

ideal for agribusiness and manufacturing—providing for its abundant growth and early establishment as the largest city and the current county seat in the County of Tazewell.

Abraham Lincoln freed his first slave, Nance Legins-Costley of Pekin, in Tazewell County, and Pekin is the birthplace of such prominent national figures as U.S. Senate Minority Leader Everett McKinley Dirksen; U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense and Advisor to Robert McNamara, John T. McNaughton; Journalist Richard Stolley of LIFE Magazine, and Astronaut Scott Altman.

Today, Pekin remains a closely-knit and primarily service-oriented community, with dozens of churches, civic and service organizations, and nonprofit agencies striving to make a difference in the Pekin community and beyond. The founding pioneer settlers of Pekin believed strongly that it was imperative to provide their youth with a strong education, and the Pekin Public Schools have diligently nurtured the children of the Pekin community since its first school opened in 1830.

Pekin is perhaps best known today for its annual Marigold Festival that draws visitors from all over the state and the nation, gathering primarily in its iconic Mineral Springs Park. Community members have successfully led an 18-month endeavor to raise over \$1.2M in private funds and to build a performing arts venue in Mineral Springs as a major Bicentennial gift to the City, its residents, and many future generations.

Pekin continues to make exceptional efforts to preserve and understand its past while embracing its future, led by organizations such as the Pekin Public Library and the Tazewell County Genealogical and Historical Society: Its year-long 2024 Bicentennial celebration has been among the highest of such achievements.

Today, we celebrate the City of Pekin and its residents for their passion and dedication to their community. I extend my sincere congratulations to the City of Pekin, Illinois for a successful 200 years, and I wish them even more success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING PHILIP GIBBONS ON 50 YEARS OF BROADCASTING

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a name—and voice—known to countless Tennesseans. Philip Gibbons is celebrating 50 years in radio, most of which having been spent as host of the midday show on 94.7 The Country Giant. The station reaches more than 120,000 listeners across 19 counties, spanning Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky. That's a lot of people who look forward to hearing him day after day.

His broadcast career started at 15-years-old, before he was old enough to drive. The year was 1974 and the gig was part-time janitor and disc jockey for WPTN in Cookeville, Tenn.

Fifty years later, Gibbons is a member of the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame. He's been selected as a regular stage host at the CMA Music Fest and a guest announcer at the Grand Ole Opry many times in recent years.

In 2020, Philip was awarded Small Market Personality of the Year by Country Aircheck, the leading trade publication for the industry. Philip was also nominated by the Academy of Country Music for Small Market Personality of the Year.

When asked why he never left Cookeville behind for a larger radio market, he responded, "this is where my heart is. This is my community." He not only spent his entire career in that community, but he also gives back to it every chance he gets.

Since 1983, he's served as the public address announcer for Tennessee Tech University football and basketball games. He's also volunteered his time and used his platform to support many causes over the years, including Habitat for Humanity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Alzheimer's Tennessee, and the American Cancer Society. Gibbons is known by some as the 'pink tie guy' in the Upper Cumberland for his dedication to bringing awareness in the fight against breast cancer through wearing a pink tie. Following the devastation from Hurricane Michael, Philip used his airtime to ask listeners to fill an 18-wheeler with supplies to help the folks of Panama City Beach recover.

From interviewing up-and-coming artists to the legends, Philip has built a name for himself in Cookeville, in Music City, and throughout the County Music family. He's seen a lot of change in the business throughout his career. Today, automation and pre-recorded announcements are commonplace in radio, but Philip remembers well the days of live-only broadcasts and actual turn tables.

I want to congratulate Philip on 50 years in radio and wish him many more years of success ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE SAMARITAN'S PURSE FLOOD RECOVERY RE- SPONSE IN EAST KENTUCKY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express immense gratitude on behalf of the people of Eastern Kentucky who have received flood recovery assistance from Samaritan's Purse during two back-to-back disaster relief missions, starting in 2021.

Breathitt County has essentially become a second home to some team members of Samaritan's Purse, who first arrived in our region after a major flood in March 2021. They have provided the most comprehensive response efforts, rallying volunteers from across the country to help muck-out damaged homes, provide cleaning supplies and food to flood victims, and resources to help rebuild homes. The crew dedicated an entire year of service to our region and had only been gone for a few days before a second catastrophic flood hit the heart of our region in July 2022, taking the lives of 45 Kentuckians. Without hesitation, the Samaritan's Purse tractor trailer reloaded supplies and turned around to head right back to Breathitt County. Our region was briefly crippled by the widespread impact of that overnight flood that took out power lines, washed out critical roadways and bridges, damaged thousands of homes and vehicles,

leaving hundreds of Eastern Kentucky families homeless in an instant.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of individuals across the country, donations flooded into our region, giving flood survivors a glimmer of hope for the long journey ahead. Many organizations, like Samaritan's Purse, also dispatched recovery teams to our region, helping sustain families through their darkest hour. As various crews expended as many resources as possible to aid Eastern Kentucky, there has been one constant team remaining long after everyone else had to leave—and that is Samaritan's Purse. For every meal provided, every mop distributed, every bucket of mud carried out, every nail that has been driven and every prayer that has been prayed in our region, I want to personally express my gratitude to Samaritan's Purse.

