

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

Congressional issues, brilliantly and expertly assisting the Directorate in providing timely responses to tens of thousands of inquiries from Congress.

During her 17 years of work in the Office of Legislative Liaison, Mrs. Miller has provided dedicated and professional service to both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. She has developed close working relationships with many Congressional offices, and her efforts have greatly enhanced Congressional understanding of Air Force issues. The distinctive accomplishments of Mrs. Pegi Miller culminate a distinguished career in the service of the Federal Government, and reflect great credit upon herself and the Department of the Air Force.

CONGRATULATING THE BLOOMSBURG FAIR ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, for one week each year, the town of Bloomsburg in my district in Pennsylvania welcomes nearly 500,000 visitors to its annual fair. This year, the famous Bloomsburg Fair celebrates its 150th anniversary.

Originally envisioned as an agricultural fair, founder Dr. John Taggart convinced a few of his neighbors to join him in finding exhibitors of fruits, vegetables, and other farm products. Dr. John Ramsey, B.F. Hartman, Caleb Barton, William Neal, and I.W. Hartman joined Dr. Taggart in establishing the fair, for which they charged a ten cent admission fee, most of which was used to pay for police service.

Now expanded to an eight-day event spread out over more than 275 acres, the Bloomsburg Fair still retains much of its original agricultural atmosphere. It now features livestock shows, horse racing, arts and crafts, countless varieties of food, carnival rides, antique shows and an array of other attractions for adults and children alike.

Several years ago, I submitted the Bloomsburg Fair as an excellent example of America's rich cultural diversity for the Library of Congress's Local Legacies program. The Bloomsburg Fair is now permanently memorialized in the collection of the American Folklife Center.

Under the leadership of President Fred Trump, the Bloomsburg Fair Committee works year-round to ensure a successful annual fair. This year was especially challenging in light of the flooding caused by the remnants of Tropical Storm Ivan, which left several feet of water on the fairgrounds just days before its opening. Through the hard work of the Committee and volunteers, the Fair opened as scheduled this past Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, the Bloomsburg Fair represents the best of the American tradition of bringing people together to celebrate the gifts this Nation provides to all of us. I am proud to represent the town of Bloomsburg and the people who make the Bloomsburg Fair an annual tradition for families throughout the region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 23, I was not present for business on the floor of the House due to personal business and was thereby absent for votes on rollcall Nos. 466 through 472. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 466, "no" on rollcall No. 467, "yea" on rollcall No. 468, "no" on rollcall No. 469, "no" on rollcall No. 470, "no" on rollcall No. 471, and "no" on rollcall No. 472.

RECOGNITION OF COLONEL PERRY L. BRIDGES, IN HONOR OF HIS RETIREMENT AND HIS INVALUABLE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of an exemplary individual, Colonel Perry (Buddy) L. Bridges. Upon his retirement as the Chief of Staff for the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) and Fort Monmouth, he left behind a distinguished career, one through which he provided an invaluable service to his country.

Perry L. Bridges first entered the military in May of 1977, and throughout his 27 years of service, he held critical responsibilities through his work with the Army, Department of Defense, international organizations and foreign governments. His commitment to his work earned him the respect of all his colleagues and anyone who was fortunate enough to know him. Today, I would like to take a moment to look back and pay homage to a decorated career.

Colonel Bridges' outstanding career has included several high-ranking and significant command assignments. He served as Brigade Commander of the 1st Signal Brigade and he also served exceptionally as Battalion Commander of HHD, 56th Signal Battalion, 106th Signal Brigade.

From June 1999 to May of 2000, Colonel Bridges performed magnificently as the Commander of the Signal Regiment's Academy and Director of the Signal Regiment's School of Leadership and Professional Development; leading an academy of over 1000 students, instructors, and staff personnel who were responsible for 17 leader and professional development courses.

Through his tenure as Chief of Staff at the Communications-Electronics Command and Fort Monmouth, Colonel Bridges directed and coordinated a functional staff of 600 personnel and the resources of CECOM consisting of 10,000 military and civilian employees and an annual budget of approximately \$2.2 billion. Colonel Bridges developed and implemented changes in training and organization that dramatically enhanced and strengthened Fort Monmouth's force protection system so that our enemies will find it more difficult and more costly to interfere with Fort Monmouth's efforts to maintain peace and stability.

As Chief of Staff at the Communications-Electronics Command, Colonel Bridges brought with him a stellar history of service and remarkable leadership ability, integrity and unsurpassed dedication to soldiers, civil servants, the Army and his country. His distinguished military career truly reflects great credit upon himself, the United States Army Material Command, the United States Army and our entire Nation.

A career as notable as this, should not go unrecognized. Colonel Bridges has received numerous awards of recognition throughout his career, which include a Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Achievement Medal, just to name a few.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Colonel Bridges on a storied career and thank him for his vital service to this country. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, September 23, 2004, the House had a vote on H.R. 1057. On House rollcall vote No. 468, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIL EDUCATION

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, the Founders of this Nation understood that a free society must rely on the knowledge, skills, and virtue of its citizens and those serving in public office on their behalf. To enable our young people to be effective and responsible citizens we must do everything possible to ensure they receive an adequate civic education.

On September 20–22 of last year, the first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was launched. The conference was sponsored by the Alliance for Representative Democracy and co-hosted by the four leaders of the U.S. Congress.

One of the very important outcomes of the congressional conference was the establishment of state delegations that would return to the state to enact specific policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools.

I would like to recognize, Marilyn Cover, Executive Director of Classroom Law Project, and Barbara Rost, Program Director, the facilitators of the Oregon delegation for their leadership in working to design an action plan to improve civic education in our state. These state action team activities include implementing Oregon's already strong and comprehensive State civic standards. Leaders from the Governor's office, State House and