

HONORING ROBERT "BOB"
LAYHER OF HAYS, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my admiration of a Kansan's life—a life filled with honor and service to country, community and family. Mr. Robert "Bob" Layher of Hays, Kansas, a member of the Greatest Generation, lived life with integrity, passion and enthusiasm.

Like so many young Americans of his generation, Bob put country before self and joined the U.S. military. Bob proudly fought for freedom during World War II, though he began serving prior to the start of the war. He was among those who resigned their U.S. military positions in order to volunteer for a covert operation with the Chinese Air Force before the U.S. entered the war. For his service in China as a member of The Flying Tigers, Bob was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Bob's dedication to those he served with and his preservation of their memories was unsurpassed. While the history and service of The Flying Tigers is well known in China, few in our country know about the courage and heroism of these men. Bob took a lead role in making certain that his community knew about The Flying Tiger's mission of protecting China's important Burma Road from Japanese attacks.

He was also involved in national education of The Flying Tigers. Appearing in stories and presenting at schools, he shared the history of this brave group of volunteers. During trips back to the area where they were stationed, members of The Flying Tigers found the need for education about their group was much less necessary in China. The idea that Americans would volunteer to defend another country all for the sake of freedom made a great impression on the Chinese.

While Bob was born and raised outside of Kansas, our state was lucky to have him settle here and begin farming after his military service. Bob was born in Dallas, Oregon, on September 3, 1916. He graduated from the University of Colorado where he also met his wife, Marian. In 1941, 4 days before he left for China, he and Marian were secretly married. This was also the same day as his birthday, so this way Bob would never forget their anniversary.

A very involved member of his community, Bob participated in several civic groups. After he moved to Hays in 1952, Bob became a member of the First Presbyterian Church and the Order of the Eastern Star. He was also a member of the ISIS Shrine and the Masonic Lodge in Salina.

Most important to Bob was his family. Over the course of their 65 years of marriage, he and his wife were committed parents and grandparents. Bob's son, R.F. "Bobby" Layher Jr., followed in his father's footsteps and served as a pilot in Vietnam. Even though Bobby went on to be a civilian pilot, Bob and his son were still able to fulfill their dream of farming together.

In the many important roles Bob filled in his life, he served out of a sense of duty and not out of selfish ambition. He helped make his community better and his nation safer. I join

his many friends and admirers in paying tribute to a great man. My thoughts and prayers go out to Marian and her family during this time of loss.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LANE EVANS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my colleague and good friend from Illinois, Mr. LANE EVANS.

LANE has always served his country with honor. From 1969 to 1971, he served in Vietnam in the U.S. Marine Corps, and as they say, "once a marine, always a marine." When he was elected to Congress in 1982, he immediately worked to make sure veterans were given the benefits that they deserve, and he has fought to bring up issues that would go unknown if it was not for his voice. For almost a quarter of a century in Congress, LANE has been a champion of America's veterans, and his passion for this cause will truly be missed.

LANE and I were able to develop a friendship that transcended politics. We worked together on many issues as members of the House Armed Services Committee. Serving others, especially his constituents, was something LANE did exceedingly well. I was able to see this firsthand when I traveled to his district in 2004. I was impressed, but not shocked, by the large amount of people who showed up at an event he hosted, which certainly speaks to how well-liked and respected he is in the 17th district of Illinois. Serving with LANE has truly been an amazing and educational experience.

Unfortunately, LANE has had to battle Parkinson's Disease since 1995. In his fight against this debilitating disease, he has yet again shown courage and perseverance that proved to everyone that he was not going to easily give up. LANE has also been a great partner in the effort to advance stem cell research, which is a matter of great importance to me. This effort will continue so that patients with spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's Disease and other conditions will benefit from this research in the future.

LANE, thank you for making a difference. While you will be missed in the halls of Congress, I wish you the very best in the next chapter of your life.

