

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 11th District of Georgia, my deepest thanks to Chief Master Sgt. Lincoln for devoting his life to the upholding the Constitution of the United States and to the protection of its citizens. I wish him a happy—and well-deserved—retirement.

HONORING CHARLES ROBERTS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Roberts. Charles is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Charles has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Roberts for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on April 23 and 24, 2013, I was out of town due to a family situation. Unfortunately, I was not present for rollcall votes 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, and 123.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all six.

HONORING BILLY STOKES

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, recently the Halls Shopper News in my district profiled a long-time friend of mine, Billy Stokes.

Billy is a very patriotic American and someone I really admire and respect. This article is a great tribute to him, and I call it to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Halls/Fountain City Shopper News, April 22, 2013]

WORKING-CLASS HERO

(By Betty Bean)

Billy Stokes was playing quarter tonk with a guy named Moses when he had a sudden flash of clarity.

A 1970 Rule High School graduate, Billy had gotten a job tending bar at Sam &

Andy's after the University of Tennessee had invited him to take a quarter off, and somehow that quarter stretched out into a year and a half as he whiled away slow afternoons between lunch and happy hour with his friends.

"It dawned on me that in 18 months, none of us had moved an inch. So I went back to school and got my degree," he said.

Forty-plus years later, he's a lawyer with a reputation for being aggressive, competent, thorough, and for winning some huge settlements. A politically active Republican who doesn't mind occasionally going off the reservation—like when he supported Madeline Rogero for mayor in a nonpartisan city race—he's got a Rule High School baseball cap on one side of the shelf behind his desk and a Jellico cap on the other side.

In his desk drawer sits a picture, soon to be framed, of the tiny shotgun house in Lonsdale where he grew up. He's also got a picture of the Howard Johnson's where his mother waited tables and the ET&WNC truck his father drove for a living.

On another wall there are pictures of him with presidents, senators and governors, including several from his stints as state commissioner of employment security and as special assistant to the governor during the Don Sundquist administration, including one of him dressed in full Santa Claus drag sitting on the back of his Harley-Davidson.

"I'm an old school dude. I like to ride motorcycles, go fishing and am pretty much true to my southern Appalachian roots. I'm probably a typical Scots-Irish male. Whether you got money or I got money, we're all even. Doesn't matter who you are.

"Redneck? That's all right with me. Pre-tentious is probably not something anybody calls me—I hope. RINO (Republican In Name Only)? I don't care. Madeline Rogero was by far the best candidate in that field of three. A chief executive needs to be a competent manager."

GROWING UP

His family originally came from Saxton, Ky., just across the state line from Jellico, before they moved to Knoxville. His mother, Thelma, is 89 and still living independently. His father, J.P., died in 1999 and was a truck driver for a company called East Tennessee/Western North Carolina—ET-WNC.

"We called it 'Eat Taters and Wear No Clothes'."

When he was little, he spent weekends in Jellico with his grandparents while his mother waited tables in the D&M, which formally stood for Davenport and Miller, but was popularly called the Devil's Mansion. He's the youngest of three children, and Stokes says his family was faring much better financially by the time he hit adolescence.

"Jimmy Hoffa negotiated a national contract for the Teamsters, and I was the only kid at home, so I had it a lot easier than my brother and sister. I grew up working-class and that's what we need more of today."

So how did this son of a Teamster become a Republican?

"You'll have to remember—Hoffa didn't have much use for the Kennedys. A lot of Teamsters were Republicans at that time."

After he finished up at Rule, Stokes enrolled in Maryville College to play football, but injured his "good" shoulder. He'd already had surgery on his left shoulder after his senior season.

That forced a decision:

"Being short and slow, I decided to quit football and go to UT."

BECOMING A COP

After his Sam & Andy's epiphany, he went back to school full-time, supporting himself by working at the General Products ware-

house. He graduated in 1975 with a major in psychology and minors in political science and sociology, and started thinking about what to do next.

Like so many Lonsdale boys before him, he became a cop.

Theondrad "Sarge" Jackson, a retired sergeant from both the U.S. Army and the Knoxville Police Department and proprietor of Sarge's BBQ on Texas Avenue (famous for its C'mon Back Smoke) helped him get hired under a federal program at KPD. He was there for less than two years when the new safety director decided to eliminate the program.

"I got laid off in June of '76 and started law school in September of '76. That's when I met Richard Bean."

He counts the director of the Richard Bean Juvenile Detention Center as one of the three most influential men in his life, along with his father and longtime Republican political boss Loy Smith. Two old police officers—Rass Scruggs and Calvin Housewright, recommended that Bean hire Stokes while he was in law school.

"I benefitted from the good ol' boy system. I worked 3-11 and Juvenile Judge Richard Douglass gave me the key to his office with his law library and I'd sneak over to the court side to study. During finals, Richard would go home and eat supper and then come in and work for me while I'd go sit in the judge's office and study. We were on the quarter system, so we'd go through this every two or three months, and Richard would take care of me because he wanted me to get through law school. We were kindred spirits. I brag about working full-time through law school, but if Richard hadn't helped me, I never could have done it."

Stokes got his law degree in 1979 and joined the Army JAG Corps, where he served three years.

Another thing Bean did for him was to introduce him to Bay Crawford, a schoolteacher from Roanoke who worked at Shannondale Elementary School. They've been married for 33 years, have two daughters, three granddaughters and a grandson on the way. They are also active members of Second Presbyterian Church.

ENTERING POLITICS

Stokes came back home in 1982 and went to work for Bond, Carpenter and O'Connor, and became president of the 5th District Republican Club (at Bean's urging). In 1984, Bean and Loy Smith urged Stokes to run for county GOP chair. He served nearly four years.

