

CRUSADER WALL OF RECOGNITION

2019 INDUCTEE

JOEL LEFTWICH

WHS CLASS OF 1996



JOEL LEFTWICH WAS BORN AND RAISED IN WELLINGTON, GRADUATING FROM WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL IN 1996. HE EARNED HIS B.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE/HISTORY FROM FRIENDS UNIVERSITY IN 2000 AND A M.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO IN 2004.

UPON GRADUATING FROM FRIENDS, WHERE HE SERVED TWO YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, JOEL WENT TO WORK FOR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JIM RYUN (R-KAN) AS A LEGISLATIVE AIDE HANDLING CORRESPONDENCE AND ASSISTING WITH AGRICULTURAL POLICY. AFTER A YEAR IN WASHINGTON D.C., JOEL RETURNED TO KANSAS AS FRIENDS UNIVERSITY'S DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS WHERE HE WORKED TO ENHANCE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNIVERSITY'S BROADER COMMUNITY.

RECOGNIZING HIS DESIRE TO RETURN TO PUBLIC POLICY, JOEL ENROLLED IN LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO'S GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE AND FOCUSED HIS STUDIES ON THE U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM. AFTER EARNING HIS MASTER'S DEGREE, JOEL ACCEPTED A POSITION WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS IN PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH'S ADMINISTRATION. IN THIS CAPACITY, JOEL WORKED WITH USDA OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES TO IMPLEMENT PORTIONS OF THE 2002 FARM BILL'S CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY PROVISIONS.

IN MAY 2005, JOEL JOINED U.S. SENATOR PAT ROBERTS' (R-KAN) STAFF AS A LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT WORKING ON PUBLIC POLICY PROVISIONS IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, AVIATION, COMMODITY FUTURES, ENERGY, FOOD SAFETY, IMMIGRATION, NUTRITION AND TRANSPORTATION. DURING THIS TIME JOEL PLAYED AN INTEGRAL ROLE ASSISTING SENATOR ROBERTS IN PASSING LEGISLATION BENEFITTING MULTIPLE KANSAS AND NATIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH SENATOR ROBERTS GREW OVER THE YEARS, EVENTUALLY LEADING TO JOEL BECOMING THE MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR FOR THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY WHEN SENATOR ROBERTS BECAME CHAIRMAN IN 2015. WITH SENATOR ROBERTS AS THE CHAIR AND JOEL AS THE STAFF DIRECTOR, CONGRESS PASSED, AND PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNED INTO LAW SWEEPING LEGISLATION REGULATING HOW FOOD IS LABELED THAT PROTECTS PRODUCTION METHODS WITH MANY YEARS SPENT IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, JOEL ALSO HAS EXPERIENCE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS FOR PEPSICO, INC. AND PROGRAM MANAGER FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS FOR DUPONT. IN THESE ROLES, JOEL HELPED CRAFT THE COMPANIES' POLICIES AND REGULATORY POSITIONS REGARDING NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY, INGREDIENT SUPPLY, AND SUSTAINABILITY.

JOEL IS CURRENTLY A MANAGING DIRECTOR AT THE GLOVER PARK GROUP, A STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND POLICY ADVOCACY FIRM WITH OPERATIONS IN WASHINGTON D.C. AND NEW YORK, NY. HE PROVIDES STRATEGIC AND POLICY COUNSEL TO THE FIRM'S FOOD AND AGRICULTURE CLIENTS.

JOEL, HIS WIFE SHANNON, AND THEIR FAMILY ENJOY RETURNING TO WELLINGTON OFTEN TO VISIT FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE CRUSADERS