

business—Lydia's Prescription Pharmacy—an independent pharmacy on San Antonio's south side. Adolfo provided high quality pharmacy services to the area residents while also mentoring many Mexican-American youth to pursue higher education in the health professions.

For over 30 years, Lydia's Pharmacy served the residents of the south side of San Antonio until Adolfo's retirement. During those years, Adolfo together with his wife Lydia, raised their family and served their community. In 1986, the family suffered the tragic loss of the youngest child, Rebecca Christina, "Becky". Despite this incredible loss, Adolfo and his family, with the love and support of family and friends, worked through their grief and continued to thrive. Adolfo and Lydia will celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary on January 26, 2013 and their remaining four children have led successful careers in law, health care, and public health. In addition to running a business and raising a family, Adolfo earned a second degree in business administration; found time to serve as a board member of the St. Peter's/St. Joseph's Children's Home; became a member of the Our Lady of Grace Knights of Columbus; and traveled with friends and family within the U.S., Europe, and Mexico. He is a longtime Spurs fan and enjoyed their first of four championships like most San Antonians did, by riding through downtown in an impromptu celebration! He is also a devoted grandfather to his seven grandchildren.

Again, please join me in recognizing a true community leader in San Antonio on his 80th birthday, Adolfo Jesus Valadez.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMAN ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anthony Portantino for his six years of service in the California State Assembly. A graduate of Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania, Assemblyman Portantino started out with a successful career in the entertainment industry. He produced and co-wrote a multitude of film and TV productions, including independent historical films highlighting racial issues in American history.

Mr. Portantino was then elected to the La Cañada Flintridge City Council in 1999 with over 70 percent of the vote. As a member of the City Council/School District Joint Use Committee, he played a pivotal role in procuring funding and services for local public schools. Mr. Portantino continued to serve as a member of the Council for nearly eight years and served two terms as its Mayor in 2001 and in 2005. He resigned in 2006 upon his election to the California State Assembly.

During his years in the California legislature, Assemblyman Portantino served the 44th District with great distinction, championing tougher regulations on firearms and successfully passing 38 bills into law.

He presided as Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Higher Education and was a member of the Transportation, Government Organization and Public Safety Standing Committees. He also served as a member of the

Assembly Select Committees on the Preservation of California's Entertainment Industry, Foster Care, and Community Colleges. Assemblyman Portantino has been recognized by his community for his extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Gold Line and for his exemplary service as a state legislator.

As a strong advocate for transparency and accountability in state finances, and a champion of health care issues, Assemblyman Portantino will be missed in the Assembly and by his constituents, but I know he will continue to represent the needs of his community in any endeavor he chooses to pursue hereafter. I join my colleagues in thanking him for his service and wish the Assemblyman, his wife Ellen, and their children Sofia and Isabella, the best in this new chapter of their lives.

REMEMBERING JOE McNULTY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to remember a former member of my staff who lost his battle with cancer two weeks ago today.

Joe McNulty was my deputy press secretary and director of online communications. He worked for me from the summer of 2009 until this July, when he left to go to law school at the University of South Carolina. Joe was an important member of my staff and will be missed dearly.

Joe was an amazing individual and certainly left his mark on this world, as evidenced by the number of people who attended his memorial service at Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield, Virginia on December 10. Aside from family, friends and co-workers, classmates from high school and college were in attendance as were friends and neighbors of his parents, Paul and Brenda, and three sisters, Katy, Anni and Corrie.

People came from as far away as Spain for the service. There were friends from the church he attended and members of his college club soccer team. His principal from Robinson high school came, as did the school's choral director. The current U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia was at the service (Joe's father was the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia from 2001–2006) as were several other assistant U.S. attorneys from the office and a number of U.S. Marshals.

Joe's passing also made Politico's Playbook, something everyone on Capitol Hill reads every day and Joe devoured every morning.

The service for Joe was deeply moving. The pastor of his church in Fairfax spoke at the service, as did the pastor of the church he started attending in South Carolina, where he was attending law school. Both talked about Joe's strong faith in the Lord.

Joe's best friend, Steve Brewer, talked about how they met as freshmen in high school and said Joe was the best friend anyone could ask for. He told a story about how on a recent birthday the Washington area was paralyzed by a massive snowstorm, yet Joe managed to dig out his car and drive across town so his best friend wouldn't be alone on

his birthday. That spoke volumes of Joe's loyalty and the value he placed on friendship.

