

Thurmond, in 1997, described Abernathy as having "excellent leadership skills and a quick intellect."

But up until his death, Abernathy never referred to Thurmond by his first name. He always called him "the senator," Duncan said.

Abernathy was one of nine children who grew up during the Depression in the family's home on Edwards Avenue, where they would walk to Southside Baptist Church each Sunday. The Spartanburg High graduate attended several area colleges, and was drafted into the Army during World War II. He would later join the Army Reserves and retire a colonel.

Attorney John B. White Jr., whose family has been long-time friends with the Abernathys, called Warren, "a distinct individual who was gifted at approaching people, reading people and dealing with people. And he dealt with them with wisdom, kindness, humor, passion and encouragement."

He added: "One of the most important lessons I learned from Mr. Abernathy was loyalty. He was an individual who . . . I don't want to say he demanded loyalty, but he certainly expected loyalty from the people who were lucky enough to say they were friends of his. His word was his bond."

Abernathy died early Monday at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, after battling pneumonia and a heart attack on June 15.

A VERY SELF-EFFACING INDIVIDUAL

Abernathy developed a talent and a reputation for being politically savvy and offering sound judgment.

"Many people who were seeking higher office over the years asked his opinion about their chances," said former S.C. Republican Party Chairman Barry Wynn of Spartanburg. "The General Assembly, when legislation was being considered, trusted his judgment and considered his opinions . . . His influence was making sure people considered the facts and looked at the consequences of what they were doing, whether it was legislative or judicial appointments."

But Abernathy never overestimated his political power—he once told his daughter he didn't have power, "just a few good friends"—and, by all accounts, always remained wholly loyal to Thurmond. The number listed in the phone book for the senator's office in Spartanburg was Abernathy's home.

"The reason Strom Thurmond was so popular was because of constituent services, and Warren was the key constituent person in this part of the state," said former Congresswoman Liz Patterson, whose father, Olin Johnson, defeated Thurmond in a 1950 Senate race.

Several people interviewed for this article said Abernathy was able to recognize opportunities for South Carolina, form a consensus about how to approach them, and then, with the help of Thurmond's seniority, get things done.

Wynn said Abernathy shares in Thurmond's legacy.

Thurmond ran unsuccessfully for president on a segregationist platform in 1948, but later changed his view on race—though he never publicly apologized for it. Thurmond was the first Southern senator to hire a senior black aide—Thomas Moss of Orangeburg—and he eventually would support making Martin Luther King Jr. Day a federal holiday.

"There's two chapters in Strom Thurmond's life, and in that second chapter, Senator Thurmond really reached out to the minority community and did everything he could to repair any ill will—and I think Warren Abernathy was a big part of that second chapter," Wynn said.

Former U.S. Commerce Secretary Fred Dent of Spartanburg added, "I don't know

that any outsider knew how he contributed to the senator. He was not the kind to brag that he had done this or that. He gave advice to the senator, and that was it. He was a very self-effacing individual and was extremely well versed in political issues."

A STROM THURMOND INDEPENDENT

Thurmond, Abernathy and Moss together determined that they would make amends for the past, Duncan said.

"Daddy encouraged him (Thurmond). That was his way of trying to help the senator bring the state together," she said. "They probably decided it together, because they did everything together. They were each other's confidant."

Abernathy, however, was more than just the man behind the senator.

Ernest Finney, the first black chief justice of the S.C. Supreme Court, said Abernathy was one of the people he met with when seeking that position. He called Abernathy the "doorkeeper" for Thurmond.

"He was straightforward. He looked you in the eye. He talked to you," Finney said. "He didn't give you a song and dance."

State Sen. John Courson, a Richland County Republican who will be pallbearer at Abernathy's funeral, met Abernathy in 1972. Over time, their relationship grew to the point where they'd meet weekly over lunch or dinner.

"He talked in riddles," Courson said. "I remember, when Lee Atwater had gone to work for President Reagan, we were having these lunches and dinners and (Abernathy) would say things like, 'the pool-hall crowd says this.' I thought, this guy is a devout Southern Baptist. Why is he talking about the pool-hall crowd? Lee explained that was a euphemism for the man-on-the-street. It took me awhile to learn the nuances of his English."

