

Mr. Clark's work with high profile cases continued into the 1990s. In February, 1993, Mr. Clark was assigned to manage the World Trade Center Bombing investigation. On April 1, 1996, while serving as the Special Agent in Charge in San Antonio, Mr. Clark was detailed to serve as one of the Special Agents in Charge of the Freeman crisis in Jordan, Montana.

On July 2, 1996, Texas history was forever altered when Director Freeh appointed Mr. Clark as the Special Agent in Charge of the Houston Division, one of the FBI's Top Ten Field Divisions. He has been a model government official and a model citizen for the Houston community. He is living proof that commitment brings one's aspirations into vivid reality.

Mr. Clark maintained numerous responsibilities while working for the FBI. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. He has attended the FBI's Executive Development Institute, is a trained SWAT member, bombing instructor, and police training instructor.

Mr. Clark's dedication is not only evident in his own work, it is also manifest in his numerous achievements, including high school class valedictorian, Who's Who in America's Colleges and Universities, Distinguished Military Graduate receiving a regular Army commission, and many awards and recognitions from both the U.S. Army and the FBI.

I am most proud of the fact that Mr. Clark earned two Bronze Stars for Bravery while serving in Vietnam and the FBI Medal for Meritorious Achievement during law enforcement action. These awards clearly reveal Mr. Clark's strength of character and dedication to our country.

Again, I wish Mr. Clark well as he embarks on his retirement. His exploits paint a vivid picture across the canvas that weaves among the United States, and for his work, he truly has earned his days of rest. I thank him for his efforts.

RECOGNIZING MR. BILL POLACEK

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I enclose in the RECORD, an article from the December 27, 1999 "Tribune-Democrat", of Johnstown, PA, concerning the community involvement and efforts of Mr. Bill Polacek.

It's these kinds of selfless acts helping individuals that are such a hallmark of the principles that have made our Nation great, and of the personal spirit that must dominate our Nation not only during the Holidays but throughout the year.

I commend Bill Polacek, and I'm glad to enclose this article on his efforts.

AREA MAN MAKES SURE NEEDY HAVE CHRISTMAS

(By Tom Lavis)

Bill Polacek of Richland Township learned the true meaning of Christmas when he was only 6.

That's the reason that for the last three years, Polacek, 38, has donated a Christmas

present to each man, woman and child who comes to Christmas Eve dinner at St. Vincent de Paul Family Kitchen at 231 Bedford St., Johnstown.

Polacek owns Johnstown Welding and Fabrication Industries, 1363 Broad St.

A tall dark-haired man who towers over most people, Polacek is one of nine children in a family where money was always tight.

"When I was 6, my father shattered his ankle right before Christmas and the only money coming in was 50 percent of his supplemental pay from Bethlehem Steel," Polacek said, as he and his family distributed gifts to the needy as they left the pantry.

"We weren't going to have much of a Christmas that year," he said.

"To this day, we don't know who it was, but someone left bags of groceries, presents and a small amount of money on our porch so that our parents could give us a nice Christmas. That's why I do this. I'll never forget what that gesture meant. My mother cried," he said.

Joe Bartko, director of the kitchen, said he admires Polacek because he and his family give without expecting any fanfare. He said it is heart-warming to have people like the Polaceks who think of the less fortunate.

"The people's faces say it all when they get a gift in addition to a meal," Bartko said. "It has gotten to a point that many of these people look forward to this because this is the only Christmas they will have. They have nothing."

After enjoying a traditional Christmas dinner that included turkey with stuffing, ham steak, mashed potatoes, corn, salad and pears and poppy-seed rolls for desert, people were treated to a gift when they left.

George Karadeanes, 61 who lives in the Solomon Homes, said everyone appreciates what the Polaceks are doing.

"Last year, I got a sweatshirt and some gloves," Karadeanes said, as he was sweeping his plate with a dinner roll to finish a last bit of turkey gravy. "I still have the gloves and they keep me warm. I have no family and this is my celebration."

Twelve-year-old Mikey Wiesinger of Kernville squealed with glee as he was handed a stuffed Barney doll. He was at the dinner with his parents, Brian and Diane Wiesinger, and his 13-year-old brother, Brian.

If any of the 25 volunteers who prepared and served the dinner or members of the Polacek family wanted to know if their efforts were appreciated, they only had to look at Mikey's face while he clutched the purple dinosaur to know that they brought joy to the boy's Christmas.

Ada Szewczyk, 62, of Johnstown, was chatting with friends at one of the long tables, and I noticed that her gift was on the table unopened. I asked her why.

"I'm saving it so I have something to open Christmas morning," she said.

This was the first year that Szewczyk attended the dinner when presents were given.

"I was surprised, but that man (Polacek) knows that Christ was born on Christmas and I hope God blesses him," she said.

A mountain of presents was stacked near the door of the pantry and Polacek; his wife, Shari; and their four children were busy distributing gifts to people who waited in an orderly fashion.

Mrs. Polacek said she is pleased that the family could bring some joy to people, and she wanted her children to learn that it is better to give than receive and that some people are struggling. The children are Bill Jr., 10; Blake, 7; Madison, 4; and Carter, 10 months.

"Last year, we lost track of Blake and couldn't find him anywhere until we looked back at the tables where people were eating," Mrs. Polacek said.

"There he was eating a turkey dinner and joining right in with some of the folks. We try to teach the kids that in terms of values, you get what you give."

Also on hand were Mr. Polacek's mother, Sarah, and stepfather, George Mihalaki of Windber. Polacek's father, John is deceased.

Mrs. Mihalaki said that one act of kindness many years ago has left an impression on the entire family.

"We created the Polacek Family Human Needs Fund, where we all initially donated money to give to a charity," she said.

"Now we have fund-raisers during the year to raise a little more. We usually earmark the money to one charity a year."

But the St. Vincent de Paul effort is separate from the family's donation.

Mr. Polacek said he usually gives up to \$2,500 for the gifts.

"I buy from Boscov's and they generously give a discount on each item," he said.

"That way we can give more gifts and the store even gift wraps each present."

The dinner also marked the first time that someone spent the afternoon singing carols for the people.

Shawn McConville of Geistown entertained to the delight of every one on hand.

It was a wonderful Christmas celebration.

There was good food, good music, laughter and fun. Most of all, there was love.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ANNIE JEAN CAMPBELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand here today on the first day of "Black History Month" to record yet another first for African-Americans in my home state of Mississippi. On November 2, 1999, Mrs. Annie Jean Campbell became the first African-American woman to be elected to serve on the Board of Supervisors in Montgomery County, MI.

Mrs. Campbell, the daughter of Joe and Annie Roby not only became the first African-American woman to be elected to the position, but she is the first woman ever. Mrs. Campbell has lived in Montgomery County all of her life and is dedicated to the service of the people. As wife and mother of three, Ms. Campbell has already exemplified the patience and understanding needed to be an effective representative to the public.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here and think of the accomplishment Mrs. Campbell has made, I become re-energized in the fact that there is always a possibility to change and that Mississippi continues to progress and create a new legacy.