

Louisville. In 1992, their son Ryan was diagnosed with the then terminal genetic disease Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS Type 1). Shortly after learning of this diagnosis, Mark founded The Ryan Foundation to raise funds for developing treatments for the disease. The Dant family's first fundraising effort, a bake sale, netted \$342. The foundation has come a very long way since that first bake sale, much to the tenacious determination of Mark Dant. Millions of research dollars over the years have been donated to scientists searching for treatments to help those afflicted with the various forms of MPS. The Ryan Foundation's efforts spearheaded the funding for the first MPS Enzyme Replacement Therapy—Aldurazyme. Ryan Dant is the longest treated person in the world on Aldurazyme, which to date is approved to treat children with MPS in more than 75 countries. What all started as a bake sale in Carrollton has blossomed into helping children with a previously untreatable disease all around the world.

To help support the tireless efforts of the Dant family and the countless individuals, I introduced the Ryan Dant Health Care Opportunity Act, H.R. 1441 in the 111th Congress. Much to the hard work of Mark Dant and his family, this legislation achieved over fifty bipartisan cosponsors. Mark's advocacy for individuals afflicted by rare diseases will not cease anytime soon—he is expanding upon the initial volunteer efforts of a heartfelt concerned father many years ago, and will now serve as the Executive Director of the National MPS Society in Durham, North Carolina. I can think of no one better suited or well qualified for this position than Mark. Though the people of Carrollton are losing one of their finest public servants, countless affected individuals will now have the best person they could ever ask for leading the efforts in developing treatments and awareness for MPS.

I ask for all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mark Dant on his well-earned retirement from the Carrollton Police Department. I wish Mark, and the Dant family much new success with the National MPS Society.

HONORING POLICE SERGEANT STEVEN HENDERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE HAMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AFTER 30 YEARS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Sgt. Steven Henderson on his retirement after 30 years of service with the Hampton Police Department, and thank him for the outstanding work he did during his career.

Sgt. Henderson's continuous progression within the law enforcement ranks during his time exemplifies his intelligence, positive attitude, and commitment to protecting and serving his community with the utmost professionalism. It's clear that Sgt. Henderson leaves an example of strong leadership and compassion for others to emulate in his wake.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Sgt. Henderson on his retirement, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

H.R. 1675, THE CAPITAL MARKETS IMPROVEMENTS ACT AND H.R. 766, THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION CUSTOMER PROTECTIONS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this week, I voted against H.R. 1675, the Capital Markets Improvements Act and H.R. 766, the Financial Institution Customer Protections Act—both missed opportunities to garner the strong bipartisan consensus needed to appropriately refine our nation's financial oversight rules.

While I am sympathetic to concerns of small businesses, and remain ready to work with my Republican colleagues to address those concerns, I continue to support strong, targeted oversight of our financial markets. Strong consumer and market protection regulations, administered by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), are needed to prevent the risky practices that badly damaged our economy during the Great Recession. These rules are also necessary to put a stop to the predatory lending practices and financial gimmickry that wreaked havoc on the economic security of Oregon's working families.

These two bills exemplify the Republican leadership's unwillingness to work with Democrats to strengthen our nation's financial oversight. It is clear that these bills were unnecessarily partisan, making them unpalatable in the Senate and veto targets for President Obama. While there are elements of H.R. 1675 that I have voted for in the past and continue to support, the bill that was brought to the floor yesterday included poison pills, like requiring a review and full commission vote on every major rule every 10 years under full Administrative Procedure Act-style requirements would severely hinder the SEC's ability to monitor markets and protect investors. The vast majority of Democrats rejected a similar proposal in the previous Congress. Today, the Financial Services Committee leadership forced a partisan vote on H.R. 766 by including provisions that would restrict the ability of government watchdogs to investigate and hold accountable those who perpetrate financial wrongdoing.

