

resources that make the Wekiva River an excellent addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and it is great pride that I introduce this legislation for consideration before this body.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES
BRADLEY EARNEST

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to a neighbor, friend and young man who gave his life in service to his country. Brad Earnest, as he was affectionately called, died on August 2, 1999 in Florida.

Brad was critically injured in a helicopter crash as he served in the 10th Special Forces of the United States Army. In the nine years since that accident Brad remained in a coma.

He is survived by his mother, Minna H. Earnest, who deserves the gratitude, great respect and deepest sympathy of every member of Congress and all Americans.

Not only did Minna Earnest lose her son she also sacrificed her husband to our nation when he was killed in Vietnam. What greater heartbreak could one family, one wife and mother endure for the sake of her country?

My last memories of Brad recall him proudly telling me of his Army assignment and his work in service to our country. Most of all we will miss his smile but always remember and celebrate his life.

Brad was a graduate of Winter Park High School in Winter Park, Florida. He attended Auburn University in Alabama where he was a member of Theta Chi Fraternity.

Brad was born in Portsmouth, Virginia on October 16, 1962 and will be laid to rest in Opelika, Alabama.

I know the United States House of Representatives and every Member of Congress extend our deepest sympathy to Brad's mother, Minna H. Earnest, and to his brother, Bryan H. Earnest of Maitland, Florida, and to his paternal grandmother, Margaret Earnest of Opelika, Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE MORRIS

HON. CHARLES W "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Willie Morris—the great Mississippi writer who dedicated a lifetime to exploring what it means to be a Southerner, and showing what it means to be a friend. And today many friends and admirers are grieving over his death earlier this week.

Everyone who loved Willie and cared for his work understands what a terrible loss this is. In his own unique way, he touched countless souls with his emotional honesty and boyish sense of humor. His perspective was a refreshing retreat from the culture of cynicism that poisons our society, and corrodes our democracy.

William Morris was an American original, and a Mississippi legend. And, the truth is, it's

hard to imagine Mississippi without Willie Morris.

Willie grew up in Yazoo City, Mississippi, a small town on the edge of the Delta, and went on to study at the University of Texas, where he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship.

At 32, he became the youngest editor-in-chief of Harper's magazine in New York City. In the 1980s he came back to his native Mississippi to teach writing at Ole Miss and to write books.

Willie Morris wrote about the little things that make small-town life special—like football games, dogs, and hole-in-the-wall restaurants. He also wrote about the big things—like faith, family and friendship.

But Willie never shied away from putting these heart-warming descriptions in the context of the South's racial history, or revealing the challenges of laying down its burden.

He did this magnificently, I felt, in "The Courting of Marcus Dupree"—a story about how the outstanding high school football star helped breakdown long-held hostilities between whites and blacks in Philadelphia, Mississippi.

In this book and others, Willie acknowledged the progress made toward racial harmony in Mississippi and across America.

As someone who lived through the transition from the Old South to the New South, he had seen dramatic change in his homeland. But one way or another, he always found a way to say: "We must do better."

Another favorite theme of Willie's was dogs. "Every little boy ought to have a dog," he once said. In *My Dog Skip* and *North Toward Home*, he told some of the best dog stories I've ever heard, stories that inspire the warmest memories of the dogs of our own childhood. Many are so good they make you wish you had lived them yourself—like the time at age 12 when he taught his English Fox Terrier, Skip, how to drive a car:

"I would get the dog to prop himself against the steering wheel," he writes, "his black head peering out the windshield, while I crouched out of sight under the dashboard. Slowing the care to ten or fifteen, I would guide the steering wheel with my right hand while Skip, with his paws, kept it steady. As we drove by the Blue-Front Café, I could hear one of the (old) men shout: 'Look at that ol' dog drivin' a car!'"

Willie Morris loved life and all things in it. And most of all, he loved making friends and encouraging others.

Several years ago, a young writer friend of mine from Texas met Willie and after their meeting sent Willie an essay he had been working on. Days later my friend received his essay, with excellent edits, and a hand-written note from Willie that said: "You're a damn fine writer. Keep the faith, my friend!"

That letter now hangs framed, on my friend's wall, as a medal of encouragement.

Mark Twain once said: "the great people in life are the ones that tell others that they, too, can be great." Willie Morris was one of those great people. He was the kind of guy that once he made friends with you, he was a friend for life. Our good friend Willie Morris has gone away, but his beautiful words and sweet spirit will live on forever and ever.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Joanne Prichard, and his son, David Rae, in this difficult time.

