

"I have walked the halls of Congress with Cynthia McKinney maybe eight to ten times. I have walked into and out of the Cannon and Longworth house office buildings with her. I have walked to hearings in the Rayburn house office building with her. I have walked the underground tunnels from one of those office buildings directly to the edge of the House floor and its anteroom with her. I can tell you one thing for certain because I have seen it and I have felt it. Cynthia McKinney and her staff get treated differently from just about anyone else on the Hill. It's subtle, but so is the taste of dirt when it's in your mouth."

Although the Capitol police have failed to produce a surveillance tape of McKinney's confrontation with their officer, the congresswoman captured one incident in the movie, "American Blackout," now being screened at sites around the country. The film depicts McKinney's investigation of voting irregularities in the 2000 elections. One segment shows the congresswoman being accosted by police as she and her party approach the Longworth building of the Capitol. McKinney turns to the camera and reports that police subject her to such treatment "all the time."

Does that happen to 535 members of congress "all the time"? Not hardly.

California Rep. Tom Lantos, according to the web reference site Wikipedia, "ran over a teenager in the Capitol parking area and refused to stop despite screams from the crowd. He never apologized for the hit-and-run either." The Boston Globe reported that Lantos was not charged with hit-and-run, but was only fined \$25 for "failure to pay full time and attention." However, a teacher accompanying the student was threatened with arrest by Capitol police when she chased Lantos' car, demanding that he stop.

Apparently Capitol police are quite zealous in protecting their lawmakers—if they are white.

In an otherwise inane, anti-McKinney article, Black columnist Earl Ofari Hutchinson gave some historical perspective to recent events:

"In past years, the Caucus raised heck when a white Republican Congressman punched a black Capitol police officer and a year later Ohio Democratic Representative Louis Stokes was hassled by Capitol police. And the Congressional Black Caucus rushed to their defense."

Not this time, not for Cynthia McKinney. The Congressional Black Caucus is broken.

SEX AND THE FEDERAL CITY

Around midnight on April 8, Saturday Night Live's Kenan Thompson performed a grotesque, bewigged skit in which he conjured up a fat, sloppy, dull-witted, belligerent, loud-talking, no-listening, from-deep-in-the-ghetto character who was supposed to be—Cynthia McKinney. Of course, this TV minstrel's interpretation bore no resemblance to the congressperson—daughter of one of Atlanta's first Black policemen, a former faculty member at Clark Atlanta University, world traveler and sought-after speaker, six-term legislator. But that did not matter. Although SNL does superb work caricaturing public personalities, its usual standards did not apply in McKinney's case. The skit was a dehumanizing assault on Black women as a group, with "Cynthia" standing in for the female gender of her race.

A specific profile of Black women exists in the minds of vast sections of white America. As Dr. Abdul Karim Bangura relates in this issue of BC, in "an analysis of White students' stereotypes of Black women by professor of women's studies and sociology Rose Weitz at Arizona State University and Wakonse fellow Leonard Gordon at the same

university, the students primarily characterize Black women as loud, aggressive, argumentative, stubborn, and bitchy."

White men (and women, and some Black men) on and off Capitol Hill are eager to vilify and diminish McKinney, to call her a "bitch," a "racist," "crazy" and all manner of epithets. This abuse is actually directed against the defamers' twisted idea of who and what Black women are. So diseased are their minds, they see only their sickness-induced delusions. White supremacy allows them to translate their delusions into public policy. September 11 gave them a free pass to run buck wild, with no apologies, under the umbrella of "homeland security."

BLACK VOTERS WILL DECIDE

It can be no consolation to Rep. McKinney, that she is just a convenient target for what we now recognize as a great resurgence of racism in the United States. The South rules a South that is not defined geographically but socio-politically. White Americans have become much more homogenous in the electronic and high-mobility age—to the detriment of sanity. Their never-forsaken dreams of domestic and planetary racial conquest were given a Frankenstein-like jolt and boost by the Bush regime, which spoke directly to the predatory core of American myth and historical practice. Emboldened, they have snared Cynthia McKinney in one of their IRTs: Improvised Racist Traps. She awaits the decision of a grand jury.

The moral and political collapse of the Congressional Black Caucus could not come at a worse time—but it has occurred. Corroded by corporate money dependent on corporate media—with the near extinction of independent Black media—adrift in the gulf between the needs of the Black masses and the narrow aspirations of the minuscule hyper-mobile Black classes and still steeped in rank male chauvinism much of Black "leadership" cannot abide a genuinely progressive, charismatic female in their midst. Many also look on in sulking jealousy at the burgeoning unity and militancy of Latinos, whose grassroots are on the move and whose media support their cause.

The CBC cannot even support each other.

When CBC members urged Cynthia McKinney to forsake the truth, to hide the ugly fact of racial (and political, and sexual) profiling they gave enormous aide and comfort to the enemy. If there was one victory that African Americans had achieved in the post-Civil Rights era it was to make racial profiling legally, politically and socially unacceptable. This victory was the fruit of countless suitor demonstrations—all manner of political struggles—and the legacy of the legions of dead, maimed, jailed and humiliated victims of profiling who became the focus of sustained Black action.

