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Rep. Dunn accepts the Champion of Choice Award

Last week school choice advocate Ketch Secor of Old Crow Medicine Show presented the Tennessee Federation for Children's Champion of Choice award to Representative Bill Dunn (R-Knoxville).

Accepting the award, Representative Bill Dunn said, "I really do appreciate this award, and I hope that one day we can add to it with congratulations for finally getting the ball across the goal line."

"We need legislators like Bill Dunn who share this passion," said Ketch Secor. "I want to thank Legislator Bill Dunn for his commitment to educating

the next generation and working to make sure schools like the Episcopal School of Nashville are able to fulfill its mission."

"We want to be the best. Another tool in that toolbox is going to be educational savings accounts," added Speaker Glen Casada. "I think now is the time to pass those. Let's put that tool in the hands of families so they in turn can provide what is best for their children. If they live in Dresden or Franklin or Mountain City or Memphis. We do not want to lose another year of our children being the best they can be."



Pictured right to left, Tennessee State Director of the American Federation for Children Shaka Mitchell, Rep. Bill Dunn and Ketch Secor of Old Crow Medicine Show. Photo courtesy of National School Choice Week.

Senior Spotlight

Walter Maples reflects on 90 years



PHOTO BY ROSE KING

Walt Maples shares a laugh with Mike Steely during a visit to The Focus offices last week. Learn about Walt and other seniors in this special Silver Edition of The Knoxville Focus.

By Mike Steely
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Walter Maples turned 90 years old this month. If you ask him what ninety years gets you, Walter will tell you.

"I've had an abundant life, the blessing of God not with money but with things we had a need of," he said as he talked with The Focus' Mike Steely recently.

Walter and his wife, Margie, were married for 70 years and had three children. "It was a very genuine love," he said of Margie, who passed away last summer. Their children James Anderson Maples, Francis Drucella Maples and Amy Louise Maples were all born between 1951 and 1960.

"She was a Christian woman and we had a life together dedicated to the Lord. I felt the Lord blessing on us and he supplied the needs we had. I hope our lives gave an example that God is the head of the

household," he said

Although Walter and Margie attended school together it wasn't until Walter was pitching softball in the Class A league at Old Knoxville High School when he met her. He explains her father operated the concession stand at Winona Avenue ballfields where she worked. Walt said he was known then by other players as "Side Arm Maples" in the league.

The couple dated and after high school Walt went to work for Graybar Electric as a salesman. On April 17, 1948 they were married and he worked for the company for many years.

In 1957 Walter was transferred to Bristol where he and Margie lived for four years. Asked about his favorite time in his professional years he cited these years in Bristol where he sold Zenith and Gibson appliances to stores.

"I was the manager and loved dealing with people," he said.

The Maples family returned to Knoxville and were very active in church.

"She was a Presbyterian and I was a Baptist. She asked me to start going to her church and I did. We became members of Wallace Baptist Church. She played a wonderful piano and we were always involved in church choirs, in Gospel Music. I was a Music Director in two churches," he said

Maples explained that about 17 years ago he and his wife started a senior ministry and choir called the "TOTS" which was short for The Old Time Singers. The group lasted for many years and only stopped performing two years ago. They would visit nursing homes and churches.

"I remember going to Holston Nursing

Continued on page 2

City may extend ban of electric scooters

By Mike Steely
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The Knoxville City Council is being asked by the City Law Department to extend a moratorium on electric scooter rentals downtown until a pilot program has been developed. The first moratorium was passed in September and the law department wants another 90-day prohibition to study the issue and draft an ordinance that might permit the scooters.

The initial prohibition expires and the new 90 day moratorium would begin February 9 and extend until August 8.

In other business Mayor Madeline Rogero is asking the council to approve the appointments of Kim Bumpass, Gwen McKenzie, Carline Covington and Jeannie Bennet to the public arts committee and to reappoint Susana Esrequis, John Powers and Tanisha Baker to that committee.

The mayor is also asking that Avis Reid be reappointed to the community television committee and adding Jim Idol to that group.

On second and final reading the council may give \$5,000 to the Dr. King Commemorative Commission from the Community Relations Budget.

Three rezoning requests are before the council for property on East Scott Avenue, Pleasant Ridge Road and East Woodland Avenue.

An appeal by John Shirley of a Board of Zoning Appeals denial of plans for the Chief Building at 6721 Kingston Pike is before the council.

The council meets tomorrow at 6 p.m. in the City-County Building downtown.



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