

GOD, FAMILY & COUNTRY: BOB WILKINSON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, God, family and country. Those three words are a life motto for one of my constituents, Robert “Bob” Lee Wilkinson. Bob is a God-fearing father, grandfather and veteran, who will be celebrating his 80th Birthday this March.

After graduating from Shawnee High School in Shawnee, Oklahoma in 1954, Bob joined the US Army. He was just 19 years old. His love of country drove him to the armed forces.

For three years Bob served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps where he was stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. He became a Specialist 2nd Class with top security clearance.

Upon receiving an Honorable Discharge, utilizing the GI Bill, Bob attended Oklahoma Baptist University. He graduated with a degree in business administration. He embarked on a successful 38 year career in Human Resources as a Human Resources Executive. Bob met and married his wife, DeLora, shortly after returning to Shawnee from the Army.

Bob began his HR career while still in college, working part time at Oklahoma Gas and Electric. After graduation, he became the HR manager for Wonder Bread and Hostess Cakes in Oklahoma City. Bob was recruited to Dallas to join a startup company, Texas Instruments. At Texas Instruments, he became World Wide HR Director, which transferred him all to different cities all over the Lone Star State. One of these cities being Houston, where Bob lives today.

After 19 years with Texas Instruments, Bob went to work for Compaq Computer, serving as their HR Director for 17 years. From there he went with Drake, Beam Morin, and a Human Recourse Outsourcing Firm. Bob’s contribution to HR was quite the journey and it thankfully led him to the Promised Land, Texas, and we are so glad it did. Texas and Oklahoma are grateful for Bob’s passion in HR and his willingness to help others.

Bob and DeLora spend their free time traveling to the plains of Montana to visit family. They have two daughters and three grandchildren. You can find them involved in the community and political activities.

2015 will be quite the year for Bob Wilkinson. He celebrates his 80th Birthday on March 13 and this coming May, Bob and DeLora will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary. Congrats to a life and marriage well spent. It is obvious that God, family and country really have been the driving forces in your life, Bob.

I am proud to have you as one of my many neighbors in Houston. I thank you for your service to our great country. I join not only your friends and family, but the entire community when I say, Happy Birthday Bob!

And that’s just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SENATE SHOULD RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the sense of the House of Representatives that the Senate should ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). I am proud to be joined in this effort by my friend and colleague Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY.

This year we also recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, where the United States along with over 189 governments, adopted the “Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.” Since 1995, those commitments have ushered in enormous improvements in the lives of women across the world. It is in the spirit of this inspirational anniversary that we urge the United States to ratify the most comprehensive international agreement on women’s rights, CEDAW.

CEDAW is a landmark international agreement that calls on governments to take appropriate measures to end discrimination against women in all areas of life. The Convention seeks to develop women’s equality in legal status, human rights, political participation, employment, education and healthcare, while committing countries to change or eradicate discriminatory laws, customs, and practices.

Despite 187 countries ratifying CEDAW, the United States is the only industrialized country in the world that has not ratified the treaty, even though its fundamental principles of equality and nondiscrimination are paramount to the ideals of our nation. Other nations that have not ratified CEDAW include Somalia and Iran.

Most importantly, CEDAW is not self-executing, meaning that any legislation the United States might adopt to comply with the treaty would have to go through the normal Congressional process.

Ratification of CEDAW would continue our nation’s proud bipartisan tradition of promoting and protecting human rights. The Senate’s ratification of CEDAW would strengthen our standing as a global leader for the rights of women and girls. As we recognize International Women’s Day next week, I hope my colleagues will cosponsor this important resolution that will benefit women around the world.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO GPO

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 4, 1861, the Government Printing Office (GPO), as it was then known, opened

its doors and began fulfilling an essential mission for the American people. On March 4, 2015, 154 years later, the newly renamed Government Publishing Office continues to perform that mission: producing and disseminating the official documents of this Congress and the executive and judicial branches to keep America informed. This is not merely my opinion as a proud supporter of the GPO and its talented workforce, but also the conclusion of a 2013 report of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) requested by Congress.

As I noted in the House Administration Committee’s activities report for 2014 (H. Rept. 113-721), I was pleased that Congress honored the request of Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks, first made to the Committee in 2013, for statutory redesignation of GPO as the Government Publishing Office. This long-overdue change rightly proclaims to the American people how Congress and the President view the agency.

The proud men and women of GPO do not fulfill their mission solely by applying ink to paper. For decades GPO’s employees have been in the vanguard of the Government’s shift toward electronic publishing. The agency’s former name, focused on the technological limits available at its birth, no longer reflected the breadth of its abilities and importance. GPO’s work publishing and distributing information in multiple formats assures Americans perpetual access to the documents of our democracy. This change gives GPO and its employees the recognition they have earned.

During 2014 GPO has continued making significant strides under the stewardship of Ms. Vance-Cooks, who has now become the first Director of the Government Publishing Office. Evidence of the Director’s strong management and sound judgment abounds there.

For example, the Partnership for Public Service listed GPO as one of the Best Places to Work and among the top 10 most innovative mid-sized federal agencies. The Partnership compiled its list based on the results of the OPM Federal Viewpoint Survey for 2013. Along a similar vein, a survey of over 500 customer agencies found 90% are generally satisfied with the goods and services GPO provides.

GPO’s improved electronic gateway to the growing expanse of Government information, the Federal Digital System, or “FDsys”, has recorded its one-billionth document retrieval. FDsys users can now browse among over one million titles as routine as daily editions of the Federal Register and as historic as President Nixon’s Watergate grand-jury testimony. GPO is already taking steps to create the next generation FDsys with improved search and retrieval capabilities. GPO is also collaborating with the Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, the Library of Congress and others to make legislative data available to users in bulk form.

