

In World War II Whitener Served His Country Well

Basil L. Whitener had been married only a few weeks, his law practice was growing, and he had just been given the opportunity to serve for a second term as a Representative in the State Legislature.

But it was not a good time for a capable young man to consider first himself and his career. World War II was underway. Whitener, like many others of his fellow Americans, obeyed the call to battle.

And he placed himself in the midst of the conflict raging for Europe by active combat duty in the fierce North Atlantic and the Caribbean, and the Mediterranean. An Ensign, he was assigned to the Navy's Armed Guard Service to defend against the enemy sea and air action.

During the quiet times which come to all combat men, Ensign Whitener observed and reported by letters to home the conditions of suffering and deprivation he found. The letters helped also to maintain his cherished links with home, Gaston County, and the people from among whom he came.

It was as Navy Gunnery Officer of the SS Louisa M. Alcott, that Whitener, then a lieutenant (jg), received an important document. It came from the Secretary of the Navy and it said:

"The Department has been informed of your outstanding devotion to duty as Commanding Officer of the United States Armed Guard aboard the SS Louisa M. Alcott during action against enemy aircraft while engaged in convoy operations

August 13, 1943. With the guns completely manned within a minute after the general alarm was sounded, your Armed Guard opened fire, fore and aft, port and starboard, as hostile aircraft converged and covered the entire convoy.

"Constantly alert to the enemy's strategy of coordinated attack by high-level bombers attempting to draw your fire torpedo planes came in from the low lying sun to strike at close range, your crew forced the hostile planes to change course and veer away while the guns of the SS Louisa M. Alcott scored numerous direct hits in a concerted barrage which downed several enemy planes.

"For your courageous initiative under fire, and the excellent combat discipline of the Armed Guard throughout this action you are hereby commended."

That commendation proved to be one of many sincere tributes Whitener was to receive over the years for a succession of jobs well done both at home and in Washington.

Armed conflict is elsewhere, now, and Lieutenant Whitener is no longer involved in it. But quieter, tougher fighting continues, as it will until men are fully free and secure in their own rights. Now it is Congressman Whitener in the middle of the battle.

But, just in case, he has added another dimension to his knowledge of military science and he is now Major Whitener of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, also.

Rep. Whitener Keeps District Well Informed

Basil Whitener strongly feels that a well informed citizenship is necessary if the American people are to have an effective voice in their government and if our American way of life is to survive.

In keeping with his view that the people should have all available information on matters of national interest Basil Whitener makes a radio program each week while the Congress is in session.

It is a public service, educational program, and Basil makes every effort to have as a guest on his program a Member of Congress or some other important person concerned with a matter of current national interest.

Radio stations carrying Whitener's "Washington Report" are:

WCGC - Belmont
WEGO - Concord

WAAK - Dallas
WBBO - Forest City
WAGY - Forest City

WLTC - Gastonia
WGNL - Gastonia
WGAS - Gastonia

WIRC - Hickory
WHKY - Hickory
WSPF - Hickory

WCTL - Kannapolis
WKMT - Kings Mountain
WBRM - Marion

WNCC - Newton
WHIP - Mooresville
WMNC - Morganton

WADA - Shelby
WOSH - Shelby
WTOE - Spruce Pine

WDBM - Statesville
WSTH - Taylorsville
WTLK - Taylorsville
WSVM - Valdese

From The People

The welfare of the people he represents has been the primary concern of Basil Whitener. His personal interest in the problems of his constituents is well known in the various government agencies and departments.

Basil's office in Washington and his district office in Gastonia are always open to his constituents. Hundreds of them visit each year, and thousands of others contact him by letter, telephone, and telegraph. Every request for information and every personal problem receive Basil's sympathetic consideration and attention.

Here are some excerpts from letters of appreciation Basil has received this year from people who found him anxious to assist them with their problems:

"We have been fortunate to have you as our representative. I personally have long admired your consistent and seemingly untiring efforts for right legislation and sincerely hope you will continue to represent us." -- C.R.C.

