

here, and who brought honor to his hometown of Peoria.

Let me introduce, finally, Scott Michel. When the Michel family gave me the privilege of helping them organize the memorial service in Peoria and here, all of us, except for Scott, thought that a family member should say something. We persuaded Scott to be the spokesman for the family. You all know Bob loved every one of his children and his grandchildren. So Scott really stepped up and decided that he would be the one to represent the family. So please welcome Scott Michel.

(Applause.)

(Mr. Scott Michel, son of the Honorable Robert H. Michel)

Mr. Michel: Thank you, Ray.

First, let me thank all of you, on behalf of the entire Michel family, for joining us here this afternoon to celebrate the life of my dad, Bob Michel.

Since his passing last month in Arlington, Virginia, I have read glowing tributes, news articles, and obituaries capturing the highlights of his illustrious career and extolling the virtues of his character. What I want to tell you today is that the qualities that propelled him to such lofty heights were made a part of him by his father and mother, Charles and Anna Michel, back in Peoria, Illinois. His parents instilled in him values and character that developed, matured, and later were passed on to his sons and daughter, just as his parents had done for him.

As I got older and had a son of my own, I looked back and tried to replicate what I saw and learned when I was growing up. What did I see and learn? First, I saw a larger than life figure with a booming voice, a vivid presence, and the bearing of a leader. He was in charge. And even though his work in Washington meant we saw him only twice a month on weekends, he called us almost every day to check on our academic progress, our athletic pursuits, our musical instrument accomplishments, and our chores around the house. We all saw that he was in our midst even while being away, and we saw his involvement, commitment, and influence, which was constant and reassuring.

Second, when he was at home, we saw up close what he was made of, and that made a lasting impression on all of us. Learning his life lessons was simple: just watch and listen. His lessons weren't taught so much by conversation as by simple observation. We could see how he interacted with my mother: how he treated her, how he respected her, how they spoke with each other. It was with love, sensitivity, and without harsh or bitter words. We could see how he treated each of us, too. He was fair, evenhanded, strict when needed, held us accountable for our actions, and expected no less than our best at whatever we were doing, whatever tasks we were given, or whatever our school studies demanded. All of this reinforced his desire for us to be responsible.

He also showed us how to be humble by practicing humility. Bragging was called out. So was self-centeredness and arrogance. He showed us that working hard and doing a good job was its own reward. He showed us how to be honest by demanding the truth from us and expecting no less when dealing with others. He showed us how to be generous and compassionate by his countless efforts to help assist, console, and empathize with those less fortunate or those who had fallen on difficult times. And he showed us how to respect others by treating them the way he would want to be treated. That sounds like the Golden Rule.

As I look back at the values and character that witnessed growing up with my father—his humility, his honesty, his work ethic, his generosity, his respect for others, and his

abiding faith in God and our country—I feel so fortunate and blessed to have had him as my father. He loved us and his family in every way and with all his heart. He was a one-of-a-kind role model.

While his accomplishments in public life make us all so very proud, it is his values and character that he instilled in each of us that means the most to us. That will be his lasting legacy.

Godspeed, Dad. I love you. I miss you. I know you are in God's hands now.

Before we close, I would like to ask that you all join the U.S. Army chorus in singing "God Bless America," which was one of my dad's favorite songs, especially when he could lead the singing, as he did on numerous occasions.

MUSICAL SELECTION—"God Bless America," performed by the United States Army Chorus)

Reverend Conroy: Dear Lord, as we close our time together, send Your spirit of peace and consolation upon us who mourn the loss of the Honorable, former minority leader of the House, Bob Michel.

He was a glowing example, an icon of what it means to be a man for others. His decades of service to his home State of Illinois and to our great Nation will be long appreciated by those whose lives are forever blessed by his life's work and dedication.

His belief in the durability and transcendence of Congress as an institution, the first branch of government, is a challenge in this day of severe partisan divide and a persistent and seeming inability to consider compromise in order to reach consensus. May some from both sides of the aisle be inspired to emulate such a great statesman.

May Your angels, O God, come to greet our beloved Bob Michel, and may those who mourn him here be consoled with the knowledge that, for those whom love You, everything is turned to good.

Amen.

POSTLUDE—(United States Army Brass Quintet)

HONORING JOE MCEARCHER FOR HIS CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2017

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Deal McEarcher, Jr. for his over forty years of service as Chief Clerk of the Mobile County Probate Court.

Born in 1949, Joe has been a lifelong resident of Mobile County, Alabama. After Joe's father passed away when he was young, he worked in various shoe stores in the Mobile area to help finance his college education. He attended public schools in Prichard, Alabama and graduated from C.F. Vigor High School in 1968. During his time at Vigor, Joe was President of the National Honor Society, sports editor for the yearbook, and named "Student of the Year" by the Civitan Club.

Joe went on to attend the University of South Alabama, where he graduated in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in political science. While in college, he married Wendy Stinson, who also graduated from South.

In July of 1972, Joe was hired by Mobile County Judge of Probate John L. Moore to serve as chief clerk of the Recording Division. He later served as administrative assistant of the Court before being appointed chief clerk of

the Court in March 1981. He has served in that position ever since under Judges John L. Moore III, Lionel W. Noonan, and Don Davis.

Early in his career, Joe oversaw and implemented changes to the Probate Court's pre-computerized indexing system for judicial and land records. His work focused on making these systems more efficient and easier to use. As technology advanced, Joe oversaw and implemented changes to the Court's operations to utilize computer technology in all aspects of the Court's operations, including the recording of documents, word processing, websites, judicial case management, and accounting.

Joe is currently the dean of the chief clerks of probate courts in the State of Alabama. He is a founding member and past president of the Alabama Probate Court Chief Clerks Association. He served as a member of the Alabama Law Institute's Probate Code Revision Committee and assisted the Alabama Law Institute on numerous projects involving Alabama probate courts, probate law, and probate procedure. He has been asked to speak and present on these topics countless times throughout his career.

When he was not working, Joe has pursued a number of hobbies including photography, astronomy, birding, ham radio, and flying. He is also a long time member of the First Baptist Church of Mobile.

Joe has always been a good friend of the lawyers in our community, including a friend of mine. So, on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to wish Joe and Wendy all the best upon his retirement. His dedicated service to Mobile County has not and will not go unnoticed.

IN RECOGNITION OF ORELAND BOY SCOUT TROOP 1

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Oreland Boy Scout Troop 1 of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary. The Boy Scouts of America chartered the troop in 1917, and its members have been active and dedicated contributors to their communities in the century since. Today, Troop 1 hosts scouts from Oreland, Flourtown, Erdenheim, Fort Washington, Maple Glen and other neighboring communities.

The Boy Scouts are one of the largest youth development organizations in the country, and I am pleased to have so many active troops in Pennsylvania's 7th District. Oreland Boy Scout Troop 1 is one such troop, among the oldest in Pennsylvania, and it has trained so many of our area's youth to be young men of character, service, and commitment to community and country.

Mr. Speaker, Oreland Boy Scout Troop 1 performs an invaluable service to the scouts involved and the communities it serves. I thank the Troop's scouts and leaders over the last century for their service and leadership.