

January 31, 1966

Baptist Senate Aide
Retires After 47 Years

By Glenn D. Everett
for the Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist layman who had worked on the staff of the United States Senate for almost half a century retired recently after having served as a page boy, clerk, press liason man, and even honorary Senate chaplain.

For Richard L. Riedel of Centreville, Va. it was a somewhat earlier retirement than he had expected. But at the age of 56, he had completed 47½ years of service for the Senate and a new retirement law gave him the same pension he would have recieved if he had stayed on to 65.

Riedel, who began his Senate career as a page boy at the age of 9, accepted an offer from a large publishing house to begin work on a book of memoirs of his intimate association with statesmen of half a cnetury.

Riedel, the son of Richard R. Riedel, a Baptist minister and evangelist, began his long career in 1918 as a page boy in black knickers.

Sen. Carl Hayden (D., Ariz.), 88, then congressman from the newly-admitted state of Arizona, is the only member of Congress now who was serving when Riedel came to Capitol Hill.

He remained a page and messenger for the Senate until graduating from high school in 1927, then became a clerk on the Senate staff. For the past 30 years, he has held the position of "press liaison" for the Senate.

He is in charge of the "press door," the door where members of the press come down from the gallery to interview Senators as they step off the floor.

Riedel knew by first name nearly every one of the hundreds of newsmen assigned to cover Wasinngton.

The Senate accorded Riedel an unusual honor upon his retirement by inviting him to s rve as guest chaplain, opening its session with prayer.

It marked the 50th anniversary of the occasion on which his late father had performed the same office.

Senate Chaplain Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, a retired Methodist clergyman, said it was only the second time in the 32 years he has served as chaplain that a layman has had this honor. The first was Sir Norman Makin, for a number of years Australian Ambassador to the United States, and president of the Methodist Conference of New South Wales.

More than 30 members of the Senate rose to pay tribute to Riedel's long and faithful service.

President Johnson who knew Riedel well during his service as a senator and as Vice-President, wrote him a warm personal letter saying, "You have served so long and faithfully that for me--as for many of your friends--you seemed as much a part of the Senate as its marble halls."

The Congressional Record clerk, at a loss to identify the visiting "clergyman" who has served as chaplain, finally described him simply as "a deacon of Calvary Baptist Church."

Riedel and his wife, the former Angela Bachman, cousin of the late Sen. Nathan Bachman (D., Tenn.) have long been members of the church, affiliated with both the Southern and American Baptist Conventions.

Riedel and his family commute 25 miles to faithfully attend Sunday School each week.



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SBC President To Preach
To Servicemen In Orient

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By the Baptist Press

The president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Wayne Dehoney of Jackson, Tenn., has departed on a six-weeks preaching and missions tour of the Orient, including a visit to Viet Nam.

First two weeks of his preaching mission to the Orient is being sponsored by the U. S. Air Force at the invitation of Air Force Chief of Chaplains Robert Taylor, a Baptist.

Dehoney will speak to servicemen in Japan and Korea before continuing his missions tour of the Orient under the sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

He will visit Formosa, Hong Kong, Saigon (Viet Nam), Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand, returning via India, Turkey and London.

Dehoney left on the tour Jan. 31 almost immediately after returning from a week-long visit to Brazil where he preached in the Brazilian Baptist Convention and consulted with Brazilian Baptist leaders concerning plans for a gigantic hemisphere-wide Baptist evangelistic campaign planned for 1969.

He returns to the United States on Feb. 12 in time to preach the next day at the First Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., where he is pastor.

Dehoney said that the trip offers "a significant opportunity for me to preach the Gospel to the men in our (armed) service, and to strengthen the faith and the witness of the Christians who are already there."

"We have so many American personnel who are facing difficult periods in their lives as the world balances on this critical edge of war and peace," Dehoney said. "In Viet Nam, many of our boys are facing death every day."

On his visits to the Baptist missions fields, Dehoney said he would seek to get the feel "of the heartbeat of our missions efforts as well as to strengthen and encourage our missionaries."

