

TRIBUTE TO PAUL USHER FOR HIS
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF MARION
GENERAL HOSPITAL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Usher on the occasion of his retirement. From 2008 to 2016, Paul has served as President and CEO of Marion General Hospital in Marion, Indiana. In his eight years as the system's President, Paul has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to superior patient care and ensuring Marion General Hospital's growth and success. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Paul's dedication to making Marion General Hospital a great place to work, practice medicine, and receive exceptional health care.

Before taking the role as President and CEO at Marion General, Paul had a long history of devoting his time to bettering the lives of Hoosiers and improving his community. Paul is a native of Marion, Indiana and graduated from Ball State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. Shortly after graduating he received a Certified Public Accountant certificate and quickly emerged to be a leader within the financial community. He became a member of both the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Indiana CPA Society. Paul's ambition and passion led him to continue growing in his role in the financial world and his expertise led him to the healthcare field. He became a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), the nation's leading professional society for healthcare leaders, as well as a Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA), the nation's leading membership organization for healthcare financial management executives and leaders, which he has been a member of for nearly 44 years and previously served as President of the Indiana Chapter.

Though Paul has an extensive and impressive background, his most notable accomplishments are connected to his work at Marion General Hospital. For 34 years, he has been an integral part of making Marion General the successful organization it is today. Prior to taking the role as CEO and President in 2008, Paul served the healthcare system as Chief Financial Officer. Throughout his tenure at the helm of the longtime community institution, Paul has emphasized relationships as the hospital's key to success. This emphasis cultivated a culture of exceptional patient care and made it a wonderful place to work. In 2012, Marion General Hospital received the prestigious honor as a Fire Starter hospital from the Studer Group. A Fire Starter hospital is one which ignites the flame of excellence by embracing the foundational principles of working together, developing relationships, caring for one another and extending true compassion to others. Since its beginning in 1896, Marion General Hospital has grown immensely and because of strong leadership from people like Paul, the hospital continues to provide exceptional healthcare to the people of Grant County over a century later.

Paul's commitment to the highest standard of care and success as a leader has not gone

unnoticed; he has received numerous accolades. Most notably, Paul was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash (2016) for his exceptional leadership, devotion to his organization, and making significant contributions to the great Hoosier state. He also received the Stanley A. Pressler Award from the Indiana Healthcare Financial Management Association, the most honorable award bestowed by the Indiana HFMA chapter.

Paul has devoted himself to attaining the vision he set out for the hospital when he began his career with Marion General, and over the past several years he has achieved that vision. He leaves behind a strong legacy at Marion General Hospital and throughout the Hoosier community, especially Grant County. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I'd like to congratulate Paul on his remarkable career and extend a huge thank you for all of the wonderful contributions he has made to Marion General Hospital and the Grant County Community. I wish the very best to Paul and his wife, Marsha, as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING BEST BUY'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Best Buy's 50th anniversary. Through these 50 years, Best Buy has shown leadership, community service, and entrepreneurship in Minnesota and beyond.

Best Buy was started in 1966 by Richard M. Schulze. Mr. Schulze is a Minnesota native and former member of the Minnesota Air National Guard in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Schulze started Best Buy with four employees, less than \$11,000 in capital, and with the sole experience of selling electronics at his father's company. At that time the store offered albums, audio cassettes, stereo components, speakers and musical instruments.

In just four years Best Buy, then called "Sound of Music", accumulated \$1 million in annual revenue. Since then Best Buy has been growing its company by updating retail technology, expanding all over the country, expanding recycle efforts and providing teenagers with access to technology.

Best Buy has also been generous in its philanthropic work and diligent in its efforts to protect the environment. In 1994 the Best Buy Children's Foundation was established and that same year they raised over \$107,000. Since then they have had annual charities that raise millions of dollars in order to give underserved youth access to technology. Best Buy has collected and recycled over 1 billion pounds of e-waste and has decreased its carbon footprint by more than 25 percent since 2009. Overall Best Buy has given over \$50 million and over 140,000 volunteer hours to Minnesota non-profits.

Not only has Best Buy done extensive charity work but they also educate teens through their national Teen Tech Centers. These Teen Tech Centers are a space for teens to use new technologies like music and video productions, photography, design and programming. Through these Teen Tech Centers 1,800

teens have completed educational workshops and 94 percent of the attendees will continue their education post high school. Over the years, Best Buy has employed over 1 million people, including 10,000 Minnesotans, through its 1,600 North American stores and online sales.

Best Buy is North America's number one retailer of consumer technology and other related services. I wish Best Buy all the best in their future endeavors.

A CAREER OF SERVICE TO
OTHERS

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ruth Flower, the 2016 recipient of the Coalition on Human Needs' Hero award for her outstanding work fighting against poverty and for peace and justice.

As a Human Needs Hero, Ruth is joining an esteemed group of individuals who go above and beyond to fight for the dignity and quality of life of all people. In her numerous interactions with my office, it was clear Ruth has a passion for helping others, and is a truly extraordinary advocate for those in need.

During Ruth's career as Associate Executive Secretary for Legislative Programs at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Ruth enjoyed meeting with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle and with a wide array of viewpoints. She would leave no stone unturned in her efforts to find the necessary resources for those who needed them most.

For example, in my Congressional District, Ruth's worked with me to dramatically improve the lives of students attending the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school, which is in desperate need of renovation. Ruth's advocacy helped build support in Congress and the Administration for funding for a new school. I am so pleased to say that after years of tireless efforts by many, including yours truly, students from the Leech Lake Reservation will no longer have to attend class in a drafty, unsafe, and hazardous pole building.

In addition to advocating for Native American concerns, Ruth led efforts to address a wide range of our shared priorities, including health care reform, affordable housing, federal budget priorities, civil liberties, campaign finance reform, and the challenge of poverty in the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and others in congratulating Ruth on her receipt of the Human Needs Hero award as we thank her for her tireless work at FCNL to improve the lives of all-too-often underrepresented segments of our society.

REMEMBERING WALTER BIALEK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Walter J. Bialek—beloved family man, friend and religious mentor to many. Mr. Bialek passed from this life