

prayer is that it will do so for many years to come.

TO HONOR DELEGATE HARRY J. PARRISH FOR 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I speak today after reading in a local paper that Delegate Harry J. Parrish, of Manassas, Virginia, has recently been recognized by the Virginia General Assembly for 50 years of public service. I want to bring to my colleagues' attention some highlights of this gentleman's exemplary career of service to the people of Manassas, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America.

Delegate Harry Parrish was born on February 19, 1922, on a farm in Fairfax County, Virginia. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Manassas where his father bought a coal and ice company and renamed it the Manassas Ice and Fuel Company, Inc., which is still in existence today. As he was growing up, his father encouraged him to pursue flying, an interest that led him to fly for the U.S. Air Force. Mr. Parrish graduated from Osbourn High School in 1940 where he was a member of Prince William County's first high school football team. He then attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute to seek a degree in business administration. His courses were accelerated at the onset of the American involvement in World War 11, and in 1942, Mr. Parrish enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, which later became the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Parrish had a remarkable and distinguished military career. He was one of only 17 Americans hand selected to attend the Royal Air Force Flight School, No. 5 where he graduated as a pilot, navigator, bombardier, radio operator and armaments man. Through his extensive training, Mr. Parrish became one of the legendary pilots who served in the China-Burma-India Theater where he "flew the hump" and delivered vital war supplies to our troops. Of all his accomplishments, his experiences in World War 11 are the moments in his life of which he is the most proud.

While on active duty, Mr. Parrish was a flight commander, squadron commander, wing operations officer and base operations officer. Following the war, Mr. Parrish went into the Air Force Reserves and served active tours of duty in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Mr. Parrish retired from the Air Force in 1971 with the rank of full colonel and with multiple awards and decorations including the Air Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war, Mr. Parrish returned home to work for his father in his ice and fuel business. Mr. Parrish again followed in his father's footsteps when he began serving the Town of Manassas in 1951 as town councilman. He served as councilman until being elected mayor of Manassas in 1963. Mr. Parrish served as mayor for 18 years during which time the town became a city. His service as mayor had such a positive impact on Manassas that in 1973 he was named the "Town of Manassas Man of the Century." He left his po-

sition as mayor and ran successfully for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates in 1981, a post which he holds to this day.

Mr. Parrish is currently the co-chairman of the House Finance Committee and a member of the House Committees on Conservation and Natural Resources, Commerce and Labor, Corporations, Insurance and Banking, Rules and Joint Rules.

Mr. Parrish also serves on numerous state and local legislative and civic boards including the joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission, and Virginia Veterans Cemetery Board. He is now the chairman of the board of the company his father began in 1922, the Manassas Ice and Fuel Company, Inc., and his son, Hal, is the president. He has served as president of the Virginia Municipal League and on the boards of United Virginia Bank and Crestar Bank. Mr. Parrish is one of the founders of the Prince William Hospital where he has served on the board of directors.

Mr. Parrish has been involved in far too many community clubs and groups to mention all of them at this time. Mr. Parrish is a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Manassas, the Kiwanis Club of Manassas, the American Red Cross, the Society for Preservation of Black Heritage, and Boy Scouts of America. He has also been a member of the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company since 1948.

In addition to the honors and credit to his name that I have already mentioned, he has also received the Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Oil Men's Association and in 1998 was recognized by his peers by being named Virginia Oil Man of the Year. Also, in 1995 he served, along with his wife Mattie, as the grand marshal of the Manassas Christmas Parade.

He met Mattie during his years at Osbourn High School in Manassas where they have been sweethearts since eighth grade. Mattie has been an incredible source of support and devotion ever since. They have two children and three grandchildren.

The most amazing thing about Mr. Parrish is that despite his long and distinguished career, he remains without a doubt one of the most humble public servants that can be found anywhere. Throughout his 50 years of public service and during his time in the military, he has shown extraordinary and tireless dedication to his country, state, city, church and family.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues join me in commending Delegate Harry Parrish for achieving 50 years of remarkable public service.

PEACE CORPS ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TONY P. HALL**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join our colleagues and the tens of thousands of Americans who have served with the Peace Corps in celebrating its 40th anniversary.

I had the honor of working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, in what was then a small town where I taught English. When I returned to my "village" a few years ago, I

was astonished to see not only how much had changed—but also to see how many of the students and former colleagues I knew three decades ago still remembered the work done so long ago.

There are few initiatives as successful as this one, and it is with tremendous pride that I count myself as one of the people lucky enough to have had this experience. In the years since 1967, I have visited dozens of countries where Americans are performing Peace Corps service—and dozens more where their work is desperately needed.

I have met countless leaders in business, in charitable organizations, in government, in academia, in every walk of life whose service in the Peace Corps launched careers that have contributed in innumerable ways to the betterment of our country and the countries where they worked.

The Peace Corps does tremendous good overseas. It does wonders for the Americans who serve, and the millions more who benefit from the goodwill they instill in those who know them. And it does America proud. I salute it for its successful first 40 years, and hope it will continue a tradition unmatched by any other American initiative.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGIL SCHEIDT

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virgil Scheidt, an outstanding citizen and dedicated community leader in Bartholomew County, Indiana. He recently retired as the Republican Party County Chairman and intends to spend more time with his lovely wife, Bettie, and eleven energetic grandchildren.

In addition to his service as County Chairman, Mr. Scheidt is a former State Chairman, a 30-year District Chairman, and a former County Treasurer. He has served as a delegate to the Republican State Convention each session since 1958 and as a delegate to the National Convention on seven separate occasions. Indiana Governors Edgar Whitcomb, Otis Bowen and Bob Orr have all recognized Mr. Scheidt's devotion by awarding him the Sagamore of the Wabash.

Privately, he farms 300 acres of land in Bartholomew County. As a pioneer in real estate, he developed both the Highland Ridge Subdivision and Woodridge Retail Center near Columbus, Indiana. Such achievements earned him the title Realtor of the Year in 1987 by the Columbus Board of Realtors.

Mr. Scheidt's passion for public service has made him an inspiration to all the residents of Bartholomew County. He is not only deeply regarded, but also deeply loved.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this respected man who has helped make selected communities of south central Indiana the pleasant places they are today.