

longtime position as the executive director of the Nebraska Press Association after having been Nebraska's secretary of state for 24 years.

Through his 48 years of public service, Allen has been an example of dignity and a source of inspiration to countless Nebraskans. Allen is well known across Nebraska and even around the world for his commitment to his work and his affinity for meeting new people.

□ 1045

As a Nebraska Secretary of State, he worked tirelessly to protect the integrity of our elections. He brought this commitment to integrity with him into his next role as executive director of the Nebraska Press Association as well.

He has traveled to many countries and met with people from all walks of life, establishing relationships with everyone he meets along the way. Allen likes to say his career took him to "48 countries in 48 years," and I am sure he has no shortage of stories from these trips.

I have known Allen for many years, and I can say, in addition to his hard work, Allen has always been a great person to be around. Allen is always one to lighten a conversation with his quick wit and positive attitude, and his many friends around the world are a testament to his character. He has even been known to poke fun at himself a little bit, stating, recently, that the Nebraska Historical Society has recognized him as the "official State artifact."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Allen Beermann's commendable public service, and wish him good luck in his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL FITZPATRICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I speak from the heart about someone who was not just a colleague but a good friend. We heard some of my Republican colleagues, also from Pennsylvania, speaking about Mike Fitzpatrick earlier.

I had the privilege to say that I was Mike's constituent for a few years. Under the old, old lines in Pennsylvania, he represented a portion of Philadelphia in the far northeast, where I reside. He and I became friends when I was a State representative and he was my Congressman.

We quickly realized we had so much in common: similar sort of families, both born in Philadelphia, both proud Irish American families, both went to Catholic high school—Mike went to Bishop Egan, now Conwell-Egan; I went to Cardinal Dougherty. So it was not exactly difficult for the two of us to get along and to work so well together,

especially when I would become a Member of Congress and he immediately reached out to me and helped in any way he could.

As colleagues, we worked well together on a whole host of issues. Our districts shared the entire Philadelphia-Bucks County border and then much of the Montgomery County-Bucks border as well.

When I think of Mike, though, it is not so much the water safety issues and PFOS that we worked on or transportation or so many issues that affect northeast Philadelphia, Bucks County-Montgomery County. What really strikes me is just what a nice and decent person Mike was and his basic human decency. You see those same traits in his brother, now our colleague, BRIAN.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am deep in mourning today for Mike, his wife, Kathleen, his six children, Mike's parents, including his father, whom I had the opportunity to spend time with and meet this summer. My heart breaks for the Fitzpatrick family, but I hope that they can take solace in the fact that Mike left his mark on this institution.

Mr. Speaker, to also speak about the life of Mike Fitzpatrick, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), my friend and colleague.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BOYLE.

Frankly, it is my honor and privilege to join the Pennsylvania delegation as they honor their friend and mine, Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman BOYLE would appreciate this. I had never heard of Bucks County until I came to Congress, but I learned of it quickly because of a young Congressman named Mike Fitzpatrick, who consistently talked about his home, his relationship with the people whom he served, whom he loved, whom he was devoted to.

The gentleman gave some beautiful, generous comments about the nature of his character: He was devoted to his family; he was a man of high principle; he was personable. I think it is important to point out as well: The gentleman is a Democrat; he was a Republican; I am a Republican. And here we are, talking about things that actually unite us because of the character of people, good Americans like Mike Fitzpatrick, who looked for a way to be in authentic dialogue—while standing on his principles. He was a fighter, as well, but looked for a way to be in authentic dialogue, even with people he might have a disagreement with.

He was my friend. I remember in that corner back there, we had a very intimate conversation one day of how he was facing a true dilemma because there was a vote that was about to be taken, for which he said, "This may cost me my election." He took that vote anyway, and it did cost him the election, but then he came back and joined us again.

Mr. Speaker, let me join with Congressman BOYLE and the entire Penn-

sylvania delegation in expressing my condolences to Kathleen and his six kids, whom he talked about and whom we got to know as well.

Being from Nebraska, again, I am a long way from Bucks County, but learned a great deal about the gentleman's home and, of course, the deep character and the place that formed this wonderful public servant, Mike Fitzpatrick.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I, too, as all of my colleagues, not just Pennsylvanians, but all the others, stand up to speak about a young man, because he was a young man, Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember him not as just a departed colleague from the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but he was also a good person. He was someone whom I knew from the fact that, when I was in the State legislature and he was a Congressman, that although I was not in his congressional district, I knew him very much as a person. I knew his leadership; I knew what he provided; and I knew his friendliness.

He, both, was a principled conservative and comfortable working with people on both sides of the aisle. That is how he got things done, including the creation of the Washington Crossing National Cemetery.

He also led the effort to better secure passenger planes from terrorism, a cause inspired by September 11 families from Bucks County.

Bucks County was very close to the congressional district in the legislative district I represented. Limekiln Pike is something that led up directly to Bucks County. So Mike was not a stranger to the issues in the southeast part of Pennsylvania, as well as the city of Philadelphia, as well as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

My fellow Democrats from this district all remember him as a true patriot, a father to Bucks County, a man of grace and honor who looked past politics in the community.

There is a quote from my departed colleague, and this is what he said: "Some legislators look back at how many bills they passed. I measure my time by how many people I helped."