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your prompt assistance in having my medical statement processed by the Army. It gives me a good feeling to know that we have in the 10th Congressional District a representative that will consider the interest of an individual citizen in such an emergency." -- W.W.C.

"I want to express to you my sincere appreciation for the valuable service you are rendering not only to me personally but to all the people of this district." -- J.R.R., Jr.

"I want to express to you my deep appreciation for your support of the recently passed cotton research and promotion bill. No other piece of legislation I know of has aroused such interest and hope on the part of our cotton farmers. This may very well prove to be one of the most significant pieces of agriculture legislation ever passed." -- H.E., Jr.

"Thank you for taking time out from your busy schedule to show me a little of Washington. I want to thank you for the fine job you are doing for us in Washington. I have all confidence in you." -- F.C.S.

Whitener Works Hard --

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The 10th District Congressman has been active on the Floor of the House of Representatives whenever legislation concerning veterans and their dependents has been under debate.

His philosophy concerning veterans' affairs is best illustrated by the statement he made in the House of Representatives voicing his support of the bill to provide a cost-of-living increase for thousands of our veterans and their dependents.

"MR. WHITENER: Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has always shown great concern for the welfare of the American veteran and his dependents. This concern is very evident from the consideration that the House now gives to H.R. 17488, a bill to relieve some of the burdens borne by our veterans and their dependents due to the high cost of living.

"I have always supported legislation to provide adequate pension benefits, hospitalization, and other necessary care for our veterans and their dependents. The Nation owes much to those who have served our country in time of war and

"I am deeply grateful for your kind and unselfish effort in getting my wife admitted to the National Institutes of Health." -- A.R.

"Please allow me to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to you for your assistance in obtaining an emergency leave for my son several weeks ago." -- E.S.C., Sr.

"I appreciate your thoughtful letter dated February 28, 1966, and I feel that you are doing a very fine job for our country." -- C.F.L.

"I would like to express my appreciation for your services in the Congress. You are doing a good job, Mr. Whitener, in a difficult position and are a credit to our district. I hope that you will continue voting on bills in the same manner as you have in the past." -- A.F.L.

"It is good to know we have a Congressman who thinks so much of you to help out in our situation. It is so good to have our son with us while his daddy is so sick." -- B.F.

"We certainly appreciate your efforts on our behalf in helping us bring our position to the attention of the GSA." -- I.S.M.

"I want to thank you very much for your prompt reply to my letter and your immediate action. It is certainly a comfort to know we have a friend to call on when we need one." -- L.T.Y.

"It sure is nice to have someone to help who knows what to do." -- A.I.

"I am most grateful for your assistance in connection with the chronic boxcar shortage in the Nation. Your ready and effective help is proving to be of great value to shippers in North Carolina." -- J.C.B.E., Jr.

"We have received the good news that H.R. 11029 relating to tariff treatment of various woven fabrics has cleared the House and is now ready to be signed by the President. We want to thank you for your good work in getting this bill to this stage." -- P.M.

great national emergency, and the least that we can do for these patriotic Americans is to provide for them and their loved ones whenever the necessity arises.

"I support H.R. 17488. The time has arrived for the Congress to take positive action to relieve hundreds of thousands of our more needy veterans and their dependents from some of the financial burdens they are bearing due to our high cost of living.

"The Chairman and the members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee are to be commended on bringing H.R. 17488 to the Floor for action. The bill will not upset the Nation's budget. On the contrary, it will stimulate the economy. The modest increase in benefits provided under the legislation will be devoted by the recipients to the basic necessities of life.

"Mr. Speaker, I hope the legislation will clear the Senate and secure the approval of the President without undue delay."

