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A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE JAMES SINGER, JR.

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember George James Singer, Jr. George proudly served our Nation in World War II in the Army's 38th Division of the 147th Infantry. He served on the island of Tonga for most of his service from January 1941 to May 1943. The recession at his funeral mass was "Ah Weh, Ah Weh", a song that he learned while stationed in Tonga and loved to sing at family gatherings.

Born in 1917, George lived a full life. After devoting his life to his country, George returned home to Cincinnati, OH, where he settled down with the love of his life, his wife, Marjorie (nee Sturwald). A few years later, they had a daughter, Gayle. George worked most of his life at the Cincinnati Post-Times Star newspaper. Everyone who knew George, knew him to be a kind and gentle man. He loved to play golf and loved traveling around the world with his beloved wife, Marjorie. Marjorie passed away a few years ago and life was never the same for George.

This country owes George our appreciation for defending our freedom. America is grateful for his service. I offer my condolences to Gayle, his daughter, her husband, Bob, and George's two granddaughters, Amy and Katie. America lost another hero on September 9, 2003. Our Nation's loss is most certainly heaven's gain.

HONORING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF BILL AND CAROL CLAY

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to my parents, William "Bill" and Carol Clay, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. As many of you know, my father, former Congressman Bill Clay, represented the 1st Congressional District of Missouri in this body for 32 years.

My parents were married on October 10, 1953 in St. Louis, Missouri. Their life together has been built upon a solid foundation of love, mutual respect, honor and dedication. Over the years they have worked very hard to be responsible parents to their three children, while at the same time toiling tirelessly to provide service to the "larger" family of constituents in St. Louis and beyond.

My father served in elective office for over 40 years and my mother stood by his side every step of the way. From their attempt to desegregate the public swimming pool at Fort McClellan in Alabama, to the marches and protests for employment opportunities at the Jefferson Bank and Trust Company and Howard Johnson's Restaurant in St. Louis, my par-

ents were at the forefront of the struggle for justice and equality from the very early years of their marriage. On one occasion, my father spent 118 days in jail as a result of protesting injustice. During that period, my mother would take us regularly to the jail house to see him, so that we would understand what he was doing and why. My parents instilled a deep sense of commitment to fighting injustice and righting wrongs within my sisters and me at an early age.

One of my fondest memories was in January 1969 when my father was sworn in as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Following his lead, as we normally would, my sisters and I raised our right hands in an effort to take the oath of office with him. At that time, we could not have foreseen an even prouder moment for our family when, 32 years later I had the privilege and honor of being sworn in as a Member of this esteemed body. As I was taking the oath of office, I looked over to my father and noticed a tear fall from his eye while my mother stood beside him, misty-eyed as well.

Throughout his long and distinguished career, my father has been a trailblazer, a pacesetter, an innovator and a fearless leader. At the same time, my mother has been the advocate, the nurturer, the rock solid supporter and the foundation of the Clay family. I take pleasure in reflecting upon all of the wonderful lessons and guidance they have given my sisters and me over the years. They taught us the importance of family commitment, being patient and respecting the opinions of others. They also taught us to always be prepared and look at life from a practical point of view.

Their contributions to our community and our Nation are enormous. In addition, their strong commitment to the education of young people is exemplary. Together they have helped raise over \$3 million in college scholarships for minority students through their efforts with the William L. Clay Scholarship and Research Fund. This Fund was founded by my father and the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses organization, of which my mother was a cofounder.

My sisters, Vicki Clay Jackson, Michelle Clay Rorie, and I will honor Bill and Carol in celebration of their golden wedding anniversary on Saturday, October 11, 2003. We are being assisted in this momentous undertaking by all five of Bill and Carol Clay's grandchildren—Angela Clay, Michael Alexis, H. Clay Rorie, Carol W. Clay and William L. Clay, III. Family, life-long friends and colleagues from throughout the Nation will be joining us on that marvelous occasion to extend thanks and appreciation for their love, guidance and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues extend a well-deserved and heartfelt round of congratulations to Bill and Carol Clay as they celebrate 50 years of love and devotion to one another and to the Clay family.

BUILDING MOMENTUM

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, since the first days after 9/11, President Bush has made

clear two priorities in his vision for American security.

First, that the top priority of his administration is to defend our nation and free nations everywhere by declaring and winning a war against global terror. And second, that this war on terror is unlike any conflict in history, fought simultaneously on economic, military, and diplomatic fronts around the world.

