

Ken Sparks devoted his life to his alma mater, Carson Newman University, as an inspirational coach for almost 40 years.

While his record setting list of wins and accomplishments with his football teams might give someone else a big ego, Coach Sparks always kept the focus on someone else.

I had the honor of celebrating his impact on my district, thousands of student athletes, and other coaches just a few months ago at his retirement ceremony.

Coach Sparks spoke of success, wins, and achievements, but he did it while giving all the credit to the Lord. He spoke of his gratefulness to God through his amazing life experiences.

The life that Ken lived was one that was devoted to building up the success of others while remaining humble through each level of success he achieved himself. He had an amazing ability to connect with players in a way that gave them purpose on and off the field.

The love he had for his faith, family, and football were given deeper meaning with the devotion he had to his wife Carol, and their four children and 14 grandchildren.

Even though he was diagnosed with cancer five years ago, he continued to work hard to bring glory to God.

Although Tennesseans are greatly saddened by his loss, we should reflect on his life and the legacy he left behind.

I encourage all my Colleagues and others to celebrate the amazing life of Coach Sparks.

I would also like to call attention to the article that appeared in the Knoxville News Sentinel on March 31, 2017, entitled “Ken Sparks, A Life Well Lived”.

NEWS SENTINEL EDITORIAL BOARD, PUBLISHED MARCH 31, 2017

A wave of sadness washed over East Tennessee on Wednesday with the word that Carson-Newman University football icon Ken Sparks had succumbed to cancer.

Carson-Newman and Sparks were inseparable, venerable institutions.

He had dedicated nearly four decades to shaping young men’s lives who played football for the university. That was more important to him than any of the championships, the trophies, the accolades, the numbers.

“I’m grateful to be part of a profession where you can teach about life while you’re teaching blocking and tackling,” Sparks said in 2010 when he was honored with the Robert R. Neyland Trophy. “The Lord has blessed me.

“I hope that through things like this I can honor the Lord and that it has more meaning than what’s on the scoreboard at the end of the field.”

Sparks, 73, a Knoxville native, retired after the 2016 season after courageously battling through his cancer diagnosis in 2012.

Polite, warm, always smiling, Sparks coached 37 seasons, recorded 338 wins, made 25 playoff trips, won 21 South Atlantic Conference titles and 5 national titles for the university where he graduated in 1967. He coached in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and the National Collegiate Athletics Association Division II as well as at several high schools before returning to Carson-Newman in 1980.

In addition to the Neyland Trophy, Sparks has been honored with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Lifetime Achievement Award. Sparks was elected president of the American Football Coaches Association in 2007. In 2002 he received the All-American

Football Foundation’s Johnny Vaught Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sparks earned NAIA coach of the year honors in 1984 and was voted SAC coach of the year 12 times.

A forgiving man, he gave troubled players who had lost their way at other institutions a second chance.

“You’re going to have influence, whether you like it or not,” Sparks said last November when he retired. “Everyone of us is an example of something. We can talk all we want to, but our walk is what tells people who we are.

“The Lord has put us in a position where we’ve been able to have an audience of players and people that want to know the message. That’s what I hope I’ve been true to, the Lord’s message.”

When Sparks announced his retirement, Carson-Newman athletics director Allen Morgan called it a sad day.

“It’s a day we honor Ken and the legacy he is leaving for how he has touched young men’s lives in a way far greater than wins on a football field.

“He has molded boys to become Christian young men, husbands and community leaders where they too can give back. So today, it’s Ken Sparks’ day. The entire Carson-Newman community gives thanks for what he has done not only for Carson-Newman but for the greater good of mankind.”

HONORING MARLENE “MARTI” HOLLOWBACK

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marlene “Marti” Hollenback, a resident of Spokane and owner of Dishman Dodge, a local car dealership. Marti passed away at the age of 74 on April 15 after a short illness.

Marti’s influence in the Spokane community extends well beyond the car dealership family. She started her career as a registered nurse, spending 25 years working as the head nurse in pediatrics at Valley Hospital and ultimately the director of community programs for Empire Health Systems. In 1995, her father convinced her to join the family business at Dishman Dodge, where she was initially the general manager. Marti was passionate about the dealership, knew every employee by name, and made a point of attending employee recognition events.

