

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NILS BENTSEN FOR HIS RETIREMENT FROM CITY MANAGER OF HESPERIA

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Nils Bentsen, as he retires from his position as City Manager of Hesperia after seven and a half years of service. Nils is the first Hesperia City Manager who is a native of Hesperia themselves and is a valuable member of California's 23rd district.

Nils attended and graduated from Hesperia Christian School and is a proud alumni of Victor Valley College. He was appointed as City Manager in 2015. Prior to his appointment by the City Council, he served as a Captain with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, with a career spanning over 27 years. Nils is also a veteran of the United States Navy, where he served his country for 5 years.

Nils life-long commitment to public safety has been driven by his passion for public service. He has been a city manager that leads by example and is committed to working with the community for the betterment of Hesperia and its residents. I wish Nils, his wife Paulette, and his 4 children all the best as he enters this next stage of life in the Mohave River Valley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal matter, I was not in Washington, D.C. on June 5, 2023, and as a result, missed two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 245, and YEA on Roll Call No. 246.

HONORING INAUGURAL CLASS OF DHS ICDF PROGRAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the inaugural class of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s Intelligence and Cybersecurity Diversity Fellowship (ICDF) Program. The ICDF program, authorized in the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, is targeted at helping DHS cultivate diverse talent to join the ranks of its intelligence and cybersecurity offices and components, including the Office of Intelligence and Analysis and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

The spring class of 2023 includes 15 fellows who represent over 10 States and territories, and universities small and large, including a minority-serving institution. I am proud to recognize these talented, future public servants and am confident that the country will become a better and safer nation because of their contributions.

Congratulations: Christine Atkins, Miriam Canales, Alexander Clark, Reyben Cortes, MacKenzie Finck, Chanel Hinton, Ethan Hwang, Nathan Kuruvilla, Veronika Kyles, Christian Lopez, Mya Miller, Denzel Montes-Melendez, Erin Sullivan, Baine Tanner, and Regina Thomas.

RECOGNIZING THE 2023 IOWA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Krystal Colbert who was selected as the 2023 Iowa Teacher of the Year.

Currently, a second-grade teacher at Mitchellville Elementary School, Krystal has 16 years of successful teaching experience, 14 of those years devoted to the Southeast Polk School District. Krystal embodies what it means to be a life-long learner and educator. She is a model teacher in the classroom and serves as a mentor for aspiring educators.

Krystal continues to put her students first by prioritizing collaboration and problem solving in her classroom. These skills undoubtedly set her students up for bright, successful futures.

I could not be prouder of Krystal, the work she has done, and the influence she will continue to have on students and educators alike. She has undoubtedly shaped the next generation of Iowans and serves as a beacon of light in the classroom and beyond.

I congratulate Krystal and thank her for exemplifying the power of education and support through her work.

RECOGNIZING SALLY CHEN FOR OVER TWO YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of Sally Chen, a remarkable staffer and integral part of the New Democrat Coalition.

Sally is transitioning from Capitol Hill this month to the White House, concluding over two years of exemplary service to our Coalition. Serving during my tenure as New Dem Chair and that of current Chair ANNIE KUSTER, Sally leaves behind a legacy that will undoubtedly make our Coalition stronger for years to come.

Sally's dedication to the New Dems was not merely a professional commitment, but a personal mission to drive meaningful change and progress for our nation. Sally was instrumental in our Coalition's efforts—from strengthening our economy and supporting working families to protecting our fundamental freedoms and defending our democracy. Without the dedication of committed public servants like Sally, we could not have accomplished nearly as much as we did and have.

More important than her daily work, Sally has been a kind colleague to all who had the

pleasure of working with her during her time on the Hill. Her presence at the New Democrat Coalition will be sorely missed as she moves into her new role. While I'm sad to see Sally go, I wish her the very best of luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LATE WILLIAM V. MEYERS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on September 24, 2022, we lost my dear friend, William "Bill" Meyers: a principled attorney; a proud alumnus of Suitland High School, the University of Maryland, and Georgetown University Law Center; and a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. We will always mourn his loss and miss his wit, candor, and conviction. But we will also continue to honor Bill's memory and to give thanks for the many ways he touched our lives and improved our community. In that spirit, I ask that all my colleagues join me in honoring Bill and in praying for his wife Karen, his 4 children, his 6 grandchildren, and his great-granddaughter. I also want to pay tribute to Bill by including in the RECORD the prepared remarks I delivered at Bill's memorial service.

