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Charlie Stenholm, Former U.S. Congressman to Appear December 17th On The Neal Asbury Show on WZAB-AM



A Blue Dog, a Boll Weevil, a farmer, a third generation Texan, a father, a very proud grandfather--all of these describe Congressman Charles W. (Charlie) Stenholm of the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

Charlie Stenholm arrived in Washington with a vision of amplifying the voice of mainstream, rural America in the U.S. House of Representatives. Now hailed as "the guy who leads by example and experience," Stenholm continues to proudly represent residents of the sprawling, 32 county, 17th District of Texas. As a genuine native son, he personifies a district characterized by traditional beliefs and conservative values, agriculture, oil and gas, and a variety of small businesses.

Known for his trademark cowboy boots and a good-natured but no-nonsense, common-

sense style, Stenholm often assumes the role of bridge builder between political parties, ideological extremes, and generational opposites.

"If it grows out of the ground, Charlie Stenholm understands it," noted a colleague, commenting on Stenholm's vast agricultural experience, including his continued active involvement in his Jones County family cotton farm. Having served on the Agriculture Committee since his Washington arrival, Stenholm won the post of Ranking Democrat on the Committee in the 105th Congress. There, he focuses on expanding agricultural world trade, streamlining the agricultural bureaucracy, boosting agricultural research and promoting the needs of agricultural producers and consumers.

Named "the spiritual godfather of fiscal austerity," Stenholm has consistently advanced fiscal responsibility in the federal budget. Originally a lone voice in the wilderness, Stenholm's persistence over the years finally resulted in House passage of his Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment in the 104th Congress, which subsequently met defeat by just one vote in the Senate. The actual balanced budget plans which Stenholm crafted in both the 104th and 105th Congresses with a group of moderate and conservative Democrats known as the "Blue Dog Coalition" have received wide national acclaim as the most honest, pragmatic, and fair proposals on the table.

In addition to agriculture and budget, Stenholm has shown leadership on an unusually wide portfolio of legislative activities, including

health care, small business protections, social security, welfare reform, juvenile justice, and restricting unfunded mandates. His demonstrated independence allows careful responsiveness to constituent opinion.

Increasingly mindful of the growing need for improved Congressional comity and cooperation, Stenholm played an active role on the steering committee of the first ever House-wide bipartisan retreat in Hershey, Pennsylvania, held without taxpayer or interest group expense. The steering committee is pursuing additional avenues to higher levels of civility in the 106th Congress. Stenholm continues to find the weekly Prayer Breakfast to be one of the greatest sources of non-partisan, positive fellowship for Members of the House.

Stenholm graduated from Tarleton State Junior College and Texas Tech University, and has received honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Abilene Christian, Hardin-Simmons, and McMurry Universities.

Charlie and his wife Cindy have three children (Chris, Cary, and Courtney) and two grandchildren (Chase and Cole). All of the Stenholms live in Texas. Charlie and Cindy are members of the Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ericksdahl.



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