

BESTOWING "AMERICAN SPIRIT AWARDS" UPON WESTERN NORTH CAROLINIANS FOR THEIR RESPONSE TO THE SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 ATTACK UPON AMERICA

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor these residents of the Eleventh Congressional District of North Carolina, whose actions in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks provided aid and relief to the victims, boosted morale and patriotism, and demonstrated the best of the American Spirit. Hundreds of their fellow citizens joined in honoring them at our annual Prayer and Patriotic Breakfast in Asheville on Saturday, March 16th, 2002. It was with a great deal of pride that I bestowed upon each of them the American Spirit Award for 2002.

Kermit Tolley, Jr.; Buncombe County; Battling liver failure, he helped load Hearts with Hands goods being shipped to NYC and inspired many others by his determination to help others in need.

Hendersonville High School Student Government, Henderson County; Brad Phillis and Lauren Rogers accepting on behalf of Hendersonville High School and 16 Henderson County Public Schools who raised money for victims; The Hendersonville High School Student Council raised \$8,555 for relief efforts.

Carolina First Mortgage; Henderson County; Elizabeth Plaisance accepted the award on behalf of the business, which raised \$37,500 on the street corners of Hendersonville for the Red Cross.

Manual Woodworkers and Weavers; Henderson County; The company donated \$355,000 from sale of a special 9-11 throw blanket which it designed, produced and marketed; Teresa Hutchinson and Molly Oates accepted the award on behalf of their coworkers.

Sandra Pitts; Henderson County; As the operator of a dry cleaning business, she showed America's gratitude to servicemen and veterans by dry cleaning thousands of military uniforms at no charge.

Mike West; Buncombe County; This Hearts With Hands Field Services Director was instrumental in collecting, packing and delivering supplies to New York and remained on station as a member of the Operation Heavy Heart team.

Sunshine Elementary School Fifth Grade; Rutherford County; Students organized a patriotic program, honored local firefighters, and raised \$250 for the Points of Light Foundation; Accepting the award on behalf of the school were Principal Wayne Litaker and Melanie Smith.

Jerry VeHaun, Buncombe County; Jerry worked at Ground Zero in NYC for 12 days on the 7PM to 7AM shift helping with the recover of bodies from the collapsed Twin Towers.

Madison High School Student Government; These students held a Spirit Chain fundraiser and raised \$600 for the Red Cross New York Relief Effort.; Sara Cooley, sponsor, and Josh Harder, president of the student council, accepted the award on behalf of the school.

Mars Hill Elementary School, Madison County; Mrs. Davis' class wrote support letters

to President Bush in the wake of the tragedy; student Cody Splain and teacher Caroline Davis accepted the recognition on behalf of the class.

Chuck Davis, Polk County; He initially helped in NYC with Red Cross kitchen, then helped set up a respite center at Ground Zero at which recovery workers could recuperate.

Tanner Companies Foundation, Rutherford County; The company matched employee relief contributions resulting in \$160,000 in gifts; David Owens accepted the award on behalf of the company.

Columbia Carolina Corporation, McDowell County; Employees sold tee shirts, which lifted spirits and raised \$2,400 for relief efforts; General Manager Jeff Tuckey and Human Resources Manager Steve Franklin accepted the award on behalf of their coworkers.

Pisgah Forest Rotary Club, Transylvania County; The club donated \$600 from proceeds of their Blues Concert to the relief efforts in NY, PA, and Washington, DC, and also contributed an additional \$347 to the Transylvania County Sheriff's Department; Club members Terrell West and Harry Hafer accepted the award on behalf of the club.

Lisa Waters and Ida Stafford, Clay County; Mountain Home Nursing Service spearheaded a fundraiser for the children of the victims of the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Centers. They organized a "God Bless America" youth rally which raised \$600.

South Macon Elementary School 4th Grade, Macon County; Teacher Vickie Hubbs' class adopted the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk and sent patriotic letters and pictures to the servicemen and women stationed on the ship, which is involved in Operation Enduring Freedom. Students Chelsea Powell and Mariah Cousineau accepted the award for the class.