Marti also served on numerous community boards over the years, including Red Cross, Children’s Home Society, Spokane Valley Community Center, Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery and other business organizations. She was honored on several occasions and was a recipient of the Everyday Heart Award from Kiwanis in 2003. Her giving spirit was not only extended to these community boards, but also through philanthropic donations both personally and on behalf of the dealership, including a donated van to the Meals on Wheels program.

Marti is survived by her four children and numerous grandchildren. She surely will be missed by them and the Spokane Community.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JAY DICKEY

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas’s great leaders—Congressman Jay Dickey, who passed away last week after a battle with Parkinson’s disease at the age of 77.

Jay represented the 4th District of Arkansas after becoming the first-ever Republican to hold the seat.

He was a great public servant who made many contributions to Arkansas and our Nation as a whole.

I have always admired his irrepressible enthusiasm for lower Arkansas and his dedication to his constituents.

We are all fortunate to have had someone with such a strong character be a leader for our state.

Jay leaves behind a legacy of warmth and passion, and his contributions to the Natural State will continue to live on for generations to come.

I extend my respect, affection and prayers to his family and loved ones.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF CAPE COD

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Trinity Christian Academy of Cape Cod in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

Originally established in January 1967 as the Trinity School of Cape Cod by a group of four ministers and three laymen, the Trinity Christian Academy of Cape Cod was created as a nonprofit independent school without affiliation to any church or denomination. The school was established for the purpose of providing a strong academic education centered in historic Christianity and founded on the basic tenets of the Bible.

Trinity first opened its doors with a preschool and kindergarten program in South Yarmouth using two buildings owned by the Evangelical Baptist Church. Since then, the school has moved to a new campus located on Mary Dunn Road in Barnstable. It has expanded to teach students all the way through high school, preparing them for higher education. Their current enrollment is 164 students, of which 53 percent receive some level of financial aid. Further proving their dedication to academic excellence, 100 percent of Trinity Christian Academy of Cape Cod graduates are accepted into their college of choice.

In addition to a strong academic program, the Trinity Christian Academy of Cape Cod’s high school leadership development program guides their students to embrace the message of Christ in their daily lives and to go on and become influential and compassionate leaders. This program provides ample opportunity

for students to reach out and serve those who are marginalized in their community resulting in empathetic leadership skills. Trinity students actively mentor elementary students at local public schools and have partnered with local daycares which service lower income families, providing Christmas gifts, activities, and story time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Trinity Christian Academy of Cape Cod on its 50th Anniversary. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the school's five decades of service and commitment to academic excellence and I look forward to seeing all that they are able to accomplish in the next 50 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERGMANN'S CLEANING

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time to recognize a local business on its 100th year in operation. Bergmann's Cleaning, whose main plant is located in Virginia's 10th District in Sterling, Virginia, provides a variety of cleaning services and is one of the oldest family-operated businesses in our region. Now managed by fourth generation family members, Bergmann's Cleaning is truly a staple in our community and region, and I commend the Bergmann family on their exemplary business practices and ability to adapt and grow throughout the years.

In 1917, W.C. Bergmann decided to supplement his income as a lamplighter in Washington, D.C. by starting a small laundry service, where he, with his horse drawn truck, would pick up the clothes of his customers, clean and press them, and then deliver them back to their homes. His services quickly gained recognition, and with the help of his sons, he opened the first Bergmann's Cleaning store within a year of starting the horse drawn truck business. The number of inner city stores increased, but many people were moving out to the suburbs of Washington, D.C. and also required new services. Accordingly, Bergmann's Cleaning not only continued their convenient and free pick-up and delivery service, which garnered thousands of new customers in the D.C. suburbs, but also expanded its cleaning offerings to include clothing, rugs, draperies, linens and more.

Today, Bergmann's Cleaning's day-to-day operations are managed by E. Peter Bergmann, the President, and Larry M. Bergmann Jr., the Vice President of Sales and Operations. Under their leadership, the company has 20 efficient delivery and pick-up routes, ranging from Reston, Virginia, to Columbia, Maryland, and has a staff of 125 people, many of whom are constituents of Virginia's 10th District. In addition to the successful door-to-door service, Bergmann's Cleaners serves more than 25 hotels in our region, uses ecofriendly and biodegradable cleaning products, and is responsible for the most successful annual coat drive in the nation. In fact now in its 17th year, the annual "Share the Warmth, Coats for Kids and the Needy" drive has delivered nearly 500,000 coats to those less fortunate.

