

western edge of our largest city, Santa Rosa. Known as "West County," the 5th District is Sonoma County's most progressive with a vibrant and diverse population of ethnicity, sexual orientation and economic backgrounds. Mike Reilly, with his intelligence, people skills and encyclopedic knowledge of politics represented every one of his constituencies.

Mike is a Bay Area native born on May 27, 1944 in San Mateo, California. Always interested in politics, his first office was senior class president at Hayward High and later, student body president at Chabot College. Mike was an Army volunteer and served two years in Okinawa. The young veteran returned to the Bay Area after completing his tour of duty and began working as a youth counselor. He became one of the founders and eventually Executive Director of the Hayward-based Project Eden, a non-profit organization that offered drug counseling to the city's "street kids."

In 1977, Mike moved to Sonoma County to begin working for the county's drug and alcohol program, again as a counselor to youth. Mike settled in Forestville and soon became active in west county politics, no doubt influenced by his neighbor, Ernie Carpenter, who became the 5th District Supervisor in 1978.

From 1981 to 1985, Mike served as Administrative Assistant to state Assemblyman Dan Hauser, whose 1st District ran from Sonoma County to the Oregon border. During his tenure with Hauser, Mike was a key player in the designation of the Lost Coast Sinkyone Wilderness Area for public use, drafting initial legislation banning oil and gas development in Northern California state waters, the restoration of the Point Arena Pier, and regional issues pertaining to fishing and timber extraction.

In 1986 Mike Reilly became Executive Director of West County Community Services, a non-profit that grew from a 70's era all volunteer "River Switchboard," to an organization offering a variety of services for people of all ages. Under Mike's leadership, West County Community Services developed an excellent drug and alcohol abuse programs, led in the establishment of the Russian River Senior Center and the Sebastopol Teen Center and opened a homeless shelter. For thirteen years, Mike also served as a trustee for the Forestville Elementary School District and the West County High School District.

When Supervisor Carpenter announced his retirement from public office in 1995, Mike Reilly embarked on a grueling eighteen month campaign to successfully succeed him. Mike's hard fought campaign and subsequent service allowed him to coast to two unopposed reelection victories in the years ahead. These were not years without challenges, however, including huge floods on the lower Russian River in 1997 and 1999, years of underfunded services in rural areas and the heavily urbanized Roseland area in the district, and a sometimes lonely role as an environmental advocate on the Board of Supervisors.

Despite these difficulties Mike was able to forge agreements that led to county support of home elevation program on the flood prone Russian River, the formation of the Russian River Redevelopment District, and ordinances regulating forest conversions and vineyard grading, as well as untangling hundreds of county problems for his constituents. Mike was also a powerful presence on the County's

Open Space and Agricultural Preservation District, and instrumental in protecting thousands of acres of land under county ownership or conservation easements.

During the same 12 years, Mike also served on the California Coastal Commission, including two years as the Commission's Chair. He has been recognized by statewide environmental groups as having the strongest conservation record of any of the publically elected members of the Commission.

I would also note that Mike Reilly is a key player in moving forward the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act, a bill that would provide permanent protection for the entire Sonoma Coast. Mike led successful efforts to endorse the bill by both the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the California Coastal Commission. With our new Administration these efforts will result in passage.

This year Mike is celebrating another 12-year anniversary, his marriage to Judi, which took place on January 25, 1997, in a home in Guerneville in the midst of a flood emergency. Mike and Judi, their three daughters, Kimberly, Sheri and Kelly, as well as Kelly's husband Stewart and their son, Stetson, and Sheri's fiancé, Will, make up a loving and supportive family with great political energy and philosophies.

Although Mike has retired from the Board of Supervisors, we will not let him leave us. He continues to serve as a board member of Coastwalk, California's unique coastal education program and on New Ways to Work, a national non-profit that is finding ways to train youth for the new economy. Knowing of Mike's energy, his intelligence and his savvy, his can-do attitude, we expect that although Mike will be able to play more golf now, he will continue to exert his powerful and positive influence on our community and our world.

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HONORING WILLIAM MARK FELT

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a singular American who helped our democracy triumph in one of our darkest moments.

I speak of William Mark Felt, a former Associate Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who was instrumental in uncovering the great abuse of presidential power known as Watergate. Mark Felt died on December 18, 2008, in Santa Rosa, California in my district, more than 30 years after retiring from a career that included major roles in the turbulent and sometimes troubling history of the FBI.

It was Mark Felt's role of whistleblower in the Watergate affair that led to the resignation of President Nixon that will forever ensure his place in history. For Mark Felt was "Deep Throat" the inside informant of Bob Woodward of the Washington Post. Mark was the person who that lent credibility and verification to Woodward's and Carl Bernstein's investigation of what lay behind the 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee's headquarters at the Watergate Hotel.

Over the next two years, Americans learned that the Watergate break-in was conducted by the same team of burglars who had attempted to discredit another whistleblower, Daniel Ellsberg, who had leaked revelations about government lies about the Vietnam War to the New York Times. Through the press and congressional investigations they discovered that the President of the United States had his own illegal slush fund which his subordinates used to bankroll political espionage; that high ranking executive department officials were privy to these illegalities, that a presidential "enemies list" existed, and that the executive branch used its powers to punish those enemies through tax audits and extra-legal investigations.

We had a president that had set himself above the law, a man who abused the trust of the people of the United States and his own oath of office. Fortunately, Mark Felt stood up and decided not to allow the FBI to be a tool in these dark schemes. In the shadowy cavern of a parking garage in Washington, DC, Mark Felt, risking his job, his reputation, his personal liberty (in a time before whistleblower protection laws) told Bob Woodward what the FBI had uncovered about Watergate, ensuring that its findings would not be suppressed.

In the late summer of 1974 when President Nixon's own party leaders in the Senate told him that impeachment was inevitable, he resigned, ending what had become an imperial presidency. The ship of state had righted itself; the system worked, however imperfectly.

Mark Felt's moment in history has a lesson for us. One man standing up to tyranny can make a difference, and the truth can indeed set us free.

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TRIBUTE TO JULIE FITZGERALD

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Julie Fitzgerald of West Des Moines Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K-12 schools.

I congratulate Julie Fitzgerald on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Julie in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.