

HONORING REVEREND CANON  
CHARLES POINDEXTER

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2010*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Reverend Canon Charles Poindexter. I would like to congratulate Rev. Poindexter on his recent installation as Rector Emeritus of Saint Luke's Church in Germantown, PA.

Reverend Poindexter has spent his entire career dedicated to his community as a clergyman, educator, and civil rights advocate. In 1968, Rev. Charles, then Rector of St. Barnabas Church, merged his black congregation with the local white congregation to form a newly integrated church to serve as a beacon for the community. This was an expression of Rev. Charles' heartfelt belief that when "Christians decide to unite, race becomes secondary."

Rev. Poindexter was also committed to the education of the next generation. In 1969 he founded St. Barnabas School to help provide quality education to those who needed it. As Headmaster he promoted the values of education, stewardship, and positive citizenship.

Madam Speaker, as Saint Luke's prepares to celebrate its 200th anniversary I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Canon Rev. Poindexter on his new position as Rector Emeritus and thank him for his long service to his community.

REPUBLICAN YOUNG CUT PROGRAM

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2010*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my dismay at this Congress for not listening to the American people. With over 1.9 million votes cast, the Republican YouCut program has given Republicans, Democrats, and Independents around the country an avenue to take part in their government like never before. However, each YouCut proposal to make common sense cuts to wasteful spending has been blocked by the Democrat majority.

Since President Obama took office, the private sector has lost three million jobs, while the Federal civilian workforce has grown by nearly 15 percent. This week's proposal, sponsored by Representative LUMMIS, would reduce government employment to the 2008 level and save taxpayers \$35 billion over the next 10 years.

In these uncertain and tough economic times, we should take immediate action to cut spending and facilitate long-term private sector economic growth. Unfortunately, I was unable to cast my vote in time to support this week's YouCut proposal. I ask that the record reflect to my constituents and the American people that I would have supported Representative LUMMIS' proposal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2010*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on September 16, 2010, I inadvertently missed rollcall Nos. 529 and 530, but had I been present I would have voted "yes" on both votes.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRANCINE  
RYAN FOR HER 50 YEARS OF  
SERVICE TO CENTRAL OHIO

**HON. MARY JO KILROY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2010*

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Francine Ryan for her almost 50 years of service to the City of Columbus.

Fran began her career as a reporter for the Columbus Citizen working full time while in college. She started as the editor for that newspaper's teen page. In 1956 she married her husband Dick Ryan and they went on to have 5 children—Rick, Terry, Ted, Mary Kay and Tom—and now they have 11 grandchildren.

In 1970 Mrs. Ryan ran for, and won, a position on the Columbus City Council. During her two terms on the council, Fran helped to lay the foundations for Columbus' many community councils and area commissions and worked to start up food pantries; one of them eventually became the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. She left city council when President Jimmy Carter named her administrator for a 6-state region in the Department of Labor.

After the Carter administration, Mrs. Ryan returned to Columbus and became city clerk. She held that position until being named to the Franklin County Board of Commissioners in 1984 by Governor Richard Celeste. After this appointment expired, she returned to her previous city clerk position.

In 1987 Fran Ryan was named chairman of the Franklin County Democratic Party, becoming the first woman in Ohio to hold that position for either party in any of Ohio's major urban centers. She held that position until 1996. Recently, Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman named Mrs. Ryan to be his advisor on senior issues.

During her retirement, Fran has helped found and is acting chairman of the Senior Services Roundtable, a community organization of more than 200 member groups and businesses dedicated to serving our elderly. Fran Ryan is being presented with the Heritage Award for Caring by Heritage Day Health Centers on September 22.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MID-  
SHIPMAN JEFFREY WARREN  
MASCUNANA

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2010*

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jeffrey Warren Mascunana,

a hero and dedicated servant to his Lord and our nation. Jeff was born at the Tuttle Army Health Clinic on Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Georgia on December 8, 1969, to Chief Warrant Officer George Mascunana and his wife Rose. Jeff descended from Cuban immigrants and his great-grandfather help found one of the oldest Spanish-English newspapers in the United States, "La Gaceta," in Tampa, Florida. His father, George, served two tours of duty in Korea.

Jeff attended St. James Catholic School, then Benedictine Military School in Savannah. His family actively served as members of St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church. At Benedictine, Jeff participated in many sports, including football, basketball and track & field where he excelled in many events. Jeff was not a starter on the football team, but was often heard to say "At least I'm on the field and not in the stands," indicative of his desire to not be an observer in life. All of his friends and classmates remember his wide smile and devious sense of humor.

At Benedictine Jeff also served four years in the school's Reserve Officer Training Corps program, attaining the rank of Cadet Captain. He graduated in 1988.