REMARKS FOR WILLIAM V. MEYER'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer—October 5, 2022

Today, as we mourn the loss of our dear friend, Bill, I understand some of the same feelings that Thomas Jefferson wrestled with after parting with a friend when he left France in 1786.

In a letter to that friend, he mused that upon first glance, one might see friendship as a burden. After all, we volunteer to participate in our friends' pains, to devote our time and energy to caring for them, and to suffer immense grief when we eventually lose them.

Ultimately, however, he realized that these duties were not burdens but benefits, as we receive our friends' care, attention, and company in return. Indeed, Jefferson concluded: "friendship is precious, not only in the shade, but in the sunshine of life."

Today, we reflect on all that we gained from our bond with Bill throughout the shadows and sunshine of our own lives.

Over the sixty-seven years of our friendship, I came to admire Bill's abilities: his character and his talent as a lawyer, his charisma as lead drummer of Maryland's marching band, and of course, his penchant for pushups. Bill of course had other critically important traits that I admired and that made him the principled individual that he was.

The first was his loyalty. Above all else, Bill was a family man. He displayed deep devotion to his wife and life partner, Karen, and to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild, all of whom he loved greatly and without reservation.

His loyalty was not limited to his family. Whether at Suitland High School, the University of Maryland, or Georgetown Law School, and throughout my life, I always knew that I had Bill in my corner. No matter the milestone, I knew Bill would always be there to both celebrate and grieve with me.

An important part of that loyalty was another vital trait: Bill's generosity. Bill was always willing to devote his time and energy to helping his friends. In 1966, he served as the treasurer of my first campaign for the Maryland State Senate. Our victory in that election altered the trajectory of my life, and it would never have been possible without Bill's work behind the scenes—not to mention the generosity of his father, Mike.

As many of you know, Bill was also there for me when my wife, Judy, passed away more than twenty years ago. He helped me get through that time of sorrow.

More than that, by serving as the treasurer of the Judith P. Hoyer Foundation, he took an active role in ensuring that Judy's legacy and her work supporting young children and their families would continue, and he saw the Judy Centers grow from the initial six to now sixty-nine in our state, soon to be 100. So many others benefited from his generosity, as well.

And then there was his honesty! It is an understatement to say that Bill wasn't a "yes man." You could rely on him to tell you what you needed to hear. Some called it candor; some called it other things. His honesty, at times, was heard through his blunt sense of humor, sometimes as uncomfortable truth. He took his beliefs very seriously.

I want to read his statement, which was his conviction and his law firm's credo:

"Since I was very young, I have realized that the law is the glue which binds society together and prevents its descent into anarchy. Law, however, can only serve this laudable objective if it is directed by citizens with the highest ethical standards and the intelligence and training to discern the ethical path and to follow it without regard to personal gain or power. Since the founding of Meyers, Rodbell, and Russenbaum in 1975 our guiding policy has been to adhere strictly to the rules of court and professional conduct and to be fair and candid in our interactions with clients and others as well as opposing counsel. Our motto has always been that being ethical is not just the best policy—it is the only policy."

His dedication to his principles informed his representation of his clients, standing up for them and the law itself.

It is rare to find someone who possesses all these traits—loyalty, generosity, courage, honesty, conviction, integrity, and truthfulness—but when you do, you know that you've found a person of great worth. Jack Bailer, Judy, and I all recognized that integrity in Bill, and that's why we became such close friends so early in our lives—and for the rest of our lives.

When I look back on my sixty-seven years as Bill's friend, it's easy to see that true friendship is not a simple transaction or a list of obligations. Instead, it is a sum that is far greater than its parts.

As Jefferson wrote in that same letter I mentioned, not only do we cherish friendship in both the light and dark chapters of our lives, but "thanks to that benevolent arrangement the greater part of life is sunshine."