Appropriate financial rules should protect American families and the broader economy without being unduly burdensome to small businesses and innovative entrepreneurs. When the Administration misses this mark, it is my hope that Congress can work in a constructive, bipartisan manner to refine regulations, tailoring them to strike an appropriate balance between business and consumer needs. Unfortunately, this week's efforts fail to meet that standard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on February 3, 2016, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on the Carolyn B. Maloney of New York amendment to H.R. 1675. Had I been present for rollcall No. 59, I would have voted "AYE."

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF COMMANDER AXEL W. SPENS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Commander Axel W. Spens's retirement and twenty-two years of service in the United States Navy.

Commander Spens is a native of Morgantown, West Virginia, and most recently served as the commanding officer of Naval Recruiting District (NRD) Atlanta. He graduated in 1994 from David Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, with a degree in American Studies and he received his commission in the U.S. Navy from Vanderbilt University NROTC. In 1993, he was recognized as a NAIA Academic All-American athlete in cross country. In 2000, he received a Master of Public Administration degree from Valdosta State University.

Commander Spens completed submarine training at Naval Nuclear Power School in Orlando, Florida, Nuclear Power Training Unit in Charleston, South Carolina, and the officer basic course in Groton, Connecticut. He served as a division officer in USS *West Virginia* in Kings Bay, Georgia, as the Navigator in USS *Florida* in Bangor, Washington, and the Combat Systems Officer in both USS *Newport News* in Norfolk, Virginia, as well as in USS *La Jolla* in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. His most recent sea assignment was as the executive officer on USS *Cheyenne* in Hawaii. He has completed two Mediterranean deployments, two Western Pacific deployments and seven strategic patrols.

Commander Spens has also served as an instructor and class director at the Naval Nuclear Power School in Charleston, South Carolina, at the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Millington, Tennessee, the operations officer at Submarine Squadron One at Pearl Harbor, and as a Navy Legislative Fellow on the personal staff of Congressman Jack Kingston. His most recent assignment was on the Navy Staff as the Executive Assistant for the Director of Undersea Warfare.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Commander Axel Spens and to celebrate his many years of hard work and dedication to the United States Navy.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. BUCHENAUER OF MANCHESTER, NH ON CELEBRATING THEIR 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Buchenauer of Manchester, New Hampshire for recently celebrating their 65th anniversary. After 65 years of marriage, I applaud their dedication and commitment to one another. It's clear they have both been exemplary members of our community, and I wish them the best in all future endeavors.

CELEBRATING 2016 NATIONAL
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 2016 National Catholic Schools Week. Across the First District of Michigan, there are 22 Catholic schools providing a first rate education to over 4,100 students that combines faith with academic excellence. Since coming to Congress, it has been an honor to meet with students in Catholic schools across my district at St. Francis de Sales in Manistique, Manistee Catholic Central School in Manistee, and Menominee Catholic Central School in Menominee, among others.

This year, the theme of National Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service." As a lifelong Catholic, former student, and frequent guest of schools across Northern Michigan, I know that the Catholic schools in our region are certainly living up to these goals.

This year, Congress was blessed to hear from Pope Francis. Pope Francis has called on all Catholic schools to "provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values."

In light of this, I have signed onto House Resolution 35, a resolution that honors the contributions that Catholic schools have made to the United States and its people. I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 35, and urge my colleagues to support this resolution as well. Together, we must all recognize the significant contributions that Catholic schools have made to our country.

HONORING BOONE EVANS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Boone Evans. Boone is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Boone has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Boone has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Boone has led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and has become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Boone has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Boone Evans for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICOLINA
(NICKI) R. CARDWELL FOR HER
DEDICATED CAREER OF PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our own. On Friday, January 22, 2016, Ms. Nicolina (Nicki) Cardwell retired from my office after serving a combined seventeen years for the people of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District as a Community Affairs Liaison for eleven years in my Independence District Office and six years with my predecessor. Overall, Nicki dedicated four decades of public service to our community, as a teacher, county employee, and ultimately retiring from Congressional service, spending much of her career based in Eastern Jackson County, Missouri.

Born May 7, 1947, to an Italian mother, Silva Piva, and a Kansan father, George Morris, Nicolina Rowena Maria Cardwell often reminds folks of her proud Italian heritage. After studying at Central Missouri State University and taking time to raise a beautiful family, Nicki returned to school. At the University of Missouri-Kansas City, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Health, going on to teach in public and private schools in Independence, helping to shape future generations.

