

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
CAREER OF SUE SWISHER

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about Sue Swisher, a good friend of mine, and a true champion for the children of our region.

Sue will be retiring this summer, after more than twenty-four years leading the Child Abuse Council in Rock Island, Illinois. Sue joined the Child Abuse Council as Director of Programs in 1994, and became its Executive Director in 1998. Under her leadership, the Child Abuse Council has provided child-abuse treatment and prevention to hundreds of children and families in our region. During her tenure, Sue spearheaded the creation of programs designed to prevent child abuse, instead of just reacting to it, including teacher-training programs like Safe from the Start, and fatherhood classes like Boot Camp for Dads.

People learn lessons during childhood that stay with them their entire lives. Children can either learn about trust and respect, or they can learn about fear and insecurity. Sue Swisher has worked tirelessly to ensure that our children learn lessons about love and respect that will resonate throughout their lives. We will miss her steady hand, and thank her for her invaluable contribution to our community.

REMEMBERING JACK HARDESTY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember Jack Hardesty, a long-standing community leader in Clarke County, Virginia, who passed away April 15, 2014 at the age of 82.

John Douglas "Jack" Hardesty's family has long standing ties to Clarke County dating back to the 1780s. He chose to continue this legacy as an entrepreneur who worked to further his community.

Jack may be best known for his work on the Board of Supervisors, serving 17 years as chairman. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Bank of Clarke County, was a trustee for his church and member of the Berryville-Clarke Chamber of Commerce. Jack was named "Citizen of the Year" this year by the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber for his lifetime of service.

Jack had an incredible impact on Clarke County, organizing the county's first Comprehensive Plan, as well as his efforts to preserve historic farmland and open space in the county. Through his work he has left an indelible mark on the look and feel of his community.

Jack's accomplishments in agriculture were also well known. He was recognized as the Outstanding Young Farmer for Virginia in 1955, and later as Distinguished Dairyman of the Year in 1986.

Jack is survived by his two sons, John and David, who are both part of his family dairy

business. I know he will be missed dearly by both his family and the community as a whole.

I submit the following article from The Winchester Star of Mr. Hardesty's story.

[From the Winchester Star, Apr. 17, 2014]

COMMUNITY LEADER JACK HARDESTY DIES

(By Val Van Meter)

BERRYVILLE.—A man who is credited for shaping the way Clarke County looks today died Tuesday after a life of service.

John Douglas "Jack" Hardesty, 82, was an entrepreneur before that word was the height of compliment. But, while building his family's fortunes, he also aimed to do what was best for his community.

"He has had a tremendous influence on how the county looks and feels," said Michael Hobert, current chairman of the Board of Supervisors, a post Hardesty held for the better part of two decades.

"He was responsible for the county's first Comprehensive Plan," Hobert noted. That plan is the community's vision on how it wants to develop into the future.

"He helped to establish our identity, and we'll have that identity for a long time into the future."

His support to institute sliding-scale zoning helped preserve farmland and open space in the county and set a tone that has continued today.

Hardesty's family roots in Clarke County go back to the 1780s, and farming was all he wanted to do.

In high school, his senior classmates predicted that, within 10 years of their 1950 graduation, he would be milking 100 head of Holsteins. They weren't far off the mark.

He formed a partnership with his father and began building Harvue Dairy, which grew from a 25-head, hand-milked herd to a dairy producing millions of pounds of milk a year and shipping the genetics of its registered Holsteins all over the world.

His importance to agriculture was recognized in 1955, when he was named the Outstanding Young Farmer for Virginia, and it only continued to grow. In 1986 the Virginia State Dairyman's Association named him Distinguished Dairyman of the Year.

As a member of the Clarke County Ruritan Club, Hardesty was "very instrumental" in purchasing the land for the Clarke County Ruritan fairgrounds.

The purchase was arranged in 1960, said Billy Milleson, who chairs the annual Clarke County Fair for the Ruritan Club.

"He and his dad ran the dairy department at the fair for years," Milleson said.

He said Hardesty was one of the people who saved the fairgrounds when the Virginia Department of Transportation planned to put the Harry Byrd Highway bypass around Berryville. Their preferred route took it right through the fairgrounds, demolishing the grove of huge oak trees that give it so much of its character.

Hardesty, Milleson said, "went to Richmond and got it changed."

"He was an authentic man," Hobert added. He was genuine. He had integrity and good judgment."

