

Tarleton State University

Dedication of
Congressman Charlie Stenholm Gallery
October 23, 2010

*Excerpts from
President F. Dominic Dottavio's Remarks*

Welcome to Tarleton's Homecoming Weekend, and especially, welcome home to a '59 Tarleton graduate, Congressman Charlie Stenholm and his wife Cindy.



What better place to say “welcome” than the Tarleton Center, home of our Welcome Center. This is the first stop for hundreds of prospective students and their parents. In fact, last year we had a record number of campus visitors, leading to our largest-ever freshman class this fall.

We are honored and delighted that students will have the opportunity to see The Stenholm Gallery and the recreated office of the Congressman.

A farmer, teacher, business executive, and 13-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Charlie Stenholm's long and distinguished career in public service is a model for others.



This unique gallery and the papers associated with it, will encourage leadership and service by our students, faculty, staff and alumni in their communities, careers, and the world.



As Congressman, Charlie Stenholm was well known and highly regarded for his ability to work across party lines for the good of the people. On the House Agriculture Committee, he brought bipartisan leadership to issues affecting the agriculture industry and the health and welfare of our nation.

Today, Mr. Stenholm continues to represent agricultural interests on matters before Congress. He also continues to be a champion for Tarleton in Washington and was instrumental in creating one of the great points of pride of Tarleton – the Center for Agribusiness Excellence.



This gallery brings to life our commitment to expand the horizons of all members of our Tarleton community. Through the Congressional papers that he donated to our library, students and scholars can learn much about the issues of budget, energy, healthcare, agriculture and other matters that he addressed during his 26 years of service in Congress.

There are over 400 of his papers currently being sorted and organized by the University archivist. These materials provide insight into the early history of the Blue Dog Democrats, the Conservative Democratic Forum (Boll Weevils), the balanced budget amendment, and the Farm Bill.

We talk a great deal about helping each student see the link between their academic endeavors and real world events. This Gallery and the papers associated with it, makes service real. It makes Congressional leadership seem more accessible and it inspires others to seek opportunities to serve.



The theme of this year's Homecoming Celebration is "Celebrating the Spirit of Tarleton." No one exemplifies that spirit more than Charlie Stenholm.



We are enormously proud of the Congressman as a Tarleton graduate. We are very grateful for his consistent advocacy for Tarleton State University and the impact he has had on our growth and expanding excellence.

To recognize his service and to thank him for his loyalty and leadership, today we dedicate The Stenholm Gallery.

