

years of service as president and then presidential emeritus of his beloved Medical University. He continued fundraising for MUSC literally to the end of his life. After his stroke in 2013, when he could no longer take potential donors out to restaurants, he and Ann would entertain them at home. As recently as three weeks ago, he attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the refurbished College of Nursing.

Jim's humanity could be seen in his legendary generosity, as well as his friendliness and hospitality to all. He never met a stranger, never turned down a request for help, and never let race or creed or party affiliation color his love for people. Though he held his Republican ideals closely, he embraced everyone across the aisle. He loved and served with Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and Strom Thurmond, but he also loved and served with Bob McNair, Rembert Dennis, and Fritz Hollings. He was always collegial, always the statesman.

Finally, Jim will be remembered for his HUMILITY. He never let success go to his head. Though he had many titles (third mate, lieutenant commander, doctor, chairman, senator, governor, secretary, president—in fact, he often joked he couldn't keep a steady job) his favorite title was just plain Jim. His beautiful Limerick Plantation was simply "the farm." His favorite vehicle was always his old truck, which always had a few dents. Though he walked with kings and presidents, and sat with captains of industry and commerce, he never forgot his roots on Rifle Range Road. He often quipped that when you leave office, you go from "who's who" to "who's he?" very quickly. He was never pretentious.

I guess in a word, Jim was a Renaissance man—he could do anything, and do it well. He could repair engines, recite poetry, build furniture, design jewelry, grow luscious vegetables and flowers, win elections, shoot the lights out with a shotgun, navigate by the stars, negotiate a deal, close a sale, cast a vision and recruit a team to transform an institution or a party or a state. And he could make his grandchildren laugh. His "joi de vie" was contagious, and he infected all of us with his charm.

A few months ago, sitting in O' Be Joyful at the magnificent table he built with his own hands, Jim and I talked about what I should say to you today. First he asked me to exhort you in your faith. Jim first placed his trust in Jesus Christ at age 5, sitting on the knee of his grandfather, Joseph Hooker Hieronymus, an itinerant Methodist minister in the hills of eastern Kentucky. Jim always treasured this little Bible given to him by his grandfather at that time, and had this tucked inside a larger Bible when he was sworn in as governor. After Jim's stroke last year, we spent many evenings as a family reading and discussing the parables of Jesus, how we enter, grow, live and finish in the kingdom of God. And finish in faith Jim has done.

Second, he asked me to encourage you, especially Ann, and Jim, and Cathy, and you grandchildren, not to grieve as others do who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and even so will return one day and will bring with him those who have fallen asleep, and that we will always be together with them who trust Christ and loved his coming. We declare this by the word of the Lord. May it be so, for each of us today.

The Sermon was lovingly delivered by the Right Reverend Dr. C. Fitz Simons Allison.

SERMON

Rarely have I had such an encouraging experience as helping to plan this funeral service with the family of Jim Edwards. They knew exactly what they and Jim wanted.

They knew because their Christian faith was continually expressed within their family and at family gatherings. If you want to know what Jim Edwards believed, examine carefully this funeral service. The psalms, hymns, lessons, and prayers, The Old Rugged Cross truly express his faith. They told me right away that Jim's favorite biblical text was Micah 6:6-8.

"And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

"Doing justly" is enormously difficult. In medicine, when a life is at stake, justice does not allow ineptness, incompetence, carelessness, or sloth. Instead discipline, rigor, warnings, and possibly terminations are needed. Surely Jim had to face such decisions continually in his public life.

Loving mercy seemed to come easily to Jim and many of us have experienced his encouragement that we did not deserve. Mercy is at the heart of all graceful relationships, but inappropriate mercy can lead to inefficiency, poor performance, and sentimentality. Sentimentality is long range cruelty. Good bedside manners are desirable but not at the expense of knowledge and rigorous training. I am sure that Jim faced uncertain and complex issues of mercy. Doing justly and loving mercy can be very difficult and frustrating.

Walking humbly with God is a key to dealing with decisions of justice and mercy, not unlike issues we all face daily. Walking humbly with God is an acknowledgement that our truth is only partial and inadequate. Only God's truth is perfect. My physician father used to say, "Deliver me from people who are certain they are right." Walking humbly with God as expressed by Abraham Lincoln, "with malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see that right."

The humility that is required for the decisions of justice and mercy is clearly expressed by the phrase "as God gives us to see the right." Jim certainly faced many frustrations and difficulties in his leadership. I remember General James Grimsley, when he was President of the Citadel, asking Jim what was the difference between his experience in professional politics and that of academic politics. Jim's answer was that professional politics was Sunday school sin; academic politics was graduate school sin."

Jim's humor was an essential part of his humility. He could laugh at frustration and laugh at himself. He knew something of Christopher Frey's wisdom: "Comedy is an escape, escape not from truth, but from despair, a narrow escape into faith." Walking humbly with God enables us to see the laughableness of human pretension and the joy of knowing and trusting in the benevolent truth beyond ourselves, in God's truth. If I think my opinion is absolute with no higher truth over it, my truth becomes my God. My opinions become dogmas. If I am a doctor there is no check on my view short of the morgue. Or in the case of politics, without humility, we will have stagnation, chaos, or tyranny.

