

Johnson, Jr., and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedom we enjoy, but to a people who are but now in the infant stages of a new life, a new freedom in their own land.

We should also remember his wife, Melissa; his parents, Philip Johnson, Sr., and Barbara Johnson; and his two younger brothers, Matthew and Peter. May God give them the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Joseph Campbell who said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." Make no mistake, Philip A. Johnson, Jr., was not only a dedicated soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country; but he was also a true American hero.

THE REVEREND DR. RALPH
SEXTON, SR.

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and commend one of Western North Carolina's and Buncombe County's finest citizens, the late Dr. Ralph Sexton, Sr. With the death of the Rev. Sexton Sr., Asheville lost one of the most energetic and effective members of its religious community. Sexton, who founded Trinity Baptist Church, died from a brain tumor. He was 84.

Sexton began preaching when he was just a teenager after being drawn into a tent revival where he gave his heart to God. He was on his way to see a movie when he physically felt something pull on his coat. "He said it really frightened him," said Jerry Payne, who served as Sexton's assistant pastor for 42 years. Sexton left the movie and ended up at the tent revival.

Not long afterwards, he began preaching. And what a preacher he was. In the early years, he preached in tents and front yards, in empty lots and driving down the street in a car outfitted with a loudspeaker. He even found himself in jail a few times when police arrested him for disturbing the peace. "He was from that old mountain cut," Payne said. "He preached in simple layman's terms."

"He was just a powerful preacher," according to his longtime friend, J. Wendell Runion, president and director of International Baptist Outreach Missions based in Asheville. Audiences were "spellbound" by him, Runion said.

In time, Sexton found a more potent way to deliver his message about Christ. His Sunday morning television program "Send the Light" first went on the air in 1960. He also preached on radio and at tent revivals. Then in 1966, Sexton founded Trinity Baptist Church. He built an auditorium for 500 people even though he had a congregation of about only 125. Trinity has since grown into one of Asheville's largest churches, with programs that support missionaries around the world and provide assistance to the victims of poverty, natural disasters and famine. Trinity's programs today include a Spanish Church, Trinity Baptist Bible College and Hearts with Hands, a non-denominational nonprofit humanitarian relief organization. Sexton served as the church's pastor until 1988, when his son, Dr. Ralph

Sexton Jr., who had served for 13 years as youth pastor and evangelist, became pastor. The senior Sexton remained pastor emeritus and stayed involved despite health problems.

Sexton, who was always true to his calling, will be remembered as "a very straightforward, unashamed preacher of the Gospel," according to Asheville Citizen-Times columnist Bob Terrell, who wrote a book about him. "He was a giant among the nation's old-time religionists," Terrell said. "He helped change literally thousands of lives."

Sexton was a man of God and of the mountains who will be missed by many. His family and others who loved him can take comfort in knowing that he left a legacy through which lives will continue to be changed and enriched.

IN HONOR OF SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, the Southern University football team gave Jaguar fans throughout Louisiana something to cheer about when they were recently recognized by the Sheridan poll as the 2004 Historically Black College National Champions. The football team certainly earned this distinction by completing an impressive 12–1 season that included victories in the Bayou Classic over in-state rival Grambling State University and Alabama State University in the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship game. Congratulations are in order for Southern University Chancellor Edward Jackson, Coach Pete Richardson, the student-athletes, cheerleaders, members of the band and fans.

The Jaguar football team joins with a number of other Southern athletic teams that have had success. In 2002, Southern University was ranked by Sports Illustrated magazine as the 131st best Division I athletic program in the Nation, quite an accomplishment when thinking about all of the terrific athletic programs throughout the country. Seven teams, including baseball, women's basketball, bowling and softball, took SWAC titles. The university was the highest ranked Historically Black College on the Sports Illustrated list.

The Jaguars also boast one of the most dynamic marching bands in the country. A revered and cherished tradition, the band never ceases to amaze. Last year, led by Dr. Isaac Greggs, the band participated in a competition involving more than 20 other black colleges. Southern emerged victorious and took first place as well as a \$10,000 award.

However, athletics and extracurricular activities are just some of the many exciting things going on at Southern. The university was named yet again as one of the top 50 colleges with the best environment for African American students; and only three other public black universities were ranked above Southern. This survey proves that Southern offers an excellent, well-rounded education at an affordable price.

