

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
DENNIS O. FREYTES

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Dennis Freytes. Dennis has worked and excelled in the business, government, and non-profit sectors, and as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army.

During his time in the Army, he was the Commander of Infantry, Special Forces, Engineer, Medical, and other units deployed worldwide on security and humanitarian missions. He served on General Staff and dealt diplomatically with over 32 countries.

Upon retiring from the Army, Dennis worked at a number of institutions and companies including BlueChip Energy/Advanced Solar Photonics, the Small Business Administration, the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, the University of Puerto Rico, and Mathematic Policy Research.

Dennis has volunteered his time to help seniors, youth, veterans, small businesses, and state, local and national government. He is the current Vice President for the Southeast Region of the National Association for Uniformed Services. In his role as Vice President, Dennis helps to promote a strong national defense and to protect veterans' benefits. Dennis also serves as Veterans Advisor to Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs and as Chair of the Florida Civil Rights Association's Government Committee.

Dennis previously served as Trustee for Valencia Community College and sat on the Orange County Schools Search Committee. He also volunteered with the Citizens Commission for Children, Alliance for Children and Families, Seniors First, the United Way Board, YMCA Youth Achievers, and a number of other civic and social justice groups.

Dennis is the Founding Chairman of the Hispanic Achievers Grant Council. He has received numerous medals and awards for his outstanding military, professional, and volunteer service.

I am happy to recognize Dennis Freytes, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his service to the United States and contributions to the Central Florida Community.

HONORING TRUDY HEALY

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trudy Healy; a woman of remarkable talents who has an unwavering commitment to preserving water quality in our great State of New Mexico.

From an early age, Trudy proved to be curious and passionate about her surroundings. She was gifted with a virtuous heart, and immersed herself in every aspect of her community in Taos, New Mexico. Her mother, Mercedes Gonzales Valerio, was her trusted friend and confidant whom Trudy loved dearly.

Trudy would tell others that her creativity stemmed from her mother, who surrounded herself with artists, instilling in her daughter a deep appreciation for art.

Her father was Juan I. Valerio, a two-term County Commissioner for Taos, and a well-respected man who was revered for his generosity and service to his community. He also proudly served as the "acequia mayordomo" or "ditch boss" and he taught his daughter how to farm, irrigate, appreciate water, and recognize the vitality it brings to a community. Trudy would carry these values with her throughout her entire life.

Trudy and her husband, Edmund Healy, would go on to found the Healy Foundation to focus on land and water issues and projects that promote healthy New Mexico communities. Through their foundation Trudy and Edmund have built partnerships with local, state and federal entities to generate funding for land and water projects in New Mexico and invested in courses at New Mexico State University for regulators and inspectors. They also contributed to the film "The Water Haulers," spurring swift approval of the Navajo-Gallup water project in Congress. The project helped make clean water available to more than 240,000 residents.

In 2001, Governor Bill Richardson appointed Trudy to the Water Trust Board and was elected its Treasurer. Her involvement had an immediate effect. As the proud founder of the Acequia Project Fund for the Water Trust Fund, Trudy championed a holistic approach to water issues and fought to ensure the prosperity of underrepresented rural communities in New Mexico. Trudy understands the connection between water and people; what it means for survival, economic livelihood, and cultural heritage.

It is astonishing to think of all that Trudy has accomplished and fulfilled in her life: a horseback rider, successful art gallery owner and connoisseur, folk singer, guitar player, film writer, avid rancher, passionate water advocate, loving mother and proud wife to name a few. Her zest for life is endless and if you talked to anyone who knows her, they would tell you that water is her true passion. I look forward to continuing to work with Trudy on the important water issues facing our state and country and would like to take this moment to recognize all that she has done for New Mexico.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER PENSACOLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce. All across our Nation, local Chambers of Commerce play vital roles in supporting economic growth and development throughout their communities, and the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce exemplifies this proud tradition.

The Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce's impressive history dates back 125 years to its first meeting on September 16, 1889, where a small group of business lead-

ers got together at the Pensacola Opera House to form the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce. At their first meeting, they elected the Pensacola-area railroad magnate and future State Senator, William Dudley Chipley to serve as their first Chairman. The Chamber represented a wide variety of professions and local businesses, and it quickly proved its worth to the community, helping to grow the Port of Pensacola into the largest in Florida by 1900. Thanks to this prosperity and the tireless work of the Chamber, many new and important corporations were started in the Pensacola area.

By the turn of the century, the Chamber had also established a strong military affairs component, linking the Pensacola-area business community to Northwest Florida's growing military installations. In fact, the Chamber's leadership helped lobby for new defense activities during the 1898 Spanish-American War. Over the years, the Chamber has served as a key component driving Pensacola's transition from a small Navy Yard to the Cradle of Naval Aviation.

Meanwhile, during the early 20th century, the Chamber also brought together the business community and local city and county officials to help upgrade Pensacola's local infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population and economy. Thanks to the work of the Chamber, local leaders, and the broader Pensacola community, the entire Pensacola area grew from a small town with no paved roads and few utilities to a world-class city that is home to tens of thousands of residents, countless successful businesses, and millions of visitors each year.

Over the years, the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce has grown with the surrounding Pensacola community. From its humble beginnings 125 years ago, as a small group of civic leaders with no full-time staff, the Chamber has grown immensely and today the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce represents more than 1,200 members working on a daily basis to help bring world-class economic development projects to benefit Northwest Florida's businesses and citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress I am proud to congratulate the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce on its incredibly successful 125-year history and look forward to another 125 years of success and prosperity.

HONORING MICHELLE SCULLY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Michelle Scully (Educator, agriculture and economic development advocate; Lake County): Michelle has a 20-year history of service to Lake County, particularly in the areas of education, agriculture, and economic development. When Michelle and her husband relocated to Lake County as he went to work in the family's pear packing and farming businesses, she quickly immersed herself in community activities. She was appointed to an advisory board tasked with researching the divisive issue of genetically modified crops. She also served on the steering committee that developed Lake County

AgVenture, a program to educate community leaders on the importance of agriculture to Lake County. To address the issue of hunger, Michelle organized a very successful Bountiful Gift Box fundraiser for the county's Hunger Task Force. She brings creativity and solid business ideas to the table of the Regional Economic Development Committee with a style that keeps community members excited and engaged in realizing opportunities. She was a member of the Advisory Council appointed to be a driving force behind the opening of Marymount California University's Lakeside Campus and now serves as the campus's inaugural executive director.

Michelle has weathered storms, professional and personal, with infinite grace and a smile on her face. When she fell and broke her back riding her horse on their ranch, Michelle dragged herself, using only her arms, a quarter mile home where she laid on the floor until her husband arrived and insisted on taking her to the emergency room. Once home from surgery she missed just three lectures of teaching her biology class at Mendocino College, where she is still an instructor. Michelle personifies grit—she is able to work hard, overcome adversity, and bring long-term passions and community goals to fruition.

JIM OBERSTAR

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as I get on my bike to ride home tonight I'll be smiling, thinking of Jim Oberstar.

There has never been anyone in public life who was more committed to cycling. The joys of the exercise, the power to help people enjoy the freedom, health and advantages of cycling—no one more committed to making it safe for our families.

And that's just the tiniest fraction of the Jim Oberstar story. We could spend the next two hours talking about his contributions to aviation, to a strong rail system, to making our roads and bridges safe, resources to expand infrastructure where we need, and the vision and money to maintain and improve where we need to.

Jim dedicated his life to rebuilding and renewing America. Over the last half century, his fingerprints are on all the major advances, whether he was in a staff capacity, a Committee member, in a powerful leadership position, in the Minority or in the Majority, Jim Oberstar was there, his influence felt, his advice and guidance welcomed, and he made a difference.

As rich and important were his many contributions to rebuilding and renewing America, he was far more than that. He was a kind and caring Member of this Chamber who listened to people regardless of their position in the legislative pecking order.

