

served for 10 years on Senator Eastland's staff and was widely known in Mississippi as the person to call to get things done in our State.

I first met him when he became a member of the staff of Governor Paul B. Johnson, Jr. Bill was a talented speech writer as well as an astute political tactician for Governor Johnson. They accomplished a great deal in that 4-year term because of the thoughtful leadership of Governor Johnson and the able assistance of Bill Simpson. The "Shipyard of the Future" was built by Litton Industries at Pascagoula and the Mississippi Research and Development Center was established in Jackson.

When I was elected to the Senate in 1978 to replace Senator Eastland, I tried to talk Bill Simpson into staying on as a member of my staff, but President Carter was more persuasive, and Bill left the Senate to serve as an assistant to Hamilton Jordan, the Chief of Staff in The White House.

Bill Simpson grew up on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and graduated from St. Stanislas College in Bay St. Louis and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY. His father served as Mayor of Pass Christian and his brother, Jim Simpson, Sr. was a 7-term member of the Mississippi House of Representatives.

Bill's nephew, Jim Simpson, Jr., carries on the family tradition in Mississippi politics as a respected member of the House of Representatives from Harrison county, and his son, Bill Simpson, Jr., serves on the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Bill enjoyed the love and support of a devoted family and the camaraderie of countless friends. As chairman of the board of the 116 Club he would hold court and tell stories about the Senate and our State of Mississippi with a twinkle in his eye and love in his heart.

We extend to his wife, Evelyn, and his children, Bill, Jr. and Ellen, and his three grandchildren, our sincerest condolences.

HONORING THE ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT MAJOR CORNELL W. GILMORE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I seek recognition to honor a Virginia Soldier, Sergeant Major Cornell W. Gilmore, who was tragically killed in action in Iraq on Friday, November 7th, 2003. I want to express gratitude, on behalf of the Senate, for his service to our Nation. The American people, I am certain, join me in expressing their prayers and compassion to his family.

As the Sergeant Major of the Army's Judge Advocate General Corps, he served as the primary adviser to the judge advocate general on all matters concerning the health and welfare of all the enlisted soldiers within that command. A heavy responsibility that he bore freely and he served with great effect. He accompanied his commanding general, Major General Thomas J. Romig, to Iraq to ensure the sol-

diery legal needs were being met while away from home. Major General Romig stated that he was "one of the most dynamic leaders I ever met."

Sergeant Major Gilmore leaves behind his wife, Donna; his daughter, Dawnita; his son, Cornell, Jr.; his father William; and his mother, Louise.

Sergeant Major Gilmore was both an exceptional soldier and a caring citizen, giving his time freely to community and his church. At every post throughout his career he has been a mentor to many through his love of God and music, most recently serving as the music minister at the Shilo Christian Church in Stafford, VA. The local media reported that 100 former pupils served in the choir during his funeral service with more than 1300 mourners present.

His family members are brave Americans who have sacrificed so much for this Nation. We owe them and the other families who have lost their loved ones a debt of gratitude. Sergeant Major Gilmore was an exceptional man with a bright future and family in front of him. His wife stated, "he lived and died doing what he loved best—being with soldiers." I cannot craft a finer eulogy, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the entire Nation shall mourn his loss.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER RALPH BUNCHE

Mr. TALENT. I am pleased that the Senate unanimously approved a resolution to recognize the importance of Ralph Bunche as one of the great leaders of the United States. Mr. Bunche was the first African-American Nobel Peace Prize winner, an accomplished scholar, a distinguished diplomat, and a tireless campaigner for civil rights for people throughout the world.

He was of that generation of African-American leaders whose life and character broke the back of generations of prejudice, awoke the American conscience, and opened up opportunity for millions of people. This measure is an appropriate and fitting celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birth.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN FEDERAL COURTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am pleased to report that, last Friday, S. 1720 was presented to the President for his consideration, after receiving the unanimous approval of both the House and Senate. I sponsored S. 1720, joined by Senator HUTHINSON, because I believe that this legislation is necessary to ensure that all of the citizens of North Texas have access to justice in the Federal courts.

