

elected to public office in my State of Illinois than almost any man I know.

At a time when many Americans feel understandably dismayed about the state of our politics, Mark Guethle has helped to introduce new candidates, new leaders, new ideas, and a cautious new sense of hope in government and hope in the future in Kane County, IL, one of the "collar counties" surrounding Chicago. That is what Mark has achieved in nearly 20 years as chairman of the Kane County Democratic Party. But that is just one part of Mark's story and his busy life.

In addition, since 2003, Mark has served as a member of his town's council, the North Aurora Village Board of Trustees. On top of all of that, for nearly a quarter century, Mark Guethle has been a union leader with Painters District Council 30, Local Union 97, which covers most of north-central Illinois outside of Chicago. This past month, Mark retired from his union job: director of government affairs for of Painters District Council 30. He leaves with a proud record of achievement.

Interestingly, he didn't start out to be a labor leader or a painter. At Proviso West High School in Hillside, IL, he was a star athlete in three sports: baseball, basketball, and football. It was his performance as a linebacker that drew the most attention. He was recruited by coaching legend Bo Schembechler to play for one of the best college football teams in the Nation, the University of Michigan Wolverines, but a bad accident during the summer after his high school graduation set his life on a different course. During a robbery at a gas station where he was working, Mark's arm was badly injured by a piece of shattered glass. The University of Michigan said it would wait for Mark's arm to heal but Mark's dad, a union carpenter, suggested that Mark try a different path and join his union. Mark agreed, but the carpenters weren't taking new members at that time.

Mark's uncle, a union painter, suggested he try the painters union. He was hired as an apprentice at the age of 19. As it turned out, Mark had just the personal qualities that a good painter needs: attention to detail, a tenacious work ethic, and an unusual ability to listen to people and understand what they want. He started as an organizer for District Council 30 in 1997. Five years later, he was hired as the district council's governmental affairs director, the position he held until he retired from the union at the start of this month.

As a labor leader, Mark fought for respect and fair treatment not only for members of his union but for all working people in the State of Illinois. The list of State laws that he has helped enact is long and impressive. It includes increasing Illinois' minimum wage, protecting overtime pay, strengthening collective bargaining rights and the prevailing wage in our

State, and encouraging better labor-management relations through the use of project-management agreements. Mark has also taken courageous stands on issues including immigrant rights, women's rights, and marriage equality.

Mark's commitment to social and economic justice and his nuts-and-bolts understanding of how politics works are qualities he acquired growing up in a politically active union family. He learned how to knock on doors and distribute yard signs for candidates when he was just a kid, and at age 60, he still spends an incredible amount of time and energy on such tasks. When there is work to be done, whether its phone banking or neighborhood canvassing, you can be sure that Mark will be the first to arrive and the last to quit.

When Mark was elected Kane County Democratic chair in 2002, there were no Democrats in the county serving at the State or Federal level—none. Today, Democrats hold every congressional seat serving the county. One of those House members, LAUREN UNDERWOOD, is the only nurse now serving in Congress. In the Illinois General Assembly, Kane County is represented by two Democratic senators and four house members, all of them women.

"We run women because we want to win," is how Mark once described his recruitment strategy. I suspect there is a little more to it. You see, Mark's mother was a brilliant woman who graduated from the University of Chicago when she was 16 years old, but like so many women of her generation, her career choices were limited because of her gender. She died when Mark was 22 years old, but she inspired in Mark and her other four children a profound belief in what women could achieve if given a fair chance.

Mark Guethle is the embodiment of grassroots democracy. The people of Kane County and all Illinois' working families owe a lot to Mark and to his mom, Loretta. Mark is also respected by Republicans as a man of principles. One of his close friends, North Aurora mayor Dale Berman, was a lifelong Republican who Mark actually persuaded, by example, to become a Democrat.

Stepping down from the union job will leave Mark more time for his work with his town's board of trustees and the Kane County Democratic Party. It will mean more time for Mark and Louise, his wife of 31 years, to perform in their church choir. Mark will have more time to watch his beloved Chicago Cubs—on TV for now, rather than in the bleachers, which he prefers. He will have more time for playing keyboards in his cover band and more time to practice on his guitar and ukulele, and he will have more time to spend with his sons, Marcus and Brian, and his four grand-daughters, whom he adores.

Lastly, I am certain that Mark will spend even more time listening to his neighbors in Kane County and finding new ways to make government work for them, regardless of their political

party, because that is what he cares most about. I am proud to call Mark my friend, and Loretta and I wish him and Louise all the best as they begin this new chapter of their lives.

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I was absent due to an urgent family matter requiring my attention when the Senate voted on vote No. 196 on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 8337, the continuing resolution. On vote No. 196, had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was absent due to an urgent family matter requiring my attention when the Senate voted on vote No. 197 on passage of H.R. 8337, a bill making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021. On vote No. 197, had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was absent due to an urgent family matter requiring my attention when the Senate voted on vote No. 198 on the motion to proceed to the Message to accompany S. 178, UIGHUR Act of 2019. On vote No. 198, had I been present, I would have voted nay.

Mr. President, I was absent due to an urgent family matter requiring my attention when the Senate voted on vote No. 199 on the motion to table Tillis amendment No. 2673. On vote No. 199, had I been present, I would have voted yea. •

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 20-70, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of India for defense articles and