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July-August 2014

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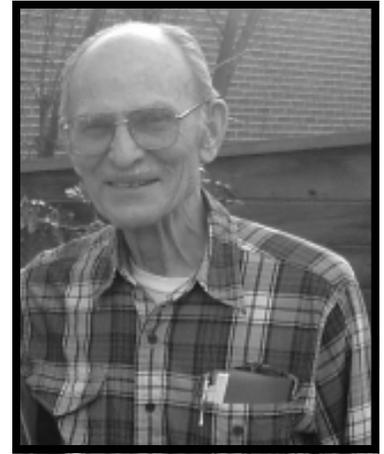
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Herb Homan

A tribute to Herb by two people who knew him well. I will always remember the person who was riding his bicycle from Observatory Park neighborhood on a cold fall day to 6th and Broadway, a distance of about 8 miles. He was 92 at the time and on his way to a Senior Lobby meeting. When I passed him in my car I admired him and hoped I would have that energy if I make it to that age. Observation by Ed Shackelford.



Remembering Herb Homan

Longtime Colorado Senior Lobby Advocate

On July 6, older adults in Colorado lost one of their fiercest and most respected advocates. Herb Homan (age 94) had been a leader in the field of aging for nearly thirty years. Herb's work promoted the quality of life for Colorado's older adults immeasurably.

He served as an officer of the Colorado Senior Lobby, a contributor to the Colorado Senior Lobby newsletter, a member of its legislative committee, a legislative liaison, and a member of the committee to put together the Lobby's Legislative Scorecard. For many years, Herb was the most recog-

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nizable member of the Senior Lobby at the State Capitol. His fiscal expertise was such that many legislators including Joint Budget Committee and Finance Committee members sought out his expertise. He served on special task forces and regularly testified for the Senior Lobby on fiscal matters. Herb was respected for his thorough research and the clarity and integrity with which he spoke on issues. As recently as this past legislative session, Herb could be seen testifying in support of legislation to increase an income tax rebate for certain senior housing expenses.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and strong advocacy, Herb was chosen to receive the prestigious Colorado Commission on Aging “Allen Buckingham Senior Leadership Award” in 2006.

Herb grew up in the Bay Area of Northern California – after toddling at 6 months (he’s told) across the border from Arizona. He was working as a federal stenographer at an Army subsistence warehouse when he was drafted in WW II and served two years in Iceland as secretary to the Base Quartermaster. (Later he joined the Army Reserve for 25 years and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. (Civil Affairs).

Herb attended the University of California at Berkeley under the GI Bill and graduated in 1948 with a degree in political science. He worked for Alameda County, the Naval Supply Depot in Oakland, and the City of Hayward in statistical, personnel classification, and management posts from 1948-1960. Herb came to Colorado in 1961 as Denver’s recruitment officer for 11 years. After gaining a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado, he served as Personnel Director/Budget Officer and the Assistant City Manager in Aurora 1972-78. Herb retired in 1985, after seven years back with the federal government as an Administrative Officer in the Department of Interior’s local Office of Surface Mining.

In addition to his many activities with the Colorado Senior Lobby, Herb was active in NARFE (National Association of Retired Federal Employees), including holding leadership roles in that organization. He also participated in his neighborhood organization, veterans groups, and other groups advocating for the public good. In what seemingly little spare time he had left, Herb’s retirement hobbies included gardening and biking (even until he was in his 90s!).

Still, he once said his most satisfying retirement activity was participating in the successful 2005 Referendum C campaign when the voters approved a five-year moratorium on the TABOR tax and spending limitation. He was hopeful “a more reasonable arrangement could be devised and adopted for funding government in the future. Achieving a proper balance be-

A special thank you to the Volunteers of America for providing the Senior Lobby with meeting rooms for the weekly Legislative Committee meetings and for the monthly Directors meeting.

CPA

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Provides important pro bono support for the Colorado Senior Lobby

tween public and private enterprise is a never-ending challenge; both are essential to a good society.”

Despite all these activities and accomplishments, Herb was a quiet gentleman who would never toot his own horn. But he was the kind of person that when he spoke, everyone listened. And advocates for older adults in Colorado will continue to hear his voice for many years to come.

Prepared by Rich Mauro July 14, 2014

Reflections on Herb Homan

Herb was one of the most respected, effective and humble persons I have known. Similar to E.F. Hutton, when Herb spoke – people listened. And they listened not because his words were so eloquent or impassioned, but because they were thoughtful, informative, insightful, and zeroed in on the core of whatever issue was at stake. Although he sometimes had difficulty getting his words to flow due to his illness, somehow that deliberative presentation, combined with the richness of his content, caused others – including certain legislators – to listen more carefully. Herb was committed to the furtherance of good public policy, and to the importance of accountable and effective public administration – especially as that related to assuring that those with the greatest needs had a safety net of support. He had a keen understanding of how fiscal policy and social policy needed to work hand in glove to achieve the common good. He was a pioneer and guide for many of us in understanding the importance of being at the table when issues of finance were being discussed and decided. I recall one hearing of the House Committee on Finance when the Chairman began the meeting by declaring they could now begin conducting business because Mr. Homan had arrived. Their respect was conveyed by their consideration of him as an unelected additional member of the Committee. Herb never sought attention

for himself, and if he had an ego needing recognition it was never evident. His passion was to do all he could to help tens of thousands of people who would never know of his work or his name – but whose lives are now better because of what he did and who he was. Herb was a quiet giant in the ongoing effort for a more just and caring society. We have been honored to have had him as a friend, a colleague, and a mentor.

