

and read every biography of Abraham Lincoln ever written. Not bad for a once skinny, non-English speaking kid from San Antonio, Texas.

Hippo was continually fascinated with the English language and in our hundreds of lunches and dinners over the past 35 years regaled me with stories of San Antonio's social and political past. As a young, green lawyer I was not only enthralled with his stories and his jokes but I found it amazing that a county judge would spend time with me. There were over the year's dozens of young men and women who had the same experiences with "The Judge" and felt equally honored.

He told me of his ancestors and their fight for independence in Mexico; of his relatives who were associated with Pancho Villa; of what it was like to grow up in San Antonio as a Mexican-American child not speaking English; of landmarks in the City of San Antonio that I had not noticed or simply forgotten; of being beaten up by a group of thugs when he was working a polling place for Henry B. Gonzalez, in his early efforts as the first Hispanic political leader in San Antonio to win important elective public office; and of his Spanish speaking mother's reaction when he tried to explain to her that he had just become a county court-at-law judge: "How many times have I told you, I don't want you to be no policeman!"

For some reason, I distinctly recall a story about a small theater in downtown San Antonio where Hippo, as a child would go on Saturdays not only for entertainment but to try and learn English—I think it was known as the State Theater. That was only when he had the dime required for the ticket. He told me about a stage show at that theater that occurred every Saturday. He watched in awe as several dancers did a vaudeville routine with brooms and sang "sweep, sweep, sweep the cobwebs off the moon." Those musical English words intrigued him and stayed with him the rest of his life and occasionally, after a glass or two of his favorite wine, he would sing those lyrics to the surprise of his dinner companions.

I and many other more important people were beneficiaries of his constant effort to help young lawyers begin the practice of law. He was the founding father of the "Hippos Baseball Team" whose benched players include judges (including our own Ed Prado and John Primomo), congressmen and successful businessmen. His patience, his fairness, his teaching by example, his unmatched generosity was not limited to lawyers. Over the years I witnessed first-hand his financial gifts (which he fictionally called "loans") to young men and women who needed help to pay tuition or to provide the necessities of life in order to go to school or stay in school. He would seldom speak about these things but would rather joke that, human nature being what it is, some of those beneficiaries of his generosity would probably run against him some day. It never happened.

If there is a good restaurant in San Antonio that Hippo did not frequent I am not aware of it. The measure of a good restaurant: superior food and plentiful white wine. As one restaurant owner told me: "Hippo loves to eat more than anyone I've ever known." Menus at the Judge's favorite restaurants are replete with dishes named after him. From "Hippo's Meat Loaf" to Tex-Mex dishes to lavish desserts, he left his mark on the bills of fare. Perhaps the place of greatest enjoyment for him was a restaurant at which a well-known local jazz band played. "Hippo's Song," the jazz rendition of his favorite hymn, "Just A Closer Walk With Thee," was announced and played at least once each night. As requested by

Judge Hippo, a member of that jazz band played a solo rendition of the hymn at his funeral.

Hippo's secret weapon for most all of his success and scores of friendships I concluded was his unique ability to listen, to sympathize and associate himself with another's problems and challenges. Then he would tell a funny story. From what I know, he would not have succeeded in the priesthood but he would have been one Hell of a bartender!

In the early hours of the morning of January 16, 2002, Hippo Garcia, a fine judge but more importantly, a great human being, without any doubt joined the Saint for whom he was named and all the saints in Heaven. His favorite restaurants and the wineries of the world will now need their own economic stimulus package. For his immediate family, his dozens of godchildren, his legions of fiends, and those many who, but for Hippo, might have stumbled and failed in life, there is a tremendous sense of loss and a painful void. I feel it every day.

Never fear—in the words of "Hippo's Song" he has been "gently, safely guided to Thy kingdom shore" and is "ever walking close to Thee." There is a table set in Heaven with several empty chairs, plates of meatloaf, mashed potatoes with real butter, and full glasses of Chablis. He's saving a place for us: but when you pull out the chair and prepare to sit, remember "careful what you do." In the meantime, I look up and I think I can almost see a great judge, the funniest man on earth, my best friend "sweep, sweep, sweep the cobwebs off the moon."

In June 1996, in recognition of his leadership and "invaluable public service to his state and nation" then Governor George W. Bush signed a Proclamation allowing Judge Garcia to be buried in the Texas State Cemetery at Austin, Texas. He lies thirty feet from Stephen F. Austin at the top of Republic Hill, the first Mexican-American to be buried in this historic section of the Cemetery.

"Green be the turf above thee,
Friend of my better days!
None knew thee but to love thee,
Nor named thee but in praise."

May he rest in peace.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3884.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JUDGE WILLIAM B. BRYANT
ANNEX TO THE E. BARRETT
PRETTYMAN FEDERAL BUILDING
AND UNITED STATES COURT-
HOUSE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4294) to designate the annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building and United States Courthouse located at 333 Constitution Ave. Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as the "Judge William B. Bryant

Annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building and United States Courthouse," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4294

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building and United States Courthouse located at 333 Constitution Avenue Northwest in the District of Columbia shall be known and designated as the "William B. Bryant Annex".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the annex referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "William B. Bryant Annex".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4294, introduced by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) designates the annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building and United States Courthouse as the William B. Bryant Annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

Judge Bryant was born in Alabama, but raised in Washington, D.C. He attended public schools here in the District, and graduated from Dunbar High School. He received both his bachelor and law degrees from Howard University.

In 1943, like many of his generation, he entered the United States Army receiving a commission as a first lieutenant. He was honorably discharged in 1947, having attained the rank of lieutenant colonel.

