

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024

Statement on the Death of Representative William J. Pascrell, Jr.

August 21, 2024

Jill and I and the entire Biden family are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Bill Pascrell, Jr., a 27-year Congressman for New Jersey at the U.S. House of Representatives.

Bill was a colleague and dear friend. I had the privilege of working with him for decades on issues ranging from the Fire Grants and Safety Act for the well-being of first responders and their families, to veterans medical care, international trade, tax fairness, labor unions, and so much more.

Over the course of our 30-year friendship, Bill defined himself as a devoted patriot, a gentleman, and an exemplary leader. A beloved bridge builder and champion for working class people, Bill fought relentlessly to ensure their voices and needs were at the center of policymaking. I always knew Bill's positions were guided by his deep conscience and convictions.

Throughout his career, Bill carried with him the memory of his humble beginnings. A grandson of Italian immigrants, Bill was raised in Paterson, New Jersey, to a loving mother and devoted father who worked on the railroad. He went on to serve in the Army and the Reserves, then as a public high school teacher, a State legislator, a mayor, and a Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives for nearly three decades. He lived an extraordinary life of accomplishment and service.

Along with his remarkable contributions, Bill will be sorely missed and lovingly remembered for his fighting spirit, his kindness, and his warmth.

On behalf of a grateful nation, we send our love to Bill's beloved wife Elsie Marie, as well as his sisters, sons, and grandchildren. May God bless our dear friend; may God bless a great American.

NOTE: The statement referred to Barbara Pascrell and Joyce Ferraro, sisters, and David, Glenn, and William J. Pascrell III, sons, of Rep. Pascrell.

Categories: Statements by the President : Representative William J. Pascrell, Jr., death.

Names: Biden, Jill T.; Ferraro, Joyce, ; Pascrell, Barbara; Pascrell, David; Pascrell, Elsie Marie; Pascrell, Glenn; Pascrell, William J., III; Pascrell, William J., Jr.

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