CONGRATULATING ALABAMA
STATE SENATOR HARRY E.
"HAP" MYERS FOR 12 YEARS OF
DISTINGUISHED LEGISLATIVE
SERVICE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Alabama State Senator Harry E. "Hap" Myers for 12 years of leadership and service to the citizens of Mobile and the entire state of Alabama.

Hap is a distinguished member of the Mobile, Alabama, community and a tremendous advocate for all of south Alabama. During his career in the Alabama State Legislature, he worked tirelessly on behalf of south Alabama and served as chairperson of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Local Legislation Number Three, and the Senate Veterans Military Affairs Committee.

Hap has been a professional consulting engineer since 1961 and is presently vice president of Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., a national firm with over 50 offices, where he concentrates on municipal long range planning, finance, and operations.

Mr. Speaker, the faithful service of outstanding Americans like Hap Myers has aided in an immeasurable way to the well being of our community. I would like to offer my congratulations for his many personal and professional achievements. I know his wife, Toni, his 3 children, his grandchildren and other family and many friends join with me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts on behalf of the people of Mobile and the entire state of Alabama.

WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Weyerhaeuser Corporation and its wonderful community service in assisting in the relief efforts and the rebuilding of the gulf coast that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. This outstanding company has gone well beyond the call of duty, truly exemplifying what community service is.

The Weyerhaeuser Company was incorporated in 1900 and is one of the world's largest integrated forest product companies, headquartered in Federal Way, Washington, employing 5,000 people in over 40 locations in 18 countries. In 2005, they recorded sales of \$22.6 billion and the company manages more than 2.4 million acres of timberlands in three States. I am pleased to note that of the many locations of the Weyerhaeuser Company, two are in the Fifth District of North Carolina.

In recognition of their outstanding community service and dedication to helping those who need it most, Weyerhaeuser Corporation has been recognized with the Ron Brown Award. This is the only Presidential award to honor companies "for their exemplary quality of their relationships with employees and communities." This award is presented to companies that have set forth strong initiatives to strengthen their employees and the community that surrounds them as well as promote pioneering business initiatives. The Ron Brown Award was originally established by President Bill Clinton after the late Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown, who believed that "businesses do well by doing good." In my opinion, there is no better choice for this award than the Weyerhaeuser Company for its outstanding work and dedication to our country.

On December 4, 2006, the chairman, president and CEO of Weyerhaeuser accepted the Ron Brown Award from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez at a ceremony

in the White House. Mr. Rogel accepted the award and dedicated it to Weyerhaeuser's Disaster Relief Coordinator Katy Taylor, along with the partners and volunteers who attended the ceremony.

Also recognized in the White House ceremony was the North Carolina Baptist Builders, with whom Weyerhaeuser teamed up in the gulf coast relief efforts. The North Carolina Baptist Builders is a faith-based organization that set forth a large mission to rebuild 600 homes along the coast. To the credit of the Baptist Builders, the Weyerhaeuser Company recognized their "smoothly-run rebuilding operation to keep projects moving." It is this kind of forward thinking and teamwork that makes the Weyerhaeuser Company so deserving of the Ron Brown Award.

I am honored to have such a wonderful and dedicated company that operates in North Carolina in places such as Charlotte, Greensboro, Newton and many other places, including Elkin and Winston-Salem in the Fifth District. Weyerhaeuser Company has been operating in North Carolina since 1957 with approximately 3,090 employees.

The dedication of Weyerhaeuser to the community is astounding and sets a shining example to other businesses about the importance of community service and helping the less fortunate. To date nearly 300 employees and retirees from across the United States and Canada have volunteered more than 42,000 hours of their time and helped rebuild 50 homes. Weyerhaeuser has a truly generous policy of allowing employees 2 to 4 weeks paid leave to help volunteer in the rebuilding efforts of the gulf coast. Not only does it pay its employees while they are volunteering their time, but it also pays their way and their spouses' way down to the coast for the rebuilding efforts. Now, over a year later, Weyerhaeuser employees are still participating in reconstruction efforts and have contributed a combined disaster relief to date totaling more than \$2.8 million. This is nothing short of extraordinary.

