

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE CONRAD BLETZER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2020

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Conrad “Connie” Bletzer, who served as the Chief Justice of the Newton District Court in Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Born and raised in Brighton, Mr. Bletzer attended Saint Columbkille’s high school and later enrolled at Boston College. During the outbreak of the Korean War, he left his studies to serve his country and enlisted in the United States Army. Upon returning, Connie utilized the GI Bill to continue his studies at Boston College Law School. Graduating at the top of his class, he went on to establish his own law firm, Bletzer & Bletzer, in 1959. In the 1980’s two of his sons joined his law firm and it was there that he would develop a reputation for being a hardworking, fair, and honorable man. In 1990, he moved out of his private practice, and was appointed by then Governor Michael S. Dukakis, to serve as the Presiding Justice of the Newton District Court.

While becoming an extremely successful lawyer, Mr. Bletzer not only excelled in his work but also in his personal relationships with family and friends. A true family man, he was constantly playing hockey or baseball with his children and later his grandchildren. He greatly believed in the positive impact of competitive sports in his community, and served as president of the Brighton Central Little League and even founded the Brighton youth hockey association.

Those who knew Connie knew him as a good man, full of kindness and the desire to help others through the legal system. Mr. Bletzer passed away on the 29th of December, in the comfort of his family and friends, yet his legacy in the Newton community lives on. He is survived by his loving wife, Paula, six children, fifteen grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his commitment to his local community and the people of Massachusetts.

HONORING N. ERIC WEISS, PH.D.
IN CELEBRATION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2020

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, N. Eric Weiss, Ph.D., a specialist in financial economics, retired from the Government and Finance Division of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) at the Library of Congress on January 3, 2020. In addition to his 15 years at CRS, Dr. Weiss also worked as an economist and econometrician at the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Policy Development and Research for 12 years and the Bureau of Economic Analysis for 3 years, for a total of 30 years’ service to the American people. CRS and the Congress

have lost an exceptionally able and dedicated public servant with his departure.

A native of Massachusetts, Dr. Weiss earned a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University in economics and government; he earned a master of arts and doctorate of philosophy, both in economics, from Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Weiss began his career teaching microeconomics to MBA and undergraduate students at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and although he left academia for federal service, he returned occasionally to teach at the Institute for Urban Studies at the University of Maryland at College Park and the Department of Finance and Real Estate at the Kogod College of Business at American University. Prior to joining CRS, Dr. Weiss also worked in the private sector, providing data management and programming services to clients such as Fannie Mae and various federal agencies.

Dr. Weiss joined CRS in September 2005 as a specialist in financial economics, initially with a concentration in small business lending. He retooled his research portfolio as the housing finance crisis of 2008 to 2009 developed, bringing his nationally-recognized expertise to the forefront as CRS supported Congress in responding to a range of housing-related policy issues, including the state of the housing and mortgage markets and the effectiveness of federal policies toward home ownership. During this period, he provided targeted analysis for Members and staff on the activities of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, government sponsored enterprises (GSEs) to provide liquidity in the mortgage market and promote homeownership for underserved groups and locations. In reports and memoranda for, and personal briefings with, Members and staff, he provided insightful analysis and detailed information on the costs, benefits, and risks of the GSEs, along with their impact on the housing and mortgage markets particularly after being placed under conservatorship.

During this period, Dr. Weiss worked closely with Congress as it drafted the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. For legislation and oversight hearings, he briefed Members and staffers on current issues and policy options. Dr. Weiss’s published work for CRS demonstrated a detailed understanding of the complex and significant policy issues surrounding these institutions and their operations, winning him praise and achievement awards from CRS.

In addition to his primary coverage areas at CRS, Dr. Weiss (along with fellow colleague Dr. Edward “Ted” V. Murphy) authored “Congress and Financial Crises,” U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, *The Evolving Congress*, committee print, prepared by Congressional Research Service, 113th Cong., 2nd sess., December 2014, S. Prt. 113–30 (Washington: GPO, 2014), pp. 325–352, which provided historical documentation of Congress’ responses to financial crises. Dr. Weiss was also active in professional associations, including the American Economics Association, the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, and Women in Housing Finance. He has been a regular participant in, and contributor to, numerous academic conferences in his fields of expertise.

Away from the office, Dr. Weiss and his wife, Sheila, are the proud parents of two adult daughters—Holly and Andrea. In addition

to having more time with family during retirement, he plans to pursue his numerous recreational, artistic, and social interests, including photography, scuba diving around the world, running, woodworking, and membership in a CRS staff book club.

On behalf of the Members of the Joint Economic Committee, I express my deep appreciation to Dr. Weiss for his many years of service to Congress and the American people. I wish him good luck and Godspeed as he completes his professional career and opens a new chapter in a life of commendable public service and rewarding personal achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. C.W.
MILLER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. C.W. Miller, who is retiring as the Assistant Chief after 56 years of dedication with Gloucester County Fire and Rescue. Mr. Miller’s compassionate service to the community is not lost on me or the great people of Virginia’s First District.

Raised in Harcum, Virginia, C.W. grew up in a tight-knit community where neighborly love was a way of life. As a motivated and selfless person, C.W. could not resist the call of duty and joined the Fire and Rescue squad in 1964. After over a decade with Gloucester County, Miller’s achievements did not go unnoticed, and was duly elected as the Assistant Chief in 1978. Since his promotion, Mr. Miller continued to ceaselessly serve and contribute to his community by responding to those in need. According to many of Miller’s close friends and colleagues, he is a warm-hearted man with a passion to serve.

Nevertheless, Mr. Miller has worked through thick and thin during his career. His steadfastness and compassion are worthy of admiration and emulation.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in recognizing Mr. Miller’s service and wish him the best. On behalf of Virginia’s First District and myself, we thank Mr. Miller.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2020

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 75th anniversary of Riviera Presbyterian Church.

Founded in 1945, Riviera Presbyterian Church provides a religious home for people of faith from the greater Miami area. As a mission-driven church, Riviera Presbyterian Church strives to help improve its community by maintaining an active outreach program. Advocating for undocumented immigrants, the LGBT community, and environmental protection, Riviera Presbyterian Church is committed to promoting equality for all through social justice.