This organization has carried out the vision of the late evangelist Bob Pierce for more than 50 years, which he established "to meet emergency needs in crisis areas through existing evangelical mission agencies and national churches." Rev. Franklin Graham took up the mantle over 40 years ago, spreading the same kindness, generosity and steadfast hope around the world.

We are blessed that Samaritan's Purse found our small corner of rural America and made our people a priority when they needed it the most. As a result of their dedication, we are now celebrating with flood survivors in Breathitt County who now have a safe, new house to call home. On behalf of Eastern Kentuckians in Breathitt and surrounding counties, we thank them for standing with us through the flood and long after the flood waters have receded. May God continue to multiply the efforts of Samaritan's Purse as they rebuild hope in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky and beyond.

COMMENDING ROBERT SUNSHINE

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert Sunshine on his retirement after 48 years of stellar service to the Congressional Budget Office, the Congress, and the country. I'd like to take a few minutes to honor this truly exceptional public servant.

Bob's tenure at CBO has been extraordinary, not just for its longevity, but for the outstanding work he has produced and the people he has so deeply affected. Throughout his distinguished career, he has served as a mentor to countless members of the CBO staff (and to CBO's directors) who have valued his wisdom, work ethic, and experienced perspective. Bob truly exemplifies the values of dedication and leadership—of upholding CBO's mandate to be objective, impartial, and non-partisan.

Before coming to CBO, Bob was a senior associate at a transportation consulting firm. He joined CBO in 1976 when the agency was in its infancy. His first job was as principal analyst, covering transportation issues in what is now the Natural and Physical Resources Cost Estimates Unit of CBO's Budget Analysis Division.

Bob quickly demonstrated his analytical skills and breadth of knowledge and was promoted in 1978 to become Unit Chief. In that role, he led his staff in providing high-quality and timely budgetary projections and analyses of legislative proposals on a wide range of topics, including energy, land and water management, disaster assistance, and banking—to name just a few.

In 1995, Bob became the Budget Analysis Division's Deputy Assistant Director, and in 1999 he was named CBO's Assistant Director of Budget Analysis. In that capacity, he oversaw much of the agency's work. He supervised the preparation of cost estimates and intergovernmental mandate statements for legislation being considered by the Congress. He also managed the preparation of the multiyear budget and economic projections that constitute the baseline for the Congressional budget process, the agency's annual analyses of the President's budget proposals, and CBO's ongoing contributions to the Congressional budget scorekeeping system. He also continued in his role as the executive editor of the agency's long-running Monthly Budget Review.

In 2003, Bob received the James L. Blum Award for exceptional and distinguished accomplishment and leadership in public budg-

eting from the American Association for Budget and Program Analysis.

Bob served as Acting Director of CBO from November 25, 2008, to January 22, 2009, before becoming Senior Adviser to the Director and unofficial quality control officer for CBO's written products.

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, CBO's Director from 2003 to 2005, described Bob as "the living heart of CBO. He has molded the agency, sustained its focus on its mission, and passed his wisdom along to generations of analysts—and Directors! It is hard to imagine CBO without him."

Peter Orszag, CBO's Director from 2007 to 2008 said, "It is no exaggeration to say that CBO is what it is today—rigorous, independent, and widely respected—in no small part because of Bob Sunshine. For nearly half a century, he has worked in service of facts, good analysis, and sound policymaking. Bob's counsel made me a better CBO Director, just as he has made better everyone who has been lucky enough to work alongside him. Most importantly, Bob has done all of this and more without losing his sense of humor and his humanity."

Bob is highly regarded by Members of Congress, regardless of party affiliation, on both sides of the Capitol for his deep knowledge of the budget process and commitment to CBO's role in that process.

Paul Ryan, former Speaker of the House and Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget said, "Bob Sunshine has made critical contributions over CBO's entire history to ensure it developed and provided non-partisan and objective data and analyses to the Congress. Few can match the unwavering, sustained, and lengthy commitment Bob made to CBO."

Bill Hoagland, a former staff director of the Senate Budget Committee, described Bob as "Solid, steadfast, loyal, with unbending integrity. The rock for almost the entire span of CBO's existence, Bob provided the 'sunshine' to what otherwise can be a depressing subject—the federal budget."

Bob also is a lay leader of Congregation Har Shalom in Potomac, Maryland, and a devoted husband of 57 years to his wife Laurie, proud father of two sons, Ari (married to Jennifer) and Josh (married to Dara), and delighted grandfather to four grandchildren.

His professional accomplishments set him apart, but it is his personal ethic—his optimism and thoughtful consideration for his friends and colleagues—that truly defines him. I wish him well as he moves on after decades of outstanding service to the Congress. I am grateful for that service, and I wish him the best in the years to come.