

TRIBUTE TO BOB MORRISON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to an old friend and long-time public servant, Hugh Robert "Bob" Morrison, who served as the elected Treasurer of the City of Falls Church, Virginia from 1993–2006. In the cause of full disclosure, Bob was also the Treasurer of my election campaign. Bob was the epitome of a public citizen, a husband and father who served his community in public office, but also helped to create his and our community of Falls Church through his professional and volunteer services and commitments—despite multiple battles with cancer to which he finally succumbed this week.

One of the attributes of this remarkable leader was how he used the skills he learned in his youth and his service to our country to benefit our community in Northern Virginia.

In his freshman year in high school, Bob took a course in printing. He gained a skill that he applied throughout his life and made him instrumental in the planning and establishment of the Falls Church News-Press in 1991. Bob worked closely with editor and owner Nicholas F. Benton to create the first successful newspaper to serve Falls Church. Similarly, it was about this time that he discovered photography, a passion that never left him, but has surely enriched all the rest of us.

In 1961, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army. After training, he was assigned to a NATO support base in Fontainebleau, France, where his duties included post photographer. It was in France that Bob met a fellow American whom he married; they had a son before they divorced.

After his honorable discharge in 1964, Bob moved to this region, Takoma Park in Washington, D.C., where he enrolled at Howard University and, to help support his child and pay his tuition, answered an ad in The Washington Post for a night job as a page layout technician with the National Geographic Society—a position where he worked full time from 5 p.m. until 1:30 a.m. in page layout then as proofreader for five years, going to classes during the day.

He graduated from Howard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in English and minoring in philosophy, in June of 1969. Armed with his degree, he successfully applied to an opening as a writer for National Geographic. Bob's first byline came two years later with an essay on the urban environment for an ecology book. It was followed by seven more National Geographic books for which Bob was a contributing author. He also co-authored America's Atlantic Isles. His assignments took him to the Caribbean, several European countries, and 48 states. (He missed Alaska and South Dakota, which he later visited.)

Bob's achievements and tenacity were recognized with his name on the National Geographic Society's masthead. He was said to have been one of the youngest ever to achieve such an honor. He also served as managing editor for Educational Filmstrips, edited the questions for the first National Geography Bee, and brought the first IBM-PCs

and Macs to National Geographic word processing, layout, and other editorial uses.

In 1971 Morrison sold a photo to the Society that ran as a full page in a book. He decided to use the unexpected windfall toward buying a kilt and looked for places to wear it, so happening onto Scottish Country Dancing. That soon became a hobby, with lasting consequences. It was through this new hobby that he met Meredith. Their friendship deepened, and they were married in 1979.

Bob and Meredith went from country Scottish dancing to foster parenting training, after which they began providing temporary care for infants. In 1988 a little rascal arrived who grabbed their hearts, and they adopted Justin in 1991. Justin needed a sister. Elizabeth was a bundle of joy with a will of iron, and she was adopted in 1992. One of the great blessings that came from their adoption was being led to Galloway United Methodist Church, where Morrison served on the Finance Committee for many years and learned the skills that made him such a successful public elected official later on. Bob also became active with Falls Church Community TV, in recognition of which he was appointed to the Board of Directors of The Falls Church Cable Access Corporation and served there for 19 years.

All these activities whetted his interest in serving in public office. He had been active in Democratic politics and began to look for an entry to public service. He defeated three other candidates in his first campaign, and he was unopposed in the next three—so appreciated was his service.

He continued his longtime hobby of photography after he retired from the Treasurer's Office in 2006, taking the time to take thousands of pictures in his community. He especially enjoyed shooting sports; his Web site has more than 10,000 pictures of George Mason High School activities, mostly of football and basketball. He served as an official photographer for The National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, the Capital Fringe Festival, and the DC Divas. Some of these jobs came from friends made at TIVA, an area association of independent video and film professionals, where he served on the Board of Directors for several years. He volunteered often at DC Central Kitchen, photographing their Capital Food Fight, and received their Volunteer of the Year award in 2005. Morrison was especially proud of his contributions to their cookbook, Feeding the Soul of the City. He also worked as a publicity agent and set photographer. After he finished photography on Come What May, the producer asked him to play the role of a retired Supreme Court Justice, for which he received his first and only screen acting credits.

