

was also willing to make room for other thoughts and ideas that were not his own.

Those who worked with Bill, as I had the pleasure of doing for more than 22 years, came to know him as a man who wore many different hats. He had his hand in everything, and he was constantly in motion because he simply didn't have time to slow down; he had too many things yet to accomplish, too many friends yet to help.

And help he did.

Over the years, Bill served as president of Sales and Marketing Executives of Mobile, Junior Achievement, and Mobile Toastmaster Club. He was also a past board member and senior member of the Mobile Kiwanis Club.

But perhaps few things in life meant more to Bill Yeager than his beloved University of Alabama. Without a doubt, Bill was crimson and white through and through. He was one of the real leaders in the Red Elephant Club, as well as serving as president of the Mobile Chapter and district vice president of the University's National Alumni Association. Bill was also a member of the President's Cabinet.

This past football season was the first time in memory that Bill was not up in the stands of Bryant-Denny Stadium, pulling the Crimson Tide through to another victory.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "The greatest gift is a portion of thyself."

Well, Bill Yeager was constantly giving . . . giving of his energy, his ideas and his talents to the people—and the things—that he loved.

First and foremost, Bill loved his work. He loved the people with whom he worked in his trade, and he considered both his clients, and the associates with whom he came in contact every day, a part of his extended family.

And Bill worked his heart out—every day he was at his office—trying to think of some new way, some better way he could help his friends succeed.

Fortunately, for those of us who knew Bill professionally, we also knew he was a master of his art, the best of the best. Without question, Bill Yeager was truly an institution, the likes of which we may never see again. And make no mistake, Bill's legacy of success—and goodness—will most certainly stand the test of time.

Bill Yeager loved Mobile; he loved Alabama; and he loved his Country. He was as patriotic a man as I ever knew and he was never ashamed to tear up when Old Glory was presented or the Star Spangled Banner was played.

Finally, there is not a person who ever sought public office in south Alabama not one—whether they were the beneficiary of Bill's brilliant mind or on the "receiving end" of his considerable talents—who loved Mobile—or was willing to do more to help Mobile and south Alabama move forward—more than Bill Yeager. That list includes congressmen, senators, mayors, governors and practically every other elected position on the ballot.

In life, there are always the givers and the takers.

Well, without a doubt, Bill Yeager was a giver.

But not only was he generous in spirit and good to the core, he had an unmistakable quality that is, sadly, becoming more and more rare with each passing day.

You see, Bill treated each and every person equally—with the same degree of courtesy and respect—from the people who sweep the floors, to the president of the company.

Moreover, he made everyone feel that their contribution—be it large or small had value and worth.

Finally, Bill Yeager loved his friends, his church and his family, and not necessarily in that order.

He was grounded in the faith of his salvation, and he had a twinkle in his eye whenever he talked about his beloved Betty and their children and grandchildren.

That, Mr. Speaker, is what made Bill Yeager so special and it is why I am using this opportunity to honor him today. In the end, he was a great teacher, a man with an endless amount of energy, one who had an amazing mind and an awesome spirit and finally, a man who was the epitome of a true friend.

Mr. Speaker, one of Bill's many admirers, Chip Drago, a longtime writer with the Press-Register and currently the editor of the Mobile Bay Times, penned the following tribute to Bill shortly after his death. With your permission, I would like to add Chip's piece to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

BILL YEAGER, R.I.P.

(By Chip Drago)

"Many, many times at one political gathering or another, the scene was identical. Bill Yeager was easy to spot. Tall, thin guy. Dark suit. Red tie. Eyeglasses. Every hair in place. Standing on the fringe of the crowd. Right arm across his chest, hand tucked under the armpit, other hand against his left cheek, Jack Benny-like.

'Where's Rochester?', I'd say.

It got to be a standing joke. For a quarter of a century, half my life, a third of his.

Yeager positioned himself on the periphery purposely, usually on the highest ground available. To see, not to be seen. He perched like a bird of prey surveying a field or a river. He wanted to see it all while his client/candidate was being seen. His production, not his performance.

Yeager could be forceful and he could dominate a scene but rarely in public. He had enthusiasm, confidence and energy which were the byproducts of his success over more than 50 years in advertising and political consulting. As a consequence, he held strong opinions about campaign strategy. Most candidates gladly followed his advice. Others gradually adopted it. Some resisted. Yeager strove mightily to win them over to his view, not because his ego required him to be the boss but because he wanted the candidate to win. He wanted it for the candidate, for his family, for his friends and supporters and, yes, for himself. Sometimes, not often, the candidate could not be persuaded and Yeager accepted it, reluctantly because he knew he was right but also willingly because he never forgot that it was the candidate's campaign, not the consultant's.

