

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

as its chairman. I relied closely on her wise advice and counsel as we navigated the often-choppy waters of supporting the many critical and challenging responsibilities shouldered by DHS. She was a consensus builder extraordinaire who deftly managed a staff of committed professionals, bringing out their best as they worked tirelessly to craft critical legislation.

While Valerie isn't tired of the privilege of service, she knows that everything has its season, and the time has come for the next generation of leaders to take the stage. But stepping away from work won't give her much idle time as she remains an active and committed godmother, cherished friend, and mentor.

Retirement is meant to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but the beginning of a new adventure. I am honored to recognize the selfless service of Valerie Baldwin as she starts this new chapter of her life. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank her for her superb work, remain grateful for our friendship, and wish her the very best.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE PEDERSEN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and memory of George J. Pedersen, who passed away on May 22, 2023, at age 87. My prayers are with his family and loved ones, especially his wife, Marilyn.

George was a caring individual and dedicated entrepreneur who lived his life serving others. He co-founded and led ManTech for more than 50 years. With a fierce love for his country and visionary genius, George evolved and grew ManTech as the government expanded its need for high-end engineering and innovative technology for natural security missions. George's leadership in instilling expectations of excellence and success has made ManTech to be a successful partner with the government during threats of war, the space race, and 9/11. I am personally grateful for his leadership in Virginia, and I know that our communities are safer because of Georges dedication and service to innovate ManTech's technology and solutions.

Not only did George dedicate his life to building and expanding ManTech, but he also was an amazing mentor and friend to all. He focused on helping people within the ManTech community and the community beyond. He prioritized successful outcomes for his customers and held himself to the highest standard in everything he did. George took a personal interest in the well-being of those around him and lived a life of service and dedication to others.

George will be remembered for his legacy of service, sacrifice, and care. I pray that his family and loved ones may be comforted as they mourn his loss. Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the life and legacy of George Pedersen.

HONORING JAMES CONNOLLY AND HIS LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay further tribute to James "Jim" Connolly of Ellington, Connecticut. A permanent fund bearing his name is being set up by the Ellington Community Scholarship Association, of which he was president for nearly 20 years. We recognize Jim as the Ellington Community Scholarship Association prepares to award the scholarship in his name to a prestigious student for the first time on June 6, 2023.

Born in Queens, New York, Jim early on learned the value of a high-quality education as a graduate of Fairfield University. In November of 1983, he married Carol, the love of his life, and they settled in Ellington. There, they raised 3 beautiful children together, who have since gone on to provide them with an additional 3 grandchildren. He has long felt welcomed at home in the Ellington community, which clearly prompted him to search for greater opportunities to give back.

About 20 years ago, Jim Connolly joined on as president of Ellington Community Scholarship Association. Founded in 1959, the Ellington Community Scholarship Association was established to help connect youth from the area to college careers. Every year, the Association commits thousands of dollars in scholarships for students to continue their education and kickstart the next stage of their lives. Under Jim's leadership, the Association innovated new ways to raise money, including wine tastings and Phone-a-thons. Having grown out a network of volunteers to facilitate these events, the Association's assets grew from \$80,000 to \$900,000, and the amount of permanent funds they managed grew from 10 to 15 under his tenure. Altogether, they have handed out \$1,400,000 to over a thousand students.

Jim's service through the Association is far from his only contribution to Ellington's youth. He has served as a coach, umpire, and board member for the Ellington Little League. He also was a long-time employee at Northeast Utilities, where he served as a Senior Labor Consultant. His primary focus, though, has always been in support of students. It is no surprise that, in 2014, he was presented with the Friends of Ellington Education Award.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to the Connolly family for this well-deserved honor. Countless students have been able to better access a path to college because of his efforts. It is both fitting and proper that a permanent fund has been created in his name, however, we ought to do more to commit his service to the Second District of Connecticut to memory. To that end, I ask that my colleagues join me in further memorializing his name and legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 245, and YEA on Roll Call No. 246.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen travel delays, I was unable to be recorded for votes on Monday, June 5, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 245 and YEA on Roll Call No. 246.

CONGRATULATING SYDNEY MILANI FOR MAKING THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC BOBSLEDDING TEAM FOR THE 2024 WINTER OLYMPICS

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 Sydney Milani of Pleasant Hill, IA and a proud Southeast Polk graduate, for becoming a member of USA's Women's Winter Olympic Bobsledding Team.

Sydney's story is unique and inspiring—she grew up as a military brat, a daughter, a track star, and now a future Olympian. The definition of resilience, breaking record after record in track, Sydney completed school and went on to help top-level military service members achieve peak fitness.

However, as an athlete, she would soon find her way back to elite competition.

Although the transition from running track to blindly racing down an ice tunnel did not come without challenges, she persevered and even won a silver medal in her first international meet.

Her fierce determination and deep competitiveness helped her along the way and earned her a spot representing Team USA at the Olympic games.

I want to congratulate Sydney Milani for her continued excellence, strength, and endurance. She is an inspiration to not just athletes, but all those who have ever had a dream worth chasing.

I am so proud of her and cannot wait to cheer her on as she goes for gold at the 2024 Winter Olympic Games.