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Congressman Basil Whitener Represents Our District Well

Whitener Stands Tall Among His Colleagues

There are 435 members of the United States House of Representatives. Among the Congressmen representing every section of the Nation, North Carolina's Basil Whitener stands tall among his colleagues.

During his 10 years in the House of Representatives Basil has climbed the ladder of seniority and by hard work and display of outstanding qualities of leadership has become one of the most effective members of the Congress. He is recognized as a leader by his colleagues and by the heads of government agencies.

The position of leadership which Basil Whitener has attained in Congress has paid dividends to the people he represents. Basil Whitener is known in Washington as a Congressman who gets things done.

He feels that his first duty is to be of service to his people. While giving personal attention to the many problems his constituents call to his attention each week, Basil Whitener has found time to fight for constitutional government, a sound and prosperous economy, and other legislation to strengthen and improve the economic and social welfare of the country.

He has been a leader for constitutional government in the House Judiciary Committee. On the Floor of the House of Representatives he has opposed all legislation encroaching upon the rights of the states under the Constitution and interfering with the rights of the individual citizen. He has sponsored legislation to combat crime and other forms of lawlessness in the country.

Basil Whitener believes that a strong national defense is the greatest deterrent to aggression. He has supported all appropriations for the military services, including laws providing increased pay and other benefits for the nation's soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

Basil Whitener recently received the "Watchdog of the Treasury" award from the National Associated Businessmen.

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Whitener Works Hard For Our Military Vets

Basil L. Whitener served 38 months in the United States Navy during World War II. As a gunnery officer of the merchant ship he was brought into intimate contact with the fighting men of our armed forces and our merchant seamen. He knows and understands the sacrifices that war demands of our people.

Since World War II Basil Whitener has been actively identified with the military services. He has maintained a keen interest in all branches of the armed forces. He is a major in the Air Force Reserve.

Basil Whitener has always had a strong interest in, and has not hesitated to voice his concern over, the welfare of the man in uniform. He has supported the pay increases voted by the Congress for the

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Congressman Basil L. Whitener In Our Washington Office

Basil L. Whitener Has Served The People Throughout His Life

The story of the life of Basil L. Whitener is the epitome of the American way.

He is the story of the mill boy who worked his way literally into the halls of Congress as a United States Representative.

For 10 years now, he has been fighting the battle of the little man, of the textile industry in which he once served, the furniture worker, the farmer, the teacher, factory hand, etc.

His record is one that has brought praise from the educated and the uneducated, from the industrialist and from the worker, from young and old, and from the rich and the poor.

That's because Basil Whitener, from his early days as a lad in the Smyre Community of Gastonia, loves the people -- especially the people of the 10th Congressional District.

Like Andrew Jackson, his office doors have always been open to the people -- all of them.

That, as much as anything, is why he has been elected to Congress for five consecutive terms and is now asking his fellow voters of the 10th District to return him to Washington.

Basil Whitener's job is far from done.

His rise to a place of re-

sponsibility in local and national affairs is an example for others to follow. Perhaps there are others, starting out just as he did, who one day will sit in Congress.

Young Whitener, as a mill boy, never dreamed of how it would one day be. He has

never forgotten those early years, either. "He remembers the toil, sweat, and above all, the dedication and perseverance he put forth.

These are still his trademarks.

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The Purpose Of The Sentinel

Once again the Whitener Sentinel is being sent to you in the interest of the re-election of Basil L. Whitener to Congress.

Our sole purpose is to present some of the facts concerning Congressman Whitener and his activities, record, and background.

The Sentinel is edited again this year by John Brock of Cleveland County.

Of this issue of the Whitener Sentinel, Brock says, "We have endeavored to present some of the highlights concerning the outstanding record of service and the individual moral character of our 10th District Congressman -- Basil L. Whitener."

After reading this issue of the Sentinel, please pass your copy on to a friend so that as many people as possible may see it.

And, says Brock, "Let's all work together to re-elect Rep. Basil L. Whitener to Congress."