H.R. 2116—VETERANS' MILLENNIUM
HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise in support of the Veterans' Millennium Health Care Act. This bill improves the VA health care system in many ways—it will extend long term care and emergency care services—provide sexual trauma counseling—and will give the VA access to a portion, if funds are recovered from tobacco companies, to compromise for its costs of tobacco-related illnesses.

I am especially pleased that this legislation ensures that the Veterans Administration (VA) will work with licensed doctors of chiropractic care to develop a policy to provide veterans with access to chiropractic services. Even though chiropractic is the most widespread of the complementary approaches to medicine in the United States, serving roughly 27 million patients—and even though Congress has recognized chiropractic care in the other areas of the federal health care system (Medicare, Medicaid, and federal workers compensation), VA has chosen not to make chiropractic routinely available to veterans. This bill changes that!

As a Member representing a portion of San Diego County, I am also pleased that H.R. 2116 includes a biomedical research facility for the VA San Diego Healthcare System to accommodate current and pending research programs on diabetes, immunology, hypertension, Parkinson's Disease, AIDS, and memory.

I encourage my colleagues to support and vote in favor of the Veterans' Millennium Health Care Act.

PRAISING STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BILL COLLIER'S PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost William H. "Bill" Collier is a gentleman who represents the finest traditions of public service and generosity that so many Tennesseans hold dear.

I was privileged to serve in the Tennessee state legislature with Rep. Bill Collier for four years from 1984 to 1988. For six years after I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, I represented several communities that also had the good fortune to be represented by Bill Collier during his service in the state legislature.

He retired from the state legislature in 1994 after a distinguished career dedicated to public service on behalf of the people of Humphreys and Benton Counties.

Just last month, a section of Highway 70 in New Johnsonville was named for Bill Collier. That action was not only fitting, but also well deserved for a man who was committed to public service. It doesn't hurt that the bypass at Waverly was built largely because of his perseverance.

And that's not all that can be said about Bill. He is also one of the finest auctioneers Middle Tennessee has known.

Bill Collier, his wife, Patricia, their three children and two grandchildren are a tribute to the values we as Tennesseans consider so important and we wish him the best.

An article published in the News-Democrat in Waverly under the headline "Collier Looks Back at His Career" is printed below in honor of Bill's public service and dedication to his family.

[From the Waverly (TN) New Democrat, July 9, 1999]

COLLIER LOOKS BACK AT HIS CAREER
(By Grey Collier)

Work to become, not to acquire.

This quote by Elbert Hubbard in Monday's Tennessean might be best exemplified by Humphreys County native William H. (Bill) Collier.

Collier, who last weekend was honored by having a section of the newly-widened Highway 70 in New Johnsonville named for him, has long worked for the good of his home county.

Collier promised to try and get the bypass in Waverly when he ran for the state representative in 1984.

"We got the first three phases in Waverly funded," Collier said.

"Then we realized we needed to get it through New Johnsonville."

Upon entering his first term in the state legislature, Collier went to bat for the county immediately.

"I was in a meeting and an aide come to ask if he could do anything for us," Collier said. "I told him I wanted an appointment with Gov. (Lamar) Alexander."

At the time, there was a recession going on and Consolidated Aluminum had closed. "I told him about the shape Humphreys County was in and that we needed a bypass to bring in business," Collier said.

"He told me I was the first freshman (new representative) who spoke with him so candidly and he was going to help me," he said.

Soon after, Alexander made a visit to the county and plans were announced for the bypass.

"Our last conversation before (Alexander) left office was about the bypass," Collier said. "He said, 'Bill, the money is in the budget for the bypass, don't let anything happen to it.'"

Collier was successful in getting on the transportation finance ways and means committee which was also a big help in getting the bypass financed and built.

"John Bragg was the committee chairman and told me he had heard all he wanted to about 'that bypass'," Collier said. "I told him he would stop hearing about it when it was built."

The completion of the by-pass is one of Collier's favorite accomplishments, but there are others as well.

He acquired a \$250,000 grant for factory building in the Waverly Industrial Park and a \$50,000 grant for a feasibility study of the state park in New Johnsonville.

"Those are the three things I am most proud of," Collier said. "But I have to attribute all of my accomplishments to the good help I had from local leaders and other politicians—especially Sen. Ben. Riley Darnell."

Collier did not run for reelection in 1994 due to health reasons. That ended his 10 year tenure in the legislature and a 22 year political career.