That was a quote that Mike has stated, and I think it is important if all of us remember this. So, in that spirit, we from Pennsylvania stand with that spirit of Michael Fitzpatrick. It is safe to say he helped a lot of people.

Mr. Speaker, to BRIAN and his family, please know that you are in our prayers and our thoughts. We don't take that lightly. We understand it. I say to you that I am honored to be a part of the delegation of people who are standing here today to add my voice to the importance of what Michael Fitzpatrick meant to this body and to this country, and I thank him.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL
FITZPATRICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to, as well, today, pay tribute to Michael Gerard Fitzpatrick, who, as has been mentioned, served in this House, representing Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

It was a privilege to serve with Mike, and, from the first time that I met Mike here in Washington in the House, I knew he was a man of character and a man of principle.

Mr. Speaker, I think you have heard from the words that were spoken this morning before I spoke that, indeed, was the reputation that he had here in Washington, D.C., as I am sure he had back in the State of Pennsylvania.

Today, as we pay tribute to Michael and his life, I am reminded, with just the passing of my own mother-in-law at 5 o'clock this morning, Shirley McDonald from Huntsville, Alabama, who was struggling from Parkinson's disease, of just how short life is. Literally, I am reminded of the shortness of time and the greatness of eternity.

But my mother-in-law, Shirley, and Michael knew that there is a life beyond this one and that, because of Christ, we can have hope to enter an eternal life.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GREG KIRK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Georgia State Senator Greg Kirk, who passed away on December 22 at the age of 56 after a battle with cancer.

A former pastor, Senator Kirk was first elected to the State senate in 2014. Representing Americus in southwest Georgia, he spent his 6 years in the State senate working hard for rural Georgians: spurring job creation, protecting life, and always putting God first.

His colleagues in the State senate remember him as an exceptional public servant who was always a champion for doing what is right, making him one of the State's most fervent and gracious leaders.

One of his most important pieces of legislation included a bill that would legally protect people who broke into a vehicle to help rescue a child that had been left unattended in hot weather.

His presence, leadership, and passion for service will be dearly missed in the Georgia State senate. Senator Kirk's family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

IN RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS'
CENTER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International Seafarers' Center in Brun-

wick, Georgia, for all of their work throughout the First Congressional District of Georgia.

Operating in coastal Georgia for the last 38 years, the International Seafarers' Center strives to provide spiritual, emotional, physical, and material support to mariners passing through our area. Currently, the Port of Brunswick, alone, receives 16,000 seafarers annually who have very little access to the conveniences of home while they are at sea.

The International Seafarers' Center is guided by its Christian faith, and with their two hospitality centers, they have done an exceptional job of serving those mariners from all walks of life, different religions, countless languages, and diverse races.

One of the most notable examples of their work includes their effort to provide clothing and food to 20 crew members of the Golden Ray cargo ship that had capsized off the coast of St. Simon's Island in September of 2019.

I cannot thank everyone involved with the International Seafarers' Center enough for making the First Congressional District of Georgia such a welcoming place for seafarers to pass through during their time at sea.

Keep up the good work.

□ 1100

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BETTY GILLIS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Betty Gillis, who is retiring after 41 years serving as supervisor of Ware County's Board of Elections and Registration.

Throughout the past 4 decades, Ms. Gillis has done an exceptional job in the First Congressional District, ensuring that Ware County's elections are both robust and fair.

Looking back on her time, she remembers that she has enjoyed every minute of it, and she has come to think of her colleagues as extended family.

In her retirement, Ms. Gillis is planning to spend more time with her family. However, it will simply be impossible to replace a public servant as dedicated and excited about her role as Ms. Gillis.

Thank you for your service to the First Congressional District of Georgia, Ms. Gillis. Congratulations on a retirement well-deserved.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CLAIRE
WOFFORD FRAZIER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Ms. Claire Wofford Frazier, who passed away on December 23, 2019, at the age of 58, after a battle with cancer.

Ms. Wofford Frazier dedicated her life to serving her alma mater, Young Harris College. A member of the Board of Trustees for over a decade, she served on a number of different committees that impacted daily campus life, including committees on academic affairs, development, and student affairs.

She also created the Wofford-Frazier scholarship to help a Young Harris edu-

cation be as accessible as possible for deserving students. A testament to her work, the executive board room at the college is named in her honor, and she won the Susan B. Harris Award from the Alumni Association in 2008.

Similar to her generosity with the college, those who knew her remember that Ms. Wofford Frazier was always the first person to offer help to someone in need.

My thoughts and prayers will be with Ms. Wofford Frazier's family during this most difficult time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. PINGREE) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, Lord of us all, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You, O Lord, are the source of life and love. You hear the prayer of Congress, both for the good of this Nation and for the good of humanity around the world. Help this Congress and the President to discern your will in our day.

May short-term gains, self-interest, or partisan advantage never prove to be an obstacle to true vision. Rather, Lord, grant to each member depth of perception, clear analysis, and creative response to the needs of our time.

Today we especially remember our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico as they recover from yet another natural disaster. Bless them, and especially those who labor, sometimes dangerously, to help in the long return to normalcy on that beleaguered island.

In these days give wisdom to all Members. And may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.