Although the Director and her management team have much to be proud of, challenges remain. The Director has embraced the NAPA report, especially its recommendation that GPO increase revenues through lease of surplus space. GPO has redoubled efforts to attract office tenants, including Legislative agencies for which proximity to the Congress offers a premium. With the support of the Joint Committee on Printing, GPO solicited the private

sector's input with a Request for Information on how to make better use of several acres of land now devoted to parking. The Director successfully completed a new round of wage agreements with GPO's employee unions, prudently setting future wage increases at the rate proposed by the President and Congress for all other federal civil-service employees. In addition, a successful employee buy-out conducted last year will improve the agency's financial condition. I am greatly encouraged by the Director's eagerness to work constructively with her earnest and talented Inspector General, Michael Raponi, and to incorporate his valuable recommendations into her strategic planning.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join in congratulating the Government Publishing Office on the agency's 154th birthday. I thank Director Vance-Cooks and her dedicated workforce for their extraordinary service to this country and wish them well in the years ahead.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEXAGON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 60th anniversary of Hexagon, the only original musical satirical comedy revue in the nation's capital. With its multiple honors, Hexagon continues to serve the District of Columbia, both with entertainment and service by donating the proceeds of each show to a different charity in the District each year.

Hexagon was founded in 1955 by a group of young Washingtonians seeking a way to have "pure fun and nonsense." The group started out writing songs and parodies for the show "Meet the Beep," which ran for five performances at the Holton-Arms School in the spring of 1956. The comedy troupe started earning a profit and earned \$3,500, which they donated to local charities. Even though the group was not founded as a charitable organization, it has donated \$3.5 million to more than 40 organizations since its inception. Due to a lack of funds in 2008, Hexagon, unfortunately, had to move out of the District into a venue nearby in Montgomery County, Maryland, but I am proud to say that after seven years, Hexagon is back in the District, and will be performing at Wilson High School in Tenleytown.

Hexagon has been honored with a number of distinguished awards, including the Presidential Medal of "Distinguished Service" from President Ronald Reagan in 1987. In 1992, Hexagon was given the honor of becoming Washingtonian of the Year for its contributions to the community and area charities. Hexagon was one of the first organizations to be recognized with this award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 60th anniversary of Hexagon, and in wishing the group success in continuing its proud legacy in the nation's capital.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LT. COLONEL GERALD K. CARMAN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this moment to celebrate the life, and note the passing of Lt. Colonel Gerald K. Carman of the United States Air Force.

Lt. Colonel Carman passed away surrounded by his family in Duluth, Georgia on August 7, 2014 at the age of 51. Lt. Colonel Carman is survived by his wife of 25 years, Dawn Murto Carman and his two sons: Bradly and Alexander.

Lt. Colonel Carman is a fellow graduate from Tates Creek High School in Lexington, Kentucky. He earned his Bachelor's from the University of Kentucky and his Master's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Soon after graduating, Lt. Colonel Carman joined the military and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force. He later became a member of 962d Airborne Air Control Squadron (AACS) based at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, Alaska as an Instructor Pilot flying the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft.

Lt. Colonel Carman then joined the 168th Air Refueling Wing based in Eielson AFB, Fairbanks, Alaska as an Instructor Pilot flying the KC-135 Stratotanker with the Alaska Air National Guard. He served a total of 26 years as an officer with our nation's Armed Services.

Lt. Colonel Carman's passion for flying and love for aviation continued well past his Air Force career. He was a successful commercial pilot for two of our nation's major airlines: Northwest and Delta.

We grieve the loss of this great American, but we also celebrate and honor his life and his service. Lt. Colonel Carman embodied the best of America's ideals, values, and work ethic. He also personified what it meant to be free by pursuing his dreams and teaching others the art and love of American aviation.

Because of Lt. Colonel Carman's service to our nation, American freedoms are protected for future generations. He was truly an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF RICHARD MILLER

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Miller of Cheshire, Connecticut.

On February 26, 2015, Mr. Miller received the Special Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce.

He is 102 years old, and he has literally devoted a lifetime to the Cheshire community.

As a young man, Mr. Miller began his service in World War II. After four years in the Army, he was discharged with the rank of major.

When he returned to Cheshire, Mr. Miller's service did not cease. He served on various municipal boards including the Cheshire

School Board, the Police Commission, the Senior Center Board of Directors, and the Beaufort Commission.

Mr. Miller also volunteered with numerous civic organizations such as the Rotary Club where he was a member for almost 70 years. He established the Cheshire Food Drive, and raised funds for countless charitable organizations.

He also headed the town commission that designed, funded, and constructed a Veterans Memorial Plaza in front of Cheshire's Town Hall.

For all of these contributions and more, Mr. Miller will receive the Special Lifetime Achievement Award at the Cheshire Chamber's annual awards dinner. I wish to offer my congratulations to him for this impressive achievement and my thanks for all he has done for my hometown of Cheshire.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 109, I was absent attending Auditor Tom Schweich's funeral in the State of Missouri. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

KAYCE WELCH

HON. JOHN RATCLIFFE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Kayce Welch of Texarkana has just been named one of the top honorees in Texas by the 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Kayce Welch is being recognized for creating the "One of a Kind" project to help raise funds and awareness of juvenile diabetes, the disease she was diagnosed with at age 11, and so far raised \$3,000 through a charity walk to support a summer camp for children with diabetes. Ms. Welch is currently planning a "One of a Kind Gala for Diabetes," to be held in the spring of 2015, which she hopes will raise at least \$30,000 to help fund research into a cure.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions that these young citizens have made. Youth volunteers like Ms. Welch are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other