

to providing great cuisine at Leunig's; he has been engaged in the community for decades, hosting regular fundraisers that support a wide range of services, from monthly dinners with proceeds that benefit various local support programs to hosting an annual fashion show to benefit the Breast Care Center at Fletcher Allen Hospital. Bob has been an exemplary model of what good business really is: economically successfully, and community-minded.

Bob's dedication to the Burlington community is well documented, and the honor bestowed upon him by the BBA is wholly merited. In recognition of his work, I ask that an article published in the Burlington Free Press on April 4, 2013, "Leunig's co-owner honored," be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Burlington Free Press, Apr. 4, 2013]

LEUNIG'S CO-OWNER HONORED

Bob Conlon has spent half his life at Leunig's Bistro—from substitute bartender to co-owner. A certain sensibility, and a couple of tasks, follow him through every position.

"We're all in the service industry," Conlon, 63, said. "We feed people, we cheer them up. Plunge the toilets and mop the floors."

Conlon will be honored tonight by the Burlington Business Association. The BBA's 35th dinner and annual meeting will be held at the Hilton Burlington.

The honoree, a fixture on Church Street for more than 30 years, will be attending his first BBA dinner, Conlon said Monday morning over coffee in the bistro's dining room.

"I always thought of that dinner as for the important people," he said. "My social life is working."

Conlon's work at Leunig's includes a variety of community service efforts, including an annual fashion show/fundraiser for the Breast Care Center at Fletcher Allen Health Care, and monthly dinners with a portion of proceeds to benefit local social service groups.

"They have long tradition of doing good for a broad range of community groups," said Rita Markley, executive director of COTS.

Tim Halvorson is a past recipient of the award Conlon will receive; indeed, the award is named for Halvorson. He is a board member of the Burlington Business Association who will introduce Conlon at the dinner. Conlon follows in a line of honorees who are committed to helping and enriching the greater community, Halvorson said.

"We thought that Bob represents, through the way they handle things at Leunig's, a great example of a small business that gives back," Halvorson said. "Between breast cancer and City Arts and COTS, they give tens of thousands of dollars back to the community. It's a business that uses its popularity and location as a vehicle for good."

Conlon arrived in Chittenden County 45 years ago from Waterbury, Conn., the son of a restaurant waiter who worked as a busboy as a kid. He was a theater major at St. Michael's College. These days, his acting takes place at the Leunig's bar—his costume is well-dressed restaurateur—and on the Church Street Marketplace.

Last summer, Conlon's costume came to include hard hats, worn by him and his staff

(and sometimes customers) as a nod to marketplace construction.

"You have a role to play," Conlon said, a part in which his social life plays out at work. "You have brief conversations with people—cheerful and fun."

He tries always to be in a good mood, Conlon said. If he's feeling bad he steers away from the question, What do I want? and asks instead, What does my wife want? What does my daughter want? What do my staff and customers want? Conlon said.

"If you can make other people happy, you end up being happy," he said.

Conlon started working at Leunig's when he was 32, after a short stint as co-owner of a failed restaurant. The business, Carbur's Rib-it Room, was in the space now occupied by Marilyn's, a clothing store.

"If everything were perfect, it would've taken us 20 years to get up to zero," Conlon said of the failed business.

He got out after two years and joined Leunig's as a substitute bartender. "I always liked waiting on customers," he said. "I got to hang out with a lot of good people—artists, business people, college professors, students, cops."

He tended bar until about 10 years ago, when he became manager. The move to manager from bartender came about, in part, because managers came and went with frequency, Conlon said.

"Every time you get a new boss it's very insecure," Conlon said. "Your employment is dependent on the sanity of your supervisor. So be the supervisor."

He started as well to purchase ownership shares in the business from Leunig's owner, Robert Fuller, intending with his business partner, chef Donnell Collins, to become a 50-50 owner of the restaurant. Conlon expects the deal will be finalized May 1, he said.

"Isn't that America?" Conlon said. "Isn't that what everybody should do? Get a job, do your best at it, and don't pass up opportunities. It's an honorable profession. If you're good at it, you can live a good life."

RICHMOND ROUND CHURCH 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, Vermont boasts a number of historical treasures, and among them is the Round Church in Richmond, which this year celebrates its 200th anniversary.

The Old Round Church earned a national historic landmark distinction from the National Park Service in 1996. Because of the church's history and its long-held status as meeting place and community center, it has come to be recognized as a symbol of the rich history woven through so many Vermont towns.