Former state Sen. Russell Potts Jr. called Hardesty the consummate gentleman.

"He was Mr. Clarke County," Potts said, adding that Hardesty got into political life "for all the right reasons."

In 1965, Hardesty was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the Russell Voting District representative Bob Withers on the Board of Supervisors.

A year later, he ran for election and won. He remained on the board for the next 29 years, serving 17 as chairman.

"The quality of life in Clarke County is a direct result of him insisting on high stand-

ards," Potts said. "He loved preservation," and the beauty of Clarke County.

Milleson said one of Hardesty's greatest characteristics was that he was a good listener.

"He could see the other side," he added.

In 1963, the stockholders of the Bank of Clarke County selected him to serve on the board of directors. In 1986, he stepped into the chairmanship, replacing the late Eustace Jackson, who had also preceded Hardesty as chairman of the Clarke supervisors.

Johnny Milleson, president of the Bank of Clarke, recalled Hardesty was always proud of his county and the bank, which grew from two branches, one in Berryville and one in Boyce, to 11 branches, including nine in Winchester and Frederick County.

He said when the two attended a seminar in North Carolina one year, people in the room were announcing their names and how long they had been directors of their respective banks.

Most were less than five years, but one man was cheered for serving 21.

He said Hardesty winked at him before announcing he'd been on the board of the "best little bank in the state of Virginia" for 41 years at that time.

The bank president said Hardesty was "a part of the bank family until his passing."

At Christmas, Hardesty would circulate through all the bank branches. "He had a kind word for everyone," and knew everyone.

He added that he had gone to school with Hardesty's older son, Johnny, and had known the elder Hardesty "since I can remember. He always had time for you, no matter how busy he was."

And, he was a hard worker. Meetings of the Bank of Clarke's board still begin at 6:50 a.m., a custom started by Hardesty, to make sure he got a full day's work in, despite taking time out for meetings.

Running a farm, a bank and a county didn't take up all of Hardesty's time.

He was a trustee for his church, Crum's Church, a post also held by his father.

He helped direct the dairy industry through positions on several organizations, including past president of the Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative, the Virginia Holstein Association and the Virginia State Dairyman's Association.

Three Virginia governors appointed him to committees to advise them on the concerns of local governments.

He promoted the larger county economy through membership in the Berryville-Clarke County Chamber of Commerce. This year, the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber, which now represents Clarke County, named Hardesty its "Citizen of the Year" for his lifetime of service to the county.

He was married to Carter Conley Hardesty, who died in 2003, for 50 years. The couple have two sons, John E. and David M., who are both part of the family dairy business.

A funeral service is planned for 11 a.m. Tuesday at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church in Berryville.

Potts recalled Hardesty protesting when he introduced a bill in the Virginia General Assembly to name a bridge for Jack and Carter Hardesty in the district he represented for so many years.

"I told him, 'You don't have any say in it,'" Potts recalled.

Then-Gov. Mark Warner and Sen. Charles "Chuck" Robb, along with former Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr., all came for the ceremony, Potts recalled.

Both Democrats and Republicans respected Hardesty.

Said Potts, "If you couldn't get along with Jack Hardesty, you couldn't get along with anyone."

Contact Val Van Meter at vvanmeter@winchesterstar.com

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Day of Reason, which occurs this year on Thursday, May 1st.

As I see nations around the world in turmoil, among people of different religious faiths, we are moved to deeper appreciation for the Framers, who bequeathed us the Constitution, which requires the separation of church and state. We could not have built a vast nation of extraordinary religious and ethnic diversity were it not for our tolerance of the world's great religions, all of which exist among us in our nation today, and of Americans who claim no religion. I hope that all Americans—religious, non-religious and secular alike—will join in observing the National Day of Reason, today, May 1, 2014. This day provides an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the positive impacts on humanity of reason, critical thought and the scientific method, which have always been acknowledged to be consistent with religious faith, and to reaffirm that the line between religion and government must remain indelible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Day of Reason.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID SKORTON

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. David Skorton on his recent appointment as Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Skorton, who currently serves as the 12th President of Cornell University, in Ithaca, New York, will begin his tenure as the 13th Secretary of the Smithsonian in July 2015.

Dr. Skorton was chosen for this position based on his outstanding merit and impressive leadership record. He has extensive experience as an administrator, cardiologist, and biomedical researcher. Dr. Skorton brings his unique talent and knowledge base to his new position, where he will be the first physician to lead the Smithsonian.

