

of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, French Club and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Michael has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Michael has earned letters in Varsity Hockey and Tennis. He was named Captain of the Varsity Hockey team and served as President of the French Club. Michael's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the United States Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Michael will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael H. Persiani on his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Michael will do very well during his career at the United States Air Force Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PENSION BENEFITS

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two bills that pay tribute to those service personnel who have nobly served our Nation in times of conflict. In both cases, the legislation extends pension benefits to those veterans who served in harm's way, though not in a time of declared war.

Under current law, you may only draw a full pension if you served in combat during a declared period of war. This distinction served its purpose well during many of America's 20th Century engagements, as our involvement in those wars was clearly defined. World Wars I and II and the Vietnam War are prime examples.

However, American service personnel have served—and faced heavy fighting—in conflicts that have not been declared “war” by our government. Case in point is Korea. Our Armed Forces lost 33,741 dead in that conflict, even though President Truman called our participation a “police action” and never asked Congress for a formal declaration of war.

The point of the matter is that while war is not always clearly defined, the sacrifice of our service personnel is.

With the support of the American Legion and noted West Virginia veteran John Peters, I introduce these bills to correct what many believe is an inequity in determining veterans' pension benefits. The first bill would provide the basic guarantee of a pension to those who served in Korea, Lebanon, Granada and Panama. In each case, American service personnel were faced with significant danger and, again in each case, American lives were lost. With this in mind, I believe it is imperative that our government provide veterans of those conflicts with appropriate pension benefits.

The second bill I am introducing would extend pension benefits to those servicemen and women whose actions earned them the Expeditionary Medal. For those who are unfamiliar with what an Expeditionary Medal is, or the actions for which it is awarded, the Joint Chiefs of Staff must determine that the service personnel is engaged where hostile action by foreign armed forces is imminent. Again, I believe those who have put their lives on the line in defense of our country, especially when recognized by the Joint Chiefs, deserve the benefits a military pension provides.

The United States has sent service personnel to all corners of the globe to defend our freedoms and way of life. In all cases, our troops have served nobly and honorably. In several cases, war has been declared officially—and those who participated in those actions certainly deserve to receive a military pension for their sacrifice. However, American personnel have also served in conflicts not officially declared war, and have been faced with incredible dangers. To these veterans I say you deserve the same pension benefits afforded your brothers and sisters in arms who participated in declared wars. I urge Congress to pass these critical bills.

#### WILLIAM “LES” BROWN: A LEGACY OF INSPIRATION AND ACTIVISM

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, later this month, people in Chicago will gather to celebrate the life and achievements of William “Les” Brown. Les Brown had an enormous influence on the way our nation thinks about homelessness. He was a person of intelligence, creativity, passion and caring who showed that we can each make a difference in helping to create communities that provide support and opportunities for every individual. I am fortunate to have known and been inspired by Les and I, like many Chicagoans, will miss him.

Les Brown was best known as the founder of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, formed in 1980 with the help of the Travelers and Immigrants Aid Society, the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, and other service providers. Karen Singer, executive director of the YWCA Evanston/North Shore, called him the “moral compass” of the movement to end homelessness. Ed Shurna, the current executive of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, acknowledges him as “the chief strategist and idea man behind most of the Coalition's successes” in providing housing, jobs programs and health care for the homeless.

A social worker, former Air Force medical corpsman and a blues pianist, Les Brown used all of his skills to push for solutions. While others ignored the problem, he taught us that homelessness can be solved and that individuals living on the street deserve to be treated with dignity. In 1983, he organized the first national conference on homelessness in Chicago. In 1984, he underwent a heart transplant but never let that slow him down or limit his dedicated activism. For his entire life, he fought to keep this issue at the top of the polit-

ical agenda, reminding us that the homeless are not nameless beings or numbers, but infants and children, working mothers and fathers, returning veterans and those living with illnesses who deserve our support and a safe, decent place to live.

Les Brown grew up in rural Georgia, where he learned his values from his parents, who taught him the values of fairness and social justice. It was the love of the land that he developed in childhood that gave him the inspiration for “Growing Home,” an initiative that helps the homeless learn job skills at an organic farm in Marseilles, Illinois. According to Les, “Homeless people often are without roots. They're not tied down, connected, not part of their family anymore. Our organic farming program is a way for them to connect with nature—to plant and nurture roots over a period of time.

When you get involved in taking responsibility for caring for something, creating an environment that produces growth, then it helps you to build self-esteem and feel more connected.”

There are concrete reminders of Les Brown's accomplishments throughout the Chicagoland area—low-income housing units that would not have been built without him, organizations and coalitions that would not exist but for his leadership, initiatives like Growing Home that grew from his vision. Some of the best evidence of his legacy can be found in the people he touched and motivated and who will carry on his work.