In the last week, good news has emerged in several of these sectors.

First of all, American businesses created 57,000 jobs last month, strengthening our economy and putting paychecks back into our people's hands. Our national security is dependent on the creation of even more jobs and economic growth, so that we can afford to meet the ever-changing challenges of the war on terror.

That's why President Bush's tax relief has proven so vital, and why proposals to raise new taxes are so dangerous.

Even as the economy rebounds here at home, we've got to keep military, diplomatic, and economic pressure on the terrorists around the world. So, this week, the Appropriations Committee will take up the President's supplemental war budget request—after two weeks of hearings—to pay for our ongoing military and democracy-building efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We are also committed to keeping up the diplomatic pressure on states that harbor and assist terrorists themselves. Toward that end, this week the International Relations Committee will take up the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act.

This bill, which is cosponsored by 260 members of the House, identifies Syria's continued actions assisting international terrorism and lays out potential sanctions against Syria for such activity.

On the heels of Israel's justified destruction of a Syrian terrorist training camp over the weekend, it's imperative the United States remain true to the Bush Doctrine, support our allies, and stand up to Syria's continued allegiance with evil.

All three of these items, Mr. Speaker—the growing economic recovery, the supplemental war budget, and the Syria accountability bill—will continue to build America's momentum in the war on terror. That momentum will continue to forge prosperity and security for the American people and in turn create peace around the world.

TRIBUTE TO KURT ANDREW DODD

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week the Committee on Appropriations lost a dear friend and valued colleague, Staff Assistant Kurt Dodd. I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his service for the American people and to his memory.

Kurt Andrew Dodd was born on April 17, 1957. He began his Federal service in 1980 at the age of 23 as a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. After 17 years with USGS, Kurt came to work for the Appropriations Committee as a detailee to the Interior Subcommittee in January 1997. He spent the next

6½ years in the appropriations process, serving as minority clerk for the Interior Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee as well as staff assistant for the Treasury-Postal and Transportation-Treasury Subcommittees in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, the responsibilities of these positions were enormous, and Kurt carried out those responsibilities with the utmost professionalism, dedication, and intelligence. Most recently, Kurt reviewed the budget requests and oversaw financial management of the Department of the Treasury, the General Services Administration, and the National Archives and Records Administration. Congress appropriates over \$18 billion annually for those programs. And we did that each year counting on Kurt's expertise and recommendations. Kurt oversaw some of our Nation's highest priority programs, including those related to the tracking of terrorist financing and money laundering. His analysis and support were critical not only in providing for timely construction of Federal buildings in general, but also for renovation of the National Archives Rotunda, which recently reopened to the public. His service to the Nation and to the Committee on Appropriations will be sorely missed.

But anyone who knew Kurt would tell you that his dedication and hard work for the American people were only part of the story. His accomplishments include not one but three master's degrees—one in science, one in business, and one in history. He was a voracious reader, and a student of history. Kurt was just as comfortable discussing campaigns of the Peloponnesian War or riptides as he was going over Treasury Department balance sheets. And when his coworkers would express interest in a subject, Kurt would often give them a book from his personal collection to help spread the knowledge he had already attained. He was a true Renaissance man.

But most importantly, Kurt was a man of kindness, decency, and integrity. Generous to a fault, he was loved not only by his family, but also by his colleagues on the Hill who worked with him each day. His gentle demeanor, sense of fairness, and civility to all serve as an inspiration to those of us who work in the cauldron of ideas and passions we call Congress. We need more people like Kurt Dodd in the congressional community, to remind us that fairness, courtesy, and respect can get a lot more accomplished than posturing, arguing, and gamesmanship.

Sadly, Kurt's mobility, and ultimately his life, was cut short by multiple sclerosis. He suffered this terrible, degenerative disease for several years with great dignity, Mr. Speaker, continuing to perform his duties on the committee with extraordinary skill and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day for the Appropriations Committee. The American people have lost a dedicated public servant; his family has lost a loved one; and his colleagues in the government have lost a dear friend. I ask all Members to join me today in celebrating the life of Kurt Dodd and the example of hard work and professionalism he left for us to follow.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTORS

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, on July 17, 2003 our distinguished former colleague, Lee Hamilton, delivered an address to the U.S. Capitol Historical Society's dinner honoring the staff directors of committees of the House of Representatives.

The tribute to the directors was well deserved. They toil long hours and under great stress and pressure to ensure that the House of Representatives operates properly. Mr. Hamilton's remarks are also insightful as to the need for civility in the conduct of our often contentious business. Equally important is the need to respect and to follow the complex Congressional processes and procedures for deliberating the decisions that affect our nation.

