

chairman of the board four times: 1975, 1981, 1987, and 1993.

Some of the organizations that Joe helped organize as a County Board member were: the Economic Development Authority, the South East Fairfax Development Corporation, and he pushed the county to begin promoting tourism. Joe has always been one of the most stable business leaders on the Board of Supervisors.

He has always paid attention to local concerns, and as the Lee District Board member, he has personally been responsible for the completion of over at least 200 million dollars' worth of public projects in Lee District. Projects range from neighborhood improvements, parks, drainage protection, trails, street lights, intersection improvements, new roads and streets, conservation and environmental projects, the Huntington, Van Dorn, and Franconia-Springfield Metro stations, as well as a number of other projects that are too numerous to mention.

During all of this time, he was very active in the American Public Transit Association [APTA]. The association represents all of the transit systems in the United States and Canada. Joe was elected vice president of APTA in 1981, and was elected chairman of APTA in 1982. He served as chairman until 1984. Joe developed a tremendous amount of knowledge about transit operations around the country.

Because of his transit experience, Joe was asked to join Ernst & Young and help develop the National Transit Consulting Practice. Joe left Perpetual in 1987 to go to work for Ernst & Young. He spent the next 5 years developing the transit practice and working with transit systems in Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, Miami, and many other cities. Joe left Ernst & Young in 1992 to create the Alexander Group, in order to pursue additional consulting opportunities.

He is presently serving as the APTA membership committee chairman, president of the Virginia Association of Transit Officials, a member of the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board, a member of the NVTC Board, and a member of the Metro Board.

Joe and his wife Davie have two daughters, Cathy and Cheri, both graduates of the Fairfax County school system. Davie presently serves as the executive director of the Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring Joe Alexander for his 32 years of public service and wish him and Davie continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO OTIS BOWEN

HON. MEL HANCOCK

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 1995

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Otis Bowen is one of the finest people God ever put on Earth. Indiana is justifiably proud of him and John Krull has captured Doc's goodness beautifully in the following article:

BOWEN REFLECTS ON LIFE OF POLITICS
POPULAR FORMER GOVERNOR STILL HOLDS
GREAT INFLUENCE
(By John Krull)

BREMEN, IN.—Otis Bowen singles out one photograph on his wall of memories.

It is near the edge of one of the walls of a long hallway. Almost every inch of space is covered with certificates and pictures—photos of Bowen when he was in the Indiana Legislature, when he was governor, when he was the secretary of Health and Human Services in Ronald Reagan's Cabinet.

The images on Bowen's walls are a fairly comprehensive photographic record of recent American political history. There are pictures of Bowen with many of the most powerful politicians of the past 30 years. Richard Nixon. Gerald Ford. Jimmy Carter. Reagan. George Bush. Dan Quayle. Richard Lugar. Robert Orr.

As he points to one photograph, though, the former small-town doctor reveals something of the political know-how that made him one of the most popular politicians in Indiana history.

The picture is of the staff at the Department of Health and Human Services. In it, former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop is seated near Bowen.

"Koop was kind of a character," says Bowen, 77. "But Chick—that's what we called him—had great credibility with the media. So, whenever we had some idea we wanted to explore or try to get a fair hearing, we'd send Chick out to talk about it. It worked pretty well that way."

That hidden-hand style of leadership was one of the qualities that made Dr. Otis Bowen such a formidable politician, says William J. Watt.

"One of Doc's supporters had a saying that sort of captured it," says Watt, who wrote a book about Bowen's years as governor after serving as one of his executive assistants.

"He said that Doc always let other people have his way. That was the way he operated. He could control things without letting other people know it."

Watt attributes Bowen's success to several factors.

"Doc is very intelligent, but he has a greater sense of focus than a lot of intelligent people do. He had a very clear sense of what his priorities were. He knew what he wanted and he could be very determined in going after it. He would not quit or back off. And he could be very, very tough."

So tough that for a long time Otis "Doc" Bowen—the pride of Bremen, Ind., a small town not far from South Bend—practically ruled the political arena in Indiana.

In 1972, he ran for governor against a popular former governor, Matthew Welsh, and won convincingly. In 1976, he trounced then-Secretary of State Larry Conrad to win reelection.

In 1980, a young member of the U.S. House of Representatives felt compelled to ask Bowen if he intended to run for the U.S. Senate that year. Only after Bowen said he wasn't interested did Dan Quayle feel it was safe to enter the race.

His shadow has proven to be so long that rising Hoosier Republicans still feel the need to seek out his counsel and blessing.

"They still come up here. In the last election, a fair member—David McIntosh, Sue Anne Gilroy and some others—came up to sit down and ask my advice. It was gratifying to know that they haven't forgotten me," Bowen says, and smiles.

