

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MILLS E.
GODWIN, JR.

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, on February 2, 1999, Virginia buried a man in the loamy soil of Southeast Virginia. This was no ordinary man—his name was Mills E. Godwin, Jr. He will be remembered as one of the greatest political figures of the 20th Century in Virginia.

Mills was born on November 19, 1914 in Chuckatuck, Virginia. Mills' lifelong interest in politics began at the age of 11. He later earned a bachelor's degree from William and Mary in 1934 and a law degree from the University of Virginia in 1938. While attending law school, Mills met Katherine Beale. They were married October 26, 1940. This beautiful marriage lasted for fifty-eight years until Mills passed away on January 30, 1999.

At the outbreak of World War II, he worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation with distinction. He began his political career in 1947 by winning election to the Virginia House of Delegates. In 1951, Mills won election to the state Senate where he served for ten years until his election as Lieutenant Governor in 1961. In 1965, Mills became the Democratic nominee for Governor and was elected to the first of his two terms as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

During his first term of office, Mills created the community college system in Virginia while using state bonds to sponsor huge increases in funds for public education. Under Mills Godwin's leadership, policies were enacted improving educational opportunities for students from kindergarten to graduate school while improving teacher's pay.

Today, national leaders spend a lot of time touting their education programs. Yet, Mills was leading the way thirty years ago. Mills Godwin's vision for education in the 1960's still holds true as a model for the 1990's. Governor Godwin laid the cornerstone for today's educational system and our leaders should emulate his policies while remembering that a Virginian showed the way to improving education thirty years ago.

He left office because he was term-limited after one term but he would run again for Governor in 1973 as a Republican. He won the election and became the only two-term Governor of Virginia this century. During his second term, Mills established the Department of Corrections, reinstated the death penalty for violent offenders while increasing spending on our state's education and health systems and its sprawling infrastructure needs.

Mills is long remembered for revising the state Constitution and his lengthy term of service to the people of Virginia. However, I will remember him for his help to me when I was mayor of Richmond in the seventies and his leadership in and out of office. He unfailingly reached across party-lines to accomplish the greater good for all Virginians. After all, he remarked, there was "no higher honor" than to be Governor of Virginia.

In Virginia, we have many statesmen and Mills is one for the 20th Century. When it was the right thing to do, he acted with strong leadership because he was not permanently bound to a rigid devotion to history. He knew it was imperative we learn from our past mistakes—and this was his attitude for success.

He now joins his daughter Becky in heaven but he left a huge impact on our lives. May God Bless Mills, his wife Katherine, his sister, Leah Keith, and his family and friends.

THE CHARITABLE INTEGRITY
RESTORATION ACT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Charitable Integrity Restoration Act. This legislation addresses most of the sophisticated and shameful tax schemes that I have seen. Recently, The Wall Street Journal has run a series of articles on the so-called charitable split-dollar insurance plans where wealthy individuals are taking improper tax deductions in an effort to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

The legislation would prohibit the use of charitable split-dollar insurance plans where

wealthy individuals give a substantial "gift" to the charity and subsequently take a tax deduction for that contribution. The charity, in turn, invests a portion of that money in a life insurance policy for the heirs of the donor or in an annuity contract in the name of the donor. The charity retains the right to a small portion of the policy's proceeds. In other words, the donors get the benefit of purchasing a life insurance or annuity policy using the charitable contribution deduction—something all other taxpayers would pay for directly out of their own pocket.

I would like to point out there is no provision in the Tax Code that gives investors even the remote impression that charitable split-dollar investment policies are legal. Instead, this is a mythical creation of those who are trying to find ways for their clients to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

This scheme also violates the principle of charitable giving. Charitable contributions are tax deductible because they are supposed to benefit an organization dedicated to a worthy cause. Under this abuse, the charities simply become a conduit for a tax avoidance scheme.

The Charitable Integrity Restoration Act would end the abuse of charitable split-dollar investment policies. The donors face the prospect of having their investment returned to them and losing their tax deduction for the so-called charitable contribution.

Furthermore, any charitable organization engaging in split-dollar insurance plans would lose their tax-exempt status. Anticipating such action, the National Committee on Planned Giving, a professional association based in Indianapolis, has called the scheme "a high-risk venture" exposing participating charities to considerable financial risk, which "may endanger the tax-exempt status of charities that participate."

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the House will pass the Charitable Integrity Restoration Act and put an end to this abusive tax practice and restore charitable contributions to their original intent—helping people in need