

The President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency presented Mike with the June Gibbs Brown Career Achievement Award in 2003 for his extraordinary leadership and a distinguished career at VA in public service.

Mike and his wife Sharron have two sons, David and Douglas. They both share their father's passion and considerable skills in judo and golf.

With Mike's retirement, VA loses an enthusiastic, innovative leader and an exemplary Federal employee.

HONORING NASHVILLE'S CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I am pleased to speak today in recognition of Nashville's distinguished role in the history of the Civil Rights movement.

Forty-four years ago this week, a group of young Nashville college students came together to organize the Nashville sit-ins, a non-violent campaign to desegregate the city's lunch counters. From that moment in 1960, and from that campaign's extraordinary leaders, emerged a passion for justice and equality that helped to guide the civil rights movement.

Nashville was a principal training ground for some of the nation's most important leaders in the civil rights movement, many of whom were schooled in the techniques of nonviolent protest by the Rev. James Lawson. Rev. Lawson was the second African-American admitted to Vanderbilt University's Divinity School, and his famed workshops on nonviolent resistance later earned him a reputation as "the teacher of the civil rights movement."

Lawson's students came to include such prominent figures as Diane Nash, Dr. James Bevel, Dr. Bernard Lafayette, and Rev. C.T. Vivian, as well as my distinguished colleague, Congressman John Lewis of Georgia. As students and young activists, they formed the organizational core of Nashville's civil rights movement, which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. later described as "the best organized and most disciplined in the Southland."

Nashville's lunch-counter protests began on Feb. 13, 1960. Three months later, after a dramatic confrontation with then-Mayor Ben West, the students earned their first major victory when six Nashville lunch counters began serving African-Americans. The Nashville protests came to serve as models for later protests throughout the South, and its leaders, Ms. Nash, Dr. Bevel, Dr. Lafayette, Rev. Vivian and Mr. Lewis, went on to make pivotal contributions to the success of the civil rights movement, including the Freedom Rides of 1961 and the historic protests in Selma, Alabama.

This weekend, a number of the original leaders of Nashville's movement will be reuniting both to commemorate the anniversary of those first organized sit-ins and to honor the opening of the new Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library. This library, located at 615 Church Street in Nashville, now stands in place of several downtown restaurants that

refused to serve African Americans before the historic protests.

Dr. King best summed up the legacy of the Nashville movement when he came to visit shortly after the protests succeeded in desegregating Nashville's lunch counters. He said, "I came to Nashville not to bring inspiration, but to gain inspiration from the great movement that has taken place in this community."

It is with great honor and pride that I pay tribute today to the men and women of Nashville whose leadership and courage in the fight for racial justice still serve as inspiration to us today.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTYN BRIMMEIER

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a fond farewell to a member of my staff, Kristyn Brimmeier, who is leaving Capitol Hill this week. Kristyn is returning to her hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to pursue other professional opportunities.

All of us who serve in Congress know how important our staff members are. Kristyn has served as a Congressional Aide for over seven years, including four years with my office. She has served as both my Press Secretary as well as my Communications Director. As a public spokesperson before the media and countless community organizations, I could have had no better assistant to help positively present my agenda on behalf of the constituents of the Ninth Congressional District of Texas.

Kristyn has not only championed the press and communications functions in my office, but has played a vital role as staff director of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus. Kristyn's hard work and dedication have helped to push the issue of missing children to the forefront in the conscience of this Congress. Her assistance and her council have been crucial in passing legislation that deals with the exploitation of children. I know that I speak for the dozens of families she has worked with on this issue in thanking her for her service.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Kristyn. I am confident that her abilities, her passion, and her work ethic will serve her well in the years to come. Though she is small in stature, her presence and her contributions have surely been noticed by all who have had the pleasure to work with her.

Kristyn, thank you for your hard work over the last four years. You will truly be missed.

HONORING UNC CHARLOTTE CHANCELLOR EMERITUS DEAN WALLACE COLVARD

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize UNC Charlotte Chan-

cellor Emeritus Dean Wallace Colvard. On February 24, 2004 he will receive an award that recognizes his lasting impact on our nation. Dr. Colvard, 90, is the 2004 recipient of The Echo Award Against Indifference, given by the Echo Foundation in honor of his lifelong commitment to equity and justice.

Dr. Colvard is best known for his courageous stand against racial discrimination in 1963 as president of Mississippi State University, when he challenged an unwritten state policy and allowed the basketball team to travel to Loyola of Chicago to compete in the NCAA tournament against African-American players. Although his team lost, 61-51, Colvard and Mississippi State won national respect for their quest to end segregation—and opened doors of opportunity for future generations.

Forty years later, in 2003, Mississippi State made national news for earning its second trip to the NCAA, and Colvard's actions were chronicled in a Sports Illustrated story looking back on the historic event. To this day, Colvard downplays the significance of his decision, saying he only did what was right.

Dr. Colvard was born in the Appalachian Mountains in Grassy Creek, N.C. in 1913—in a home with no electricity, indoor plumbing or running water. He was the first member of his family to go to college, entering the work-study program at Berea College in Kentucky with \$100 in his pocket. Those humble beginnings instilled in him a lifelong commitment to equity and justice.

He went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in animal physiology from the University of Missouri and a doctoral degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University. He has served as superintendent of North Carolina Agricultural Research Stations; professor and head of the animal science department and later, dean of agriculture at North Carolina State College; president of Mississippi State University; and first chancellor of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He played an instrumental role in shaping the new university by securing regional and national accreditation for its programs and building a campus to accommodate enrollment that swelled from 1,700 to 8,705 students during his chancellorship.

Dr. Colvard was also instrumental in creating University Research Park and Discovery Place Science Museum in Charlotte, and the North Carolina School for Math and Science in Durham—the nation's first public, residential high school that emphasizes a science and mathematics curriculum. Among Colvard's many honors are the United States Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Award (1966); the University of North Carolina University Award (1989); the North Carolina Public Service Award, presented by Gov. James Martin (1990); and honorary degrees from Purdue University, Belmont Abbey College, UNC Charlotte and Berea College.

HONORING LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AT EUNICE

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and recognize some of the great