

A TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL
BENJAMIN SAXON BRYAN,
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today and honor Lance Corporal Benjamin Saxon Bryan of my hometown of Lumberton, North Carolina. Earlier this week, Lance Corporal Bryan was killed in the line of duty while serving the people of this great nation in Iraq.

Ben Bryan joined the Marines in 2000 after graduating from Lumberton High School and was serving in the infantry Company L, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment stationed out of Camp Pendleton, California. Lance Corporal Bryan was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Lance Corporal Bryan's love for his fellow man and for the values this nation holds dear—and his life's commitment to defending those values—can best be described by three simple, but profound words: spirit, service, sacrifice.

It was Lance Corporal Bryan's spirit that made him the man that he was—a spirit that recognized and honored values beyond the material, temporal, and physical things of this world. Lance Corporal Bryan's unselfish and unabated service was reflected in his strong work ethic, his strong sense of patriotism, and his strong love for his family and his country. With a strong spirit and unwavering service, Lance Corporal Bryan made the ultimate sacrifice. He risked his life to ensure the safety of others. His valiant actions demonstrated that he knew that freedom is not free. His sacrifice was rich in integrity and reminds us of the gratitude we, as citizens of this great nation, should have toward him and toward all of our servicemen and women.

We owe Lance Corporal Benjamin Saxon Bryan our sincere appreciation for his years of committed service to our nation. His devotion to the people of the United States should serve as an example to us all.

May God bless his family, and may God bless this great nation.

RETIREMENT OF LEANNA M.
GOUTHRO AFTER 31 YEARS WITH
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Leanna M. Gouthro, a constituent of mine from Silver Spring, MD, who will be retiring at the end of this month after 31 years of service with the Federal Government. Ms. Gouthro's most recent, and longest, Federal service has been with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The mission of the FDIC is to provide stability to the Nation's financial system by insuring depositors' funds up to \$100,000 and by supervising over 5,000

state-chartered banks that are not members of the Federal Reserve System. Ms. Gouthro has contributed to the FDIC's mission through her extraordinary accomplishments in the agency's Office of Legislative Affairs.

While they may not realize it, many of my colleagues who have sent inquiries to the FDIC over the years have benefited from the talents and energy of Lee Gouthro. When Lee joined the FDIC in 1987, there was no system in place for tracking congressional correspondence, other than a rudimentary hard copy filing system. She recognized the opportunity created by computers and set up a system that would impose controls and accountability for correspondence tracking, seeking special permission from then-Chairman William Seidman for the acquisition of a personal computer—the first one obtained for any of the FDIC's executive offices. As many of my colleagues may remember from the late 1980s through the mid-1990s, the banking and savings and loan industry was, to say the least, in great turmoil. The impact on our constituents was extremely difficult.

Lee not only handled the FDIC's correspondence system, but implemented the system for the Resolution Trust Corporation and was instrumental in hiring and training personnel for handling the RTC's system. With over 2,100 bank and savings institutions failing during this time period—with almost three-quarters of a trillion dollars in assets—many of our constituents faced uncertainty on loan payments, checking accounts, safe-deposit boxes—many of the things they take for granted. Over this time period, the constituent complaints and correspondence became increasingly complicated, sensitive and controversial. Lee was always the consummate team player and never deviated from her focus on quality, accuracy and responsiveness to the Congress. She developed and managed a process that provided answers to congressional inquiries in an average of 2 weeks, an exceptional standard of excellence that allows Senators and Members of Congress to address issues promptly. The result of Lee's overall efforts is a correspondence system that is a model for other regulatory agencies and government offices. Officials from the White House, Federal Reserve Board, Comptroller of the Currency, Office of Thrift Supervision and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board have either visited the FDIC's offices to see her first-class system or have invited Lee to their offices to consult in setting up their own correspondence systems.

As Lee Gouthro retires, I know that my colleagues join me in wishing her well in her future endeavors and expressing our appreciation for her service to the American people and their elected representatives.

RECOGNITION OF JOEL A. KAGANN
OF WOODRIDGE, IL, ON THE OC-
CASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a man who exemplifies the very

best in public service. His name is Joel Kagann and his service to the people of the Village of Woodridge and the County of DuPage is unmatched. His contributions are many, and his dedication to the highest ideals of service has been unwavering.

Like so many other outstanding and unsung public servants, Joel Kagann began his career as a police officer. That was almost fifty years ago, back in 1957 when the Village of Woodridge was just beginning to attract returning servicemen looking for a great place to raise their young families. Working his way up through the ranks, Joel was named Chief of Police for the Village of Woodridge, a post he held for nearly a decade, until his retirement in 1978.

For most mere mortals, that would be enough. But not for Joel Kagann.

A natural born leader, Joel became Mayor of Woodridge—not because he was ambitious or yearning for more, but because his fellow citizens entered his name as a "write-in" candidate on the ballot in 1973. That same year, his leadership talents again were recognized when he was appointed Administrative Assistant to the DuPage County Circuit Clerk.

Again working his way up through the ranks, Joel became Senior Executive Assistant and then Chief Deputy Circuit Court Clerk. In 1991, when his predecessor retired, the DuPage County Circuit Court appointed him to the office of Clerk of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court of DuPage County. He was elected to the post the following year, and again in 1996 and in 2000.

Despite the demands of his professional obligations, Joel always found time to volunteer on local and statewide committees and groups, including the Illinois Association of Court Clerks, where he served as President in 1999. He holds multiple life memberships in organizations such as the International, Illinois, and DuPage County Chiefs of Police Associations, the Illinois and DuPage County Police Associations, Lions Club, Loyal Order of Moose, Knights of Columbus, Boy Scouts, and Woodridge Special Events Committee. Joel is also a founding and active member of Saint Scholastica Roman Catholic Church in Woodridge and was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Village of Woodridge in 1987.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to imagine where the Village of Woodridge or DuPage County would be today without a man named Joel Kagann. For 47 years, he has given, and given again, and given still more. He has inspired countless other young public servants to give their very best efforts to the people they serve.

Those who have worked with and for him are loyal and devoted fans who will follow him anywhere. His commitment and tireless efforts as a public servant serve as inspirations to us all. He is a decent man, a giving man, and a man who I am so proud to call my friend.

I am happy to join so many others in congratulating him on his retirement and wishing him all the best in the years to come. He will never be repaid for the goodness he has so generously shared with others, but I guess if you're a man named Joel Kagann, you would never expect it.