A Ceremony Unveiling the Portrait of

THE HONORABLE COLLIN C. PETERSON



Tuesday, April 5, 2011 1300 Longworth Building Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE PRINT

A Ceremony Unveiling the Portrait of

THE HONORABLE COLLIN C. PETERSON

A Representative in Congress from the State of Minnesota January 3, 1991–Present

Elected to the 102nd Congress Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture One Hundred Tenth through One Hundred Eleventh Congresses



PROCEEDINGS

before the

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

U.S. House of Representatives April 5, 2011

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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

U.S. House of Representatives
Tuesday, April 5, 2011

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson

Collin Peterson was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the Seventh Congressional District of Minnesota in 1990. His primarily rural and agricultural district reaches from the Canadian border in the north, almost to the Iowa state line in the south; along Minnesota's border with North and South Dakota.

Peterson currently serves as Ranking Minority Member of the House Agriculture Committee. He was named the Ranking Member of the Agriculture Committee in January 2005 and then served as Chairman from January 2007 until January of 2011. The House Committee on Agriculture has jurisdiction over a wide range of agriculture and rural development issues, including the Farm Bill, renewable energy, disaster assistance, nutrition, crop insurance, conservation, rural development, international trade, futures market regulation, animal and plant health, agricultural research, bioterrorism, forestry, and others.

Congressman Peterson grew up on a farm near Glyndon, Minnesota and was educated in the local public schools. He graduated from Minnesota State University-Moorhead in 1966 with a double major in Business Administration and Accounting, and also served in the North Dakota National Guard from 1963 to 1969. Before being elected to the House of Representatives, he was a Certified Public Accountant and small business owner in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, and also served for 10 years in the Minnesota State Senate.

In the 1960's, Peterson also found time to play guitar and sing with a band known as "Collin and the Establishment." He is a musician, and in recent years he has performed with Willie Nelson at Farm Aid concerts, jazz legend Lonnie Brooks, with several other Members of Congress at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, and with rock guitarist Jeff "Skunk" Baxter at several Washington, D.C. venues. He is a member of the American Legion's Ninth District Band.

Peterson has organized and played in Congressional rock bands, including The Amendments and the Second Amendments. He and his colleagues have performed at charity events in Washington, D.C. The Second Amendments also performed for U.S. troops in Germany, Kuwait, Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan and performed at WE Fest in Minnesota and Farm Aid in Illinois.

Peterson is a private pilot who often flies his own single-engine plane to get around his large district and visit with his constituency. He also is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fishing whenever time permits.

During his public service career, Peterson has been a strong advocate for farmers and small business owners, and a leader on both Federal tax policy and conservation issues. He has been a leader on the last three Farm Bills passed by Congress. He is a founding member of the conservative Democrats' "Blue Dog" Coalition, which continues to be a voice for fiscal responsibility and pragmatic government policies.

Peterson has taken a leading role in Congress promoting biofuels as a homegrown way for America to meet its growing energy needs, and he has introduced legislation to expand biofuel production and use. Peterson's leadership led to the successful passage of the 2008

Farm Bill, which preserved the safety net for farmers while making historic new investments in food, farm and conservation programs that are priorities for all Americans.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Leslie W. Bowman is an award-winning portrait artist. An honors graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, she started her career as an illustrator of books for young readers and produced more than 20 published titles. In 2004 Leslie followed her passion for portraiture. Later that year she won Best in Show at the Minnesota Lake Country Pastel Society's Annual Juried Exhibit. She is also the recipient of the Pastel Society of America's Board of Directors Award and The Art Spirit Foundation/Dianne B. Bernard Gold Medal Award for Excellence given in the Pastel 100 Competition by Pastel Journal.

Competition by Pastel Journal.

Combining the accuracy of traditional portraiture with the directness of contemporary realism, Leslie's portraits luminously reflect her subject's inner qualities to reveal a likeness that radiates warmth as well as her subject's life and values.

Her work hangs in the Rayburn Congressional Office Building in Washington, D.C.; The Johns Hopkins Hospital Library in Baltimore, MD; William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, MN; The Rosalie Wahl Public Library in Lake Elmo, MN and in private collections.

Leslie lives and works in Minneapolis MN

Leslie lives and works in Minneapolis, MN.