Jim and Ann, the two names come naturally together after 63 years of marriage. A trained nurse and childhood sweetheart, she became a partner in all activities whether politics, administration, fund raising, entertainment, or whatever needed attention. But above all she shares his faith.

Recently Martha and I had lunch with them. Jim's concern for the health and morality of our society was uppermost on his mind. He seemed to sense that absence of humility in these times, and the lack the of "walking with God," the underpinning of our society. The result being society's unbecoming commitment to certainties, about what

is really uncertain, and uncertain about what is really certain.

Cathy and Ken told me that he knew that his favorite text from Micah "do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God" was an ideal that needs the gospel to make it effective. "I am the way the truth and the light." This text is only understood when one realizes that the Christian God is perfect, and we are not. We cannot as sinners stand in his presence. And "no one comes to the father except by me" is not meant to be discourteous to other religions but to express the Christian commitment to the majestic perfection of God. Only by God's word, his only begotten Son, can a Christian stand in his presence.

Our problems were diagnosed years ago by J. B. Phillips in his very short book, *Your God is Too Small*. Jim's God was not a small God but a God before whom we are all sinners. As a sinner himself Jim could have compassion for other sinners and knowing he was a forgiven sinner his life could be lived with compassion for others. This produced the charm and diplomacy so well and widely described in our newspapers.

But the journalists failed to mention that his extraordinary gifts, love and consideration for others, were rooted in his realization that he was a forgiven sinner. It nurtured and influenced all his commendable activities.

Psalm 103, the family's choice, was the fruit of their family devotions in which they recited the Psalm antiphonally. They knew it by heart: "He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities." This verse can help us walk humbly with our God.

The Gospel also makes it abundantly clear that Christ has gone to prepare a place for us. Where our goodness falls short, his goodness stands in our stead. The secular dogma, that this world is all there is, in Reinhold Niebuhr's phrase, leaves us bereft of true hope.

The secular hope is that nature is no longer creation revealing the awesome majesty of God but a mere object of random chance without design or purpose. One of the most accomplished and attractive leaders of secular belief is the psychiatrist, Allen Wheelis. In his later years he is now unpersuaded by his earlier attempts to make death a meaningful conclusion rather than a fated inescapable and meaningless end. He now protests: "A symphony has a climax, a poem builds to a burst of meaning but we are unfinished business. No coming together of strands. The game is called because of darkness." The secular hope ends with the dark oblivion of death. This is the unacknowledged cry of the world for a deeper and meaningful hope.

CONGRATULATING LAGOMARCINO'S IN MOLINE, ILLINOIS FOR BEING DESIGNATED AS AN OFFICIAL "ENJOY ILLINOIS: DELICIOUS DESTINATION"

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lagomarcino's in Moline, Illinois, for achieving the distinction of an official "Enjoy Illinois: Delicious Destination."

Lagomarcino's became a member of the select group to receive this honor from the Illinois Office of Tourism—one of only 19 restaurants to date. The award recognizes local

restaurants around our state for being beloved destinations for both visitors and locals alike. Lagomarcino's earned this honor because of its long-standing customer services and tasty treats that attract visitors from all over the globe.

Lagomarcino's, a beloved ice cream parlor in downtown Moline, is famous for its hot fudge sundaes, sponge candy, filled chocolate eggs, and hand-dipped cones. The turn-of-the-century parlor features mahogany booths custom built by Moline Furniture Works, Tiffany lamps designed in New York, and the terrazzo floor was installed by Cassini Tile of Rock Island. In 1997, Lagomarcino's expanded and opened a second location in the Village of East Davenport, Iowa, and fans from all over the world can order delectable treats online.

Angelo Lagomarcino, an immigrant from Italy, opened Lagomarcino's Confectionery in Moline in 1908 after obtaining a secret recipe for hot fudge sauce from a traveling salesman in the early 1900s. Against his wife's wishes, he paid \$25 dollars for that recipe—a price that clearly paid off for the restaurant's many, many fans. That same recipe is used today and Lagomarcino's sauce has earned national and international recognition from food editors and culinary magazines.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate Lagomarcino's for achieving this honored distinction and wish them even more success in the future.

HONORING KEN VOGEL

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor San Joaquin County Supervisor Ken Vogel and to thank him for his leadership and dedication to the citizens of San Joaquin County.

Ken Vogel was born in Stockton, California on March 9, 1945, and moved to the Linden/Waterloo area in 1947. Mr. Vogel's family has been in the area since 1852 when his great-grandparents came to the Jackson Valley in Amador County, and in the early 1900s, moved to the Stockton/Lodi area.

Ken graduated from Linden High School in 1963, then went on to receive a BA, MA, and Teaching and Administrative credentials from Fresno State University. He worked as a teacher, vice principal, and principal in the Lodi Unified School District from 1980 until retirement in 2004 but continued as a substitute principal until his election to the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors.