In 2006, he was diagnosed with colon cancer, which prompted his retirement as Falls Church's Treasurer and this week took him from us. But he has left a legacy which, like his tens of thousands of photographs, will keep him in our hearts forever. His multiple talents and convictions made him a servant to the people of our region, and he left us all richer for many, many contributions.

HONORING LAURA COHEN
APELBAUM**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend my constituent Laura Cohen Apelbaum on her 15 outstanding years as Executive Director of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington.

Laura's leadership, creativity and vision have profoundly benefitted the Jewish Historical Society. Under her guidance, the organization has grown in numerous ways, from the size of its staff and facilities to the breadth of its educational programming, to the resources of its extraordinary archive—making it the premier source in our region for Washington Jewish history.

Laura has a passion that distinguished her among her colleagues early on in her career. Within a short time of assuming her position with the Jewish Historical Society, she became President of the Council of American Jewish Museums—the first national President of this Council to come from an institution of such limited size and resources.

In addition to leading the growth and success of the Jewish Historical Society, Laura championed the preservation campaign of the historic synagogue at 6th & I Streets, N.W. The synagogue's restoration has enabled the Society to complete a Historic Structures Report and an Interpretive Plan to implement a permanent installation in the synagogue. Laura also guided the development of the award-winning exhibition and companion guide Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community. This work, and the 22 other exhibitions developed under her tenure, have reawakened pride in our community's past and provided countless individuals in our area and across the country with a new and deeper understanding of Jewish life throughout the centuries in Washington.

Laura's commitment to the Jewish community goes beyond activities in the Washington, D.C. area. In 2006 she worked with Congress to establish the first Jewish American Heritage Month to acknowledge the contributions of Jewish Americans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Laura Cohen Apelbaum for her 15 years of accomplishments. My appreciation extends as well to her husband, Perry Apelbaum, to her children Benji and Sara, and to her parents, Faye and Sheldon Cohen. I am proud to represent Laura and her family in the U.S. Congress and am honored to extend my congratulations and appreciation to her today.

CONGRATULATING AND THANKING
APPALACHIAN CHRISTIAN VIL-
LAGE IN JOHNSON CITY TEN-
NESSEE**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank Appalachian Christian Village for 55 years of excellence and care. As the first retirement community in Johnson City, I applaud all the amazing

things they've accomplished throughout these very special years.

Life at the communities of Appalachian Christian Village offers exceptional opportunities for new experiences, new friendships, and a new way of life.

Madam Speaker, this community has become one of the most favorable places to retire in the country in terms of the crime rate, cost-of-living, and access to excellent medical services, among other components.

I am so thankful to have this wonderful community in Washington County. Their presence is a tremendous contribution. I wish all of those at Appalachian Christian Village another successful 55 years.

I am proud to represent all at Appalachian Christian Village in Congress, and I will continue to protect the values of the constituency while I am in office.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I regretfully missed the following rollcall votes on July 13–16, 2009 due to a prior family commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall votes 533, 534, 535, 536, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, and “nay” on rollcall votes 530, 531, 532, & 537.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, this afternoon I had to miss rollcall votes on account of a dinner that I was attending in honor of a long-time friend, Dr. Norm Mayer. Dr. Mayer is the former Emergency Room Director for the Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is unfortunately battling Lou Gehrig's disease (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), and tonight's dinner is in honor of Dr. Mayer and his relentless battle against this debilitating disease. In addition, the dinner will also raise funds to help others in the Greensboro area, who are also battling against Lou Gehrig's disease.

WILKESON CENTENNIAL

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the City of Wilkeson, Washington, for reaching its centennial year in 2009.