ARTIST: LESLIE W. BOWMAN

THE HONORABLE COLLIN C. PETERSON

Agriculture Committee Chairman, 110th - 111th Congress

PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

David A. Bieging

INVOCATION

Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas Chairman, Committee on Agriculture

REMARKS

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi The Honorable Bob Goodlatte

Address

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson

UNVEILING OF PORTRAIT

The Peterson Family

SPECIAL GUEST

The Honorable John A. Boehner Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives

Leslie W. Bowman, Artist

Benediction

Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin

Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives

The Unveiling and Presentation of the Official Portrait of THE HONORABLE COLLIN C. PETERSON

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE Washington, D.C.

REMARKS OF DAVID A. BIEGING

Master of Ceremonies

Mr. BIEGING. Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention. My name is Dave Bieging, and I have the privilege of being able to call Collin a friend since he arrived at the Minnesota Senate about 35 years ago.

I want to thank all of you for coming. A special thank you to the sponsors of this effort who are listed in the program; most of all to the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. I believe Paul McGuire is here from the Historical Society, who has made this possible, and we appreciate their work.

I want to recognize Debbie Smith from the House Agriculture Committee staff, who has done more work on this than anybody else. Cherie Slayton and Martha Josephson and all the staff have done a great job.

It is first my privilege to introduce the Chaplain of the House of Representatives Father Daniel Coughlin.

INVOCATION

Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin

Father COUGHLIN. Let us pray.

On the first floor of the Capitol Building over the door of the room of H–130 are inscribed these words of Daniel Webster: "When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization." Tonight, Lord God, as we celebrate the service and leadership of the Honorable Collin C. Peterson, we stand with farmers, Minnesota constituents, House Delegates, colleagues, and the Peterson family to praise and thank You, Lord, for this down-to-Earth gentleman who has graced our lives and served the people of this country with caring dignity and fortitude through the years. May this

portrait, Lord, which may reveal even some of his inner strengths and musical nature, cast his living memory upon this Chamber of hard work on behalf of the Agriculture Committee in addressing the problems, enhancing the potential, and protecting the benefits of farming in this Nation.

Lord, in the world of practical civilization, his is truly a great American story which we refer to You tonight; a story of farming, business, family, and government service. Bring his hopes and dreams for his own family and for rural Americans across this land to a realized blessing by Your divine providence both now and for years to come. Amen.

Mr. BIEGING. And now I will introduce the gentleman whose room we are standing in, the new Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee from Oklahoma, Frank D. Lucas.

PRESENTATION OF THE PORTRAIT BY HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

Chairman, Committee on Agriculture

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, David.

And thank you all for coming today.

This is a very important and a very auspicious occasion to come to the main hearing room of the House Agriculture Committee. I think most of you in this room, who have been a part of the process, know that by history and by action, the Agriculture Committee has been one of the least partisan and most certainly one of the most bipartisan committees in Congress. Now, that's not to say that we don't have disagreements based on regional perspectives or disagreements between commodity perspectives, but the fact of the matter is the 46 people who work very diligently in this room for rural American production ag, when we write a Farm Bill, we come together.

I have served with Collin in this room for almost two decades, and I have personally watched the relationship between Mr. de la Garza and Mr. Roberts in the 1996 Farm Bill, the relationship between Mr. Combest and Mr. Stenholm in the 2002 Farm Bill, and, yes, the relationship between Mr. Peterson and Mr. Goodlatte in the 2008 Farm Bill, that relationship of Chairman and Ranking Member, no matter which was which, working together. At this time next year, we will be in the process of crafting another Farm Bill, and I think I am very certain when I say, yes, I might be a conservative Republican, but my Blue Dog Democratic friend back here and I will have that same kind of a relationship as we work to put the 2012 Farm Bill together.

You know, Collin, not many people get to bring their own band to their event. Maybe I am a little envious. Maybe I'm a lot envious. But thank you all for coming today to the Agriculture Committee room on this very important occasion.

Mr. BIEGING. And now I would like to introduce the Democratic Leader of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI

Ms. Pelosi. Thank you very much, David. It's really a great honor for me, as Leader, to be here with so many colleagues on both sides of the aisle, some Members, some former Members, all here to sing the praises and applaud the great leadership of Chairman and now Ranking Member Collin Peterson.

Collin, this is the third time I have spoken at an unveiling of a portrait: Tom Foley some years ago; Kika de la Garza, not that long ago; and now the great honor of speaking as you have the unveiling of your portrait. To be here with your family and friends, from your colleagues, Senator Klobuchar making the trip all the way over from the other side of the Capitol.

But let me say this: When the Father was speaking, he said, "thank you for this down-to-Earth gentleman." It sounded farm-like to me. My remarks, should I read them, say that he is a man who never forgets his roots. Sounds like farm talk to me. But we know him as a leader in agriculture and the proud service he gave us in this room, and he continues to do so.