Ken has had the honor of receiving the Lodi Lodge #256 of Masons Award for Outstanding Professional Service to Students of Public Schools and the John Terry Award from the Lodi School Administrators Association for Outstanding Educator. In 2001, he was named Boss of the Year by the Lodi CSEA group of classified employees.

Ken raises over a hundred acres of walnuts and cherries in the Linden and Farmington areas and has farmed in the area for over 30 years, marketing walnuts and cherries through local companies. In 2004, he received an award from Diamond Walnut as the Outstanding Hartley Walnut Grower of the area

for that year. He has been an active member of the San Joaquin County Cherry Growers Association and a Farm Bureau member for many years and, as a Supervisor, continues to attend Farm Bureau meetings regularly.

Ken's community involvement activities include: Trustee and Past President of the Board of the Linden Unified School District from 1992–2006, Trustee and Vice President of the Board of the Lodi Public Library from 2003–2006, Member and Past Director of the San Joaquin County Farm Bureau, Member of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Water Committee, Member and Past Director of the Kiwanis of Greater Lodi, Member of the Escalon Kiwanis Club, Member of the Ripon Chamber of Commerce, Member of the Linden Chamber of Commerce, Member of the Linden Athletic Boosters Club, Member of the Friends of the Linden Library, Member of the Morada Area Association, Member of the Stockton Chamber of Commerce, Member of the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, Member of the Clements-Lockeford Chamber of Commerce, Member of the Historical Society of the Germans from Russia, Member of the San Joaquin County Historical Society, Member of the Lockeford Historical Society, Member of the Escalon Historical Society, Member of the Ripon Historical Society, and Member of the Lodi American Legion Post #22. He also served in the United States Army Reserve from 1968–2000 and was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.

Ken is has always been committed to the economic development of his community, including the protection and expansion of our large agricultural industry. In addition, water has been one of his most focused areas of involvement as a member of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Ken Vogel, San Joaquin County Supervisor, for his numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOB MERWIN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bob Merwin, the Chief Executive Officer of Mills-Peninsula Health Services, who is retiring after a remarkable 27-year-career there and a lifelong career in health care. Bob knew early on that hospital administration would be his future and his passion.

Under his leadership for almost three decades Bob proved what he often said—that he is not afraid of change. He led Mills-Peninsula through major changes and transitions and is leaving it prepared for a long and strong future.

Bob came to Mills-Peninsula in 1987 as the Executive Vice President, rose to Chief Operating Officer and then in 1991 to CEO. One of his biggest and most recent accomplishments was the building and opening of the state-of-the-art Mills-Peninsula Medical Center in 2011. The 241-bed, 450,000 square foot hospital features private rooms with 21st century patient life technology, electronic charting and online capabilities that allow for efficient communication, family sleeping accommodations,

advanced earthquake technology designed to withstand an 8.5 quake, and a top-notch emergency department. It also has its own chef preparing sustainably and locally grown food for patients, staff and for special events for the public.

Looking at the 241-bed hospital today, it is humbling to remember its beginnings. Founded by Elizabeth Mills Reid, the Church of St. Matthew Red Cross Guild opened in San Mateo in 1908 with just six beds. It was later renamed Mills Memorial Hospital. Due to significant growth during the following decades, Peninsula Hospital opened in 1954 in Burlingame. In 1985, Mills and Peninsula merged into Mills-Peninsula Health Services. Bob oversaw the integration of both hospitals. He was also at the helm for the next large merger with Sutter Health System in 1996 striving to further strengthening the system of care.

Under Bob's leadership, Mills-Peninsula developed and opened the first community hospital Breast Center with advanced diagnostic technologies, the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis Center, the Family Birth Center, the Dorothy E. Schneider Cancer Center, the Women's Center, and a Behavioral Health facility. During the years leading up to national health reform, Bob kept his optimism and focus on building an organization that cares for its community.

In his career and in life, Bob has had a strong partner equally committed to health care. He married to Jean Merwin, a nurse for Sutter Care at Home, in 1999. The two first met in the early 70s when they both worked at Long Beach Community Hospital. Bob went on to earn his Master's Degree in Hospital Administration from UCLA and become the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center in San Francisco. Jean moved to the Mendocino Coast and worked as an administrator for a non-profit clinic. Nearly 20 years later, Bob and Jean re-connected at a conference on the Mendocino Coast. Between the two of them they have three children, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In their well-deserved retirement, Bob and Jean are looking forward to spending more time with family and pursue their common passion for golf.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Bob Merwin for his remarkable career and dedication to health care. He has built Mills-Peninsula Health Services into an organization that will serve patients, provide jobs and advance our health care system for decades to come.

PREVENTING TERMINATION OF UTILITY SERVICES IN BANKRUPTCY ACT OF 2015

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, utility companies provide many basic and life-saving services, such as electricity to light our homes, water to drink, and gas to heat our homes. Sometimes, however, individuals, through no fault of their own, struggle to pay for these services often in the face of devastating medical debt, job loss, or economic disruption