

HONORING MASTER CAPTAIN
WILLIAM WARD

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Master Captain William Ward, of Florida, who passed away December 13, 2019 at the age of 57.

William was licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard as a Merchant Marine Officer in 1991. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida-College of Business in Accounting in 1994, and attained his Juris Doctor degree in 2013, from Barry University College of Law.

Mr. Ward was the President and C.E.O. of Captains Finest Seafood from 1994 to 2009, served on the Gulf Fisherman's Association board of directors since 2004, was the Vice President of Seafood Harvesters of America, and a board member with the Gulf Coast Leadership Conference. In addition, Mr. Ward was a member director of Fish for America, USA, representing and educating the millions of seafood consumers in the United States. His leadership and efforts earned him the title of Florida Businessman of the Year in 2001 and in 2004 as the National Business Council Chairman.

Mr. Ward advocated for sensible fisheries policy, including passage of the Port State Measures Agreement, which helped curb unregulated, unreported and illegal fishing. Additionally, Mr. Ward assisted in drafting legislation, advocating on its behalf, and consulting with state and federal governmental agencies in the development and implementation of protectionary natural resource regulations and rules. William also served as an expert consultant after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. He worked extensively on the passage of the Restore Act which provided the primary source of funding for the economic and ecological recovery of the Gulf States.

Mr. Ward represented the State of Florida as a two-time Gubernatorial Appointee to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission from 1999 to 2003. Further, William has served on numerous state and federal natural resources advisory panels, as well as two NOAA federal appointments serving on the advisory committees of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

Later in life, William worked as an attorney on several successfully litigated state and federal court cases during his time as managing partner of Ward Consulting Partners, LLC, and the William Ward Law Group, PLLC. He also testified as an expert witness on marine fisheries cases in federal court, one of which prevailed in the U.S. Supreme Court.

During his career, William has consulted or worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Washington D.C., NOAA, Southeast Headquarters, NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Florida Institute of Oceanography, University of South Florida-College of Marine Science, University of Miami-Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Regional Coast Guard Headquarters in New Orleans, Miami, St. Petersburg, and Clearwater.

William Ward was well respected and cherished on Capitol Hill, among his peers on the water, in the legal community and in the environmental community. He was a great friend and compassionate advocate who worked tirelessly to protect the people and waters he loved. Thanks to his contributions and advocacy, our coastal environment and fisheries are more sustainable than before.

NATIONAL COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, today, we recognize the Eighth Annual Court Reporters and Captioners Week. Approximately 48 million Americans are considered deaf or hard-of-hearing, and the captioning services that realtime writers and stenographic captioners ensure that all Americans have equal access to news and other vital information.

Realtime writers are highly trained professionals who share a unique ability to convert the spoken word to text that can be read, streamed, broadcast, searched, and archived. This specialization includes broadcast captioning and realtime translation services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, as well as providing near-instant translation in legal and other settings.

In the 116th Congress, I am proud to have reintroduced the Training for Realtime Writers Act, which reauthorizes the Training for Realtime Writers Grant Program and encourages careers in realtime writing and court reporting, provides scholarships for students, and modernizes curriculum to adapt to our changing world. I was proud to have my bill included in the 2008 Higher Education Act Reauthorization.

The Training for Realtime Writers Grant Program has been incredibly successful in training the current generation of captioners and court reporters and has aided in the rapid growth of these professions. By reauthorizing the Training for Realtime Writers grants, new students will have the opportunity to enter a technical, well-paid, and highly skilled career that will allow them to become court reporters and captioners immediately upon graduation.

From maintaining the integrity of our democracy to ensuring every citizen stays up to date on today's 24-hour news cycle, realtime writers are vital to Americans in all communities. Over the past decade, this program has encouraged a new generation of realtime writers to enter this vital field. I am proud to work with the National Court Reporters Association and with my friend Rep. Rodney Davis, to reauthorize this program so we can continue to increase awareness and interest in this profession.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK REITER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and a giant in the recycling industry—Mark Reiter.

Mark was born and grew up in the Bronx—the South Bronx as he would say. Mark was an avid Brooklyn Dodgers fan. He later became a Nationals fan as a result of spending most of his life in Washington, D.C.; but make no mistake about it, Mark was a New Yorker through and through and never let you forget it.

Mark originally came to Washington to work for the late Bella Abzug. Mark would often entertain people with stories about those years working in her office. Representative Abzug was proud of Mark and his tireless devotion to environmental issues, as well as his commitment to others, especially those who were less fortunate. Later, Mark worked for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, helping shape our nation's environmental policy at its earliest stages. While he was a reliable Democrat, many of his friends were very reliable Republicans. He knew how to get things done by working with others, understanding others, and of course, caring for others.

One of Mark's great accomplishments was the enactment of the Superfund Recycling Equity Act (SREA), which provided environmental clarity for recyclers facing potential liability under Superfund. Because of SREA, recyclers today conduct due diligence to ensure their materials are used again in an environmentally responsible manner. SREA was a monumental achievement for responsible recycling and Mark was instrumental in its enactment.

Mark was fiercely loyal and devoted to his family—his brother, nephews, nieces, and their children. Mark would visit them often wherever they lived and generously help whenever needed. He was very proud of them all. He often spoke of his admiration of his parents and how their hard work enabled him to succeed in ways they could never have imagined, especially as they were recent immigrants to this great country. Mark never forgot where he came from and the sacrifices his parents made for him and his older brother Eli.

Mark helped so many colleagues from his beginnings on Capitol Hill through his long successful career at the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries. Many of his colleagues have gone on to great careers of their own as a result of Mark's tutelage and deep caring for them. I know because I am one of those colleagues who learned so much and was helped by Mark over the years.

Mark was also a man of faith. His Jewish faith helped him become a caring man to so many, whether they be family, friends, colleagues or strangers. People were simply people in Mark's eyes. Mark cared about how others were treated in our society and would speak up for them without reservation. He felt he had walked in their shoes before them and wanted life to be better for them.

Madam Speaker, we lost a giant in the recycling industry, the environmental community, and the Jewish community. Mark was a great colleague, a mentor, and a friend to many. His family and friends are so proud of who Mark became and what he left behind—a world he helped make better through his devotion to others, his work and his actions. Mark will be missed by so many.