

TRIBUTE TO MR. ERNEST C.
WITHERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to legendary photojournalist Mr. Ernest C. Withers. Born in Memphis, TN in 1922, Mr. Withers is renowned for his distinguished photographic record of the Civil Rights Movement in the South during the 1950's and 1960's. No other photographer created as complete a document of this movement as Withers did.

An important catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement, Withers helped to mobilize interest in the cause across the United States through his powerful images and writings. Withers often traveled with and photographed such legendary figures as Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Ralph Abernathy, and James Meredith. His unflinching visual records of these important individuals and critical events like the Montgomery bus boycott of 1955 and the assassination of King provide an insightful portrait of these landmark moments in American history.

During the struggle for civil rights, Mr. Withers photographed meetings, marches, sit-ins, and police crackdowns all across the South. As the movement erupted, Withers became fully engaged in capturing images which would appear in newspapers and magazines like *Time* and *Newsweek*, often uncredited. He noted, "I had a single sense of having to record what was going on. I look for things of time and value. None of my images deal in violence—they deal in time." Though he generally photographed without incident, at the funeral of Medgar Evers, highway patrolmen knocked his camera from his hands, destroying the film.

Because of his familiarity with the people and the geography of the segregated South, Mr. Withers was often the first or only photographer to capture momentous events as they unfolded long before the national press became interested.

Mr. Withers has photographed every major civil rights activist since the 1950's and said he could do an entire book of his photographs of Dr. King. The Massachusetts College of Art mounted an exhibition of Mr. Withers' civil rights photographs entitled "Let Us March On" that has toured the United States since 1992. He has photographed Memphis soul figures like Al Green, Isaac Hayes and Elvis Presley. He has photographed nearly every president from John F. Kennedy to Bill Clinton. He has also captured the innocence of Sunday school teachers, Little Leaguers, and waitresses in his photographs.

Furthermore, Mr. Withers has served his country and his community as an Army photographer in World War II and as one of the first nine African American police officers in Memphis.

Ernest Withers once said, "I was trained as a high school student in history, but I didn't know I would be recording the high multitude of imagery and history that I did record."

In 1998, Mr. Withers was inducted into the Black Press Hall of Fame. Please join me in honoring Mr. Withers as one of truly important and influential figures in our history.

IN TRIBUTE TO OUR FALLEN
HERO: SHERIFF SAM CATRON OF
PULASKI COUNTY, KENTUCKY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, a dedicated public servant and a soldier on the front lines of the fight against evil has been struck down—taken from us in a senseless but premeditated act of political assassination in my home county this past weekend.

Sheriff Sam Catron of Pulaski County, Kentucky, was shot and killed Saturday, April 13, by a cowardly assassin who fired a high-powered rifle from a camouflaged vantagepoint estimated to be some 100 yards away. He was killed instantly and fell just steps from friends, family and his elderly mother, Jennie Rachel Catron, who had accompanied him to an outdoor candidates-night gathering and fish fry at a rural volunteer fire station.

By Monday, very efficient and capable state and local investigators had arrested the alleged assassin and two alleged conspirators, including one of the sheriff's opponents in his race for reelection.

A particularly cruel irony is that the Sheriff's father was gunned down by an assassin in similar fashion as Somerset (county seat of Pulaski County) Chief of Police 38 years ago. Both shootings were in the presence of the Sheriff's mother and the Chief's wife.

Pulaski County Sheriff Sam Catron won election on his first attempt for the office in 1984. He had previously served as chief of police in Ferguson, Kentucky, and as a deputy sheriff in Pulaski County. He was a member of the City of Somerset-Pulaski County Rescue Squad, an Eagle Scout and a Kentucky Colonel. Ray Stoess, the former executive director of the Kentucky Sheriff's Association, says Sheriff Catron was perhaps the best Kentucky sheriff of the last 30 years. A former Sheriff of the Year in Kentucky, he was considered one of the hardest-working law officers in the state, often staying on the road until the early morning hours answering calls from citizens and investigating crimes.

A licensed pilot, Sheriff Catron performed his own helicopter searches for marijuana, helped other departments track suspects with the use of his police dog and he was even known to keep firefighting equipment in his vehicle so he could lend a hand in any kind of emergency. Sheriff Catron had recently cooperated with John Walsh of the TV program *America's Most Wanted* in an effort to track down a man wanted by police in Eastern Kentucky. Ironically, that episode of the program premiered on national television this past Saturday night, less than two hours after Sheriff Catron was gunned down.

Sheriff Catron loved being the chief law enforcement official of our county. He was a very capable lawman. But he also performed thousands of kindnesses to the people he dearly loved. As such, Sheriff Sam Catron is an example of a law officer who lived to serve the people he represented. He worked tirelessly for the citizens of Pulaski County, who today have a heavy heart, yet they are now relying on their deep wellspring of faith, their abiding sense of community, their loving families and their inner strength.

The people are trying to heal in many ways, including the spontaneous display of brown and yellow ribbons—colors worn by the members of the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office who put their lives on the line each and every day.

But among the outpouring of heartfelt tributes, memorials and flowers, perhaps a hand lettered, red-white-and-blue sign spotted in the Pulaski County town of Ferguson said it best:

"Goodbye Sammy. We will miss you, our friend."

IN HONOR OF MYRON MCKINNEY

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Myron McKinney on his 33 years of service to Empire District Electric Company. His exceptional career with Empire began on June 5, 1967 as a sales consultant and will end on April 30, 2002, as President and Chief Executive Officer of Empire.

Myron McKinney was the recipient of numerous awards, including Outstanding Citizen for 1999 by the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. He was also the Outstanding Alumnus in 1997 for Bolivar High School, and in 2000, was voted Outstanding Alumnus for Missouri Southern State College.

Myron McKinney has served the Joplin area for many years by volunteering countless hours for local service clubs and community boards. He is a former president and board member for the Joplin United Way and the Jasper County Association for Social Services. Mr. McKinney is a Missouri State Chamber of Commerce Board Member and a former president and board member for the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. He also served on the Joplin Business and Industrial Development as their chairman and board member. He is on the Freeman Hospital Board and served as chairman of the board for the Ozarks Public Telecommunications board. Mr. McKinney served as the chairman and board member for the Joplin Southern board and is a former board member of the Joplin Family Y.

Myron McKinney was born on September 9, 1944 in Santa Paula, California, to O.S. and Hazel McKinney. He grew up in Bolivar, Missouri, graduating from Bolivar High School in 1962 as the vice-president of his class. He attended Joplin Junior College and served as the president of the Student Senate and was the captain of the football team. He graduated from Southwest Missouri State University in 1967 with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. In 1964, he married Janet Manard. They have 2 daughters and one grandson.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Empire District Electric Company will miss the exemplary leadership that Myron McKinney has provided. I would like to personally wish him well in this new stage of his life. I know that he'll continue his service to Southwestern Missouri and am certain that my colleagues will join me in honoring this remarkable man.