

called by Johnny Miller, as the guy who had the greatest set of hands in golf, meaning one of the greatest touches.

He had what I think is the most memorable come-from-behind victory in the history of major golf in 1966, when he demonstrated those great hands when he was 7 shots behind the great Arnold Palmer in the closing 9 holes of the U.S. Open, 1966, playing at Olympic Country Club in San Francisco, and Billy Casper closed out with a 32 on the back 9 at Olympic, which is nearly miraculous.

He tied Arnold Palmer and he beat him the next day in a playoff with a 69. Now, they had The Big Three of Golf, Mr. Speaker. It was called Player, Palmer and Nicklaus. They needed the Big Three because between 1964 and 1970, they needed all three of their tournament victories added together to have more than Billy Casper because he had 4 more victories during that period than the great Jack Nicklaus, and he had more victories than Arnie and Gary Player together.

It is neat to be here with Mr. Issa from San Diego and talk about this American hero, this San Diego sports hero, Billy Casper.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I know you join with Mr. HUNTER and myself in recognizing the importance of California, and particularly San Diego as the golf club production and design capital of America. But a club is just what it sounds like unless you put it in the hands of somebody like Billy Casper, somebody who can do what Duncan Hunter cannot do, and I guarantee I cannot do with a club and that is make it send a ball straight and true or hook it if you need to hook it to make that special shot. Billy Casper had that talent, used that talent and was a great ambassador for our country here and around the world. I think it is very appropriate that we honor him here on the floor of the House tonight.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank Mr. ISSA for his contribution here, because Billy Casper has not only touched the hearts or touch the minds and memories of lots of sports writers and people who read those sports pages when he was amassing those 51 professional victories, but he touched the hearts of so many young people. And he and Shirley, his wonderful wife, have hearts as big as the 18th green at San Diego Country Club, and they have touched the lives of literally thousands and thousands of young people through the scholarship funds that they put together, through all the help they put together through Billy's annual tournament.

If you walk up to Billy Casper on the golf course, here is a guy who won a couple U.S. Opens and the Masters and a guy who lives in this era where sports idols charge money for their autographs. Billy Casper will stop what he is doing, he will look you in the eye,

and if you are a young person he will really pay a lot of attention to you. He and Shirley are absolutely the greatest examples of what families should be like in this country. So it is neat to be here with my great colleague Darryl Issa and talk a little bit about this American hero, Billy Casper.

□ 2310

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING NORTH CAROLINA'S BEEKEEPERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the many of the hard working beekeepers in North Carolina's fifth congressional district. Beekeepers play an extremely important role in our society and often do not get the recognition they deserve.

Back in 1905, an obscure Swiss patent clerk named Albert Einstein published three papers that would later result in his receiving the Nobel Prize. During that same year, he gave a speech on a subject that fascinated him greatly, the marvelous honey bee. He said, "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would only have four years left to live."

Back then, much like it is today, the survival of the honey bee was threatened by pests and climate. The honey bee survived the challenges of Dr. Einstein's time but new obstacles have also emerged. Despite these challenges I am sure that Dr. Einstein would be happy to know that the honey bee is alive and well in North Carolina.

Next year the North Carolina State Bee Keeping Association celebrates its 90th year of helping local beekeepers succeed. I am happy to report that the association has seen a 58 percent increase in membership in just the past 2 years and now has more than 1,900 dues paying members. The organization is run entirely by volunteers without a single full time paid staff member. It is the largest bee keeping association of its kind in the Nation and some folks tell me the best.

According to Dr. David Tarpy, North Carolina State Agriculturist and head of the agricultural program at North Carolina State University, there are some 10,000 hobbyist beekeepers in North Carolina. I am proud of our North Carolina beekeepers and I want to tell you why. But first perhaps we should answer a basic question. Why do so many grown men and women fawn over this tiny insect and weighs less than an ounce and is so small it can rest on your fingernail? The answer reveals the secret of why so many are so passionate about their apiary hobby.

If you call the office in the North Carolina Department of Agriculture that works with beekeepers, you will be greeted by the words, "beneficial insects." After all, the honey bee is one of God's most beneficial creatures. She makes sweet honey that mankind has enjoyed for most of his time on the planet. The 100,000 colonies of bees managed by North Carolina beekeepers produce some \$10 million worth of honey, almost all of which is consumed within the State. Some say our honey, especially the wonderful sourwood honey produced in the mountains, is just too good to send away.

The honey bee also pollinates 90 or more important food crops, a third of all the food we eat. Without proper pollination, many of these crops would not produce fruit. The value of honey bee pollination to North Carolina agriculture exceeds \$100 million and is growing. Cucumbers are ninety percent dependent on honey bee pollination, blueberries 80 percent. Apples, melons and many vegetables are also dependent on the honey bee.

There is much more to this little bee than the delicious honey they make and even crops they pollinate. Modern medicine is returning to the old ways and rediscovering the practical use of many products from the hive in preventing and curing disease. Honey was used to treat burns and minor wounds by the ancient Greek, Chinese, Roman and Egyptian civilizations. The jelly that worker bees use to grow their new baby queens is a highly valued and expensive cosmetic. Pure beeswax makes wonderful candles and is a reliable industrial grade lubricant. There is much anecdotal evidence that bee venom is an effective remedy for arthritis and multiple sclerosis. And most recently, sticky, resinous propolis from the hive, once considered a nuisance is now the subject of a major cancer treatment research project at Wake Forest University.

Speaker after speaker at the annual beekeeping conferences tell us that North Carolina has the best State wide organization of beekeepers in the entire Nation. Many people in many organizations deserve credit for this success.