While I can mention some of the accomplishments of the Weyerhaeuser Company's contributions, it is the people Weyerhaeuser has touched and the response it has received that truly shows the difference it has made not just to individuals, families and the community as a whole. As one family wrote in response to the help from Weyerhaeuser volunteers, "Because of all of your efforts, we are home! Words cannot truly express the outpouring of love we have received. We are eternally grateful to our Weyerhaeuser family." This shows how the assistance of strangers can truly

touch one's spirit, make their life better and give true meaning for caring in the community.

A sign of the high caliber of individuals Weyerhaeuser employs is some of the comments of the volunteers that went to the gulf coast to help. One man noted, "The days were long and hot, the work was intense, but the rewards were immeasurable. This has been an experience I won't soon forget." Another volunteer employee commented, "This experience was such a blessing. I got so much more from it than I felt I gave." Even Weyerhaeuser's retirees participated and one reflected of the occasion to assist those in need saying, "Having once more the opportunity to work side by side with other Weyerhaeuser employees and retirees made me realize anew why I enjoyed working for Weyerhaeuser so much. It's all about the people and the values the company ascribes to. Thanks again!"

Testimonies such as these speak volumes of Weyerhaeuser Company and its dedication to its employees and others. It goes beyond helping those who are under its employment, but it extends a helping hand to strangers to make the world a better place to live. I am pleased that Weyerhaeuser has had a long standing tradition in North Carolina and especially in the Fifth District. It is without question an admirable and outstanding company that lives up to the highest meaning of community service.

Weyerhaeuser's dedication to helping others is immeasurable and I cannot thank the company enough for the work they have done and continue to do. It is truly deserving of such a prestigious award, and I am delighted to see Weyerhaeuser's efforts have been recognized by the administration. The work of its employees and retirees shows that there is no one more deserving.

TRIBUTE TO JOE EDMISTON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my close friend of more than 30 years, Joe Edmiston, recipient of the Environmentalist of the Year Award at the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life of Southern California (COEJLSC)'s 7th Annual Awards Reception. COEJLSC could not have chosen a more deserving person to receive this honor.

Joe is a remarkable man whose accomplishments are legion and whose passion and commitment to the environment is unparalleled. He has literally and figuratively transformed the landscape of southern California for the better. He has also, through his infectious enthusiasm, his innovative work with professional associations and his formal academic teachings, helped change the way we think about environmental protection and stewardship. He epitomizes COEJLSC's guiding principles and his work is perfectly aligned with COEJLSC's mission and purpose.

I first met Joe in December 1976 when he interviewed for the position of executive director of the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission, a State agency created by legislation that I authored as majority leader of the California State Assembly. He was then a young member of the conservation staff of the Sierra Club, but his ideas impressed everyone and ultimately Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., appointed him to the commission directorship.

His decision to implement the plan through the establishment of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was an insightful—but risky—decision to forego traditional approaches. I carried the legislation, and it was a tough fight. Looking back, it was pretty audacious of Joe to think that market forces could be used to control the market, and more audacious still to think that his band of planners and ecologists would be the ones to do it. But the gamble paid off. Now, 26 years later the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has expended close to \$550,000,000 and acquired and preserved more than 55,000 acres of park and open space lands—much of it accessible and regularly enjoyed by the urban population that surrounds it.

Serving his fifth Governor, Joe is close to being the longest serving State agency head in modern history. For a plodding bureaucrat that would not be so remarkable an accomplishment, but he is anything but that. Dynamic, sometimes controversial, he has taken the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to the forefront of conservation leadership in California and the Nation by his innovative approaches and his impact has even been felt in other countries that are attempting to model his success.

I am proud to know Joe. He and his wife Pepper are great friends and they have a wonderful family. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joe Edmiston and congratulating him for receiving COEJLSC's Environmentalist of the Year Award.