After 18 years in private practice, marked by a brief period with the Department of Justice, William Bryant was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in 1965.

In 1977, Judge Bryant became the first African American to serve as the Chief Judge for the D.C. District Court. Judge Bryant took senior status in 1982 although he continued to hear cases long after many others would have retired.

I would like to commend the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for being persistent in bringing this bill to the floor to honor a distinguished jurist.

This is a fitting tribute to a respected judge. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I

should begin by thanking the leadership of the House and my own leadership for the way they have accommodated me in bringing this bill forward quickly. I especially thank the chairman of our subcommittee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), for so readily agreeing to manage this bill and bring it forward, because it comes forward under rather special and unusual circumstances.

The judge for whom this courthouse is to be named would by any standard be regarded as a historic figure in the Federal judiciary and in the judiciary of this city. H.R. 4294, a bill to name the annex of the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building, which houses the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for William B. Bryant, is what is before us. Judge Bryant is a former chief judge of the District Court, the first African American to hold the post, a longtime D.C. resident and graduate of the D.C. public schools with a distinguished legal career, who currently serves as a senior judge. The annex is under construction at Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues Northwest and when completed early next year will provide much-needed state-of-the-art courtrooms and judges' chambers.

H.R. 4294 has an unusual origin. The chief judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for himself and the members of the trial court, visited my office to request that the annex under construction for the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building be named for senior U.S. District Court judge William B. Bryant. Judge Bryant was unaware of the desires and actions of his colleagues who unanimously agreed to request that the annex be named for the judge.

It is rare that Congress names a courthouse or an annex for a judge who has served in that court and even more rare for a judge who is still sitting. Judge Bryant's colleagues, who know his work and his temperament best, have found a particularly appropriate way for our city and our country to celebrate the life and accomplishments of a great judge who has had an historic impact on the law and on his court. I know Judge Bryant personally. I know his reputation in this city and in the law. And I know that the request to name the annex for Judge Bryant reflects deep respect for his unusually distinguished life at the bar.

Judge Bryant began his career in private practice in the segregated Washington of the 1940s and 1950s when African American lawyers were barred from membership in the District of Columbia Bar Association and from using the bar law library. He established his legal reputation as a partner in the legendary African American law firm of Houston, Bryant & Gardner and taught at Howard University law school.

His reputation as an extraordinary trial lawyer led to his appointment as the first African American assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Co-

lumbia. He rose to become the first African American to serve as chief judge of the U.S. District Court whose members now ask that the annex be named for Judge Bryant.

For his representation of criminal defendants in private practice, Judge Bryant was admired as one of the city's best and most respected litigators. Among his many notable cases is the landmark *Mallory v. United States* where the Supreme Court ruled that an arrested person must be promptly brought before a judicial officer.

Judge Bryant graduated from the D.C. public schools, Howard University, and the Howard University School of Law where he was first in his class. After graduation, Judge Bryant served as chief research assistant to Dr. Ralph Bunche when Dr. Bunche worked with Gunnar Myrdal, the famous Swedish economist, in his studies of American racial issues. Judge Bryant served in the United States Army during World War II and was honorably discharged as a lieutenant colonel in 1947.

Judge Bryant, who is 92, took senior status in 1982. He raised a family, but as Chief Judge Thomas Hogan wrote, "lost his beloved wife, Astaire, and now lives alone, with this court and the law as the center of his life."

I am grateful to our judges of the United States District Court here for the thoughtful proposal that the annex to their court be named for Judge William B. Bryant. The residents of this city that Judge Bryant has served so well, the judges of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and the members of the bar here would be particularly pleased. I am delighted that Senator Patrick Leahy, ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has sponsored the bill in the Senate; and I urge quick approval to give honor to one of the great judges of our court.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4294, a bill to designate the annex to the Prettyman Courthouse in Washington, D.C., as the Judge William B. Bryant Annex. I thank Chairmen YOUNG and LATOURETTE for their graciousness and support in moving this bill to the Floor in such an expeditious manner.

Judge Bryant, who is 92 years old, is an icon in District legal circles. He practiced law in the 1940s and 1950s when the city was segregated. He could not join the D.C. Bar Association or use its facilities. Yet, he has achieved great stature as a trial lawyer and enjoys an enviable reputation.

Judge Bryant is a lifelong D.C. resident who attended public schools and Howard Law School, where he graduated first in his class. He began his legal career in private practice in the District with the legendary African American law firm of Houston, Bryant, and Gardner. In 1965, he was nominated by President Johnson to the Federal bench and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in August of that year. Judge Bryant is the first African American to hold the post of Chief Judge.

During his long, productive legal career Judge Bryant also served as the first African American Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Dis-

trict, and has taught at Howard Law School. He is also a World War II veteran, serving in the Army from 1943 until 1947.

The judges of the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia unanimously agreed to name the annex in honor of Judge Bryant and approached Congresswoman NORTON for her help.

Judge Bryant's civil career is extraordinary. He is a role model, a mentor, a loyal friend and advisor. It is fitting and just that Judge William Bryant be honored with this designation.

I support H.R. 4294 and urge its passage.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4294, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building and United States Courthouse located at 333 Constitution Avenue Northwest in the District of Columbia as the 'William B. Bryant Annex'".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 647, H.R. 3884 and H.R. 4294, the matters that we have just been discussing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

COMMERCIAL AVIATION MANPADS DEFENSE ACT OF 2004

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4056) to encourage the establishment of both long-term and short-term programs to address the threat of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADSs) to commercial aviation, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4056

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Commercial Aviation MANPADS Defense Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

- (1) MANPADSs constitute a threat to military and civilian aircraft.
- (2) The threat posed by MANPADSs requires the development of both short-term and long-term plans.