

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FREDERICK COUNTY
COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY
LAWRENCE AMBROGI

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Frederick County Commonwealth's Attorney Lawrence R. Ambrogi on the occasion of his retirement after nearly four decades of public service.

It has come to my attention that Larry will not be seeking re-election in November and I want to take this opportunity to recognize his decorated career. A graduate of American University Law and Randolph Macon College, Larry was appointed as the county commonwealth attorney in 1969 and elected in 1971. As the third longest serving attorney in the history of the Commonwealth, Larry is highly respected member of the law enforcement community and has received numerous awards and recognition for his work. Larry has dedicated his professional life to public service and will be sorely missed by Frederick County and the Shenandoah Valley community as a whole.

Larry is a man of high moral character, a true Virginia gentleman, family man, and loyal friend. I would be remiss today in didn't also recognize Larry's dedication to his wife, Carole, and how proud he is of their children, Lawrence and Elaine, and their many grandchildren. I suspect that as Larry prepares for retirement he is looking forward to spending more time with his family. I ask that my colleagues in the House rise today and join with me in recognizing the outstanding career of Lawrence Ambrogi.

RECOGNIZING MATT PIERCE FOR HIS SELFLESS DECISION TO FOREGO HIS LAST FOOTBALL SEASON AT OLE MISS TO ENTER THE ARMY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Matt Pierce, a young man from Mobile, Alabama, who has made the selfless decision to forego his final football season at Ole Miss in order to be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army.

A former UMS-Wright football star, Matt was the MVP of the 2001 4A state championship game. As a child, he dreamed of playing football in the Southeastern Conference and, after walking on at Ole Miss and being redshirted his freshman year, Matt's dream came true. In just his sophomore year, he started in the game against the University of Alabama.

With his final football season just months away, Matt chose to forego his fifth season in order to join the Army and do "something important."

Madam Speaker, it is this type of story that should make us pause and give thanks to God that there are still young men like Matt Pierce. His actions personify the very best America has to offer. I feel certain his many friends and family, as well as his former teammates at UMS-Wright and Ole Miss, share the pride of a grateful Nation.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Matt Pierce and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy. We need more people like Matt Pierce in this world—a true inspiration to all Americans.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF ROBERT F. HORAN, JR.

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to the retirement of Fairfax County chief prosecutor Robert F. Horan Jr. Having served 10 terms, he is the longest serving prosecutor in the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia and one of the very best in America. His dedicated service to law enforcement in northern Virginia is without equal. I am sure the decision to step down after 40 years was extremely difficult given his dedication to public service and to the people of Fairfax County.

I have had the pleasure to call Bob my friend for many, many years. When Bob was first elected as the county's Commonwealth's attorney in 1967, he and his wife Monica made the decision to raise their family right here in northern Virginia, they have watched Fairfax County grow from a rural farm county into a bustling suburb and the most populous county in Virginia. Bob and Monica's three boys, Robert F. Horan III, Kevin, and Timothy all reside locally and are a testament to their father's fondness for the northern Virginia area.

Bob's accomplishments as chief prosecutor are legendary. He has tried and won several high profile cases including the 1993 sniper shooting at CIA headquarters as well as the Washington sniper case against Lee Boyd Malvo. Bob has received numerous awards and recognitions, and rightfully so. I have inserted for the RECORD a recent Washington Post article which details his unparalleled career.

Perhaps more important than all of his courtroom successes is the way that Bob conducts himself both inside and outside of the courtroom. Bob is a man of the highest moral character, a true Virginia gentleman, a family man, and loyal friend. Bob is a legend in the law enforcement and with Bob's retirement, an

era is truly coming to an end in Fairfax County. I suspect that as Bob prepares for retirement he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, 3 children, and grandchildren, T.J., Maggie, and Jennifer. We wish him the best and thank him for his dedicated service to the people. I ask that my colleagues in the House join with me in recognizing the outstanding career of Robert F. Horan, Jr.

[From Washington Post, Apr. 15, 2007]

AFTER 40 YEARS PROSECUTING CRIMES,
RETIREMENT IS SCARY PROSPECT

(By Tom Jackman)

It's hard to picture Robert F. Horan Jr. as a defense attorney. But there was a time, in the mid-1960s, when the man who would become Fairfax County's chief prosecutor for 40 years worked on the other side of the courtroom.

Then, in 1966, while he was representing a man charged with sexual assault, the Supreme Court ruled that suspects must be advised of their rights, a precursor to the Miranda case. Horan argued that his client's confession was illegal, a judge threw it out and the man ultimately was acquitted.

"Which kind of soured me on the system," Horan said. "For the police to have taken an honest statement from the guy, and it gets thrown out, that didn't sit well."

