

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.