

in hand, was Marty, getting ready to open the program. Then I heard someone whisper, 'I hope he sings Wind Beneath My Wings.' Folks were there to hear Marty!"

Beyond the walls of the VAMC, you will hear Marty's voice as a soloist at his church, at local nursing homes, or at other community-based activities. And he takes nothing in return except the cheer of the crowd.

In addition to singing, you will find Marty creating floral arrangements that he donates to his church to help raise money. Roland E. Moore, the Wilkes-Barre VA's Medical Center Director, sums it up: "Marty's work ethic and dedication to serving veterans and VA staff is second-to-none. Whether it's being ranked as a well-respected supervisor in our medical center/network or boosting the spirits of veterans with a song, he has truly served this institution with professionalism and gusto."

Marty will be missed for his dedication and compassion to the veterans he has served over the years and also by the employees who have had the opportunity to work alongside him. I am pleased to join my friends at the VA in congratulating Marty on this milestone. I wish him a fruitful and enjoyable retirement and, Marty, thank you for coming to work for the Wilkes-Barre VA.

RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE AND CAREER OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize and remember the life of Pope John Paul II.

The world mourns the passing of Pope John Paul II and the great void he leaves behind as a force for good in the world. Pope John Paul inspired peoples of all faiths in every corner of the globe by his living example of faith, justice, peace and love. His twenty-six years as the Holy Father transformed the Roman Catholic Church and revitalized the more than one billion Roman Catholics around the world.

Pope John Paul worked tirelessly to advance human dignity, social justice and peace. His powerful presence helped to defeat communism in his home country of Poland and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union. The Pope urged his fellow Catholics in Poland to support Lech Walesa and the Solidarity movement in a peaceful and non-violent campaign that eventually led to Solidarity's successful victory in Poland's first post-communist election.

Pope John Paul was a great champion and advocate for the poor, the sick and the forgotten, particularly in the developing world. He loved children, and often appeared to take great joy from speaking to and meeting with young people. Pope John Paul traveled the globe inviting and mobilizing young people to a life of faith and to stand in support of the rights of those less fortunate than themselves.

The life of Pope John Paul II has been a blessing for Catholics and people of all faiths. His moral and spiritual leadership of the Roman Catholic Church and for all mankind make his life an example for all of us. Let us honor the life of John Paul and express our

humble gratitude for the service, sacrifice and prayers he shared with all of us until the hour of his death.

HONORING PRESIDENT VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today on behalf of the more than 4,000 of my constituents of Ukrainian descent in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois on Chicago's northwest side. I am also pleased to join with my colleagues in the House to receive the recently inaugurated President of the Republic of Ukraine, His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko during his first official visit to the United States, in a joint session of Congress.

I applaud President Yushchenko for his courage and vision and for his leadership in the "Orange Revolution" that peacefully brought freedom and democratic reforms to Ukraine late last year. The people of the Ukraine, and indeed all across the globe, were relieved when the President survived an assassination attempt that nearly claimed his life and subsequently persevered among tremendous resistance to the dramatic reforms he championed.

My hometown of Chicago is home to more than 100,000 Ukrainian Americans who have been instrumental in helping advance the increasingly important alliance between our nations. The Ukraine's prosperity, independence and openness to the West are of vital economic, cultural and strategic importance to the global community.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues and all Americans in congratulating President Yushchenko for his triumph. I wish him and the Ukraine continued prosperity and success in advancing the ideals of democracy and freedom in that nation.

HONORING ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rotary International for reaching its' 100th Anniversary, and for the monumental amount of achievements it has accomplished within its' time.

Rotary Club was first founded in 1905 by Paul Harris, an attorney, in Chicago Illinois with the interest of organizing a booster club, which then expanded to Rotary International in 1922, and has grown to include over 1.2 million members in more than 31,000 clubs that span the globe in 166 countries. The Rotary District in my own Congressional District has 32 clubs within it that include some 1509 members.

In my home district, Anthony K. Blankenship, the District Governor Elect of District 7550, has set a superb example for all business leaders in the area by serving on his local chamber of commerce and as the Ohio

Valley Automotive Aftermarket Association's vice chair. He has also served in many capacities for the Matewan Rotary Club, including President.

Each year the local Rotary District sponsors a Group Study Exchange to foster peace and understanding between nations that sends four Non-Rotarian business people and one Rotarian to a paired foreign nation to experience a different culture and way of life. This past year the 7550 District sent a member and four business professionals to Great Britain and has plans to send another entourage to Australia this year.

Rotary International has encouraged and fostered the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise, and thus adopted the 4-Way Test, formulated by its' own Herbert Taylor, who developed a standard code of ethics for businesses.

The Rotary Foundation has been instrumental in funding many worthwhile service projects that have improved the lives of people across the globe by promoting world understanding and peace through humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs. The Rotary clubs in my district, led by the Beckley Rotary club, recently secured a \$300,000 grant to build a clinic in India.

Rotary International has enacted the Polio-Plus program that has collected over \$500 million, contributed tens of thousands of volunteer man-hours, inoculated over 2 billion children since 1985 with the polio vaccine, and is slated to eradicate polio globally by December, 2005.

Rotary has been actively involved in creating a peaceful world by fostering peace initiatives that have created Rotary Centers for International Studies at world-renowned universities in an effort to educate and train Rotary World Peace Scholars in conflict resolution, peace studies, and international relations. In fact, a West Virginia native of St. Albans was one of the first graduates of this program.

Many students have excelled and benefited under the Rotary Youth Exchange, which funded by the Ambassadorial Scholarships, has become the international community's largest privately funded international scholarships program. The Matewan Rotary Club ensures each year that two local high school students will receive a scholarship to further their higher education goals.

I wish to honor today and hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Rotary International for continually striving to promote the ideal of service as an integral part of enterprise, and a sustained effort to maintain high ethical standards while promoting peaceful initiatives around the globe.

HONORING DR. EDWARD L. KELLY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Edward L. Kelly for his exceptional work and service to the Prince William County School system.

Since July of 1987 Dr. Kelly has been the Superintendent of Schools for Prince William County, Virginia. During his tenure he has been responsible for the supervision of over 66,000 students at 80 different schools.