

"My mom is the type who is a bar hopper," he said. "She was never home. She left us kids wherever." He was often home alone when he was just 7 and 8 years old. When his mother brought home a new boyfriend, and Ricky saw him abusing her, he left to live with his dad.

But that didn't work out either, "because I was a 'hood rat.'" And child protection workers moved Ricky to his first foster home. That began a long and sad list of fighting, running away, ending up in juvenile detention, until he was finally allowed this spring to return to his father.

That was the home Ricky had wished for all the years he was in foster care, he said. But three months later, in May, his father died of pulmonary disease.

Once again, a caseworker was ready to put him with a foster family, but Ricky wanted no more.

"I've never had a mother-father type deal in my life, so I wouldn't be ready for it," he said.

The next step for Ricky was his own apartment.

Last week, he sat huddled over a spiral notebook, the kind most kids his age would use for geography or math. He is no longer in any math classes, but the notebook is perfect for managing his money.

He budgets \$144 for two weeks of groceries, \$6 for "hygiene," \$50 for "recreation," \$20 for miscellaneous and \$20 to pay back a debt. But when he totals up his expenses, he compares it with the paycheck he expects to get and realizes he's \$3 short. He decides he will take it out of groceries.

He has written all this out carefully, underscoring the totals in pink highlighter.

Ricky has two years before his safety net is folded up.

He hopes he'll get a high school equivalency degree and a better job. In the meantime, he is learning to navigate the adult world. He lost his electricity in the middle of the night recently when he plugged in an old air conditioner he had found in the basement. But when he called the power company and heard they weren't going to send over any help right away, he told them he was blind. That got them over.

But for every victory, he discovers another trap. He is out of money because he blew a bundle on a Fourth of July cookout. He and his friends bought food and cases of soda pop and cigarettes, and that sent him way over budget.

"It was the first night of really enjoying myself," he said. It was Independence Day.

Struggling in the Adult World

Children leaving foster care at age 18, when federal and state funding ends, face a difficult future. Many suffer from emotional problems and are without financial help from relatives, making them vulnerable to homelessness and other problems. One study found that nearly four in 10 of the homeless population are former foster children.

12 to 8 months after leaving foster care system:

#### AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE

\$210 for males  
\$157 for females

#### PHYSICAL INJURY

26% of the males had been beaten or otherwise seriously injured.  
15% of the females had been beaten.  
10% of the females had been raped.

#### INCARCERATION

27% of the males had been incarcerated.  
10% of the females had been incarcerated.

#### OTHER

33% were receiving some public assistance.  
19% of the females had given birth to children.

37% had not finished high school.  
50% were unemployed.

#### MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

Before leaving foster care: 47 percent were receiving some kind of counseling or medication for mental health problems.

After leaving foster care: 21 percent were receiving treatment, although there was no reduction in mental problems.

### IN TRIBUTE

#### SPEECH OF

### HON. TOM DeLAY

#### OF TEXAS

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I want to place in the RECORD further tributes to the police officers who died protecting the United States Capitol last Friday.

SUSAN HIRSCHMAN, CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE MAJORITY WHIP

John Gibson made the ultimate sacrifice last Friday defending us. John's professional skills saved each of us. We will always remember John's sacrifice. But we will also remember the many other contributions John made to our lives. John's official duty was protecting Tom, the role that ultimately cost him his life. However, I will also remember that John had a quiet way of helping each of us do our job better. For example, as the person who spent more time with Tom than any of us, he was usually the first person to see when things weren't working right. Often, as I walked into the office passing his desk at the back door, he would look at me and simply say "Have you talked with the boss yet?"—gently letting me know that something was on Tom's mind. As we have gathered over the past few days to discuss how much we will miss John, I was not surprised that he had a similar way of helping each and every person in the office. John was a friend to each of us and he made our entire team work more effectively.

MONICA VEGAS KLADAKIS, MAJORITY WHIP STAFF

I got to know John Gibson better during the Republican Convention in 1996. I remember squeezing into a cab with him and a bunch of other staff people as we drove from place to place, and I thought, "He must really hate this." I had thought he was reserved and maybe even a little distant, but after that week I not only realized that he had a lot of patience to deal with all of us raucous staff people, I also discovered what a great sense of humor he had, how kind he was, and how much fun he was to be with.

And now he has saved my life. I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude toward him, from a depth which I don't know if I've ever reached before. We can never thank him properly for what he did for us, but I hope he knows that we will never forget it.  
I'll miss him.

SPECIAL AGENT BOB GLYNN AND DETECTIVE DOUG SHUGARS

Detective John M. Gibson and Officer Jacob J. Chestnut are American heroes. Their heroic actions and personal sacrifice was responsible for saving numerous lives and ensuring the freedoms which all American enjoy continue.

Officer Jacob J. Chestnut was a very professional member of the United States Capitol Police. The polite and friendly manner in which he did his job will always be remembered. Every evening as Congressman

DeLay and his security would leave the U.S. Capitol, Officer Chestnut would always extend a friendly, "Have a good evening sir." This remark always made for a nice ending to a very long day.

