

Stark; Cecil O. Swanson; Earl G. Thompson; Stanley A. Thompson, Jr.; Clyde A. Voigt; Bernard J. Warchol; William K. Watson; William J. Weldon; Fred Wolf; Myron Wolff; Donald R. Zirzow.

BOBBY ROBERTS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bobby Roberts for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Bobby Roberts is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Bobby Roberts is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Bobby Roberts for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

H.R. 4483, THE "BROADENING PARTICIPATION IN STEM EDUCATION ACT"

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 4483, the "Broadening Participation in STEM Education Act." This bill aims to increase the number of students from underrepresented minority groups who receive undergraduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, disciplines. It also seeks to increase the number of STEM faculty members from underrepresented minority groups at institutions of higher education.

The U.S. faces a severe shortfall in students graduating with degrees in STEM fields. With approximately 20 percent of our undergraduate degrees awarded in science and engineering disciplines, we rank 27th among developed nations in producing graduates qualified for 21st Century STEM careers. Statistics become even more alarming when you look at the number of students from underrepresented minority groups who receive degrees in STEM disciplines. As of 2011, only about 8 percent of 24 years-olds from these groups had obtained a bachelor's degree in a science or engineering discipline.

This is more than just a question of equity. We have a vast, untapped pool of talent in America, and this pool is continuing to grow. It is estimated that, by 2050, 52 percent of the U.S. population will be from underrepresented minority groups. We have to drastically increase the number of students from these

groups receiving degrees in STEM disciplines or we will undoubtedly relinquish our global leadership in innovation and job creation.

There are many reasons why the number of underrepresented minority students receiving degrees in STEM fields is so appallingly low. It starts at the K-12 level, where too many of our teachers are not well prepared to teach math and science and too many of our schools lack even basic science laboratory equipment. But even those minority students who enter college intending to major in a STEM discipline abandon science and engineering for other fields at a much higher rate than their peers. These young people are smart and motivated and small steps such as improved mentorship and increased access to research experiences have proven to keep students from all backgrounds on track to complete their STEM degrees.

Statistics are equally troubling when it comes to underrepresented minorities and their pursuit of academic careers in STEM disciplines. Underrepresented minorities currently make up about 29 percent of the U.S. population, but only about 8 percent of tenure-track science and engineering faculty members at universities and four-year colleges. Less than one percent of tenure-track science and engineering faculty members at the nation's top 100 research universities are from underrepresented groups. One consequence of having such a low number of minority faculty, among other things, is that they are called on much more frequently than their peers to serve on commissions, committees, and the like as a way of showing that a college or university is committed to diversity in their administrative procedures. As a result, minority faculty have less time to conduct research, publish papers, mentor students, and do other work that is required for them to achieve tenure status and otherwise thrive in their research careers. More fundamentally, the low number of minority faculty is another indicator of the untapped potential that we have in the STEM disciplines.

Passing the "Broadening Participation in STEM Education Act" will help address both of these issues. By authorizing the Director of NSF to award grants to colleges and universities that want to implement or expand innovative, research-based approaches to recruit and retain students from underrepresented minority groups, we will take a necessary step toward increasing the number of students from these groups who successfully complete undergraduate degrees in STEM fields. Similarly, by making grants available to colleges and universities to allow them to make an effort to increase the number of faculty members from underrepresented minority groups, we will take a necessary step toward achieving equality at our institutions of higher education. These are admittedly small steps toward maintaining American leadership in innovation, but they are necessary and achievable steps and we need to act now. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H.R. 4483.

A LIFE WELL LIVED

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chuck Colson who this past Satur-

day, "slipped the surly bonds of earth" to "touch the face of God." I also submit for the RECORD his official obituary.

Chuck's family has lost a husband, father and grandfather. Many of us have lost a dear friend and brother. And, the Nation has lost a compelling, often-times prophetic voice with a winsome ability to speak truth with grace about some of the most challenging issues of the day.

Chuck's political instincts gave him a keen ability to effectively communicate with policymakers and politicians alike about matters of utmost import that are rarely given their due in the halls of Congress or the White House.

Chuck's personal journey, marked by redemption and grace, gave him a heart beyond pale for the prisoner, the down-trodden, and the forgotten among us.

Chuck's faith defined him—and inspired countless others.

He possessed a passion for shaping the next generation of leaders, for equipping them with the tools to articulate and defend a Christian worldview in the public square. This is among his greatest legacies.

