

Ticoalu for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Gabrina Ticoalu is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gabrina Ticoalu is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Gabrina Ticoalu for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF CDR ERIC BROMLEY, USN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Commander (CDR) Eric Bromley taking command of VRC-40 Rawhides.

CDR Bromley began his naval career upon graduating the U.S. Naval Academy in 2000, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering. After graduation, he trained as a Naval Aviator and was assigned to VAW-120 Greyhawks based in Norfolk, VA for Fleet Replacement Training. Eric was then assigned to VRC-40 Rawhides in Norfolk, VA to serve as a Detachment Administrative Officer, Schedules Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer. He was later assigned to VA-120 where he served as an Instructor Pilot, Aircraft Branch Officer, and C-2A Training Officer.

CDR Bromley served on board the USS *Carl Vinson* as a V-4 and V-5 Division Officer, served as "Top Cat" Shooter, and was elected Wardroom President. In 2011, he returned to VRC-40 to serve as a Maintenance Officer and Detachment Officer-in-Charge with Detachment Three with the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*. He also served as a Branch Chief at U.S. Northern Command in Colorado. CDR Bromley currently serves as the Executive Officer for VRC-40 Rawhides after logging over 2,200 flight hours, earning the Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (3), and Defense Meritorious Service Medal. Eric will be taking command of VRC-40 effective April 27, 2018.

Eric served as my Congressional Defense Fellow in 2014. In this role, I relied on CDR Bromley for his subject matter expertise regarding the United States Navy in critical areas such as training, readiness, and manning. His work ethic, servant leadership, and devotion to duty represent what is best in our nation and military. He is respected by his sailors and is deserving of this leadership position.

I would like to thank CDR Bromley for his service to the First District of Virginia and the Nation. May God bless Eric, his wife Jenny, and their three children, as they take this next step in their lives.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF RAYMOND E. FLICKINGER, JR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that while there is record turnover in high level federal government positions, the opposite is true in Barberton, Ohio.

For 70 years, the Barberton Finance Director position has been held by only two men, a father and his son. Raymond E. Flickinger Sr. and Raymond E. Flickinger Jr. have held the purse strings in Barberton all that time.

Ray Sr. took office in 1948. In 1978, Ray Jr. became the assistant city finance director. Ray Sr. retired in 1980 and Ray Jr. took over as Director. On March 31, Ray Jr. stepped down from his position.

Mayor William Judge whose father also served as Mayor noted that Ray has "weathered storms and kept on top of them." I want to congratulate and thank the Flickingers for two lifetimes of public service. I am inspired by these two dedicated officials who did their duty day after day and met the challenges of service for so many years. All the best to Ray Flickinger Jr. in retirement.

I include in the RECORD an article that appeared in the The Akron Beacon Journal on March 26.

FATHER AND SON GUIDED BARBERTON CITY FINANCES FOR 70 YEARS; ERA WILL END THIS MONTH

(By Paula Schleis)

BARBERTON—For 70 years, the man in charge of the city's purse strings has answered to the name Raymond E. Flickinger.

First dad, then son, in a tenure so taken for granted that no one has bothered to challenge either at the ballot since 1968.

The era will end on March 31 when Barberton Finance Director Raymond E. Flickinger—the younger—retires and hands the city's ledger over to someone with a different name.

"It's time," Flickinger said, a smile suggesting that he's already counting down the hours.

While the elder and the younger both held the same post, their jobs were wildly different, covering dramatically different eras as this blue-collar city rose, fell and then embarked on some modern soul-searching.

The elder Raymond E. Flickinger was born in 1910—less than two decades after the town was founded—and grew up in the family's grocery business. Flickinger's, the store, was once an icon in downtown Barberton.

Ray Sr. took his turn on the European front during World War II, participating in the invasion of Normandy.

Two years after the war ended, the local Democratic Party asked if he'd run for the open seat of city auditor a post that would later evolve into finance director.

He won, took office in 1948 and started on-the-job training.

"Things were a lot simpler then," the younger Flickinger said of his dad's era. There were payrolls to make and budgets to balance, but "you didn't have accounting standards back then."

SIMPLER BUDGET

Seated in his office, Flickinger pulled an old booklet from a shelf of documents. It was the city budget from 1954, a 28-page pamphlet itemizing \$757,000 in income and expenditures. Flickinger compares it to this

year's city budget. Almost \$18 million. It takes a nearly 200-page booklet to explain it.

