

HONORING BENJAMIN B. DUTTON,  
JR.

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with our colleagues the news about an outstanding recognition recently given to one of our House employees, who I am proud to say is a member of my staff. I pay tribute today to Benjamin B. Dutton, Jr., a man who is called "Mr. Winchester." I am fortunate to have Ben representing my office in Winchester, Virginia, one of the best small cities in America.

Along with diligently serving constituents not only for my office since 1990, when Winchester became part of the 10th Congressional District, but also for my predecessors George Allen and the late French Slaughter, Ben has played an active and key role in the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival since it began in 1927.

The Apple Blossom Festival is a special event in Winchester each spring and I look forward to participating in the Grand Feature Parade every year. Ben was recognized this year in the Festival program as the "Keeper of the Flame" for the Festival. He served as the president of the festival from 1970–1972 and currently serves on the Board. Even as Ben approaches his 83rd birthday this June, he is still actively involved in making sure the Apple Blossom Festival is a success every year.

Ben is very deserving of all the honors and accolades coming his way and is truly committed in his service to his community. I am proud that he is a member of my staff and I am proud to call him my friend. The Festival program recognition of Ben as "Keeper of the Flame" follows:

**BEN DUTTON: KEEPER OF THE FLAME**

The Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® is constantly in a state of flux; constantly reinventing itself. At the same time, the Festival works very hard to maintain its balance; to maintain its place in history; and, to never lose contact with its roots and its purpose. We know all too well how the Greatest Generation is being taken from us at an alarming rate these days; but, one of the "Keepers of Flame" for the Festival; one of the guardians of our roots, Mr. Ben Dutton, is still carrying on an active role in the Festival world even as he approaches his 83rd birthday.

When asked recently when he reckoned that his involvement with the Festival started, Ben replied, "From the beginning!" Shortly after the Festival was founded, the Washington Post ran a pictorial article in 1927 called "The Little Blossoms of Winchester"; and, Ben, aged two, was one of the local children featured in the article. Ben is quick to credit his Mother's very close friendship with Tom Baldridge, the original "Mr. Apple Blossom", for instilling in him early in life a great love and devotion for the Festival. Mrs. B. B. Dutton, Sr., was the Chairman of the Queen and Court Department those many years ago; and, Tom Baldridge had started his incredible run as Director General of the Festival in 1937 when Ben was just a child. Growing up around Mr. Tom's boundless enthusiasm, seemingly inexhaustible energy and undying love for the Pink and Green lit a Festival fire in young Ben that has never been quenched.

Following graduation from Handley High School, Ben served three years in the U.S.

Army during World War II; graduated from the University of Virginia in 1950; and, married his lovely wife, Jean Whipple Dutton, in 1952. They began their family of three beautiful daughters shortly thereafter; and, Ben began working in the insurance business in Atlanta, Louisiana and Southwest Virginia. In 1963, Ben returned to Winchester for good; joining the firm of J. V. Arthur as a Vice President and partner; and, immediately returning to the Apple Blossom World. He served as President of the Festival in 1970, 1971, and 1972. He served as the Festival's volunteer Executive Director in 1971; and, professionally in that capacity from 1995 to 1997.

Ben remembers fondly from the early 70s, the establishment of the ties between the Festival and the then-new Disney World in Orlando; and, the beginning of the visits of Disney's World Ambassador (always a pretty girl); and, of Mickey Mouse. He also enjoyed helping to establish an adults' beer, peanuts and dance party at the National Guard Armory called "Your Father's Mustache". Another memory from the past: the balls that used to be held in old, dry, wooden packing sheds, filled with wooden apple crates and bulk bins; and, decorated with cascades of crepe paper and lanterns. While the memory sounds quaint and charming, it is obvious that the insurance agent in Ben winces at the through of the old-fashioned barn-dance-type fire hazards involved.

When asked to describe his favorite Festival guests from the early 1970s, Ben had no problem zeroing in on two very special people; people who are not only very special in their places in the history of the world; but, who are obviously very special people in Ben Dutton's life. In 1972, Ben sought out and received the services of the Reverend Billy Graham as Grand Marshal of the Festival. It is not at all hard to imagine the electric effect Graham had on the Festival crowds that year. It is also obvious, listening to Ben tell the story, that his time spent with Dr. Graham is something that he will never forget. Ben says that he met him at Dulles Airport and that Billy told him that "he had always wanted to cross the Blue Ridge and descend into the Shenandoah Valley in the springtime." Ben's other favorite was the Festival appearance in 1971 of Admiral Alan Shepard, who was in town to crown his daughter, Juliana, as Queen. Shepard had recently returned from an Apollo Mission to the Moon. Ben is still fascinated by the fact that the raucous crowd at the Stag Luncheon was instantly hushed to silence when Admiral Shepard stepped to the microphone to describe his trip to the Moon.

When asked how he feels after all these years when he sees the lead units of the Grand Feature Parade coming up Washington Street Hill, Ben said that "He still had; and, always would have a tender spot in his heart for that scene." He continued, "What would springtime be like without it?" Ben, admittedly, had a rough winter of 2007–2008. Health problems kept him away from one Festival Board Meeting after another; and, this was tough for a man who has remained active enough in the Festival to have played a key role in the establishment of a new event, the Men's Commonwealth Luncheon, just two years ago. The February 2008 Board Meeting had already started when, unexpected and unannounced, in the door walked Ben Dutton. The immediate burst of applause was instantaneous, genuine, affectionate and relieved. Festival people do know who the Keepers of the Flame are; and, they are cherished!

IN TRIBUTE TO CHARLES M. HAIR,  
M.D.

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, last week the Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association celebrated its 60th anniversary and, in doing so, paid tribute to Charles M. Hair, M.D., for his enduring devotion to the organization.

I, too, rise in tribute to Dr. Hair, Chairman of the Board of Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association.

Dr. Hair was raised in the farming community of Santa Paula, California. He joined the U.S. Army after earning his M.D., at the USC School of Medicine, and served two years in an Army field hospital in post-World War II Salzburg, Austria.

He returned to his home in Ventura County, California, in 1948, and embarked on a career as a family doctor. He and his wife, Gerry, whom he met when he was a student at Ventura College and she a student at Ventura High School, raised five children here.

Dr. Hair retired from family practice in the mid-1980s, but his dedication to his profession and the ill continues undaunted. Throughout his tenure with the Visiting Nurse Association, Dr. Hair has overseen the direction and growth of the agency to meet the complex and ever-changing home health needs of Ventura County.

In doing so, Dr. Hair brings a rural family doctor's perspective and philosophy to Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association. The Association was founded to provide home care services as an alternative to institutionalizing the frail, elderly, sick and disabled, an idea dear to the heart of a family physician. In 1965, Medicare certified the Association as a home health agency. In 1987, it developed a Medicare-certified Hospice program.

Today, Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association is Ventura County's only not-for-profit home health agency with a Medicare-certified home hospice program. Livingston services are provided for every individual in need, regardless of ability to pay.

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association's continued ability to provide professional, licensed, compassionate home care that is high quality and cost effective is in no small measure due to Dr. Hair's vision and direction.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in tribute to Dr. Hair and his vast contributions to comforting and treating the ill and thank him for a lifetime of healing.

**FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT  
OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, let me first commend Chairman FRANK and Chairman RANGEL for their leadership in moving the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008 forward. This is an intelligent and measured piece that addresses