He lost some. He won most.

Yeager was probably as or more competitive than any candidate he ever represented. And that list is truly breathtaking. From U.S. Rep. Jack Edwards in the 1960s to City Councilman Ben Brooks' state Senate District 35 campaign this fall. What fell in between and Yeager touched in one way or another represents the history of politics and government in the Mobile area since the closing of Brookley Field.

Yeager had one quality that some thought endearing and others found amusing. He could have a dubious view of one elected official or another, particularly if the person was causing problems for another official who was a Yeager client. But let time pass and the suspect official become a Yeager client, well, the transformation was remarkable. What was once tawdry and dull suddenly shone.

As seriously as he took the needs of his clients, Yeager could laugh at himself a little bit, especially as he got older. But make no mistake; if you were a media person, Yeager was all about advancing the best interests of his clients. He believed that what he saw and what he heard filtered through the knowledge gained over the years was ultimately what gave weight to whatever he might say or recommend. Two eyes, two ears, one mouth. Use them in that proportion, in that order.

So there he is on the edge of the crowd, arm across his chest, hand captured under the armpit, other hand pressed to his cheek, eyes intent on the flow of folks in and out, here and there, who's with whom, sometimes leaning in to the person standing next to him, half listening, his eyes not leaving the crowd. But say something worth hearing and there were subtle changes. His neck craned in a little closer. His eyes left the crowd and focused on the speaker. His lower lip jutted out. You had his attention.

Time will pass. Candidates will come and candidates will go. Campaigns will be run. There will be fundraisers, receptions, kickoff announcements, press conferences and election nights. It is hard to imagine that Yeager won't be there just outside the frame taking it all in.

"Where's Rochester?"

Mr. Speaker, William N. Yeager, Jr. is survived by his wonderful wife, Betty; three daughters, Sherry Yeager, Susan Coffey and Cynthia Hilburn; one brother, Dr. Charles Yeager; six grandchildren and countless other relatives and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2006

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our colleagues who will be sorely missed next year in the United States House of Representatives, the gentleman from the Buckeye State, Mr. OXLEY.

MIKE OXLEY has been a good friend, and we will miss his leadership in this House and in Ohio. For the last 25 years, MIKE has represented the Fourth District of Ohio with honor and integrity.

In 1981, when he arrived, he brought with him a belief in the hope offered by Ronald Reagan—a hope of economic prosperity guided by the expansion of free enterprise and open markets. MIKE OXLEY has spent every day of his Congressional career spreading that hope.

As Chairman of the Financial Services Committee for the last 6 years, MIKE saw our economy through some of its toughest tests. It is a testament not only to the resilience of our economy, but to the leadership provided by Chairman OXLEY that our economy and our financial sector have not only endured, but prospered.

Ox has been our captain and our coach. He stuck firm to his core beliefs, while never sacrificing civility. We can all learn from MIKE OXLEY's leadership: When it comes to the

well-being of our country, bipartisanship can carry the day. And if and when we do disagree, we should openly and honestly discuss our differences, like statesmen.

We have not seen the last of MIKE OXLEY. Be it in a boardroom or at a Buckeye game, his presence will surely be known.

It is an honor to call MIKE OXLEY a friend, and we wish him Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO "USS HYMAN G.
RICKOVER" SSN 709

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the crews, past and present, of the Submarine USS *Hyman G. Rickover* (SSN 709). On the 14th of December, this vessel will be inactivated, and its name struck from the rolls of U.S. warships. The contribution of this vessel to the defense of this Nation has been second to none, yet somewhat unheralded. From the Cold War through the current War on Terrorism, she and her crew have stood the watch. The *Rickover* served as a testament to the standards of excellence inspired by her namesake, the late Admiral Rickover. The father of the nuclear Navy, Admiral Rickover instilled a culture of technical excellence and individual responsibility in the Navy Nuclear Propulsion Program that continues to this day.

I would also like to commend the sponsor of this ship—Mrs. Eleonore Rickover, for her years of faithful support to the crew. She struck a chord at the ship's christening, when she said, "In the name of the United States, I christen thee *Hyman G. Rickover*. May God bless her and all who sail in her, and may God bless their families and loved ones, for they also serve who only stand and wait." Mrs. Rickover lived up to those words in the years since that day with generous and heartfelt support of the sailors and families of *Rickover*. Going far beyond an occasional appearance, she embraced the ship and her crew—interested, involved and caring. Her service was a fitting testament to the legacy of pride and service left by her husband, ADM Rickover, to the Naval nuclear power program, and the entire U.S. Navy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating this exceptional Naval warship; her crew and their families; their sponsor, Mrs. Eleonore Rickover, and the man who brought our Navy nuclear propulsion, Admiral Hyman G. Rickover.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND WILLIAM AND MARJORIE BUEHLER

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize 50 years spent together by Rev. William and Marjorie Buehler in marriage and in service to those in need.

