

November 16, 1986

Honoring Dr. John G. Buchanan

St. John's Episcopal Church
Lynchburg, Va.
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This morning, it is indeed my pleasure and privilege

to honor, on your behalf, one among us who has given of himself

so full over a period of years numbering a lifetime. In thinking

of what I might say that would exemplify the life of our honoree,

there came to my mind a parable found in the 14th thru the 30 verses

of the 25th Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew the

Story of the talents. I shall not read it to you, but merely quote

highlights of it - in order to refresh our memory.

"For the Kingdom of Heaven is as a man traveling into a far

country, who called his servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

And unto one, he gave five talents, to another two, and to another

one; to each man according to his several ability, and straightway

took his journey. Then he that had received five talents went and

traded with the same, and made ^{other} them five talents.

And likewise, he that had received two, he also gained other two

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and

hid his lord's money. We all recall how the Lord returned from his

trip and demanded an accounting from his three servants. The two

servants who increased the number of talents given them were commended

and their Lord said to them: "Well done, thou good and faithful

servant; thou has been faithful over a few things, I shall make

thee ruler over many things: Enter thou into the joy of the Lord.

We recall so well how the master condemned the servant who buried

his talent.

We will note from this parable that the greatest number of

talents was given by the Master according to the individual ability

of the recipient. Our beloved Dr. John G. Buchanan, at an early age

was given by His Maker, the challenge to use his God given Talent

to pursue the study and practice of medicine. This honorable

calling was probably inherited to a large extent from his Father

and Grandfather who practiced the profession of medicine for so many years here in Fairfield County. John entered Washington University Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri for his academic work in Medicine, and upon graduation therefrom did his internship at John Hopkins Univ. John completed his studies at both of the aforementioned institutions with distinction to his family and himself. John commenced the practice of medicine in 1927. John left his early practice of medicine here in Winnsboro to answer the call of Uncle Sam during World War II, and served overseas with distinction. After his military service, John returned home and re-entered the practice of medicine as a family physician. John's dedication and love of his chosen profession enabled him to perform the many services for his fellow man which endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. Dr. John - with our Lord's guiding hand, healed the sick, shared the joys and sorrows of all his patients, brought so many of our children into this world, and exhibited a genuine interest and concern for all his patients whom he called "friends". John has been, and is, a ~~max~~ caring, loving person who has gained the admiration and respect of all who have been fortunate enough to have known him over the years,

And probably because of his Scotch roots and background, John has shared his thrift, prudence and wisdom in leading several of our Fairfield County Banking institutions, i.e. Community Federal Savings & Loan, Bank of Fairfield, and Bank of Ridgeway - to the end that these institutions have played a prominent part in the economic life and growth of our Community. *Director of: Comm. Sav. & Loan - Bank of Ridgeway - Bank of Fairfield etc.*

John's love of his Church - St. John's - Winnsboro - has been acknowledged by his being named Senior Warden-Emeritus, a title and position which he has occupied for so many years.

And now a little something personal, If I may: In all the

years I've known you, John, you have served the City, the County and the State in a tireless and unselfish manner. The very survival and future of our County will depend to a large extent upon how soon and how favorably the "Gap" may be filled by young men of your wisdom, professional skill and dedication.

I personally count it as an honor and privilege to have been associated with you as a patient and "friend" for so many years in the different facets of the business, social and religious life of our County, and particularly to have had you over many years as the "Haslett Family Doctor".

But John, you have not reached these heights of accomplishment all by yourself. Of course, "Miss" Mary, your lovely wife has "stood by" the good Doctor as the ideal Doctor's wife - answering many telephone ~~calls~~ calls at all hours of the night, or giving many messages to the Hospital and to the Doctor. "Miss" Mary is everybody's friend - an excellent gardener, excellent cook and home-maker - and Mother of your three fine children, John Jr, Flo, and Doug. We are proud to have them here with us today, along with their families. Unfortunately we only have two of your fine Grandchildren with us today - Haidee and Doug, Jr. But you can bet your bottom dollar that Dr. John and "Miss" Mary do not hesitate to let you know that they are justifiably proud of all five of their Grandchildren.. And so, ~~us~~ ^{we} at St. John's are here today to proudly honor Dr. John and "Miss" Mary, with our deepest love, admiration and gratitude.

If anyone deserves the rewards of retirement, it is you who has given of yourself so fully. In the words of our Talent Story which I alluded to earlier, it can indeed be most aptly said:

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant !" "

By Wm. E. Haslett