S. 1720 authorizes the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas to hold court in the City of Plano. Such legislation was first endorsed by the Judicial Conference of the United States and the Eastern District of Texas in 1991. Yet although,

prior to this year, the House had already approved such legislation five times since 1991, it has never received the approval of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate until this year.

Federal law does not currently authorize the Eastern District of Texas to hold court in Plano—making the Eastern District, of all 93 judicial districts across the United States, the only judicial district in which its largest city cannot hold Federal court. The nearest Eastern District judge is in the city of Sherman, a 100-mile or more roundtrip drive away. As a result, Federal prosecutors, public defenders, other attorneys, and law enforcement officials must waste precious time and resources conducting even the most simple court business. The people of the Eastern District of Texas are woefully underserved as a result.

S. 1720 enjoys strong support among officials across the State of Texas. Most notably, U.S. Attorney Matthew D. Orwing, First Assistant U.S. Attorney Rebecca Gregory, Chief Judge John Hannah, Jr., and Judge Richard A. Schell worked closely with my office in this effort, and I am grateful to each and every one of them for working with me to ensure that the people of North Texas enjoy adequate access to justice in the Federal courts.

The judges of the Eastern District firmly believe that this legislation is good for the citizens of Sherman as well as Plano. On June 13, 2003, on behalf of all the judges of the Eastern District, Chief Judge Hannah issued General Order No. 03-15, which resolves, "if pending legislation passes that authorizes Plano as a place of holding court, to have half the Sherman Division caseload docketed and tried in Sherman, and the other half of the caseload docketed and tried in Plano. If Judge Brown ceases holding court in Sherman, a new resident judge shall be designated to hold court in Sherman as soon as possible, and pending the new judge's residing in Sherman, 50 percent of civil and criminal cases shall be docketed and tried in Sherman, and the clerk's office in Sherman shall remain staffed sufficiently to support a resident judge."

Relying on this general order, the Grayson County Bar Association, which includes Sherman, and the Collin County Bar Association, which includes Plano, recently approved a joint resolution endorsing this legislation. Furthermore, consistent with the terms of the order, Congressman Ralph Hall inserted the following statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD just moment before House approval of S. 1720 last Wednesday:

Both Sherman and Plano shall have a resident United States District Judge. Fifty percent of the cases filed in or transferred to the Sherman Division of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas shall be assigned for trial and tried in Sherman by either the resident United States District Judge sitting in Sherman or

another United States District Judge assigned to hold court in Sherman. The remaining 50 percent of the cases shall be assigned for trial and tried in Plano by either the resident United States District Court Judge sitting in Plano or another United States District Judge assigned to hold court in Plano. If the resident judge in Sherman or Plano retires or dies, 50 percent of the cases shall continue to be tried in Sherman and 50 percent tried in Plano while a new resident judge is being assigned. This provision shall not prevent the transfer of a case to another judge or division of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas or another United States District Court for trial, if such transfer is permitted by applicable law.

This language reflects the intentions of the judges of the Eastern District of Texas as stated in General Order No. 03-15—as confirmed by Chief Judge Hannah last week. Accordingly, I am pleased to join Congressman HALL in inserting this statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ON THE LIFE OF EDITH NASH

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to a good friend and a great Wisconsinite who recently passed away, leaving behind an inspiring legacy of community leadership, of creativity, and of true benevolence.

In Wisconsin, Edith's enterprise was evident in both her dedication to the arts and her success in the private sector. A community leader, she served as a board member of the Meiklejohn Educational Association, as administrator of the Wisconsin Rapids Community Company of Players, and as a member of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. Privately, she was vice president and later president of her family's business, the Biron Cranberry Co.

Never one to stand still, Edith continued to reinvent herself time and time again, even late in life. After selling the Biron Company, Edith delved into poetry, publishing five books and founding a writers' group when she was well into her eighties.

Earlier in her life, Edith lived in Washington, DC, where she was dismayed and outraged at the state of the city's segregated public school system. So, with her husband Philleo, she founded one of the District's first integrated schools in 1945, the Georgetown Day School. Later, she served as the school's director for 14 years.

While at the Georgetown Day School, Edith challenged her new students by telling them that "If you really don't like the idea of standing on your own two feet and beginning to be the master of your own life—if you'd rather be a chip in the ocean with the mammoth water raising and lowering you and you making no effort at all—don't come to Georgetown Day School. Ask your folks to help you find a regular school where you'll not have so much to do yourself."

