

John came to D.C. just over 50 years ago from Wisconsin, where he grew up in a suburb of Milwaukee, the oldest of nine kids. Shortly after earning his undergraduate degree at Marquette University, he moved to Washington and started work at the Democratic National Committee and graduate school at Georgetown University. In January of 1977, he joined then-Congressman Joe Moakley's office as press secretary, but very shortly, at the age of 28, he became Mr. Moakley's chief of staff in what was his third term in the House.

John went on to dedicate 20 years of his career to working for Congressman Moakley and the people of Massachusetts. Over the course of those two decades, John guided Mr. Moakley's office as Moakley took on growing responsibility, serving as a whip for Speaker Tip O'Neill, as chair of the Democratic Personnel Committee, as a member of the Steering and Policy Committee, and eventually, Chairman of the House Rules Committee. Through all these experiences, John got an inside view of the close bonds that Rep. Moakley built with his fellow House members, on both sides of the aisle, and the way that the House worked in a different era.

Later, John served as the President and CEO of the Congressional Economic Leadership Institute (CELI). CELI was a bipartisan educational foundation designed to acquaint Members of Congress, their staff, and corporate executives with emerging economic issues. During his tenure at CELI, John coordinated more than 200 sessions in the U.S. Senate and House, and brought CEOs, foreign heads of state, parliamentary delegations, authors, economists, cabinet secretaries, and regulatory agency leadership together in forums on economic growth and productivity.

He later worked in government relations, joining Capstone National Partners in 2016, a government affairs and public policy firm with offices in Milwaukee and Washington, D.C.—a move that has now allowed him to take his journey full circle, home to Wisconsin to live near his sisters in Milwaukee.

Working in this body for decades, one comes to understand the importance of building strong relationships with those who have the privilege of serving in it alongside you—and that goes for staff as well as Members. We all serve for the good of the American people, but also for the good of this institution. John understood that during his time here. I know that is why when he left, he chose to continue that effort through his work with the House Chiefs of Staff Alumni Association—an Alumni-driven educational and professional organization that brings together former and current House Chiefs of Staff for mentorship, networking events and presentations on current events and an annual reception in honor of the current House Chiefs who serve our offices.

It is no surprise that John provided dynamic leadership for the group. As president, he took the lead in securing speakers for joint lunches held with members of the current House Chiefs of Staff Association. These included Supreme Court justices such as Elena Kagan, Antonin Scalia and Stephen Breyer, leading media figures, journalists, and former Members of Congress. In addition, he specialized in making receptions and dinners come together for current and former House chiefs at embassies across D.C., including the Canadian, German, French, Irish, Belgian, Finnish and Thai embassies, among others.

Last year, the House Chiefs of Staff Alumni Association celebrated its 35th anniversary, and acknowledged John for being the longest-serving president of the organization—having served for nearly half of those 35 years. In doing so, John took on the title “president emeritus,” having carried the organization through COVID shutdowns, and handing it over to the next leaders to keep its long tradition alive.

Mr. Speaker, John is a great man, but he is also a fundamentally good guy who I and so many others are privileged to call a friend and mentor. I want to thank him for his incredible service to this institution, for his work to strengthen our country and strengthen our community here on the Hill, and for his years of friendship and leadership through the House Chiefs of Staff Alumni Association.

HONORING BARBARA SCHAFFER
FOR HER INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ELM
SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, tonight, members of New Haven's vibrant arts community have gathered for the Elm Shakespeare Company's annual gala—an event which both celebrates the past success of the organization and looks ahead as they announce plans for their next season. As part of this year's gala, Elm Shakespeare will also honor the invaluable contributions of the remarkable Barbara Schaffer, who recently stepped down from her 25-year role as Development Director for the organization. Throughout her time with Elm Shakespeare, Barbara's passion for the arts, tenacity, and dedication enabled the Company to thrive, cementing its place as one of our community's most beloved cultural institutions.

Barbara began her professional career with Chase Bank, working in offices in both New York and London. When she left the finance industry, it was to pursue a path in the non-profit sector, becoming the Executive Director of High Hopes, a therapeutic riding program serving individuals with emotional health challenges, learning or developmental disabilities, and other neurodivergent challenges. While Barbara was proud of the work she was doing with High Hopes, in March of 1998, she found her true calling when she accepted a role at Elm Shakespeare Company.