Courson said he last talked with Abernathy less than two weeks ago. Abernathy always liked to hear the latest Columbia gossip, and the two mused on the upcoming gubernatorial and Senate races. Courson said Abernathy was "like a second father."

"Honestly, I still don't know whether he was a Democrat or Republican," he said. "I think Warren Abernathy was a Strom Thurmond Independent."

NEVER CHEAT THE WORLD

Despite the politics, the people who knew Abernathy best concentrated Monday on his spirit of camaraderie, his devotion to his church and his words of wisdom.

For more than 50 years, the Whites and Abernathys have held annual Christmas breakfasts. In 2007, the firm sponsoring the event sent out just more than 3,000 invitations.

Abernathy enjoyed spending Saturday mornings at Ike's Korner Grille. When he got too old to drive, friends would come by and pick him up.

And throughout his life, he made financial contributions to churches, schools and other organizations often, if not exclusively, to be used to help those less fortunate.

"He always said to me, whenever he gave me money, 'Never cheat the world.' How about that? And he always told me, 'The world is round . . . anything you do will come back around,'" Duncan said.

Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday at Southside Baptist Church, and burial with military honors will follow in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens.

Former state Supreme Court Justice E.C. Burnett, a Spartanburg native, said he learned the value of patience and to not take things at face value from Abernathy.

"He was a man who loved South Carolina and loved this country like few in today's politics. That's a very brazen thing to say.

But I say it unreservedly. There will never be another Warren Abernathy. He will be greatly missed."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, on June 19, 2009 I attended the grand opening of the National Infantry Museum located on Fort Benning Army Installation, Georgia. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

"No" on providing for consideration of H.R. 2918, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch FY 2010. (rollcall No. 409)

"No" on Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 2918, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch FY 2010. (rollcall No. 410)

"Aye" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to expressing support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law, and for other purposes. (rollcall No. 411)

"Aye" on Motion to Recommit with Instructions Making appropriations for the Legislative Branch FY 2010. (rollcall No. 412)

"No" on Passage making appropriations for the Legislative Branch FY 2010. (rollcall No. 413)

"Present" on Quorum Call of the House. (rollcall No. 414)

"Aye" on Article I impeaching Samuel B. Kent, judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, for high crimes and misdemeanors. (rollcall No. 415)

"Aye" on Article II impeaching Samuel B. Kent, judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, for high crimes and misdemeanors. (rollcall No. 416)

"Aye" on Article III impeaching Samuel B. Kent, judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, for high crimes and misdemeanors. (rollcall No. 417)

"Aye" on Article IV impeaching Samuel B. Kent, judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, for high crimes and misdemeanors. (rollcall No. 418)

TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary to commemorate the 70th anniversary since its establishment on June 23, 1939.

On June 23, 1939, Congress established the Coast Guard Reserve, later known as the Coast Guard Auxiliary, to promote boating safety and to facilitate Coast Guard operations. Beginning in 1942, they became the core of the Temporary Reserve and over 50,000 Auxiliarists performed coastal defense and search rescue duties and patrolled

bridges, factories, docks and beaches. Since its inception, the Auxiliary has been expanding its integration with the Coast Guard to allow for further assistance in any Coast Guard mission authorized by the Commandant. It is an organization of pride, bravery, and patriotism that works closely with the Coast Guard to ensure the safety and protection of the United States of America.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is especially honored in a state such as Michigan. With five Great Lakes surrounding the borders of this state, maritime activity is a critical transportation method. Assistance from the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is essential to ensuring the safety of not only our tourists and residents, but also to all commercial traffic that use the lakes regularly. The men and women who serve with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in Michigan are not only revered for their service to the country, but also to the wellbeing and protection of all who venture in our Great Lakes.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, it is with great honor that I commemorate this 70th anniversary of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary for its continued years of successful assistance to the United States Coast Guard and to our wonderful state. Thank you, Auxiliarists for all that you have done and all that you will continue to do in the future.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 2892, "Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: TSA, Aviation Security
Project Amount: \$1,250,000.00

