America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH RAPSON

HON. KEITH ELLISON
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Ralph Rapson, one of the country’s most influential architects. His Modernist designs were not only significant in the State of Minnesota but can been seen around the world. While I regret to report the recent passing of Ralph Rapson at the age of 93, I am grateful for his talent, his dedication and his passion; all of which we were lucky to have him share with the state of Minnesota.

Born in Alma, Michigan in 1914, Ralph earned his degree in architecture at the University of Michigan. In 1939 he designed a four-part series on day laborers titled “Ghost Workers.” The four-part series by the Queens Courier provided readers with an accurate, relevant, and illuminating window into this important but underground workforce. The stories showcased their hopes for a brighter future and the obstacles they encounter, including oftentimes dangerous working conditions. The series noted that a 2003 study found that 83 percent of day workers surveyed said that their bosses did not give them protective clothing or equipment and 12 percent said that they had been injured on a job site at least once in the past year.

It is the stories that they tell which should remind us that we are not just “on the ground”—the stories to inform and inspire our policy and legislative work. The stories that journalists like Davis, Rosenberg, Santucci, and their colleagues tell illuminate the very best what journalism can be: informational and inspiring. It can change the world by making seen the invisible, teaching the unknown, and challenging the conventional wisdom.

We all should thank The Queens Courier, their editors, and reporters Davis, Rosenberg, Santucci, Ghigliot, and Hirsch for their incredible work.

CONGRATULATING INDIANA STATE SENATOR TRAVIS HOLDMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SWEARING-IN

HON. MIKE PENCE
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the newest member of the Indiana State Senate. The sun has set on the long and proud legacy of one visionary leader, but a new dawn is rising in the Hoosier heartland.

Tomorrow at the Indiana Statehouse, surrounded by family and friends, Travis Holdman will raise his right hand to be sworn in as State Senator for Indiana’s 19th District. After his victory, Holdman said he had no acceptance speech prepared. He simply thanked the caucus and quoted Proverbs 15:22, “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with advice they succeed.” I’m sure he will receive a lot of counsel in the months and years ahead as he seeks to serve his constituents.

I’ve known Travis and his wife Becky for years. He has a wealth of business and political experience that will serve his constituents well.

Travis has been involved with banking for the past 15 years, serving as a bank CEO, bank holding CEO, and chair of the board. Previously, he spent 6 years as a deputy prosecutor in Wells County.

Travis has served as both chairman and vice chairman of the Wells County GOP for the past 12 years. Most recently he served on the Wells County Council.

Travis and Becky are also leaders in a number of civic and community activities. At the Zanesville United Methodist Church, they volunteer for the UPWARD sports ministry. Travis serves on the board of trustees for Huntington University and has worked with Youth for Christ student ministry.

Travis was the youngest of eight children and grew up in a poor but hard-working family. He will tell you that his parents instilled in him five core values: traditional family values, conservative political views, Hoeosier common sense, a Judeo-Christian worldview, and integrity.

Madam Speaker, no one will ever fill Senator David Ford’s shoes, but Indiana will be well served by Senator Travis Holdman.