Upon graduation, Jeff harbored a desire to serve his country in the United States Navy. Through perseverance, he obtained entrance to the Boost program, and an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, class of 1993.

At Annapolis, in the 23rd Company, Jeff found his home. He trained to be a Surface Warfare Officer, working towards his degree in Political Science. He competed on the rowing team, as well as track & field. His classmates remember him as the friend who would help them all through the tough times inherent in such a rigorous setting. On weekends, he seemed to be on yard restriction as often as not. Undaunted, Jeff would organize groups to visit those midshipmen and active duty personnel whose duties required that they remain on post, offering light-hearted moments and friendship to his fellow classmates. He also worked with a local church, helping to organize a support group for women victimized by abuse. Indicative of Jeff's love for Annapolis, he wanted to carry a piece of it with him at all times. When the time came to design his USNA class ring, Jeff broke with the tradition of choosing a precious stone for the design. Instead, he found a loose piece of marble in the dormitory, Bancroft Hall, and had part of that stone fitted to his ring. The remaining piece of marble hangs around his mother's neck in a beautiful pendant. Jeff's ring now occupies a place of honor in the Ring Bank in the United States Naval Academy Museum, the repository for the class ring of each class' first deceased member.

In the early morning hours of May 26, 1993, just a few hours prior to graduation, Midshipman Jeff Mascunana lost his life while trying to summon help for Ms. Julie Ann Mace. Ms. Mace, his date for the evening's graduation ball, was injured and tragically died as the result of an automobile crash. Jeff died a hero, unselfishly trying to help another.

At Jeff's Naval Academy graduation later that day, his chair sat empty, his class one sailor short. His family, proudly assembled to see Jeff's greatest achievement, instead joined his class to mourn the loss of their son, grandson, brother and friend. His friends and

family buried Jeff in his Navy dress whites a few days later in Savannah.

While Jeff completed his academic requirements to obtain his degree from the Naval Academy, unfortunately he never received his commission as an ensign even though he was mere hours away from realizing that lifelong goal. While a posthumous commission would be fitting, the Navy could find no provision for doing so.

Later this fall, Jeff Mascunana's classmates from the Benedictine Military School class of 1988 shall gather to dedicate a memorial in his honor. Further, a scholarship fund will be established in his name. The scholarship shall be awarded to a young Benedictine Cadet, enabling him to attend the Benedictine Military School that helped make Jeff Mascunana the hero that he was.

Jeff learned the values that made him such a great man from his parents and from his education. I would like to recognize Benedictine Military School, an institution that has molded leaders since its founding in 1902 in Savannah, Georgia. For over 100 years, the priests, faculty and military personnel have educated young men in the Judeo-Christian tradition of academic excellence, good moral living, respect for authority, and love of country. On these principles, Benedictine builds men of virtue and integrity, ready to serve their faith, their community, and their country.

#### HONORING JERRY STEVENSON

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Jerry Stevenson of Charles City, Iowa, who recently was awarded the Pilgrim Degree of Merit by the Loyal Order of Moose.

Jerry Stevenson, who was a member of the order for 36 years, was inducted into the Pilgrim Degree of Merit for services above and beyond the call duty to the Charles City Moose Lodge and to the Loyal Order of Moose as a whole. Jerry is now among an elite group of about 3,000 members who have earned the Pilgrim Degree of Merit—the highest honor that can be given by the organization—and the coveted gold jacket that comes with it.

The Loyal Order of Moose is a fraternal and service organization founded in 1888, with nearly 800,000 men in roughly 1,800 Lodges, in all 50 states and four Canadian provinces, plus Great Britain and Bermuda.

The Loyal Order of Moose, along with other units of Moose International, supports the operation of Mooseheart Child City & School, a 1,000-acre community for children and teens in need, located 40 miles west of Chicago; and Moosehaven, a 70-acre retirement community for its members near Jacksonville, FL. Additionally, Moose Lodges conduct approximately \$50 million worth of community service annually, both through monetary donations and volunteer hours worked.

I am honored to represent Jerry Stevenson in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Jerry and wishing him continued success.

KANSAS FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE WESLEY BROWN STILL HEARING CASES AT AGE 103

#### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2010*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take note of U.S. District Court Judge Wesley Brown, who is still hearing cases in his chambers in Wichita, Kansas, at the age of 103. Appointed to the federal bench by President John F. Kennedy, Judge Brown has taken senior status but still hears cases and is now the oldest sitting federal judge in the United States. I commend him to my colleagues and thank him, on behalf of all Kansans, for his decades of judicial service, which began at an age when many Americans begin contemplating retirement.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 16, 2010]

AT 103, A JUDGE HAS ONE CAVEAT: NO LENGTHY TRIALS

(By A. G. Sulzberger)

WICHITA, KS.—Judge Wesley E. Brown's mere presence in his courtroom is seen as something of a daily miracle. His diminished frame is nearly lost behind the bench. A tube under his nose feeds him oxygen during hearings. And he warns lawyers preparing for lengthy court battles that he may not live to see the cases to completion, adding the old saying, "At this age, I'm not even buying green bananas."