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Safe Skies Alliance, 110 McGhee Tyson Boulevard, Suite 201, Alcoa, Tennessee 37701

Description of Request: This funding will be used to create a research and training center that will provide critical improvised explosives recognition training to TSA Transportation Security Officers, law enforcement personnel, fire fighters, emergency services personnel, first responders and others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded

votes on the House floor on Friday, June 19, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 409 (On ordering the previous question to H. Res. 559), "nay" on rollcall vote No. 410 (On agreeing to H. Res. 559), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 411 (On agreeing to H. Res. 560), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 412 (On motion to recommit with instructions to H.R. 2918), "nay" on rollcall vote No. 413 (On passage to H.R. 2918), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 415 (On agreeing to article I of H. Res. 520), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 416 (On agreeing to article II of H. Res. 520), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 417 (On agreeing to article III of H. Res. 520), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 418 (on agreeing to article IV of H. Res. 520).

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in accordance with House Republican Conference standards, and Clause 9 of Rule XXI, I submit the following member request. Funding for this request was authorized in H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY

Bill Number: H.R. 2647

Account: Army, RDTE

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Georgia Institute of Technology

Address of Requesting Entity: Institute of Bioengineering and Bioscience, 315 Ferst Drive, NW Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0363

Description of Request: The \$3,000,000 authorized for the Center for Advanced Bioengineering and Solider Survivability (CABSS) will focus on research in advanced tissue and bone regeneration and wound care and treatment issues relevant to military trauma care. Fundamental research advances in these areas can lead to technologies and techniques for better immediate clinical combat care as well as address long term care issues involving limb loss, tissue and organ damage, facial and dental injuries, and reconstruction. The funding will be paid out at pre-negotiated rates in accordance with Department of Defense policy. Specifically, funds will be used to: establish a seed grant program to identify novel technologies for treatment of musculoskeletal defects following trauma, develop oriented nano-fiber meshes for treatment of neurologic defects following injury to the extremities, develop biodegradable shape memory polymers for treatment of large bone defects, develop biodegradable shape memory polymers for craniofacial reconstruction, and test the effects of sustained delivery of osteoinductive proteins in tubular nanofiber mesh scaffolds on functional repair of large segmental bone defects. Georgia Tech will continue to leverage this request to obtain funding from other sources.

The Georgia Research Alliance has pledged additional money to the project for infrastructure and equipment, and past Congressional funding has been leveraged to successfully obtain funding from DoD's Orthopaedic Trauma Research Program and its Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine, as well as funding from the Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation.

HONORING DAVID VON DOHLEN
FOR TWO DECADES OF SERVICE
THE GREEN HILLS ROTARY
CLUB

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor David von Dohlen, an upstanding member of the Nashville community, on the occasion of his retirement as treasurer of the Green Hills Rotary Foundation, a position he has held since 1989.

A charter member of the Green Hills Rotary Club, Mr. von Dohlen has freely contributed his time and efforts to the organization. He and his wife Betsy have participated in every club event and fundraising activity since the club's founding: the "Trees to Trails" Christmas tree recycling event, the Swing Dance dinner and auction, the Million-Dollar Shootout competition and the mini-car races in Centennial Park. He also volunteered his accounting skills as Club treasurer and treasurer of the Green Hills Rotary Foundation since its creation in 1989.

It should come as no surprise that Mr. von Dohlen has previously been recognized as the Green Hills Rotary Club's Man of the Year. Nor should it surprise anyone that, after twenty years of service, Mr. von Dohlen has elected to take a richly deserved break.

And so, Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to stand before this House today as a representative of David von Dohlen, a man who exemplifies the Rotary motto of "Service above Self." It is people like Mr. von Dohlen who strengthen our communities and show the way for future generations—not through grand deeds or gestures, but through a life lived in service to others.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting David von Dohlen for two decades of service to the Green Hills Rotary Club, the Green Hills Rotary Foundation and to the people of Nashville, Tennessee. We celebrate his many contributions to our community and to our country. And in a week in which the President launched a national "Summer of Service," we commend Mr. von Dohlen to our fellow Americans as a model of what citizenship and service can be.