

At the time, he reflected on the "revolution" in attitudes toward the disabled but added that there were some limits in what was doable or even desirable.

"Making the New York City subway system accessible to wheelchairs is not the best way to spend public money," he said. "Besides, I'm not going down there to get mugged."

Survivors include his father, Hubert R. Gallagher of Bethesda; and a sister.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM L.
OSTEEN, SR.**

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, recently, the Honorable William L. Osteen, Sr., U.S. District Court Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, received the Greensboro Bar Association Distinguished Service Award. I have known Bill Osteen for many years. Bill is an outstanding jurist, and I know of no more deserving recipient for this prestigious award.

As an aside, I had the honor of serving as Bill's Assistant United States Attorney, while he served as the United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina in the late 60s and early 70s.

Mr. Stephen Millikin, from the law firm Smith Moore LLP, delivered a wonderful speech at the presentation of the Greensboro Bar Association Distinguished Service Award. The Sixth District is proud of Bill Osteen, and I urge my colleagues to review the remarks made by my good friend, Steve Millikin.

I have referred to Steve as the "Bob Dole of the Sixth District of North Carolina" because, not unlike the great Senator from Kansas, Steve is an outstanding advocate for America's veterans. I hope you will enjoy Steve's remarks.

REMARKS BY STEPHEN P. MILLIKIN AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE GREENSBORO BAR ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM L. OSTEEEN, SR., APRIL 15, 2004

The Greensboro Bar Association is pleased to present its Distinguished Service Award for the year 2004 to a person whose accomplishments in this community and throughout the state are well known, and whose strength of character and devotion to duty are universally admired. This person has conducted himself among us in such a manner as to be a splendid example for all to follow.

The Honorable William L. Osteen, Sr., hereinafter "Bill" or "Bill Osteen", was born in Greensboro, North Carolina on July 15, 1930. He is the son of John Luke Osteen and Ruth Tatum Osteen. His father was the well known and highly respected first U.S. Probation Officer and the first Chief U.S. Probation Officer for the Middle District of North Carolina. He was a most jovial and friendly man by nature. Bill's mother was a gentle giant of a lady though small of physical stature. She died at an early age, but not before she had a very strong influence upon Bill who promised his mother that he would never take a drink of alcohol. Bill has remained loyal to that promise throughout his life. Bill has one brother, John Osteen, who is a graduate of West Point. John made a career of the Army and retired as a major general. He now resides in Brevard.

Bill married Joanne Bennett Snow on May 16, 1959. Joanne is the daughter of John and Dorothy Snow. John Snow was an attorney. Joanne attended Duke University where she graduated with honors in Economics. Bill and Joanne have three children: William L. Osteen, Jr., born in 1960, who is a practicing attorney in Greensboro; John Osteen, born in 1962, who now lives in Long Beach, California; and Robert Osteen, born in 1966, who now lives near Charleston, South Carolina. Bill Osteen has a family of which any man would be proud.

Bill Osteen graduated from Guilford High School in 1948, from Guilford College in 1953, and from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1956. Throughout, Bill was an outstanding student. After obtaining his law degree and license to practice law, he was associated from 1956 to 1958 with W.H. McElwee, Jr., a prominent attorney in North Wilkesboro. From 1958 to 1959, he practiced law as a sole practitioner in Greensboro. From 1959 to 1969, Bill was a partner in the law firm of Booth and Osteen in Greensboro. From 1969 to 1974 he served by appointment of the President of the United States as the U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina. From 1974 to 1991 he was senior partner in the successive Greensboro law firms of Osteen & Adams; Osteen, Adams & Tilley; Osteen, Adams, Tilley & Wall; and Osteen, Adams & Osteen. He was appointed U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina by President George Bush on June 18, 1991. He has served and continues to serve in that high office with great distinction.

Bill has been active with the North Carolina Bar Association, the North Carolina State Bar, and the Greensboro Bar Association. With the North Carolina Bar Association he was a member of and subsequently chairman of the North Carolina Sentencing Commission, created by the North Carolina legislature to write a suitable sentencing structure for North Carolina. For the North Carolina State Bar, he was a member of the State Bar Council from the 18th Judicial District; a member of the Grievance Committee; a member of the Professionalism Committee; a member of the Legal Aid to Indigents Committee; and a member of the Special Committee to Re-Write the Disciplinary Procedures Manual for Lawyers. He was president of the Greensboro Bar Association in 1989-1990 and he served for a long period of time as a member of its Executive Committee. Bill also served as president of the 18th Judicial District Bar in 1985. He is a permanent member of the Federal Judicial Conference for the Fourth Circuit; a past member of the Federal Bar Association; and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a member of the University of North Carolina Law Alumni Association and a member of the Guilford College Alumni Association. He has been a member of the Board of Visitors for the University of North Carolina and a member of the Board of Visitors of Wake Forest University School of Law. Bill is admitted to practice in the North Carolina Supreme Court; the North Carolina Court of Appeals; the United States District Courts for the Middle, Western and Eastern Districts of North Carolina; the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit; and the United States Tax Court.

