

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
CAREER OF SUE SWISHER

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about Sue Swisher, a good friend of mine, and a true champion for the children of our region.

Sue will be retiring this summer, after more than twenty-four years leading the Child Abuse Council in Rock Island, Illinois. Sue joined the Child Abuse Council as Director of Programs in 1994, and became its Executive Director in 1998. Under her leadership, the Child Abuse Council has provided child-abuse treatment and prevention to hundreds of children and families in our region. During her tenure, Sue spearheaded the creation of programs designed to prevent child abuse, instead of just reacting to it, including teacher-training programs like Safe from the Start, and fatherhood classes like Boot Camp for Dads.

People learn lessons during childhood that stay with them their entire lives. Children can either learn about trust and respect, or they can learn about fear and insecurity. Sue Swisher has worked tirelessly to ensure that our children learn lessons about love and respect that will resonate throughout their lives. We will miss her steady hand, and thank her for her invaluable contribution to our community.

REMEMBERING JACK HARDESTY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember Jack Hardesty, a long-standing community leader in Clarke County, Virginia, who passed away April 15, 2014 at the age of 82.

John Douglas "Jack" Hardesty's family has long standing ties to Clarke County dating back to the 1780s. He chose to continue this legacy as an entrepreneur who worked to further his community.

Jack may be best known for his work on the Board of Supervisors, serving 17 years as chairman. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Bank of Clarke County, was a trustee for his church and member of the Berryville-Clarke Chamber of Commerce. Jack was named "Citizen of the Year" this year by the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber for his lifetime of service.

Jack had an incredible impact on Clarke County, organizing the county's first Comprehensive Plan, as well as his efforts to preserve historic farmland and open space in the county. Through his work he has left an indelible mark on the look and feel of his community.

Jack's accomplishments in agriculture were also well known. He was recognized as the Outstanding Young Farmer for Virginia in 1955, and later as Distinguished Dairyman of the Year in 1986.

Jack is survived by his two sons, John and David, who are both part of his family dairy

business. I know he will be missed dearly by both his family and the community as a whole.

I submit the following article from The Winchester Star of Mr. Hardesty's story.

[From the Winchester Star, Apr. 17, 2014]

COMMUNITY LEADER JACK HARDESTY DIES

(By Val Van Meter)

BERRYVILLE.—A man who is credited for shaping the way Clarke County looks today died Tuesday after a life of service.

John Douglas "Jack" Hardesty, 82, was an entrepreneur before that word was the height of compliment. But, while building his family's fortunes, he also aimed to do what was best for his community.

"He has had a tremendous influence on how the county looks and feels," said Michael Hobert, current chairman of the Board of Supervisors, a post Hardesty held for the better part of two decades.

"He was responsible for the county's first Comprehensive Plan," Hobert noted. That plan is the community's vision on how it wants to develop into the future.

"He helped to establish our identity, and we'll have that identity for a long time into the future."

His support to institute sliding-scale zoning helped preserve farmland and open space in the county and set a tone that has continued today.

Hardesty's family roots in Clarke County go back to the 1780s, and farming was all he wanted to do.

In high school, his senior classmates predicted that, within 10 years of their 1950 graduation, he would be milking 100 head of Holsteins. They weren't far off the mark.

He formed a partnership with his father and began building Harvue Dairy, which grew from a 25-head, hand-milked herd to a dairy producing millions of pounds of milk a year and shipping the genetics of its registered Holsteins all over the world.

His importance to agriculture was recognized in 1955, when he was named the Outstanding Young Farmer for Virginia, and it only continued to grow. In 1986 the Virginia State Dairyman's Association named him Distinguished Dairyman of the Year.

As a member of the Clarke County Ruritan Club, Hardesty was "very instrumental" in purchasing the land for the Clarke County Ruritan fairgrounds.

The purchase was arranged in 1960, said Billy Milleson, who chairs the annual Clarke County Fair for the Ruritan Club.

"He and his dad ran the dairy department at the fair for years," Milleson said.

He said Hardesty was one of the people who saved the fairgrounds when the Virginia Department of Transportation planned to put the Harry Byrd Highway bypass around Berryville. Their preferred route took it right through the fairgrounds, demolishing the grove of huge oak trees that give it so much of its character.

Hardesty, Milleson said, "went to Richmond and got it changed."

"He was an authentic man," Hobert added. He was genuine. He had integrity and good judgment."

Former state Sen. Russell Potts Jr. called Hardesty the consummate gentleman.

"He was Mr. Clarke County," Potts said, adding that Hardesty got into political life "for all the right reasons."

In 1965, Hardesty was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the Russell Voting District representative Bob Withers on the Board of Supervisors.

A year later, he ran for election and won. He remained on the board for the next 29 years, serving 17 as chairman.

"The quality of life in Clarke County is a direct result of him insisting on high stand-

ards," Potts said. "He loved preservation," and the beauty of Clarke County.

Milleson said one of Hardesty's greatest characteristics was that he was a good listener.

"He could see the other side," he added.

In 1963, the stockholders of the Bank of Clarke County selected him to serve on the board of directors. In 1986, he stepped into the chairmanship, replacing the late Eustace Jackson, who had also preceded Hardesty as chairman of the Clarke supervisors.

Johnny Milleson, president of the Bank of Clarke, recalled Hardesty was always proud of his county and the bank, which grew from two branches, one in Berryville and one in Boyce, to 11 branches, including nine in Winchester and Frederick County.

He said when the two attended a seminar in North Carolina one year, people in the room were announcing their names and how long they had been directors of their respective banks.

Most were less than five years, but one man was cheered for serving 21.

He said Hardesty winked at him before announcing he'd been on the board of the "best little bank in the state of Virginia" for 41 years at that time.

The bank president said Hardesty was "a part of the bank family until his passing."

At Christmas, Hardesty would circulate through all the bank branches. "He had a kind word for everyone," and knew everyone.

He added that he had gone to school with Hardesty's older son, Johnny, and had known the elder Hardesty "since I can remember. He always had time for you, no matter how busy he was.

And, he was a hard worker. Meetings of the Bank of Clarke's board still begin at 6:50 a.m., a custom started by Hardesty, to make sure he got a full day's work in, despite taking time out for meetings.

Running a farm, a bank and a county didn't take up all of Hardesty's time.

He was a trustee for his church, Crum's Church, a post also held by his father.

He helped direct the dairy industry through positions on several organizations, including past president of the Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative, the Virginia Holstein Association and the Virginia State Dairyman's Association.

Three Virginia governors appointed him to committees to advise them on the concerns of local governments.

He promoted the larger county economy through membership in the Berryville-Clarke County Chamber of Commerce. This year, the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber, which now represents Clarke County, named Hardesty its "Citizen of the Year" for his lifetime of service to the county.

He was married to Carter Conley Hardesty, who died in 2003, for 50 years. The couple have two sons, John E. and David M., who are both part of the family dairy business.

A funeral service is planned for 11 a.m. Tuesday at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church in Berryville.

Potts recalled Hardesty protesting when he introduced a bill in the Virginia General Assembly to name a bridge for Jack and Carter Hardesty in the district he represented for so many years.

"I told him, 'You don't have any say in it,'" Potts recalled.

Then-Gov. Mark Warner and Sen. Charles "Chuck" Robb, along with former Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr., all came for the ceremony, Potts recalled.

Both Democrats and Republicans respected Hardesty.

Said Potts, "If you couldn't get along with Jack Hardesty, you couldn't get along with anyone."

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