

If these kids are to avoid running into the wall of indifference and illiteracy as adults, we must help them right now by keeping their educational lifeline open to them.

This is a crucial vote—vote “no” on H.R. 2127.

WILLIAMS D. EVANS: DAYTON INVENTOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO ENDING WORLD WAR II

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 3, 1995

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of my colleagues the achievements of William Deane Evans and his contribution to ending World War II. Mr. Evans is a resident of Madison Township in the Third Congressional District of Ohio, which I represent.

Mr. Evans developed an improvement to the bombsight that was used on the Enola Gay on its historic mission 50 years ago this month that helped bring a speedy end to World War II. The improved bombsight was also used on the Bockscar, which is on display at the United States Air Force Museum in my district.

Mr. Evans, an innovative engineer, was responsible for numerous other technological developments in aviation that improved the fighting capabilities of our airmen during World War II and later. These inventions include the automatic parachute opener and a bag to protect downed flyers in freezing weather.

Last year, the Dayton Daily News ran an article by Dale Huffman detailing some of the achievements by Mr. Evans. For the benefit of my colleagues, the article is reprinted here.

[From the Dayton Daily News, Aug. 14, 1994]

DAYTONIAN'S BOMBSIGHT AIDED U.S.

(By Dale Huffman)

Things were cloaked in top secrecy, and it was two years after World War II ended before William Deane Evans found out he had played a strategic role in one of history's gruesome turning points.

His contribution was created in a three-car garage behind a home in the 600 block of Volusia Avenue in Oakwood.

It was there in 1944 that Evans, a 29-year-old engineer, was commissioned for a special assignment by the bomb control department at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. In that garage, he worked for Kendal Clark, an engineer who later invented the automatic washer for Frigidaire in Dayton. Evans developed a bombsight. It was used on the Enola Gay, a B-29 aircraft, to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, 49 years ago this month.

Evans is 79 now and lives on Brenton Drive in Madison Twp. with Helen, 78 his wife of 55 years. Their home is cluttered with possessions and mementos, and photographs that document their years together.

But there are no photos, no blueprints no prototypes, no physical evidence of the monumental contribution he made for his country in the controversial atomic attack that claimed 130,000 Japanese lives and hastened the end of the war.

Evans is a portly, kindly looking man with a short white beard and thinning snow white hair. He has diabetes and a pacemaker.

But his mind is keen and, at request, he sat down and deftly sketched a hand drawing of the bombsight he developed those years ago.

"They took everything at the time, it was all such top secret," he said. "They locked

the finished plans, the prototype, everything up in some valut somewhere and I have no idea if those items still exist today."

He used a lot of engineering terms as he rambled, but he tried to simplify a description of his device and how it worked.

"Often, on a fairly cloudy time of day, only snatches of clear air were present for the bombardier to fix the sight on the target. Time was crucial. We designed a set of optics tied into the bombsight, which would in effect put crosshairs on the target, instead of in the eye piece.

"To do this, we made the cross of light and focused it at infinity. A light shone through a reticle, which was projected onto a telescope mirror. If the bombardier could see the target, he could swing the sight to fix the cross on the target in the short time the non-clouds permitted him."

His device was used Aug. 6, 1945, when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan surrendered, ending World War II on Aug. 14, after a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945.

It was in 1947, two years after the bombings and V-J Day, that Evans read about the bombsight in a magazine, recognized it as his work, made some calls and confirmed his sighting mechanism had been used.

"So many little shops were working here in the Dayton area during the war," he said. "Many contributions were being made to the government and to the military.

"The little guys did the behind-the-scenes work. We developed. Then our products were tested by the government, eventually used, quite successfully at least in this case, and then the higher-ups would take the credit. I am not being sarcastic about it," he said, smiling. "It was just done that way."

Evans has known all these years that his device played a big part in the bombings. Yet, he has seldom talked about it, even to family, his wife says. He has never before been interviewed about it for a publication.

As the countdown is now under way to the 50th anniversary of V-J Day, Helen Evans said she thought it was time the world knew about her husband's contribution.

"I initiated this, so that he would get some credit," she said. "All his life, he has been so modest. He is such a fine man and such a hard worker. But he never has gotten his due. He helped change the face of history. In his own way he helped end a war."

Her husband spoke. "I am . . . glad that Harry Truman did what he did. He knew that if he didn't, what we would lose a lot more American men . . . that their blood would flow. Sure we are sorry anyone had to die. But the war had to be stopped. I am behind Mr. Truman in what he did.

"And, quite candidly, I am . . . glad that I was an engineer and able to support my country by developing this bombsight. We all give as we can and we all pull together in war."

Evans got his engineering degree at Ohio State University and spent his life in the profession. From 1970 to 1984, he owned and operated his own company called Plastomatics in Dayton.

"Bill always worked hard, but always was his own man," Mrs. Evans said. "He also trusted a lot of people and was naive in business. He would develop something, or invent something, and someone else would take it and make a lot of money on it.

"Bill has always been a workaholic. He didn't care about making money or building a fortune. He just loved what he did. He worked 80-hour weeks and would forget to come home. He is an incredible person when it comes to dedicating yourself to a challenge."

She smiled and added, "We never had a lot of money. But we have always been happy.

We have always been comfortable. We have had ups and downs, but we have survived. And I love Bill so much for all that he has done. He is a wonderful man who simply wants to know what makes things tick."

Evans smiled, reached over and lovingly tapped his wife's arm.

After a few moments he said, "I guess I feel it's fun to be fooled in this world. But it's . . . more fun to know."

HONORING DON MOSER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 3, 1995

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Don Moser, who has contributed much to my hometown of Murfreesboro, TN. He has been a wonderful source of advice and support over the years, and I wish him well upon his retirement.

Don has served Murfreesboro for many years. From his undergraduate days at Middle Tennessee State University, to serving as president of the local chamber of commerce, Don has contributed time and time again.

He cochaired the recent fund raising drive to secure funds for the chamber's new headquarters building and has been a long time member of the Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Board. Don's love for his community can be seen in his commitment to the Rutherford 20/20 Task Force, which is hard at work planning for the future of Rutherford County.

Most in our community will tell you if you want something done and done right, call on Don and his wife, Jean; they are the busiest people in town. They complement each other well and make an unstoppable team.

The banking community is sure to feel his absence after 38 years as an active leader and friend. He is retiring as regional president of Third National Bank in Murfreesboro.

Don is an avid golfer and I feel sure that many of his free days now will be spent hitting the links. He and Jean plan to do some traveling, as well as spending time with their two grown children, Donald S. and Michelle.

The bank's loss is the community's gain, for he will now have even more time to contribute, and we are grateful. Please join me in congratulating this outstanding individual.

COMMENDING KEITH JEWEL

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 3, 1995

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, Keith Jewel is just that. For the House of Representatives, he has been a splendid gem for a very long time.

Keith is the one who takes the pictures of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts on the steps of the Capitol. And before one makes too light of that, remember this: to high school kids who visit Washington, the experience lasts forever. The taxpayers got their money's worth from Keith's service. And we have all enjoyed his warm and friendly personality. He goes on now to a well earned retirement. And we wish