In short, we have lost a giant.

As we mourn his loss, we take comfort in knowing that the heavens rejoice and Chuck is most assuredly hearing the words, "well done, good and faithful servant."

CHUCK COLSON, FOUNDER OF PRISON FELLOWSHIP & COLSON CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW, DIES AT AGE 80

LANSLOWNE, VA., April 21, 2012.—Evangelical Christianity lost one of its most eloquent and influential voices today with the death of Charles W. "Chuck" Colson. The Prison Fellowship and Colson Center for Christian Worldview founder died at 3:12 p.m. ET today at the age of 80. After a brief illness, Colson passed away at a Northern Virginia hospital with his wife, Patty, and family at his bedside.

On March 30, Colson became ill while speaking at a Colson Center for Christian Worldview conference in Lansdowne. The following morning he had surgery to remove a pool of clotted blood on the surface of his brain, and doctors determined he had suffered an intracerebral hemorrhage. Though Colson remained in intensive care, doctors and family were optimistic for a recovery as he showed some signs of improvement. However, Tuesday (April 17) Colson became gravely ill when further complications developed.

A Watergate figure who emerged from the country's worst political scandal, a vocal Christian leader and a champion for prison ministry, Colson spent the last years of his life in the dual role of leading Prison Fellowship, the world's largest outreach to prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families, and the Colson Center, a research and training center focused on Christian worldview teaching.

Colson has been a central figure in the evangelical Christian community since he shocked the Washington establishment in 1973 by revealing his new Christian commitment in the midst of the Watergate inquiry. In later years Colson would say that because he was known primarily as Nixon's "Hatchet Man," the declaration that "I've been born again and given my life to Jesus Christ" kept the political cartoonists of America clothed and fed for a solid month." It also gave new visibility to the emerging movement of "born-again" Christians.

PUT PRISON MINISTRY ON THE CHURCH'S
AGENDA

In 1974 Colson entered a plea of guilty to Watergate-related charges; although not implicated in the Watergate burglary, he voluntarily pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice in the Daniel Ellsberg Case, which was prosecuted in the acutely sensitive Watergate atmosphere. He entered Maxwell Federal Prison Camp in Alabama in 1974 as a new Christian and as the first member of the Nixon administration to be incarcerated for Watergate-related charges. He served seven months of a one- to three-year sentence.

Colson emerged from prison with a new mission: mobilizing the Christian Church to minister to prisoners. He founded Prison Fellowship in 1976; this would become perhaps his greatest contribution to the Church and the world. Although many local churches had ministered in nearby prisons for many years, most observers would affirm that Colson and Prison Fellowship truly put prison ministry on the agenda of the church in a substantial way.

Colson's personal prison experience and his frequent ministry visits to prisons also developed in him new concerns about the efficacy of the American criminal justice system. His founding of Justice Fellowship in 1983 helped make Colson one of the nation's most influential voices for criminal justice reform. His call for alternative punishments for non-violent offenders was often effective because Colson's conservative credentials enabled him to line up conservative legislators in support of what had traditionally been seen as a liberal set of reforms.

That passion and sense of obligation to God's calling and to his fellow inmates took Colson into prisons several times a year. He visited some 600 prisons in the U.S. and 40 other countries, and built a movement that at one time extended to more than 50,000 prison ministry volunteers. Often, particularly in the early days of Prison Fellowship, he was vocal in his disgust over the terrible conditions in the prisons and the need for more humane conditions and better access to religious programs.

Colson's advocacy for prisoners' religious rights took an additional form in the late 1990s when he and Justice Fellowship were at the forefront, lobbying legislators to support the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), both nationally and state by state. Colson's and Justice Fellowship's work to bring an end to the national scourge and shame of prison rape culminated with the passage of the Prison Rape Elimination Act in 2003.

His 1987 book, *Kingdoms in Conflict*, was a best-selling directive to the Christian community on the proper relationships of church and state, and it positioned Colson as a centrist evangelical voice for balanced Christian political activism. Although not as visible as others in the frontline battles, Colson provided counsel to many of the most-evident activists and had a strong influence on Christian politicians who went to Washington in the 80s, 90s and into the new millennium.

