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Diane Joens

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MY TURN by Diane Joens, Mayor of Cottonwood

Gabe Zimmerman was the director of community outreach for U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. He handled issues for the congresswoman in Tucson and Sierra Vista, organizing many public events. With a master's degree in social work, he cared passionately about helping people. Gabe was shot and died Jan. 8, 2011 outside a Tucson supermarket during a Congress on Your Corner meeting. Congresswoman Giffords was gravely injured.

"It was my great honor to nominate Cottonwood City Manager Doug Bartosh for a statewide competition created in Gabe's honor that recognizes non-elected public servants," said Cottonwood Mayor Diane Joens. She nominated him for the Civic Engagement Award. Writing separate nominations were County Attorney Sheila Polk, Executive Assistant to the City Manager Kyla Allen, President of the Prescott Jewish Foundation David Hess, and Executive Director of Community Counts and MATForce Merilee Fowler.



Doug Bartosh with son Josh and wife Diana.

In the book *Gabby: A story of Courage and Hope* by Gabrielle Giffords and Mark Kelly, the authors talk about Gabe, relating that he had cheerfully organized the Congress on Your Corner event. Gabe had a contagious devotion to public service. Rep. Giffords really admired him and appreciated the work he did for her constituents. Had Gabe

lived, the book says, he would have continued to contribute to the world in meaningful ways.

Mayor Joens said, "I wrote my nomination because I thought Doug Bartosh, Cottonwood's City Manager, has many of Gabe's professional and personal qualities. He is adept at communicating with citizens, his employees, and his city council. He always has time to sit down and talk with anyone about anything. Whether it is working with Prevent Child Abuse, MATForce, or *What You Do Matters: Lessons from the Holocaust*, he is a visionary."

Nurturing his personal life, Doug is a devoted family man, married for 40 years to Diana, and dotes on their two-year-old granddaughter. Doug and his granddaughter even run together—one on two feet and the other in a stroller, "Although she is ready to take off on her own two feet soon," he said.

Doug has worked hard to create good communications with the residents in Cottonwood, the Verde Valley and Yavapai County. He promotes working on a regional basis. He is amazingly responsive to residents—a number one priority during the work day. With support of the council, he laid the groundwork to have city council meetings televised, created an Inside Cottonwood television show, and initiated a column, Just the Facts, all in an effort to better communicate with community members.

He is the founder and a leader in the Verde Valley Wine Consortium that has worked to make Cottonwood a leader in the wine industry. He worked to bring the wine industry to Old Town Cottonwood and has played a major role in making our city a tourist destination. He is a key leader in being selected for a Five Communities grant and has brought Cottonwood state recognition as a progressive city. Before Doug became City Manager, tourists always heard about Sedona or Jerome. Now tourists realize Cottonwood is in the middle, and there's a lot to do here. His leadership has assisted with boosting city revenues in difficult economic times, and he works under the direction of the mayor and city council to provide a great quality of life and excellent services to the residents of the area.

Doug has promoted transparency in government at every level. At the request of the mayor, he upgraded the city's Web site. He worked with staff to create a transparency page for the city's financial disclosure to residents. A Facebook page has been created to better communicate with citizens and encourage civic engagement. There is a tremendous amount of information available to the public from the City of Cottonwood. A citywide reorganization made a big difference and the public's interest is much better served. Doug worked with the Northern Arizona Council of Governments, the city council and economic development director to bring the Business Assistance Center to Cottonwood, encouraging business development in Cottonwood and the Verde Valley.

Following policies set by the Cottonwood City Council, Doug effectively managed the city through the worst recession in recent history without laying off any employees, even while freezing 12 positions. He has developed recognition for the city as a national, state, and county leader in substance abuse prevention. Cottonwood was the first city in the state to put pseudoephedrine—a product used for making methamphetamine--

behind the counter. Cottonwood was the first city to ban bath salts. The city's part one crimes have been reduced more than 45 percent through these efforts.

On behalf of the city council and area residents, he successfully directed the construction and opening of a beautiful recreation center that is thoroughly enjoyed by community residents, further encouraging healthy lifestyles for Cottonwood and Verde Valley residents.

Doug is a leader and educator in a program called "What You Do Matters: A Lesson from the Holocaust." According to The Days of Remembrance, "The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. Other victims included some 200,000 Roma (Gypsies) and at least 200,000 mentally or physically disabled patients." This was called the Euthanasia Program. Doug teaches this class to all Yavapai County law enforcement agencies. They learn exactly how the police in Nazi-era Germany came to kill so many residents in their communities.

The course reminds each and every criminal justice professional that their true role is to uphold the U.S. Constitution and enforce individual rights and liberties for everyone. The training is a profound, thought-provoking examination of what can happen when a person in authority starts down the slippery slope of small changes that enables and justifies—in their minds—wrongful acts. This is what happened in the Holocaust. Because of his dedication to this cause, we have education and hope that something this devastating to community and individual lives will never happen again. Doug lives life with great integrity and conviction.

With support from the Zimmerman family, The Center for the Future of Arizona created the Gabe Zimmerman Public Service Awards to recognize the finest non-elected public employees at all levels of government in Arizona.

"These exemplary public servants represent the spirit of service to the public by which Gabe Zimmerman lived his life," Dr. Lattie Coor, chairman and CEO of the Center for the Future of Arizona, said. "They represent the best of the more than 100,000 professional public servants working at all levels of Arizona government."

Winners of the Gabe Zimmerman awards were honored at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Meeting on Aug. 30. Nominees were judged on their achievements, such as how they've made a profound difference in improving service to the public, changed operations to better service the public, upheld the public interest with integrity and conviction, and their legacy contribution of lasting significance to Arizona citizens. David Byers, director of the Administrative Office of the Courts for the Arizona Supreme Court, received the Leadership award. Michael Hemesath, director of public works for the City of Sierra Vista, received the Innovation award.

The 2012 awards were sponsored by the Center for the Future of Arizona in cooperation with the County Supervisors Association of Arizona, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., and the League of Arizona Cities and Towns.

In the closing paragraph of her nomination of Doug Bartosh for the Gabe Zimmerman Public Service Awards, Mayor Joens said, "Doug is an amazing leader and community servant. Just like Gabe Zimmerman, he is an accomplished communicator. Like Gabe Zimmerman, Cottonwood City Manager Doug Bartosh has a contagious devotion to public service and is adept at communicating with community members, employees and the city council. He has made our community better, and his actions, with integrity, reflect the same principled behaviors that Gabe Zimmerman exhibited in his service to the citizens of Congresswoman Giffords' district. Gabe Zimmerman was engaged to be married. Obviously, given the chance, he would have made a good family man. Doug Bartosh has shown devotion to his family for more than 40 years. Please consider Doug Bartosh for this award. I can't think of anyone in the state of Arizona who more deserves this recognition."

Mayor Diane Joens