

have to struggle in balancing the different responsibilities each of you will embrace.

I have felt that my job over these last seven years was getting to—and being in—Congress. Since I came here I have tried as best I could do what I thought was right, but in all that doing I always thought of each one of you. Here in Washington I never went to bed once without saying prayers with each of you in them.

In the early years it was just Marshall and Landon, and you guys, as little guys, put in far more than your share of parades and political events.

As if yesterday I remember the Hell hole swamp parade and pulling the wagon with Marshall and Landon. In the Summerville parade in the first campaign, to this day I remember Marshall's wild white curls and his little light blue V-neck sweater. I am amazed to look at pictures and see how small Landon was at the start of this process.

I think the last parade with just Marshall and Landon was at the Loris Bog-off. It was cool and I remember your mom and I buying you both swords at a booth alongside the railroad track afterward. I doubt I was that big on the swords, but I am sure your mom well made the point that you earned them, and in case you don't remember the spot—there were men and women in bright blue clothes dancing to country music on a flat-bed trailer just to the left.

Marshall, you have always been great help with your younger brothers, thank you. The way you have carried yourself also makes me proud. Do you remember going with then Governor Beasley and several security men in a Department of Natural Resources speedboat out to a Navy destroyer in Charleston Harbor? During the commissioning ceremony it was hot and you were not wild about being there, but you put up with it and behaved well. In the same vein do you remember sitting under my chair at the Hwy 61 connector opening. It was hardly a grand event, but you found shade and stayed still and quiet which was no small feat given your age. In these and many other events like them, you showed a maturity well beyond your years. It will carry you far in life.

In the political context of my note, Landon made me proud most recently at the St. Patrick's day parade in North Myrtle Beach. I was pulling a wagon along side you while you walked straight up the yellow line in the middle of the street. In your young man's march you were waving at the several thousand people who lined both sides of the road. In most waves your arm was held at a forty-five degree angle and your palm and hand were straight up as if the tip of a small spear. The whole thing was not easy for you. In fact it was incredibly brave. Blake was in my arms and your two brothers were riding in the wagon and there you were, a reserved boy by nature walking up a street surrounded by strangers—waving to both sides. On the long drive home you started singing some silly song and next thing you know three boys are laughing hysterically in the back of the Suburban. You have the ability to defuse things with laughter.

Bolton—you are a natural born performer. Of all the family members you are the most gifted in surprising people, and not infrequently, making them laugh. You were doing just that winter before last at the Conway parade when you rode in the wagon and chose to throw bags of candy—not the candies! In the same light I remember the words Mary Crixmas, Mary Crixmas, Happy Santa Claus. Last winter I was the Grand Marshall of the Mount Pleasant Christmas

parade. Marshall sat to my left, Landon on my right, you were on my lap and with outstretched arms you yelled these words with such enthusiasm that half-way through the parade you couldn't say another word. John McCain asks regularly about you and still talks about your enthusiasm for fishing. I think you are the only four year old to have given the President of the United States a froggy kiss. These days you are into catching butterflies with your hands, but thank you for wearing politics as well as you have.

Blake—you haven't said a whole lot in parades yet, but you haven't had to because with your blonde curls and cute smiles everyone adores you! You are specific in what you want thought, you like to be carried—not to ride on my shoulders like some of your brothers.

The point in these memories, and a thousand others like them, is that we have been through some interesting times together. Your peers have not had to go through what you have. At your young ages you have been exposed to a wide range of people and settings—medicare nursing home visits, trips to the White House, the House that Congress built with Habitat for Humanity, watching the sun rise from a boat moored feet from where the Hunley would rise hours later, feeding special Olympic kids at the Citadel, getting up hours earlier than you would have to go to an event in Myrtle Beach, beach sweeps, and more. In the end I think you will be better for having seen a wide swath of life, but since it involved wear and tear on your bodies this note is here simply to say thank you. Thank you for behaving well, and thank you for putting with it. I am proud of you. You are each unique young men. I love you and look forward to spending more time with each of you over the years ahead.

Love,

DAD.

P.S. After reading this, one day do an extra something special for your mom. In my absence over the last six years she has changed a lot of diapers and fixed more than her share of dinners for you.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HERBERT S. BECKER

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that we recognize the accomplishments of a visionary who is set to retire from service to the Congress at the end of this year. Herbert S. Becker has been the Director of the Office of Information Technology Services at the Library of Congress. During his 15 years of leadership, he helped bring about new programs in support of the Congress, the Library, and the nation.

In collaboration with the Congressional Research Service, Mr. Becker created a Capitol-Hill-wide Legislative Information System for better and faster access to legislative resources. He oversaw the successful transition to new technology that made the Library's online card catalog easier for patrons to use. He initiated the development and implementation of new technology to improve archiving at the Congressional Research Service and the U.S. Copyright Office. And he helped create a new financial management system.

But perhaps Mr. Becker's most significant accomplishment was his role in the development of the popular THOMAS website for public access to legislative information. With the advent of THOMAS, any citizen can access detailed and recently updated information about the business of Congress and gain insight into the legislative process.

His vision and the strength of his commitment have clearly facilitated the work of the people's representatives. I know I speak for the entire House when I wish him well in his future endeavors and thank him for his years of service to the American people.

MISSING JOURNALIST IN THE UKRAINE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost three weeks since the highly disturbing disappearance of Heorhii Gongadze, a journalist known for his articles exposing corruption in the Ukraine and for playing a prominent role in defending media freedoms. Mr. Gongadze, whose visit to the United States last December included meetings with the Helsinki Commission staff, was publisher of a new Internet newspaper called *Ukrainska Pravda* (meaning Ukrainian Truth), a publication often critical of senior Ukrainian officials and their associates. In fact, shortly before he vanished, Mr. Gongadze had apparently been facing pressure and threats and had complained that police were harassing him and his colleagues at *Ukrainska Pravda*.

Unfortunately, Mr. Gongadze's disappearance takes place in an increasingly unhealthy media environment. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, his disappearance follows several suspect or inconclusive investigations into the suspicious deaths of several Ukrainian journalists over the last few years and the beatings of two journalists following their articles about official corruption this year. This disappearance has occurred within an environment which has made it increasingly difficult for professional journalists to operate, including harassment by tax police, criminal libel prosecutions, the denial of access to state-controlled newsprint and printing presses, and phone calls to editors suggesting that they censure certain stories. Such an atmosphere clearly has a chilling effect on press freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged that the Verkhovna Rada—the Ukraine's parliament—has formed a special ad hoc committee to investigate Mr. Gongadze's disappearance. I am also hopeful that the Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs and other law enforcement agencies will conduct a serious, vigorous investigation to solve the case of this missing journalist.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and as someone who has a longstanding interest in the Ukraine, I am deeply disappointed that the Ukraine's relatively positive human rights record has been tarnished by an environment not conducive to the development of a free media. I remain hopeful that the Ukrainian authorities will make every effort to reverse this situation.