

In addition to the accomplishments already noted, Brian served as a pivotal staffer and organized escorts for two Honor Flight trips. Honor Flight brought 203 World War II heroes to visit Washington, DC's war memorials. He also assisted me in high level meetings with the Ambassadors from the Republic of Korea and Mauritania. He served as an outstanding ambassador of the United States Air Force, and I was proud to have him as an integral part of my staff.

Brian excelled in every area and exceeded all fellowship expectations. While I am saddened that he will soon leave my office, I am delighted that Brian was selected for Squadron Command. I have no doubt that he will excel in this role as a Commander, and I will feel comfortable knowing that the lives of our Airmen are in his hands. Vicki and I wish Brian, his wife, Suzanne, and their children, Meagan, Cory, Gabe, and Emily our best wishes for future success and happiness.

HONORING MARSHALL FRITZ

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend Marshall Fritz who passed away on Tuesday, November 4, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. Marshall was a true champion of freedom whose impact on the cause of liberty will be felt for years to come.

Marshall, with his booming voice and good humor, was the happy warrior of the freedom movement, as well as the movement's Will Rogers. Marshall never met a fellow fighter for liberty, a single-issue ally, or a potential convert he did not like—and to Marshall anyone who did not already share his love of liberty was a potential convert.

Marshall was a model of an ideological/political entrepreneur. In 1984, Marshall saw that the growth of the freedom movement was handicapped by the lack of an organization to help activists better communicate the freedom philosophy to the general public. While Marshall was not the first person to have this realization, he was the first person to attempt to remedy the situation by founding Advocates for Self-Government, an organization designed to teach activists how to effectively communicate their principles.

In the years since Marshall founded the Advocates for Self-Government, the organization has helped countless libertarians by providing them with the intellectual resources necessary to effectively battle for a free society.

While serving as president of the Advocates, Marshall created the World's Smallest Political Quiz. The quiz graphs an individual's political philosophy based on responses to a series of 10 questions that measure one's commitment to economic and personal liberty.

Under Marshall's leadership, the Advocates undertook an aggressive program of distributing the quiz. There is no doubt that this has been the Advocate's most successful and popular program. The quiz is responsible for many Americans' first contact with libertarian ideas. While traveling around the country, I have often heard people say, "I never knew I was a libertarian until I took the quiz!"

In 1990, Marshall stepped down as president of the Advocates to found the Alliance for the Separation of School and State, an organization focusing on the vital issue of parental control of education. Thanks in large part to Marshall's work, the idea that parents, not the government, should control education is no longer excluded from public debate as a "fringe" notion. One of the features that most impresses me about the Alliance is the way that Marshall brought libertarians, conservatives, liberals together to work for education freedom.

Anyone who knew Marshall and worked with him would not be surprised that he was able to forge a coalition of people of diverse views. Marshall's focus was always on building alliances and trying to persuade those with whom he disagreed, rather than on scoring debating points. While he never compromised his principles and never hesitated to criticize even his closet allies if they took what he considered an anti-liberty position, Marshall never personalized disagreements and always treated his opponents with courtesy and respect. I believe the freedom movement would be more successful if more libertarians followed Marshall's example of never turning policy disagreements into personal attacks.

All of us who care about building an effective freedom movement owe a debt of gratitude to Marshall Fritz. I join Marshall's family in mourning his loss and I urge all of us who work for liberty to honor Marshall's memory by following the example he set.

DANIEL W. BLANKENBURG

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, Daniel W. Blankenburg first came to Washington in 1994. He began working in Congress for Rep. DON MANZULLO and then Rep. Tom Ewing. He then served as Legislative Director to Rep. JOHN SHIMKUS until he moved to the private sector to work for the National Federation of Independent Businesses. In 2005, Dan decided to return to public service, and I was fortunate enough to have him join our office. At that time, we were looking for a person to build coalitions and form alliances, and Dan's impressive record made him the perfect candidate.

In his role as Chief of Staff, Dan has made each decision with careful attention to ensure the best possible outcome. His meticulous approach, vast knowledge and inquisitive nature have been tremendous assets to me personally as well as to our entire organization. I am always confident that Dan leaves no stone unturned when making decisions on my behalf.

Dan's highly regarded character is demonstrated by his popularity around the capitol. It is difficult to walk down a hallway, enter an elevator or sit at a local restaurant with Dan without striking up a conversation with one of his many friends and acquaintances. While most of us simply wave or exchange salutations in passing, Dan takes the time to catch up with friends whenever possible. There is even a chance for encounters with complete strangers if they happen to be wearing a Bears or Cubs hat.

While Dan's professionalism is truly impressive, his personal qualities are also admirable. Dan often speaks fondly about his family: he enjoys visiting his parents, Millie and Dan, along with his grandmother, Mildred, in Colorado. Dan speaks with great pride about his brothers, Jason and Chip, and his sister, Jodie. He enjoys being an uncle to his nephew, Parken, and his nieces, Jodie and Mattes. Perhaps most notably, Dan relishes every opportunity he can find to talk about his lovely wife Cate, whom he truly adores.

Dan is a man of great talents, and I know he will do well in whatever future opportunities he pursues. I wish him all the best wherever life may take him.

HONORING HARRIS FARMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harris Farms upon being honored with the 2008 Baker, Peterson and Franklin Ag Business Award. Harris Farms was honored at a luncheon November 5, 2008 held at the Radisson Conference Center in Fresno, CA.

Harris Farms was founded in 1937 by Jack and Teresa Harris on 320 acres of prime land in the central California's San Joaquin Valley. Over the past 70 years, Harris Farms has grown to cover thousands of acres and has become one of the most vertically integrated, diversified and largest agribusinesses in the U.S. Harris Farms has grown to include Harris Ranch Beef Company, Harris Feeding Company, Harris Fresh, Harris Ranch Restaurant, Harris Farms-Thoroughbred, Harris Ranch Inn and Harris Ranch Online Country Store.

Today, under the direction of John and Carole Harris, the operation produces 33 crops including everything from carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, garlic, onions, citrus, nuts and grapes. Harris Ranch Beef and Harris Feeding companies have earned a reputation as two of the largest and most innovative firms in the industry, pioneering the development of branded beef and value-added beef products. Their thoroughbred division breeds, trains and races thoroughbred horses at tracks across the county. The Harris Ranch Inn and Restaurant serves 2,000 guests per day and showcases their beef products and produce. Harris Farms is one of the largest employers in the Coalinga area with 1,500 hundred employees.

Harris Farms received the 2002 Fresno Bee Excellence in Business Award. John Harris has been recognized by his peers with State Fair Agriculturist of the Year, Livestock Man of the Year and Cattle Businessman of the Year. He serves on the California Horseracing Board, Western Growers Board and is past president of the American Cattleman Association and the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association. He is past chair of the St. Agnes Hospital Foundation Board. He has also served on the University of California, Davis Foundation, Alumni Boards and the University of California President's Agriculture Advisory Board. Carole Harris is a member of La Feliz Children's Hospital Guild and past member of the Fresno County Historical Society Board. Mr. and Mrs. Harris are involved with countless organizations and annually award scholarships to children of employees.