Flickinger, the younger, started doing some light bookkeeping for his dad when he was still in high school.

"He paid me out of his own pocket to do things for him," Flickinger said.

He never expected it to be his career.

"We didn't have a plan for me to take over," he said.

Yet by 1975, wouldn't you know it, that's exactly the course he found himself on. The city hired him as a full-time accountant. By 1978, he was the city's assistant finance director, his dad's second in command.

"Nepotism wasn't an issue back in the day," he chuckled. City Council approved the promotion. No one batted an eye. It was universally accepted that Flickinger, the elder, would groom his son to take over after his own upcoming retirement.

In 1980, after 32 years, the elder stepped down, the younger stepped up. No need to change the name on the office door.

Ray Sr. was 72 when he retired. He hadn't been in a hurry.

"He loved working," his son said. "It was pretty much his life. He was one of those people who could have just worked till he died." But he didn't. He died in 1998.

Barberton was a very different city when Ray Jr. took over.

When his father first became auditor, Barberton was a manufacturing powerhouse. Its founding was unique in Ohio, an industrial community planned by industrialist Ohio Columbus Barber, who set up half a dozen of his own factories and populated them with tens of thousands of immigrants and Appalachian transplants.

But by 1980, the place nicknamed the "Magic City" because of its overnight rise had become a poster child for the Rust Belt.

The younger Flickinger helped navigate Barberton through a recession, a period when many cities were going into default.

"It was thought that cities should start following the same accounting standards as private industry," he said.

What followed were challenging, time-consuming and often mind-numbing rules and regulations. Flickinger rolled with the punches, supported by a talented staff that helped his office evolve into a department that needed to know as much law as finance.

That's also about the time that Flickinger decided on a new administrative style: Avoid the limelight at all costs.

NATIONAL NEWS

Barberton's waning fortunes made national news, and Flickinger found himself quoted in a New York Times story about the town's struggle. The very next day, a representative from a bond rating firm called Flickinger to announce the city was being downgraded because of the story. Flickinger snorted: "I decided I was better off staying in the background. I'm honest and I'll tell people like it is. But I don't need to hear myself talk."

That's a trait that came to Mayor Bill Judge's mind immediately when asked to describe his finance director.

"He does a great job of explaining things, and he's always been the go-to guy, and for that he should have an ego, a big one," Judge said. "But he doesn't have an ego."

Barberton gradually started to recover in the 1990s.

"But the more you collect, the more you spend," Flickinger said. Road programs expanded. Health care costs rose. EPA standards added to the cost of maintaining a city water and sewer department. Salaries ballooned.

In 1954, that little budget pamphlet said \$263,000 was spent on the city's safety forces. In 2018, police and fire will cost residents \$11.2 million.

The street maintenance budget of \$69,000 in 1954 has grown to \$1.5 million this year.

Flickinger said one thing he's proud of is talking City Council into approving a policy that set a minimum fund balance of 10 percent. It was passed in 2008. That means while the city has a nearly \$18 million budget this year, it won't touch almost \$1.8 million of that. It's a sort of built-in rainy day cushion.

"They didn't have to do that," he said of council's action.

Fred Maurer has known Flickinger most of his life. They were both born in 1952, a few days apart. They attended St. Augustine's school together.

Maurer spent more than 21 years as a city councilman.

"Ray is very methodical, very thorough, very capable," he said. "He doesn't care to get into the politics [of his elected office], he's more nuts and bolts. He's one of these people who just stays focused on what needs to be done."

VOTES NEEDED

While Flickinger, a Democrat, never faced Republican opposition in the 10 times he had to seek re-election, Maurer laughed that there was one year Flickinger had to work at getting votes. In the 1980s, voters passed a charter amendment requiring the city finance director have a degree in municipal financing and a number of years experience in the field.

Maurer swears that "and" was supposed to be an "or." Flickinger did not have a municipal financing degree. He'd spent about 10 years or so, while in office, working on his bachelor's degree in accounting from Kent State University. But the ballot authors had intended to honor his experience.

With Flickinger's job hanging in the balance, an amended amendment had to be put on the very next ballot.

"I think that's the one and only time Ray actually had to campaign," Maurer said. The issue passed.

HITTING THE ROAD

When Flickinger retires at the end of this month, his assistant, Jeremy Flaker, will take over. He'll have to run in 2019 if he wants to keep the job. Judge said Barberton will face new financial challenges ahead, and he'll miss the "level of comfort" that comes from having Flickinger at his side.

