At 92, Carroll discusses his life and legacy

BY JACK BRAMMER
KENTUCKY LANTERN

FRANKFORT

At age 92, former Kentucky Gov. Julian Carroll sits in a recliner at his Franklin County home, talking about his glory years in politics and the six-page program-in-progress on a nearby stand.

The program is titled "Julian Morton Carroll: A Lifetime of Public Service." It contains a portrait of him, his bio and a program that will include family and Democratic and Republican colleagues.

It is to be distributed when Carroll lies in state in the Capitol Rotunda. He says he has no idea when that will be but that he is ready mentally and spiritually.

Carroll has been under limited hospice care for about six months. Family members now attend to him. He takes oxygen. He can't walk without assistance. His hands tremble.

But his memory of years gone by is sharp.

His red-brick home is in an isolated, heavily wooded area of Franklin County known as Deer Run Farm. It is remote but only six miles from the hustle and bustle of the state Capitol where he served as governor from December 1974 to December 1979.

The former Democratic governor has lived on the property for about 40 years and has enjoyed its calming solitude. It is filled with memories, especially of his wife, Charlann Harting Carroll. She died in 2014. They had been married for 64 years.

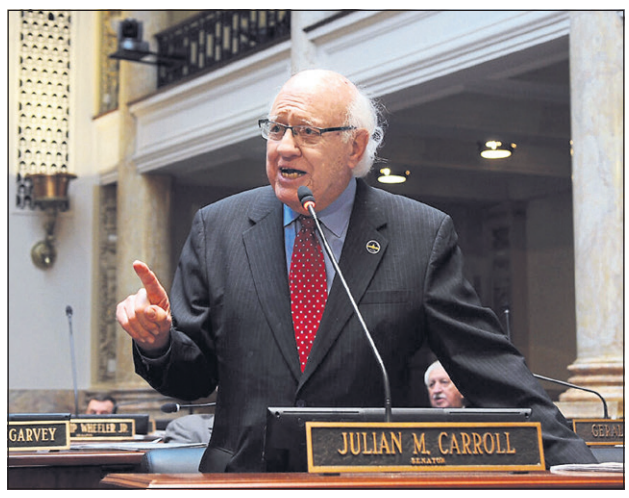
Kentucky's 54th governor talked for nearly two hours about the good and the bad of his life and its winding down. As he spoke, he frequently adjusted the oxygen tube to his nose.

A large-screen TV was not far away on which he regularly watches the news and religious programs, especially sermons of Pentecostal televangelist Jimmy Swaggart.

Surrounding his recliner were several chairs for guests who drop by to chat with him, mostly about his years in Kentucky politics. A walker is near his chair to assist him when he stands.

"I'm doing as well as I can be expected," he said. "I can't walk by myself any longer. The oxygen seems to be getting more a problem. I go to the kitchen at night for dinner and occasionally go out to eat with a friend."

He then smiles and says ever hopeful, "The way I look at it is I'll be 93 soon (next April 16) and then 94. I have been blessed.



Legislative Research Commission

After serving as House speaker, lieutenant governor and governor, Julian Carroll returned to full-time law practice before serving again in the General Assembly as state senator. His last term in office ended in 2020.

BEFORE POLITICS

Born in 1931 to Elvie "Buster" and Eva Heady Carroll in West Paducah, Carroll was one of 11 children and still amazed to have been part of such a large family. Six of the siblings became college graduates.

He was a good student. Near the end of 1950 when he was 19, he began dating Charlann Harting. They parted ways the next year so she could attend the University of Kentucky and he the nearby Paducah Junior College.

After their first college year, they decided to get married. They eventually had four children — Kenneth, Patrice, Brad and Elly.

Family remains important to Carroll. He has seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He used to make chocolate chip cookies for them on Sundays.

After graduating from the University of Kentucky Law School in 1956, Carroll served three years as an Air Force attorney and then returned to Paducah to practice law.

