

Kentucky for many years, Ms. Phyllis Causey. After nearly 2 decades working for the Representative from Kentucky's 2nd Congressional District—first Congressman Ron Lewis, then Congressman BRETT GUTHRIE—she has chosen to embark on a well-earned retirement.

As a field representative for Congressmen GUTHRIE and Lewis, she has made a huge impact on the lives of countless Kentuckians. Her dedication and hard work has set a standard for all who enter public service. She made many friends across the Commonwealth in her 18 years as a House staffer, and I am proud to be one of them.

Phyllis graduated from Hopkinsville Community College in 1970 and earned her bachelor's degree at Western Kentucky University in 1972. She also worked for Western Kentucky University for 23 years.

Before going to work for Kentucky's Second District, Phyllis was the vice chairwoman of the Warren County Republican Party. It was in that capacity she met Ron Lewis, who was exploring a run for Congress. A lot of people did not give Ron much of a chance at the time—after all, the previous holder of that district's Congressional seat, a Democrat, had held it for almost 40 years.

Well, Ron Lewis surprised a lot of people when he won that race. After winning, one of his first decisions—one of his best decisions—was to hire Phyllis Causey. And one of BRETT's best decisions was to retain her.

In her retirement, Phyllis has said she hopes to be able to spend more time with her husband, Larry, and also care for her mother. As so many people have stepped forward to wish her well upon the news of her retirement, Phyllis has humbly said, "All I can hope is that I have made a difference."

I certainly think it is safe to say she has. I value her friendship and wish her the best in her future endeavors. I know my colleagues in the U.S. Senate join me in honoring Ms. Phyllis Causey upon her retirement and thanking her for her many years spent in public service.

The Bowling Green, Kentucky-area publication *The Daily News* recently published an article highlighting Phyllis Causey's life and career. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From *The Daily News*, Jan. 14, 2012]

CAUSEY IS HAILED AS PUBLIC SERVANT; GUTHRIE AIDE RETIRING AT THE END OF JANUARY

(By Andrew Robinson)

When U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie, R-Bowling Green, was campaigning for Congress in 2008, he was frequently posed a question. But it wasn't about his views on taxes, federal spending or social issues.

"Are you going to keep Phyllis Causey?" people often asked Guthrie.

Guthrie did in fact keep Causey, who served as his field representative for the past three years. But Causey said goodbye Friday,

retiring after 18 years of work with congressmen in Kentucky's 2nd Congressional District.

Causey, who worked for former U.S. Rep. Ron Lewis before joining Guthrie's office, officially retires at the end of January.

In a reception at the Warren County Justice Center, Causey thanked co-workers, friends and families for their support over the years.

"I have mixed emotions," Causey said. "I've been crying a lot, as a matter of fact. It's very nice that people are stopping by."

She said she'll remember the friends she has made.

"And, of course, working for a great guy like (Guthrie) and the previous congressman is a blessing," Causey said.

In December, Guthrie spoke for a few minutes about Causey's service on the floor of the U.S. House, a moment that was entered into the Congressional Record.

"She has been such an inspiration to me," Guthrie said on the floor. "She has always been devoted to the causes she believes in—church, family and friends. Phyllis is an incredible wife, daughter, sister and mother. I know her family, especially her husband Larry, will be happy to have her around more often."

The moment caught Causey by surprise.

"I did not know that was happening until the day before," Causey said. "I'm overwhelmed and honored that he would want to do that."

Of course, Guthrie and Lewis had nothing but good things to say about Causey.

"I used to tell her, and she thought I was kidding, but I used to say, 'Phyllis, don't run against me, you'll beat me hands down,'" Lewis said. "In the counties that Phyllis serves, the people love her. She's never met a stranger. Everywhere you go, they know Phyllis Causey."

Lewis met Causey in 1993. She was working as the vice chairwoman of the Warren County Republican Party and Lewis was trying to gauge his support in Warren County when he ran for Congress.

Lewis was invited by Causey to several events in Warren County.

"She became one of my first supporters in Warren County," Lewis said. "She told me all the key people to talk to."

Such stories are endless, Lewis said.

"A lot of people who are very political have trouble turning that into public service," Guthrie said. "And what's amazing about her, as hard-core of a Republican she is, she served everybody."

Causey plans to spend more time with her husband, as well as be a full-time caregiver for her mother. Mark Lord, who is serving as Guthrie's district director, will step up to serve Warren and Barren counties as field representative.

"She just has a great personality, loves people, loves her job—and talk about a true public servant," Lewis said. "Phyllis is a public servant. I'm sad she's retiring because people love her."

