

THANKING LONG-TIME STAFFER DAVID RANSOM FOR HIS SERVICE AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS MOVE TO A MAJOR LAW FIRM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today, I want to thank one of my former staffers, David Ransom, who recently left the Majority Leader's Office to join one of our Nation's premier law firms, for his 9 years of service as my principal speechwriter, as a key member of my communications team, and as a senior advisor who always offered strong recommendations based on solid reasoning.

There are few people who have served on my staff who know my position on issues better than David does.

At a going-away luncheon for David, I told the assembled staff that I needed them to step up as David had, and to give me their best advice and counsel—even if that meant that on occasion they might be disagreeing with me or other staff. As a good lawyer, David clearly appreciates the importance of making a compelling argument. But he also recognizes the necessity of anticipating and considering opposing points of view and policy positions.

This approach not only has made David a valued member of my staff, but also has enabled me to better serve my constituents in Maryland's Fifth Congressional District, this great institution and our Nation.

During his more than 9 years on my staff, David demonstrated that he is a team player and problem solver who has exceptional analytical, writing, and communication skills. Over that period, he drafted everything from short

statements, to countless Floor statements, to major speeches, to substantive policy documents, to advocacy materials for members of the Democratic Caucus.

While I am certainly sad to lose a trusted, valued member of my staff, I am very pleased that David has joined such a great law firm—McDermott Will & Emery, one of the top law firms in America. There's no question that his insight into the congressional leadership and the Members who serve here will be of great value to McDermott Will & Emery's clients.

I wish David and his family—his wife, Lori, and two children—all the best in the future, and again thank him for his efforts on my behalf.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE ALAN AUTRY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my distinguished colleagues from California, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. CARDOZA to pay special tribute to Mr. Alan Autry for 8 years of distinguished public service to the city of Fresno, CA. Mr. Autry has completed the maximum numbers of years of service allowable by city charter as the mayor of the city of Fresno. He is to be honored at a Roast and Recognition reception on Thursday, December 18, 2008.

During his two terms, Alan has remained strongly committed to fulfilling the mission of Fresno, as a "united city working together to ensure equal access to opportunity, education and quality of life for every man, women, and

child, regardless of their race, religion, age, or socio-economic status." Mayor Autry's efforts have focused on crime reduction, educational reform, economic development, availability of affordable housing, addressing homelessness, raising awareness on the water issues of our Central Valley and on government reform.

Throughout his notable career, Alan has served on numerous commissions and boards at the local, State and Federal levels. He has been a part of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Conference of Mayors Advisory Board, the U.S. Conference of Mayors Education Standing Committee, the U.S. Conference of Mayors Arts and Entertainment Standing Committee, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Strengthening America's Communities Secretarial Advisory Committee, the League of California Cities Board of Directors, the California Partnership Board, the League of California Cities Housing Task Force, the Fresno County Transportation Authority Board and the Fresno County Council of Government Board. Mayor Autry was a founding board member of the Operation Clean Air Board and the Regional Jobs Initiative Board.

His service and work have been acknowledged through countless awards and honors, not the least of which is his recognition as one of the most effective advocates ever in terms of garnering a fair share of State and Federal resources for the Central Valley.

Madam Speaker, it goes without saying that throughout his career, Alan Autry has proven to be a highly motivated leader, striving for excellence in public service, keeping his city safe and making it the best city possible for all the residents of Fresno. As he gets ready to spend more time on other endeavors, we thank him for his service and wish him continued success and fulfillment in the future.