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House of Representatives

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Malcolm Nelson for his work as the Ombudsman for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Since his appointment in 2006, Nelson has dedicated his career to helping former nuclear weapons workers navigate a complex claims process. During his time as Ombudsman, Nelson served with compassion and an unparalleled understanding of the law. He consistently served as a resource to claimants about the adjudication process and listened to their concerns in order to make recommendations to improve the program.

Accessibility was an important part of Nelson's role as the Ombudsman. He often traveled to claimants, attended outreach town halls, and even held his own town halls in more remote areas like Canyon City, Colorado to make sure all claimants were being reached. Former Rocky Flats workers in my district were well served by Nelson. He was even nominated for the Service to America Medals by the Alliance of Nuclear Worker Advocacy Groups in 2018.

During his over 40-year tenure in government, Nelson also served as general counsel and as acting administrative appeals judge for DOL's Benefits Review Board, where he assisted with the appeals process under the Black Lung Benefits Act and the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act.

While I will miss Malcolm Nelson as he leaves this important post, I wish him luck in his retirement and I thank him for his many years of service to our nuclear weapons workers across this country.

Thank you,

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress