

high school in 1948. Later, she got married and she settled in Bloomington, Minnesota, which at that time was a growing suburb of Minneapolis, where she raised six daughters before beginning her long career in public service.

Arlene's big heart and humble demeanor immediately endeared her to new friends. She makes a point to be a community leader not only through the duties of her position but by being present at sporting events, plays, pep fests, musicals, concerts, and ceremonies celebrating the young people of Bloomington. She not only advocates for Bloomington's students on the board, she encourages them personally every chance she gets.

She understands that children need not only financial and operational support in their education; she exemplifies a leader who invests in their interests, recognizes their achievements, and comforts them in times of adversity.

Arlene's milestone isn't one that can be measured in the number of hours logged in meetings or the number of terms that she's served but rather in the lives of the thousands, the literally thousands of students that have benefited from her commitment to education.

Over the years, the name "Arlene Bush" has become synonymous with education among the generations of Bloomington students whose lives have been enriched through her many years of service. She's a pillar of the community whose presence on the school board has absolutely provided a steady hand as times have changed.

As a father with four daughters in public schools myself, it is reassuring to know there are dedicated public servants like Arlene out there working to give our children the best education possible. And like Arlene, these unsung heroes don't do it for the glory or admiration. They do it simply because they share a common desire to better our community.

And these kind souls prove that you don't have to be a congressman or a senator to change the world or touch someone's life. Inside all of us is the ability to contribute to the public good and to make the world a better place for future generations.

When asked recently to look back on her many years of service on the school board, Arlene replied in very true Minnesota fashion. She wasn't boastful or proud but rather humbled. She said that she was thankful for the opportunity to serve.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, I just want to take the time to let Arlene know that we, too, are thankful—thankful for her desire to serve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLEMING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

VACATING 5-MINUTE SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the ordering of a 5-minute Special Order in favor of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) is vacated.

There was no objection.

SERVING NORTH CHICAGO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous honor, excitement, and humility that I rise to the floor of this great Chamber to represent the aspirations and hardworking values of Illinois' 10th Congressional District—Chicago's north and northwest suburbs.

Let me begin by expressing our thoughts and prayers remain with Congresswoman GIFFORDS as she undergoes her recovery. My heart goes out to her and her family, along with the other families whose lives have been changed by this tragedy in Tucson on January 8.

Tonight I am here to continue the tradition of this congressional seat by delivering a speech that lays out how I intend to legislate and explains the manner in which I will work with my colleagues to move this country forward.

Over the past 18 months, I have traveled all over our great district trying to ask people what keeps them up at night. Stretching from Wilmette to Waukegan, Libertyville to Glenview, Highland Park to Palatine, I am fortunate to represent a congressional district that encompasses a diverse community that asks its political leaders to tackle a wide-ranging ambitious agenda. And from all conversations I've had at train stations and town centers, at countless small businesses, in diners and in town hall meetings, there is one thing I know: the 112th Congress must focus on jobs and the economy, on reigning in the out-of-control spending here in Washington, and to make sure that our country remains safe and free.

Beyond talking with members of my community, I also took the time to study the heritage of the congressional seat representing the people of northern Cook and eastern Lake Counties. Beginning with our first representative, John McLean, upon Illinois' founding, statehood in 1818, ours is an area that has always demanded a high standard of leadership, a commitment to local issues, and yet an eye towards American leadership in the world.

Our community is bound by deep-rooted characteristics—namely, a desire for pragmatic, effective leadership; vigorous independence; and the ability to work with the other side of the aisle in a civilized and bipartisan manner. These are the virtues that I pledge to continue in Congress as I begin my service to the people of the 10th Congressional District.

In looking at the work of my predecessors, I have come across a number of individuals who served our area in the highest tradition of public service with the commitment to the greater good. Tonight, I would like to take a moment to speak about a few of them.

The first woman to represent northeastern Illinois in Congress did so with remarkable distinction, skill, and effectiveness. Marguerite Stitt Church took to Congress in 1949, succeeding her late husband, Congressman Ralph Church. She served until 1962 promoting fiscal restraint, equal pay for women, and civil rights initiatives. She held a healthy disdain for extravagant Federal spending, which we can all certainly appreciate today. And foreshadowing the men who would follow her, Marguerite Church encouraged democratic reforms abroad from her position on the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mrs. Church retired in 1963 only to be succeeded in the 88th Congress by a man who also took to the causes of fiscal conservatism and American leadership in the world: Donald Rumsfeld. The people of northeastern Illinois elected Secretary Rumsfeld—a fellow New Trier High School graduate—to Congress at the young age of 30. From 1963 to 1969, he served our area with great distinction. He had a spot on the Joint Economic Committee, and during perhaps the most critical time in the development of our space program, he sat on the House Committee on Science and Aeronautics. As many know, his tenure in Congress was just the beginning of a long career in public service.

Ten years later saw the beginning of another incredible career devoted to public service. For 21 years, John Porter served the people of the 10th district. In that time, he made his great mark both at home and abroad. Serving on the Appropriations Committee and as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, John Porter achieved a record of tremendous legislative success. Reflecting on the values of his district, he advocated for scientific funding and advancements in health care research, displayed a commitment to the environment, championed a strong respect for the taxpayer, and set a standard for high quality constituent service.

John Porter also recorded impressive accomplishments in the area of foreign policy. After a trip to the Soviet Union, he founded the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. This led him to help free refuseniks in Russia, fight for the rights of North Korean refugees,