Many of us have seen him on the Intelligence Committee, where he has brought heartland values to the defense of our country, where he has traveled the world to make judgments and to inform his colleagues of his perspective on our national security and how we protect the American people, which is our first responsibility. I have seen him fight on the problems that the derivatives market had caused to Main Street, as some who were reckless on Wall Street in terms of derivatives affected joblessness on Main Street. And Collin was there. And he knows his stuff. You know, he just knows his stuff. So if he's in the room or he's at the conference table, you know that the American consumer, the American investor, the American farmer, the American people will be protected.

I have also seen him at Farmfest in Minnesota, and that was a treat all in itself. We went to Farmfest, and we went to a couple of their stops to see an ethanol plant and then a turkey litter recycling plant. That was very exciting.

When we were at Farmfest, I became familiar with a new delicacy, pork chop on a stick. So I was eating all these pork chops. They were so fabulous. And when we got to Marshall, which was our fourth stop, and we flew there, a man came up to me and said, "You really enjoyed those pork chops on a stick, didn't you? I was the chef who made them." And I said, "Well, you know what, I am away from my husband this weekend. If I could go home with the recipe for pork chop on a stick, I would be redeemed." And he said, "I just have one word to say to you: butter. Slather it with butter." So anyway, that's my gift to you this evening.

Many of us know Collin from Intelligence, he is a Member of Congress, the Agriculture Committee, his great work with Mr. Goodlatte. I learned more from Mr. Peterson when they were working together to write that Farm Bill than on any subject ever in the Congress. And he has a wonderful perspective, and you could see the love that he has for the land, the respect that he has for farmers, the need for the rest of us to know about all of that, and to have a bill that was not only about farmers, it was about nutrition. It was about conservation. It was about biofuels. It was a bill for the future.

So all of us have, in one way or another, come into his network, some in one aspect of his legislative career, but all of us have danced to his music, the Second Amendments. I see we are going to be honored with that.

So, Collin, on behalf of all our colleagues in the Congress—and you are right, Chairman Lucas, and thank you for your hospitality. This has been a committee that has operated in a very bipartisan way as a great example to the rest of the Congress. And so has the Second Amendments band. They create great harmony in a bipartisan way. And I know that the sooner I end, the sooner we will listen to the music.

So I want to thank you for allowing me to be a part of this. And we are all very curious to see what form this beautiful painting will take. Thank you all very much.

Mr. BIEGING. I see Secretary Tom Vilsack here.

Thank you for being here, Tom.

Chairman Gensler from the CFTC is here as well. Thank you for being here.

Now I would like to call on the Congressman from the Star City of Roanoke, Bob Goodlatte.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE BOB GOODLATTE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Thank you.

Well, Collin, having just gone through this myself just a few years ago, I know what a great experience, what a great honor this is. And I know what a great process you've been through selecting an artist. And we all want to see the work that has been produced. I have given you a few suggestions about what I think should be in there. I don't think you have taken them.

You know, Collin has been a pilot for many, many years, and that's certainly something to consider for a portrait. He has been shooting birds out of the sky for a long time. And his music makes all of our hearts soar. But I like what Father Coughlin said because I really think it's the most apt description of Collin Peterson, and that is he's a down-to-Earth guy.

And I worked with Charlie Stenholm my first 2 years as Chairman, and when Charlie didn't come back, I suddenly got Collin, who I had

known for many years, but hadn't worked with very closely. And we had to build a relationship, and we did. And he's become a great friend both when I was having the opportunity to be Chairman and when he was Chairman. We had a great partnership. It didn't seem to matter a whole lot how much input we had, who was holding the gavel. I think, as Frank said, that's an indication of how this Committee has worked in a very bipartisan way to get things done for American agriculture. And certainly Collin Peterson has played a key role in that over the last many years and is well deserving of having this portrait, even if there is not a guitar or a rifle or an airplane in it. I don't know what we are going to see in it.

But I'm glad that so many of his friends and our friends are out here today to celebrate this day with him. And he certainly has my best wishes and my thanks for being a great friend, a great partner for American agriculture.

Collin, congratulations.

Mr. BIEGING. And now without further ado, let's hear from Collin Peterson.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE COLLIN C. PETERSON

Mr. Peterson. I get to speak before Speaker Boehner? You know how long-winded I am, right?

Well, thank you very much. Thank you for all of you being here this evening.

David, thank you for helping put this together.

