

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PEARLIE EVANS DID MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2016

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I delivered the following remarks on behalf of my father, former Congressman William (Bill) Clay, at the funeral of Pearlle Evans on Saturday, November 26, 2016, in St. Louis, Missouri.

My friendship with Pearlle spans more than 50 years. During that time we worked together, laughed together, cried together, and raised a lot of hell together.

I first met Pearlle Evans in the early 1960s when a close political associate, Arthur Kennedy, introduced us. He and I had just helped A.J. Cervantes get elected. The new mayor asked me to recommend someone to fill the position of Commissioner of Social Services.

I invited Pearlle to lunch and offered her the position. She was honored but turned down the offer—telling me of her deep devotion in helping residents at the Fellowship Center and Plymouth House. Without any success, I mentioned that her salary would have been twice that at Fellowship Center and help many more people like those at the Plymouth House. Then, I took her to lunch twice and once to dinner before she agreed.

Finally, a well-fed Pearlle Evans accepted the offer and performed exceptionally well in the position.

Her background in social work, dealing with grassroots, ghetto residents, allowed her to develop a realistic grasp of the problems faced by low-income, unemployed, poverty stricken individuals. She provided the compassion and know-how in closing the gap that kept many of them from resolving their woes.

Having disdain and contempt for all kinds of discrimination and segregation, her agenda was about identifying injustice and reshaping our society until it adjusted to accommodate the needs of its underprivileged.

When my first District Director left, I asked Pearlle to run my congressional district office. But this time I knew better than to invite her to lunch or dinner. She accepted and made an ideal District Director for the next 28 years.

Perhaps, more than anyone else other than my wife Carol, Pearlle was able to successfully put up with me and all my audaciousness, my insolence, my sarcasm and my bluster. Her simple response of “ohhhhhhh, Congressman” more often than not was the perfect tonic to calm a rough or chaotic situation. She was by my side through good times and bad. Her advice and counsel was usually sound.

Pearlle was also a pioneer in politics who developed a new strategy for advancing the cause of civil rights and enhancing opportunities. She ushered in the concept that it was time to stop begging for what was ours by citizenship and to start demanding rights that were ours by birth. She played a key role in our developing the political apparatus capable of delivering lopsided margins in electing candidates. She had the unique ability to attract and surround us with people of wisdom, vision, integrity and commitment to racial equality.

She joined a cadre of other outstanding women like Gwen Giles, Ruth Porter, Deverne Calloway, Marian Oldham and many others that enabled our group to convince many to overcome their political apathy and to reject disgraceful absentee elected officials pretending to represent our interests.

I owe a great deal of my political success to committed and dedicated women like Pearlle. In my elections to Congress, women managed all of my campaigns: Doris Moore, Gwen Giles, Gwen Reed and Pearlle Evans each served as campaign managers in all 16 of them.

Pearlle, Virginia Cook, and Gwen Reed also played a key role in electing my son Lacy Clay to Congress.

Pearlle journeyed through a career that forced the political system to change the face of our politics and to provide us with people who truly voiced our legitimate concerns.

She was always on the picket lines, at the sit-ins, in the marches for school equality, wherever the protests against injustice were being waged. She was there to give active support in campaigns that changed the landscape of bigoted policies and replaced them with opportunities for minorities in St. Louis.

Very few lived their life with the enthusiasm, the commitment, the determination, the gusto of Pearlle. She lived every day with the intent of giving back to the community and enhancing the lives of those denied the benefits of humane treatment. In touching their lives, it was a testament to her endearing respect for each individual's humanity.

Carol and I join with you in acknowledging that she was an uncommon lady with a phenomenal effect on those of us who were graced by her presence. She was something special, something beautiful, something precious.

Although Pearlle would tell us not to shed tears for her but rather for a world that is suffering the ravages of war, disease, hunger and racism—still, without ignoring her request not to shed tears for her passing, we are obligated to shed tears for future generations that will never experience the sight of her doing battle with the giants of society who have profited from exploiting those unable to fight back. We mourn for those who will never bear witness to her unyielding fight against bureaucratic bigots in fighting for racial justice.

Yes, Pearlle, when remembering you, what you stood for, how much of your mission is yet unfulfilled, our tears are justified. We cry today because we will have no more tomorrows with you. But we thank God for all the yesterdays we spent with you.

We remember all of the good you have done, all of the people you have helped, all of the causes you have championed. We take comfort in the fact that our community, our state and our nation are better as a result of your having been here.

We have witnessed in you a towering, incredible, noble, dedicated defender of what's right—so we say in all sincerity—so long, our courageous sister in the struggle for equal justice—so long!

HONORING RICHARD COOPER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Richard Cooper, Chief Executive Officer of Mendo Lake Credit Union, who is retiring after forty years of service to credit union members.

Richard Cooper was born in Bend, Oregon, and raised in Alaska where he began his long career at Credit Union One in Anchorage. He continued his work in southern California until 2008 when he moved to Mendocino County and became the President and Chief Executive Officer at Mendo Lake Credit Union.

Under Mr. Cooper's leadership, Mendo Lake Credit Union has thrived as a business and flourished as an award-winning community partner. Renowned for his civic service, Mr. Cooper was recognized as the Credit Union Times “Rock Star of the Year” in 2016. During his tenure at Mendo Lake Credit Union, it was recognized with “Desjardins Youth Financial Education Award” from the Credit Union National Association in 2014; a “Trailblazer Award for Serving the Underserved” by the Credit Union Times in 2015; and as a “California Small Business Volunteer Program of the Year” by the Governor's Office in 2012.

In addition to his many contributions to these credit unions, Mr. Cooper has dedicated countless hours as an active board member of the Economic Development and Finance Corporation of Mendocino County, the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, the Mendocino College Foundation, the Ukiah Senior Center Endowment Fund, and the Ukiah Valley Medical Center Community Advisory Council.

Richard Cooper's career is one of dedicated service and the highest level of civic engagement. Please join me in congratulating him on his retirement and expressing our deep appreciation for his outstanding contributions to the residents of Mendocino County.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. STEPHEN MANSTER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2016

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bowling Green Town Manager Stephen Manster on the occasion of his retirement from public service. Throughout his forty-year career, he worked in both local and regional levels of government.

Mr. Manster was hired by the Town Council as Town Manager on January 3, 2006. Before coming to Bowling Green, he served for nineteen years as the Executive Director of the Rappahannock Area Development Commission (RADCO). During this time he was able

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