September 11 provided the excuse to undo decades of anti-profiling victories. Profiling is reckoned to be a good thing. Now the racists seek to reestablish arbitrary and capricious white supremacy, with legislation that would de facto deputize every police officer as an agent of "homeland security" who need not respect the constitution in the case of "suspected" undocumented immigrants. At that point, all persons of color become grist for the suspicion mill. Just as the Capitol policeman chose not "recognize" Cynthia McKinney as a congressperson, any cop could willfully fail to recognize his fellow Americans and strip them of their rights. Such a regime already exists in designated "drug zones" in urban America where everyone is suspect.

Yet the CBC allows Republicans and racist Democrats to jeer and bully Cynthia McKinney into a legal cul-de-sac because she dares to cite profiling.

The masses of African Americans know the deal—they are profiled constantly in stores, when observed outside their neighborhoods, on the highways, when breathing while Black. McKinney's version of events does not seem bizarre to them. Although the laughing racist hyenas convince each other—with the tacit help of be chair Mel Watt—that McKinney is on the ropes, it is the Black constituents of Dekalb County who will decide if she is "crazy" for standing up for her (and our) dignity and rights.

When McKinney arrived back in Atlanta shortly after her confrontation with the uniformed profiler, State Representative Tyrone Brooks, president of the Georgia Association of Black Elected officials, was among those to greet and support her: "It's really not about Cynthia McKinney," said Brooks. "It's about African-Americans in America who are victims of racial profiling every day."

Much of the Congressional Black Caucus seem to have lost touch with this reality. As a body, they have lost their moorings, and must be rehabilitated, surgically. A bunch of them have got to go.

BC Co-Publishers Glen Ford and Peter Gamble are writing a book to be titled, Barack Obama and the Crisis in Black Leadership.

HONORING OTTO W. "BILL" MEYER OF MARION, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who is a legend in Kansas journalism and his community, a man not afraid to challenge an issue even if it rocked the boat, man who let his readers know what they needed to know, a man who served his country and community with strong will and strong opinions, and a man who will be missed throughout Kansas. I am here today to honor a respected leader and friend—Bill Meyer.

Bill may best be known as the editor and publisher of the Marion County Record. During his 55 years of service to this weekly paper, he brought a fire to the paper establishing it as a challenge to the status quo. After graduating from the University of Kansas in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in journalism, he began his five and a half decade career. Bill didn't stop at just reporting the news. His active role in civil issues, including the construction of Marion Reservoir and the local football stadium, helped create good news for the city of Marion.

Bill's weekly column, "Mostly Malarkey," gave voice to his strong opinions. These challenging positions often led to productive dialogues, but for others it led to violent reactions. On occasion his property and the newspaper office were vandalized. This past president of the Kansas Press Association has woken to slashed tires, egg-covered vehicles, and even a bullet hole in his office window. It takes a tough man to withstand the attacks he endured defending his fiery positions.

Bill also endured attacks while serving our country in World War II. He earned the Purple Heart for permanent injuries suffered from freezing temperatures during the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of concentration camps in Bavaria. Bill was decorated by several European countries and his own for his

service during the war. He continued to be honored after the war for serving his comrades and their memory by editing *Checkerboard*, a World War II newspaper, and facilitating tours of European battlefields.

It has been said that Bill was part of a dying breed in journalism—journalists who didn't write for the good of their career, but for the good of their community. Bill enjoyed success in career and community. Among others, he received awards from Kansas State University, the Kansas House of Representatives, and the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors. In 2004, he was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame. In Marion, Bill gave back while serving as school board president, Kiwanis president, and president of the Marion County Hospital District. Bill became even more connected with his neighbors as an ambulance and bus driver.

Despite his many activities, family came first. Bill was a devoted husband to his wife, Joan, and a proud father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Meyer family. May the strength and courage demonstrated in his years of service help inspire us. We will not only remember Bill the way we saw him through our own eyes, but also by the way we saw the world through his eyes. The world is a better place because of him, and he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to our friend and colleague, Congressman MIKE OXLEY.

When I was first elected to Congress, I really didn't know MIKE, but I had heard about his prowess on the basketball court and on the golf course. But, one of the things that I have come to appreciate over the years has been the depth of knowledge and experience he has in the business and financial services sector. It is because of this that MIKE has earned the respect of financial leaders in the United States and worldwide.

MIKE is leaving us with a legacy that includes his work on the landmark Sarbanes-Oxley bill to bring more accountability and responsibility to the corporate world. In the weeks following the 9/11 attacks, he led the swift response to target terrorist financing by working to pass a new money laundering statute.

I think it's also important to mention that MIKE's leadership in shaping policy over the years has reached beyond the corporate world. He has also made a significant difference in promoting personal savings and investments at the individual level.

Prior to redistricting, I used to represent two counties that are now in MIKE's district. While I was disappointed to lose Champaign and Logan Counties, it has given us an opportunity to work together on issues important to com-

munities in those counties. We also worked together during the most recent Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round on behalf of the Ohio National Guard bases located in Mansfield and Springfield.

MIKE and I have also had some fun over the years. In a previous campaign, he has been kidding me about my campaign radio ads. He says they made him gag because they were a bit too warm and fuzzy for his taste, but I tell him that they worked because he remembered them verbatim.

But seriously, we are going to miss MIKE as a friend and as a leader on business and financial issues. He and his team, including his Chief of Staff Jim Conzelman, and his long-time scheduler, Debbi Deimling, will also be greatly missed.

MIKE, I wish you and your wife, Pat, and Elvis all of the best as you begin this new chapter in your lives. And maybe someday, I will be good enough to play golf with you.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE OTHA LEE BIGGS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous amount of pride—and personal pleasure—that I rise today to honor one of the most outstanding public servants south Alabama has ever known, the Honorable Otha Lee Biggs, on the occasion of his retirement after serving his beloved Monroe County for over three decades.

Mr. Speaker, it was just a few years ago that I stood on the House floor to recognize Judge Biggs for being honored by the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association as the recipient of the Dr. R.F. Henry Outstanding Service Award, the highest award this respected organization can give.

For over three decades, Judge Biggs has been the leading advocate on behalf of the critical river system that runs throughout southwest Alabama and for the continued funding of necessary maintenance and dredging along this important artery of commerce.

Without question—and I would suggest that perhaps without equal—Judge Biggs deserves our eternal gratitude for a lifetime of public service. His dedication to the people of Monroe County is truly legendary.

In 1961, Judge Biggs got his first taste of public service when he served as Clerk of the Monroe County Commission following the death of Mr. L.L. Hendrix, who had served in that capacity for a number of years. He served on the commission for ten years. Even as a young man in high school, Judge Biggs worked in both the County Commission and Probate offices. No one will ever serve Monroe County in the future, in either of these two important positions, who came to the job better trained or more experienced than Judge Biggs.

On January 18, 1971, Judge Biggs took the oath of office as Probate Judge and Chairman of the County Commission for the first of what would turn out to be many consecutive six year terms. Immediately following his election to office in 1970, Judge Biggs, along with

members of the County Commission, secured commitments from several large-scale corporations and businesses to build, relocate, and expand existing facilities in Monroe County, including Alabama River Pulp, FDR Plastics, Stayfast, Inc., Vanity Fair Intimates, and B & B Cabinet Doors, LLC.

At the time—and as a direct result of his tireless work and tremendous leadership as well as the support from everyone else involved in the county's economic development programs—Monroe County led the entire state of Alabama in new job creation.

In addition to Monroe County's economic life, Judge Biggs has also been instrumental in helping the area preserve and promote its strong literary and historic heritage.

As the birthplace and home of such internationally known writers as Nelle Harper Lee, Truman Capote and Mark Childress, Monroe County has been firmly established as the "Literary Capital of Alabama."

For his part, Judge Biggs has done yeoman's work to ensure this reputation extends beyond county and state lines to reach an international audience. Recent publicity has brought a significant increase in the number of tourists to the area.

Judge Biggs was also instrumental in the creation of annual performances of the stage adaptation of Miss Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. His work on behalf of the county museum and theater troupe has resulted in the production securing permission to perform on stage at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and at festivals in Great Britain and Israel, as well as a host of other U.S. cities.

Mr. Speaker, to list all of Judge Biggs' many accomplishments would take literally an entire volume of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD unto itself. That said, no list of "accomplishments" would be complete without mentioning three key projects for which Judge Biggs deserves special commendation.

First, he has played a lead role in developing the Monroe County Airport into a 6,000 foot runway which gives it the capability of landing almost any size corporate jet. More recently, he has advocated working with the FAA in formulating a long-range plan for airport growth and development.

Second, Judge Biggs deserves considerable recognition for his efforts at saving the Old Monroe County Courthouse. Working with a committee established in the late 1980s, Judge Biggs oversaw the efforts to obtain state, federal, and private funds to restore this Alabama landmark to its new-found glory and home to a permanent exhibit of celebrated Monroe County authors.

And third, no one in southwest Alabama has been more persistent—or more deserving of credit—for the four-laning of US. Highway 84 from 1-65 westward to the Mississippi line than Judge Biggs. While Senator SESSIONS and I, along with Governor Bob Riley, have been pleased to play a small role in getting the initial funding to begin this massive project, the person who has worked over the past several decades to keep this a regional and state priority is none other than Judge Biggs.

Judge Biggs served for many years on the board of trustees for the University of South Alabama and fought tirelessly for the interests of thousands of students, faculty members, and staff who have been involved in the life of that institution since its founding in the early