

Craig Haffner, a producer who also attended the gatherings, said Friends of Abe is "not a political action group; people are gravitating to it because they love their country."

While the group is not organizing any political activities, some of its members are taking action into their own hands.

Actor Jon Voight, Mr. Boone, Mr. Chetwynd and Mr. Haffner have stepped forward and actively campaigned for Mr. McCain's presidential bid. Mr. Boone said he talked to McCain campaign staffers last week about how he and other stars can help. Supporters now are assembling a formal organization for Mr. McCain in Hollywood, a few of the leaders said.

Meanwhile, many want to produce more movie and theater projects with a positive American message and stronger emphasis on positive cultural values instead of films that paint America as "the great Satan." Mr. Boone said. Mr. Chetwynd said such efforts have been under way for several years, well before the Friends of Abe luncheons began.

Actor Kelsey Grammer, a Republican, is aware of the group but won't comment further, his publicist said.

David Horowitz, another Hollywood conservative and founder of the Los Angeles-based Center for the Study of Popular Culture, said the group is serving a good purpose but he worries its members won't be aggressive enough.

"There's a kind of . . . intellectual terror in this town. People are terrorized; they're afraid to say what they think. So what Gary is doing to provide aid and comfort to its victims is admirable, and I applaud him for it," he said. "But my concern is it's not going to be much more than that."

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "MIDWEST SCHOOLS DISASTER RELIEF ACT"

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, the Midwest has been hard-hit by record flooding in recent months, disrupting the lives of the farmers, homeowners, and families of my Illinois Congressional District. Flood damage to schools alone is expected to reach nearly \$100 million, and as a result some schools will not open in the fall. Those schools able to open their doors are desperately trying to get ready for the upcoming school year, but repairs and cleanup are ongoing.

Moreover, many schools will see an influx of flood-displaced students, while others will face financial challenges due to the loss of students and property values where the schools are located. I have heard from several regional superintendents in my district, particularly Mr. Ralph Grimm of West Central Community Unit School District No. 235 in Henderson County, with concerns that this situation will make it difficult for them to make ends meet in the coming school year.

To address short- and long-term needs, immediate education disaster assistance for flood-impacted schools is necessary to ensure that students continue to receive a quality education in the aftermath of this disaster. As such, I proudly introduce the Midwest Schools Disaster Relief Act.

Similarly to the assistance Congress approved after Hurricane Katrina, this bill would:

Authorize funds to restart school operations. These monies could be used on transportation assistance, to replace damaged textbooks and computers, rent temporary classroom sites, hire additional staff for counseling services, clean up school buildings, and other services and activities.

Authorize funds for schools to accommodate any displaced students they enroll.

Prohibit the loss of students due to displacement to count against schools when Federal funding is calculated for the next academic year.

Waive the Federal requirement that schools maintain their share of financial responsibility in providing education services.

Ensure the needs of homeless students displaced by flooding are met through the Education for Homeless Youth program.

The natural disasters of May and June 2008 have adversely affected the economy, agriculture, critical infrastructure, and school districts of the Midwest. As weather-damaged schools prepare to welcome students back in just a few short weeks, we simply cannot stand by and watch our children receive a lower-quality education solely because they live in an area where flooding or storms occurred.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

WORLD WAR II MARINE GRADUATES HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, James DeLeon is one this year's 2008 high school graduates. The difference is he is 83 years old.

He was born in Goliad, Texas, and when World War II broke out he dropped out of Ganado High School, lied about his age and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. His 16-year-old brother, Charlie, did the same thing a few weeks later.

James was part of the 6,000 Marines sent into battle at Guadalcanal in the South Pacific in 1942. There, they seized the island's airport and never relinquished it. He was also in the invasion of Okinawa—the site of one of the fiercest battles of World War II—where he remained until the end of the war. He had served 34 months in the Marine Corps.

Then, James returned to Texas and married his sweetheart, Susie Marie Elizondo; raised seven children and worked for 36 years at the Port Arthur, Texas, Texaco refining plant. Recently, his daughter Theresa located a lost letter from the Marines to Ganado High School dated 1947 stating that DeLeon met all the requirements to earn his diploma. She mailed it to the current principal and James was then honored with his own graduation ceremony.

James DeLeon is yet another successful member of the Greatest Generation that answered America's call in time of need.

And that's just the way it is.

THE DAILY 45: MIGUEL LEON-FREGOSO

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States.