"Up here" is a converted barn on the outskirts of Bremen. It is a large, open house filled with memorabilia and souvenirs. Along the mantle atop the fireplace is a collection of ceramic elephants.

"Every time you speak at a Lincoln Day dinner, they given you an elephant. I've lost track of how many I have," he says.

It is the home Bowen built in the early 1970s with his first wife, Elizabeth, who died in 1981. They had been married for nearly 42 years at the time of her death.

She was the reason he did not run for the U.S. Senate.

"Her health was failing and she had to be my first priority," he says.

Later that year, he married an old friend, Rose Hochstetler. Because of his service in Washington, he only got to live in this house for a short time with her before she died in 1992.

He now shares the home with his third wife, the former Carol Mikesell.

He had known her for much of her life—even delivered her children. But they had lost touch during the years he was governor. She, too, had been married twice.

They became reacquainted at a political fund-raiser he held at his house in 1992. At the time, she was working at a bank in Warsaw.

Their courtship did not begin right away. "It took me about a month or more to work up the nerve to call her," he says.

When he did, they went to dinner in Fort Wayne.

"We knew pretty quickly that it was going to be serious," says Carol, 52.

They were married two years ago in the living room of the house, right in front of the fireplace with all the elephants. It was a small ceremony with only family members present.

Bowen says Carol helped him recover a zest for living.

"I have to give Carol much of the credit for turning me around. She made all the difference," he says.

When he met her, he says, the loss of his second wife still was fresh. The deaths of his two wives have been the most difficult things in his life.

"The grief was just devastating. You have six or eight months when you can't eat or sleep or even think about much. You lose 25 or 30 pounds and you wonder if you can go on," he says, shaking his head.

"But then there comes a point when you get tired of feeling so bad. You realize that you have to go on living. It's hard, but you do it."

He teases Carol about not being politically active.

"I don't even know if she voted for me," he laughs.

"Of course I did," she says, laughing too.

He and Carol now try to stay close to home. They work outside on their five acres of land. They journey into Bremen once a day. And they travel around the state, when Bowen delivers one of his many speeches, mostly about health-care issues.

Carol quit her job at the bank. Bowen says he's going to try to cut down on the number of speeches he makes. They plan to travel together some, but mostly they hope to enjoy their home and each other.

"This is a pretty good size bit of land, and we work on it ourselves, because we like that. And we want to spend the time together," he says.

Bowen says he doesn't know exactly why he was so popular with Indiana voters.

"Maybe it had to do with my medical training. You're taught as a doctor not to panic or act rashly in difficult situations," he says, and then he changes the subject.

His biographer and former aide William Watt sees it differently.

"With Doc Bowen, the public man and the private man were one and the same. There was a genuineness to the man people responded to," he says.

What's more, Watt says, Hoosiers remember the 1970s—the Bowen years—with fondness. Government and its problems seemed smaller and more approachable then.

Bowen recalls those days with affection, too.

"I miss the people contact," he says. "As governor, you always were with people, working with them, getting things done. I miss that."

He does not view his days at the Department of Health and Human Services with the same warmth he does his days at the Statehouse.

"I didn't enjoy my time in Washington as much. As governor, you could get things done. But in Washington you had more than 500 bosses in Congress to answer and bureaucrats to frustrate you. You never seemed to make contact with people," he says.

Still, there were people in Washington he respected.

"Gerald Ford was my favorite president, because he was just a good, down-to-earth man. He had common sense, and that's the most important thing.

Ford's successor in the White House, Jimmy Carter, also merits a spot in Bowen's affections.

"I don't think he was a very good president, but he is a fine man. He wanted to do the right things, but his management style undid him. But he is one of the nicest men you would ever want to meet," he says.

Closer to home, there are many people Bowen misses.

Again and again, as he points to people in the pictures, he has no say, "he has since died" or "he passed on a few years ago."

One person he mourns is one of his predecessors in the governor's chair and an occasional political adversary, Roger Branigin.

"He was a good man," Bowen says. "He was likable, personable and very open. It wasn't hard getting in to see him when he was governor. In fact, it could be kind of hard getting out of the office, because it was so pleasant to pass time with him and he enjoyed people so much."

Bowen says that some Indiana Republicans don't entirely accept the fact that he is retired.

"Some people have come up here to try to talk me into running for governor again," he says.

"I don't know if they were serious or if they were just trying to flatter me. I told them that I'd had my time at bat and it was time to let younger folks have their try."

Watt says he's not surprised that some people would want Bowen to run for governor again.

"Doc made people feel comfortable. It wasn't his style to have public confrontations. He seemed to make things work, and people liked that," he says.

That style manifests itself even in the way Bowen assesses his own career.

"I've been fortunate. Sometimes I almost have to pinch myself," he says.

