

Chairman Lodge, members of the committee, for the record my name is Sarah Bettwieser and I'm here today representing myself as someone who had the distinct fortune of working for Bill for 16 years. I strongly urge your support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 130. Few people have had more impact on me than Bill. I think a lot of us could say the same thing. As you all know, Bill passed in July. His passing has been felt in this building. Losing Bill meant losing a lot of unrivaled and irreplaceable institutional knowledge, meant losing a friend, a confidant and a mentor.

Bill is the reason I decided to become a lobbyist. After hiring me as a junior in high school and

encouraging and facilitating my attendance at Boise State, during my senior year of college he allowed me to intern under him during a legislative session. I watched him time and time again navigate what seemed like such an intense, sometimes impossible process- always doing it with grace, candor, authority and unmatched knowledge.

When I was approached to represent a client outside of the firm he insisted I setup my own LLC and fondly offered me an old business name of his – Cygnet which means young swan- and he smiled and told me how fitting it was. That'll always be one of my favorite memories.

The 16 years I spent working for Bill were easily the most transformative of my life. As I traversed all those years encompassed - high school graduation, college graduation, getting married, becoming a parent to my niece and my nephew, welcoming a son - and all the life in between – there was Bill, this bright guiding light – cheering me on. He also allowed my dog Scout to be the office mascot and for that- I am forever grateful. Bill was so much more than a boss. He was family and I miss him dearly.

The last time I saw Bill I took my son Roland to spend the afternoon with him. Bill remarked how happy he was to see things work out for me. Those words so simply stated have stuck with

me. True to Bill, I'm not sure his humility allowed him to recognize that he is in large part the reason that things have worked out. I'm so grateful that Roland and I had that day with him.

When I think about walking into the lobbyist room and seeing his name- it means walking into and out of that room remembering the principles he instilled in me and in so many others.

Bill taught us to remember that friendships outlast issues. That integrity should be at the forefront of all of our actions. He taught us to do the right thing, even when difficult- because it's the right thing to do – and in that vein he encouraged us to advocate for those who struggle to advocate for themselves. He made us hold

ourselves accountable and reminded us to bring our best and kindest selves to this building and to this process each and every day.

I was incredibly fortunate to have learned from such a wonderfully remarkable man. I wish everyone could have had the same fortune because given the opportunity he made you better.

Bill gave me the most powerful gift you can give anyone- he gave me a chance and that has led me to a career I love and a life that is much more meaningful than I ever could have imagined. I hope I've made him proud.

I share my experience as one example of his impact. Bill's fingerprints are woven into the statutes that govern this state and his lessons guide the many he mentored. This resolution allows us to keep his legacy alive in this building. I could go on forever about what a good human he was, but the bottom line is that I can't think of anyone more deserving of this honor than the aptly nicknamed "Dean of Lobbying".

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be here with you today to honor my dear friend. I again urge your support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 130 and I'll stand for any questions.