is comprised by approximately 600 family-owned farms and 2,400 landowners, making Westlands the largest water district in the world.

For 50 years, the Westlands Water District has been a leader in innovative irrigated agriculture and water resource utilization in the Western United States. Through its irrigation practices, Westlands and its farmers have helped develop the west side of the San Joaquin Valley into one of the leading agricultural producing regions in the world.

Farming in the area known as Westlands began during California's Gold Rush era. Irrigated agricultural production began around 1915 and by 1942, landowners organized to develop a water supply system.

Westlands Water District itself was formed in 1952 and began delivering contracted water from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to farms on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley in 1968.

The leadership that has characterized the first 50 years of the Westlands Water District has helped to make the west side of the San Joaquin Valley a unique place of opportunity for families and small businesses.

Today the farmers of Westlands produce over 60 different commercial food and fiber crops sold for fresh, dry, canned and frozen food markets, both domestic and for export. The estimated annual production value of agricultural commodities produced in Westlands is \$1 billion, which generates approximately \$3.5 billion in related economic activity for Fresno and Kings Counties.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the Westlands Water District for fifty years of valuable service to the residents of the west side of the San Joaquin Valley and in wishing them continued success in the future.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING
JUDGE LOYS CRISWELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Judge Loys Criswell, soldier of justice in the State of Oklahoma, farmer, beloved husband, father, and friend to many.

A life-long resident of Oklahoma, Judge Criswell grew up in the town of Duke during the difficult years of the Great Depression. During his formative years, violence and shoot-outs were commonplace along the streets of Duke, and justice and accountability were non-existent. Judge Criswell lost several relatives and friends in these conflicts. So impactful were the events of his youth that Mr. Criswell dedicated his entire adult life to administering justice, and offering hope and rehabilitation to offenders.

Judge Criswell was also committed to social justice issues and equal opportunity for everyone. When he learned of the plight of the babies of Mexican migrant workers dying from dysentery, Judge Criswell sprung into action and assisted the Southwest Oklahoma Migrant Ministry in developing better housing and improved conditions for migrant workers.

As a highly effective prosecutor and later a juvenile and family judge for many years, Judge Criswell's keen understanding of the history and nuances of our intricate legal system, along with his strong sense of justice—tempered by compassion and his belief in redemption for offenders—profoundly impacted the lives of thousands of individuals and families, and helped improve the overall quality of life for everyone within his region of Oklahoma. As county attorney in Altus, Mr. Criswell eliminated close to twenty illegal operations in the county, and in other rural parts of the area. His intelligence and unwavering belief in the American judicial system were unmatched by none, as was his deep sense of compassion for everyone who stood before him within the walls of his courtroom. Personally and professionally, Judge Criswell was a man of integrity, character, kindness and ideals. He was a brilliant man with an ever-hopeful heart, and an ever-humble spirit. Judge Criswell was bestowed with many awards and accolades for his brilliant work, yet he always shied away from praise and accolades.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of my friend and mentor, Judge Loys Criswell, who will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He was a man of vision, a scholar, a farmer and seeker of truth. And above all else, Judge Criswell was a man who possessed a heart as expansive and true as the rolling farms of Oklahoma. Judge Criswell dedicated his life to justice and positive change and consistently reached out to members of his community. I extend my deepest condolences to Judge Criswell's beloved wife Edna, and beloved daughter, Beverly. Judge Loys Criswell's life has made a true and significant difference in the lives of many—in Oklahoma, and in places beyond, and his spirit and legacy will live on forever.

SERVICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF
THE 7TH DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give honor to this great body, which I shall leave at the end of this term. This is the most Democratic body in the Federal government, turning to the American people in our districts every other year for reinstruction and rededication, as well as reelection.

We are the representatives who most directly represent America, and I am proud to have been elected by the people of the 7th District of Alabama to serve them for a decade. It is my hope that these good Americans believe that I have represented them well—I know that I have tried with all my mind, my soul and my body to do so.

I feel good that I was able to maintain a 100% voting record for the working men and women of Alabama, the consumers and the constituency I represented in the U.S. Congress.

It has been a special burden and a special honor to represent one of the poorest districts in the richest nation in the world.

It has been a special burden and special honor to represent a district mostly comprised of a minority not long ago enslaved by the very nation in which they are now citizens.

It has been a special burden and a special honor to represent the victorious battleground of the civil rights movement, a battleground that gave America nonviolent resistance, and gave the world a more honorable way to struggle for human rights.

As I leave this body, it is my prayer that America will make as its first priority the ending of poverty in the richest nation in the world. To have poverty in the midst of riches is unconscionable and we must move immediately to end this most destructive condition from the American people forever.

It is my prayer that America will finally move beyond the ignominious history of racism that has eaten at our nation's heart since the conception of this nation. The racism which has historically oppressed Blacks such as myself in this nation too easily turns against others, against Arabs, Asians, and may well turn again against Jews.

It is my prayer that America will find a way to place human values before monetary ones. Today, money is the engine of everything in this nation. People matter less and less in the face of monetarism, both in this nation and in the world. Globalization is not the high-minded internationalism we have dreamed of—it is instead the take-over of the world by transnational corporations which may have been born in America but which are loyal only to wealth. We have to put people before profits before the people are nothing but products.

It is my prayer that America will find a way to achieve international peace. We cannot continue to use cheap nationalism to reduce people to less than human, religious arrogance to call others evil, or media blitzkriegs to whip the American people into imperialist cheerleaders.

For this intertwined world, there is only one way to survive and that is to survive together. However many nations exist, there is only one human race. It is neither good nor evil—it is human. I for one find it deeply lovable. I place myself in its service, in the service of the people of the world.

HONORING PAUL MARTIN OF
PETALUMA, CA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Martin of Petaluma, California, who has just received the Award of Distinction from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of California at Davis. This highly competitive award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated leadership and achievement or brought distinction to the College through their careers.

During the ten years I have been in the U.S. Congress, Mr. Martin's in-depth knowledge of agricultural issues has been invaluable as a resource to me and my office. Paul has given unsparingly of his time to educate me and my staff on the needs of the dairy industry as it relates to federal legislation and the Sixth Congressional District. We have also worked together on our shared goals to preserve family farms. In fact, although he typically votes Republican, his campaigning on my behalf is a reflection of his commitment to those goals.

Paul Martin graduated from UC Davis in 1965 and from the California Agricultural Leadership Program in 1980. Next year he will receive an MA in Public Policy from Sonoma State University. In addition to operating two dairy ranches and working for Western United Dairymen as coordinator of Environmental Services and Field Representative, Mr. Martin has been a leader in a wide range of agricultural, environmental, and community causes. Some of these include service with the California Air Resources Board, State Water Resources Control Board, USDA Sonoma-Marine Dairy and Range Belt, Chief of Two Rock Volunteer Fire Department, Petaluma American Little League, Two Rock 4-H, Sonoma County Farm Bureau, and Petaluma High School District Facilities Committee. He also served as a First Lieutenant, USAR in Viet Nam and received a Bronze Star.

A third generation dairyman on his family's ranch, Mr. Martin has lived in Petaluma his entire life. His son John now raises heifers and beef cattle on the dairy while his daughter Betsy and daughter-in-law, Natalie use the ranch to raise dairy cattle for showing and sales.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Martin is respected as a leader within the agricultural community whose advice and knowledge I value highly. I am proud of his award and his many contributions to his community and to the dairy industry. And I am especially proud to call Paul Martin my friend.