Bill was elected to the North Carolina Legislature in 1960 and again in 1962. He served as Minority Leader in both sessions. He was appointed Chairman of the Guilford County Economic Opportunity Council by the county commissioners in 1963. He was appointed by the Greensboro City Council as a member of the City Zoning Commission from 1964 to 1966. He was appointed by the Greensboro City Council as a member of and Chairman

of the City Human Relations Committee from 1966 to 1968. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the United States Congress from the 6th District of North Carolina in 1968.

While serving as United States District Judge, Bill has served as Chairman of the Committee on Codes of Conduct of the Judicial Conferences of the United States, and he has served on the Advisory Committee to the Chairman of the United States Sentencing Commission. He also has heard cases on appeal sitting as a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit.

Bill has also served in the military. He was in the United States Army Reserve from 1948 to 1951, and was on active duty from October 10, 1950 until December 12, 1951. He entered the service as a private and was a Staff Sergeant at time of discharge.

Bill has enjoyed participating in many athletic activities. He has excelled in all sports that he has undertaken. He has been a competitive golf player. He was number one on the Guilford College golf team. His prowess on the tennis court is legendary. While in law school, he reportedly could out-punt the starting punter for the University of North Carolina football team. To illustrate his ability and agility, reportedly he earlier has been able to grab his left leg with his right hand and then jump through that circle with his other foot and leg, a trick few people are willing to attempt.

Bill has been highly successful in all that he has undertaken. As an excellent practicing attorney, U.S. Attorney and U.S. District Court Judge, Bill has enjoyed a reputation for honesty, professionalism, ethical conduct, and a dedication to exerting a best effort and obtaining a best result. Bill has an innate and keen sense of right and wrong. He has always acted with diligence and competence. He has been fair and judicious in his approach to all questions and eloquent in his expression of thought. As U.S. District Judge he has been appropriately firm and authoritative but also compassionate.

Bill was commissioned a Judge of the U.S. District Court in a ceremony in the Federal Courthouse in Greensboro on September 27, 1991. He has proven to be true beyond any reasonable doubt the things that were said about him and that were predicted for him at that time. In many ways and instances he has exceeded all expectations then expressed.

At the commissioning ceremony, Bill Davis on behalf of the State Bar stated: "I think that this is an absolutely perfect appointment."

George Mast on behalf of the N.C. Bar Association said: "Bill stands tall in the forest of the legal community. What he has been speaks with more eloquence than anything I can say. His appointment tells us that our system is working; that someone of (his) . . . quality and caliber and distinction, honesty and integrity can be appointed as a District Judge."

Ralph Stockton for the ABA said: "I tell you, it's hard for me to imagine anyone more qualified to assume the role of United States District Judge in the Middle District than Bill Osteen."

"Our investigation . . . specifically in Bill's case, has to do with professional qualifications . . . in the area of professional competence encompassing the qualities of intellectual ability and capacity, judgment, writing and analytical ability, knowledge of the law, and breadth and depth of legal experience. Integrity, our number one hallmark, includes the candidate's character and honesty in legal and personal relations. Judicial temperament speaks for itself and includes the candidate's open-mindedness, decisiveness, freedom from bias, and commitment to equal justice. In the course of our comprehensive investigation of Bill Osteen . . . I

am pleased to report . . . that the ABA Committee reported to the Attorney General of the United States and subsequently to the Senate Judiciary Committee it's unanimous opinion that Bill Osteen is well-qualified for this appointment. This is the highest rating the Committee gives."

Bill Osteen, Jr., justifiably proud of his father and law partner, but being completely honest and candid, stated: "There was only comfort through my father's presence, his love and his support. And he's been there for each member of this family every time it was needed . . . But his magnificence as a father is probably only equaled by his great ability and competence as a lawyer . . . Each time he has taken a client—and I've practiced with him for four years now, but I'm confident that this was true for his entire 30 years. Each time he's taken a client, he has brought to the representation honor, integrity, diligence and confidence that are not to be found very often. There have been a lot of big cases, a lot of outstanding cases, and there have been a lot of small cases. But regardless of whether a case was big or small, or whether it was important to society or whether it was important only to an individual, he has brought the same honor and integrity to each case; and I'm proud to have practiced with him for the time that we have."

The Honorable Eugene Gordon commented: "Bill . . . brings to this court a vast experience gained from years of private practice and an illustrious career in this district as United States Attorney . . . Also, his legislative service and his community service can't be overlooked. Those services are very valuable for one who is called on to assume responsibilities as a member of the judiciary is . . . The efficiency and goals of the offices which he has served were never in jeopardy; it was always done well. He has reflected well upon himself, and he has served this area with distinction . . . Bill is a good person, with a passion for decency. He possesses no hatred, no jealousy, no envy or ill will that I have ever discerned. The truth is simply this. He is just a hard person to dislike." "It is our good fortune that one of Bill Osteen's vision, ability and character has come forward for active service on the bench . . ."

The Honorable Richard Erwin stated: "Judge Osteen comes to the federal bench as well prepared for the tasks awaiting him as any judge I know. He has served as United States Attorney for this district; in private practice he has represented defendants charged with criminal offenses; and also represented both plaintiffs and defendants in civil actions before the federal courts . . . Judge Osteen also possesses an even-handed disposition that we call judicial temperament."

