

Beyer married her Wauconda High School sweetheart, Skip Beyer, a carpenter, when she was 18, and they have five children. The decision to teach her children at home is one Beyer is glad she made. Considering the amount of time spent working as mayor and a waitress, Beyer said she feels lucky to be able to spend the entire day with her kids.

"[Home schooling] is a lot of work, but I see a lot of benefit out of it, too," she said. "There's not a right way or a wrong way [to educate your kids]. With my schedule, it has served in a real positive way because I have been able to stay home with my kids."

Skip said his wife's long hours can be difficult, but "it's what she wants to do and what she likes to do best," he said. "She's just very tenacious on what she does."

With a mayoral salary of about \$6,000 a year, Beyer certainly is not in it for the money, she said. She admitted, however, that her title has come in handy.

As a mayor, her calls get answered.

"When I was just Charlene Beyer, without a title, I had the same ideas, the same thoughts, the same opinions. They haven't changed," she said. "But then when they put a title behind my name, my calls get answered. People have respect for me."

Beyer said some politicians' abuse of their titles and power has caused people to be intimidated by them, but that's not the image she is trying to project.

"I would rather people know me for me and my actions, other than me saying who I am," she said.

Her actions, starting with her first two months in office, speak for themselves. Only a week after Beyer began her mayoral duties, her mother died unexpectedly. The following week, a resident committed suicide, and about a month and a half later, the town flooded.

"It was a very emotional thing for me, because my wounds were very fresh," she said. "And yet, there's a part of me that greets every negative, every negative situation, knowing that somewhere in there is a positive."

Crediting basic common sense, Beyer met her new challenges head-on. She arranged to have meals sent to the family of the suicide victim, and when the flooding crisis hit, Beyer met it with planning and organization.

She and her staff of volunteers monitored all calls coming into the village hall and called all of the senior citizen residents to check if they needed assistance and to help prepare them for the next storm.

"We were not crushed by this wave," she said. "We greeted it with a lot of planning. It was a very frustrating time, but we never had one resident, through both of the floods, come here and be upset at the board for what they weren't doing."

"It was a basic common-sense thing. People want to be informed, they want to be communicated to, and they want to be educated. And when you've done those three things, sometimes there are no solutions. Sometimes there is no quick fix, but when you've done that, they feel comfortable that you're doing the best that you can do."

Joyce Weissmueller, a village trustee, thinks Beyer has performed well as mayor. "She delegates, but she personally is out there doing things," Weissmueller said. "The personal touch is Charlene."

Weissmueller said Beyer's strength is getting people to work together. Her dedication to the village is apparent by the new committees she has established, including an economic development committee to revitalize the downtown area, as well as a beautification committee to clean it up, Weissmueller said.

Beyer said that techniques she uses in dealing with people as mayor also work at

her weekend job. Most customers understand. "That's the part of being a waitress that is very difficult," she said. "It's no different than being a mom. And it's no different than being a mayor, because there's lots of people that don't understand what I'm doing and what the board's decisions are because they're not involved and they falsely accuse."

"You have to be so convinced of your position and your standards and your decisions that that doesn't bother you."

Beyer said the pressure at her waitressing job sometimes increases when she is serving her political peers.

She recalled a situation in which an elderly man accused her of stealing the credit card he had used to pay his tab, when in fact he had inadvertently placed it in his glasses case.

"He stood up, and the whole restaurant heard," she said. "It was very humbling, because I was being accused falsely."

All the while, Beyer had to maintain her composure.

"It's a very humbling thing to be in that kind of environment," Beyer said. "It's not that there's anything wrong with being a waitress, but it's not normal that a mayor of a village is waitressing in a restaurant."

But she is quick to defend the profession that is plagued by a misconception that those who work in it are not intelligent.

"Waitresses, I think, are very gifted people," Beyer said. "They're almost like housewives to me because they're able to do many things at one time."

"They're very educated people," she said of her coworkers, who include several teachers. "Most people I work with have college degrees. I don't. But we're all equal."

Beyer said she has no plans to get her college degree because she does not have the time or the money.

"If I had the money for a college education, it's going to be going to my children, not myself," she said.

Beyer sees her lack of education as a plus for her job as mayor.

"When I look at an issue, I'm not clouded by what I've been taught, what is politically correct," she said. "I can deal with a situation probably differently than most people do because I greet it differently. I greet it from the people's perspective."

"I hope I always stay that way. I intend to."

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA C. BOJTOS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 21, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to the House of Representatives the winner of Guam's 1993-94 Top Teacher Award, Mrs. Sandra C. Bojtos.

Mrs. Bojtos is a 7th and 8th grade science teacher at Untalan Middle School. Her unique educational and motivational technique as well as her desire to reach out to every student have distinguished her among her hard working colleagues. Mrs. Bojtos also makes extra efforts to see that her classes are learning to their potential and preparing themselves for the 21st century. Her students are introduced to the information highway and know first hand the usefulness of modern computer technology. But, her commitment to education goes beyond her science teaching.

Mrs. Bojtos is also an American Red Cross HIV/AIDS instructor and a member of the

Kappa Delta Pi International Reading Association. These activities did not win her this distinction but rather typify the energy and spirit that set her apart and make her a role model for others. Mrs. Bojtos will receive \$10,000 from Citibank for this award. She has already said that she may partially use this award to upgrade her class' computer equipment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Citibank corporation who sponsored this event for the second consecutive year. Citibank has made itself a leader in corporate support of education in the Asia-Pacific region and I commend their efforts.

Congratulations, Sandra Bojtos, for being recognized as Guam's Top Teacher.

HONORING ROBERT SPILLANE

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 21, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fairfax County School Superintendent Robert "Bud" Spillane. Bud Spillane was selected as Superintendent of the Year on February 10, 1995. The announcement was made in New Orleans, LA, at the American Association of School Administrators' National Conference. Spillane was one of four finalists in the national competition, which was sponsored by the ServiceMaster Co. of Downers Grove, IL. Spillane was originally selected as a finalist among this year's State superintendents of the year, each of whom represents one of the States or U.S. schools overseas.

AASA will award a \$10,000 scholarship in Spillane's name to a student attending the high school from which he graduated, which is Windham High School in Willimantic, CT. Spillane also received a gold medallion and a \$2,000 savings bond.

For the past 10 years, Spillane has served as superintendent of the Nation's 10th largest school system, which has approximately 140,000 students in 224 schools and centers, located in a 399-square-mile area. With recent demographic trends in Fairfax County that include an increasing minority student population, more students from lower income families, student achievement in Fairfax County public schools has improved. The percentage of minority students taking SAT's and advanced placement courses has substantially increased, as have minority students' and overall students' test scores. The school system's overall dropout rate has declined to 1.9 percent. Fairfax County public schools' magnet school for science and technology has had more National Merit Scholarship semifinalists than any other school in the country every year for the past 5 years. The percentage of special education students employed after graduation is 87 percent, compared to 46 percent nationally.

Spillane continually implements programs that improve the achievement of all students, encouraging creative and instructional approaches, and strengthens the core academic program of the average student. In a time of rapidly changing demographics and financial recession, Spillane has continued to focus on