I encourage others to read Mr. Hamilton's insightful and instructive remarks on how we conduct our nation's business, and I join him in honoring the hard work and dedication of the staff directors of the U.S. House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTORS

(By the Hon. Lee H. Hamilton)

The contributions of staff directors to the work of the Congress are immeasurable. I am reasonably confident that every committee chairman and ranking member would say they simply could not do their work without your leadership. I hope that gives each of you a full measure of satisfaction.

I want to talk for a few minutes about the role of the Congress in this country, the importance of politicians, and why your efforts are so important and worthwhile.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD CONGRESS

You are, of course, familiar with those who are cynical about your work and the work of Congress. The brightest wits in American life have had their fun at the expense of the Congress. H.L. Mencken said that, "with the right pressure, Congressmen would cheerfully be in favor of polygamy, astrology or cannibalism." Mark Twain said, "suppose you were an idiot, and suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself." Will Rogers said that, "Congress was a never-ending source of amusement, amazement, and discouragement." Even so, we honor him with that magnificent statue just off the House floor.

We have all seen surveys like those showing that 66 percent of Americans can name the hosts of various game shows, while only 6 percent can name the Speaker of the House. When I was a member, I was never particularly disturbed by such survey results. After all, Americans are busy people with many demands on their time, and it is not easy to put in a full day's work and then read an article about Congress or turn on C-Span to watch the House or Senate in session.

Nor was I bothered by the barbs—after all, we have to appreciate that the bashing of Congress is one of America's all time favorite indoor sports. What did bother me, though, was the extent to which people do not understand or appreciate some of the basic concepts that underlie the workings of the Congress, and the role that Congress plays in the life of our representative democracy. Even if Americans don't know the

name of their senators or representative, they should know something about the importance of what they do to make the country work. Even if they don't know the players or the details of the legislative process, they should know something about how they relate to our system of government. If too many Americans get those concepts wrong, it does matter to the health of our democracy.

ROLE OF THE CONGRESS AND COMMITTEES

In my experience, far too few Americans really understand the most important function of the Congress. It is not, in my view, to pass any particular piece of legislation, or even a budget—but its historic mission is to maintain freedom.

The great phrases ring through our history—"We the people," "consent of the governed," "a more perfect union." These aren't just technical terms of political science. They are words that embody America's civic faith. You and I, above all others, are expected to know them in our bones, and to apply these grand concepts.

We rely on elected representatives to identify, sort out, and solve the difficult issues of state. It did not have to be this way. Our country would be vastly different if the Founders had placed power in the hands of a single ruler, or given much less voice to the American people.

In the Congress, Americans have a forum for debate and deliberation in which they can feel a stake. Traditional lawmaking is not just a nicety—it's a necessity if we're to remain a democracy. The lawmaking process allows us to resolve differences, and to live together peacefully, productively and successfully.

Most Americans may be familiar with the diagram of how a bill becomes a law. Whenever I see those charts I think to myself how sterile they are. They do not convey the dynamics—the frustration, the excitement, the complexity and the necessity of the process. Very few Americans understand that the details of this process of deliberation guarantee that their voices are heard, and freedom is protected.

I worry that astute legislators often bypass steps in the lawmaking process, arguing—in effect—that the ends justify the means. This "unconventional lawmaking" is increasingly applied to important legislation; but in doing this we bypass and put at risk the very democratic process that defines our system.

My view is that important proposals should not bypass the traditional process, including the committee review, because that is one important place where deliberation takes place. That's where members and staff can ask the hard questions. Committees provide expertise, and an opportunity to consider the merits and smooth out the problems in proposals. This is where we build consensus.

Some Americans feel that the legislative procedure is too slow and deliberative—they are annoyed by what they perceive as inside-the-Beltway scuffling, and wonder why Congress can't get things done faster. But do we really want a speedy system in which laws are pushed through before alternatives are considered and consensus developed? We misunderstand Congress's role if we demand it be a model of efficiency and quick action.

Our Founders designed a system in which all new proposals get careful scrutiny by going through many layers of review. They were far less interested in moving good ideas efficiently, than they were in preventing bad ideas from becoming the law of the land in the heat of the moment. People may sometimes complain about the process, but they benefit from its legislative speed bumps when they want their views heard, their interests protected, and their rights safeguarded. As former Speaker Sam Rayburn