This year the Richmond Round Church, known to many as the Old Round Church, will celebrate its bicentennial with a series of concerts and community events. The sense of community boasted by the Old Round Church is rooted partially in the history of the church's establishment. Initially conceived by settlers seeking a local meeting place, their plan to erect the Round Church faltered with reluctance from the town of Richmond to supply the land need to construct the building. Two local men, however, volunteered the land, and in 1813 construction of the church was completed. It has since grown to become a renowned

symbol for its historical significance but also for its representation of the community values that are so cherished across Vermont.

Over the past two centuries, it has served as a meeting place, a venue for local activities, and even a popular location for weddings. Generations of Vermonters have visited the Old Round Church, and as a young boy growing up in Montpelier, I remember visiting the church with my parents, and brother and sister. Today, volunteers routinely help preserve the church's history by volunteering to help clean, maintain, and repair its structure. It remains as central to the community as it ever has in its 200 year history.

In honor of the 200th anniversary of the Richmond Round Church, I ask that an article published in the Burlington Free Press on May 26, 2013, "Richmond Round Church Turns 200, Celebrations Aboard," be printed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Burlington Free Press, May 26, 2013]

RICHMOND ROUND CHURCH TURNS 200, CELEBRATIONS ABOARD

RICHMOND—It started with an argument. In 1796 settlers of this small town in the foothills of the Green Mountains wanted to build a local meeting house, or at least some of them did. Then as now, democracy did not always come easily. The committees tasked with finding a location found it difficult to agree and fickle townspeople voted down the whole idea in 1811.

Absent the good will of two local men who offered to donate land to the cause, free and clear, the foundation for Richmond's iconic Round Church might never have been laid.

But donate they did, and this year the white clapboard building that sits serenely in the heart of Richmond turns 200. The birthday is being celebrated all summer with concerts and special events culminating the weekend of Aug. 9, 10 and 11.

Fans of the church say it symbolizes the spirit of the town.

"Well, I think this represents what's best about Richmond," said Fran Thomas, president of the Richmond Historical Society. "It was built as a community church and meeting house. To me it's what's best about Richmond, that community aspect."

The shape of the 16-sided church and meeting house is believed to be unique in the United States. It has survived floods, blizzards and other onslaughts—attacks by powder post beetles, dry rot and restless youths who carved their initials into the wooden box pews as early as 1912.

BUILT TO LAST

According to "The Richmond Round Church, 1813-2013," a history written by Harriet W. Riggs and Martha Turner and published by the Richmond Historical Society, the box pews were designed to help retain heat. Families brought heated soap stones or small metal boxes of burning coals to help stay warm inside. A stone and box are on display at the back of the church, along with other artifacts.

Miraculously, the church never burned down despite considerable threat from wood stoves that were added to the building at some point and according to local lore stuffed full starting several days before gatherings and then left unattended as the structure heated up. Pipes from the stoves snaked

precariously aloft the pews, posing another hazard.

The stoves are idle now and the piping was pulled down decades ago. These days the Richmond Historical Society manages and maintains the town-owned structure under a 40-year agreement that expires in 2016.

Town meeting ceased to be held at the church in 1974 on the advice of the fire marshal and structural engineers who advised the roof could cave under a heavy snow storm. (Town meeting now takes place at Camels Hump Middle School.) The five Protestant denominations that sold pew space to fund the construction 200 years ago no longer hold Sunday services at the church.

But the structure and its surrounding green continue to serve as a visual centerpiece and active venue for weddings, tours, concerts and other events.

MAINTAINING HISTORY

Volunteers do everything from washing the 12-over-12 mullioned windows to writing grants to booking weddings to monitoring the steady stream of repairs needed to keep the church upright. Major structural work took place in the late 1970s and early 1980s, with the historical society leading the charge. More recently, workers have restored the foundation and replaced rotting beams and clapboard at the back of the church. Some day friends of the church would like to build in a bathroom, but for now a lilac-landscaped port-o-let out back serves the purpose.

Repairing broken panes of glass is a regular task and in this as in other work, effort is made to stay historically accurate. Glass from old windows donated to the church is used whenever possible.

"We have a stockpile of wavy glass to repair the broken windows," Thomas explained.

All the effort to maintain the church is well worth it, said Thomas as she showed a reporter around the space recently.

The building today is unheated and there are no plans to add a modern heat source. That means use of the Round Church is seasonal, with events taking place from April to October, with a few exceptions such as an annual December carol sing.

Occasionally a wedding is scheduled in November or December. "But we have to make sure the bride and groom realize how cold it's going to be," said Thomas.

One couple literally got cold feet and moved their wedding on a few days notice after visiting the church and realizing how chilly their vows would be.

The shape of the church has long been a subject of speculation. Some say the circular shape was chosen to ward off the devil because he could not hide in the corners of the church.

Thomas doubts the devil drove the architectural plans. The more likely story is that head carpenter William Rhodes appreciated the circular design of an addition to the meeting house in his hometown of Claremont, N.H. and wanted to copy the idea.

