

Review-Journal's political reporter in 2010. Her final years were spent bringing unforgettable political coverage to the Las Vegas community.

Throughout her 30 years in Nevada journalism, Laura strived to travel the world and achieve a greater understanding of her surroundings. She sought to transcribe and bring an accurate picture of her findings to her readers. Her insatiable appetite to uncover important news stories and bring Nevadans pertinent political information made her the incredible journalist that she was. She embodied the Battle Born spirit of determination, fearlessness, confidence, and resilience. She was a fierce competitor, bringing out the absolute best of Nevada journalism. I worked with Laura for many years and have seen firsthand her unwavering dedication to her trade. Our relationship operated under an open-door policy, and I am grateful for everything she has done.

I extend my deepest sympathies to her family. We will always remember Laura for her invaluable contribution to the local community and for her compassion that touched so many lives around the globe. Her legacy of kindness, dedication, and true drive will echo on for years to come in Nevada journalism.

Laura fought to bring Nevada only the most accurate journalism. Even in her final weeks, her dedication to those around her never faltered. I am honored to commend her for her hard work and invaluable contribution to the Silver State. Today, I join the Las Vegas community and citizens of the Silver State to celebrate the life of an upstanding Nevadan and friend, Laura Myers.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID SAMRICK

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Mr. David Samrick on the occasion of his recognition as the 2014 Service Center Executive of the Year by Metal Center News. Mr. Samrick has worked at Mill Steel since 1965, and was named president in 1976 after his father stepped back from day-to-day management of the family's company. Under his leadership, Mill Steel has grown from a single-location in Grand Rapids, MI into the 23rd largest service center organization selling flat-rolled steel from Canada to the gulf coast. I appreciate the opportunity to recognize Mr. Samrick's success as a business leader, as well as the contributions he has made to communities throughout western Michigan.

Mr. Samrick is the heart and soul of Mill Steel, the company founded by his parents in 1959. Its success is a testament to Mr. Samrick's team-building skills and his confidence in the company's leadership. Each member of the six-person leadership team has equity in the company, and all share the responsibility of directing its operations. The team reflects a diversity which is unique in the steel industry, a reflection

of Mr. Samrick's belief in attracting the best talent available regardless of age or gender. An example of the breadth and diversity of experience at Mill Steel is the fact that—when you include Mr. Samrick—the company's leadership team includes individuals born in the 1940s, 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s.

The success of Mr. Samrick's approach to management is evident in Mill Steel's track record, especially during the past 5 years. The company's revenue first crossed the \$100 million mark in the early 2000s. In 2010, Mill Steel expanded outside the Midwest with the purchase of the former Coated Steel facility in Birmingham, AL. Last year, it added a facility at the Port of Indiana to its holdings. This has allowed Mill Steel to become a prominent player in the flat-roll steel market from Toronto to Texas. It anticipates 700,000 tons of flat-rolled steel will pass through the doors of Mill Steel next year, with revenue expected to exceed \$600 million in 2015.

Mill Steel's success is due in no small part to the company's hard work and the loyalty displayed between it and its clients. Mr. Samrick's patient and trusting leadership has helped Mill Steel remain flexible during economic downturns. This flexibility is also illustrated in the company's commitment to technology and service. In particular, the company's Rapid Response program allows it to regularly prepare and ship an order within 4 hours of being received. Mr. Samrick's trust in his team allows Mill Steel to address the dynamic needs of its customers, encouraging loyalty and trust across the board.

Mr. Samrick's successful approach to leadership is not only rooted in his confidence in the leadership and staff of Steel Mill; it reflects his love for his family and a desire to lead a balanced lifestyle. Mr. Samrick is devoted to his wife, two children and five grandchildren. He also embraces a culture of philanthropy, demonstrated by his role as a national leader on the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and his longtime commitment to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Western Michigan and its parent organization, D.A. Blodgett St. John's of Michigan.

For almost 20 years, Mill Steel has led the fundraising efforts of Big Brother and Big Sisters of Western Michigan. The company took leadership of the organization's annual golf outing in 1996. Since that time, the event has raised nearly \$1.7 million, helping match 11,000 children with mentors. The annual golf outing culminates in a dinner where the Harry Samrick Scholarship, named in honor of Mr. Samrick's father, is awarded. It is one of the many ways Mr. Samrick and Mill Steel supports children, including services projects at group homes and visits to children hospitals.

Again, I would like to congratulate Mr. David Samrick on being recognized as the 2014 Service Center Executive of the Year by Metal Center News. I ap-

plaud Mr. Samrick's success, as well as his dedication to his family and community. I am confident his leadership will continue to shape the future of Steel Mill and communities throughout western Michigan.●

#### RECOGNIZING HASPEL

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses can often influence American culture and provide rich traditions that we celebrate for decades to come. Born out of the unique features of their hometowns, these businesses have become an important part of our history. The "Throwback Thursday" Small Business of the Week, Haspel of New Orleans, LA has created an all-American brand of clothing that has supported domestic enterprise and manufacturing.

In 1909, Joseph Haspel Sr. created his namesake seersucker brand to help Louisianians cope with the Mighty Mississippi's heat and humidity. Haspel recognized the need for versatile, lightweight clothing that could be worn during both the summer days and evenings. He based the puckered cloth off of a similar design used by workers in India, where the fabric was originally used to make overalls and laboring clothes. Haspel soon realized that a wide variety of folks could benefit from the innovative design—not simply just the day laborers for which the design was initially intended. From here, the seersucker business suit was born and quickly became a popular icon of the southern gentleman, worn at jazz concerts and cocktail parties alike. The style spread farther north and eventually solidified its place as an emblem of sophistication, having outfitted nearly every President since Calvin Coolidge. Haspel is now in its fourth generation as a family-owned business and continues to provide lightweight and stylish clothing across the country.

Joseph Haspel centered his brand on the unique culture of New Orleans and southern Louisiana. In addition to providing a cloth that would help people stay cool throughout the summer, he was committed to crafting clothes that were enjoyable to wear. To demonstrate his wash-and-wear fabric, Haspel supposedly jumped into the Atlantic Ocean in his suit, hung it up to dry, and wore it to an event later that evening. His commitment to durable, comfortable clothing has attracted loyal customers for over 100 years. This wash-and-wear material is used today for everything from suits to shorts.

Congratulations again to Haspel for being selected as the "Throwback Thursday" Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your continued embodiment of Louisiana culture and dedication to 100 percent made-in-America quality clothing.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to