And, Debbie, you did a great job. I did not want to do this. This is not my style, you know? And she kept bugging me, and finally we found an artist. And then the artist told me that I was going to have to sit there for 3 or 4 hours. There's no way in hell that's going to happen. So I did give her about 10 minutes to take some pictures, and she came back with a sketch, and it was pretty good. I thought it was fine. It was good as far as I was concerned. She took about 10 minutes more of pictures. So that was quite a bit for me to put up with. But anyway, we got them done.

So I see a lot of my colleagues here.

Senator Klobuchar, I appreciate you coming over.

She did a great job for us in Minnesota. We are counting on her to help us get a good Farm Bill out of the Senate, and I know it's going to happen.

We have a lot of my colleagues here. Don Young stuck around. My good buddy, former Chairman Buck McKeon, another Chairman. I have a lot of chairmen here. Chairman John Kline from Minnesota. Chip Cravaack, a new Member from Minnesota. Jean Schmidt. Joe Baca. They are bipartisan right up in front. I'm going to forget somebody. Tim Walz. How could I forget Tim? And Mr. Boswell, Rosa

DeLauro, John Larson. Who am I missing? Mike Conaway. David Scott. Ralph Hall, one of my oldest buddies. If Ralph will stick around, Ralph and I do a wonderful rendition of *Wolverton Mountain*.

We have sung together how many times, Ralph?

Mr. HALL. About 100.

Mr. Peterson. Ralph and I are going to sing a little *Wolverton Mountain* if you stick around.

I don't know who else I missed here. We have former Congressman Mike Sandlin and Stephanie Herseth Sandlin. And Joe Donnelly. Larry Kissell is here. Anyway, we have a great turnout. We appreciate you all being here.

But I wanted to introduce my family, if I could. I have my father here. He is Lauren Peterson. He is only 91 years old. So they came out. And my son Sean, his wife Kristen, and my granddaughters Karly and Karis right over here. They are from northern Minnesota, about 60 miles north of me. They teach school, both of them, up in northern Minnesota. My middle son lives in Minneapolis, works for Microsoft, and travels around the country some. And my youngest son Elliott, and his wife Janae, and my granddaughter Tori. And Collin, my grandson, who is 16 now, could not be here because he got one of the leading roles in *Phantom of the Opera*. He is quite a musician himself, singer, and they could not get away from the rehearsals because they are going to start this weekend or whatever. So people back home have told me I have got to hang in there another 9 years, and then he will be able to run for Congress. They will never know the difference.

Anyway, so they are all here. And then I have over 50 people from my family. Back around are all my family. They brought a bus out from Minnesota. There is 50 of them or so on the bus. It took them over 24 hours.

So I have six sisters. Why don't my sisters stand up. Carol, my oldest sister; Connie, over here; and Mary, Karen, and Trish, and Margaret. And the rest of the husbands and wives and nieces and nephews. And last night we were over at the Capitol, and it was quite a commotion trying to keep them all organized.

But we have a big family, and they're having a good time, except this morning. They went to the White House for the White House tour, and they get over there, and they're standing outside the White House, and it poured. And they didn't have umbrellas and whatever, so they got a little wet. But anyway, I very much appreciate everybody being here.

It's been a tremendous honor for me to not only serve my district in Minnesota for the last 21 years now, but also to have the opportunity to serve on the Agriculture Committee and to be able to have the opportunity to serve as Chairman. It doesn't happen for very many people, and it's one of those deals where I was just in the right place at the right time, and you know, things happen.

I had a great committee to work with. Bob Goodlatte couldn't have been a better colleague. We overcame two vetoes and a lot of other stuff that went on in between, but we got a good product out and were successful, and there were many nights when I was not so sure that we were going to be successful. I didn't get a whole lot of sleep there for a couple of years.

And Larry Combest, I think, is here, too. There he is way in the back, another one of our great former chairmen. And, Larry, I'm going to say this: You know, you wrote the best Farm Bill except for the one that Bob and I both wrote. But Larry did a great job as Chairman, and we have, as was said earlier, a long history of bipartisanship, working together for the good of America.

In this Committee it's not about Democrats and Republicans; it's about what we think is the right thing for the country. And I am just proud to be able to serve what I think are the real people in the country. And I get a chance to go all over and meet folks in every part of the United States, and that's been one of the joys of this. And the farmers and the people that are in the rural areas, they're the real people. They still make things. They make this country work. They're the ones that supply most of the kids for the military that keep this country safe. And they're the real deal. So I am proud to be able to have been able to serve and do my part.

So thank you all very much for being here.

