

REMARKS BY: Senator Robert Morgan  
Date: November 9, 1978  
Place: Chicora Country Club  
Dunn, N. C.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY HAMILTON

There is no doubt why we have gathered here tonight -- we have come together as friends and neighbors of Henry Hamilton to honor him for the service he has given to his community over the last many years and to say "Thank you" from the bottom of our hearts for a lifetime of giving to others. But just as important, I think --- and I believe Mr. Henry would agree -- is the fact that by drawing attention to the good work he had done we are saying to others, "Here is an example of what a good citizen in a small town can do to make a better life for others," and thus encourage persons to follow the example he has set.

What a fine example that is. We have heard of Henry Hamilton's involvement in his Church, in the civic affairs of the town and county, in the Boy Scouts and of course his distinguished career as an educator.

All along the way he has established benchmarks and it is we who now shoulder the pleasant tasks of service in this community who will be measured by these benchmarks in years to come.

Thank goodness Henry Hamilton decided to live his life in the small town of Lillington and devote his energies to making it what small towns all over America are -- the backbone of this nation. I love Harnett County and I love Lillington and I believe there is something unique about the place where I grew up, the place where Henry Hamilton has lived and served and now enjoys his retirement.

Former President Dwight Eisenhower put it this way in a speech he made many years ago drawing attention to the particular virtue and integrity of the small town citizen. President Eisenhower said, "I think for any American who had the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town there remains always with him (fond) memories of those days. And the older he grows the more he senses what he owes to the simple honesty, the neighborliness, the integrity that he saw all around him, in those days, and took for granted, and that he learns to appreciate only as he grows older and dwells more in other places of the earth."

You have given me the privilege as your United States Senator "to dwell in other places of the earth." I can tell you that the more I stay away the more I appreciate what is here ---the neighborliness, the simple honesty, the sincere concern of one person for another and people like Henry

Hamilton who by their quiet deeds and their good works in their own way become "profiles in service," seldom to be mentioned in the pages of great histories but remembered and revered forever in the hearts of those of us who know and love them.

We honor Mr. Henry tonight with this dinner, with this series of tributes and, in a moment, an award. But the greatest honor we can do him is to follow the example he has set and dedicate ourselves anew this evening to serving our friends and our communities in the way that he has served so well.