

TRIBUTE TO MARGE AND STEVE
PIERCE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Marge and Steve Pierce of Oakland, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 29, 2018.

Marge and Steve's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING PETE BUTLER

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pete Butler for his dedicated service as a Wounded Warrior Fellow in my district office.

In 2002, Pete graduated from Sunset High School in Beaverton, Oregon. He soon found his calling and devoted his life to serving his country in the United States Army. Pete enlisted in 2007, serving two tours in Afghanistan. He earned many commendations and accolades, including a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and a Combat Infantry Badge.

After retiring from the U.S. Army in November 2014, Pete settled down in Turlock, California with his wife, Stephanie, and children, PJ and Brayden. In 2015, he started work at Starbucks as a Store Assistant Manager. At the same time, he stayed busy attending classes at California State University of Stanislaus, where he intends to obtain his Bachelor's of Science in Political Science.

Driven by a desire to continue serving his country, Pete applied for a position with the Wounded Warrior Fellowship and joined our team. He served as a liaison to veterans' communities in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties. Pete was a tremendous asset, advocating on behalf of these brave men and women. He helped provide strong oversight over the French Camp VA Hospital project, which will benefit veterans in our district and surrounding areas.

In addition to his other duties, Pete played an integral role working with our flood control agencies, including the successful authorization of the Lower San Joaquin Chief's Report. The project aims to reduce the overall flood risk for over 50,000 residents around the San Joaquin River in California's Central Valley.

Although Pete will be sorely missed by all, including the rest of the staff, Team Denham wishes him the best in his next endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pete Butler on his new position and recognizing him for his faithful service during his time with my office.

HONORING CINDI UNGER WITH
CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cindi Unger as a woman of the year. She is passionately devoted to improving her community both through her career and volunteerism. Her inspiration and motivation to work and volunteer in the Senior Care industry comes from her grandparents and their spirit of hard work and sacrifice that they passed on to her. Since 1986, when she worked to help open one of the first care centers in California focused on individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, she has helped care providers, families, and the community understand and care for those suffering with the disease. Her work in my Senior Advisory Group, the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, and the Solano Senior Coalition has been essential to my awareness and understanding of the critical issues facing our senior communities. As the co-chair of the Solano Walk to End Alzheimer's Planning Committee and a member of the Congressional Advocacy Group, Ms. Unger is no stranger to my office and provides invaluable insight to me and my staff on a regular basis. The significant positive impact she has had on this community cannot be overstated, and she is extremely worthy of this recognition.

DEPARTURE OF MATHEW
WEIDINGER FROM THE WAYS
AND MEANS COMMITTEE STAFF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a trusted advisor, a good friend, and by any standard one of the best to ever serve the House Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Mathew Weidinger.

With all of Matt's insight into how this Committee functions and his knowledge of its many storied traditions, it'd be easy to think he began his career under Chairman Fitzsimons when this Committee was founded in 1789, but that just goes to show how truly valuable Matt is around here.

For over 25 years, Matt has played an important role in the major accomplishments of this Committee. From each hearing, markup, and piece of legislation our Committee has led, Matt has been there, ready to serve and willing to go the extra mile to make sure the job not only gets done but done well. His name and reputation are nearly synonymous with the Ways and Means Committee.

Serving five different GOP Chairmen—Archer, Thomas, Camp, RYAN, and BRADY—and being an integral part of our Human Resources and Social Security Subcommittees throughout his tenure, Matt's voice and unparalleled attention to detail has helped shepherd through laws that have directly benefited the lives of millions of children and families. From foster care and adoption, to child support, disability, and unemployment—especially the Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act—it has always been about what is best for taxpayers and families.

Most notably, Matt is our last connection to the successful 1996 welfare reforms that set consistent policies for non-citizens and led to the greatest increase in single mothers returning to work and decrease in poverty. We learned as a nation that in expecting more, more can be achieved, and we seek each day to build upon that success.

When the Great Recession hit our nation, Matt again provided the focus on work and expectation that was needed, reforming the unemployment insurance program in ways that will improve the success of the unemployed for decades to come.

Any Member of this Committee going back almost three decades could tell story after story about Matt's sharp intellect, incredible recall, and dedication to serving the American people. Matt is a true patriot who could have picked a career in any field. Instead, he chose to serve. We are all so grateful for that choice.

With the many demands from his busy schedule, Matt has never ceased being a mentor to dozens and dozens of staffers, all who today would testify that they are better at their jobs because of Matt.

As I was first joining this Committee, outgoing Chairman Bill Archer was singing Matt's praises and advising me to seek his insight on welfare reform and the other myriad programs that make up our Committee's work on Human Resources. Chairman Archer gave me good advice, and my respect and admiration for Matt has only grown throughout the years. I have turned to Matt for continued guidance and judgement as we've tackled historic issues like tax reform and health care.

On behalf of our entire Committee, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Matt. For the countless late nights and early morning's Matt spent here, I would like to especially thank Matt's family, his wife, Jean, and his eight children JC, Andrew, Cara, Hannah, Erin, Joe, Mike, and Claire. I wish Matt and his entire family all the best as he starts the next chapter of his life. Our Committee will not be the same without Matt, but it will forever be a better place because of his service.

TRIBUTE TO SUSIE MEADE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Susie Meade, Superintendent of Winterset Community School District who has been named the 2018–2019 Superintendent of the Year by the School Administrators of Iowa.

Dr. Meade has been superintendent of the Winterset district since 2012 and previously served as assistant superintendent at Ankeny Community Schools. She began her career in education as a secondary home economics teacher in Faribault, MN. This award is based on the Iowa Standards for School Leaders and focuses on a shared vision of leadership, safe efficient and effective learning, work with parents and community and a presence of fairness, integrity, and ethics.

I applaud and congratulate Susie for her award and for providing the youth in Iowa's Third Congressional district the education that they will need to be successful in the future. I am proud to represent her and the entire Winterset Community School District in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Susie Meade and wishing her continued success in the future.