RECIPIENT OF THE TEMPLETON PRIZE

In recognition of his work among prisoners, Colson received the prestigious Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion in 1993, donating the \$1 million prize to Prison Fellowship. In perhaps his most-eloquent and well-known speech, *The Enduring Revolution*, given at acceptance ceremonies at the University of Chicago, Colson encouraged the Church in the face of troubling times:

"For history's cadence is called with a confident voice. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob reigns. His plan and purpose rob the

future of its fears. By the cross He offers hope, by the resurrection He assures His triumph. This cannot be resisted or delayed. Mankind's only choice is to recognize Him now or in the moment of ultimate judgment. Our only decision is to welcome His rule or to fear it."

Colson's other awards included the Presidential Citizens Medal (2008, the second-highest U.S. civilian honor), Humanitarian Award from Domino's Pizza Corporation (1991), The Others Award from the Salvation Army (1990), several honorary doctorates from various colleges and universities (1982–1995), and Outstanding Young Man of Boston from the Chamber of Commerce (1960).

Recognized as a champion for historic orthodoxy, Colson ignited a controversy in the Protestant world in the mid-1990s with his initiative to declare common ground with conservative Roman Catholics in two documents called *Evangelicals and Catholics Together*.

PROVIDED INTELLECTUAL SUPPORT TO MODERN
EVANGELICALISM

The evangelical-Catholic issue was just one in which Colson brought intellectual vitality to popular Evangelicalism in the last three decades. Many considered him a prophetic voice for the evangelical community, and, perhaps, an intellectual successor to theologian/sociologist Francis Schaeffer. Perhaps in open recognition of that legacy, his magnum opus was titled *How Now Shall We Live?* after Schaeffer's *How Then Shall We Live?*

In all, Colson wrote more than 30 books, which have sold more than five million copies. His autobiographical book, *Born Again*, was one of the nation's best-selling books of all kinds in 1976 and was made into a feature-length film. His last book, *The Faith*, is a powerful appeal to the Church to re-embrace the foundational truths of Christianity.

Colson was one of the Christian community's most sought-after speakers, but he resolutely refused to establish a speaker's fee. Colson donated all speaking honoraria and book royalties to the ministry and accepted the salary of a mid-range ministry executive.

In 1991 Colson launched BreakPoint, a unique radio commentary that provides a Christian perspective on today's news and trends. BreakPoint was aired weekdays on some 1,400 outlets nationwide with an audience of 8 million listeners. But his heart was ever with the prisoner. He clearly never forgot the promise he'd made to his fellow inmates during his brief stay in prison that he would never forget those behind bars.

In his later years, Colson focused full time on developing other Christian leaders who could influence the culture and their communities through their faith. The capstone of this effort was The Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview, a research and training center launched in 2009 for the promotion of Christian worldview teaching. In addition to a vast library of worldview materials, the Colson Center provides online courses and serves as a catalyst for a growing movement of Christian organizations dedicated to impacting the culture.

In 2009, Colson was a principal writer of the Manhattan Declaration, which calls on Christians to defend the sanctity of human life, traditional marriage and religious freedom. More than half a million people have signed the Manhattan Declaration. Collaborating with other Christian leaders, Colson aimed to launch other ecumenical grassroots movements around moral and ethical issues of great concern.

Colson was born in Boston in 1931 and received a scholarship to Brown University and went on to earn his law degree at George

Washington University in Washington. He served in the Marine Corps from 1953–1955, becoming what was at the time its youngest captain. He began his political career in 1956, when he was the youngest administrative assistant in the Senate, working for Massachusetts Senator Leverett Saltonstall.

Although God worked through Colson to encourage Christians around the world and serve many whom society would often neglect, his greatest love and focus were his family. Colson is survived by his wife of 48 years, Patty; three children, Wendell, Christian and Emily; and five grandchildren.

AUSTIN CLARK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Austin Clark for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Austin Clark is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Austin Clark is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Austin Clark for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE VALENTINES FOR
TROOPS PROGRAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students and adults involved in the Valentines for Troops program in Connecticut and around the nation. The students involved in this program wrote over 4,000 letters for our servicemembers this year.

This program seeks to give thanks to the most deserving among us, the men and women of our Armed Forces. Donna Monteleone Randle, a former captain in the Army Signal Corps, serves as the chairperson of Valentines for Troops in Newtown, Connecticut and helps the organization send letters from the students to the servicemembers overseas.

The participants in the Valentines for Troops program are doing a fabulous job of showing their support and admiration to those who need it the most.

This program was started by a second grade student at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2006. That first year there were 50 letters written by students at the school, and since then the popularity of the program has increased tremendously. Schools and organizations from