Detective John M. Gibson was a cop's cop. Anytime John was working and there was some police action happening on Capitol Hill, John would be there. It might be standing in an intersection wearing a suit and directing traffic, assisting with the evacuation of a Congressional building that was on fire, or providing a backup for a fellow officer. John was always there. It was no surprise that John was involved in this kind of heroism. He would have had it no other way. John loved working the security detail for Congressman DeLay and took great pride in the assignment. John was considered to be a part of Congressman DeLay's staff and a very close friend to the DeLay family. John's unselfish actions and personal sacrifice ensured the safety and the lives of Congressman DeLay, his staff, and the public. John was an excellent police officer, a great partner and a wonderful friend. You will be missed.

There is an inscription on the National Police Memorial in Washington, D.C. by Vivian Eney, another survivor of a fallen Capitol Police Officer. This inscription is a fitting tribute to both Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson: "It's not how these Officers died that made them heroes. It's how they lived."

KELLY POTTER, A TRUSTEE FOR THE D.C. LODGE OF THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

I keep this poem on my refrigerator at home, which I thought was appropriate:

#### A PART OF AMERICA DIED

Somebody killed a policeman today, and  
A part of America died.  
A piece of our country he swore to protect  
Will be buried with him at his side.  
The suspect who shot him will stand up in  
court,

With counsel demanding his rights,  
While a young widowed mother must  
Work for her kids  
And spend alone many nights.  
The best that he walked was a battlefield,  
too,

Just as if he'd gone off to war.  
Though the flag of our nation won't fly at  
half mast,

To his name, they will add a gold star.  
Yes, somebody killed a policeman today.  
It happened in your town or mine.  
While we slept in comfort behind our locked  
doors,

A cop put his life on the line.  
Now his ghost walks a beat on a dark city  
street,

And he stands at each new rookie's side.  
He answered the call and gave us his all,  
And a part of America died.

SHAWNNA BARNETT, FORMER DELAY STAFFER

May John's kind nature and selfless acts remind us always of our fallen hero. He is out of our grasp but so very close to our hearts.

TOM VINCENT, DE LAY STAFFER

The biggest thing I remember was his sense of humor. I keep thinking of John taking a special effort to joke and tease Shawna Barnett and keep a smile on her face when she was down. It wasn't just Shawna he kept smiling, he made us all smile.

WILLY IMBODEN, DE LAY STAFFER

When I reflect on John Gibson, I remember a man of quiet dignity, integrity, and resolve. He possessed a calming presence about him, his steady bearing lending a tranquil air to the constant chaos of Capitol Hill. In many ways, his 18 years of patient service to Congress and to the American people culminated finally in the greatest and noblest

sacrifice, the laying down of his life for others. I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's words in the Epistle to the Philippians: 'Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus . . . ' John Gibson's life and final sacrifice personified this ethic, and we are all humbly and eternally indebted to him."

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE  
CARL S. SMITH OF HOUSTON,  
TEXAS

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a legend in both Houston and Texas politics, my constituent, the Honorable Carl S. Smith, who died Tuesday afternoon, at the age of 89.

Carl S. Smith dedicated his life to public service. He was first appointed as Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector in 1947. He was elected in 1948 and re-elected an unprecedented 12 times, serving a total of 51 years. In fact, Carl was so dedicated to public service that he never considered his job "work." That's not just an assertion—Carl never retired. Throughout all these years, Carl helped Harris County residents meet their common obligations to one another and to their government by making it more convenient for citizens to pay taxes and register to vote. He was also responsible for car registration, alcohol license fees, and a host of state levies.

Carl lived a long and good life. He was born just as the combustible engine was first being applied in cars. He ended his life riding the crest of the information age. Not only can Carl's life chart the course of American history, his acts of courage foreshadow great changes in American history. For example, in 1952, Carl was the first county official to promote an African-American employee to an important government position, a deputy clerkship. This was a small but significant act in the early days of the Civil Rights movement. Additionally, Carl was an advocate for the elderly. He wrote the statewide property tax exemption for senior citizens that was later adopted as a constitutional amendment. Finally, Carl was able to adapt to the times. In the past few years, Carl received accolades for automating and computerizing his office's operations.

Carl's dedication to public service is an example to all Americans of what government is capable of accomplishing. Carl was first elected to office just two years after our victory in World War II, when it was thought that we could accomplish anything. He held on to that belief even in this cynical era where government is among the least trusted of public and private institutions. He is a model to all Americans involved in public service and especially elderly Americans. A few years ago, Carl joked that while his body had aged, his doctor said he had the "mind of a 20-year-old."

While he was tax assessor at the time of my birth and I remember learning his name at an early age, I first came to know Carl when I be-

came the Chairman of the Harris County Democratic Party in 1990. Ever since then, whenever I was in the Harris County Administration Building, I would stop to say hello. Whether I was there on business or to register a car, Carl would always call me in to sit down and talk politics in his office, which consisted of maps, floor to ceiling boxes, and records. Just a few years ago, I was picking up new license plates, and Carl summoned me to another part of the office where he was helping staff and conducting a seminar. In his 51 years at the helm, it is fair to say that Carl S. Smith probably did every job there was to do in the Tax Assessor-Collectors' Office he ran.

