

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 11th District of Georgia, my deepest thanks to Chief Master Sgt. Lincoln for devoting his life to the upholding the Constitution of the United States and to the protection of its citizens. I wish him a happy—and well-deserved—retirement.

HONORING CHARLES ROBERTS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Roberts. Charles is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Charles has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Roberts for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on April 23 and 24, 2013, I was out of town due to a family situation. Unfortunately, I was not present for rollcall votes 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, and 123.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all six.

HONORING BILLY STOKES

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, recently the Halls Shopper News in my district profiled a long-time friend of mine, Billy Stokes.

Billy is a very patriotic American and someone I really admire and respect. This article is a great tribute to him, and I call it to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Halls/Fountain City Shopper News, April 22, 2013]

WORKING-CLASS HERO

(By Betty Bean)

Billy Stokes was playing quarter tonk with a guy named Moses when he had a sudden flash of clarity.

A 1970 Rule High School graduate, Billy had gotten a job tending bar at Sam &

Andy's after the University of Tennessee had invited him to take a quarter off, and somehow that quarter stretched out into a year and a half as he whiled away slow afternoons between lunch and happy hour with his friends.

"It dawned on me that in 18 months, none of us had moved an inch. So I went back to school and got my degree," he said.

Forty-plus years later, he's a lawyer with a reputation for being aggressive, competent, thorough, and for winning some huge settlements. A politically active Republican who doesn't mind occasionally going off the reservation—like when he supported Madeline Rogero for mayor in a nonpartisan city race—he's got a Rule High School baseball cap on one side of the shelf behind his desk and a Jellico cap on the other side.

In his desk drawer sits a picture, soon to be framed, of the tiny shotgun house in Lonsdale where he grew up. He's also got a picture of the Howard Johnson's where his mother waited tables and the ET&WNC truck his father drove for a living.

On another wall there are pictures of him with presidents, senators and governors, including several from his stints as state commissioner of employment security and as special assistant to the governor during the Don Sundquist administration, including one of him dressed in full Santa Claua drag sitting on the back of his Harley-Davidson.

"I'm an old school dude. I like to ride motorcycles, go fishing and am pretty much true to my southern Appalachian roots. I'm probably a typical Scots-Irish male. Whether you got money or I got money, we're all even. Doesn't matter who you are.

"Redneck? That's all right with me. Pre-tentious is probably not something anybody calls me—I hope. RINO (Republican in Name Only)? I don't care. Madeline Rogero was by far the best candidate in that field of three. A chief executive needs to be a competent manager."

GROWING UP

His family originally came from Saxton, Ky., just across the state line from Jellico, before they moved to Knoxville. His mother, Thelma, is 89 and still living independently. His father, J.P., died in 1999 and was a truck driver for a company called East Tennessee/Western North Carolina—ET-WNC.

"We called it 'Eat Taters and Wear No Clothes.'"

When he was little, he spent weekends in Jellico with his grandparents while his mother waited tables in the D&M, which formally stood for Davenport and Miller, but was popularly called the Devil's Mansion. He's the youngest of three children, and Stokes says his family was faring much better financially by the time he hit adolescence.

"Jimmy Hoffa negotiated a national contract for the Teamsters, and I was the only kid at home, so I had it a lot easier than my brother and sister. I grew up working-class and that's what we need more of today."

So how did this son of a Teamster become a Republican?

"You'll have to remember—Hoffa didn't have much use for the Kennedys. A lot of Teamsters were Republicans at that time."

After he finished up at Rule, Stokes enrolled in Maryville College to play football, but injured his "good" shoulder. He'd already had surgery on his left shoulder after his senior season.

That forced a decision:

"Being short and slow, I decided to quit football and go to UT."

BECOMING A COP

After his Sam & Andy's epiphany, he went back to school full-time, supporting himself by working at the General Products ware-

house. He graduated in 1975 with a major in psychology and minors in political science and sociology, and started thinking about what to do next.

Like so many Lonsdale boys before him, he became a cop.

Theondrad "Sarge" Jackson, a retired sergeant from both the U.S. Army and the Knoxville Police Department and proprietor of Sarge's BBQ on Texas Avenue (famous for its C'mon Back Smoke) helped him get hired under a federal program at KPD. He was there for less than two years when the new safety director decided to eliminate the program.

"I got laid off in June of '76 and started law school in September of '76. That's when I met Richard Bean."

He counts the director of the Richard Bean Juvenile Detention Center as one of the three most influential men in his life, along with his father and longtime Republican political boss Loy Smith. Two old police officers—Rass Scruggs and Calvin Housewright, recommended that Bean hire Stokes while he was in law school.

"I benefitted from the good ol' boy system. I worked 3-11 and Juvenile Judge Richard Douglass gave me the key to his office with his law library and I'd sneak over to the court side to study. During finals, Richard would go home and eat supper and then come in and work for me while I'd go sit in the judge's office and study. We were on the quarter system, so we'd go through this every two or three months, and Richard would take care of me because he wanted me to get through law school. We were kindred spirits. I brag about working full-time through law school, but if Richard hadn't helped me, I never could have done it."

Stokes got his law degree in 1979 and joined the Army JAG Corps, where he served three years.

Another thing Bean did for him was to introduce him to Bay Crawford, a school-teacher from Roanoke who worked at Shannondale Elementary School. They've been married for 33 years, have two daughters, three granddaughters and a grandson on the way. They are also active members of Second Presbyterian Church.

ENTERING POLITICS

Stokes came back home in 1982 and went to work for Bond, Carpenter and O'Connor, and became president of the 5th District Republican Club (at Bean's urging). In 1984, Bean and Loy Smith urged Stokes to run for county GOP chair. He served nearly four years.

"It required me to be a lot more partisan than I normally am. I'm an old school conservative and I believe that compromise is not only possible but beneficial. Howard Baker and Bob Dole are my heroes."

He has good memories of his two years with Sundquist, particularly of working with leaders of both parties on the 1996 Workers Compensation Act, and of taking on the state's tire recycling program. His favorite memory is the time he spent as Tennessee's point person on the Ocoee Olympic events at a time when the Atlanta Olympics committee was considering pulling the plug on kayaking and canoeing.

He returned to Knoxville in 1997, and two things happened that altered his world:

Loy Smith died suddenly, and Stokes' law partner, Daryl Fansler, a Democrat, ran for chancellor. Stokes supported Fansler, upsetting many Republicans.