

Known to his many friends as Charlie, he was a native of Leeds and was raised in the Chickasaw, Alabama. He served the city of Saraland in public office for almost three decades, 12 years as mayor and 17 as city councilman. In 2008, he ran unopposed in the municipal election.

Mayor Harben was known as a fiscal conservative. Economic development was one of his top priorities, and he was instrumental in attracting business to Saraland, including the city's largest, Wal-Mart.

Mayor Harben also worked for the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad as a secretary, accountant, and an internal auditor, before retiring after 48 years of service.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. Charles William Harben will be dearly missed by his family—his wife of 57 years, Pauline; their son, Charles William Jr.; their grandchildren, Christian, Candice, and Jon; his great-granddaughter, Hayzlynn; and his brother, Johnny—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR
HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant support of S. 986, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act. Although I supported H.R. 1106 earlier in this Congress, and I will vote for this bill, I remain concerned about many aspects that attempt to fix the problem without addressing the fundamental issues.

S. 896 makes additional changes to the HOPE for Homeowners program despite evidence that it is a seriously flawed model that has failed to effect the type of large-scale mortgage modification that our economy needs if it is going to recover. Despite the changes made, success of the HOPE for Homeowners program continues to be contingent on the active participation of the mortgage lender or mortgage servicer. Once again, we throw money at Wall Street—at the bankers and lenders—and leave individuals and families with nothing.

The bill also reauthorizes programs under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. I am grateful that the plight of the homeless and the growing homeless population has finally merited the attention of Congress; however I am dismayed by some of the provisions in the final bill as well as the process used to arrive at the terms of the relevant language. The problem of homelessness in this country deserves more attention in the House of Representatives than a mere fraction of debate time on a suspension bill. If we had more time and different circumstances, we might have had the opportunity to correct some of the privacy concerns as well as the provisions that limit eligible uses of funds.

Despite the shortcomings in this bill, it represents a small step in the right direction on

the whole. I remain hopeful that Congress will continue to improve the HOPE for Homeowners programs as well as the plight of the growing numbers of homeless citizens. In the end, we must adopt a default posture that accommodates communities, families, and individuals, rather than a default posture that accommodates bankers and financial institutions. Only then will we be able to repair our economy and put our country back on a path of prosperity and growth.

DAVIS FAMILY OF TELlico
PLAINS, TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, there is perhaps no greater sacrifice an American can make than serving their Country during a time of war, and no one can say the Davis family of Tellico Plains, Tennessee has not answered this call. It is a tradition which spans over ninety years.

Private Hedrick Davis enlisted in the Army's Black Cat Division during World War I. After returning home, he bought a farm, married, and had five sons, who would all go on to answer that same call to service.

Four of the Davis sons—Leonard, Dillard, Clarence, and Guy—joined the Armed Forces as soon as World War II began. All the brothers would fight for their Country and despite the tremendous loss of life in this great campaign, all would remarkably live to tell their tales.

Dillard's story is one that took over fifty years to confirm. While on board the Belgian Troop ship the Leopoldville crossing the English Channel on Christmas Eve, a German Submarine attacked, sinking the boat with a torpedo. In a series of calamities following the strike and a botched rescue, 763 American soldiers died. Dillard managed to survive and tell the tale that the United States and Great Britain did not admit until the 1990s.

The fifth Davis brother—Rex—was only sixteen-years-old when World War II ended. But he would not be spared from his family's calling. When the Korean conflict escalated into a full-blown war, Rex Davis answered the call. His tale was one of Hollywood legend—literally.

While training at Fort Benning, GA, movie stars Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis filmed the movie "Jumping Jack" on base, using Rex and his fellow soldiers as extras. Later, while serving in Korea, another movie star—Patricia Neal—came to entertain the troops. She asked on stage if anyone was from Knoxville and Rex jumped right up, getting his photo taken on stage with Ms. Neal. It is a cherished photograph that in 2003 brought Ms. Neal to tears in Knoxville when she was unexpectedly reunited with Rex.

In his Knoxville home, Rex Davis has files of records documenting the service of his father and four brothers, who together fought and survived three wars. Rex went on to serve on the Knoxville City Council, and he is known to tell a great story. I hope this story is told many times.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call the remarkable service of Private Hedrick

Davis, Master Sgt. Leonard Davis, Staff Sgt. Dillard Davis, Cpl. Clarence Davis, Pfc. Guy Davis, and Cpl. Rex Davis to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES R.
RECKNER

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize Dr. James R. Reckner for his dedication to the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University. Dr. Reckner retired from Texas Tech University at the end of 2008 after 20 years of service as a professor of history, founding director of the Vietnam Center and Archive, and Executive Director of Texas Tech's new Institute for Modern Conflict, Diplomacy and Reconciliation, which now oversees the Vietnam Center and Archive.

A retired Naval officer and a veteran of the Vietnam War, Dr. Reckner received his Ph.D. from the University of Auckland in New Zealand. He joined the faculty at Texas Tech in September of 1988 and shortly after founded the Vietnam Center and Archive. From 1991 to 1992, Dr. Reckner held the Secretary of the Navy's Research Chair in Naval History and has served as a member of the Secretary's Advisory Subcommittee on Naval History since 1998.

As founder and director of the Vietnam Center and Archive, Dr. Reckner oversaw 20 years of development and growth including the acquisition of many unique and historic collections that have helped us better understand the experience and course of the Vietnam War. As a result of his leadership, the Center has become the foremost Vietnam-related research, archival and reconciliation institution in the United States.

During his years in the United States Navy, Dr. Reckner received the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", the Meritorious Service Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

For his work in academia, Dr. Reckner also received the Gold Key National Honor Society Teaching Award in 1991, the President's Outstanding Leadership Award in 1996 and the Faculty Distinguished Leadership Award in 2004, among others. Not only is he an inspiring educator and skilled researcher, but he is an accomplished author as well with several published writings on naval and military history. In 1989, he received the Theodore & Franklin D. Roosevelt Annual Naval History Award for his historical biography entitled Teddy Roosevelt's Great White Fleet.

I am enormously appreciative to Dr. Reckner for his contributions to the Texas Tech community, veterans of the Vietnam War and their families, and for his efforts to foster reconciliation between Vietnam and the United States. Those in District 19, including me, thank him for a job well-done and extend to him our best wishes for his future endeavors.