Elm Shakespeare was only in its third season of Shakespeare in the Park when Barbara joined the organization. Over the course of the following 25 years, Barbara's incredible talent, commitment, and leadership were instrumental in growing the organization into the beloved and respected arts program it is today. Barbara spearheaded fundraising campaigns, cultivated community and corporate sponsorships, and forged key partnerships with the National Endowment of the Arts as well as Connecticut Humanities. Barbara developed Elm Shakespeare's partnership with Southern Connecticut State University, a relationship which has led to the Company becoming the University's Theater in Residence. In fact, it was Barbara who launched Elm Shakespeare's annual gala and auction which has

not only become a successful fundraiser but a cherished event for New Haven's arts community.

I, like so many others gathered this evening, count myself fortunate to be able to call Barbara my friend. She has an extraordinary depth of energy, passion, and commitment. “Tapestry” is the theme of tonight's event, and it could not be a more fitting tribute to the woman whose passion and dedication has enabled the Elm Shakespeare Company to weave the magic of live theater throughout our community. She has helped shape Elm Shakespeare Company into the wonderful organization it is today, leaving an indelible mark not only on Elm Shakespeare but on the New Haven arts community as well.

I am honored to stand today and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to my good friend, Barbara Schaffer, for her good work and invaluable contributions to the Elm Shakespeare Company. All the better for her remarkable effort, we are so fortunate that she continues to be such a strong supporter of the New Haven arts community. While her retirement marks the end of an era, I wish Barbara and her husband, Michael, the very best as they enjoy this new life chapter.

HONORING SUE HARRISON

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Sue Harrison, the former President of the Pebble Creek Republican Club.

Sue has distinguished herself by providing exceptional service to the residents of the Pebble Creek area of Goodyear, Arizona. Sue has worked tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement.

The efforts of Sue and the Pebble Creek Republican Club have been pivotal to the success of elected officials and candidates in the Phoenix West Valley.

I am thankful for Sue's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to the 8th Congressional District and the State of Arizona.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF WILLIAM “BILL” TEAGUE

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a remarkable individual whose dedication and service to our communities has spanned nearly seven decades—Mr. William “Bill” Teague. As he embarks on his well-deserved retirement, I want to express my deepest gratitude for his unwavering commitment to the residents of Indio, California and the Coachella Valley.

Bill's journey with the Valley Sanitary District began in 1951 when he was hired as a Plant Operator. Over the next 34 years, he rose

through the ranks to become the General Manager, a position he held for 28 years. His leadership not only enhanced our wastewater management but also set a standard for excellence that continues to benefit our community today.

Bill retired as an employee of Valley Sanitary District in 1985, but his passion soon brought him back. In 1991, Bill was elected to the Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors, where he has served tirelessly for over 33 years, including two decades as President from 1992–2011. His contributions have been invaluable, ensuring that our local water resources are managed with care and innovation. Bill also served on the East Valley Reclamation Authority, taking on various leadership roles, including President and Treasurer, further demonstrating his commitment to environmental stewardship.

Throughout his career, Bill has received numerous accolades, including the prestigious Wm. D. Hatfield Award and recognition from both the Santa Ana Basin and Colorado River Basin for his significant contributions to the wastewater industry. His work with the California Water Pollution Control Agency and other organizations underscores his passion for public service and community improvement.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Bill has actively engaged with various community organizations, from the Indio Chamber of Commerce to the Coachella Valley Boys Club, always seeking to uplift those around him. His service on multiple committees and boards reflects his dedication to fostering a better community for all.

As Bill retires from the Board of Directors in December 2024, we celebrate not only his professional achievements but also the lasting impact he has made on the lives of countless individuals in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Bill Teague's outstanding contributions to our community and extend our heartfelt gratitude for his years of dedicated service. On behalf of California's 25th Congressional District, we wish him all the best in his retirement, knowing that he leaves behind a foundation of excellence that will inspire future leaders.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GREGORY "DON" HUNSUCKER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gregory "Don" Hunsucker, a beloved husband, brother, father, and leader.

Born on August 29, 1947, Gregory was one of two sons born to Gragrie and Jolene (Frazier) Hunsucker. Growing up, Don learned lessons such as to always fight for what is right, to help those who can't help themselves, and to never, ever give up which served him well when doctors told him he would never walk again due to an accident he sustained while riding a horse at Church camp. True to his virtues, Don not only walked again but went on to pursue his athletic aspirations at Parlier High school and even college after.

Parlier High is also where Don met the love of his life, Linda Mae, who he described as

the prettiest girl he ever saw. Lucky for him, her devotion matched his infatuation and the two shared a bond for the next 55 years, dedicating their lives to their greatest gifts, Jerry and Michelle. As a husband and father, Mr. Hunsucker cherished every moment with his family. Whether it was dressing up as Santa on Christmas or teaching them how to throw a football, he always made sure to not just tell them he loved them but showed them as well.

