

am pleased to report . . . that the ABA Committee reported to the Attorney General of the United States and subsequently to the Senate Judiciary Committee it's unanimous opinion that Bill Osteen is well-qualified for this appointment. This is the highest rating the Committee gives."

Bill Osteen, Jr., justifiably proud of his father and law partner, but being completely honest and candid, stated: "There was only comfort through my father's presence, his love and his support. And he's been there for each member of this family every time it was needed . . . But his magnificence as a father is probably only equaled by his great ability and competence as a lawyer . . . Each time he has taken a client—and I've practiced with him for four years now, but I'm confident that this was true for his entire 30 years. Each time he's taken a client, he has brought to the representation honor, integrity, diligence and confidence that are not to be found very often. There have been a lot of big cases, a lot of outstanding cases, and there have been a lot of small cases. But regardless of whether a case was big or small, or whether it was important to society or whether it was important only to an individual, he has brought the same honor and integrity to each case; and I'm proud to have practiced with him for the time that we have."

The Honorable Eugene Gordon commented: "Bill . . . brings to this court a vast experience gained from years of private practice and an illustrious career in this district as United States Attorney . . . Also, his legislative service and his community service can't be overlooked. Those services are very valuable for one who is called on to assume responsibilities as a member of the judiciary . . . The efficiency and goals of the offices which he has served were never in jeopardy; it was always done well. He has reflected well upon himself, and he has served this area with distinction . . . Bill is a good person, with a passion for decency. He possesses no hatred, no jealousy, no envy or ill will that I have ever discerned. The truth is simply this. He is just a hard person to dislike."

"It is our good fortune that one of Bill Osteen's vision, ability and character has come forward for active service on the bench . . ."

The Honorable Richard Erwin stated: "Judge Osteen comes to the federal bench as well prepared for the tasks awaiting him as any judge I know. He has served as United States Attorney for this district; in private practice he has represented defendants charged with criminal offenses; and also represented both plaintiffs and defendants in civil actions before the federal courts . . . Judge Osteen also possesses an even-handed disposition that we call judicial temperament."

The Honorable Frank Bullock commented: "I don't believe that President Bush has made a better judicial appointment during his term in office . . . Bill Osteen should be a judge of this court. He has dedicated his life to service, to his family, to his church, to his state and to his nation. He has served in the legislature and as United States Attorney and as an officer of the state bar. I am confident that there is no better trial lawyer in this district and in this state and probably in this circuit or in this nation."

The Honorable Woody Tilley said this: "But not only is Bill Osteen the best trial lawyer I've ever seen . . . he also is one of the best people that I have ever known."

These were not empty accolades or over statements. If they missed the mark in any respect, it is because they understate the exemplary qualities with which Bill Osteen has been endowed and the principles which he has invariably followed.

The oath taken by Judge Osteen at his commissioning in part is this: "I, William Lindsay Osteen, Sr., do solemnly swear that I will administer justice without respect to persons and do equal justice to the poor and to the rich; and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all duties incumbent upon me as United States District Judge under the Constitution and laws of the United States . . ."

Bill Osteen has been as faithful to this oath as he has been to the promise he made to his mother years earlier.

Judge Osteen, the Greensboro Bar Association takes pride and pleasure in presenting to you the highest honor it can bestow, its Distinguished Service Award. This award is in recognition of and is in deep appreciation for your having demonstrated in many ways your deep devotion and constant commitment to the honorable practice of law and to the better administration of justice; for your having made enduring contributions to the administration of justice and to the public good through unselfish service to the community and to the legal profession; for your adherence at all times to the highest ethical standards of professionalism; and for your thereby setting by example a standard of conduct and service to which the members of the Greensboro Bar Association might well aspire.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE 2004 OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2004*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Wendell Thomas Family for being selected the 2004 Outstanding Farm Family. The Thomas family has run an extremely successful farm in Northwest Florida for nearly 60 years.

Wendell's parents started the Thomas farm in 1945, and to this day his mother, Lizzie Kate, is still an active partner in the family business. Wendell began working at an early age, and after graduating high school in 1970 he became a full time employee in the family's operation. A year after that, he married Dwynette Lewis, and together they raised three daughters who have all contributed to the farm.

In 1981, Wendell purchased an aircraft and shortly afterward received his certification to apply protective chemicals and fertilizers to the family's crops. In 1982, Wendell began running the farm full-time due to the decline in his father's health. Over these nearly 60 years, the Thomas family farm has expanded from one hundred to one thousand acres of cotton, peanuts, pasture, and woodland.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere commendation to a family that could serve as a role model to us all. A deep sense of work ethic and values has been instilled through all the generations of the Wendell Thomas Family. It is my hope that this family tradition continues for many generations to come.

#### NORTHERN UGANDA CRISIS RESPONSE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss current legislation S. 2246. I support this bill which would order the Secretary of State to issue a report on the situation in northern and eastern Uganda. This bill, if passed, would also place much needed pressure on the Ugandan Government to provide increased protection to innocent civilians, pressure the Lord's Resistance Army, under the leadership of Joseph Kony, to lay down its arms, and force the Government of Sudan to come clean about its relationship with the LRA.

The people of Uganda have had enough. The fighting between the northern rebel group known as the Lord's Resistance Army and the Government of Uganda has gone on for more than 18 years. Their mission to overthrow the government is costing many people their lives and their livelihoods. As a result of the civil conflict, more than 1.4 million people are displaced within Uganda. Furthermore, women and young girls are being brutally raped and humiliated, young boys are being abducted and forced to serve in the ranks of the rebel insurgency. Bodies have been maimed and many have died mercilessly.

The most shameful piece of this story is that there are suspicions that the Government of Sudan, to the immediate north of Uganda, has and continues to aid LRA rebel forces with supplies and safety from Government of Uganda military forces. Such accusations, if true, demand the attention of the United States and the international community especially given the current crisis in Darfur.

Before we can properly offer assistance to the Government of Uganda and the people of Uganda, we must have concrete information that accurately details the extent of the human devastation in Uganda. This bill, if passed, would place that information in our hands. Without a thorough knowledge of the situation in Uganda, we will be unable to provide humanitarian relief and assistance to millions of men, women, and children suffering under the hands of oppressive rebel tyrants.

A report by the Secretary of State would be highly beneficial to human rights monitors, international humanitarian agencies, and lawmakers in the United States and around the world. It would explain the state of communications and infrastructure. It would explain the degree to which the rebels have permeated northern and eastern Uganda. It would explain the state of security and the degree to which civilians and outsiders are protected from vigilant rebels. Such information is crucial if we are to help lift the people of Uganda out of their current crisis and bring down the Lord's Resistance Army.

Bringing an end to this campaign will keep Uganda on its current track toward stability, especially regarding the AIDS crisis. This nation has seen more than 800,000 of its people die from HIV/AIDS and has seen more than 1.5 million of its children orphaned by this deadly virus. On the bright side, though, this country has worked vigorously to curb those