

**Ripon Society & Franklin
Center Honor the “Unsung
Heroes of Capitol Hill”**

Washington, D.C. – The Ripon Society and Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange held their 8th annual bipartisan luncheon this past Friday honoring the Schedulers and Executive Assistants in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate who, in the words of Ripon and Franklin President & CEO Jim Conzelman, “Are truly the unsung heroes of Capitol Hill.”

“You all make such a difference in the lives of our leaders,” Conzelman stated in his remarks to open the event. “And by doing that, you make a difference in the life of our nation. As a former Hill staffer of 30 years I have seen first-hand how the work of a scheduler can make or break a Congressional office. So with that in mind, we are here today to say ‘Thank you’ and to celebrate your hard work this year!”

“Just like always, we survey The Ripon Society and Franklin Center’s membership to vote for the schedulers and executive assistants who go above and beyond each day they walk into the office. We hold this event annually, and every year we are overwhelmed with responses praising the individuals like those we were able to honor this year.”

The Top Schedulers and Executive Assistants of 2019 included:

Caitlin Affolter – with Senator Steve Daines (R-MT); Alexis Alavi – with Congressman Darin LaHood (R-IL); Lauren Allen – with Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV); Faith Ammen – with Congresswoman Jackie Walorski (R-IN); Jacqueline Battaglia – with Congressman Steve Scalise (R-LA); Laura Cureton – with Congressman Kevin Brady (R-TX); Leila Diallo – with Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (D-OH); Richard Eddings – with Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO); Kevin Golden – with Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY); Natalie Goodwin – with Congresswoman Susan Brooks (R-IN); Jessica Graff – with Congressman Larry Bucshon (R-



The Top Schedulers and Executive Assistants of 2019

IN); Jen Jett – with Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS); Kellie Karney – with Congressman Ami Bera (D-CA); Courtney Klein – with Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA); Laura Piccioli – with Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ); Angela Schulze – with Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC); Leah Seigle – with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI); Brooke Starr – with Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR); Nora Taktajian – with Congressman Jimmy Panetta (D-CA); Landy Wade – with Congresswoman Kathleen Rice (D-NY); Kathi Wise – with Senator John Barrasso (R-WY); Angie Youngen – with Senator Rob Portman (R-OH).

Also in attendance was Congressman Larry Bucshon, who appeared at the event as a surprise to his scheduler, Jessica Graff. Bucshon discussed the importance of having staff members who not only understand how to balance their official needs both here in Washington and in their home state, but also understand the needs of their personal lives and family matters. He concluded by thanking his scheduler for her patience and hard work throughout the year.

Conzelman – who spent three decades as the Chief of Staff for former Congressman Mike Oxley (R-OH) prior to joining The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center – said that Friday’s luncheon was attended by a group of nearly 70 Schedulers and Executive Assistants.

Founded in 1978, The Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to enhancing global understanding of important international issues. The Franklin Center brings together Members of the U.S. Congress and their international parliamentary counterparts as well as experts from the Diplomatic corps, foreign officials, senior private sector representatives, scholars, and other public policy experts. Through regular conferences and events where leading international opinion leaders share ideas, the Franklin Center promotes enlightened, balanced, and unbiased international policy discussion on major international issues.

For more information on the organization, please visit its website at www.franklincenter.us. **FC**



U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon addressed the crowd