He garnered public attention when he successfully led a public campaign to allow the Tennessee Valley Authority to provide electricity at lower costs. The referendum passed by a 3-1 margin and Carroll became a household name in the county. He became active in civic affairs and was a frequent lay speaker at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

He was ripe for the political world.

THE STATE HOUSE

Carroll was elected to the first of five two-year terms in the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1962 and held its highest office, speaker, from 1968 to 1970.

As House speaker, Carroll inherited a chamber where lobbyists frequently roamed the floor and family members came and went as they wanted. Carroll removed the lobbyists and family members from the floor to provide more decorum. Soon afterwards, the members gave him a standing ovation for the move, saying it made them more professional.

The governor was Republican Louie Nunn.

"Louie was a country lawyer and we got along really well," Carroll said. "Of course, we had our differences. I voted against his raising the state sales tax. It was a gutsy move on his part but it destroyed him politically."

The sales tax increase was called "Nunn's nickel" by his political opponents and he never won another election. Carroll's critics say he got to spend all the money when he was governor that Nunn had raised.

"I just thought the increase (from 3 to 5%) was too much," Carroll said.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Carroll said he "flat out campaigned, shaking over 7,000 hands and beat" the popular Attorney General John Breckenridge in the 1971 Democratic primary election for lieutenant governor. He won the office by defeating Lexington businessman Jim Host in the general election.

Carroll was the informal running mate of former Gov. Bert T. Combs, who was seeking a second term. (The governor and lieutenant governor were elected separately at the time.) Combs, however, lost to Democrat Wendell Ford of Owensboro. Ford beat Republican Thomas Emberton in the fall's general election.

As Ford's lieutenant governor, Carroll said he "felt ignored. Wendell just sort of ignored me."

But Ford later came calling on Carroll, urging him to run for the U.S. Senate in 1974 against Republican Marlow Cook.

"I kept telling Wendell no, that I wanted to stay in Kentucky," Carroll said. "I remember that night when some of us were meeting and I kept refusing. Wendell slammed a tablet on the table and used a well-known profanity to say he was going to run."

With Ford's departure to Washington, Carroll was elevated to the governorship. He won a four-year term as governor in his own right in 1975.

As governor, he says he was most proud of increasing funding to education — doubling some teachers' salaries — and promoting the coal industry during a national energy crisis.

He also was governor when Kentuckians approved a constitutional amendment in 1975 to reorganize the state's judicial system.

His toughest problem to deal with, he said, was the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire.

The fire in Southgate in Campbell County occurred on the night of May 28, 1977. In it, 165 people died and more than 200 were injured. The state found numerous code violations and initiated new safety policies.

His biggest disappointment as governor, he says, was "dealing with the FBI."

Carroll and his predecessor were under the cloud of an investigation for an alleged workers compensation insurance kickback scheme. They never were convicted of any wrongdoing. Howard "Sonny" Hunt, a former state Democratic Party chairman, pleaded guilty to taking kickbacks from state insurance contractors and served time in prison.

"I consider him as a friend," Carroll said of Hunt. "He comes to visit me and I enjoy his company."

THE STATE SENATE

After the governor's office, Carroll practiced law in Frankfort. In 2004, he was elected to the Kentucky Senate. He served there until he retired in 2020.

Republicans were taking control of the state and ruled the state Senate.

David Williams, a Burkesville attorney and former House member, had become the Senate president in 2000. He was smart and adept in keeping the Republican caucus together.

"I learned quickly that the best way for me to deal with David Williams was to stay out of his way," Carroll said.

Williams left the Senate in 2012 to become a circuit judge. His successor as president was Clay County attorney Robert Stivers, who still holds the post.

"Robert Stivers was willing to work with me. I appreciated that very much," says Carroll. "When I retired, he wrote me a personal note. Robert Stivers is a real gentleman."

Carroll does not have such feelings for Senate Majority Leader Damon Thayer of Georgetown.

"He's overbearing, like Napoleon," Carroll said. "He likes to run things but he has a hard time doing that."

