

He went to Washington to serve in the 80th Congress, as part of a star-studded freshman class made up of other World War II veterans, including future presidents John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon—as well as his lifelong friend and fellow St. Paul native, George MacKinnon, who later served as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Judge Devitt was popular among his colleagues in the House. While he was clearly a natural and would likely have enjoyed having a long career in Congress, that was not to be. As a Republican, he was fated to vote in favor of the Taft-Hartley Act. This was not a popular vote with the constituents in his largely Democratic and Labor dominated district. He was defeated by Eugene McCarthy in 1948 in what Judge MacKinnon referred to as the “Dewey landslide.”

While this was the end of his Congressional career, it was not the end of his public life—far from it—this was just a detour that would soon lead back to the judiciary.

In 1950, Governor Luther Youngdahl appointed Judge Devitt to the Ramsey County Probate Court. He served well and was subsequently elected by Ramsey County’s voters to remain as their probate judge.

Thereafter, in 1954, President Eisenhower appointed him to the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota. Judge Devitt would serve on the federal bench for the next 38 years. During that time, he came to personify the ideal for a federal district judge in this country.

Judge Devitt’s reputation and renown as a federal trial judge would grow to legendary status. He handled many of the most notorious criminal cases and many of the most complicated civil cases in the District’s history. He also was given more than his share of “special assignments” to handle challenging cases from other jurisdictions.

As part of his judicial duties, Judge Devitt “rode the circuit,” sitting in the federal courthouses located throughout the State. When he would come to Fergus Fall, he always stayed at the River Inn. He greatly enjoyed his associations with the local bar and always looked forward to seeing his many good friends in this part of Minnesota.

On one of those occasions when he sat in greater Minnesota, Judge Devitt arrived in town only to realize he had forgotten to bring his judicial robe. He was saved by the kindness of a local state court judge who gave Judge Devitt one of his—and this particular judge happened to favor blue robes. Judge Devitt loved the blue robe, and he wore proudly many times in the future.

His friend, Chief Justice Burger, said there wasn’t “any member of the federal judiciary that would rank higher [than Judge Devitt] in terms of pure professional qualifications and performance.”

In 1959, he succeeded the great Gunnar H. Nordbye to become the Chief Judge of this District. He served in that capacity for 22 years (1959 to 1981). Just as he could fairly be described as the “judge from central casting” in terms of his appearance, he was likewise the ideal chief judge. He was a leader in this District, and throughout the country, pioneering innovations and new methods to enhance the administration of justice in the federal courts.

His treatise on federal jury instructions became the indispensable standard for federal courts around the nation. He was also a leader in introducing the use of six person juries in civil cases, which has now become so common place today.

He served on and chaired numerous important committees for the United States Judicial Conference. The substantive breadth of these assignments reflect the breadth of his great contributions to all aspects of the

workings of the federal judicial branch—spanning from court administration; standards for admission to practice; geographic organization of the courts; continuing education, research, and training programs; and balancing the interests to a fair trial with the freedom of the press.

To say that Judge Devitt was popular among his colleagues on the bench would be a significant understatement. He was a great friend and role model to countless judges, particularly new judges. He regularly taught courses for new judges at the Federal Judicial Center, beginning almost from the time he himself was appointed to the federal bench. And, of course, he published his Ten Commandments for the New Judge which are still gospel today.

Judge Devitt took senior status in 1981, but he continued to serve and work hard. In addition to his caseload in this District, he also continued to receive special assignments to handle significant cases from elsewhere. This work included the assignment to preside in the trial of Walter Leroy Moody, Jr., who was accused of killing federal Judge Robert Vance of the Eleventh Circuit. The prosecutor in this case was future FBI Director, Louis Freeh. The two became close friends and, when Freeh was appointed to the federal bench, Judge Devitt swore him in and later presented Judge Freeh with a blue robe of his own.

While on senior status, he was also appointed to serve on the important United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

In 1982, West Publishing established the prestigious Devitt Award, which is presented annually to honor a federal judge whose decisions that reflect wisdom, humanity, and a commitment to the rule of law, and whose contributions have improved the administration of justice and enhanced the role of the federal courts in our society. The Devitt Award continues to be presented by the American Judicature Society, and is a most fitting tribute to its namesake whose life and career embodied this criteria so well.

Judge Devitt continued to sit on cases until just very shortly before he passed away on March 2, 1992. The loss of this great man was sincerely felt throughout the Minnesota and the Nation.

Today, Judge Devitt is still revered as the embodiment of the classic and ideal federal district judge. He is also still remembered fondly by so many people who were fortunate enough to have known him and to have been touched by his many kindnesses.

The naming of the United States Courthouse in Fergus Falls would be a most fitting tribute to this great man, and a well-deserved recognition for his extraordinary service and contributions to this State and this Nation.

(Thomas H. Boyd is a Shareholder at Winthrop & Weinstine. He is also a member of the Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit and currently serves as the President of the Society’s District of Minnesota Branch. The Judges of the District of Minnesota greatly appreciate Mr. Boyd preparing this tribute for Judge Devitt.)

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2251, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 0930

MICHAEL D. RESNICK TERRORIST SCREENING CENTER

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3096) to designate the building occupied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation located at 801 Follin Lane, Vienna, Virginia, as the “Michael D. Resnick Terrorist Screening Center”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3096

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The building occupied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation located at 801 Follin Lane, Vienna, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the “Michael D. Resnick Terrorist Screening Center” during the period in which the building is occupied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

During the period in which the building referred to in section 1 is occupied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to that building shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Michael D. Resnick Terrorist Screening Center”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3096 would designate the building occupied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Vienna, Virginia, as the “Michael D. Resnick Terrorist Screening Center.”