Joe's older sister, Katy, spoke on behalf of the "McNulty Women." She reminisced about how she and "Joey" would play for hours on end as toddlers and that Joe was always a good sport about playing the things that his older sister always wanted. She also talked about how "Joey" cared about his sisters and always looked out for them.

His father, whom I have known since his days when he served on the House Judiciary Committee, described how Joe always put others first, even in his darkest hours. He emphasized how much Joe would want to thank everyone for all they have done for him through the years and for coming to his memorial service. He told a story about how as Joe was once being wheeled into an operating room he asked the nurses to stop so he could thank them and the doctors for all they were doing for him. One of the nurses said no one had ever done that before. That was Joe. Always putting others first.

Paul also stressed Joe's unwavering in his courage, especially as he received one piece of bad news after another yet always helped his family and friends get through all it. Paul said Joe referred to his courageous reaction to news about spreading cancer as "a leadership moment."

His family has carried on Joe's spirit, sending out this message a few days after the service: "On behalf of all the McNulty's, I [his mother, Brenda] just wanted to say THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH for all of your selflessness over the weekend as you prepared, and on Monday for Joe's service. It was above and beyond anything we could ever hope for or imagine and we are so very grateful. . . . Every word spoken and every song sung ministered to us and to everyone there. So many people have been telling us that they appreciated the scriptures, were moved by the whole tone of the service, and gained a new appreciation for Joe and all he was about. We truly appreciate all you did to participate in the service and wish we could give you all a huge collective hug but mere words will have to do."

I was honored to speak at Joe's service on December 10. Below are my remarks:

I am speaking today on behalf of my entire staff, who worked with Joe and loved Joe. We extend our condolences to Brenda and Paul and the rest of Joe's family.

Joe started in the Wolf office as an intern but left as a vital part of our staff. He always wanted to be a prosecutor like his father. That drove him.

I know my staff would have liked him to have abandoned those plans for our own selfish reasons because of the talents he brought to the office. He always pushed us to find new and more creative ways to reach constituents. He was a trend setter on Capitol Hill for communicating online. Other offices would regularly reach out to him asking for advice. He also was active in the Republican Communications Association, serving as its treasurer and reinvigorating the organization with great speakers and social events.

Joe brought an incredible work ethic to the office. No job was too menial; no task insurmountable. He also had an unbelievable reservoir of energy. There were nights that he would play sports until the wee hours of the morning but be at his desk first thing in the morning ready to conquer the world.

He never really stopped working. My staff got an e-mail from him just the other day making sure we had seen an article on an

issue the office has put a lot of time and effort into.

Everyone who knew Joe well knew that he could be stubborn at times—stubborn in a way you don't often find in his generation; the kind of stubbornness that stems from deep integrity and a willingness to fight for what he believed was right.

It was this same quality that drove him to keep working even during the toughest hours of his fight against cancer. Even on the most challenging days, Joe would come in to the office ready to work, and work hard. We practically had to order him home to rest up. Joe had an uncommon drive and commitment to public service.

Joe had an infectious smile and a great personality. Everyone loved being with him and he was always setting up office outings for the staff. In small Hill offices, where everyone attended different schools, there are friendly rivalries, particularly among Virginia schools.

Joe was part of the JMU mafia in the office, which at one point outnumbered all the staff from other Virginia schools and they never let anyone forget that, especially that JMU once beat Virginia Tech in football. Joe was proud to be a JMU Duke and volunteered with the JMU Alumni Association and the JMU Politicos, the school's Capitol Hill networking group.

Joe loved to eat, and for a little guy he could eat. He holds the office record for eating six giant glazed donuts in one day. One of his going away presents was donuts.

Joe also valued public service, which led him to take the next step in his career: law school. Although we missed him after he left our office this summer, we were so proud of him for getting into University of South Carolina. He pursued his dream of law school, daring to envision a future even when so much was uncertain about the present.

I want to read from parts of an email Joe sent to the staff on his last day in the office this summer:

"I just wanted to say thank you to all of you one more time. It has truly been an honor and privilege to work with all of you. I have learned so much working with all of you over the past three years and each of you have encouraged me and taught me lessons that I will never forget. I think it is important for all of us to remember how blessed we are to have the opportunity to serve our country. I know it's hard to remember that on a daily basis but that is truly what you are doing when you work for a member of Congress. You are serving the people of your community and you ARE making a huge difference.