In today's society, family owned businesses are essential to the future of our nation. It is families, like the Bergmanns, who help foster strong local economies by establishing successful business practices that can be carried out for multiple generations. While the services provided have changed and expanded over the years, the entrepreneurial attitude of the Bergmann family and common goal of serving their community has remained the same.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Bergmann's Cleaning for its dedication to serving our community for 100 years. I wish E. Peter Bergmann, Larry M. Bergmann, Jr., and the entire company the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO HON. NELSON JAEGER BECKER

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a prominent Hoosier leader and my close friend, Mr. Nelson Jaeger Becker, who passed away on April 7, 2017 surrounded by his loving family.

Nelson was born in Logansport, Indiana on September 16, 1940. He graduated from Logansport High School, received his Bachelor of Business Administration from Tulane University, and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Tulane University Law School. He also graduated from the Culver Summer Naval School and served in the United States Air Force as a JAG officer where he attained the rank of captain.

Nelson was passionate about the law, the legislative process, serving the community, and politics. He practiced law in Logansport from 1968 up until his passing. He dutifully served the residents of Carroll and Cass Counties as their State Representative for over a decade in the Indiana House of Representatives. During that time, he served as Majority Whip and Speaker Pro Tempore. Nelson continued to serve the state legislature as a government affairs professional for several industries providing the part-time legislators with facts to help them make decisions on policy issues facing the General Assembly. Nelson's service to the great State of Indiana did not go unnoticed. He was a recipient of Indiana's highest civilian award, The Sagamore of the Wabash.

Nelson truly cared about the City of Logansport and it showed through his actions. He was a former member of the Board of Directors of Logansport Savings Bank and the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Logansport. He was also the former President of the Cass County YMCA Board of Directors and the United Fund Board of Directors and held memberships with the First United Methodist Church, the Elks, and American Legion.

I had known Nelson for many years and always appreciated his advice and council on a variety of issues. Nelson was one of the very first people to support me in my bid for public service. And he was quite literally the first person to turn his verbal support into concrete action. I will never forget that . . . or the small

group of Logansport leaders who met with me in Nelson's house one evening in 2001 to support my goals for public service.

Nelson leaves Dixie, his beloved wife, five sons, and fifteen grandchildren to carry on his legacy of service to fellow Hoosiers. Anyone who knew him well knows what a great loss his passing is for our community and the State of Indiana. May he rest in peace, he will not be forgotten.

IN HONOR OF DEAN AND ANGIE WYSNER'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the 50th wedding anniversary of Dean and Angie Wysner on May 5th.

Dean and Angie met at Woodland High School and dated only a short time before he enlisted in the Army. Dean was assigned and stationed in California and they were married after he had been gone for a year.

Dean and Angie have been blessed with three children: Deena, Chad and Lori. Additional blessings include their four grandchildren: Tanner, Abby, Brittany and Mason and great-grandchildren: Rayleigh, Kayleigh and AnaLeigh.

Dean is the son of Moulton and Josie Wysner of Graham, Alabama and graduated from Woodland High School in 1964. He worked in manufacturing after high school and then served as a Military Police in the Army. After his service, he went back to manufacturing for a few short years until he became a self-employed farmer and has continued for 45 years. He has served with the Farmer's Federation for 18 years advocating for the family farm and also served as a Randolph County Commissioner.

Angie is the daughter of Marvin and Earla Spradlin of Woodland, Alabama and graduated from Woodland High School in 1965. She worked in manufacturing after high school until having children and then working full-time on the family farm. Once the children had all graduated from high school, she began a career with the U.S. Postal Service as a Rural Letter Carrier which she continues today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 50th wedding anniversary of my friends, Dean and Angie Wysner.

ANZAC DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the anniversary of the ANZAC Day. On this day, 102 years ago, while horrific trench warfare was taking place in Europe, half a continent away, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, came together for a noble cause. Together they set out to capture the Dardanelles and Gallipoli to open a route for the allied navies.