Les Brown had an enormous impact and influence on the people he met, creating a generation of advocates who will follow in his path. One of them, Fred Friedman, wrote the following in commemoration:

#### LES BROWN'S LEGACY

Les Brown died the other day. I did not know him very well or very long but he was very dear to me.

I first met Les when I was still living in a homeless shelter. As you might guess, it was at a meeting about homeless youth. Later, he was kind enough to see me in the office of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. I was trying to decide what, if anything, to do with my life. At that meeting, I told him that people, including myself, sometimes had trouble seeing me as anything other than a mentally ill homeless person. He said that he understood, and that some people had trouble seeing him as anything other than a person with a bad heart. I am sure that was a lie. Who could think Les had a bad heart? However, it was incredibly kind.

I got to know him a little better at many endless Continuum (of Care) meetings. Eventually, he nominated me for the Governing Board of the Continuum. Still later, he, along with Paul Selden and I, founded Next Steps, NFP. Still later, I got to hear him play a mean Jazz piano.

I do not know his family, or if he left any property to them, but I do know that he left me a great legacy. Les saw people without homes and tried to find them homes. He saw hungry people and tried to feed them. He saw people without power, and tried to empower them. He saw people without hope and tried to give them hope. He took his work, but not himself, seriously. He could disagree without being disagreeable. He understood that good people could disagree with him, and that he could be wrong. In short, Les left me a legacy of trying and working, even when trying and working seems silly. In other words, he left me legacy of hope. I promise to use that legacy to continue his fight, until no one

goes to bed hungry, and everyone has a home and hope.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY  
COUNTY HEAD START PROGRAM

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of the Monterey County Head Start Program. The program provides a comprehensive child development program to preschool children whose families live below poverty level. The Monterey County Head Start Program is dedicated to serving and supporting the communities of Monterey County through educational development of children that fully prepare them for school and their experiences in life.

The Monterey County Head Start Program originated in Castroville in June 1965 with the help of the Community Action Agency. The program expanded to Salinas and Seaside in 1975 with grant support from the Monterey County Office of Education. Now, the Head Start Program operates 26 preschool centers in Monterey County, providing services to well over one-thousand children and their families. Their goal to provide the highest quality program for the children and families in the county has been very successful.

Every child in the Head Start Program is provided the highest quality child development program based on the internationally acclaimed, research-based High Scope Curriculum. Physical and dental examinations are given to each child, as well as an individualized educational program to suit each child's needs. The program also offers the Early Head Start Program which is designed to provide assistance to qualifying pregnant women, infants, and toddlers; as well as parent education for nutrition, first aid, and self-sufficiency skills. Truly, this is an inclusive program that has enhanced the lives of so many residents in the 17th district.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Monterey County Head Start Program for forty years of outstanding service. The Head Start staff performs an exceptional job daily facilitating school readiness for children and fostering lifelong independence and personal responsibility for low-income families. The Monterey Head Start Program provided services to over thirty-thousand children and families in the rural and urban communities of Monterey County, and our community is immensely grateful for their contribution.

TRIBUTE TO BILL HORNER, JR., A  
RESPECTED NEWSMAN

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of a distinguished gentleman. Bill Horner, Jr., the former publisher of The Sanford Herald, was a great North Carolinian. He died last month after a 3 year battle with cancer, and is survived by a fine and lov-

ing North Carolina family. I ask permission to submit for the RECORD several newspaper reports on this sad occasion.

BILL HORNER JR., 67, NEWSMAN WAS  
PUBLISHER OF THE SANFORD HERALD  
(From the Associated Press)

SANFORD.—Bill Horner Jr., the middle man in a family tradition of publishing The Sanford Herald, died Thursday of cancer, the newspaper reported. He was 67.

Horner died in Sunset Beach, where he had moved after his retirement 7 years ago.

Beginning in the 1960s, William Edward Horner Jr. worked in all departments of the paper before he finally followed in the footsteps of his father, Herald founder W.E. Horner, as publisher in 1991.

He retired April 1, 1998, when the newspaper was sold to Paxton Media Group, a family-owned company based in Paducah, Ky. His son, Bill Horner III, is the current publisher.

Horner was born in Sanford and graduated from Sanford Central High School. As a youth, he delivered the Herald on his bicycle and later spent afternoons and evenings working in the mailroom.

He earned an English degree at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1959, working in the newspaper industry during the summers.

Horner served 2 years in the Navy after graduation, then returned to the Herald at the behest of his father, who told his son he would start as a printer's devil.