Carroll attributes his party's decline in power in Kentucky to the abortion issue.

"It's ironic that the Republican Party's cry against abortion helped them in gaining public offices but it's hurting them now because most people are concerned about what happens when the mother's life is in danger or rape or incest occur."

Carroll also gives U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell much credit for building up the Republican Party in Kentucky.

"He's tough, very tough. I knew him as a county judge. He has totally dedicated himself to the Republican Party." McConnell was Jefferson County judge-executive before unseating Democratic U.S. Sen. Walter "Dee" Huddleston in 1984.

A bright light for Democrats in Kentucky, Carroll said, is Gov. Andy Beshear, who recently won re-election against Republican Attorney General Daniel Cameron.

"Andy Beshear has been a very good governor but I really don't know if he will reach the national stage," Carroll said. "The Republicans will be out even more so now for him to make his life miserable. I wish him well."

Carroll said he will be interested in politics until his last breath.

THE AFTERLIFE

Carroll said he is most positive about his faith.

He is a member of Elevate Church, an Assembly of God congregation. He likes to talk about his Christian beliefs, including that "mercy and grace for an eternal life in heaven" await those who believe.

"The Lord has been so good to me," Carroll said. "Every night before I go to bed, I thank the Lord for letting me have another day."

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

LEGAL

Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Comprehensive Agency Plan of the Campbellsville Housing Authority is on display for the next 45 days beginning Monday, November 13, 2023 and ending on Thursday, December 28, 2023. The Plan can be reviewed, by appointment, at the Campbellsville Housing Authority located at 400 Ingram Ave, Campbellsville, KY 42718 during normal business hours. Any comments must be made in writing to:

Campbellsville Housing & Redevelopment Authority
P. O. Box 597 Campbellsville, KY 42719

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of the Campbellsville Housing Authority will hold a public hearing on Friday, January 5, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. at the Campbellsville Housing Authority, 400 Ingram Ave., Campbellsville, KY 42718. Any person unable to attend the public hearing in person may contact the Campbellsville Housing Authority for other options. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the Comprehensive Agency Plan.

LEGAL

POLICY OF NON-DISCRIMINATION
SECTION 504
PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is published pursuant to the requirements of 24 CFR Part 8 Nondiscrimination Based on Handicap in Federally-Assisted Programs and Activities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as published in the Federal Register on June 2, 1988. Section 8.4 prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals because of their handicap status.

Taylor County Fiscal Court advises the public, employees and job applicants that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities.

Taylor County Fiscal Court has designated Melissa Williams to coordinate efforts to comply with this requirement. Inquiries should be directed to: Taylor County Fiscal Court, Attn. Melissa Williams, 203 North Court St. Suite 4, Campbellsville, Ky. 42718. Phone: 270-465-7729. Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

EMPLOYMENT

Position Available

The Campbellsville Housing & Redevelopment Authority has the following position available:

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC

Accepting applications for a Maintenance Mechanic. Position performs general maintenance for Public Housing units. Should be familiar with all types of general maintenance. Required to work with all employees and residents of the Housing Authority. Must be able to abide by all Housing Authority rules and regulations. Must be willing and able to obtain Pest Control Certification within first year of employment.

Must have High School Diploma or GED, maintenance experience preferred.

Must have a valid Kentucky driver's license and be able to operate a variety of equipment and use a variety of hand tools.

Position has a starting wage rate of $15.00/hr. with an outstanding benefits package including health and dental insurance, retirement, sick and vacation time, and multiple paid Holidays.

Pre-employment drug test and criminal background check required. Application can be picked up at the Campbellsville Housing & Redevelopment Authority at 400 Ingram Ave., Campbellsville, KY. Return application to Campbellsville Housing Authority, Attn: JH, P.O. Box 597, Campbellsville, KY 42718. Applications will be accepted through December 1st, 2023.