TRIBUTE TO KEN HARVEY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a distinguished Kentuckian who has worked tirelessly and selflessly in public service for over 25 years. I am sad to report to my colleagues today that Mr. Ken Harvey, the longest serving tourism director for any county in the Commonwealth, is retiring today.

Ken has worked since 1986 as the executive director of the London-Laurel County Tourist Commission in south-

eastern Kentucky. During his tenure, tourism growth in the area has tripled, the number of motels in the area has more than doubled, and the number of restaurants has doubled. Ken's coworkers, friends, and neighbors know that such a feat would not have been possible without Ken's endless energy and enthusiasm in his work.

When Ken moved to London, KY, with his wife Cheryl many years ago, he was working for Kmart and was sent to Kentucky for a temporary assignment. But, in Ken's own words, London "just felt like home." It is to the rest of the town and county's benefit that Ken and Cheryl decided to put down roots and make London their home.

In addition to his long tenure as executive director of the London-Laurel County Tourist Commission, Ken keeps busy with many other pursuits. He is a longtime board member of the Southern/Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association and has served as that organization's president. He has been a board member of the Kentucky Tourism Council Federation and served that group for several terms as chairman or vice chairman. He has served with the Kentucky Festival Association and the Kentucky Main Street Board. Ken is also an avid historian who has volunteered for the Kentucky Civil War Trail and helped coordinate Civil War reenactments.

Ken is also a member of the Optimist Club, the Laurel County Rotary Club, and a Leadership Tri-County graduate. He was named Laurel County Man of the Year by the News Leader in 1990. And I would certainly be remiss if I did not mention what many believe to be Ken's greatest achievement as tourism director—for many years he has been the driving force behind the World Chicken Festival.

The World Chicken Festival brings over 200,000 visitors to Kentucky each year for what has become one of the top 10 festivals in the Southeastern United States. It offers entertainment, talent shows, art exhibits, carnival rides, and of course food—particularly chicken. It has been noted for exhibiting the world's largest stainless steel skillet. Lasting 4 days, taking up 10 square blocks, and free to visitors, I am sure my colleagues will understand when I say that under Ken's leadership, the World Chicken Festival is one of Kentucky's most "egg-citing" events.

Ken's retirement will be Kentucky's loss but certainly his family's gain. I understand he is looking forward to spending more time with his 6-year-old grandson. On behalf of the people of London, Laurel County, and all of Kentucky, I want to thank Mr. Ken Harvey for his many years of service. He will be missed, and I certainly wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

Mr. President, a recent article printed in the Laurel County area publication the *Sentinel Echo* highlighted Mr. Ken Harvey's many achievements. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel Echo, Nov. 28, 2011]
HARVEY TO RETIRE
LONGEST-SERVING TOURISM DIRECTOR IN
STATE
(By Nita Johnson)

LAUREL COUNTY, KY.—What began as a year's assignment in 1982 evolved into the longest-running term of a tourism commissioner in the state.

Ken Harvey, executive director of the London-Laurel Tourist Commission, announced his plans to retire on Feb. 1, after serving in that capacity for 26 years.

He has seen much growth during his tenure with the tourist commission, with his latest focus on developing the Heritage Hills property off Falls Street.

But the evolution of the World Chicken Festival, the Redbud Ride, various athletic events and a motel tax are just a few of the accomplishments that have brought revenue to the tourism commission during Harvey's term—accomplishments he credits to the board members with whom he has served.

Board members returned the compliment, with Tourism Commission Board President Caner Cornett describing Harvey as "one of a kind."

"He's a self-propelled man. Ken only knows one speed—full force," Cornett said. "He's the kind who can talk to someone on jail work release or the governor and show no partiality. He has that kind of personality."

Cornett said Harvey's exit as tourism director leaves "some big shoes to fill."

"He'll be hard to replace. His knowledge and experience is invaluable," he added.

Though coming to London from Ohio, Harvey said just a few months after settling here, he and wife Cheryl knew they wanted to stay in the area.

"It just felt like home," he said. "When we came here, there were 650 motel rooms. Now there are 1,300," he said. "Interstate 75 is an attraction in itself for travelers going north or south. We have a good cross-section of dining here and our board is made up of citizens whose home is here."

Other attractions that have increased the tourism business are the annual Battle of Camp Wildcat, which Harvey considers "the best in the state," along with the location of the Harley-Davidson dealership.

Harvey has been honored several times for his diligence in promoting tourism in the London area and is proud that the London commission is highly respected across the state. While he readily admits he does not wish to retire, he realizes that his ongoing health problems and three recent back surgeries are limiting his ability to serve in the capacity that he wishes to continue.

