

TRIBUTE TO M.T. PHELPS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. M.T. Phelps, who will be turning 100 years old next month. Born on August 9, 1900 in the hills of Columbus, Georgia, Mr. Phelps has lived exactly the sort of simple, yet exceptional life that most of us desire.

Mr. Phelps met his future wife, Allene Rickman, at church as a young man and soon married her on March 12, 1927. After working several years in the sunshine of Florida, Mr. Phelps moved to my district in 1933 when he came to Lillington to take a position as Superintendent of Rickman Brick. Mr. and Mrs. Phelps were soon blessed with the births of three lovely children, Mary Ann, Marion "Rick" and Emily Francis, whom they supported in all their academic and athletic endeavors. Throughout it all, Mr. Phelps not only successfully fulfilled his role as an outstanding husband and father, but also as a diligent and dedicated worker at the Rickman Brick company, Womble's General Store, and finally O'Quinn and O'Quinn's Funeral Home. In fact, Mr. Phelps remained at O'Quinn's until his much-deserved retirement at the ripe old age of 85.

In addition to his numerous responsibilities at home and in the workplace, Mr. Phelps has also discovered time for himself and his community. In an ideal example of civic-minded selflessness, Mr. Phelps for years has allowed the local Kiwanis organization to use his home as the site for their annual Halloween haunted house. Mr. Phelps has been a Mason since the 1930s and was a supporter of the old Lillington High School Booster Club. Finally, Mr. Phelps, as a conservationist, has always loved nature and enjoyed the simple pleasures associated with the land. His reputation as a hunter and a trainer of good hunting dogs has preceded him throughout our community.

Although we are marking the occasion of his 100th birthday tonight, this is a tribute we could provide Mr. Phelps on any day. I am truly privileged to represent people like M.T. Phelps in this United States Congress. M.T. Phelps is a good worker, a good husband, a good father, a good citizen, and, above all, a good man.

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting for the RECORD under general leave on H.R. 1102, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act," the attached exchange of letters between myself and Chairman GOODLING.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 18, 2000.

Hon. WILLIAM F. GOODLING,
Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLING: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1102, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act" and H.R. 4843, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act of 2000."

As you have noted, the Committee on Ways and Means has ordered favorably reported H.R. 4843, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act of 2000." In order to expedite consideration of H.R. 1102, I appreciate your agreement that the text of H.R. 4843 be made in order as an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 1102. This is based on the understanding that I would continue to work with you to include the agreed upon pension provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce in the final conference report on H.R. 1102 and that I would not object to your request for conferees with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of your Committee when a conference with the Senate is convened on this legislation.

Finally, I will include in the Record a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter during floor consideration. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in expediting this matter.

Sincerely,

BILL ARCHER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 17, 2000.

Hon. BILL ARCHER,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ARCHER: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respects to further consideration of H.R. 1102, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act," which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition, to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Government Reform. I understand that the House will consider this bill in the near future. As you know, on July 14, 1999, the Committee on Education and the Workforce ordered favorably reported H.R. 1102, H. Rept. 106-331, Part I.

The Committee on Education and the Workforce has jurisdiction over pension provisions amending the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), which are contained in Title VI, of H.R. 1102. With your agreement, several of these ERISA provisions were included in the Conference Report to H.R. 2488, the "Financial Freedom Act of 1999."

I understand that the Committee on Ways and Means has approved H.R. 4843, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act of 2000." H.R. 4843 amends the Internal Revenue Code, but does not include any corresponding ERISA pension amendments. In order to expedite consideration of H.R. 1102, I do not object to the House of Representatives considering the text of H.R. 4843 as an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to the Education and the Workforce reported version of H.R. 1102. However, I appreciate your willingness to work with me to assure that the ERISA provisions contained in H.R. 1102, as reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, are

added in any conference agreement. I also appreciate your support in my request to the Speaker for the appointment of conferees from my Committee with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of my Committee when a conference with the Senate is convened on this legislation.

Thank you for agreeing to include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during the House debate on H.R. 1102. Again, I thank you for working with me in developing this legislation and I look forward to working with you on these issues in the future.

Sincerely,

BILL GOODLING,
Chairman.

IN HONOR OF MR. MICHAEL VIRGIL, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, CARIBBEAN FIELD DIVISION OF THE U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. Michael Virgil, Special Agent in Charge of the Caribbean Field Division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), for all of his achievements on behalf of the United States and to congratulate him on such a noteworthy and honorable career.

Since joining the DEA in 1973, Mr. Virgil has continuously put himself in harms way to protect this country. Through his numerous foreign and domestic assignments, Mr. Virgil has made a career of fighting drug traffickers and drug cartels both here and abroad.

As the Assistant Country Attache in Mexico City, Mr. Virgil oversaw the intelligence and enforcement operations. He also led the efforts of the Northern Border Response Force, a multi-agency program responsible for the seizure of more than 140 metric tons of cocaine and more than 2,000 arrests in a five-year period.

In addition, Mr. Virgil spearheaded the development and implementation of Operation Triangle, Operation Unidos, Operation Unidos II, and Cobra. In each of these programs, Mr. Virgil sought to create relationships between Mexico and other Central American countries to seal of drug-trafficking activities in Mexico.

Throughout his twenty-seven year career with the DEA, Mr. Virgil's dedication and service have not gone unnoticed. Mr. Virgil has been the recipient of numerous performance and achievement awards, including the Administrator's Award for Exceptional Service.

Mr. Virgil graduated with honors from the New Mexico State University, with a Bachelor's degree in Police Science and Criminology.

For his almost thirty years of dedicated duty in fighting the threat that drugs pose to our society, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and honoring Michael Virgil.