

Carol and I are still talking about the congressional trip that Bill organized and invited members of the CBC to travel with his CODEL. You and Bill were wonderful, gracious host and hostess. We saw the Mideast in style with that old gang of ours in the Congressional Black Caucus.

The Pyramids in Egypt and the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem had special meaning to us. Who could ask for more history in one region? But there was more—sitting with President Hosni Mubarak at his home in Alexandria and meeting with Prime Minister Menachem Begin in Tel Aviv.

Sailing down the Nile. Shopping in the ancient markets. Meeting with the Knesset. Seeing the Dome of Rock, the 3rd holiest of spot of the Muslim world where Mohammad allegedly ascended into heaven.

The Israelis and Egyptians watching the CODEL led by Bill and you were left in a wonderland. The warring factions paused while going to the Torah and Koran to answer, "What kind of threat is this band of desperadoes raiding our land?" The invading "posse" included such noted rabble-rousers as Charlie and Alma, George and Modean, Bill and Carol, Ed and Gwen. Jehovah and Allah, Abraham and Ishmael were in awe at the sight of such celebrities.

An eerie silence fell over the land. All hostilities ceased as the delegation rushed into the restaurants, markets and shops splurging U.S. Aid on receptive merchants. There was a great calm even though none laid down their arms. But it was obvious that Bill and Andrea had brought a temporary peace to the Mideast.

How can Carol and I forget my 50th birthday celebration sailing down the Potomac on a very large yacht? There was Bill donned in a naval officer's dress jacket, including a captain's garrison hat. It was almost an official outfit except his chest was only filled with imaginary combat medals.

As usual, he was the life of the party, giving orders and telling old salt's tales about the adventures at sea.

#### THREE DEGREES OF SEPARATION

I introduced Bill to Perry Jones, the first black captain with Pan Am. He later became a captain with Delta Airline when Pan Am went out of business. Jones was a co-founder of the Organization of Black Airline Pilots (OBAP).

Perry and Bill became close friends. Perry invited Bill to speak at an annual convention jointly sponsored by OBAP and the Tuskegee Airmen.

Talk is usually about 5 degrees of separation but the more I meet people the more I believe it is now only 3 degrees. I find that people have more in common than thought and if the conversation lasts long enough a personal relationship is established that neither knew existed.

In this one case, I had a conversation with Bill years later. It might have one of the last ones we shared. I happened to mention being in the first church he pastored after finishing theology school. I told of meeting the minister in Montclair, New Jersey, at the Union Baptist Church.

Of course he asked under what circumstances and I responded at the funeral of a friend's mother. He remembered her and inquired who was my friend. When I said Perry Jones, he was stunned, replying, "I have

known him all these years and he never mentioned his mother was a member of my old church."

In closing this short journey, Carol and I would like to reference a poem by Bob Schieffer that surely was written with Bill in mind. He wrote,

Yes, the Pearly Gates had two lines—first class to the left, everybody else on the right . . .

I didn't see a bold face name . . .  
But the gate keeper knew all their faces . . .  
He was on first name basis  
With those he waved through heaven's door

The second line was mighty long,  
Cheaters, schemers, lying lovers,  
A creep, a con, an operator.  
This line has not moved in years.

It must be of great comfort for you to know that Bill Gray didn't have to show ID. He had a special place in line right up front. The gates automatically opened upon his arrival. He was escorted into the Promised Land by a delegation of distinguished freedom fighters. The entourage led by Martin and Rosa included Tip, Barbara and Shirley. There stood Frederick, Harriet, and Eleanor. Abe, Harry, and Lyndon were nearby. Of course who would omit Garrison, and Sumner?

A host of others who fought the good fight for equal rights and human dignity made up the multitude of well-wishers.

Bill traveled the gold paved streets as cheering crowds chanted, "Well done. Well done my son."

Yes, there were a few big named celebrities, but the vast majority in the chorus singing Hallelujah—Glory Be To God were custodians, secretaries, school teachers, Pell Grant students, welfare recipients, Nobel Peace Prize winners, truck drivers, minimum wage workers, and the list goes on and on with the hardworking poor, underfed children from numerous third world countries, and neglected ghetto residents constituting a major part of the welcoming party.

Bill Gray was so honored because he was a minister who believed that God's grace was meant to exist on both sides of the River of Jordan. He was a leader who followed the recommendations of the greatest prophet of all time as outlined in His Sermon on the Mount.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

#### HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw attention to the accomplishments of the students and faculty at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey and congratulate them on being part of such a prestigious research institution.

Since its founding in 1870, Stevens has created a legacy of innovation and its research projects have garnered federal recognition and funding. It is home to three national research centers as well as joint research programs in a variety of critical fields. These projects help to advance current scientific knowledge and capabilities and provide more understanding to

confront the challenges faced everyday on both a domestic and global scale.

Stevens Institute of Technology has, and continues to, receive grants from numerous federal agencies such as the Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation. The projects that have received grants recently are focused on creating useful and impactful solutions to current issues. One such project, ADVANCE Stevens, aims to increase the representation and advancement of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) careers by providing the environment and resources necessary to foster relationships between underrepresented groups of faculty and students. Projects such as this impact not only students at Stevens, but the nation as a whole by creating a greater understanding about the challenging problems facing our nation and working towards the solution.

Once again, congratulations to Stevens Institute of Technology for their accomplishments.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on September 25th I missed two recorded votes. I would like the RECORD to indicate how I would have voted had I been present. On rollcall No. 484, H.R. 1961, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 485, H. Res. 354, I would have voted "yea."

#### HONORING LOGAN MCINTOSH LEE JAMES

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan McIntosh Lee James. Logan is 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 261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Logan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Logan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Logan has earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and has become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Logan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Logan made significant landscaping improvements to the Edgerton Christian Church in Edgerton, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Logan McIntosh Lee James for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.