Jim truly was interested in what they needed, what they thought, and if there was a way that he could help them, consistent with his vision and values. Because he was a consummate legislator, often, he could do both.

Last, but by no means least, Jim Oberstar was a caring family man, driven by his principles, his faith, love for his family, and concern for everyone else's family.

To his beloved wife Jean, thank you so much for sharing this unique human being with us and being his partner helping him do so much, bring so much joy and so much . . . not just progress . . . but joy . . . a man who truly loved his work as he loved his family and he loved his country.

Yes, Jim Oberstar will be missed. But I for one will feel his presence, his commitment, his example, every day I serve in Congress and so it is for many others.

FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JIM OBERSTAR

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in honoring our former colleague from Minnesota, Congressman Jim Oberstar.

He was a legendary figure in the House, elected in 1974 as part of the class of Democrats called the Watergate Babies that also included my colleagues from California, HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER.

During his service in Congress, he became a well respected voice for transportation and infrastructure issues, earning him the nickname of "Mr. Transportation."

For decades he fought tirelessly to rebuild and renew our country's infrastructure and he eventually rose to chair the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Under his leadership he championed transportation, reinvigorating commerce, and good stewardship of our environment. An avid cyclist, he championed the creation of trails for hiking and cycling. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, he can be credited with including major funding for transportation and infrastructure projects that put Americans back to work rebuilding our bridges and roads—and rebuilding our economy in the process.

I have very fond memories of Jim Obstar.

At the time Democrats were in the majority—I was Chair of the Ethics Committee—I enjoyed Jim's wise counsel and perspective on many legislative matters when we gathered with our fellow Chairs during the Leader's weekly Chair meetings.

Jim was a real expert in transportation and infrastructure but his passion was for working people. I appreciate Jim Oberstar as an amazing and multi-faceted person.

He was born into humble roots in Chisolm, Minnesota and he rose to greatness through hard work and higher education:

He earned his Bachelor of Arts from College of St. Thomas (now the University of St. Thomas) in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1956.

He earned his Master's degree in European Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium in 1957,

And he studied further at Université Laval in Sainte-Foy, Quebec, Canada and Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Jim even spent four years as a civilian language teacher in the United States Marine Corps, teaching English to Haitian military personnel and French to American Marine officers and noncommissioned officers.

Jim's talents did not go unnoticed and when he served as a Congressional staffer he quick-

ly rose to Chief of Staff for Congressman John Blatnik (D-Minnesota-8).

Later, he was elected to represent his beloved Minnesota as the Congressman from the 8th District, ultimately being reelected for 18 terms—the longest tenure in Minnesota history for a Member of Congress.

Many of us will remember Jim Oberstar as a modern renaissance man of many talents and an amazing intellect but—he never forgot his hardworking roots, or stopped fighting for the hard working people of his state and our country.

Like many of my colleagues, I join in praising Jim Oberstar and send my deepest sympathy to his wife Jean, his children and his grandchildren. We share your feelings of loss and send our sincerest gratitude to you for sharing this great man with our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN JIM OBERSTAR

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the former Congressman from Minnesota's 8th Congressional District, Jim Oberstar, who passed away on May 3 at the age of 79.

I had the privilege of serving with Jim Oberstar for four years, and will always remember his mastery of multiple foreign languages. It was a remarkable talent.

Jim was a dedicated representative who will be remembered for devoting 36 years of his life in service to Minnesota and the country in the U.S. Congress. We joined our hearts, efforts, and voices in the protection of the unborn and I am especially grateful for his work as the co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus.

My prayers are with his family, particularly his wife Jean, and friends during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring the life and legacy of the late Congressman Jim Oberstar. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE SIXTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN AND CHRISTINA BROXSON OF GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary of John and Christina Broxson of Gulf Breeze, Florida. I am proud to honor the Broxsons and congratulate them on this remarkable milestone.

John and Christina met in 1953 at Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU) in Waxahachie, Texas where John earned his Bachelor of Science degree in May 1954. They were married the following month on June 4, 1954 and spent the early years of their married life in pastoral ministry as well as missionary evangelism.