Wilkeson is located on the timber-lined Carbon River at the doorstep of Mount Rainier. This small town of 450 residents has a rich economic history in timber and sandstone mining. In fact, the sandstone used to build the

Washington State Capitol came from Wilkeson. Samuel Wilkeson, a railroad pioneer and the City's namesake, called the forests of Mount Rainier and the Cascade Mountains the “most enchanting forests on the globe.” Most tellingly, the City's rich history is still visible: five properties in Wilkeson can be found on Washington's historical register. Mayor Janet Kepka should be proud of the City she leads.

I am proud to represent such a community and sincerely congratulate the City of Wilkeson on this tremendous achievement.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3170) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3170, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for 2010. This bill passed the House of Representatives on July 16, 2009, over my objection, by a vote of 219–208.

I opposed H.R. 3170 because the bill adopts the Obama Administration's proposal to allow publically funded abortion in the District of Columbia. The “Dornan Amendment,” which has been included annually in this appropriations bill since 1996, prevents the use of any congressionally appropriated funds for elective abortions in the District. H.R. 3170 repeals this prohibition and replaces it with a meaningless watered-down restriction that applies only to funds specifically contributed for “federal” program purposes. Because “federal” and “local” funds are commingled in the District, separating them is a mere book-keeping exercise. By simply designating the funds that pay for abortions as “local” funds, D.C. will be able to fund abortion on demand.

Stripping the Dornan Amendment from financial services appropriations bill is unacceptable. Our nation's capital already has one of the highest abortion rates in the country. Removing the Dornan Amendment from the bill will certainly increase those numbers, especially among teenagers.

President Obama has repeatedly vowed that his goal is to reduce the number of abortions in our country. I question how providing taxpayer funding for abortions will somehow reduce the number of abortions. More than 40% of all pregnancies in the District already end in abortion. Even the Guttmacher Institute, an organization founded by a division of Planned Parenthood, reports that when public funding is not available, 30% fewer women in the covered population have abortions. This means that 30% of babies whose mothers receive government subsidized health care survive because of abortion funding restrictions. No administration or lawmaker can support this policy change and still claim to support reducing abortions.

Washington, D.C. has a troubled history when it comes to abortion funding. In the

1980s, when D.C. funded abortion, the District had one of the most permissive policies in the nation. A full D.C. abortion funding ban was enacted in 1989. In 1994, when the funding ban was lifted, D.C. took \$1 million away from the Medical Charities fund, which was created to help AIDS patients, to instead pay for abortion. Then, the District needed additional funds to make up for the funds lost to abortion. After that, when the abortion funding ban was reinstated in 1996, the city continued to fund abortions in violation of the law for two more years.

Including the Dornan Amendment in the Financial Services appropriations bill is a logical means to help reduce abortions, a common cause of both the Republican and Democratic parties, and protect our most vulnerable citizens. Directing taxpayer dollars to fund abortions is a clear violation of many Americans' deeply held beliefs and is simply bad public policy. For this reason, I stand in opposition to H.R. 3170.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL PARENTS CORPS ACT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am proud to reintroduce the National Parents Corps Act of 2009. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community to protect a family.

Unfortunately today, American families in every corner of our country are working harder and longer hours to just make ends meet. They labor frantically to keep food on the table, gas in the tank, and a roof over their heads. As you can imagine the troubled economy makes it especially hard for parents to fully shepherd their children through those critical formative years. Study after study shows how vulnerable pre-teen and teenage young people are to developing life-long, harmful behaviors such as smoking and drug abuse.

The National Parents Corps Act of 2009 helps address this problem, by providing parents with the resources necessary to organize and protect their children in unique but proven methods. This legislation will create a national network of parent leaders who will educate and mobilize other parents in their children's schools. These full-time, professional parents will serve as liaisons between teachers, parents, and administrators to build much-needed safety nets among police, social workers and community based organizations in schools across our country.

The program has proven successful in both identifying and preventing dangerous behaviors and trends among their middle and high school children. Thousands of parents were recruited, and their collective efforts resulted in significant decreases in criminal activity, dropouts, and disciplinary problems in their schools and communities.

Madam Speaker, we must adapt our methods to better address the challenges facing American families. This legislation is a common-sense, modern way of building families and communities to support our most vital assets—our youth. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the National Parents Corps Act of 2009. It is an investment in the core of our society.