

said of each generation that the Stars and Stripes went forward forever and no discordant bugle ever dared to sound retreat.

Jim Wham is Senior Partner of the law firm of Wham & Wham Lawyers, Centralia, Illinois, which firm has been in existence 115 years and Jim Wham is in his 56th year of active law practice in the Courts of Southern Illinois.

Born in Centralia October 10, 1918, Veteran of World War II, Major in Army Air Corps, served in England, Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily and Italy. Lifetime member of the American Legion. Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Amvets and the Forty and Eight.

Member of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Served as Judge of the Illinois Court of Claims and as Assistant Attorney General, State of Illinois. Received the 1998 Tradition of Excellence Award from the Illinois State Bar Association.

Elected to the 2004 Class of Laureates, Academy of Illinois Lawyers. The Academy was founded in 1999 to recognize Illinois lawyers who personify the greatness of the legal profession.

Adult Sunday school teacher for 45 years, United Methodist Church, Centralia.

Married to Phyllis Wham 61 years. Two daughters, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

[From the ISBA Bar News and Illinois Courts Bulletin, Feb. 2004]

JAMES WHAM WAS INSPIRATION FOR BIRTH OF LAUREATE IDEA

(By Stephen Anderson)

"This honor you have given me today means more to me than any I have ever received, because it comes from lawyers and judges—and I never met one I didn't like!"

Those words still ring in the ears of many ISBA members who attended the Annual Meeting in St. Louis in 1998. They were in the response of James B. Wham of Centralia as recipient of the General Practice Section Tradition of Excellence Award.

"This is still the greatest profession of them all, because it always deals with rights and duties of man," he continued. That became the spark that kindled formation of an Academy of Illinois Lawyers to recognize our state's icons of lawyering.

A member of the Academy's 2004 class of Laureates, Wham is a partner in Wham & Wham. He graduated in 1946 from the University of Illinois College of Law after service as an Army Air Corps major in Europe and Africa during World War II.

His 58-year legal career includes having been a judge of the Court of Claims for eight years, an assistant attorney general for eight years, and a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Jury Instructions.

A lifelong Republican and frequent speaker at civic and patriotic events, he ran for election in 1990 as the Jim Wham Party for Congress and the Flag. He ran in the first Appellate Court election after judicial reform in 1964 but lost in the Lyndon Johnson landslide.

Wham is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Bar Foundation, and a member of the International Society of Barristers.

In his Laureate nomination letter, 4th Circuit Judge Patrick J. Hitpas said that "Jim Wham enjoys being a lawyer more than anybody I know. He exemplifies everything good about lawyers and the legal profession."

Wham's 1998 speech to the ISBA in St. Louis concluded, "The greatest epitaph of a lawyer is this: He never quit; he just wore out and died, doing something for somebody else." An active trial lawyer at age 85, he shows no signs of wearing out.

IN HONOR OF HENRY MELLO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I rise today in honor of a good friend and outstanding public servant, former California State Senator Henry Mello. Henry passed away on September 4, 2004, but will always be remembered for his dedication to the communities of the Central Coast. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends, but his legacy will live on in many ways.

The son of Portuguese immigrants, Henry was born in 1924 in the rural community of Watsonville, where his mother's family had been farming apples since 1874. He had an eye for business and left Hartnell College after one year to work with his family on the apple farms. At the age of 29 Henry founded John C. Mello and Sons Cold Storage and ran it for twenty years before selling it to Del Mar Food Products in 1973. By this time Henry had found his true calling: public service.

In 1966 Henry officially began his political career with his election to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. He was not afraid of politically charged issues, and in 1972 composed a motion disapproving the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War. Because of his dedication to his constituents and his commitment to the Monterey Bay area, he was elected to the California State Assembly, serving from 1976 to 1980. Henry was then elected to the State Senate, rising quickly to prominent positions, including the majority whip from 1981 to 1992 and the majority leader from 1992 until he left the legislature in 1996.

While in the legislature, Senator Mello was an ardent supporter of many vital segments of our population, especially senior citizens. Senator Mello authored legislation to enact the first programs focusing on Alzheimer's-Respite Care, Adult Day Health Care and the Multipurpose Senior Services Programs. He founded the Senior Legislature and passed legislation to combat elder abuse. In the twenty years that Senator Mello served in the legislature, he authored more than 120 bills on aging and long-term care that have become the law of the land in California.

However, Henry's service and advocacy extended far beyond just one subject. He was also a strong supporter of our ocean's health, authoring legislation to protect fisheries, working to keep off-shore oil away from California's coastline, and petitioning for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. He has created many lasting legacies on the Central Coast, including Wilder Ranch and Grey Whale State Parks, which are enjoyed by thousands of people each year. He also supported the creation of the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at the University of California, Santa Cruz, which has made tremendous strides in organic and sustainable farming practices worldwide.