At 103, Judge Brown, of the United States District Court here, is old enough to have been unusually old when he enlisted during World War II. He is old enough to have witnessed a former law clerk's appointment to serve beside him as a district judge—and, almost two decades later, the former clerk's move to senior status. Judge Brown is so old, in fact, that in less than a year, should he survive, he will become the oldest practicing federal judge in the history of the United States.

Upon learning of the remarkable longevity of the man who was likely to sentence him to prison, Randy Hicks, like many defendants, became nervous. He worried whether Judge Brown was of sound enough mind to understand the legal issues of a complex wire fraud case and healthy enough to make it through what turned out to be two years of hearings. "And then," he said, "I realized that people were probably thinking the same thing 20 years ago."

"He might be up there another 20 years," added Mr. Hicks, 40, who recently completed a 30-month sentence and calls himself an admirer of Judge Brown. "And I hope he is."

The Constitution grants federal judges an almost-unparalleled option to keep working "during good behavior," which, in practice, has meant as long as they want. But since that language was written, average life expectancy has more than doubled, to almost 80, and the number of people who live beyond 100 is rapidly growing. (Of the 10 oldest practicing federal judges on record, all but one served in the last 13 years.)

The judiciary has grown increasingly reliant on semiretired senior judges—who now shoulder about a fifth of the workload of federal courts. But recently, some courts have also started taking steps that critics call long overdue to address the challenges that accompany jurists working to an advanced age.

"Attention to this area is growing in the judiciary," said Judge Philip M. Pro, a dis-

trict court judge in Las Vegas. Judge Pro leads the Ninth Circuit Wellness Committee in California, which focuses on age- and health-related issues facing judges. A similar committee is being established in the 10th Circuit, which includes Kansas.

"Most judges take pride in their work," Judge Pro said. "They certainly want to be remembered at the top of their game. But a lot of time you're not the best arbiter of that—it's hard to see it in yourself if you're having difficulties."

Lawyers and colleagues who work with him say that is certainly not the case with Judge Brown.

True, the legal community here has grown protective of him over the years. In his younger days, he was so well known for his temper—lateness, casual dress and the unacceptably imprecise word "indicate" would all set him off—that before hearings one prominent defense lawyer used to take a Valium, which he called "the Judge Brown pill."

Now, lawyers use words like "mellowed," "sweet" and "inspirational" to describe him, and one longtime prosecutor began to cry while talking about his penchant for gallows humor. "Sorry," she said. "It's just I can't imagine practicing without him."

A few years ago, when they noticed that while speaking in court Judge Brown would occasionally pause, sometimes for what seemed like minutes, lawyers, clerks and fellow judges worried that they were witnessing the beginning of a decline that would make him incapable of doing his job. But he began using an oxygen tube in the courtroom, and the pauses disappeared. (During an hourlong interview in his chambers, he paused briefly just once while trying to recall the last name of Earl Warren, the former chief justice of the United States, but he was without his oxygen tank.)

The consensus is that Judge Brown is still sharp and capable, though colleagues acknowledge that his appearance can be startling. "Physically he's changed a lot, but mentally I haven't noticed any diminution of his ability," said Judge Monti L. Belot, the former law clerk who now has his own courtroom in the same building, "Which has to be pretty unique."

Nevertheless, Judge Brown has begun making a few concessions to his age. He still hears a full load of criminal cases, but now he takes fewer civil cases, and he no longer handles any that may result in lengthy trials. He spreads his hearings throughout the week to keep his strength up, and he no longer takes the stairs to his fourth-floor chambers.

Though most federal judges could resign outright and continue to receive their full salary once they reach 65, a majority—like Judge Brown—elect to move to senior status, a type of semiretirement that allows them to continue to work at a full or reduced level. The courts have become deeply reliant on such judges to handle the caseload, but they have also struggled with how to ease out judges whose desire to keep working no longer matches their ability.

In rare circumstances, a panel of judges can vote to remove another judge because of disability, which has happened only 10 times—most recently in 1999. Or, the chief judge of the court can stop assigning the cases to the judge. More often, a trusted colleague will be enlisted to suggest retirement or reassignment to ceremonial duties, said Judge Marcia S. Krieger, a district court judge in Denver who has been surveying judges in the 10th Circuit about aging issues.

Judge Brown has taken the step of asking a few trusted colleagues, including his longtime law clerk Mike Lahey, to tell him when they believe he is no longer capable of performing his job. "And," the judge said, "I