

TRIBUTE TO RICHLAND "FRIENDS
OF THE LIBRARY"

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Mary and Jearl Cobb and Maxine and Gordon Warren, of Richland, Missouri, for demonstrating extraordinary commitment to their community in the effort to obtain a public library.

Mary and Jearl Cobb served successive terms as president of the "Friends of the Library". During this time, they volunteered to become involved in the effort to maintain a public library service for Richland. Long-time Richland residents, Maxine and Gordon Warren, bought the run down Earl Morgan building to rehabilitate and offered it to the library for a minimal annual amount. They also donated \$40,000 to remodel the building and established a \$50,000 annual trust for additional community projects. Once the building was identified, Mary and Jearl Cobb voluntarily dedicated numerous hours to the library project in order to make it a reality. Mary raised over \$100,000 for mechanical equipment, lumber, paint, and other materials and also organized free lunches for the workers. Jearl recruited dozens of volunteers from all branches of the Armed Services stationed nearby and from the community to install air conditioning, siding and plumbing. He personally helped during every phase of the construction overhaul and even drove to St. Louis to pick up furniture donated to the library. The efforts of Mary and Jearl Cobb and Maxine and Gordon Warren have resulted in the new "Maxine Warren Library Building" which was dedicated on April 29, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, these Missourians deserve special recognition for completing an extraordinary job. I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to them for their exceptional efforts.

HONORING RETIRED COMMANDER
WILLIAM ROBERT ANDERSON

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor retired Commander William Robert Anderson for his service to his Country in both the military and the House of Representatives.

Commander Anderson distinguished himself in combat and scientific accomplishment during his long career in the submarine service. During World War II, he completed a total of 11 submarine wartime patrols and earned a Bronze Star for his assistance in the sinking of 17 cargo-carrying crafts and the rescue of a downed aviator.

In May of 1953, Captain Anderson was granted his first command, the submarine U.S.S. *Wahoo*, and saw even more action during the Korean War. Two years later he would be chosen for another type of command, as head of the Tactical Department at the U.S. Submarine School in New London, Connecticut.

This would not be the end of his sea duty, though. In fact, his most important command and date with history was yet to come. It was actually while Anderson was at the U.S. Submarine School that the United States commissioned its first nuclear submarine, the U.S.S. *Nautilus* on January 17, 1955.

The potential of this new type of submarine brought a need for more officers trained in nuclear operations. And so, Commander Anderson found himself being called into Rear-Admiral H.G. Rickover's office to interview for the program in January of 1956.

He soon found himself recruited and awaiting a new command. During this time Rickover asked Anderson to devise a method of study for new officers entering the program. This project eventually evolved into the core study program for all nuclear submarine commanders.

It was on April 30, 1957, that Captain Anderson was ordered to assume command of the U.S.S. *Nautilus*. His classified mission was to be ready to take his submarine and crew under the Arctic polar ice cap whenever he received the order.

Known as "Operation Sunshine" by the Navy, this project would challenge both Captain Anderson's leadership skills and his nautical training.

No one had ever succeeded in finding a northern sea passage before, and the lack of information and charts on the pack ice, the inability of normal navigational instruments to operate so near to the magnetic North Pole and other instrumentation problems had to be sorted out and solved—all in the deepest of secrecy.

With the summer of 1957 ending, the crew of the *Nautilus* made its first attempt to traverse the ice pack while submerged. Using special ice detecting sonar, the *Nautilus* started maneuvering around the icebergs. It would not succeed on this attempt or the next one in June of 1958.

The same cannot be said for the third attempt, and on August 3, 1958, Captain Anderson and the crew of the *Nautilus* finally crossed under the North Pole. Upon return to the United States, the entire crew was honored with a ticker tape parade in New York City, and Anderson was personally awarded the Legion of Merit by President Eisenhower.

Commander Anderson's career continued to flourish—from his serving as an aide to the Secretary of the Navy, Fred Korth, to his appointment as the Director of the National Service Corps, which would be renamed the Peace Corps in later years by President Kennedy.

In 1960, Anderson was even considered as a possible gubernatorial candidate in Tennessee, but he decided to fulfill his 20 year

commitment to the Navy. Upon retirement from the Navy, Anderson was elected as the Representative from the Sixth District of Tennessee in 1965, and he continued to serve his constituents for four successive terms in office before retiring to Virginia.

I, for one, am proud of the accomplishments of my fellow Tennessean, William Robert Anderson. For his diligent and long-standing service to this great Country and the State of Tennessee, I would like to return the honor by paying him this tribute to his great accomplishments.

While Commander Anderson now resides in the great state of Virginia, we Tennesseans still choose to claim him as one of our native sons.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES
DOUGLAS H. NIECE AS
THE LONGEST SERVING
CUBMASTER IN THE U.S.

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Douglas H. Niece, the longest-serving Cubmaster in the United States. For over 50 years, Mr. Niece has made tremendous contributions to our community through his commitment and dedication as the Cubmaster of Pack 61, the oldest Cub Scout pack in Hunterdon County.

In January 1948, several community leaders in Flemington decided to start a Cub Scout Pack in Hunterdon County. The Pack was founded on the principle of helping young men achieve a sense of self worth and satisfaction from knowing they can accomplish their goals. Today, Pack 61 continues to provide young men with the values and experiences that cultivate discipline and a sense of responsibility; traits that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Mr. Niece has served as Cubmaster of Pack 61 since its inception over 50 years ago. As Cubmaster he has been a mentor to over 5,000 boys during his extraordinary tenure. Mr. Niece has taught Cub Scouts from Pack 61 the value of community and service to our nation. He has instilled lifelong values that will be used to build a foundation for future growth. Many of Mr. Niece's scouts have continued to serve their communities in a variety of ways, including volunteering their time as a Scouter or Cubmaster.

Mr. Niece is one of the few surviving graduates of the Flemington Children's Choir School, a school founded at the turn of the 20th century to train children to sing in the local church choirs. Even at the age of 80, he leads carolers around Flemington on Christmas morning, singing carols at any home with the porch light on—a tradition begun by the Choir School in the early 1900's.