Some of the achievements at Southern can be attributed to the rising operating budget and funds available for campus improvements. The university is currently operating with a

\$180 million budget, the largest in the school's 124 years. This money will be available to run the university's five campuses spread throughout Louisiana. A significant portion of the budget had been allocated for endowed professorships which now stand at 31, but are set to increase. The university is also preparing to make drastic changes to a number of its campuses. Construction is set to begin on residential housing developments on the Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Shreveport campuses as well as improvements to the athletic facilities and off-campus housing.

These accomplishments define Southern University as one of the preeminent Historically Black Colleges in the country and a source of tremendous pride for Louisiana. From its humble beginnings in 1880, Southern has grown into a vast university system with over 15,000 students. However, the school continues to produce outstanding graduates and loyal alumni. I know that the university will proceed with confidence as a respected force in education and athletics.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDGE
JOHN F. BUTLER ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to the Honorable John F. Butler on the occasion of his retirement from the bench of the Mobile County Circuit Court. For the past 21 years, Judge Butler has served the families of the State of Alabama with compassion, dedication, and a tremendous level of commitment.

Beginning in 1971, with his appointment as referee for the juvenile court, Judge Butler has devoted his life to the well-being of young people in south Alabama. In addition to his three terms as circuit court judge, he has served 2 decades as the presiding juvenile court judge of Mobile County. Along with his duties on the bench, Judge Butler has also operated the Strickland Youth Center and was instrumental in the creation of area Boys and Girls Club programs, the Camp Martin Leadership Academy, the Girls Reaching Womanhood Thru Healing (GROWTH) program, and Pointe Academy for juvenile offenders. Without fail, Judge Butler has focused a tremendous level of energy and time on his efforts to help young men and women overcome the difficulties of their past and become focused and successful members of their community.

Along with his many professional responsibilities, Judge Butler has also served as a member of numerous statewide juvenile justice programs. This long list includes service as chairman of the Governor's Advisory Council on Youth, a term as president of the Alabama Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and 8 years as a trustee to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. His work in these areas, as well as his professional accomplishments, has also resulted in public recognition and many awards during his long years of public service.

Judge Butler is also one of America's proud veterans, having served for many years in the United States Army. Following his graduation

from college, he enlisted in the Army as a private and after a period of outstanding service received a direct commission as a second lieutenant. A veteran of the war in Vietnam and the recipient of the Bronze Star and nine other medals, Judge Butler retired as a colonel from the United States Army Reserve in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Judge John Butler for his tremendous contributions to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Alabama. The experience and enthusiasm he brought to his job and the concern and compassion he displayed for the young people of the region are unquestioned and unparalleled. He has indeed been a genuine asset both to the circuit court and to the thousands of men, women, and children he has assisted over the past 2 decades. I am proud and honored to call him my friend.

Make no mistake, the judge's talents and experience on the bench will be sorely missed, but I am confident he will continue to remain actively involved in the life of the Mobile community for many years to come. Along with his friends and colleagues throughout Alabama, I wish to extend to Judge Butler and his family all the best now and in the future.

IN TRIBUTE OF DOROTHY POTTER

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and commend one of Western North Carolina's and Buncombe Counties finest citizens, the late Dorothy A. Potter. Dot, as she was fondly called by her many, many friends and acquaintances, passed away on November 8, 2003. She was a wonderful woman, who worked tirelessly for not only the Republican Party, but also to educate others about this great country's political system in general. I doubt there was ever an election that Dot did not participate in, in some shape, form or fashion.

Dorothy Belle Alexander Potter was born Feb. 24, 1920, in Charlotte, the youngest daughter of the late Robert Lester and Cynthia Welch Alexander. She was a direct descendant of Hezekiah Alexander, a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and a founding father of Charlotte. She was a classmate of the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham at Sharon High School and graduated in 1936. She earned a B.S. in library science from Queens College in 1940. Mr. and Mrs. Potter moved to Asheville in 1948.

