



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2002

## House of Representatives

### Tribute to Brigadier General James E. Bickford, U.S. Army (Retired)

HON. HAROLD "HAL" ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, October 21, 2002*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a military veteran, dedicated public servant, and all around great Kentuckian, Brigadier General James E. Bickford, U.S. Army (Retired). I want to express my deepest gratitude for his many contributions to the people of our state and this great nation.

General Bickford is a highly decorated military veteran who has spent most of his life serving our country. Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army as a young man, his duties took him all over the world, including Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Throughout his military career, General Bickford received a host of service awards and decorations, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster. He was the man in charge of logistics for the Persian Gulf War and I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony in Washington, DC this spring as he was inducted into the Defense Logistics Agency Hall of Fame.

In addition to his reputation as a strong and effective military leader, General Bickford is widely known for his compassion and commitment to helping others. Born in West Virginia and raised in the hills of Harlan County, Kentucky, he is especially interested in the well being and prosperity of Appalachia. Upon completion of his military service, he found his heart calling him back to Kentucky. He was appointed Secretary of the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet in December of 1995, and has worked tirelessly ever since to protect and enhance the natural resources of the Bluegrass State. Let me publicly state for the Record that we are absolutely delighted that General Bickford and his lovely wife, Shirley, decided to come back home.

It is through his service to Kentucky that I have had the great fortune of getting to know General Bickford. Our paths first

crossed in 1997, when we were both invited to speak to a group in Louisville, Kentucky. Although we had never met, our speeches were stunningly similar and our goal was the same—to tackle the daunting task of cleaning up Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

As natives of the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, we both knew that the environmental problems in our region were extensive and could only, if at all, be remedied through a coordinated federal, state and local effort. After our first meeting, we pulled our resources together—those of the Kentucky State Government and the United States Government—and got to work. Right away we began asking local mayors, judges and area development districts to join forces in our effort to clean up the region. Then we asked the public to help. Thus was formed the PRIDE program, which stands for Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment. The response has been overwhelming. Thousands are involved in improving their home region, thanks to General Bickford's dedication and leadership.

Through our federal, state, and local partnership, we have made significant strides in cleaning up our rivers and streams, helping our counties address sewage and trash problems, and educating our children about the importance of a clean environment. As a lifelong resident of Southern and Eastern Kentucky, words cannot describe how wonderful it is to see our region being reborn. Because of the success of the PRIDE program, and modeled after it, we are now implementing initiatives to enhance tourism, improve our economy and bring new jobs to the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. These initiatives would not be possible without the efforts of General Bickford.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend General Bickford for the time, energy, and devotion he has invested in making our world a better place. I am especially grateful for his unwavering commitment to the PRIDE program and the people of the 5<sup>th</sup> District of Kentucky. There is no doubt in my mind that we will continue to benefit from his profound contributions for many years to come.