Dehoney said he did not yet have his speaking assignment schedule in Viet Nam and was not sure exactly where he would speak.

In Japan, he will speak primarily to servicemen at Air Force bases in Tokyo, Osaka, and surrounding areas. In Korea, he will preach at the Seoul Memorial Baptist Church and speak at the Republic of Korea Air Force Academy.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Baptist Press will provide follow-up coverage of Dehoney's visit to Brazil tomorrow.

1-31-66

Hardin-Simmons Gets
\$30,000 Private Grant

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Hardin-Simmons University here has received a \$30,000 science research grant by the Robert A. Welch Foundation.

The three-year grant, given to the Baptist school's chemistry department chairman, will finance purchase of equipment and study of the structural analysis of complex organic molecules, especially "Glucoside from Riven Corymbosa."

The grant went to W. Eugene Keeland, head of the school's chemistry department, who predicted that additional science grants would be forthcoming when Hardin-Simmons completes its ultra-modern Sid W. Richardson Science Building. Bids on the \$1 million new science building will be let in April.

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Texas Baptist School
Eliminates Football

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (BP)--The board of trustees at the University of Corpus Christi here voted to eliminate the Baptist school's participation in intercollegiate football.

The action was taken as a part of the overall commitment by the trustees to achieve regional accreditation for the college in the shortest possible time, school officials said.

The excessive cost of the football program was given as the reason for its abolishment. The sport had failed to pay its own way, and consultants said after a two-year study that the amount spent on athletics was high in relation to the needs of the institution and its problem of securing financial support.

Board members committed themselves to give or raise \$75,000 this year and \$75,000 next year to accelerate the drive for accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Ten of the 25-member board have pledged \$60,000.

Board Chairman O. E. Brand of McAllen, Tex., and the school's president, J. C. Clapp, expressed regret at having to abandon football but emphasized that accreditation is the most important goal the school can have at this time.

Intercollegiate basketball and tennis will be retained on a non-subsidized basis, without athletic scholarships. The college will pay expenses of playing the games.

Brand said that the school hopes to consider having football again "when we reach numerical and financial strength in the future." He added, however, that this did not necessarily mean that football would be resumed once accreditation is gained.

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Hawaii Baptists Name
New Division Directors

1-31-66

HONOLULU, Hawaii (BP)--The Executive Board of the Hawaii Baptist Convention has named three new division directors on its staff here, implementing a report recommending staff reorganization as part of the convention's long range planning program.

The three new division directors are Sam Choy, director of cooperative church development; Malcolm Stuart, director of cooperative missions, and Byron Todd, director of cooperative Christian education.

Choy, formerly the convention's director of religious education, will have enlarged responsibilities in his new position. Stuart and Todd are both new employees of the convention.

Stuart had served as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary to Hawaii for nearly 25 years. He was pastor of the Nuuanu, Olivet, and Pearl Harbor churches, and served briefly as a Baptist missionary to China. A native of Alabama, he is graduate of Howard College (Baptist), Birmingham, Ala.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Todd has been superintendent of the Hawaii Baptist Academy for the past year. He previously was pastor of Baptist churches in Texas, Oklahoma and California.

Before joining the convention staff in 1962, Choy was pastor of the Kahului Baptist Church in Kahului, Maui, Hawaii. He is a native of Hawaii, and a graduate of Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

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CORRECTION:

EDITORS: Please kill the last paragraph, story mailed 1-24-66, headlined "Arkansas Church Votes To Continue SBC Giving," if you have not already gone to press with this story.

CUTLINES

JANUARY 31, 1966

BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS, FROM ONE SENATE CHAPLAIN TO ANOTHER: Senate Chaplain Frederick Brown Harris (right), a retired Methodist minister, congratulates the only Baptist layman ever to serve as guest chaplain of the U. S. Senate--Richard L. Riedel (left). Riedel retired recently after 47½ years in the Senate, serving as page boy, clerk, press liason man, and honorary Senate chaplain. (BP PHOTO by Seth Muse, White House Photographer)