Tim Radford and Shane Curtis; Cherokee County; Radford, of radio station WKRK in Murphy, in conjunction with Curtis, of Circuit World, raised money for World Trade Center victims, delivered the money personally to New York, and broadcast a live remote back to the citizens of Murphy.

Lew Aabye, Polk County; Lou helped as a Red Cross volunteer in NYC kitchens; Accepting for Lew Aabye is Elizabeth Daniel, Chapter Chairperson of the American Red Cross.

Muggs Corpening, Polk County; He served as a volunteer delivering meals in NYC after the 9-11 attacks.

Clyde Volunteer Fire Department, Haywood County; The department served as a collection site for relief goods donated to Hearts With Hands and helped raise over \$12,000 for that organization as well as for the 9-11 Relief Fund. Accepting on behalf of the department were Fire Chief Joey Webb, Sr., and Capt. Bennie Coleman.

Murphy Volunteer Fire Department, Cherokee County; These volunteers raised \$20,000 for the families of fallen New York City Fire Department firefighters; Chief Al Lovingood and assistant chiefs WC King and Mark Thigpen accepted the award on behalf of the department.

Patricia Pirog for "Operation Toasty Toes," Henderson County; Volunteers make knitted socks to warm the feet of servicemen and women stationed overseas. This past Thursday, the Henderson County Chapter shipped off a huge box of socks to the NC 211th and 210th MP Units now serving in Afghanistan.

Kelly Robertson and Beth McIntosh, Yancey County; These two ladies set up a drop-off

point for Yancey County at the Rescue Squad Building and collected and organized two weeks worth of donated goods.

East Rutherford Middle School, Rutherford County; The students at the school raised \$4,100 for relief efforts. Libby Sears and Judy Gettys accepted the award on behalf of the school.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE RICKENBAUGH FAMILY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I pay tribute today to an incredible family, whose lives were so tragically cut short, but whose spirit will remain with us for eternity. Kent Rickenbaugh, his wife Caroline and his son Bart, were not only successful in their business and philanthropic endeavors, but were also pillars of the Denver community who garnered the undying admiration and respect of so many through their unquestioned integrity and unparalleled morality. Each of them will be sorely missed by the multitudes of people whose lives they have touched, and as we mourn their loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember each of them and pay tribute to them for the extraordinary contributions they have made to their city, their state and their country.

Kent began working at his father's Cadillac dealership shortly after graduating from Dartmouth College at the age of 22. He rotated through each division of the dealership before being named assistant to his father, Ralph, who founded the Denver Better Business Bureau in 1951. Kent dedicated himself and his career to protecting commerce in downtown Denver. Even as other businesses and car dealerships fled downtown for the roomier suburbs, Kent vowed to remain in the same neighborhood where his father had started the dealership. He truly believed in supporting the socio-economic interests of downtown Denver, and argued that it was not good business to abandon downtown. While his business always remained downtown, Kent's love of the outdoors and of the West often allowed him to escape to his other life, as a rancher on his 1,100 acre ranch outside Gunnison. He truly loved everything about our great state—both the beauty and the commerce—and his passion for each will be greatly missed.

Caroline, Kent's wife of 40 years, was an exceptional woman in her own right. After the death in 1963 of their infant daughter Selby, who suffered from a heart defect and was cared for at Children's Hospital, Caroline devoted herself to the hospital, helping to raise millions of dollars for its betterment. In 1999, Caroline and Kent endowed a chair in cardiology in her name, and from 1995 to 1997, Caroline co-chaired the campaign to build a new wing for the hospital. The endeavor turned out to be the largest fundraising effort in the hospital's history, raising over \$15 million. In addition, she was instrumental in the effort to move the Children's Hospital to the University of Colorado's new health sciences center campus in Aurora. Caroline's deep love for children and for humanity touched the lives of innumerable families who, because of her