"I had some idea of what a printer's devil was," Horner wrote in 1980, "and it didn't sound nearly as flashy as being a lieutenant (jg) in the U.S. Navy."

But he came home nevertheless, working in the print shop and then moving on to other parts of the newspaper, including the newsroom.

He gradually assumed a greater role in the management of the newspaper, taking over major decisions about the business upon W.E. Horner's semiretirement in 1966 at the age of 65.

"Bill was very kind and supportive to me over the years, and I always considered him more of a friend than as my boss," said R.V. Hight, who began work at The Herald in 1979 as sports editor and now serves as special projects editor.

"He loved this newspaper and was a strong leader as both general manager and publisher. I am grateful to have known Bill, and I shall miss him."

In addition to his son, he is survived by his daughter, Belinda Horner Cooper of Hampstead; close friend Carol Bowman of Sunset Beach; sisters Louise Horner Bowles of Greensboro and Nancy Horner Hulin of Carolina Beach; four grandchildren; and two nieces and a nephew.

The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, people consider making donations to the Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter, 10 Doctors Circle, Suite 4, Supply, NC, 28432, or to the charity of their choice.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Luke United Methodist Church.

[From the Sanford Herald]

FORMER HERALD PUBLISHER, 67, DIES

SUNSET BEACH.—Former Herald Publisher Bill Horner Jr., who oversaw the newspaper's conversion from "hot-type" to "cold-type" offset printing, died Thursday of complications following a three-year battle with cancer.

William Edwin Horner Jr., 67, was the son of Herald founder W.E. Horner, who died in 1994, and father of current publisher Bill Horner III. A memorial service is planned for 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Luke United Methodist Church, where Horner was a member.

The Rev. Bob Yandle, a friend of Horner's for many years, will officiate.

Diagnosed with esophageal cancer in the fall of 2001, Horner underwent surgery for the disease on two occasions and was in remission for a time, but the cancer returned and his health declined steadily in the last year.

In addition to his son, he is survived by his daughter, Belinda Horner Cooper, of Hampstead, and her husband Billy; his special friend Carol Bowman of Sunset Beach; sisters Louise Horner Bowles of Greensboro and Nancy Horner Hulin of Carolina Beach; and grandchildren William E. "Zachary" Horner IV, Addison Horner and Karis Horner, children of Bill III and his wife, Lee Ann. Also surviving are nieces Cheryle Hulin Brown of Knightdale and Laura Bowles Warren of McLean, Va., and nephew Jim Hulin of Jamestown.

In addition to his father, Horner was preceded in death by his mother, Nannie Andrews Horner, in 1978.

Horner was born in Sanford and graduated from Sanford Central High School, completing his high school degree while working afternoons and evenings in the mailroom of The Herald. Upon turning 12 years old, he took a bicycle paper route that served 125 customers in a section of downtown Sanford near the family home. Following high school, he attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, earning a degree in English in 1959.

During his college years, he stayed close to the newspaper business—working one summer as a reporter for The Raleigh Times, the now-defunct sister newspaper of The News & Observer, and another selling subscriptions door-to-door in rural Kentucky for The (Louisville) Courier-Journal.

After his graduation from Chapel Hill, Horner—who was a part of the Reserve Officer Training Corps during his college years—was commissioned as an ensign and called up for a two-year hitch with the Navy. He spent most of that time aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Forrestal as chief disbursement officer on the ship's supply officer staff.

Horner wrote in the 50th anniversary edition of The Herald in 1980 that while aboard the Forrestal, his duties ranged "from being disbursing officer in charge of the ship's finances and safes, in which I kept more than \$7 million in cold, hard cash, to being an assistant stores officer when about all I had to do was check storerooms to make sure the pliers, wrenches and ballpoint pens were counted correctly."

Eventually promoted to the rank of lieutenant (junior grade), Horner was about to disembark in Naples, Italy and fly back to Norfolk, Va., for mustering out when he wrote he "received THE letter from the 'old man'—not the Navy one, the Herald one."

Horner said his father detailed plans in the letter for his son to come back to the newspaper to formally learn the trade—beginning with the job of "printer's devil" in the newspaper's "back shop," and then learning to operate a linotype machine, before moving to the other departments of the operation.

"I had some idea of what a printer's devil was," Horner wrote in 1980, "and it didn't sound nearly as flashy as being a Lieutenant (jg) in the U.S. Navy."

By then, he was married to his first wife, the former Shirley Prendergast, whom he met in the Navy, and Horner eventually worked his way through all departments of the newspaper, even serving as interim editor for a period in 1964.

One of his experiences that same year as a reporter, he'd later say, showed him the importance of a newspaper's role in the community.

He was assigned to cover a gathering of the local chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, which was