I have another story of unnecessary violence. This time the location is in the city of San Diego. According to reports, 27-year-old Miguel Leon-Fregoso was with a group of friends at a bar early this morning when, upon leaving, he was involved in a verbal altercation outside. Minutes later a man shot Miguel in the face. Thus, in yet another quick, mindless instance—another young life has been taken.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT L. "BOB" CHANDLER

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep sadness to honor the passing of a great leader, colleague and dear friend, Mr. Robert L. Chandler. Bob served his country well during two tours of duty in the Vietnam War and displayed great leadership for Yalobusha County having been elected Election Board Commissioner and as Chancery Clerk where I had the distinct honor and privilege of serving with him during his service as Chancery Clerk.

Bob was dutiful and diligent as he volunteered to serve his community as a fireman and reserve deputy sheriff. Bob was a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Mary, his daughter, Audrea and son, Bobby and grandchildren. Bob and family are members of Sylva Rena Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, with distinct honor and pride, I, along with citizens of Yalobusha County, sadly mourn the death of such an inspirational leader as Bob Chandler. I want to personally thank him for his contributions and leadership. His memory will live on.

REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF BARRY WEISS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of Congress to the passionate work and unparalleled leadership of Barry Weiss, who is retiring as Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of San Carlos.

Under Barry's leadership, his department received more than two dozen state and local awards for facility design, park planning, economic development and programming. Barry, himself, is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Statewide Citation Award, Presidential Award and Achievement Award from the California Park and Recreation Society, Distinguished Alumni Award from California State University at Hayward and Outstanding Youth Sports Leader from the National Alliance for Youth Sports.

Barry Weiss served as President of the California Park and Recreation Society in 2004–2005, where he shared his knowledge and expertise with others in his field on park planning and encouraging community involvement. Attending to his success as a parks and recreation administrator, Barry is a highly sought-after lecturer on the subject, being invited to share his knowledge with professionals in Arizona, Washington, Michigan and all across California.

Barry received his Bachelors Degree in Recreation and a Lifetime Teaching Credential in Social Science from California State University, Hayward. He is also a graduate of the Pacific Revenue Sources Management School in San Diego, and the Inter-Governmental Management Training Program, based in St. Helena, California.

Madam Speaker, Barry Weiss is truly an innovator. He developed the first Parks Master Plan for San Carlos, built the first disabled-inclusive playground in San Mateo County with 70 percent of features being accessible to children of all abilities and limitations, and was among the first to document the societal gains attributed to park construction and recreation programs. Some of these benefits to society include increased property values, reduced juvenile crime, increased academic performance and increased sales by downtown businesses.

Along with the citizens of San Carlos, I am disappointed to see Barry go, but I am grateful for his service, his dedication to his community and the positive impact he has made on society.

DON L. HANNI, JR. REMEMBERED

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay respect and tribute to Attorney Don L. "Bull Moose" Hanni, Jr., who passed away July 16 at the age of 82.

A lifelong resident of the Mahoning Valley, Don Hanni was born August 25, 1925 on the East Side of Youngstown. A graduate of East High School, he received his bachelor's degree in social studies and history and his law degree from Youngstown College. Hanni was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, having served in the Normandy invasion.

A prominent figure in the community, Hanni was known for his career in law as a defense trial lawyer, also serving as a municipal judge and as an assistant city prosecutor. A member of the Mahoning County Bar Association, Hanni was a powerful political force, serving

as Chairman of the Mahoning County Democratic Party for 16 years.

A much respected and admired man, Hanni dedicated his life to the devotion and service of others and will long be remembered.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that an article from *The Vindicator* of July 17, 2008 be included in the RECORD.

RECALLING SKILL, WIT OF HANNI

(By William K. Alcorn)

YOUNGSTOWN.—Attorney Don L. Hanni Jr., who defined some of the best and worst in Youngstown law and politics during a career that spanned more than a half-century, died at his Coitsville home Wednesday morning.

As a lawyer, Hanni had a reputation as an accomplished student of the law and as a courtroom brawler who was faster on his feet than almost any opponent. As a politician, his own success at the ballot box was mixed, but as a Democratic Party chairman he made and broke more political careers than any chairman before him—or likely any that will follow him.

Friends and adversaries, sometimes one person being both, depending on the circumstances, talked about Hanni, 82, the lawyer, the politician and the man.

