

**REMARKS OF  
CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
ON THE DEPARTURE OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL COPPS**

And now, our final piece of business today is a bittersweet one. After ten years of service here at the Federal Communications Commission, and well over a hundred open meetings, today is Commissioner Copps's last open meeting.

In a moment, I'd like to give my colleagues a chance to recognize Commissioner Copps and his extraordinary career in government, but let me first express my own appreciation for Mike Copps as a colleague and friend.

As many of you may know, Commissioner Copps came to Washington in 1970 to serve as special assistant to Senator Fritz Hollings. He was, at the time, an assistant professor at Loyola University in New Orleans, having just earned his Ph.D in American history from the University of North Carolina. He expected to stay in Washington for a couple of years, to work an interest in government out of his system, and then to return to the academic life.

Forty one years later, he is still here. The academy's loss has been the government's great gain.

Mike Copps served Senator Hollings during the '70s and '80s, most of that time as his chief of staff. During the Clinton Administration he served in the Commerce Department, ultimately as an assistant secretary. And for the past ten years he has served with great distinction at the Federal Communications Commission, including as Acting Chairman.

There are a great many things to admire about Commissioner Copps, but let me highlight just a few.

First of course is his deep and abiding commitment to public service. This is apparent of course from his own life and career choices. But for those of us who have been privileged enough to work closely with him, it has also been apparent each and every day in the example he has set for us all.

With every decision before him, big or small, his first and last question has always been: How will it impact real Americans—young and old, urban or rural, fortunate or less fortunate, disabled or not? These are of course the questions that really matter, and it has been a great privilege, and a great lesson, to serve alongside a public servant with such a fierce and unwavering commitment to the public and the public interest. As Acting Chairman, Mike Copps was an exceptional steward of the agency during the DTV transition – an unprecedented changeover that would affect most directly the least prepared among us.

I want to take a moment to recognize the wit and eloquence Mike Copps brings to his public role, a reflection of his passion and vision.

Finally, I want to recognize Mike Copps's role as a mentor to many leaders in our community – members of his personal staff and the FCC staff; individuals in private industry and the public interest community; folks in Congress and the White House; and, now, in Jessica Rosenworcel, as a nominee to join the agency as a Commissioner.

And through it all, he found a way to be a dedicated, committed family man and leader in his community.

On behalf of the agency and its staff, I want to thank his wife Beth, his five children, and his six grandchildren – including one on the way - for their sacrifices in allowing him to be such a role model here at the Commission.

Commissioner Mike Copps has said he will remain engaged in the issues and continue to fight for the things he believes are right. Thankfully, even after his official departure, I think we can all rest assured that, indeed, we'll still have Copps on the beat.

Please join me in recognizing Commissioner Copps's outstanding career in public service and in service to the FCC.