A year later, the chief judge of Fairfax asked him to be the commonwealth's attorney. And he has been ever since.

Last week, Horan (D) announced that he will not seek an 11th term. Horan said he will resign in late summer or early fall rather than serve out his term, clearing the way for his chief deputy, Raymond F. Morrogh (D), to run as the acting commonwealth's attorney in the November general election.

Horan agonized over his decision to step down when he would have been unopposed. He said his declining hearing has troubled him, particularly in whispered bench conferences, and he noted that he would be 75 at election time.

But still, even after he decided to retire, he was ambivalent about leaving a job he clearly loves. "I'm not totally happy with it, I concede that," he said. "My wife is happy with it."

His wife, Monica, also played a role in keeping the New Jersey native in Northern Virginia in the early 1960s, paving the way for him to become the longest-serving prosecutor in the state and an institution among prosecutors nationwide.

After Horan graduated from Georgetown's law school in 1961, he was faced with the decision of staying in the area or returning to New Jersey. But to obtain a law license in New Jersey, a six-month clerkship was required.

Horan and his wife had one child and a second on the way. "I couldn't afford to be a clerk for six months," he said. "So we stayed in Virginia and never regretted it."

Horan spent two years as a Fairfax assistant prosecutor and two years in private practice. He was appointed the county's top prosecutor in March 1967, when Ralph G. Louk stepped down. He faced opposition in 1967, 1971 and 1975 but not again until 1995. And not since.

In 1967, the county was still partly rural, with vast undeveloped stretches and some large cattle farms. "There were no stoplights

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

in Seven Corners," he recalled of the now complicated intersection near Falls Church. Horan had five assistant prosecutors that year. Today, he has 22, still a low number compared with surrounding counties.

But remarkably, "the assistants' caseloads are roughly what they were when I had five," Horan said. As the county's population exploded from about 450,000 in the late 1960s to more than a million today, the crime rate has steadily fallen. Homicides now number between 12 and 20 annually, the same as in the 1970s. Burglaries and larcenies, which totaled 24,000 in 1980, are down to about 15,000 annually.

Horan has a couple of theories. One is that older, more marginal neighborhoods such as Blevinstown, just outside Fairfax City, where local feuds tended to erupt into violence, have been bulldozed and replaced by communities of higher incomes and education. Another is that ambulance service is faster and better equipped, as are the teams in local emergency rooms. "Many more people survive gunshots now," Horan said.

One thing that hasn't changed in Horan's four decades is how he runs his office. He keeps the number of prosecutors to a minimum. He doesn't share police reports, witness statements or witness lists with defense attorneys. And he's not afraid to make tough decisions.

"His office could use many more assistant prosecutors," said Robert C. Whitestone, an experienced Fairfax defense attorney. He said the low number of prosecutors sometimes keeps them too busy and pushes them into courtrooms unprepared. Loudoun County, with a population about one-fourth of Fairfax's, has 16 assistant prosecutors.

Horan said the state Compensation Board determines how many are allocated across the state and sets a starting salary of about \$43,000, which Fairfax supplements to about \$50,000. "Virginia does criminal prosecution on the cheap," Horan said.

He said that when he first took office, "it had become trendy to have your own investigators. I said I don't believe that's the way to do it," and he hasn't. Instead, he relies on Fairfax police.

The officers closely follow Horan's lead, guarding their information more tightly than virtually any other police department in the region, because Horan has insisted they not provide defense attorneys with any ammunition. Those who violate his instructions are prone to severe tongue-lashings.

Horan said the county police force has maintained high standards and excellent performance throughout his tenure. "The Washington Post always wants to criticize me because I've never charged an officer with murder," Horan said. "I'm proud of the fact they haven't been charged. It means they're doing their jobs."

In recent years, pickets stood outside the Fairfax courthouse to protest Horan's decision not to charge a Prince George's County officer with a fatal shooting, and the family of a slain Fairfax man denounced Horan's refusal to charge a Fairfax officer with his death. But it's nothing new to Horan.

He cited controversial cases dating to the early 1970s, when an officer fatally shot a man in a 7-Eleven in Herndon, sparking riots, and another when an officer killed a teenage burglar. In both, there were no charges, to loud complaints by some. "It's part of the job," he said with a shrug.

Another part of the job is successfully taking on a case when the county, or the world, is watching. No one has questioned his skill there, even defense attorneys.

"He's a brilliant prosecutor," Whitestone said. Said defense attorney Peter D. Greenspun: "My clients will be glad he's not around to prosecute them."

U.S. Attorney General John D. Ashcroft chose Horan to prosecute one of the first sniper cases, against Lee Boyd Malvo, and Horan brought home a capital murder conviction without any witnesses identifying the shooter, although the jury did not impose the death sentence. In 1997, he obtained a death sentence against Mir Aimal Kasi, who killed two people outside the CIA in 1993.

