

## TRIBUTE TO DALLAS CHAFFINS

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dallas Chaffins, an upstanding resident of the Fifth Congressional District of Kentucky. Chaffins, a 73-year-old coal miner in Eastern Kentucky, has been working underground for 56 years without ever having a lost-time injury. This remarkable accomplishment has earned him numerous awards and commendations, and I believe he deserves our recognition as well.

Born in Big Rock, Virginia, Dallas Chaffins started working in the coal mines on April 5, 1948, at the Buchanan Coal Company. Although he was only 17-years-old then, he had already been working for 6 years with his father in the timber industry. It's obvious that Dallas had a strong work ethic instilled in him from the time he was a little boy.

Throughout the next 6 decades, Dallas worked determinedly in the mines. During his career, he only took 2 years off, from October 1951 to October 1953, so he could serve his country in the United States Marine Corps.

And he's not quite ready to throw in his helmet yet.

He still rises each morning long before the sun does and heads to the mines to greet his coworkers with a handshake and a smile. You see, Dallas is known as much for his friendly disposition as he is his impeccable safety record. He attributes this characteristic to his devout faith in God. "I believe if a person keeps his own conscience clean that he will shine on the outside," he recently told a reporter for a Kentucky newspaper. "I think the Lord has blessed me with this. Yes, I give him all the credit."

In addition to being a friend and mentor, and source of joy to countless miners throughout the years, Chaffins has reared 12 children and now enjoys spending time with 26 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to congratulate Dallas Chaffins on 56 years of tireless, careful service in the mines. His hard work and integrity is an inspiration to others, both young and old, and Eastern Kentucky is a better place because of him.

HONORING DR. ROGER W.  
LITWILLER

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 2004*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a leader in the field of medicine and an outstanding citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Roger W. Litwiler, M.D.

Dr. Litwiler soon will complete his term as national president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). It is my pleasure to recognize one of the Roanoke Valley's own as the 2003–2004 president of this prestigious national organization that is recognized worldwide for its outstanding work in improving patient safety.

Founded in 1905, ASA is the predominant professional organization representing more than 39,000 anesthesiologists. Since its founding, ASA has been the leader in the development of patient safety standards and guidelines for the delivery of safe patient care before, during and after surgery. Efforts on the part of the organization and its members are recognized throughout the scientific and medical communities. The Institute of Medicine, in its 1999 report on medical errors, recognized the successes of organized anesthesiology in improving patient outcomes.

Anesthesiologists either directly administer or supervise 90 percent of all anesthetics performed throughout this country, in hospitals and outpatient surgical centers, and in urban and rural areas. Besides the operating room, anesthesiologists are often found treating patients' pain and delivering critical medical care to patients in hospital intensive care units, emergency rooms and diagnostic facilities.

Dr. Litwiler received his medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, Florida, and completed his anesthesiology residency at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

He is currently a staff anesthesiologist for Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Roanoke, Virginia; Montgomery Regional Hospital, Blacksburg, Virginia; and Carilion Brambleton Ambulatory Surgery Center. He has worked in the private practice of anesthesiology in Roanoke, Virginia for more than 30 years.

Dr. Litwiler has served the Virginia Society of Anesthesiologists as president, newsletter editor and member of the Board of Directors.

For ASA, Dr. Litwiler has served as president-elect, first vice president, delegate, director, and chair of the committees on Finance, Governmental Affairs and Physician Resources. During his tenure as ASA president, Dr. Litwiler has made unparalleled strides in bringing together the various practitioners in medicine—from the operating room to the critical care suite and beyond—who share patient safety as their common goal. He has worked tirelessly with other organizations representing those who care for patients, and has involved ASA in numerous campaigns to improve surgical care.

Through the ASA Expert Witness Review process, he has also worked to ensure the accuracy of testimony given in malpractice suits, thereby helping to address the medical liability crisis.

He has spoken to countless groups all over the country to promote ASA's work, to ensure the future of academic programs in anesthesiology, and to tackle any threat to the continued development of science and research held so dear by this specialty.

Over the last year he united the professional associations providing the vast majority of anesthesia care in this country by identifying common goals. This cooperation between anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists resulted in efforts such as joint statements on clinical issues, visits to regulatory officials in Washington, D.C., and work with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations on patient safety matters.

He has been guided by a vision of compassion, science, and political involvement as the cornerstones of the practice of anesthesiology,

and in so doing has set an enduring example and created a legacy for his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Roger W. Litwiler, M.D., for his notable career achievements, his exemplary leadership, his dedication to patient safety, and his legacy which will benefit the patients of today as well as tomorrow.

POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN  
PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED  
STATES**HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 2004*

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, the political status of Puerto Rico, and its relationship with the United States, is of great importance to the people of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico has enjoyed Commonwealth status since 1952. One of the virtues of Commonwealth is precisely the fact that it possesses the flexibility to change the political status of Puerto Rico vis-a-vis the U.S., either within the framework of Commonwealth, or if the people choose other status options such as Statehood or Independence. Of course, Puerto Rico would work with the U.S. Congress towards implementing whichever option the people choose.

Since its creation, Commonwealth has been the preferred status option among the people of Puerto Rico. However, the people of Puerto Rico have failed in its previous efforts to improve Commonwealth because the different initiatives in Puerto Rico, as well as in this Congress, to deal with the status issue have not translated into concrete actions to implement the will of the people of Puerto Rico. Experience has shown that in order to have a true exercise of self-determination, we must work hard at achieving consensus among the people of Puerto Rico as to the process towards self-determination, in spite of our differences with regard to individual status preferences.

Hence, the Legislature of Puerto Rico approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 107 on July 22, 2004 which sets forth the public policy of said body that a Constitutional Assembly on Status is the preferred approach through which to exercise self-determination concerning the status of Puerto Rico and acknowledges these past failed attempts to deal with the status issue, recognizes the consensus among the people of Puerto Rico to effectively exercise their right to self-determination, and adopts the public policy that the Constitutional Assembly on Status is the best approach through which to exercise self-determination.

Accordingly, the Legislature of Puerto Rico has agreed to study and prepare legislation for the people to decide whether the Constitutional Assembly on Status is their preferred mechanism to deal with the status issue. Other mechanisms will be presented to the people. Thus the people will ultimately choose their preferred process. The legislation will also include the mechanisms through which delegates to the Assembly are elected, and will provide for its organization, if it is the option favored by voters.

At the same time, Senate Concurrent Resolution 107 orders the Puerto Rico Senate and