

monster in the military. If given the time, these monsters have fled to another African country, or to the Arab states, or even to the French Riviera, where they have been able to cool out and impress everyone with their pilfered riches.

As the Taylor case has proven, that trend in African politics may be coming to a screeching halt. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first elected female president in all of Africa, had requested that Nigeria hand over Taylor to the authorities in Sierra Leone, where he would have to face charges of individual butchery, mutilation and crimes against humanity.

African women are coming to the fore, trying to right all of the wrongs put and held in place by a succession of brutal and corrupt African men. African justice has been as porous as Swiss cheese for more than 40 years and the African people have suffered enormously while black Americans in or out of elected office, in or out of the civil rights establishment, have either ignored the horrors wrought upon the people or have figured out ways to blame it all on others.

The women of Africa are more interested in dealing with the facts than maintaining a cosmetic front of innocence. In a number of places across Africa, we see women rooting out corruption and conceiving laws that will bring them closer to a standard of human equality.

Interestingly, Oprah Winfrey, who keeps turning up, has been a model. Winfrey has inspired African women to rebel against rape and kidnap, to defy misogynistic laws and to face up to the ravages of AIDS.

It is both sobering and exciting to realize that American women, having been taught much by the civil rights movement, can inspire African women by example, and that elected or appointed African officials can lead the way through the ingrained ignorance, poverty and disease that block human fulfillment. Such human force explains the mystery of African optimism.

REMEMBERING HARRY PARRISH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to remember Mr. Harry Parrish, member of the Virginia General Assembly and decorated World War II pilot from Manassas, VA, who passed away on March 28 at the age of 84.

Harry Parrish served over 50 years in elected office, including 13 terms in the House of Delegates and chairman of the Finance Committee since 2000, Manassas council member, and mayor. At the time of his passing, he was the oldest serving member of the House of Delegates. During his 12 years as town councilman and 18 years as mayor, Harry helped guide the transformation of Manassas from a small Virginia town to a thriving, lively suburb. As a member of the House of Delegates, he was known for conducting himself in a bipartisan manner, putting Virginia first. I was proud to call Harry my friend. He was a true Virginia gentleman.

Harry was also a decorated World War II pilot. As part of the British Royal Air Force he flew C-47s over the Himalayas delivering supplies, weapons and other cargo, from India to

China. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for his valiant efforts. He served as a reservist in the Korean and Vietnam wars before retiring as a colonel.

I insert for the RECORD the Potomac News obituary from March 28. A northern Virginia native, Harry will be deeply missed by the people of Manassas, and at home by his family and wife, Mattie, of 62 years.

[From the Potomac News, Mar. 28, 2006]

HARRY PARRISH DIES AT 84

(By Bob Lewis)

RICHMOND, VA—Harry Parrish, who defied death as a decorated World War II pilot and headed the state's most powerful tax-writing panel in the General Assembly, died Tuesday. He was 84.

Parrish had been in intensive care at Prince William Hospital for about three weeks, suffering from pneumonia. His death was announced by Sen. John Chichester during a meeting of the Senate Finance Committee on Capitol Square.

Parrish had been in declining health for at least two years but continued a full legislative schedule, including acting as chairman of the House Finance Committee, one of the most powerful leadership positions in the General Assembly.

Last year, Parrish warded off a Republican primary challenge for his House seat—payback from his party's own conservative wing for defying its anti-tax orthodoxy during the 2004 tax battle.

Parrish, the House of Delegates' oldest member, was in his 13th term from Manassas.

He was born Feb. 19, 1922, in Fairfax County and moved as a child with his family to Manassas, then a small, rural town. He graduated from Osbourn High School in 1940 and later from Virginia Tech.

He joined the Army Air Force in 1942 and began pilot training in Alabama, but was assigned to the British Royal Air Force, where he completed his training.

He was part of an allied mission to fly lumbering transport planes laden with heavy supplies, weapons and ammunition from India into China over the world's highest mountain range, the Himalayas.

The C-47s like the one Parrish flew took off from crude, sometimes muddy airfields in the Indian jungles and struggled to heft their cargo over icy peaks that doomed many flights. Because Japan controlled land routes through Burma, the airlifts over what pilots called "the Hump" were the only way to supply the legendary Flying Tigers, which bombed Japan from bases in China.

Parrish received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He left active duty in 1946 but flew as an Air Force reservist in wars with Korea and Vietnam before retiring as a colonel and command pilot.

In 2002, as one of few remaining World War II veterans in the General Assembly, Parrish helped secure Virginia's \$334,000 contribution to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"I kind of regret us being the last state, but I'm glad we finally came around," Parrish said in an interview, pained that Virginia was the last state to contribute to the memorial.

Parrish was elected to the House in 1981 as part of an insignificant Republican minority. Before that, he served for 12 years on the Manassas Town Council and for 18 years as mayor. During his mayoral term, Manassas transformed from a town into a thriving, affluent city.

Through a total of 53 years in elected office, Parrish won abiding respect as a listener and problem solver from Republicans and Democrats. In 2000, when the GOP ended a century of Democratic dominance in the House, Parrish became co-chairman and later chairman of the Finance Committee, where his evenhandedness endeared him delegates and senators of both parties.

"He's my best friend," Democratic Sen. Charles J. Colgan of Prince William said in a 2004 interview. "He and I are the only Democrat and Republican in the General Assembly ever known to have held a fund raiser together."

Parrish was willing to exert his independence at times, even at the risk of his own party's wrath and his prized House leadership post.

By two votes, Parrish's committee in 2004 advanced a bill to increase taxes by about \$1.4 billion. When the bill came before the full House for a decisive vote that April, Parrish was among 17 Republicans who sided with House Democrats to pass it. The vote was critical to ending a 115-day session that divided GOP legislators.

In addition to his public duties, Parrish also is chairman of the board of his family's business, the Manassas Ice and Fuel Co.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS AMY DUERKSEN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to mourn the loss and honor the life of PFC Amy Duerksen, who died the 11th day of March 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Private Duerksen was no stranger to the United States Armed Forces. She was third-generation military. Her father is MAJ Douglas W. Duerksen, an Army chaplain at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, MD. Her grandfather, Wayne Duerksen, is a veteran of the Navy, having served in World War II. And her sister, April Duerksen, is also a member of the Army, stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

In April of last year, Amy joined the Fourth Combat Support Battalion, First Brigade, Fourth Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, TX. Her unit was deployed on Christmas Day. On the eighth day of March 2006, Private Duerksen suffered injuries in a noncombat-related incident, and she was not able to recover from those injuries.

She is remembered as a dedicated soldier who greatly loved her country and faithfully served her fellow Americans by fighting for this great nation. Private Duerksen was full of passion and life. She possessed a strong faith and willingly shared that with others.

Private Duerksen risked her life to serve our country. She deserves our unending admiration and appreciation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me in honoring the life of PFC Amy Duerksen. She was a remarkable soldier and patriot.