Mrs. Potter was an energetic, founding member of the Buncombe County Republican Party and remained active in area politics for the majority of her life. She was vice chairman of the Buncombe County Republican Party for 16 years. Mrs. Potter served in many campaigns including the historic 1969 City Council Race, electing a Republican majority and Wayne Montgomery, M.D., as mayor, the 1972 gubernatorial race electing Jim Holshouser as the first Republican governor in North Carolina since Reconstruction and the 1980 election of Bill Hendon to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mrs. Potter was chairman of the Governor's Western Residence Committee during Gov.

Holshouser's tenure. She served as deputy Clerk of Court in Buncombe County and was a valued member of former Rep. Hendon's district office until 1983. She was also the Buncombe County Chairman for the 1992 election of President George H.W. Bush.

Mrs. Potter was a charter member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, where she was an Elder and served as a member of the Session. She was also a member of the board of directors for the preschool. She was the last living charter member of the Buncombe County Republican Women's Club and a lifetime member of the North Carolina Republican Women's Club. She was also a member of Phi Mu women's fraternity and was a member and officer of the Sky-Hy Chapter of the American Business Women's Association.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Lt. Col. Wesley J. Potter (ret.); daughters, Dr. Cynthia Potter Smith and husband, Durham, of Lake Wylie, S.C., and Lynda Potter Fagan and husband, Michael, of Asheville; granddaughter, Shanon Fagan of Asheville; grandson, Matthew Smith and wife, Sonya, of Clover, S.C.; and granddaughter, Erin Fagan of Washington, D.C., and Asheville.

Mrs. Potter is also survived by three great-grandchildren; a niece, Sally Pollock and a nephew, Robert Suther, both of Washington state and a great-nephew.

IN HONOR OF WALTER COMEAUX

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my hearty congratulations to Walter Comeaux, a friend and colleague from my district, upon the completion of 30 years of public service. In that time, Mr. Comeaux has dutifully served the people of Lafayette Parish and exemplified what it truly means to be a servant of the people.

Mr. Comeaux has spent more than half of his life working to better the local government in Lafayette Parish. He began as a young City Council member in Broussard, Louisiana, and then as member of the Lafayette Police Jury, including 4 years as president of that body. However, his greatest political accomplishment came as the Lafayette City and Parish governments consolidated in 1996. He was elected as the first City-Parish Council President and charged with the difficult task of making the newly formed government operate smoothly. As the first chief executive of the City-Parish government, Mr. Comeaux excelled; and 4 years later his constituents returned him to office. In his 8 years as president, he made countless improvements to the parish infrastructure while working to craft an efficient and responsive local government.

At the end of his career of service, I have no doubts that Lafayette is a better place to live due in large part to his efforts. I know that he is looking forward to more time with his family and friends, but his departure will certainly be a loss. I applaud his success and appreciate the time and commitment he has given as a public officer.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ED SWAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Ed Swan on the occasion of his retirement from the Mobile district office of the Social Security Administration. For the past 30 years, he has served the families of the State of Alabama with compassion, dedication, and a tremendous level of commitment to the men, women, and children served by the Social Security Administration.

Beginning in June 1973, with his first assignment to the Social Security office in Mobile, Alabama, Ed Swan worked for 3 decades in a succession of representative and supervisory roles in five Social Security offices throughout the State. His outstanding record as a service representative, claims representative, operations supervisor, branch manager, and management assistant in the Social Security system resulted in positive results for the many families who benefited from his efforts. Additionally, the work ethic he displayed resulted in his receiving numerous citations and awards, including a Regional Commissioner's Team Citation for his work with the Disability Claims Manager pilot program in Mobile.

Ed Swan is also one of America's proud veterans, having served in the United States Navy with distinction while assigned to Air Squadron 27 on board the aircraft carrier USS *Intrepid*.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Ed Swan for his tremendous contributions to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Alabama. The experience and enthusiasm he brought to his job and to the Social Security Administration will indeed be missed, but I have no doubt he will turn his talents to many other positive pursuits in the days and months to come. Ed has indeed been a genuine asset both to his agency and to the thousands of men and women he assisted over the past 3 decades, and I have been proud to call him my friend.

Along with his many friends and colleagues throughout Alabama, I wish to extend to Ed Swan; his lovely wife, Cynthia; and their children, Jason and Kellie all the best in the months and years ahead.

HONORING PATRICIA GARMAN AS CENTRAL FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Garman as Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year.

Ms. Garman, known to friends and colleagues as Patt, is widely respected throughout the Fairfax business community. Honest