"It's time. I hope they bring in someone with fresh ideas that can continue to develop the Heritage Hills property and give some new ideas for other developments," Harvey said. "Besides, I have a grandson who is six years old and I'm looking forward to spending lots and lots of years with him."

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM ENHANCED SECURITY AND REFORM ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, Senator KIRK and I have introduced the Visa Waiver Program Enhanced Security and Reform Act.

This is a piece of legislation near to my heart. For those who have known me, they have known I have fought

long and hard for Poland to become free and independent. I think about the dark days of martial law in Poland, when we worked to support the solidarity movement in Poland and remove the yoke of communism. And after Poland emerged from the Iron Curtain, I worked with many of my colleagues to secure Polish democracy and bring them into NATO, securing their future in Western Institutions.

This legislation would help provide Poland a path to entry into the visa waiver program. It would eliminate the need for Polish citizens to obtain a visa to travel to America. As the granddaughter of a woman who came to America from Poland over 100 years ago, it would warm my heart to know a grandmother from Gdansk would no longer need a visa to visit her grandchildren in Baltimore.

This legislation does much more than just strengthen our relationship with Poland. It is a jobs bill. The visa waiver program makes America open for business for more tourists from allied countries. This can have a profound impact. South Korea entered the VWP in early 2009. In 2010, there was an increase of 49 percent in arrivals to the United States from South Korea, which created \$789 million in new spending and supported 4,800 new jobs.

If Poland becomes eligible for the visa waiver program and has a similar increase in visitors, it would create \$181 million in new spending and 1,500 new jobs. It's good for business and good for the economy.

Finally, it would strengthen America's national security by improving how we protect our borders. To participate in the visa waiver program, countries must agree to stronger passport controls, border security, and cooperation with American law enforcement—making it harder for terrorists to use these countries as entry points to the United States.

This legislation reinforces the program as an important component of national security by placing member countries on probation if any of the VWP requirements are not met and requiring a country's removal if it does not fulfill its requirements within two years.

The legislation also reinstates the Secretary of Homeland Security's Waiver Authority and a new cap on visa refusal rates will be set at no more than 10 percent, allowing the Secretary to recognize those nations that have met U.S. concerns on passport security, law enforcement cooperation, and border security. By admitting countries that have greater security standards for their travelers, the State Department can focus its limited consular resources on higher risk nations.

Poland has long been a friend to the United States, sending two of its finest heroes, Kosciusko and Pulaski, to fight in the Revolutionary War for America's freedom. In recent years, Poland has stood besides the United States in the aftermath of September 11, sending

troops to fight alongside Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Poland has overcome a melancholy history to become a vibrant and growing democracy. This legislation helps cement that relationship while improving America's security and creating new jobs. I look forward to working with my colleagues to secure its passage.

REMEMBERING RAY REID

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Ray Reid, a devoted champion of Arkansas and its citizens, affectionately known as Arkansas's 'fifth congressman.'

Ray dedicated his life to public service, serving more than 30 years in the Army including three wars—WWII, Korea and Vietnam—before retiring as a colonel and continuing his commitment to this country serving for more than 23 years as chief of staff for three of Arkansas's Third Congressional District Congressmen—John Paul Hammerschmidt, Tim Hutchinson and Asa Hutchinson.

As a loyal staffer, Ray was an ambassador of and to Arkansas, going above and beyond to help resolve issues constituents had with the Federal Government. Under his guidance, Congressman Hammerschmidt laid the groundwork for successful constituent service. Ray recognized that the key to good governing and good public service is that you treat everyone fairly and set political differences aside.

Congressman Hammerschmidt recently said of his former right-hand man that he was the best administrative assistant in the House during his service. Upon his retirement Congressman Asa Hutchinson said Ray was known to be one of the most knowledgeable men in Washington.

When I was elected to Congress in 2001, Ray went out of his way to help us get on the right track. His skills and experiences were vital to helping us build a strong foundation to serve the people of the Third District.

Despite working in the minority for much of his career, Ray managed to accomplish great things for Arkansas because of the long-lasting relationships he built. Certainly Ray saw many changes in the Third Congressional District during his years of service to Arkansas and many can be credited to his efforts. Ray had a hand on many infrastructure projects including Interstate 540 and the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport.

In a recent interview, Congressman Hammerschmidt fondly recalled Ray's passion for the Natural State: "Ray really loved Arkansas," he said. Ray helped change the landscape of Arkansas. His impact is far reaching and his legacy is evident in the Third Congressional District.

The State of Arkansas has lost a true friend who went to great lengths to make it a better place.