

# **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

*The Island University*

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## **‘A Night with Good Time Charlie’ Offers Opportunity to Meet Congressman Made Famous by Movie Starring Tom Hanks ‘Charlie Wilson’s War’ tells story of Texan’s crusade to help Afghan rebels**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Charlie Wilson, the former Texas congressman who found post-Washington fame as the hero of a Hollywood blockbuster about the clandestine operation that helped end of the Cold War, will be the guest of honor at “A Night with Goodtime Charlie” at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, at the Congressman Solomon Ortiz International Center.

The event, which includes a dinner and post-speech question-and-answer session, is the first in a series of fundraisers to support an endowment to bring noted speakers to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Earlier in the day, Wilson will speak to students at the Island University.

In the 2007 movie “Charlie Wilson’s War” the former representative from Texas’ 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District is portrayed by Academy Award winning actor Tom Hanks who jumped at the chance to co-produce and star in the movie after reading the book by George Crile. During an interview at the movie’s Los Angeles premier, Hanks called Wilson an iconoclastic American who breaks all the rules. “I just viewed him as a fascinating character to try to get under his skin,” Hanks explained.

Wilson bucked the Republican trend that put Richard Nixon in the White House when he was elected to congress as a liberal Democrat in 1972. But his later support for the Afghan resistance became a major part of the “Reagan Doctrine” which resulted in the Red Army’s first battlefield defeat and hastened the collapse of the Soviet Union.

For information on table sponsorships and individual tickets, call 361.825.2420.

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