And what are we going to do now, Debbie? Okay. We're going to have my dad. The Speaker is going to come over, Speaker Boehner. I guess we're going to unveil it, and then you're going to make a speech.

REMARKS OF SPECIAL GUEST THE HONORABLE JOHN A. BOEHNER

SPEAKER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker BOEHNER. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome.

Mr. Peterson, that is your son. I know it doesn't look like him, but that is your son.

Let me try to be brief because I know a lot of people have been standing for a long time.

It's nice for me to be back in the Agriculture Committee. I certainly have a lot of very good memories of serving in this room. And I don't know how many of you are aware of this, but Collin and I came to Congress together 21—well, 20 years and 5 months ago, whatever it's been, and we came and served on the Agriculture Committee together. It's not as though we agree every day on everything, but we always had a very, very good relationship.

This is a nice portrait, but I am not sure that it captures the true Renaissance man that we know as Collin Peterson. I mean, think about this, how many people can fly an airplane, wield a guitar, wield a gavel, wield a rifle and a voting card? But he's dangerous with all of them is what I know.

Collin, I think you have said it best earlier. You know, we get an opportunity to serve here in Congress, and we get to put our fingerprints on a lot of history. But you know, we all come, we all go. And the greatest part of our jobs is that we get to meet people that we would have never met but for the fact that we were in Congress and got to meet people in our districts who we would never know, got to meet people all over the country that we would never know, and got to work with people here that we would have never known. I will get it out.

You know, Collin, you were introducing your brothers and sisters, and I couldn't help but remember the one night that somebody asked me to name my 11 brothers and sisters. I was fine, bang, bang, bang, bang. I got through 10 of the 11. I am looking at my one brother. I would see his face, but his name never came out. So a good job. You almost missed the last one.

But anyway, Collin, I'm going to say thank you for your service to the House, your service to the Agriculture Committee. I congratulate you on your Chairmanship of the Agriculture Committee. And I know it's a proud moment for you to have your portrait hung in this room where you've spent so many wonderful hours. And with that, it's my great honor and privilege to accept this portrait into the collection of the United States House of Representatives. Thank you all very much.

Mr. BIEGING. Mr. Speaker, it says a lot about you and a lot about your relationship with Collin that you are here. I think you are the busiest man in Washington today.

I want to introduce to you the artist who has painted this wonderful portrait, Leslie Bowman, based in Minneapolis. She paints portraits around the country. She does a terrific job. She is a wonderful person to work with as well. Say hello and thanks to Leslie Bowman.

REMARKS OF LESLIE W. BOWMAN

Ms. BOWMAN. I just want to say thank you very much. Thank you, Congressman Peterson, for the 20 minutes. I didn't realize how valuable they were until now. And I have to thank Debbie and Cherie, who really made this thing happen. It's a real honor. Thank you all very much.

Mr. BIEGING. Okay. Well, I think that's it. We are going to have the Chaplain come up here in a second. The band is going to fire up here shortly. So anybody that wants to can stick around.

Mr. Peterson. We have a new Member, Steve Fincher, who is a new Member from Tennessee that was elected last year. He is on the Agriculture Committee. It turns out he is an accomplished bass player and singer. His family has a gospel music business, I guess. His dad and uncles have been singing for 60 years, and so he has joined the band. We still haven't found a Member that is a drummer. So we are still relying on former—oh, there he is. This is Mr. Fincher. He is now one of my good buddies. He is a heck of a musician.

Kenny Hulshof, who a lot of you know, was a Congressman from Missouri for many years and ran for Governor in 2008. He was not successful, but now he is back as a lawyer or whatever, a lobbyist. I guess you don't like being called a lobbyist. So he is here when we're here. So we have got him back in the band. So we're counting him as a Member too

So we are, as far as we know, the only Congressional, parliamentary and rock and roll band in the world, and we have a good time.

Anyway, thank you all very much. And we'll get to the Chaplain.

BENEDICTION

Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin

Reverend COUGHLIN. We are going to ask for God's blessing while they get set up.

May the Lord bless and increase crops and livestock for us and products of this Earth. May continued efforts to the science, conservation, and investment enhance the future of America's growth.

Lord, bless the efforts of the House Agriculture Committee, its Members, and staff. May their collaborative work better the family life of America's farmers and feed the hungry wherever they may be.

God, our Creator, bless Congressman Collin C. Peterson, his family, and friends. Grant him health, happiness, peace of heart, and joyful music now and forever. Amen.

[Whereupon, at 6:33 p.m., the portrait unveiling concluded.]

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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

111th Congress

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