Edith followed her own words; as a poet, mother, philanthropist, academic, and businesswoman, she was no chip in the ocean. And even in her ninth decade, she continued to work hard and inspire new generations. Her work and ideas knew no bounds.

Edith Nash's death is a great loss to all of us who knew her, and all those whose lives were touched by her many good works. I am deeply saddened by her passing, but I know that her leadership, creativity and generosity have left a lasting mark on our State and our country. ●

HONORING JACK K. NORRIS AND THE LATE JEAN DONKERS NORRIS

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an Idahoan who will soon celebrate his 88th birthday, Payette native Jack K. Norris. Jack is a hero, not only for Idaho, but for the entire Nation. Jack was born in Payette, ID, on November 30, 1915, but he has spent much of his life in service to our country. He was a member of the Class of 1939, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and served throughout the world during World War II. His numerous awards include: a Purple Heart, Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and a V for Valor, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantry Badge, Presidential Unit Citation, French Croix de Guerre, Belgian Order of the Crown, Belgian Croix de Guerre, and five European Tour of Duty campaign stars. These many honors speak to his exceptional service to country, and his outstanding military knowledge. This knowledge was cultivated and expanded through years of military courses and training including graduation from the Battalion Commander's Course, Command and General Staff College, British Staff College, Army War College, Army Aviation School-Senior Officers Course, fixed and rotary wing qualification, and Senior Officers Aircraft Maintenance and Logistics course. In his own words, Jack describes his decision to enlist in the Army as: "probably the best thing that ever happened to me."

After many years in the Armed Forces, Jack retired from the service. Unable to slow down, he began teaching at North Georgia College, where he was named Commandant of Cadets in the ROTC program. After leaving North Georgia College, and with an insatiable appetite for learning and accomplishment, Jack decided to study law. He received his license and practiced until 1983. Jack did all of these things while caring for the most important individuals in his life: his wife and three children. His three sons have all made service to country a part of their lives, presumably as a result of their father's influence.

I also want to pay tribute to Jack's wife, Jean Donkers Norris, who passed away in 1983. Much of their lives together revolved around the military.

She met her sweetheart at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and married him at the Main Post Chapel in San Antonio, TX. Jean kept the home fires burning while Jack was away at war. She was the model military wife and moved frequently to accommodate Jack's career, and that required many sacrifices on her part. She was always ready to serve—whether it be a meal to a visiting officer or thirty, or to support other military spouses. I wanted to relate a couple of stories about Jean. Once she had to shovel coal for heat in the family's temporary quarters, and commented that she was grateful white gloves were in fashion so she could hide the coal stains on her hands when she had to go out.

When Jack was a post commander, he and Jean visited every soldier who was in the hospital or in jail on Christmas Day and brought them some of her homemade cookies. She was known for her compassion and dedication to her own family as well as the U.S. Army family.

Jack and Jean had a true partnership and were exceptional role models for their children and their daughters-in-law. In today's world, as we again see the necessity of American troops deployed and in action, people like Jack and Jean bring home to us the importance of dedication to family and country. Even during trying, testing times Jack and Jean showed their commitment to a cause and their commitment to each other. Their exceptional example is worthy of praise. I am profoundly grateful for their service to our country. I send Jack all of my best for a very Happy Birthday. ●

SERVICE LEADERS SUMMIT

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to tell you about the extraordinary young Hoosiers I recently had the privilege to meet. Last month, I hosted my first annual Service Leaders Summit to honor high school students from across Indiana for their service and dedication to their communities and hopefully to inspire them to continue serving throughout their lives.

The young men and women I met last month have answered the call to service. Some of them have helped build homes, some tutored and mentored younger students, and others have raised money for cancer research and to feed the hungry. Several of the young men and women started service clubs to address the problems in their schools and communities. Each one of the students I met spent hours making a difference in their hometowns and together they impacted the lives of thousands of Hoosiers.

The student leaders heard from Hoosiers of all backgrounds who have chosen to dedicate their lives to serving others. The speakers focused on the different aspects that go into a successful service project: inspiration, organization, dedication, evaluation and reflection. Following the speeches, the students broke up into different groups