

or engaging in the annual tasks required by law and custom, Mr. Foster and his staff were responsive and thoughtful as they offered their best professional efforts.

Mr. Foster began his career in the Federal government in 1973 at the Social Security Administration (SSA), working on the development of Medicare payment rates for health maintenance organizations when Medicare was managed through the SSA. He later served as Deputy Chief Actuary at SSA for 13 years before being selected as the CMS Chief Actuary in 1995.

OACT's role is often behind-the-scenes, but critically important. Mr. Foster has been widely recognized for his tireless efforts to ensure that Congress and the Administration have access to high-quality, objective actuarial, economic, and statistical assistance, provided independently and on a nonpartisan basis and often with a dose of good humor. His adherence to the highest levels of professional independence and ethical conduct has been widely acclaimed and is deeply appreciated.

In addition to his exceptional actuarial and other technical skills, Mr. Foster was an accomplished leader at CMS. He led OACT's implementation of team-based operations in 1995, based on the successful model developed by General Electric. He emphasized professional development for all staff, continuous improvement in all projects, a cordial, cooperative work environment and a multi-disciplinary approach to work. Under his guidance, the Office of the Actuary achieved the highest or second-highest results in the annual human capital survey every year since its inception.

During his career, Mr. Foster has earned numerous prestigious awards, including the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Outstanding Alumnus of the Year in 1997, the Presidential Meritorious Executive Award in 1998 from President Clinton, the Presidential Distinguished Executive Award in 2001 from President Bush, the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service in 2004, the College of Wooster Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006, the Robert J. Myers Public Service Award from the American Academy of Actuaries in 2006, and the Society of Actuaries President's Award in 2010. The readers of *Modern Healthcare* magazine voted him one of the 100 most influential persons in health care in the U.S. for the last six years.

We are pleased to honor and commend Rick Foster for his distinguished career in public service and wish him all the best in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 429 I was unavoidably detained at a personal doctor's appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING ALEX BREGMAN

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alex Bregman, an exceptional New Mexican, for his outstanding athletic achievements and for his contributions to the Albuquerque community. An Albuquerque Academy graduate, Alex recently completed his freshman year at Louisiana State University, where he was a standout on the baseball team.

After a stellar career at Albuquerque Academy, Alex was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the 2012 MLB Draft, but chose instead to attend LSU. From the moment he stepped on the field in Baton Rouge, Alex has made a tremendous impact.

As the starting varsity shortstop this past season, Alex batted .369, with 18 doubles, seven triples, six home runs and 52 RBI, helping lead the LSU Tigers to a berth in the College World Series. His 104 base hits ranked second in the entire nation. After a season like that, it is no wonder that the honors and awards started piling up for Alex. He was selected as a first-team All-American and the SEC Freshman of the Year. Baseball America, Collegiate Baseball Magazine and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association each named Alex as their National Freshman of the Year. The College Baseball Hall of Fame recognized Alex as the 2013 Brooks Wallace National Shortstop of the Year.

This summer, Alex played with the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team, where he batted .361, led the team in hits and total bases, and tied for the lead in doubles.

Players, coaches, scouts and even opponents are quick to praise Alex's incredible work ethic and his insatiable desire to become a better ballplayer. He will often go out to the baseball field at 10 o'clock at night to practice.

Alex is not only a fantastic athlete; he is a fine young man. After winning the National Shortstop of the year award, Alex, ever humble, remarked, "This is a team award and I have to thank all of my great teammates." Because of his commitment to setting and achieving high educational and personal goals, Alex serves as an unparalleled role model for other young people and for the entire Albuquerque community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Alex in the United States House of Representatives, and I am proud to consider the entire Bregman family my dear friends.

IN RECOGNITION OF RITA GLEASON

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rita Gleason, the Principal of Notre Dame High School in Belmont California, upon her retirement after 22 years of service to the school and to our community. During her tenure, Ms. Gleason has been an inspiration to 3,500 girls who have been educated at Notre Dame.

I am a graduate of a Catholic girl's high school and I deeply believe that these institutions build character, leadership abilities and self-esteem. Ms. Gleason shares those values and works tirelessly to ensure that every young woman who goes to Notre Dame achieves her fullest potential. Students are encouraged to become deeply involved in community service and Ms. Gleason models that commitment through her work with immigrants and the economically challenged. The young women of Notre Dame benefit from a rigorous curriculum sustained in part by the generosity of its alumni. These graduates give because Ms. Gleason is a continuing force in their own lives many years after they leave the campus.

Rita Gleason is known as a person who listens closely to students. The young women of Notre Dame know that they have a confidante in Ms. Gleason, and a supporter who will work with them if they want to work through their difficult problems. At a recent conference that I helped to convene on the subject of gun violence within communities, experts noted how important it is for students to have an adult in whom they can confide. At Notre Dame High School, the go-to adult is Rita Gleason. Every parent can have confidence that she will offer wisdom, compassion, and a steady set of values that will empower students through their difficult moments.

Great leaders have great staff and Ms. Gleason is no exception. Teachers want to teach at Notre Dame because they know that they will be supported by a professionally-trained educator. Ms. Gleason has a credential in K-12 and adult education, a community college credential, and a credential in History, English and the Humanities. She graduated with a BA from the College of Notre Dame and with two Master's degrees—one in Educational Administration and the other in Counseling. Her resume reads like a famous musician's—every box indicating genius was checked during Ms. Gleason's passionate pursuit of knowledge.

Befitting the Principal of a private high school, Ms. Gleason has long been involved in the credentialing organization for private schools, governing councils for the schools of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, and has served in administrative and guidance positions at several Catholic schools in five states and the District of Columbia. In our community from 1992 to the present, she has received no less than seven honors or awards for community service, including the Jefferson Award for Outstanding Public Service, an award given only to those who go well above and beyond ordinary public service.

Mr. Speaker, Notre Dame High School will soon be without the sight of Ms. Gleason's Navy Blue VW Bug in the parking lot, but what she stood for—Christian values, social justice, women's leadership—will live on in all the young women who were educated at NDHS during her tenure. There are some who warm a seat and call themselves a leader, but there are others who lead by never being in their seat. Rita Gleason is the leader who never sits and the listener who never hesitates to open her heart. Notre Dame High School will long remember Rita Gleason, Principal for 22 years and a leader for all time.