

the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and in the Legislative Branch as a detailee for the Appropriations Committee. Throughout her federal service, Karen has developed budgets, planned expenditures, facilitated transparency and fostered a team approach to solving some of the most difficult problems faced by agencies.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee's professional staff, Karen is a source of reliable information and trustworthy counsel. She approaches her job seriously, and she takes to heart the consequences of the decisions made in Congress for the public servants at dozens of federal agencies as well as the Americans who depend upon their good work.

Most of all, Karen's can-do attitude, her bright smile and warm welcomes, and her willingness to go the extra mile to get the answers not just right—but exactly right—have been instrumental to the proper functioning of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Appropriations during my two years as Chair. She will be greatly missed, and her presence and many noteworthy contributions to the work product of the Subcommittee will not soon be forgotten.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her excellent work and in wishing her well in a satisfying, hard-earned retirement, one in which there are no budget cycles, appropriations deadlines, constantly-

ringing phones or all-night weekend workdays. Thank you, Karen, and God bless.

HONORING ANDREW WHALEN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have

shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

Andrew Whalen helped run my very first campaign and played an instrumental role in my election to Congress. Following the campaign, Andrew served as a member of my D.C. staff as Communications Director. With Andrew's talent for grasping the breadth and complexities of the day's leading issues, together we were able to sift through some of the most intricate legislation of the decade. Then, after successfully running my first reelection campaign, Andrew returned to the office to serve as my Senior Advisor for Policy and Communications. Andrew was an exceptional member of my staff in every position that he held, and his political acumen and masterful communication skills continued to be invaluable assets.

Andrew should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Andrew and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Andrew Whalen for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.