"I've been a governor and I've worked with presidents. But then you realize that people of power and prominence came to their positions through some quirk or accident of fate, and that basically they're no more intelligent than you are. When you realize that, you can just go about doing what you have to do. That's what I tried to do."

HONORING THE CESAR CHAVEZ WRITING CONTEST AWARD WINNERS OF THE EAST SIDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 1995

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize more of the winners of the first annual Cesar Chavez writing contest held by the East Side Union High School District in San Jose, CA. I had the great privilege of attending the award ceremony honoring the student winners on March 31, 1995, and would like to continue sharing the essays and poems written by the student award winners with my colleagues.

Yesterday, I began by sharing the essays and poems of the grand prize winners and three of the first place winners, and today I will share the five remaining first price entries, and the first three of eight second place winning entries. Tomorrow, I will share the remaining five essays and poems of the second place winners.

The first price winning essays and poems of Lisette Munoz of W.C. Overfelt High School, Ahmed Desai of Piedmont Hills High School, Brenda Reyes of Silver Creek High School, and Eulala Reynolds of Yerba Buena High School follow:

Lisette Munoz of W.C. Overfelt High School

CESAR CHAVEZ

To some he was a hero but he only saw himself as a man.

A man I believe put on this earth to help the disadvantage.

His struggle was not easy for he faced much prejudice.

An acquire prejudice brought upon be ignorance.

His people, he saw hunched over in the fields, sweat upon their brows, pain in their backs, hands blistered and skin darkened from the sun.

All eyes were wide open, everyone looked around but no one took stand.

Cesar Chavez felt something in his gut this was 'El Movimiento.'

He stood amid the mist of the pesticides and began to walk, and surprisingly, the people followed.

He then knew that all the people needed was a leader who was dedicated to his cause.

He fasted so that people would listen.

He pointed out the forgotten ones.

Babies deformed by the hands and inventions of man.

He did what he needed to go change would come about.

He did all this but his body couldn't withstand the battle.

He entered the souls of his followers, and his spirit became the agila on our flag, soaring to continue the unfinished struggle.

Ahmed Desai of Piedmont Hills High School.

DEDICATED TO A DEDICATOR

In a modern world dominated by models who are athletic superstars, rarely is society given the gift of a true hero. The late Cesar Estrada Chavez was and continues to be such a unique individual who deserves the title of "genuine model." Chavez is an inspiration to many, and a teacher to all. There is much that he stood for, and even more that today's youth can learn from him.

A servant not to his own wants and desires, but rather to those of his community, Cesar Chavez reminds the young to put the needs of others before one's own. He utilized the tactics of civil disobedience and peaceful protests only to bring about change for the better and for society, and not for his personal gains or rewards. Armed with a strong dedication, yet a descendant of a poor background and minority ethnic group, Chavez proved that anyone, anywhere, with perseverance, can succeed and make a difference. Withstanding and conquering numerous obstacles, he neither gave up nor lost hope. He worked long and hard, rested little, and made nothing come between him and his goal. As a result of years of continuous struggles, Cesar Chavez achieved his goal and gained rights for farm laborers. Youths of today can see themselves in Chavez, as they prepare their future aspirations and discover ways to accomplish them. As a model, Cesar Chavez teaches youngsters that the best and only method for success is through dedication and persistence.

Cesar Chavez lives on as a leader to whom teens can relate and look up. He was human and knew his strengths and limits. He did not only talk about ideas, but took charge and did things to make them a reality. Chavez, even with his short stay on earth, proved that a lot can be done in and with so little. Moreover, he made the most of what he had and did not ask for more than what he felt was deserved. The lifestyle that he led includes many lessons that can be beneficial to today's new generation. Let us reflect the past actions of Cesar Estrada Chavez, a great humanitarian. Feliz Cumpleaños, señor Chavez.

Maria Gonzalez of Santa Teresa High School.

BATTLE

He fought for what was right,
It didn't matter if it was
Day or night.

He fought for our race,
And battled face to face
With the dangers we find
When we are the alien race.

Latino, Hispanic, Chicano
Some of the names he was
Called.

Proud to be who he was,
And what he stood for,
Equality.

He was a leader urging us to
Fight.

A leader explaining our right's.

Our right's as people
Our right's for freedom
Our right to come to this
Country, fight the odds, and
Win.

Brenda Reyes of Silver Creek High School.

"WHO IS HE?"

The fields were his life.

Los files eran su vida.

The crops in the fields were his life.

Las cosechas que crecian en los files, eran su vida.

The people picking the crops in the fields, were his life.

La gente que cortaba la cosecha en los files, eran su vida.

The pesticides that fell upon the people, became his enemy.

Los insecticidas que caian sobre la gente en los files, se convirtieron en su enemigo.

They became his concern.

Ellos se hicieron su preocupacion.

His struggle.

Su batalla.

His fight.