The Honorable Frank Bullock commented: "I don't believe that President Bush has made a better judicial appointment during his term in office . . . Bill Osteen should be a judge of this court. He has dedicated his life to service, to his family, to his church, to his state and to his nation. He has served in the legislature and as United States Attorney and as an officer of the state bar. I am confident that there is no better trial lawyer in this district and in this state and probably in this circuit or in this nation."

The Honorable Woody Tilley said this: "But not only is Bill Osteen the best trial lawyer I've ever seen . . . he also is one of the best people that I have ever known."

These were not empty accolades or over statements. If they missed the mark in any respect, it is because they understate the exemplary qualities with which Bill Osteen has been endowed and the principles which he has invariably followed.

The oath taken by Judge Osteen at his commissioning in part is this: "I, William Lindsay Osteen, Sr., do solemnly swear that I will administer justice without respect to persons and do equal justice to the poor and to the rich; and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all duties incumbent upon me as United States District Judge under the Constitution and laws of the United States . . ."

Bill Osteen has been as faithful to this oath as he has been to the promise he made to his mother years earlier.

Judge Osteen, the Greensboro Bar Association takes pride and pleasure in presenting to you the highest honor it can bestow, its Distinguished Service Award. This award is in recognition of and is in deep appreciation for your having demonstrated in many ways your deep devotion and constant commitment to the honorable practice of law and to the better administration of justice; for your having made enduring contributions to the administration of justice and to the public good through unselfish service to the community and to the legal profession; for your adherence at all times to the highest ethical standards of professionalism; and for your thereby setting by example a standard of conduct and service to which the members of the Greensboro Bar Association might well aspire.

RECOGNITION OF THE 2004 OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Wendell Thomas Family for being selected the 2004 Outstanding Farm Family. The Thomas family has run an extremely successful farm in Northwest Florida for nearly 60 years.

Wendell's parents started the Thomas farm in 1945, and to this day his mother, Lizzie Kate, is still an active partner in the family business. Wendell began working at an early age, and after graduating high school in 1970 he became a full time employee in the family's operation. A year after that, he married Dwynette Lewis, and together they raised three daughters who have all contributed to the farm.

In 1981, Wendell purchased an aircraft and shortly afterward received his certification to apply protective chemicals and fertilizers to the family's crops. In 1982, Wendell began running the farm full-time due to the decline in his father's health. Over these nearly 60 years, the Thomas family farm has expanded from one hundred to one thousand acres of cotton, peanuts, pasture, and woodland.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere commendation to a family that could serve as a role model to us all. A deep sense of work ethic and values has been instilled through all the generations of the Wendell Thomas Family. It is my hope that this family tradition continues for many generations to come.

NORTHERN UGANDA CRISIS RESPONSE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss current legislation S. 2246. I support this bill which would order the Secretary of State to issue a report on the situation in northern and eastern Uganda. This bill, if passed, would also place much needed pressure on the Ugandan Government to provide increased protection to innocent civilians, pressure the Lord's Resistance Army, under the leadership of Joseph Kony, to lay down its arms, and force the Government of Sudan to come clean about its relationship with the LRA.

The people of Uganda have had enough. The fighting between the northern rebel group known as the Lord's Resistance Army and the Government of Uganda has gone on for more than 18 years. Their mission to overthrow the government is costing many people their lives and their livelihoods. As a result of the civil conflict, more than 1.4 million people are displaced within Uganda. Furthermore, women and young girls are being brutally raped and humiliated, young boys are being abducted and forced to serve in the ranks of the rebel insurgency. Bodies have been maimed and many have died mercilessly.

The most shameful piece of this story is that there are suspicions that the Government of Sudan, to the immediate north of Uganda, has and continues to aid LRA rebel forces with supplies and safety from Government of Uganda military forces. Such accusations, if true, demand the attention of the United States and the international community especially given the current crisis in Darfur.

Before we can properly offer assistance to the Government of Uganda and the people of Uganda, we must have concrete information that accurately details the extent of the human devastation in Uganda. This bill, if passed, would place that information in our hands. Without a thorough knowledge of the situation in Uganda, we will be unable to provide humanitarian relief and assistance to millions of men, women, and children suffering under the hands of oppressive rebel tyrants.

A report by the Secretary of State would be highly beneficial to human rights monitors, international humanitarian agencies, and lawmakers in the United States and around the world. It would explain the state of communications and infrastructure. It would explain the degree to which the rebels have permeated northern and eastern Uganda. It would explain the state of security and the degree to which civilians and outsiders are protected from vigilant rebels. Such information is crucial if we are to help lift the people of Uganda out of their current crisis and bring down the Lord's Resistance Army.

Bringing an end to this campaign will keep Uganda on its current track toward stability, especially regarding the AIDS crisis. This nation has seen more than 800,000 of its people die from HIV/AIDS and has seen more than 1.5 million of its children orphaned by this deadly virus. On the bright side, though, this country has worked vigorously to curb those