

a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 460, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Cody has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Becoming an Eagle Scout represents a great deal of dedication and perseverance by Cody and I am sure that he will continue to hold such high standards in the future.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cody Bartholome for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN MEMORY OF RETINELLA
"NELLA" OCTAVIA ELIZABETH
EDGAR CROOKS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Retinella "Nella" Octavia Elizabeth Edgar Crooks, a lady I was proud to call my friend and constituent. An accomplished public servant and educator, Mrs. Crooks passed away on May 30, 2010, at the age of 108.

Mrs. Crooks lived a very long and full life. She was born in Watt Town, Jamaica, on October 1, 1901. She was educated in Jamaica and then immigrated to the United States in 1924 where she met her husband, Dr. Kenneth B.M. Crooks. The happy couple was blessed with four children, twelve grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

After ten years at the Hampton Institute, which is now Hampton University, Dr. and Mrs. Crooks moved from the United States to Jamaica where they worked at Happy Grove, a Quaker secondary school. Mrs. Crooks served there as a missionary educator, a member of the Jamaica Federation of Women, and as a fundraiser for the Religious Society of Friends.

In 1957, Dr. and Mrs. Crooks returned to the United States and became very involved in Georgia's Second Congressional District. Mrs. Crooks served as a resident manager at what is now Fort Valley State University. While at Fort Valley State University, Mrs. Crooks became known for her unparalleled hospitality hosting teas. Of the many national and international dignitaries she entertained, she was very proud to include Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. among her guests.

Following a short stay at Fort Valley, Dr. and Mrs. Crooks moved to Grambling College in Louisiana. There she completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree while serving as a resident manager for the college. However, in 1959 her husband, Dr. Crooks, sadly passed away.

Mrs. Crooks then returned to Fort Valley and earned her Master's Degree in counseling at the young age of 64. She was a member of the college faculty and published several books, including two books of poetry, her travel diary, her husband's biography, and her autobiography.

Throughout her long and blessed life, she remained a very active member of the Episcopal Church, a YWCA organizer, and her beloved sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. She also worked tirelessly for her community, founding a children's reading club and volunteering for seniors' organizations.

Madam Speaker, the State of Georgia, and especially the Second Congressional District of Georgia, have been truly blessed to have benefited from the tremendous contributions of Nella Edgar Crooks. She will be remembered for her compassion, her intense desire to help others, her unwavering love for her family, and her dedication to education, which lives on through the Nella Crooks Scholarship Fund at Fort Valley State University. It is a fitting tribute to her life and academic legacy, which was as long in accomplishments as it was in years. May she continue to serve as an inspiration to others.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HAYWOOD
HARRIS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, the University of Tennessee sports family and the city of Knoxville, Tennessee have lost a legend and dear friend.

Haywood Harris recently passed away at the age of 80. I have always said that the colors orange and white are almost as patriotic in my District as red, white, and blue. Anyone who bleeds big orange knows the name and work of Haywood Harris.

Haywood served as Sports Information Director, Assistant Athletic Director, and Associate Athletic Director for the University of Tennessee from 1961–2000. Following retirement, he took on the role as the athletic department's historian.

I have known Haywood since I sold programs, popcorn and Cokes at UT athletic events as a small boy. He is a very close and longtime personal friend.

Haywood's life and legacy is shaped not just by his knowledge and love of UT athletics and extraordinary professional success but also by the way he treated others every step of the way.

Upon word of his death, tributes from every corner of the sports world poured in. The Knoxville News Sentinel published many of these reflections, and I was taken aback by the tales of his humility, generosity and kindness. He held the esteem of everyone who ever knew him.

"The word legend gets thrown around way too much, but Haywood is a legend," said Tony Barnhart of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "He is one of those special people who made the SEC what it is today."

"I am convinced Haywood was one of the best sports information directors in America—ever," said Marvin West, former Knoxville News Sentinel sports editor. "He was gracious, patient and efficient," and "as good as he was as a professional, he was a better man."

John Pruett of The Huntsville Times wrote about an occasion where, as a young reporter who had lost his press pass on a UT opening

day, Haywood came down from the press box to let him into the stadium. "Not a blockbuster anecdote, maybe. But I never forgot Haywood's courtesy and professionalism that day to an out-of-state sportswriter who was little more than a casual acquaintance at that time," he concluded.

Brent Hubbs of volquest.com was a UT student when Haywood went out of his way to help him with a project for a television class. "Haywood's nature was to treat everyone like they were the most important person in the world," he said. "And he did it for a 19-year-old student for a project that was never going to air anywhere but in the classroom for teachers to grade."

"He always had a keen interest in what you were doing and what might have been going on in your life. Kind, thoughtful and sharp as a tack when it came to UT sports history," writes Rick Russo of WVLT-TV in Knoxville.

Even simple encounters with Haywood Harris turned into lasting memories for those who had the pleasure of meeting him. Mark Bradley of the Atlanta Journal Constitution recalls, "The highlight of my life—then, and maybe still—was being a guest on Haywood's pregame radio show back in 1981."

Chris Dortch of the Blue Ribbon Yearbook writes, "I can say with absolute certainty that Haywood Harris is the kindest, most gracious sports information director I've met, worked with or heard tell of."

WATE-TV's Jim Wogan said, "My first year in Knoxville wasn't without a few bumps, and Haywood was always polite, patient and a go-to source for background on Tennessee sports."

"Haywood Harris is a person you never forget once you meet him. He was salt of the earth and loved Tennessee down to the bone. Institutions like Haywood are far too few today," said Joe Biddle of The Tennessean.

Chris Low of ESPN.com, a UT alumnus himself, writes, ". . . to Haywood, it was never a job. The University of Tennessee was his life, which is why he was so good at what he did."

And The Knoxville News Sentinel's Mike Strange puts it simply, "Not just a nice guy. The nicest guy."

Haywood will not only be missed by his many friends, family, and colleagues but also by his many fans. He co-hosted a radio show, "The Locker Room," with Gus Manning for decades. Gus told The Knoxville News Sentinel, "I have lost an incredible friend."

Haywood holds many awards for his work, too many to fully recount here. He was an inductee in the College Sports Information Directors Hall of Fame, the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, and he received the very prestigious Arch Award in 1991 and UT Chancellor's Citation in 1992.

As much as Haywood loved sports, he had other interests as well. One was his great attention to politics and national issues of importance. He was a patriotic American with a great love for his country and native east Tennessee.

Even many of Haywood's Democratic friends commented after his death that they respected his deep love and strong loyalty to the Republican Party.

Haywood's grandson, Matthew Lehigh, is a former member of my staff. I find that Matt holds many of his grandfather's qualities, and I can think of no better legacy for Haywood