In Memoriam

The Center for the Advancement of Leadership Skills commemorates the life of Representative Calvin Hill, a member of the inaugural CALS class of 2007. Representative Hill, 66, passed away on October 30 after battling leukemia.

Representative Hill was born on April 8, 1947, in Sierra Nevada Ordnance Depot in California. He later moved to Arizona and graduated from Apache Junction High School. He attended both Arizona State University and the University of Arizona, majoring in business. He obtained special training in engineering and demolition while in the United States Marine Corps.

Representative Hill was first elected as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives in 2002. Prior to his legislative service, he served as mayor of Ball Ground, Georgia. Representative Hill was vice chair of the House Appropriations Committee and Banks & Banking Committee. He also was a member of the Budget & Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee, State Institutions & Property, and Special Rules Committees.

Aside from being a state legislator, Representative Hill was an entrepreneur. He was involved heavily in the wholesale distribution of thin plastics and previously served as director of Cherokee Bank.

Representative Lynn Smith of Georgia, CALS Class of 2013, remembered her colleague, “Representative Calvin Hill applied his strong business background and talents to making sure the state of Georgia functioned on sound business principles. His tenacity and approachability earned him the respect of his fellow legislators and constituents. He will be missed.”

Representative Hill is survived by his wife, Cheryl Hill, six children and three grandchildren.

2013 CALS Class

The Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) of The Council of State Governments (CSG) recently wrapped up the 7th annual Center for the Advancement of Leadership Skills (CALS). This year’s program marked the beginning of a three-year partnership with the University of Arkansas System and the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute.

The 2013 CALS program included leaders from Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. Several intense learning sessions focused on essential topics such as leadership development, social media practices, interpersonal exchanges, and communication skills.

Participants convened at the Old Statehouse for the closing dinner and were welcomed by Mr. Shane Broadway, former Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives and state Senator, and current director of the Department of Higher Education. The closing keynote address was delivered by Commander John Bennett Herrington, retired naval aviator and former NASA astronaut. Commander Herrington spoke to the class about overcoming obstacles and creating pathways to success.
CALS Introduces Technology Tools to Development Program

Since the inception of the CALS program, participants navigated their training with the use of notebooks containing all pertinent information relevant to the program, such as speaker and class biographical information, presentations and agendas. This year, the 2013 class received a certified 7-inch Kindle Fire, pre-loaded with all the materials needed for the program.

Ms. Colleen Cousineau, director of the SLC, and deputy executive director of CSG, and Ms. Lori Moore, manager of operations and programs, Southern Office of CSG, explored the possibility of using tablets as a more effective way to present program information while also advancing the SLC digital footprint. Tablets also allowed real-time updates to participant resources. For instance, in one of the sessions, the facilitator listed some recommended readings, and the list of suggested books was loaded onto the devices prior to the end of the session.

Program participants were gifted the tablets at the close of the program for their own personal and professional use. The SLC will continue to deliver information and content to attendees via the tablets throughout the year, including information and materials for other events sponsored by the organization.

Mr. Quentin Messer, assistant secretary of Louisiana Economic Development and a participant of the 2013 CALS program said, “One of the downsides of conferences typically is the volume of materials. They tend to be bulky, difficult to navigate in real-time, and feel out-dated by the time the plane touches down at home. Well, CALS’ use of Kindles eliminated all of these downsides in a single click. More importantly, as a digital neophyte, the Kindle forced those of us who are a bit more seasoned to embrace the technologies that our constituents and stakeholders use. Also, the citizens of our states are starting to demand that government utilize new technologies to become more efficient and constituent-focused. CALS is the cutting edge of leadership development and these Kindles exhibit a core part of that successful formula.”
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<th>Class of 2007</th>
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<td>Speaker Thom Tillis, North Carolina, announced his candidacy for the Republican Party nomination for the U.S. Senate.</td>
<td>Former President Bill Clinton and leaders from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation welcomed Darrin Williams, Speaker Pro Tem of the Arkansas General Assembly, as the CEO for the nation’s leading rural development financial institution, Southern Bancorp, Inc.</td>
<td>Senator Jabar Shumate participated in the “Giving Legislators an Educational Experience,” or GLEE week, which brings in a dozen state lawmakers to shadow local teachers as part of the Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association’s American Education Week activities.</td>
<td>Senator Larry Teague received one of Arkansas Prosecuting Attorneys Association (APAA) awards presented to legislators who go “above and beyond” in pushing for legislation that furthers the goals of the APAA. The awards ceremony was conducted in October and co-sponsored by the Henderson State University Sidney S. McMath Institute of Pre-Law and Government.</td>
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<td>Senator Mark Herring recently was elected Virginia State Attorney General.</td>
<td>Representative Paul DeMarco recently announced plans to run for Alabama’s Sixth Congressional District seat being vacated by U.S. Representative Spencer Bachus.</td>
<td>Representative Tommy Hardin was one of the featured speakers for the Southern Oklahoma Leaders Luncheon of 2013.</td>
<td>Representative Katrina Jackson of Louisiana delivered the keynote address at the Gulf Coast Center for Law &amp; Policy’s Leadership and Policy Summit.</td>
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<td>Representative Dan Kirby was presented the Guardian Award by the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women due to the passage of his lifesaving public health legislation, Fayelen’s Law.</td>
<td>Representative John Tilley, who has addressed various assemblies on Kentucky’s successful reform of its criminal justice system in 2011, testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on the subject.</td>
<td>St. Louis Treasurer Tishaura O. Jones was among those honored by the Hellenic foundation’s Athena Awards to Women.</td>
<td>Frank Scott, Jr. was appointed to the Arkansas Highway Commission by Governor Mike Beebe.</td>
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68TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

BIG THINGS HAPPEN...

IN LITTLE ROCK.

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS | JULY 26-30, 2014