He was nicknamed "Bullmoose" by Julaine Gilmartin, the wife of his good friend Atty. Vincent Gilmartin. Mrs. Gilmartin said Hanni reminded her of a character, "General Bullmoose, in the 'Li'l Abner' cartoon, who was always telling everybody what to do, she said with a laugh.

"He always had the greatest stories. We're losing all the curmudgeons. It's the end of an era," she said.

"We were very dear friends," said Gilmartin, who had an office in the same building as Hanni at 219 W. Boardman St., after his 16-year stint as county prosecutor.

"He was a very honorable sort of person, very straightforward, very alert and kind-hearted," he added.

Gilmartin said he and Hanni faced each other numerous times as prosecutor and defense attorney. "I found him to be very well-prepared, always knowledgeable about what we were doing, and aware of what the law required. He was a very good attorney," Gilmartin said.

One of Hanni's fiercest political foes over the years was William Binning, who was chairman of the Mahoning County Republican Party at the same time Hanni was head of the county Democratic Party.

Binning said sometimes their relationship was friendly, but they often were bitter enemies and had nasty fights.

"It depended on the issue of the day," said Binning, professor emeritus at Youngstown State University and former chairman of the school's political science department.

"One thing I would say, his word was always good with me. I had great respect for him because of that. He was one of the great colorful figures of the Mahoning Valley, and his passing is a great loss to the Valley," Binning said.

Another political foe with whom Hanni locked horns was Attorney Michael Morley, who replaced Hanni as county Democratic Party chairman in 1994.

"While Don and I had our political differences, we maintained a civil and cordial relationship over the years. I offer my condolences to his family. I visited him in the nursing home a couple of weeks ago and wished him well.

"We would see each other at events and he would call me chairman and I would call him

chairman, and occasionally we would share a story," Morley said.

"Don Hanni and I were close friends. We used to have lunch on Fridays together and have a drink or two together," said R. Scott Krichbaum, a Mahoning County Common Pleas Court judge and a former defense lawyer.

"But he and I battled, too. We were great adversaries at one point. He was Democratic Party chairman and I was the Republican candidate for judge. We had to send the sheriff up to secure the ballots once the voting was done. It was a very close race," Judge Krichbaum said.

On the other hand, however, the judge said Hanni was "probably as good a trial lawyer as this area ever produced. He was absolutely brilliant in cross-examination. He was much more concerned with the facts than with the law. His method was very effective. He could pretty much take any case and give the defendant the best defense available.

"We respected each other as trial lawyers. It causes me a great deal of sorrow that I've lost him as a friend and as a colleague. His death is a tremendous loss to his family and the community," Judge Krichbaum said.

Former Senator Harry Meshel's relationship with Hanni went back to pre-college days when they used to frequent the Ritz Bar on Wilson Avenue on the East Side. They were both World War II veterans—Hanni in Europe and Meshel in the Pacific.

"We used to argue about who won the war," Meshel said with a laugh.

They were at Youngstown College and on its student council at the same time. Despite that relationship, they quarreled about politics from time to time. "He never hesitated to argue, even with his friends, and even ruled against them in court," Meshel said.

"The last time I visited him, not too many days ago, he was screaming about politics. He said, 'You got to run for mayor.' I said, 'I will if you'll be my law director,'" Meshel said.

"I think people would remember him for his sense of humor and sense of purpose, and his skill as a lawyer. He was highly respected in the legal profession. The judges will tell you he was prepared and clients got their money's worth," Meshel said.

"He was one of a kind. People don't know the things he did," said Joyce Kale Pesta, deputy director of Mahoning County Board of Elections and a longtime Hanni associate.

When he found out people who lived in the old Pick Ohio Hotel had no place to eat in downtown Youngstown, he fed them out of his office on Boardman Street. "Sometimes he would cook and sometimes I would cook," Pesta said.

"He always said 'Don't kick anybody when they're down, because you never know when you'll be down.' Even his worst enemies he'd stick up for when they were down. That's how [former county sheriff and U.S. Representative James] Traficant and he became friends after being enemies for many years," she said. He served in the Army during World War II and was with the Allied Forces who landed on Normandy beach on D-Day on June 6, 1944. He said it was horrific, but he never talked about it much, Pesta said.

The Rev. Lonnie Simon, pastor emeritus of New Bethel Baptist Church on Hillman Street, said Hanni was "Mr. Democrat in Youngstown as far as I was concerned."

"He was very well-liked in the black community, and I got along with him well," said the Rev. Mr. Simon, who, when he came to Youngstown in 1946, registered as a Republican.