A Humphreys County native, Collier was born in the Big Richland community. He was employed with TVA for 10 years as an iron worker and foreman.

In 1957 he attended Reppert Auction School and began working part time as an auctioneer and real estate agent.

"I felt TVA and went full time as an auctioneer and real estate agent in 1960," he said.

His office was located on Main Street. At that time there was only one other real estate office in Waverly. How times change.

Since then he has not only conducted hundreds of auctions, but also took part in training a few.

"Governor Buford Ellington appointed me to the auction commission over west and part of middle Tennessee for five years," Collier said.

He was also an instructor for five years with the Nashville Auction School.

"I have five auctioneers at Collier Realty and have taken an active part in training all of them," he said.

He worked alone for three years before Gene Trotter came in as an auctioneer and Shirley Rochelle as a real estate agent. Nancy Trollinger worked as Collier's secretary for 20 years.

When he entered the legislature he took on Kenneth Dreaden as a partner so that he could devote more time to his political office.

In 1967, Collier married Patricia Fowlkes Collier. They have three children, Greg Gunn of New Johnsonville, Allyson Haggard of Okeechobee, FL, and Daniel Collier of Waverly.

He has two grandchildren, Connor Gunn, 6, and Mollie Collier, 3.

These days you are most likely able to catch him at the office where he still goes daily. Otherwise, he is likely to be sitting on the front porch swing, sharing Diet Coke and peanuts with his granddaughter.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEDICATED
SERVICE BY MR. ROBERT TOBIAS

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Robert Tobias on his outstanding service as President of the National President of the National Treasury Employees Union and wish him continued success as he engages in other professional challenges. I am proud to count Bob as my constituent and I thank him for the assistance he has given me on behalf of federal employees.

During the past 31 years that he has spent with the NTEU, Bob has been an effective advocate of federal employees, working his way up from staff attorney, to general counsel, to executive vice president, and finally, in 1983, to National President. Over these 31 years, NTEU has grown from 20,000 members in one agency to 155,000 members in 22 agencies.

During his impressive career, Bob received numerous Presidential appointments and awards: President Bush appointed him to the Federal Employees Salary Council; and President Clinton appointed him to both the National Partnership Council and the Commission to Restructure the IRS.

Bob also has been at the forefront of recent government reform efforts through his membership in the National Commission on Restructuring the IRS. The Commission's work

was the basis for the most far-reaching changes in the agency in nearly 50 years. Currently, he has been nominated to serve on the IRS Oversight Board and is awaiting Senate confirmation.

Bob's leadership style is firm but fair, and he is on the cutting edge of new developments in labor relations. I have worked personally with Bob on many issues, and often times we met with great success.

For example:

We collaborated on establishing the Fair Share formula, which prevented a large FEHBP monthly premium increase, thereby insulating federal employees and retirees from the full rise in health care premiums.

We worked to strike Medical Savings Accounts as an FEHBP option MSA's would have resulted in "cherry picking," and increased FEHBP premiums by siphoning off relatively healthy enrollees into catastrophic/MSA plans.

Bob's expertise on these issues was invaluable.

A glimpse into some of his other accomplishments further illuminates the reasons why Bob is such a great source of information and expertise. Through collective bargaining, Bob reached important agreements regarding: Quality of work life; developing the first national alternative work schedule; and child care facilities.

Bob was also instrumental in the Hatch Act reform, which allows federal employees to exercise their rights to participate in political activity.

Bob's work does not stop with advocacy on behalf of the NTEU. All federal employees benefit from his efforts, at the bargaining table and in the courtroom. He has used litigation to protect federal employee rights in a number of landmark cases. For example:

Bob worked on a Supreme Court victory just this year that established the right of federal employees and their collective bargaining representatives to initiate midterm bargaining;

Bob successfully sued Presidents Nixon in 1975 and Reagan in 1981 to obtain back pay for federal employees; and

Bob achieved a federal court victory that gave federal employees the right to engage in informational picketing.

I wish Bob the best of luck in his teaching and writing endeavors. His recommendation for the next National President, NTEU Executive Vice President Colleen Kelly, has a tough act to follow. The wonderful staff at NTEU will ease her transition, while Bob's legacy will benefit federal employees for generations. I heartily thank Bob for his devotion and service to civil servants. Shakespeare could have had Bob Tobias in mind when he wrote in Henry VIII: "The force of his own merit makes his way."

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIAL,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under