A staunch advocate of the arts, sciences, and humanities, Dr. Skorton will effectively promote the Smithsonian Institution's mission of supporting the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." I am confident that his skills, experience, and expertise will serve Dr. Skorton well in his efforts to oversee the immense collection of museums and research centers that comprise the Smithsonian Institution.

I commend Dr. Skorton on earning this remarkable opportunity and I look forward to the new heights that the Smithsonian Institution will reach under his leadership.

COMMENDING STUDENTS ON RE- CEIVING MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 10 students from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas who received appointments to America's military academies. The students who receive appointments to our nation's prestigious military academies are some of the best and brightest students in America. They bring enormous pride to our communities. It's an honor to recognize these young leaders who have committed to protect and defend our nation through service in our military academies.

The students selected to represent our district include: Joshua Xu of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Naval Academy), Cy Payne of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Naval Academy), David Hernandez, III of Pearland High School in Pearland (U.S. Military Academy), William Waters of Cinco Ranch High School in Katy (U.S. Military Academy), Morgan Landers of Strake Jesuit College Preparatory from Houston (U.S. Military Academy), Brittany Scofield of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Military Academy), Chad Cleary of Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugar Land (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy), Drake Dentry of Pearland High School in Pearland (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy), Nicholas Supry of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy) and Jonah Sanjay Bhide of American Embassy School, New Delhi, India (U.S. Air Force Academy).

As a former Navy pilot, I know that these students are about to embark on a tremendous citizenship experience. On behalf of all of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I'm thrilled to congratulate these young leaders. I'm confident they will honorably serve our nation with pride and distinction.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH- MENTS OF PATIENT SERVICES INCORPORATED

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the accomplishments of Patient Services Incorporated (PSI) and to congratulate the organization on its 25 years of assisting Americans obtain the treatments and therapies they need. PSI is a national non-profit patient assistance charitable organization, headquartered in my Congressional district in Midlothian, Virginia. PSI has provided assistance to countless Americans in all 50 states and serves as a vital safety-net charity to help meet the needs of Americans suffering from expensive rare and chronic diseases.

Through PSI's leadership and determination, our nation's most vulnerable seniors are now able to access the treatments and care they need with the financial help of non-profit chari-

table organizations. I have visited with the devoted staff at PSI in the past, toured their campus, and I am proud to have PSI headquartered in my district.

PSI was founded out of the professional and personal experience of Dana Kuhn, a former Presbyterian Minister from Jackson, Tennessee. While employed as a clinical counselor at now VCU Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, Dana Kuhn encountered families devastated by chronic illnesses. Dr. Kuhn founded PSI in an effort to help this underserved community, and since then PSI has focused on finding solutions to the challenges facing the chronically ill.

Today I would like to congratulate PSI on its 25 years of helping Americans access medical treatments and therapies. In particular, I commend its Founder and President, Dana Kuhn, on his service to our country and his fellow man by creating this charitable organization.

RECOGNIZING AMBASSADOR PETER AMMON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Peter Ammon as he leaves his post as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States. His hard work and dedication to strengthening the economic and cultural relationship between Germany and the United States must be commended.

In his role as Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Ammon strengthened the strong ties that bind Germany and the United States. Within the U.S., he visited 45 states and met with ordinary Americans, Governors, State Legislators, Members of Congress, and local elected officials. He also helped establish the German residence as an icon of German culture by featuring art crafted by U.S. and German artists on a rotating basis. The National Day parties hosted at the residence drew more than 3,500 guests, who enjoyed German art and food.

Dr. Ammon has championed the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership both as German Ambassador and for nearly 20 years prior because he knows this groundbreaking trade agreement will create jobs and growth on both sides of the Atlantic. Dr. Ammon leaves his post in Washington with the United States and Europe taking great strides toward finishing these tough, but necessary negotiations.

Dr. Ammon has served as German Ambassador to the United States since 2011. Previously, he served as Ambassador to Paris, France, and various other roles in the German government, including Director General for Economics at the German Foreign Office from 2001 to 2007 and Head of Policy Planning from 1996 to 1999. Prior to his service in these roles, Dr. Ammon served as a career diplomat in London, Senegal, and New Delhi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my good friend Dr. Peter Ammon for his great service and commitment to the special relationship between Germany and the United States. We thank Dr. Ammon for his leadership and send him our very best