Supervisory Special Agent Michael Resnick dedicated his 20 years of service with the FBI to protecting our Nation. He demonstrated his dedication to protecting us all from terrorism as he continued to work while fighting pancreatic cancer. Sadly, he passed away in 2011.

I think that it is more than fitting to name the FBI’s Terrorist Screening

Center after him. I support the passage of this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 3096, which designates the building occupied by the FBI in Vienna, Virginia, as the "Michael D. Resnick Terrorist Screening Center."

As a former law enforcement officer, I have a special appreciation for Supervisory Special Agent Resnick's 20-year FBI career. His service was highlighted by his role as a senior advisor in the White House, where he had a prominent role in leading the Presidential review of watch-listing policies and procedures in the aftermath of the failed terrorist airplane bombing on December 25, 2009. Special Agent Resnick led the interagency review, which led to significant improvements in how the U.S. Government screens and integrates intelligence on terrorist suspects.

Agent Resnick was a well-respected public servant who passed away in 2011 as a result of pancreatic cancer. This designation is supported by the building owner, and it will stay with the building for as long as the FBI occupies this facility. The name designation of the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center is a very fitting tribute to Supervisory Special Agent Resnick and his exemplary career with the FBI. Agent Resnick will be remembered for his dedication to developing the architecture of a government-wide watch-listing of terrorism suspects, and for his tireless efforts to protect our fellow Americans from terrorism. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3096.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished subcommittee chairman and, of course, my colleague, the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee, for their wonderful cooperation on this important bill.

By the way, I believe we are going to be joined by Mr. Resnick's widow and daughter very soon. Our colleague Mr. GRIMM is going to be accompanying them here to the House.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, as already indicated, will rename the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center, located in the 11th District of Virginia, in honor of Supervisory Special Agent Michael Resnick, who was instrumental in the creation of this very critical component of our national security network.

I am pleased to sponsor this bill, along with my fellow Virginia colleagues FRANK WOLF and JIM MORAN and with my colleague RICHARD HANNA of New York.

Like so many of the brave men and women throughout our law enforce-

ment community, Mike Resnick was seized by the mission of public service and gave every ounce to ensure the safety of those he was sworn to protect. In his more than 20 years with the Bureau, Mike held numerous tactical and supervisory roles, but his greatest contributions came in the field of counterterrorism at precisely the time we needed it.

Following the attacks of 9/11, Mike Resnick was instrumental in laying the foundational policies and architecture for the screening and watch list system now administered by the interagency Terrorist Screening Center. He was later assigned to the National Security Council, where one of his last assignments was in promoting timely and effective information-sharing among Federal, State and local law enforcement partners. As a former local government leader myself, I can tell you how vital such collaboration is to the safety of our communities. Tragically, Mike Resnick was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in May of 2010, but he continued to staff his post through the physical and emotional strain of his treatments.

CIA Director John Brennan, who at the time was the Assistant to the President For Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, said that Mike wanted to make sure everything was in order for those who will carry on with his work.

He died on February 2, 2011, at the age of 50.

Mike is survived by his wife, Sarah Chamberlain, and their daughter, Jordan. It was one of my former colleagues, Amo Houghton of New York, who introduced Mike and Sarah by setting them up on a blind date. They were married here in Washington, and they enjoyed tennis, golf and travel when they could find the time. Mike played as hard as he worked. In fact, I'm told he was known to give some of our Republican colleagues a run for their money on the tennis court.

He grew up in Bayside, Wisconsin, where his parents, Sheldon and Ruth, still reside. It will come as no surprise that Mike was an Eagle Scout growing up. He was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin—Madison and of the DePaul University College of Law. Prior to his service with the FBI, he spent a brief period as a prosecutor.

Former FBI Director Robert Mueller said that Mike was not motivated by recognition but by a desire to get the job done, help others and to see those around him succeed.

Though he shied away from the spotlight, renaming the building in which he invested so much of himself offers a fitting recognition and a lasting tribute to the memory of one of our Nation's most dedicated public servants, whom the President characterized as no less than an American hero. I hope we remember that as we debate the issue of a shutdown of the Federal Government. Our Federal Government is filled with such noble public servants who are serving this country.

Let me close by again thanking the chairman and ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and of its Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, and I urge the passage of this fitting tribute, this legislation, this morning.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as a former mayor for 11 years, I had the opportunity to work with some great people in law enforcement, not only in our city government but also those in the FBI, and I know all too well the difficult job that these men and women do to keep us safe, especially Mr. Resnick, who dedicated his life to fighting terrorism. I don't believe we need to look very far to see how vitally important it is as we try to keep Americans safe from terrorism right here at home.

Mr. Resnick not only loved his job, but he loved his country, so I think it is very fitting that we honor all of those unsung heroes who go to work each day, never expecting to see their names in the headlines or in a story. They are the men and women who go to work and make sure that we have the freedoms that we have here in America. Naming a courthouse is not a small thing, and naming a building is not a small thing, nor is just the dedication of a good American who did all he could. Even during illness, even during a time when most would quit and stop, he continued to work because of his love for his family and his country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3096.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0957

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro