

TRIBUTE TO BOB MORRISON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to an old friend and long-time public servant, Hugh Robert "Bob" Morrison, who served as the elected Treasurer of the City of Falls Church, Virginia from 1993–2006. In the cause of full disclosure, Bob was also the Treasurer of my election campaign. Bob was the epitome of a public citizen, a husband and father who served his community in public office, but also helped to create his and our community of Falls Church through his professional and volunteer services and commitments—despite multiple battles with cancer to which he finally succumbed this week.

One of the attributes of this remarkable leader was how he used the skills he learned in his youth and his service to our country to benefit our community in Northern Virginia.

In his freshman year in high school, Bob took a course in printing. He gained a skill that he applied throughout his life and made him instrumental in the planning and establishment of the Falls Church News-Press in 1991. Bob worked closely with editor and owner Nicholas F. Benton to create the first successful newspaper to serve Falls Church. Similarly, it was about this time that he discovered photography, a passion that never left him, but has surely enriched all the rest of us.

In 1961, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army. After training, he was assigned to a NATO support base in Fontainebleau, France, where his duties included post photographer. It was in France that Bob met a fellow American whom he married; they had a son before they divorced.

After his honorable discharge in 1964, Bob moved to this region, Takoma Park in Washington, D.C., where he enrolled at Howard University and, to help support his child and pay his tuition, answered an ad in The Washington Post for a night job as a page layout technician with the National Geographic Society—a position where he worked full time from 5 p.m. until 1:30 a.m. in page layout then as proofreader for five years, going to classes during the day.

He graduated from Howard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in English and minoring in philosophy, in June of 1969. Armed with his degree, he successfully applied to an opening as a writer for National Geographic. Bob's first byline came two years later with an essay on the urban environment for an ecology book. It was followed by seven more National Geographic books for which Bob was a contributing author. He also co-authored America's Atlantic Isles. His assignments took him to the Caribbean, several European countries, and 48 states. (He missed Alaska and South Dakota, which he later visited.)

Bob's achievements and tenacity were recognized with his name on the National Geographic Society's masthead. He was said to have been one of the youngest ever to achieve such an honor. He also served as managing editor for Educational Filmstrips, edited the questions for the first National Geography Bee, and brought the first IBM-PCs

and Macs to National Geographic word processing, layout, and other editorial uses.

In 1971 Morrison sold a photo to the Society that ran as a full page in a book. He decided to use the unexpected windfall toward buying a kilt and looked for places to wear it, so happening onto Scottish Country Dancing. That soon became a hobby, with lasting consequences. It was through this new hobby that he met Meredith. Their friendship deepened, and they were married in 1979.

Bob and Meredith went from country Scottish dancing to foster parenting training, after which they began providing temporary care for infants. In 1988 a little rascal arrived who grabbed their hearts, and they adopted Justin in 1991. Justin needed a sister. Elizabeth was a bundle of joy with a will of iron, and she was adopted in 1992. One of the great blessings that came from their adoption was being led to Galloway United Methodist Church, where Morrison served on the Finance Committee for many years and learned the skills that made him such a successful public elected official later on. Bob also became active with Falls Church Community TV, in recognition of which he was appointed to the Board of Directors of The Falls Church Cable Access Corporation and served there for 19 years.

All these activities whetted his interest in serving in public office. He had been active in Democratic politics and began to look for an entry to public service. He defeated three other candidates in his first campaign, and he was unopposed in the next three—so appreciated was his service.

He continued his longtime hobby of photography after he retired from the Treasurer's Office in 2006, taking the time to take thousands of pictures in his community. He especially enjoyed shooting sports; his Web site has more than 10,000 pictures of George Mason High School activities, mostly of football and basketball. He served as an official photographer for The National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, the Capital Fringe Festival, and the DC Divas. Some of these jobs came from friends made at TIVA, an area association of independent video and film professionals, where he served on the Board of Directors for several years. He volunteered often at DC Central Kitchen, photographing their Capital Food Fight, and received their Volunteer of the Year award in 2005. Morrison was especially proud of his contributions to their cookbook, Feeding the Soul of the City. He also worked as a publicity agent and set photographer. After he finished photography on Come What May, the producer asked him to play the role of a retired Supreme Court Justice, for which he received his first and only screen acting credits.

In 2006, he was diagnosed with colon cancer, which prompted his retirement as Falls Church's Treasurer and this week took him from us. But he has left a legacy which, like his tens of thousands of photographs, will keep him in our hearts forever. His multiple talents and convictions made him a servant to the people of our region, and he left us all richer for many, many contributions.

HONORING LAURA COHEN
APELBAUM

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend my constituent Laura Cohen Apelbaum on her 15 outstanding years as Executive Director of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington.

Laura's leadership, creativity and vision have profoundly benefitted the Jewish Historical Society. Under her guidance, the organization has grown in numerous ways, from the size of its staff and facilities to the breadth of its educational programming, to the resources of its extraordinary archive—making it the premier source in our region for Washington Jewish history.

Laura has a passion that distinguished her among her colleagues early on in her career. Within a short time of assuming her position with the Jewish Historical Society, she became President of the Council of American Jewish Museums—the first national President of this Council to come from an institution of such limited size and resources.

In addition to leading the growth and success of the Jewish Historical Society, Laura championed the preservation campaign of the historic synagogue at 6th & I Streets, N.W. The synagogue's restoration has enabled the Society to complete a Historic Structures Report and an Interpretive Plan to implement a permanent installation in the synagogue. Laura also guided the development of the award-winning exhibition and companion guide Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community. This work, and the 22 other exhibitions developed under her tenure, have reawakened pride in our community's past and provided countless individuals in our area and across the country with a new and deeper understanding of Jewish life throughout the centuries in Washington.

Laura's commitment to the Jewish community goes beyond activities in the Washington, D.C. area. In 2006 she worked with Congress to establish the first Jewish American Heritage Month to acknowledge the contributions of Jewish Americans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Laura Cohen Apelbaum for her 15 years of accomplishments. My appreciation extends as well to her husband, Perry Apelbaum, to her children Benji and Sara, and to her parents, Faye and Sheldon Cohen. I am proud to represent Laura and her family in the U.S. Congress and am honored to extend my congratulations and appreciation to her today.

CONGRATULATING AND THANKING
APPALACHIAN CHRISTIAN VIL-
LAGE IN JOHNSON CITY TEN-
NESSEE

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank Appalachian Christian Village for 55 years of excellence and care. As the first retirement community in Johnson City, I applaud all the amazing