When Fort Ord was slated to be closed by the U.S. Army, Senator Mello introduced legislation to create the Fort Ord Reuse Authority to help the state and the region handle the largest base closure in U.S. history. He was also proactive in transferring this area into civilian use, and helped create the California

State University, Monterey Bay on the former base. He was a co-author of the Mello-Roos Act of 1982, which provided funding for education and other public projects through tax-exempt bonds. Following the Loma Prieta earthquake, Henry secured a temporary sales tax increase to help the devastated communities of the Central Coast, a measure which proved to be invaluable to the local governments in their efforts to rebuild. In his hometown, he is perhaps best known to the general public for helping to raise funds to rebuild the performing arts center in Watsonville after it was destroyed in the earthquake. It was opened in 1994 as the Henry J. Mello Center for the Performing Arts, which was particularly fitting because Senator Mello was known for contributing his musical talents on the piano for many state and local functions.

Mr. Speaker, Henry Mello was the consummate public servant and master of the art of compromise. His legacy to the State of California is felt through the landmark legislation that he passed as well as through those whose lives he touched personally. Many of us in the California Congressional Delegation worked closely with Henry throughout our public service careers, and we all wish to extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Helen, and his sons Stephen, John, Michael and Timothy.

IN MEMORY OF W. HARRINGTON SMITH, JR.

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House the passing of W. Harrington Smith, Jr. A longtime public servant, Mr. Smith spent 18 years on the Frederick County Board of Supervisors. I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Smith during this time as he represented the Shawnee district.

It was an honor to have known Harrington Smith, who worked hard and impacted many lives during his service in Frederick County, Virginia. My condolences go out to his family, friends, and colleagues as they mourn the loss of this great man. I would also like to share a recent article from The Winchester Star which commemorates his life and work.

[From The Winchester Star, Aug. 10, 2004]

FREDERICK COUNTY SUPERVISOR HARRINGTON SMITH DIES

(By Laura Arenschield)

One of Frederick County's "old buddies" died on Monday afternoon, leaving a trail of jokes, doting friends, and "Bone-a-lobes" behind him.

W. Harrington Smith Jr., 78, who spent 18 years on the Frederick County Board of Supervisors, died in Winchester Medical Center two weeks after undergoing surgery for a stomach aneurysm.

Smith served on the board from 1988 until his death, representing the Shawnee District. He was known for his "Bone-a-lobes"—trips around the area to talk with the people he represented.

He went to find their problems, and to fix them, and to make people feel comfortable with a grin, a pat on the back, and a "hey, old buddy, hey old friend" for a greeting,

To hear his friends and family tell it, Smith was a friendly, outgoing man who never ran out of time for the people who voted him into office.

"If somebody needed help with a traffic light or a pothole or barking dogs, he would go out and visit them," his son, Harry Smith, said on Monday afternoon. "He would be able to get things done for people."

Harry said his father died "just peacefully, and calmly, and in his own way."

With a nostalgic laugh, he told of his father's intricate jokes:

"They are so long and complex that I—unfortunately, one of the things I had intended to do and never was able to do was to memorize those jokes. And I wish that I had."

In addition to a list of complex jokes only Harrington could remember, the veteran supervisor left a family that included his wife, Barbara Armistead Smith; sons Harry and Michael Smith and Drury Armistead; daughter Beth; and nine grandchildren ranging in age from 5 to 23.

"He had a phenomenal memory for jokes," Dick Kern, an old friend and Harrington's former employer, said on Monday. "His favorite saying was 'God love you.' And he said that all the time."

Kern stifled a chuckle before describing a man fond of parties and a good time.

"He loved a good rum drink," Kern said. "He enjoyed drinking and relaxing and I did, too. So we were great partners."

Party animal or not, Harrington "Smitty" Smith took care of his constituents, Kern said.

"If anybody called him on a road or a fence or any kind of problem, he made it a point to go out and check it himself and take care of the problem," said Kern, a former Winchester City Council member. "And I guess that was another thing I liked about him . . . he was honest and you could rely on him, and you knew he would be there."

"He was a heck of a guy."

Harrington's wife, Barbara, said her husband would do just about anything for just about anybody.

In fact, that's how they met.

"Harrington was part of a local rescue squad bringing a psychiatric patient to the old Cork Street hospital emergency room," she said. "And the patient jumped out the back towards these two women and Harrington tackled him, and the guy wound around and kicked him in the neck."

Barbara had just come to the hospital as a physical therapist. Harrington became her patient.

"Yeah, I cured him, so he married me," she said with a laugh. "At the time, he was just so outstandingly good-looking. And everybody liked him because he was such a good listener and he really, really, really loved people. He really did."

Harry, who served on the Winchester City Council, said he always was amazed at how long his father stayed in public service.