Carl S. Smith was a good and great man. He was my constituent, but more importantly, he was my friend and one whose counsel I often sought. As much as Harris County loved and respected Carl, his family has suffered an even greater loss.

I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD at this point an article and obituary which appeared in the Houston Chronicle on July 29, 1998.

[From the Houston Chronicle, July 29, 1998]

CARL SMITH, TAX CHIEF FOR 51 YEARS, DIES

(By Bob Tutt)

Carl S. Smith, who served 51 years as Harris County's tax assessor and collector and was the senior elected official here, died Tuesday afternoon. He was 89.

His death came at St. Luke's Hospital where he had been confined just over two weeks for treatment of heart problems and other complications.

The Harris County Commissioners Court appointed him to the tax assessor's office in 1947 upon the death of the incumbent, Jim Glass. The next year Smith won election to the post, then was re-elected 12 times. If he had completed the last two years of his term, he would have been 91.

County Judge Robert Eckels announced Smith's death during Tuesday's session of Commissioners Court, prompting gasps from the audience.

"The county has lost someone who's been an institution here," Eckels said. "He was a great leader . . . and someone who cared a great deal for the people of this country."

Eckels then led the court in a moment of silence in Smith's memory.

Commissioner Jim Fonteno, a 24-year veteran of the court, said Smith made him look like the new kid on the block.

"He's been a good one," Fonteno said. "He's been dedicated. He'd get with you too. If you said something he didn't like, he'd take you to task on it."

District Clerk Charles Bacarisse joined other department heads in praising Smith, calling him an "icon" of county government.

"He clearly was a man of honor and integrity and ran his office in an honorable fashion," Bacarisse said.

Jack Loftis, Chronicle executive vice president and editor, reflected, "To say that Carl Smith was the consummate public official would not be giving him proper credit for the 51 years of honest and gracious service he provided to the citizens of Harris County. He was an extraordinary man in every way."

Eckels added, "I remember that he would be down here many times at midnight helping people to file their taxes by the deadline so they wouldn't have to pay a penalty."

The court appointed Loretta Wimp, Smith's chief clerk, as temporary tax assessor-collector. Later it will appoint an acting assessor-collector to serve until a replacement is elected in November.

Under state law a successor to fill out Smith's term will be selected in an election

held as part of the Nov. 3 general election. Had Smith died after Aug. 30, Commissioners Court would have named his successor.

Smith had considered retiring in 1996. He said he decided against it because his doctor had pronounced him very fit and he wanted to oversee installation of a new computer system to process motor vehicle titles and licenses. David Minberg, the Democratic County Chairman, also had urged him to run again.

At the time, Smith joined, "My doctor said I have the mind of a 20-year-old, but that's stretching a bit."

He noted at the time that his years of service in the county's employ would make him eligible for a pension greater than his \$93,000 salary.

In winning re-election in 1996 Smith captured almost 60 percent of the vote. He and state District Judge Katie Kennedy turned out to be the only Democrats to win county-wide elections that year.

Reflecting on his tenure in office, Smith said he took special pride in establishing tax office substations around the county to dispense automobile and voter registrations and provide other services.

That, he pointed out, enabled citizens to avoid long lines at county offices downtown.

Smith also said he was proud of efforts he and the late state Sen. Criss Cole made in support of state legislation allowing homestead exemptions to reduce property taxes for senior citizens.

Smith boasted that in keeping with changing times he had computerized and upgraded his office's operations.

His responsibilities also included directing registration of voters and maintaining voter registration rolls.

A native of Lindale in Smith County in northeast Texas, Smith spent most of his life in Houston. A graduate of Reagan High School, he got a law degree from the Houston Law School in 1934, in addition to taking courses at the University of Houston.

Smith had served as president of the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of Texas as well as the International Association of Assessing Officers.

His wife of 59 years, Dorothy, died in 1991. They were parents of two daughters, Nancy Stewart and Pam Robinson, both of Houston.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the Geo. H. Lewis & Sons Funeral Home, 1010 Bering Dr. Services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer.

CARL S. SMITH

HARRIS COUNTY WILL MISS ITS LONG-TIME  
PUBLIC SERVANT

The secret of Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector Carl Smith's five decades in office has to be that he changed with the times yet managed to remain an old-fashion public servant. His reputation is that of an effective manager and an admirable man.

In his last terms in office, Smith became used to hearing about himself as "an institution" and "the dean" of Harris County government. He made no bones about his advancing years, sometimes joking that he could tune out nonsense by turning down the volume on his hearing aids. Smith was appointed to head the tax office after the death of the incumbent, Jim Glass, in 1947, and was fond of noting that he was elected in 1948, the same year Harry Truman was elected president.

"Youth and inexperience are no match for age and determination," Smith would say, crediting the comment to former President George Bush.