The Campbellsville Housing & Redevelopment Authority is a drug free workplace and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TAYLOR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that David Matthew Wooley of Campbellsville, Kentucky has qualified as Executor of the Estate of Maxine Wooley of Campbellsville, Kentucky on this day November 14, 2023. All creditors must file claims by May 14, 2024. Fiduciary represented by Hon. John D. Bertram of Campbellsville, Kentucky. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Travis E. Payne, Jr. of Campbellsville, Kentucky has qualified as Executor of the Estate of Anna Catherine Payne of Campbellsville, Kentucky on this day November 16, 2023. All creditors must file claims by May 16, 2024. Fiduciary represented by Hon. Elmer George of Lebanon, Kentucky. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sandra K. Jones of Caldwell, Idaho has qualified as Executor of the Estate of Carroll Lee Lawhorn of Caldwell, Idaho on this day, November 13, 2023. All creditors must file claims by May 13, 2024. Fiduciary represented by Hon. Wesley E. Bright of Campbellsville, Kentucky. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Todd Reynolds of Campbellsville, Kentucky, has qualified as Executor of the Estate of Charles Ancil Reynolds of Campbellsville, Kentucky on this day November 21, 2023. All creditors must file claims by May 21, 2024. Fiduciary represented by Hon. Angela M. Call of Campbellsville, Kentucky. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Patti Langston of Hawaii has qualified as Personal/Representative of the Estate of Carolyn Gardner Crenshaw of Hawaii on this day November 21, 2023. All creditors must file claims by May 21, 2024. Fiduciary represented by Hon. John D. Bertram of Campbellsville, Kentucky. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that April Dawn Bowen of Campbellsville, Kentucky, has qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Michael Lynn Bowen of Campbellsville, Kentucky on this day November 21, 2023. All creditors must file claims by May 21, 2024. Fiduciary represented by Hon. Mackenzie DeSpain Smith of Campbellsville, Kentucky. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk

Michael Ralls, Rachel Reynolds and Nathan Ralls, Co-Administrators of the Estate of Charles William Ralls, has filed Final settlement this November 9, 2023. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on December 13, 2023. Any exceptions to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Paul Malone, Executor of the Estate of Willard Marshall Malone has filed Final settlement this November 9, 2023. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on December 13, 2023. Any exceptions to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Ricky Edward Cox, Executor of the Estate of Helen V. Cox has filed Final settlement this November 14, 2023. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on December 13, 2023. Any exceptions to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Joe DeSpain, Executor of the Estate of Robert L. Doty has filed Final settlement this November 14, 2023. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on December 13, 2023. Any exceptions to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Lisa Harris, Co-Executrix and Jermey Ogelvie, Co-Executor of the Estate of Linda Ogelvie has filed Final settlement this November 22, 2023. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on December 13, 2023. Any exceptions to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Cheryl Anne Sanders, Executrix of the Estate of Pauline Mardis Graves has filed Final settlement this November 22, 2023. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on December 20, 2023. Any exceptions to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Kelly and Timothy Dillander of Campbellsville, Kentucky has qualified as Guardian in regards to Greyson Dillander of Campbellsville, Kentucky on this day November 8, 2023. All creditors must file claim by May 8, 2024. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Kelly and Timothy Dillander of Campbellsville, Kentucky has qualified as Guardian in regards to Levi Dillander of Campbellsville, Kentucky on this day November 8, 2023. All creditors must file claim by May 8, 2024. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The 2023 Audit for the County Clerk's office has been completed and the letter from Mike Harmon, Auditor of Public Accounts has appeared in an earlier issue of the Central Kentucky News Journal.

This notice is to inform the public that:

*A complete copy of the audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information, is on file at the County Clerk's office and is available for public inspection during normal business hours.

*Any citizen may obtain from the County Clerk a copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information, for his personal use.

*Citizens requesting a personal copy of the audit report will be charged ($0.25) per page.

*A copy of the financial statement prepared in accordance with KRS 424.220 is available to the public at no cost at the Auditor of Public Accounts, 209 St. Clair Street, Frankfort, KY 40601.

CENTRAL KENTUCKY NEWS-JOURNAL
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