"I wonder what impact he might have had if he had started in elected office, say in his 30s or 40s instead of his 60s," he said. "I think it was always centered around and based around his love of this community."

Harrington Smith the supervisor had a persona most people couldn't figure out.

During his time in office, he switched from Republican to Democrat before becoming an independent.

"I was always surprised by his votes," former Supervisor Sidney "Sid" Reyes said. "I never knew which way he was going to come."

"But he was a gentleman. The ultimate gentleman, I don't think Harrington Smith had an enemy or anyone who spoke ill of him."

The man the public didn't get to see was a little less of an enigma, Harry said.

"If he wasn't out helping constituents, he was probably watching television, sitting on a couch, eating a grilled-cheese sandwich, with his feet propped up, his arm propped up on a pillow, and the cat in his lap," Harry said. "He was a channel flicker. Anywhere from a sports to movies to the History Channel. And it had to be turned up very loud."

Like the volume on him TV set, whenever Harrington had an idea, he put it out with force—especially when it came to state government controlling local decisions.

"You could always count on Harrington with a speech any time the subject came up," Board of Supervisors Chairman Richard C. Shickle said. "He just stated his opinion and didn't pull any punches. . . . You didn't have any trouble understanding Harrington or his positions. He was just blunt."

Frederick County Commonwealth's Attorney Lawrence R. Ambrogi called Harrington Smith "outgoing," "personable," and "unique."

"He was one-of-a-kind, Ambrogi said. "He was 78, he probably put in 200 years of life in that time."

"He sang the national anthem at different political functions, he was an announcer at the (stock car) racetrack."

"It's just sad because he'll never be replaced."

Still, Shawnee residents can't go without representation on the Board of Supervisors.

Ambrogi said the board has 45 days to appoint Harrington's replacement because the next election is less than 120 days away.

Shickle and Ambrogi said the county needs time to grieve before worrying about that, though.

"I lost a friend," Shickle said. "And I think we'll mourn first."

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF RAPIDES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Rapides Habitat for Humanity on fifteen years of successful service in Rapides Parish, Louisiana.

I rise today to recognize Rapides Parish Habitat for Humanity on its fifteenth anniversary. Rapides Parish is blessed to have such a successful organization with so many dedicated workers and volunteers building a better future. I am proud to report that with the help of over 1,000 volunteers, sixty-seven houses have been built in the surrounding area with two under construction. Now, because of the work of these driven people, over 250 people have sturdy roofs over their heads.

The work of these volunteers led a little girl to exclaim with delight, "Now I can have a slumber party!" Families can now gather around a dining room table to celebrate the holidays, and children can sleep in warm beds rather than on the floor.

I come to the floor of the House of Representatives today to personally commend, honor and thank Rapides Parish Habitat for Humanity. I look forward to the continuous progress that will be made by these hard-working and passionate volunteers.

THANKING MICHAELS OF OREGON

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to relate an inspiring story of support from the people of Idaho, from a community in my district, for our brave troops being deployed to Iraq.

On August 17, I had the opportunity to visit with some of my constituents at a business in the community of Meridian. The Michaels of Oregon plant in Meridian is a quality manufacturer of gun cleaners, holsters and related equipment for law enforcement personnel and other first responders.

During my tour, General Manufacturing Manager Brian Schroeder handed me a manila envelope. It turns out the employees knew I would be coming out to the plant, so they took up a collection and asked that I get the money in that envelope to the USO to help our troops in the Idaho National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade.

As I walked through the plant, I also met Michaels employee Sandra Zimmer, whose son had just returned from Kuwait, and Michelle Carskaddon, whose father was in Iraq. Everyone I met wanted me to pass on to our men and women in uniform just how proud they are of our troops and how proud they are to be Americans.

Let me tell you, I never had a more meaningful visit, and I was never prouder to be an Idahoan. But the thing is, the folks at Michaels are not unique. Meridian, Idaho—like communities all across America—is filled with individuals who care about each other, care about those who serve in our Armed Forces, and care about our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and privilege to represent people like that here in the United States House of Representatives. Please join me in thanking the good people at Michaels of Oregon. They are to be commended for their citizenship, patriotism and generosity.

HONORING MRS. PEGI MILLER, LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Pegi Miller, who will retire on October 1, 2004, after completing 20 years of Federal Service.

Mrs. Miller began her career in 1976 as a non-appropriated fund employee at the Bolling AFB Child Care Center, where she served as a Clerk/Receptionist until October 1984. She then moved to the Pentagon to work for the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of the General Counsel, for a short time. Mrs. Miller served next in the Office of the Air Force Civil Engineer until 1987, when she assumed her current duties as a Legislative Assistant in the Congressional Inquiries Division, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Legislative Liaison Directorate. In this capacity, Mrs. Miller performed superbly across a broad spectrum of