

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
SONNY CALLAHAN

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements and life of our former colleague, Herbert Leon Callahan, universally known as Sonny. I appreciate the invitation by our colleague, Jo BONNER, Sonny's worthy successor, to express my thoughts about Sonny.

Born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, Sonny graduated from McGill Institute High School in Mobile, and went to serve his country honorably in the United States Navy from 1952 to 1954. Later, he attended the University of Alabama, Mobile.

Following a successful career in business, and terms in the Alabama state House of Representatives and state Senate, Sonny was elected to the 99th Congress. He went on to serve his district and his state with distinction for the next 16 years. During this time, he developed into a key authority on foreign aid matters in the House, and he rose to become one of the "Cardinals," the Appropriations subcommittee chairmen.

His involvement with foreign aid allowed him to do great good deeds to help those in need, and it allowed him to develop friendships with a unique cast of characters. I laughed at Sonny's quip about his efforts with the rock star, Bono, which he described as the "Sonny and Bono show."

Also, first as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, then as Chairman of the Energy and Water Sub-

committee, Sonny always honored every appropriations request with fairness and a much-appreciated willingness to work with members. Sonny helped me personally in my efforts to improve the conditions of my district in rural West Virginia, and I want to publicly and personally thank him for his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we are greatly privileged to serve our constituencies and our Nation during our time in office. The "People's House" in which we serve is a monument to the American people, and it is a symbol of our country's sustained democracy. Let it be known that during his time in office Sonny Callahan served the People's House with distinction.

I wish Sonny well in his retirement. As I have said elsewhere, our loss is a clear gain for his family and friends.