

Bill Ritter was born on a farm in Colorado and is one of twelve children. He worked construction and used work-study programs to put himself through Colorado State University where he graduated with honors. He subsequently earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado School of Law and served as a former Assistant United States Attorney and Chief Deputy District Attorney. Bill married Jeannie Lewis Ritter and they have raised a family of four: August (William), Abraham, Samuel and Natalie. In 1987, Bill interrupted his legal career to manage a food distribution and nutrition center in Zambia for three years.

Former Governor Roy Romer appointed Bill Ritter to serve as District Attorney for the Second Judicial District of Colorado in 1993 and he has since been reelected District Attorney three times by the people of Denver. Bill understands that he has a public trust of considerable magnitude and he has been resolute in his commitment to protect the safety and welfare of our citizens. He and his staff are responsible for the prosecution of more than 5,000 felony and 15,000 misdemeanor cases every year. But for Bill Ritter, protecting the integrity of the legal process matters and he has done much to bring greater transparency and innovation to the District Attorneys Office. Whether helping our senior citizens fight scams, cracking down on identity theft and check-fraud, advocating for reasonable gun laws, fighting for needed funding to place juvenile offenders in effective programs, or advocating for responsible domestic violence laws, Bill Ritter has provided serious and thoughtful leadership on issues of public consequence. He has created a number of forward-thinking programs including the Denver Drug Court, Victims Services, Community Prosecution, Juvenile Diversion and the Courtrooms to Classrooms program. Many of these programs serve as models for other judicial districts in the nation.

Bill Ritter is nationally recognized on issues ranging from community justice, juvenile diversion and white-collar crime. He has served as faculty for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, The National District Attorneys Advocacy Center and the National Conference on Juvenile Justice. He is past president of the Colorado District Attorneys Association, Chairman of the Board of Project P.A.V.E. (Promoting Alternatives to Violence Through Education), President of the American Prosecutors Research Institute and is a board member of the National District Attorneys Association, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and the Mile High United Way.

Bill Ritter has burnished a reputation as a powerful advocate for victims' rights and new approaches to both prevent and deter crime. But more importantly, he is a decent human being and his career has been defined by the courage to adopt new ideas and take the necessary risks to implement them. His efforts have made a real difference and under Bill Ritter's leadership, the Denver District Attorney's Office has made a positive impact on our justice system and improved the quality of life in our community.

Bill Ritter's tenure as Denver District Attorney is quickly drawing to a close. His leadership has been exemplary and he has labored diligently to preserve and improve the administration of justice. His contributions are rich in consequence and on behalf of the citizens of the 1st Congressional District, I wish to ex-

press our gratitude and look forward to his continued involvement in our civic life.

Please join me in commending William Ritter, Jr., a distinguished citizen and public servant. His character, leadership and accomplishments command our respect and serve to build a better future for all Americans.

HURRICANE RELIEF GOOD DEEDS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of recent catastrophic events in Florida of four consecutive hurricanes, it would be easy to dwell on the thousands of tragic stories that have impacted almost all Floridians. Not only was power lost throughout millions of homes statewide, houses were leveled or left in shambles, and lives have been lost. It is certain that these dark stories overshadow our thoughts, but it is important to let people know that there are indeed uplifting stories, and to let people hear about those as well.

When it became apparent that Hurricane Charley would wreak havoc across the State, many companies sprang into action to help in their unique ways: Procter & Gamble provided items such as Bounty paper towels, Mr. Clean, Always hygiene products, Pringles potato chips, and lams pet food. Tyson delivered more than 110,000 pounds of pre-cooked chicken, and two trailer loads of ice that had been donated by Wal-Mart. Pfizer, donated prescription drugs to compensate for closed pharmacies, and Bristol Myers Squibb donated 150 cases of infant formula, 50 cases of water, 500 cases of Excedrin, 5,000 pairs of socks, and seven different prescription medicines. General Mills donated over 20,000 cases of food including soup, cereal snack bars and vegetables. General Motors gave three Hummer H2s, equipped with OnStar Satellite communications. And this is just products: companies, including their employees personally, from Johnson & Johnson to Home Depot to Goldman Sachs have donated tens of thousands of dollars.

Countless meals and snacks have been served for going on 6 weeks now, to hurricane-damaged counties in Florida, with thousands more available from Federal, local and private agencies. Emergency housing, clothing and other aid is also being provided. We have organizations set up for the purpose of collecting donations for the Florida Hurricane Relief Fund. One such organization consists of members of the Business Roundtable.

After Hurricanes Charley and Frances steamrolled through Florida, Ivan followed in their paths. CIGNA Pharmacy Management announced soon after that its Florida members would be able to obtain refills on their prescriptions ahead of schedule. "We know that one of the important steps our members need to take to prepare for a severe weather situation such as Hurricane Ivan is to be sure they have an adequate supply of any needed prescription drug on hand," said James Bryant, President of CIGNA Pharmacy Management. "That's why we want to make it as easy as possible for members to get prescriptions filled in advance." CIGNA emphasized that members who are taking life-sustaining medica-

tions, or one that require regular administration, fill up on their prescriptions as soon as possible.

And Floridians haven't just jumped in with tangible supplies and money, but with their own blood, sweat and tears. The Florida Hospital Association communicated efficiently and frequently on hospital updates. FHA also organized a rapidly deployable network of help from all hospitals throughout Florida to make sure that all areas have received invaluable medical and nursing manpower. It has not been uncommon that nurses, med techs, and doctors have sacrificially left their own damaged homes to go care for others.

Finally, here is an excellent display of private-public collaboration and flexibility. Right before Hurricane Frances, the Florida Bankers Association, the U.S. Treasury, the U.S. Postal Service and the Social Security Administration sprang into action together. Social Security checks were scheduled to be either deposited into bank accounts electronically, or mailed out hard copy, on Friday, September 3, the day Frances was scheduled to touch down. Due to the imminent approach and anticipated disruption, the Treasury Department asked banks to make available a day early—September 2—electronic funds transfers (EFT) of the monthly checks that retirees and the disabled depend upon. And, the Post Office made every effort to deliver all checks, and where mail was undeliverable, set up areas for beneficiary pick up of checks. Talk about flexible and cooperative service, I even had one Post Office employee in my district go above and beyond and wait Thursday evening after closing for a worried family to pick up their check. Leland Adams of the Post Office in Bell made himself available for this family after hours, in case they decided to evacuate town before the P.O. would open in the morning of September 3rd.

It is this spirit of cooperation, community-mindedness, corporate and public goodwill and personal fortitude that has gotten Floridians through the past 6 weeks. Mother Nature may slow Floridians down, but there's no stopping us. We will get through this.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN LAND FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian Land of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brian Land for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 30, 2004 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 5

- 9:30 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the progress of the Millennium Challenge Corporation. SD-419
- 10 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings to examine redesigning the social security disability process. SD-215
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine public-private partnerships to improve nutrition and increase physical activity in children. SD-430
- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine opening the presidency to naturalized Americans. SD-226
- Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gregory E. Jackson, to be an

Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD-342

OCTOBER 6

- 9:30 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the impact of current visa policy on international students and researchers. SD-419
- 10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Judiciary
To hold joint hearings to examine responding to an ever-changing threat relating to BioShield II. SH-216
- 2:30 p.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the report of the Special Advisor to the Director of Central Intelligence for Strategy Regarding Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs. SH-216