We are all together today because Bill enriched our lives in some way, so we celebrate his life as much as we mourn his Loss. May we cherish and celebrate a life to be honored, respected, and emulated.

William V. Meyers was one of a kind, and he will be greatly missed. And we can thank God that he was in our lives.

Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MANUFACTURING PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Manufacturing Partnership Improvement Act" with Congressman MARK POCAN (D-WI-02), co-chair of the Congressional Labor Caucus.

Our new bill would guarantee representation for labor unions, including those skilled trades with federally registered apprenticeship programs, on the National Advisory Board for the U.S. Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program. This public-private partnership has centers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico to support small and medium-sized manufacturers grow their businesses and train, hire, and retain a skilled workforce. Skilled union workers across the country are ready for these manufacturing jobs.

Under current law, the National Advisory Board's ten members must include one community college representative, five small business manufacturers, and two staff from the 51 Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers nationwide. Our bill would reserve one of the two currently open seats for an industrial union representative on the National Advisory Board.

Our bill would also improve coordination between the national network of federally funded Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers with the local offices of the Small Business Administration to help small manufacturers obtain federal financing and the International Trade Administration's U.S. Export Assistance Centers to better support small and medium-sized American manufacturers looking to export. Lastly, our bill supports the ongoing work of the Biden-Harris Administration's White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment, which recommended in February 2022 that unions be represented on all federal advisory committees like the Advisory Board for the Commerce Department's Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must bring good-paying, advanced manufacturing jobs back to the United States and rebuild the middle class by training the next generation of skilled American workers to compete in the 21st century. I urge all members of the House to join us in cosponsoring the "Manufacturing Partnership Improvement Act."

HONORING THE VISION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CAPTAIN TOM KIURSKI

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a first responder, a community leader, and a visionary in the firefighting world. Captain Tom Kiurski of the Brighton Area Fire Authority has dedicated 43 years to the service and protection of the community. He has also

helped build a training program that has become a model for the state and the nation. As he now prepares to hang up his gear, it is fitting that we celebrate the profound difference he has made and the legacy he leaves behind.

According to an old proverb, luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity, and that was clearly the case when Captain Kiurski came to Brighton in 2012. Kiurski was a veteran fire instructor, having taught many college-level classes, and Michigan law had recently changed to allow high school students to begin training at age 16 and receive provisional firefighting certification at 18. Another stroke of luck found fellow firefighter Mike Witt at the helm of the Howell Public Schools Board of Education, and a collaboration between the two of them, with the support of local schools, departments, and the community, transformed some unused classrooms at Howell High School into a state-of-the-art, realistic fire station setting for training for high school students.

Since its inception 10 years ago, more than 250 Livingston County students have successfully completed the Howell Fire Academy, finishing high school with firefighting certifications they obtained at no cost, ready to immediately step into action to serve their communities and fill a tangible need as first responders. Over the past decade, the program has grown in size and scope, moving to a new location and attracting students and instructors from far and wide. None of this would have been possible had it not been for Captain Tom Kiurski.

I wish all good things for Captain Kiurski as he begins this new and well-earned chapter in retirement, and I hope that it brings him and his wife Nancy all the opportunities they have been waiting for to travel and enjoy their extended family. No matter how you define "luck," there's no question the Livingston County community is beyond fortunate to have reaped the benefits of his service. For all he has given and for what he has helped to build, I ask that his extraordinary career and accomplishments in launching the Howell Fire Academy be forever remembered.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF VALERIE BALDWIN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to celebrate Valerie Baldwin as she embarks on her richly deserved retirement. With a career spanning a variety of vital responsibilities across the federal government and the private sectors, Valerie's commitment to excellence represents the best values of public service and remains a standard for all to follow.

Throughout her career, she brought her tremendous talents, outstanding work ethic, and commitment to excellence to every challenge she encountered. Whether it was demanding work on Capitol Hill or ensuring tax dollars were wisely used by the Pentagon, Valerie never hesitated to go the extra mile to ensure the job was done and done right.

Val and I worked closely together when she served as Clerk of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee during my tenure