"It required me to be a lot more partisan than I normally am. I'm an old school conservative and I believe that compromise is not only possible but beneficial. Howard Baker and Bob Dole are my heroes."

He has good memories of his two years with Sundquist, particularly of working with leaders of both parties on the 1996 Workers Compensation Act, and of taking on the state's tire recycling program. His favorite memory is the time he spent as Tennessee's point person on the Ocoee Olympic events at a time when the Atlanta Olympics committee was considering pulling the plug on kayaking and canoeing.

He returned to Knoxville in 1997, and two things happened that altered his world:

Loy Smith died suddenly, and Stokes' law partner, Daryl Fansler, a Democrat, ran for chancellor. Stokes supported Fansler, upsetting many Republicans.

After Fansler departed for the bench, Stokes put together the highly successful firm that has become Stokes, Williams, Sharp & Davies.

In 2004, he took on something that he calls "a serious miscalculation," running against state Rep. Jamie Hagood for state Senate and losing badly.

"I'd suffered a pretty serious injury the year before in a fall-down, and I decided that life is short and you better grab it fast. I had some people encouraging me, and a lot of great help and I'd always wanted to serve in that capacity.

"But I ran an inept campaign. I wish I hadn't gotten beat quite so badly and I let a lot of good people down, but otherwise I've moved on."

And then he grinned:

"Tim Hutchison got beat worse."

HONORING CHRISTOPHER SEWARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Seward. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christopher has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Seward for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of an issue that harmfully affects many individuals both in my district and throughout the United States. April represents Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which was instituted as a means to spread the word about the frequency and aftermath of sexual assault, as well as to garner support for community programs focused on prevention.

April 26th marks the 2nd Annual "Wear Teal to Work Day," an event organized by the Network of Victim's Assistance (NOVA), a community group located in my district with a mission to support, counsel, and empower victims of sexual assault. Several businesses and organizations throughout Pennsylvania have readily agreed to endorse this initiative, and I applaud them for their contributions.

INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INCLUSION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring our nation's federal workplace policies into the 21st Century. Signed into law 20 years ago this past February, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides protections to almost 60 percent of the American workforce. This means approximately 90 million workers are covered and eligible for leave under current FMLA policies that allow for up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave from work to care for a new baby or to care for a spouse, child under age 18, or parent who has a serious health condition. While this leave has provided critical work protections to individuals in times of great need, this landmark law does not go far enough in accommodating our modern workforce and families.

Polls related to recent cases before the Supreme Court show that more and more Americans support marriage equality and recognize the need to extend federal rights and privileges to all American families. With that goal in mind, I am introducing the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act that will allow same sex spouses and partners, grandparents, and other loved ones eligible to take family and medical leave to care for a sick family member. Under current federal law, such individuals do not qualify for FMLA, making it impossible for some employees to be with their loved ones during times of medical need.

Almost 600 employers, including more than two hundred fortune 500 companies, several states, the District of Columbia, and some local jurisdictions have extended these protections to individuals not originally included in the original Family and Medical Leave Act. The legislation I am introducing today would allow an employee to take unpaid leave from work if his or her same-sex spouse or domestic partner has a serious health condition. It also permits employees to take FMLA to care for a parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, grandchild or grandparent if that person has a serious health condition. Additionally, given repeal of don't ask don't tell, this legislation includes domestic partners of service members as permissible candidates for FMLA.

I thank Senator RICHARD DURBIN for introducing this legislation on the Senate side as well as my colleagues who have signed on as original supporters. I urge swift passage of this bill.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, this week marked the 98th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

I have long been a cosponsor of a resolution introduced in multiple sessions of Congress which reaffirms the United States record on the Armenian genocide.

The Armenian genocide, in which 1.5 million perished, is widely recognized as the 20th century's first genocide. Raphael Lemkin, the Jewish legal scholar who coined the word genocide and tirelessly advocated for international law defining it and preventing it, was driven largely by what happened to the Armenians.

Since that time, the world has witnessed unfathomable horrors during the Nazi-perpetrated Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda and Sudan. And too often, the world has been silent in the face of such brutality despite claims of "Never Again."

In fact, Sudanese president Omar Bashir, an internationally-indicted war criminal charged with genocide and crimes against humanity, continues to travel the globe with virtual impunity.

Adolph Hitler, in describing his murderous plans and seeking to silence those with reservations, famously said, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

There is power in speaking the truth, even about atrocities that occurred nearly a century ago, so that others with evil aims will not be empowered by our silence.

Sadly President Obama, despite his campaign promises, has once again failed to characterize the brutal slaughter of one and half million people as genocide.

CONGRATULATING NORWICH TOWNSHIP CITIZENS ON THEIR BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the citizens of Norwich Township, located in Franklin County, on their bicentennial anniversary.

Though the first pioneers west of the Scioto River and South of Hayden Run arrived in 1807, the Township was not officially founded until 1813—a year after the City of Columbus, 56 years before the City of Hilliard was incorporated, and 10 years after Ohio was admitted into the union.

Norwich Township boasts a rich history. The township's one-room schoolhouse known as "Smiley's Grove" opened in 1814, and by 1878 the school system was fully integrated. In fact, many early settlers in Norwich were emancipated slaves.

One of the largest limestone deposits in the world can be found in the southeast corner of Norwich, bringing scores of jobs to the area at the turn of the century.

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church is a historical landmark in the township. It was organized in 1832, and a public cemetery was added on adjacent to the church in 1836. This fall, citizens will celebrate their bicentennial anniversary with a historical walk beginning at the cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Norwich Township and its residents as they celebrate their bicentennial anniversary.