In 1975 Dr. John Ambrose came to work for North Carolina State University as an extension bee keeping specialist. Dr. Ambrose led an important era of growth for beekeeping in North Carolina, expanding the position to a major teaching and research position that is now held by Dr. Tarpy. This position is one of the best of its kind in the entire Nation.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture bee labs also play an important role in finding and developing new ways to protect of the honey bee.

J.D. Foust has been president of the North Carolina association of Beekeepers for the past 3 years and has led the organization through its fastest growth ever. Brady Mullinax of Forsyth County, has been a stalwart in the organization for more than half a century. Steve and Sandy Forrest, proprietor of Brushy Mountain Bee Farm in Wilkesboro, have build a thriving business out of supplying beekeepers with equipment and supplies and are now the third largest beekeeping supplier in the entire Nation.

The typical beekeeper in North Carolina not unlike the solitary yeoman farmer who, with an ax and hoe, carved North Carolina's vast agri-business economy from the wilderness that once swept from the Atlantic and Mississippi River. He takes his chances and usually at the end of another season, there is sufficient honey for him to sell at his roadside stand and leave enough for the bees to survive another winter.

For many beekeepers in my district the honey they produce is their Christmas money and an important part of their annual disposable income. I am proud of our beekeepers, for they are the residual spirit of the early pioneers who built this country on little more than strong backs and a desire to be free.

If Albert Einstein was correct in his fear that the survival of mankind depends in large part on the survival of the honey bee, I am confident that the honey bee is in safe hands among so many North Carolina passionate beekeepers.

□ 2320

HONORING JUDGE WILLIAM M. STEGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this week, America, Texas and East Texas mourn the loss of Federal District Court Judge William Merritt Steger.

As former law clerk and good friend Andy Tindel said, "Judge Steger was

one of the finest, fairest, most honest man I have ever had the privilege of practicing law before."

While Bill Steger was studying prelaw, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. And within 24 hours the 21-year-old had withdrawn from Baylor University and volunteered for service. The Dallas native has always wanted the opportunity to become a pilot, and with the Nation entering World War II, he took a chance.

On November 9, 1942, he got his wings. Then after training he was sent to Casablanca and flew 56 combat missions for which he received an air medal and four oak leaf clusters.

While later training other pilots, Captain Steger also tested the first U.S. jet airplanes.

Once his Nation was secure, Bill Steger went back to school and received his law degree from Southern Methodist University, that is, their law school.

He married his wife, Ann Hollandsworth Steger, on Valentine's Day in 1948. They had one child, the late Merritt Reed Steger, who was one of my younger brother David's closest friends.

Judge Steger entered and engaged in private practice in Longview and Tyler and headed up numerous east Texas campaign clubs for Dwight D. Eisenhower for President. After the election, President Eisenhower appointed Judge Steger in 1953 to the position of U.S. attorney for East Texas at the young age of 32.

In 1960, he and a good friend debated which one should run for governor and which one should run for senator. Their goal was to bring the Republican party into popularity in the State of Texas. Because Texas was conservative, it seemed to Judge Steger that it would be a good fit, but he was blazing a trail. He ended up being the one to run for governor against a very popular John Connally, and Judge Steger's good friend John Tower ran for senator. The Republican party had never before then received enough votes to hold a primary, and though Judge Steger knew he would not win the race, he hoped he would get the requisite 200,000 votes so the Republican party could hold a primary in the next election. Judge Steger actually received more than 600,000 votes.

In 1962, Judge Steger was persuaded to run for Congress and received 49 percent of the vote, lacking only 1,300 votes to beat his Democratic opponent who was the incumbent.

Bill Steger became a Federal district judge for the Eastern District of Texas in December of 1970 after President Richard Nixon nominated him. He truly loved being a jurist, and he was a hardworking, dedicated, cerebral, no-nonsense, constitutional constructionist judge whose discerning intellect could always cut straight to the heart of any issue.

In 1987, Judge Steger assumed senior active status duty, but since then still

continued to handle a full docket. December 1, 2005, marked 35 years on the Federal bench for Judge Steger, and since his appointment in 1970, he had handled more than 15,000 cases.

Judge Steger received the Justinian Award May 7, 2004, at the annual Tyler Law Day luncheon for his community service, legal ethics and professionalism.

He was a Baptist, a charter member and a deacon of Green Acres Baptist Church, helping to nurse it through its early days of going from nonexistent to its current 12,000 members. He was a confidant for me, a friend and a wise sounding board.

He and Ann endured the worst heart-ache a couple can face in the loss of their only child, Reed, in a tragic scuba diving accident, but the manner in which Judge Steger dealt with such devastation and allowed his faith, God's help, and Ann's companionship to help overcome the horrendous blow will help inspire me the rest of my life.

Judge Steger was a heroic patriot; a caring father; a loving husband; an even-handed, clear-thinking, constitutionally reverent judge; a personal mentor; and a cherished friend whom I came to know through my brother 25 to 30 years ago.

Always having had the courage of his convictions despite the odds against him, Judge Steger was and is a profile in courage whose memory will continue to inspire me the rest of my life.

God bless the Stegers and God bless America.

REMEMBERING NORMANDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague from California (Mr. HUNTER), the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, to recognize that it is now the 61st year to remember Normandy, to remember that special time when the world waited and hoped that the allies, led by the United States, dominated by the United States, would free Europe, the European mainland, from the effects of fascism, the effects of allowing a petty dictator to build an Army and begin expanding his borders.

Mr. Speaker, I find it particularly appropriate that just a week ago at the Memorial Day commemoration at Mt. Soledad in San Diego where Congressman HUNTER and I both live, we were faced with the exact same situation that we see in Normandy: crosses. We were faced looking at a memorial that remembers all of our fallen heroes from previous wars that was put there because of our fallen heroes of the Korean War and now is in jeopardy of being taken away because somebody says that if it is in the shape of a cross, it must by definition be a religious statement.