"... My time on Capitol Hill has also taught me that many people are really cynical and believe that all politicians are corrupt. "It's easy to reach a point where you think that it's too hard to enact real change or get the big things done. But this is a mentality I think we should try to suppress. If you believe in something and you want to enact change, then get in there and fight for what you believe in. That's what public service is all about. If you think you have good ideas that can help people, don't be afraid to fight for them. Don't let the weekly scandal or negative news story discourage you from trying to help people or make a difference in your country."

Joe wanted to make a difference. And he did. But it was a life cut painfully short. Joe was a man of faith and scripture tells us

In Ecclesiastes 7:2

"For death is the destiny of every man the living should take this to heart."

We here today should take it to heart.

In Psalm 103:15, King David said:

"As for man, his days are like grass. He flourishes like a flower of the field, the wind

blows over and it is gone and its place remembers no more."

It's apparent even as the cancer attacked his body, that Joe's soul was strengthened by his faith in Jesus, a faith which only grew in the face of circumstance that would dictate otherwise. In an e-mail to a staff member before leaving last summer he wrote:

"There is no way I could have gotten through my bout with cancer had I not had a foundation in Christ. Reading my Bible was the one thing that gave me hope and encouragement when I was in pain and sick."

We grieve Joe's passing but we celebrate his life and know he has entered eternal life with his savior and Lord. Our goal should be to live a life of faith so that we can one day join Joe in the House of our Heavenly Father.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 2012, I was attending to a sick friend and comforting his family and was unable to vote on rollcall vote 628.

If present, I would have voted "yea" on S. 3193.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I did not return to Washington in time on Monday December 17, 2012 and missed two votes.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 4606—To authorize the issuance of right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines in Glacier National Park, and for other purposes (rollcall 627), "yes" on S. 3193—To make technical corrections to the legal description of certain land to be held in trust for the Barona Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes (rollcall 628).

RECOGNIZING COLONEL ROBERT M. WALTERMEYER

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Robert M. Waltemeyer of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), who will retire from the United States Army on January 11, 2013 after thirty years of distinguished service.

Colonel Waltemeyer was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 1983. In 1987 he entered Special Forces (SF) and commanded his first SF detachment in Bad Toelz, Germany, where he implemented and supported operations throughout Southwest Asia, Western and Eastern Europe, and Africa. From 1997–2003 he commanded the 2nd Battalion 10th Special Forces Group where he conducted operations

throughout the Balkans. Following the events of September 11, 2001, Colonel Waltemeyer led the United States European Command's first war on terrorism mission through the Georgian Train and Equip Mission. In 2003 Colonel Waltemeyer conducted unconventional warfare operations in Northern Iraq, employing Kurdish, Christian and Arab militias to create a northern front in advance of Operation Iraqi Freedom. From 2003–2005, he served on the Joint Staff before taking command of United States Army Garrison Japan from 2006–2009. Upon leaving Japan Colonel Waltemeyer served as the Director of International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) Regional Command South's Joint Border Coordination Center in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, where he led a combined staff comprised of United States, Afghan, and Pakistani military and security personnel.

Throughout his thirty years of service to the nation, Colonel Waltemeyer has earned numerous awards and decorations to include: Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, Master Parachutists Wings, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

I am proud to share in the celebration of Colonel Waltemeyer's military career. I would also like to congratulate his wife, Ramona, and his two children, Carrie and Sam, whose love and support has aided and strengthened Colonel Waltemeyer as he has served our great nation. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DOYLE EDWARD CONNER, SR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Doyle Edward Conner, Sr. Throughout his long and distinguished career in politics, Doyle Connor served the people of Florida for 40 years in both the Florida House of Representatives and as the Commissioner of Agriculture. Commissioner Conner served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals throughout the state. All of Florida mourns the loss of a great man and unparalleled public servant.

Commissioner Conner was a fourth-generation farmer who grew up learning the value of hard work on his family's farm in Starke, Florida where he helped raise cattle, grow strawberries and cut timber. Commissioner Conner was a born leader, and he was active in his community from a very young age. He participated in his local 4-H club and eventually became president of the Alachua County branch of 4-H. In 1947, he graduated from high school and enrolled at the University of Florida where he became involved in the Future Farmers of America (FFA), serving as the president of FFA at both the state and national levels.

In 1950, while still a 21-year-old student at the University of Florida, Commissioner Conner was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. Despite his youth, he quickly established himself as a serious and committed statesman who was respected by his