

12/26/18

Dear 40 Under Forty,

Approximately three years ago I had the good fortune to meet Matt Blake. During the course of many conversations we discovered many similar interests. I spent the majority of my career as an administrator of facilities serving people with mental health issues. Matt was Director, Government Relations and Membership Chair for Leading Age Iowa a statewide membership organization of non-profit providers of aging services and supports. I have been involved in politics for over 40 years. Matt, as a legislative liaison for positive change and someone interested in politics, we have had much to discuss.

Exploring our life directions, I found Matt to be a very sensitive and caring individual driven to support people in need. The more I got to know Matt I could see that he had the type of skills recognized in a good leader. As his interest was in legislation that could benefit the people and organization he serves, his interest in politics became obvious. He has since gotten involved in organizations that develop skills for those who may run for office. Leadership is his interest and his strength. I have also seen him mentor and assist people who look to find the best avenue to propose an issue in government or forward their own political career.

One of Matt's most outstanding strengths is his law degree he received from Drake University. He has since applied, was accepted and graduated from the National Judge Advocate Program with the United States Military (JAG). He is currently attached to the Iowa National Guard at Camp Dodge. Needless to say this young man is moving on the fast track to success.

Three times I have been elected to the Urbandale School Board and currently I am Chair of the Urbandale Civil Rights Commission. I saw the many valuable strengths Matt has that would benefit the Civil Rights Commission. A position opened up and I encouraged him to apply to become a Commissioner. The Mayor appointed him last year. His skills as an attorney and as an advocate make him a unique asset. He has immediately volunteered to research and develop a brochure informing citizens of the process in protection. He also has readily taken on the task researching the law as it applies to a possible proposal offering Urbandale as a specific designated city.

I am honored to recommend Matt Blake as a unique candidate of "40 over Forty". He has proved himself, a young man of great distinction already.

I would be most happy to follow up with any questions at any time.

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