

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

hope when that day comes I go out feet first."

Born on June 22, 1907, in Hutchinson, Kan., Judge Brown, who had become a prominent local Democrat, first sought appointment by President Harry S. Truman to the federal bench while serving as a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II (at 37, he was the oldest man in his unit). He failed, but in 1962, after a stint as a bankruptcy judge, he was appointed to the district court by President John F. Kennedy. He earned a reputation as a pragmatic jurist whose middle-of-the-road rulings reflect a desire to apply rather than make the law.

Judge Brown is one of four Kennedy appointees still on the bench and the oldest federal judge in the country by six years, according to the Federal Judicial History Office. The only judge to serve at a later age was Joseph W. Woodrough, who was on the Eighth Circuit until 1977, when he died at 104.

For his part, Judge Brown is dismissive of talk of his place in the record books and tired of all the fuss over his birthdays. "I'm not interested in how old I am," he said. "I'm interested in how good a job I can do."

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSUMPTION SCHOOL IN ANSONIA

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Assumption School, a Catholic school for pre-kindergarteners, kindergarteners, and grades 1–8 in Ansonia, Connecticut.

For a century now, the Assumption School has helped to mold generations of young Catholic men and women according to the precepts of its motto: "Enter to Learn; Go Forth to Serve." It has taught Ansonia's students to nourish their minds and hearts, to reach out and work hard. It has helped them to integrate the Catholic faith into their daily lives, and, according to the best tenets of our faith, encouraged them to give back to their community and their neighbors.

Assumption itself is no exception to this wise calling. Over the years since its September 1910 founding, the School has taken on an increasingly broader role in the Ansonia community. Assumption now offers before and after school child care to working parents, through its ACCENT program, as well as a diverse portfolio of extracurricular activities, from athletics and youth choir to a Big Brother/Big Sister Program and a school newspaper. In all of these ways, Assumption helps students to grow and learn, while honoring their faith and their community.

I heartily congratulate Principal Kathleen Molner and the entire faculty and staff of the Assumption School on reaching this 100-year milestone. Here's to many more!

COMMENDING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. ANGEL TELEPHONE

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mt. Angel Telephone in Mt. Angel, Oregon, on the occasion of their 100th anniversary of being in business.

The City of Mt. Angel was founded in 1893 by German pioneers, due to its striking resemblance to rural Bavaria. In 1910, a local telephone company was organized and 45 customers were signed up in no time at all.

On the occasion of Mt. Angel Telephone's 100th anniversary celebration on August 20, 2010, the company sponsored its annual Customer Appreciation Day with community booths that attracted thousands of visitors to the community.

This event included a street fair, free community lunch, the Mt. Angel Police Department Bike Rodeo, free sight and hearing tests by Mt. Angel Lions Club, the "Phone Walk", an antique vehicles display, and activities for children.

Officers of the Mt. Angel Police Department offered free bike helmets to all children that participated in the rodeo. The Mt. Angel Lions Club and the Oregon Lions Mobile Health Screening Unit provided free health screenings to the public for visual acuity, hearing, blood pressure, diabetes, and glaucoma.

Finally, the Mt. Angel Apple Tree School Supply program took in donations for local students in need of school supplies. The drive helps parents with children in the local school district who find it difficult or impossible to afford school supplies.

Mt. Angel Telephone is more than just a company. It's a central part of the community and economy of the rural City of Mt. Angel, and it's always providing more than just telephone and internet services. It's providing a model of how a local business survives to become a centurion and how to give back.

Madam Speaker, while 100 years have now passed since Mt. Angel Telephone was founded, I am honored to represent this company and the City of Mt. Angel. I congratulate Mt. Angel on their centennial celebration and hope the company enjoys another 100 years of growth and prosperity.

HONORING MR. SHANNON McDANIEL

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Shannon McDaniel, a long time advocate for water users and agricultural producers in the State of Washington. Mr. McDaniel's much deserved retirement comes after 30 years of service to irrigated agriculture. In his current position as the Secretary/Manager of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District, Mr. McDaniel manages an irrigation district that provides water to 230,000 acres of irrigated land and 4,000

landowners and farm operators in the south-eastern part of Washington State.

Mr. McDaniel is an expert and a true leader in the water resources field. He has testified before Congress many times over the course of his career, helping inform both the House and Senate on legislation and other matters important to water users and agricultural producers. His expertise has also been vital to the management and delivery of water to farmers in the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District. Throughout his career, he has developed strong working partnerships at the local, state and federal levels, particularly in his involvement with the Bureau of Reclamation's Columbia Basin Project.

Mr. McDaniel serves as a mentor and advisor to many irrigation district managers in the Pacific Northwest. He has selflessly given his time to, and been actively involved with many professional and civic organizations including: the Family Farm Alliance, the National Water Resources Association, the Washington State Water Resources Association, Northwest Irrigation Operators, Leadership Tri-Cities and the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation. As a result, his peers have bestowed many awards on him throughout his career, including the National Water Resources Association President's Award, the Bonneville Power Administration's Administrator's Excellence Award for Exceptional Public Service, the Washington State Water Resources Association Water Resources Leadership Award and the Northwest Irrigation Operators Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. McDaniel's many contributions to Western irrigated agriculture are immeasurable. Although he is retiring from public service, his leadership, dedication and expertise will be valued and appreciated for generations.

HONORING JED STEELE OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today as co-founder of the Congressional Wine Caucus to pay tribute to Jed Steele for 42 years of excellence in the wine industry.

Mr. Steele began his journey as a cellar worker at Stony Hill in Napa Valley in 1968. From there, he received his Masters in Enology from UC Davis and went to work at Edmeades Vineyards in Mendocino County. He moved on to Kendall-Jackson in Lake County in 1982. By the time Jed left Kendall-Jackson in 1991, they increased production from 35,000 cases to one million cases and had become one of the premier wineries in California. In 1991, Jed founded Steele Wines in Lake County and to this day makes some of the most highly-regarded wines in the world.

Mr. Steele is a true giant in the wine business. He made 74 wines that scored 90 points or higher in the Wine Spectator. Six of his wines made the "Top 100 Wines of the Year" list in the same publication. In 1989, Wine and Spirits Magazine named Jed Winemaker of the Year. In 1990, he received the Robert Mondavi trophy as the Best California Winemaker from the International Wine Society in London.