Horan said his most satisfying case was the prosecution of Caleb D. Hughes for abducting 5-year-old Melissa Brannen in 1989. Hughes was convicted of abduction with intent to defile; Melissa has not been found.

"That was a really tough case to try," Horan said. "It stayed with me for a lot of years."

Of those that have not been solved, the one that bothers him the most is the death of Gwen Ames, 17, who was found strangled near Lake Anne Plaza in Reston in 1972.

Horan noted some interesting changes in the courts over 40 years. The arrival of *Miranda v. Arizona*, the Supreme Court ruling requiring police to inform suspects of their rights, changed the tenor of pretrial complaints from police beatings to police failure to "Mirandize."

And the introduction of sentencing guidelines, giving defendants a better idea of how much jail time they might face, has reduced the amount of cases that go to trial to perhaps 10 percent, Horan said.

Horan reduced his own caseload from about 20 a year, mostly homicides that he often began working on the day they occurred, to three or four annually. In recent years, with the increase in guilty pleas, he had no trials.

But he clearly still loves the courtroom. He will handle the double-murder death penalty trial of Alfredo R. Prieto, set for late May.

He's leaving reluctantly. "My only fear is I've known guys who loved what they were doing," Horan said. "They hung it up and they were dead in a year."

He loves playing golf; he drives a Mercedes-Benz 240 sedan he won in a charity event in 2002 when he nailed a hole-in-one. But he doesn't think golf can fill his time, and "there's not a job in the world as interesting as this one."

"I haven't even given any thought to what's next," Horan said. "I'm sure I'll find something to do."

HONORING LINDA R. HALL

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Linda R. Hall, in celebration of her 20th anniversary with the Baltimore City College High School Choir.

Linda Hall, a native of Baltimore, MD, has taught music education in the Baltimore Public School System since 1976. She assumed the position of choral director at the Baltimore City College High School in Baltimore in 1987. She is the artistic director for the school's four choirs: the Mixed Chorus, the Concert Choir, the Singing/Swingin' Knights, and the Knights and Daze Show Choir.

Under Ms. Hall's direction, the City College choirs have delighted audiences throughout Europe: in Verona, Italy at the International Choral Music Days Festival, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Milan, Italy, as well as other performances in Rome,

Spain, and France. The choirs perform extensively along the eastern seaboard of the United States, competing and performing in numerous festivals. The choirs have consistently won superior ratings, awards and trophies for their performances. Early in 2007, the choirs were used in the promotional package and on the Web site for the Disney Honors Program.

Among the many awards Ms. Hall has received are the Shenandoah University Alumnae of Excellence Award, the Excellence Merit Achievement Initiative for Maryland's Minority Students Award, the Baltimore City Council's Teacher of the Year Award, and the Outstanding Teacher Award from Baltimore City College. Her greatest reward she says, "comes from working with students who have a passion for singing and a talent waiting to be developed."

Linda Hall has served as minister of music and guest conductor for many churches and choirs including the Baltimore County Honors Choir, the Prince Georges County Honors Choir, and in the summer of 2005, the American Choral Directors Association Voices United Summer Conference Festival Chorus.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Ms. Linda R. Hall. She is an outstanding and dedicated member of the faculty at Baltimore City College High School. She has shown a unique and committed work ethic in teaching young people in choral arts education for over 30 years. It is with great pride that I congratulate Linda Hall on her 20th Anniversary as Choral Director at Baltimore City College High School.

RECOGNIZING HARLEM UPTOWN RENAISSANCE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEW HARLEM RENAISSANCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an article, "Harlem's Uptown Renaissance Experience," published April 3, 2007, by the CaribNews. The article, written by Robert Rodney, celebrates the Uptown Restaurant's contribution to the new Harlem Renaissance.

During the Harlem Renaissance, also known as the New Negro Movement, African American art, literature, music, and culture came to the fore. Beginning sometime around 1919, depending on which historian you reference, and ending in the mid 1930s, the Harlem Renaissance was a time for celebrating all things black. Harlem, the community, provided all those who visited, with pulsating excitement and unparalleled liveliness while cultural productions by African Americans gained world wide attention while redefining blackness.

In addition to the contributions of literary heroes like Zora Neale Hurston, Countee Cullen, and Langston Hughes; artistic achievements of masters like Romare Bearden, Aaron Douglass, and William H. Johnson; intellectuals and visionaries like James Weldon Johnson, Marcus Garvey, and Jessie Fauset, the cultural production of food, typically associated with African people throughout the Diaspora, was also celebrated during the Harlem Renaissance.