"He's lived through tough times before. He's weathered storms and kept on top of them," Judge said. "And he has a lot of institutional knowledge. I'm going to miss his insightfulness, his ideas."

"But I told him I've got his number and I know where he lives," Judge quipped.

That information might not do the mayor a lot of good.

Flickinger and his longtime girlfriend plan to sell their home and hit the road in a motor home, starting with a stay in Colorado to visit his son, Eric.

He'll be back here from time to time to visit his two daughters—Amy in Wadsworth and Emily in Grafton—but he's not planning on any permanent residence for the foreseeable future.

"We're going to be nomads. I can honestly say I don't know where I'll be living, but Barberton will always be home," he said.

Like his father before him, he loves boating and fishing. But unlike his father, he's getting out at the age of 65, with plenty of time to do more of both.

"Like I said," he repeated, "it's just time."

ANISSA ULIBARRI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anissa Ulibarri for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Anissa Ulibarri is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anissa Ulibarri is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anissa Ulibarri for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S 10TH ANNUAL CÉSAR CHÁVEZ DAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th annual César Chávez Day of Celebration at Eastern Michigan University. This annual observation allows for the recognition of the campus' diversity and the life of Mr. Chávez.

Born in Arizona in 1927, César Chávez was the child of hardworking Mexican American migrant laborers. He spent most of his early years in migrant camps with his parents, attending school sporadically and serving the United States for two years in the Navy. Once he returned, he joined together with Hispanic farmworkers in states including Arizona and California to bargain for better working conditions for American workers. Mr. Chávez's work as a leader of the movement implemented institutional change that would forever alter the American workplace. Changes included union recognition as well as the creation of the United Farm Workers of America, which remains a prominent union today. César Chávez's lifetime of hard work inspired millions and opened the doors for workers across our nation.

Since 2009, Eastern Michigan University has participated in a César Chávez Day of Celebration, inviting local students, university faculty, and community members to commemorate his life's work and its influence today. The University's event includes poetry reading by local middle schoolers, keynote speakers, mariachi music, and a procession to the César Chávez Fountain located on campus. César Chávez Day is an important opportunity for residents of southeastern Michigan to come together and discuss the doors that he opened for students and workers as well as to discuss ways to continue to serve under-

served student populations both at Eastern Michigan University and in local K–12 schools. It is my honor to join Eastern Michigan University in today's celebration, and it is my hope that this event will continue to take place in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Eastern Michigan University as they celebrate their 10th Annual César Chávez Day of Celebration. This event allows for important conversations to take place as we celebrate Mr. Chávez's contributions to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF ERIC MARTIN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible life and career of Eric Martin. Eric, a longtime Buffalo native, will celebrate his retirement from Grand Slam Productions where he worked diligently as an MC and promoter for over 40 years.

Eric Martin's life was centered around family. As the youngest child of five siblings, he had a close relationship with his mother, Shirley Martin. Her saying "let your actions match your looks" was instrumental in forming his outlook on life.

His journey in the music industry started at the young age of 16 first working with "The Exotics" a well-known soul group in the Western New York area. In a continuation of his passion for music Eric worked under the direction of Freedom Train and when he was 18 started spinning records at Sylvester's Night Club on Fillmore Avenue. Some notable events from Eric's early career include MC'ing a Maze and Beverly Concert, a Phyllis Hyman show at Shea's Performing Arts Center, and a Juneteenth festival concert. In addition, Eric has worked with artists such as S.O.S Band, Atlantic Starr, and Loose Ends.

However, Eric's career did not come without its challenges. In his commitment to his passion for music Eric served the city in a variety of other jobs in order to continue his work as a promoter. His hard work has been seen in 22 years with the Buffalo Board of Education, 20 years at Dunlop Tires, 6 years with BFNC and 4 years with Big Brother Big Sister. Eric discusses the challenges posed by minority promoters within Buffalo saying that "Buffalo's a very tough market, a lot of establishments aren't open to black promoters." This has made it even more difficult to gain a foothold in Buffalo's event and nightlife scene.

Despite these challenges Eric Martin retires from a dynamic career in the music industry with renewed hopes of bringing his love of music to a new generation through his wife Tracy and their three children Erica, Eric, and Aaron. His dream being that Buffalo will one day be able to establish a major music festival.

Mr. Speaker, I am inspired by Eric Martin's remarkable commitment to pursue his passion for music. I'm honored to celebrate his retirement and hope that he continues to be a driving force in the great city of Buffalo.