Bill Hanna, July 2014

ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 16

Election of directors:

One year term reelection of current director

Mary Catherine Rabbitt

Two year term reelection of current directors

Bob Epstein — currently chairman

Mike Drake — currently immediate past president

Rich Mauro — currently chairman of legislative committee

Ed Shackelford — currently president

Two year term new directors

George Yardley — Owner of Yardley Insurance Services Ltd, and Colorado Medicare Classroom; 35 years in insurance business.

Dorothea Yenic — Community activist for Senior Issues

John Stoffel — Long term member of Colorado Senior Lobby and active participant of the Legislative Committee

Shellilyn Weese — Employed by Centura Health-LINKS: Eligibility Specialist & Community Outreach

Current directors starting 2nd year of their term

Karin Hall

Jeanette Hensley

We don't anticipate any other business to be considered. But always welcome any discussion or suggestions relating to the Senior Lobby and its activities.

During the year 3 directors resigned from the board. For all: it was caused by a change in their employment. These were;

Jennifer Ballentine

Gary Rasmussen

Sheila Schaffer

Four board members are not running for reelection

All have made important contributions to the board.

Roger Doherty — has been a director for many years, serving as treasurer, maintaining the records and tracking membership.

Barb Martig — taken from Comments by Senator (*then Congressman*) Udall on the Floor of the House of Representatives: I'm proud to offer warm congratulations to Barb on her award ("*Women Who Light Up The Community*") to honor her achievements, and wish her continued success in all her future endeavors. She stands out as a beacon of our community, who truly lights up many of our lives.

Betty Proctor — was responsible for the Senior Lobby receiving a \$40,000 grant, and is well known for her contributions to seniors throughout Colorado

Eileen Bond — will continue to be active with the legislative committee. She is responsible for relaying the committee's positions on legislation to legislators, a critical service to the committee.

These four Directors have contributed so much to the Senior Lobby and we see them go with sadness, while recognizing there are important reasons each made this decision.

We have sent an invitation to attend the Senior Lobby annual meeting to state legislative candidates and current legislators. Encourage your representatives to attend. We will be talking about important upcoming legislation.

There is a special focus on trying to work on a bi-partisan basis to achieve our goals. These are not party oriented issues. Rather we are all searching for solutions to the significant impact on resources as a result of the aging population. The best decisions will be made only if there is joint bi-partisan steps taken to develop the best solutions..

**LEGISLATION BEGINS WHEN THE FEAR
OF DOING NOTHING AT ALL FINALLY
TRUMPS THE TERROR OF DOING IT
BADLY, OR NOT AT ALL**

Paraphrased from Alain De Botton, author

Living With Faults

Those who do not stop asking silly questions become scientists.

—Leon Lederman

There is always room, if only in one's own soul, to create a spot of Paradise, crazy though it may sound.

—Henry Miller

I tell you: One must still have chaos in oneself to give birth to a dancing star.

—Frederick Nietzsche

When I was a kid, my Mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my Mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my Dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed!

All my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my Mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that ugly burned biscuit. He ate every bite of that thing...never made a face nor uttered a word about it!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Mom apologize to my Dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said, "Honey, I love burned biscuits every now and then."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Mom put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides--a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!"

Do not look where you fell but where you slipped.

—proverb

Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.

—Robert F. Kennedy

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.

—Dr. Seuss

You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough. —Mae West

As I've grown older, I've thought about how life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people.

I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. But what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults and choosing to celebrate each other's differences is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

~ From www.truthbook.com

SAVE THE DATE

SENIOR LOBBY ANNUAL MEETING

AUGUST 16, 2014

LOCATION

Castle Rock Recreation & Senior Center

2323 Woodlands Blvd
Castle Rock, Co 80104

There is a continental breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00 and a meeting from 9:00 to noon.

There will be a short business meeting. Most of the meeting will consist of a program featuring legislators and people serving the senior community.

You do not have to be a member to attend — just have an interest in matters affecting seniors.

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*The ultimate folly is to think that
something crucial to your welfare is being taken
care of for you.*
—Robert Brault, American operatic tenor

“Healthy citizens are the
greatest asset any
country can have.”
— Winston Churchill

Go Green:

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Colorado Senior Lobby — Nonprofit, non-partisan, volunteer organization

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Organizations: Attach three names and contact information

Additional contribution to support our vision for seniors' quality of life \$ _____

Total This payment is not tax deductible \$ _____

Name/Business/Organization: _____

Address: Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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