"To me, that makes the most sense," Thomas said. "It's not the most interesting, but it makes the most sense."

Snatches of the surrounding scenery can be viewed from inside the church—green mountainside, sloping lawn, flood plain field and the red metal truss bridge spanning the Winooski River. The church sits slightly uphill, which saved it from the great flood of 1927 and Tropical Storm Irene, although the latter turned the lower green into a lake.

Taking care of the building is much more involved than some people might guess, said Thomas. But Richmond would not be Richmond without it, she said.

"It's our claim to fame, I guess."

TRIBUTE TO RANDALL H. WALKER

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Randy Walker for his leadership as Director of Aviation for Clark County. Randy is the consummate public servant, having served the people of Nevada in various positions since 1979, culminating in his appointment as Director of Aviation for Clark County in May 1997. For the past 16 years, Randy has transformed McCarran International Airport into one of the premier airports in the world, and he has greatly expanded the airport's reach to all corners of the globe.

Randy became Director of Aviation at an exciting time in southern Nevada. Clark County was the fastest growing county in the Nation, with tens of thousands of new people moving to Las Vegas each year. Tourist numbers hit record levels and new resorts were changing the face of the world famous Strip. Las Vegas was becoming a global destination with new markets in Europe, South America, and Asia fueling southern Nevada's economy. Randy recognized this potential for growth and he played a key role in expanding the airport.

During Randy's first year on the job, McCarran International Airport added 26 new gates; more were added in 2005 and again in 2008, which increased the D Concourse's size to 45 gates today. Randy oversaw the construction of a new rental car terminal, which improved the visitor experience for tourists. He also kept airport operations running smoothly at the airport during the construction of a tunnel for Interstate 215 under the runways.

Randy has also made McCarran International Airport one of the most technically advanced airports in the Nation. It is the only major airport in the U.S. to use Common Use Terminal Equipment, allowing for seamless integration of airlines' computer systems. In addition, he installed SpeedCheck kiosks, allowing customers to get their boarding passes without having to go to a specific airline counter. The airport also implemented a baggage-tracking system that uses radio-frequency identification so that baggage can be accurately tracked.

In 2010, McCarran opened a USO Lounge to serve servicemembers from Nevada and those flying through Nevada. The rest and relaxation lounge serves tens of thousands of our military personnel each year as they travel to Nevada and through Nevada. I worked with Randy, Wayne Newton, and the USO since 2007 to create this lounge.

Randy has changed the face of aviation in southern Nevada, but the most important project during Randy's tenure was the opening of Terminal 3, or T3. Building a new \$2.4 billion terminal was the largest expansion project in McCarran's history, and one of the

largest public works projects in Nevada history. McCarran began this ambitious expansion project before the recession hit my State. When the economy worsened, I worked with Randy to keep T3 on track by having Congress provide tax relief to local governments and their bondholders in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Randy's steady leadership during the challenging economy was critical to the completion of the project.

Last year, McCarran International Airport was ranked 24th in the world for passenger traffic, hosting nearly 41.7 million passengers. Under Randy's tenure, the airport saw a 33 percent increase in Las Vegas visitor volume that resulted in a 50 percent increase in revenues for Clark County. This has been extremely beneficial to the economy of southern Nevada.

After playing an important role in shaping the future of Las Vegas and southern Nevada for decades, Randy recently stepped down as the Director of Aviation to enter a well-deserved retirement. I am pleased to recognize Randy's extraordinary service to the people of Clark County before the Senate today and I wish him all the best in his retirement or, knowing Randy, in his next phase of remarkable achievement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AL BOWMAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I would like to take a few moments to thank Dr. Al Bowman for all he has done to keep the doors of educational opportunity open for young people in my State of Illinois.

After nearly 10 years as President of Illinois State University, and a total of 35 years of service to ISU, Dr. Bowman is retiring. But the mark he leaves will continue to benefit ISU and the people of Illinois for years to come.

The ISU Dr. Bowman is leaving is more financially stable and more attractive to top talent. Its student body is more diverse.

Under Dr. Bowman's leadership, Illinois State University has ranked as one of America's top 100 public universities for 7 straight years.

A hallmark of Dr. Bowman's presidency at ISU has been his determination to make sure that students graduate with the best possible education and the lowest possible debt.

Illinois State University has done much more than any school I know of to make sure its students are able to make informed choices about student loans. The university asks each student to meet with financial counselors. Those counselors push students to borrow the minimum they need—not the most they can get. As a result, ISU's students graduate with an average student debt of \$22,720—a sizable debt, to be sure, but well below the national average for 4-year, public institutions.

And the quality of education is unquestioned. ISU's graduates are finding work in their field and paying down