Since their marriage to each other began, the Buehlers have shown complete dedication

not only to themselves but to several communities of central Mexico. As Presbyterian missionaries, William and Marjorie worked tirelessly to bring schools, running water, and inoculation centers to those who previously had absolutely no access to these resources, living in isolated villages in the State of Oaxaca.

Upon their return to the United States, the Buehlers established themselves close to the heart of Arizona, in Superior, where they soon became favored residents of the area. Reverend Buehler worked admirably as the pastor of two churches in the community, and for his efforts to improve the health of residents and the local environment, was honored with Superior's Man of the Year award. Marjorie Buehler also served Superior at that time as an elementary educator.

Even after retirement, the list of achievements accumulated by the Buehlers continued to grow and bring optimism and hope to those they served. Recognizing critical issues rising along the border of Arizona and Mexico, the Buehlers endeavored to establish border missionaries to address the needs of workers facing tragic conditions in maquiladora factories located in the dangerous region.

To this day, they continue to do volunteer work at Tucson's Primavera Homeless Shelter, and the Tucson Historical Society. It is a fitting tribute to honor these two lives dedicated to the less fortunate of the world, while cultivating a lasting marriage and family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 528: waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, and for other purposes, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

WILLIAM GREEN NOTES VITAL IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on November 23, William D. Green, chairman and CEO of Accenture, published a very important article in the Boston Globe on the vital role of two-year colleges. As Mr. Green notes, "America's system of junior and community colleges has proved to be powerful and very effective in preparing students for success at 4-year colleges and beyond." Mr. Green speaks from very relevant experience, both as someone who himself attended Dean College, a 2-year school in Franklin, Massachusetts, and as a leader in American business. He thus understands the importance of community colleges both as one who benefited from a community college education and one who now draws on community college graduates, among others, to staff his important company.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Green does note one trend that I think we should all be trying to overcome—namely, that "state support (of community colleges and junior colleges) continues to decline." Many people with whom I have discussed the problem of inequality in America have noted that the most important thing to do to help close that gap is to increase educational opportunity. I profess to be somewhat skeptical that this is going to do as much as many argue, but that is no reason not to go forward with increased educational opportunity as much as we can. And this will not happen if we allow "state support (to) continue to decline" for these schools. They are an essential avenue for young people from families that are not affluent to begin achieving a college education.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will read Mr. Green's words and accept the relevance of what he says to our job of increasing public support for higher education. I am grateful to Mr. Green for sharing his experiences with us on this important point.

[From the Boston Globe, Nov. 23, 2006]

THE VITAL ROLE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

(By William D. Green)

Americans finally have an issue on which they can all agree. If the country hopes to sharpen its competitive edge, it will take a significant investment in education, especially math and science. America must also boost their analytical thinking to address challenges and innovate in business and society.

Often overlooked and under appreciated, not unlike the people who attend them, these colleges can help enhance the Nation's competitiveness, improve the skills of the workforce, and contribute to a more fulfilling life for millions of citizens.

The son of a plumber and a school secretary in western Massachusetts, I had the good fortune to attend Dean College, a two-year residential college in Franklin. My two years at Dean focused me, taught me to appreciate the value of continuing my education, and provided me with the foundation for building a career in global business.

America's system of junior and community colleges has proved to be powerful and very effective in preparing students for success at four-year colleges and beyond. The potential of these institutions to raise the game of those who attend and to enhance our Nation's competitiveness is clear.

The challenge is to keep community colleges and junior colleges strong at a time when State support continues to decline. Many who have chosen to attend a junior or community college have found that the experience can lead to exciting places. Graduates can be found in Congress and on the judicial bench. They've flown aboard the space shuttle, commanded troops, and written for major publications. Some, like me, run large corporations.

These colleges mirror the communities they serve. They enable students to continue their education at an affordable cost, develop careers in a range of fields that is expanding all the time, and, more frequently nowadays, change careers to find greater job satisfaction and fulfillment.

In healthcare alone, nearly two-thirds of the industry's new workers have studied at community colleges. As the number of baby boomers who are near or at retirement age swells and the need for healthcare services grows, community colleges will fill an important gap in the workforce.

In addition to teaching people new skills, junior and community colleges often help students learn how to learn—to gain the