In 1971, Don decided to join the fight of the labor movement and began serving as a Special Representative and Organizer for the Retail Clerks International Association. Eventually, he became the Union Representative for the Retail Clerks Local 1288, and following the merger of several unions he was elected as the President—Chief Executive Officer of the United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 1288. As the youngest person to ever be elected President of a local union, Mr. Hunsucker was fearless in his struggle to advocate for his members but always managed to conduct himself with respect when interacting with others. Whether it was at the negotiating table or heading a picket line, Don always put his members first which grew tenfold by the time he retired in 2007.

Throughout his distinguished career, he also held many titles in other organizations such as Vice President of the California Federation of Labor, Chair of the Northern California Caucus, Trustee of the Northern California Joint Pension Fund, President of the Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Counties Central Labor Council, and Vice President of the Fresno Area Coalition of Organized Labor. Even after his retirement, Mr. Hunsucker continued to help and honor workers of the Central Valley by becoming President of the UFCW Local 1288 Retiree's Club where he was instrumental in founding Union Park, and Workers Memorial Foundation, Inc. For all of these efforts and more, Don was named Labor Leader of the Year three times in his lifetime.

In addition to his commitment to labor, Don was extremely involved within his community as well. For example, he helped raise money for the Cancer Society, Leukemia Society, Muscular Dystrophy and the Fresno State Boosters Club. He also served as a board member for several organizations including United Way, the Easter Seal Society, and the City of Fresno's Bid Compliance Committee. Don truly did it all and was more than deserving of all the recognition he received, including the Key to the City of Fresno as well as the City of Parlier.

Despite his countless achievements, Don always remained true to the virtues he learned as a child and committed his life to fighting for what he felt was right. He was a leader of the community and his willingness to stand up for others was admired by many. Although his love and thoughtfulness will be missed greatly by those fortunate to know him, his legacy will live on through the love of his life, Linda Mae, and their greatest gifts, Michelle and Jerry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Gregory "Don" Hunsucker for his contributions to labor and the community. May we continue to be inspired by his story.

HONORING THE LIFE OF POLICE CHIEF HARRY HASKINS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Harry Haskins, Jr., who passed away on September 1, at the age of 87. Mr. Haskins dedicated his life to law enforcement and the well-being of Virginians.

Mr. Haskins was born in Clifton Forge, Virginia on October 8, 1936. He graduated from the old Clifton Forge High School. He later earned an Associate's degree from Virginia Western Community College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Roanoke College.

His service to law enforcement began in 1958 as a trooper with Virginia State Police, where he dedicated 16 years of his career.

In 1974, he became a Special Agent with the U.S. Forest Service, before accepting a position as Chief of Police for the City of Salem in 1975.

As Chief of Police, Mr. Haskins excelled at his job and became a fixture in the Salem community. His contributions to Salem's police force included establishing the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program.

Mr. Haskins was a founding member of the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy, serving as Chairman of the Governing Council for 10 years. His experience on the Executive Committee of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, which included a stint as President, allowed him to advocate for law enforcement officials and improve department practices.

His outstanding service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and City of Salem would last two decades until his retirement at the end of 1995.

The City of Salem elected Mr. Haskins in 1996 to serve on City Council. I worked with Mr. Haskins during his time as Chief of Police and as a member of Salem City Council. He was a classic southern gentleman, and it was an honor to know him.

The recognition of Mr. Haskins' character and accomplishments is evident. He received in 1996 the Roanoke College Medal, the highest honor bestowed on Roanoke College alumni who best exemplify the ideals of leadership, integrity and citizenship that Maroons hold dear. He also received the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award.

He is survived by his loving wife, Judith Barrett Haskins; daughters and husbands, Melanie and Scott Lewke of Blue Ridge, Virginia, and Kathryn and Kevin Glasgow of Georgia; and Nadine Kelley of Roanoke, mother of his children. Also surviving are stepchildren, Will Abernethy of Roanoke, Nathan and Julie Abernethy of Roanoke, Whitney Miller of Dillwyn, and Steve Wilson and Ken Wilson. Surviving grandchildren are Greg and Sam Glasgow, Emma and Mary Lewke, and step-grandchildren Kaylee and Rachel Goin, Elijah, Nora and Isaac Abernethy.

The City of Salem and the law enforcement community is forever grateful to Chief Haskins, the professionalism he embodied during his law enforcement career, and his dedication to the safety and well-being of the people of Salem.