Nicki has spent much of her adult life as a resident of Independence, Missouri, home to Harry S. Truman, 33rd President of the United States. She is well known throughout the area, as she has been an active volunteer in the community and politically active for causes and individuals she supports. In 1988, Nicki joined the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department, holding a variety of positions over the next ten years, including in the Speaker's Bureau, where she helped introduce thousands of individuals to Jackson County's programs, facilities, and parks. Among many other responsibilities, Nicki assisted with marketing, group events, and public relations while working for the County.

In 1999, Nicki joined the staff of my predecessor, Congresswoman Karen McCarthy. While being considered for the position, some of her prior employers called her, "the best we've ever had dealing with the public," and "a hard worker—very good." As she assumed her new role as a caseworker, Nicki handled passports, immigration, and veterans issues among others impacting residents of Missouri's Fifth District. She was often the recipient of great praise from constituents she helped, including in one letter to the editor in which the constituent had faced repeated roadblocks before making his first call to a Congressional office. He wrote:

"... I called [the Congressional] office expecting another difficult process. Nicki Cardwell called me back within five minutes. She proceeded to treat me as if I were 'family.' I know that she is very busy, but I felt like I was the only one on her agenda. She went beyond the call of duty and even met with me on a Saturday afternoon to complete the paperwork I needed. . . . She made me feel very comfortable throughout the entire process. She took a lot of stress off my shoulders, and

I would just like others to know how considerate and kind a government employee can be."

This type of praise was not uncommon for Nicki. Her personnel folder is full of thank you notes and emails referring to her as "jumping right into the action", "could not have been more helpful", and "beyond the call of duty." Her dedication to constituents led one individual to even refer to her positively as a "bulldog" and went on to say "You're lucky to have such a person on your staff."

So it should come as no surprise, Mr. Speaker, that when I was first elected to Congress in November, 2004, I knew immediately who my first staff hire would be. The list of civic leaders and elected officials advocating that I hire Nicki was lengthy, but they did not need to convince me. I knew after our conversation that a more passionate and caring caseworker did not exist.

Over the past eleven years, Nicki has helped thousands of constituents. She has worked primarily with our veterans and active military personnel, but does not hesitate to jump in to help whenever needed. She often would spend hours listening to constituents in person or on the telephone as they shared their struggles with her, pleased to find an empathetic listener. Her compassion for the men and women in uniform who have served and continue to serve our nation is unparalleled. She regularly attended Stand Downs, Veterans Day, and Memorial Day events with me, or on my behalf. She worked to honor veterans through helping to arrange special events for Vietnam veterans, Korean veterans, World War I veterans, World War II veterans, and Tuskegee Airmen, just to name a few. She created a Veterans Advisory Committee to help serve as a sounding board when important issues arose within the VA system or in proposed legislation. In addition, Nicki spent countless hours every year helping our young people going through the Academy nomination process, giving counsel and advice to those eager to join our prestigious military institutions.

Given Nicki's background, she often assisted with many of our special projects as well. There have been too many projects to name them all, but the one that stands out is our annual Congressional Art Contest. Nicki's leadership helped shepherd record participation with nearly 200 pieces of artwork from high school students around the Fifth District being submitted for consideration. She worked personally with principals and art teachers to encourage submissions to guarantee all parts of the District were well represented. She carefully handled and displayed each piece as if it were her own. She helped secure some of our community's strongest advocates for the arts to judge the students' submissions to ensure the winning artwork hanging in the Cannon Tunnel represented the best of our District. Students and teachers alike have come to rely on Nicki's friendship and expertise and they will surely miss her guidance, as will I.

In addition to Nicki's primary role as a caseworker, she also regularly represented the office at meetings and events throughout the District. She was a regular at the Independence Chamber of Commerce, the Eastern Jackson County Betterment Council, the National World War I Museum and Memorial, the Truman Presidential Library and Museum, and 40 Club to name but a few. She is as well