

When you look at everything Jeanette has accomplished in a mere 78 years, it is clear she is a woman of fierce commitment, incomparable energy and true generosity. As someone fortunate to have worked with Jeanette on various community initiatives, I can tell you there is no one you would rather have on your team when you launch a new project.

Born October 27th, 1927 in Sheffield, Alabama, Jeanette enrolled in the Saint Thomas Hospital School of Nursing in Nashville following high school graduation. She received her nursing degree in 1948. That occasion changed her life—along with the fact that she also met her future husband, Mr. Daniel Clees Rudy, about this time.

Daniel Clees Rudy, cofounder of the Rudy's Farm Sausage Company, and Jeanette married on February 20th, 1949. The Rudys made their home in the Pennington Bend area on the Cumberland River until Mr. Rudy's death in 1984.

Jeanette served her community as a public health nurse for seven years. But that was just the beginning to her commitment to better health care for all of Nashville. In memory of her late husband, Jeanette helped to establish and fund the Dan Rudy Cancer Center at Saint Thomas Hospital in 1985. Also in 1985, Jeanette and her sisters, founded the Felix A. and Edna L. Cantrell Endowment Fund in honor of their parents. This special endowment has helped a host of nurses reach their educational goals and advance in the nursing field. A long-time supporter of the nursing program at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, Jeanette was recognized for her efforts with an honorary doctorate of humanities from Cumberland University in 1990.

In addition to her commitment to public service, Jeanette is a passionate hobbyist. She has assembled the finest privately held collection of State and Federal duck stamps, including the very first stamp issued in 1934. Jeanette served as a judge of the Federal duck stamp competition in Washington, D.C. in 1992. In 1996, the Smithsonian Institution established, in her honor, the Jeanette Cantrell Rudy Duck Stamp Gallery at the National Postal Museum.

Jeanette's energy and zest for life do not stop there. An avid sportswoman, she held the title of Ladies State Trapshooting Champion for nine years, was named to the women's all-American trap team twice, and has been an ardent hunter and angler since 1949 over much of North America. Jeanette has also spent endless hours helping many organizations and educational institutions in Middle Tennessee. She served on the boards of Cumberland University, the Saint Thomas Hospital Auxiliary, the Saint Thomas Foundation and the Nashville Zoo, and she is a major supporter of the Nashville Police and Fire Department and the National Police Memorial in Washington, DC.

She is the recipient of the 1992 Seton Medal for her service to patients of Saint Thomas Hospital. She authored a book, "A Bend in the Cumberland," which traces the history of the Pennington Bend area, where, for many years, her husband and his brother operated the Rudy's Farm Sausage Company. And, now, as a Commissioner of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency since 2001, Jeanette is dedicated to raising funds for projects that will help preserve, conserve and enhance Tennessee's population of fish and wildlife.

Jeanette's devotion to public service and her long-standing advocacy for nursing are truly remarkable. I thank this spirited American for her unwavering compassion and desire to make life more positive for others in her community.

Today, I join my distinguished colleagues—Representatives BART GORDON and JOHN TANNER—and all Tennesseans in congratulating and extending our warmest and best wishes to Jeanette Cantrell Rudy for a happy 78th birthday. Jeanette, may you have many more rewarding and life-enriching experiences ahead.

WILDERNESS CHALLENGE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 8, 2005 46 teams of active-duty men and women from military installations around the U.S. converged in West Virginia's Gauley and New River Gorge to compete in the sixth annual "Wilderness Challenge." I am proud to have such an event in West Virginia that allows our armed forces the chance to display their skills of physical endurance and of course, bragging rights. There is not a better place to host the Wilderness Challenge than the New River Gorge National Park. It has superb overlooks, historic scenery, rugged Appalachian trails and peaceful valley flats, not to mention the world class whitewater. Rafting the waters is no easy task, as one could imagine by the names of some of our rapids such as "Big Nasty", "Even Nastier" and "Heaven's Doors," just to name a few.

The Challenge begins with a 20-mile mountain bike race which precedes a half-mile swim on the Lower Gauley River, and ends with each team tackling a 13-mile stretch of Class III to V whitewater. The next day the competitors start with a run, paddle a section of the New River in inflatable rubber kayaks called "duckies," and finish with a 14-mile hike that entails the steep slopes of the New River Canyon. The whole event is sponsored by a whitewater outfitter Class VI River Runners, which supplies the event with the rafts and equipment used in the outdoor extreme sports match.

It is really a pleasure for me to see such a group of well trained, highly motivated soldiers compete. I know that there is friendly competition between the branches of service and West Virginians as well as all Americans hold them all in the highest regard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, due to an excused absence, I missed 3 rollcall votes on the night of Tuesday October 25, 2005. I would like to enter into the record how I would have voted if I had been able to attend the session:

On H.R. 3675, the American Spirit Fraud Prevention Act, I would have voted "yea."

On H. Con. Res. 269, a resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the White House Fellows Program, I would have voted "yea."

On H.R. 3256, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3038 West Liberty Avenue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Congressman James Grove Fulton Memorial Post Office Building," I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATIONS FOR ABINGTON

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Mr. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as the proud congressional representative of Abington Township, a township that was recently named one of the 100 best communities for young people by America's Promise—the Alliance for Youth.

The Alliance for Youth and its Founding Chairman, General Colin Powell, launched this first-ever national competition to pay tribute to the communities working to empower and advance our Nation's youth. And, there is no doubt that Abington Township worked hard to earn this honorable distinction.

I have had the privilege of representing Abington; first from my seat in the Pennsylvania State Senate and now as a member of Congress. Over the years, I have seen first-hand the community's unity, especially when it comes to advancing the lives of its young people.

Together, Abington's school district, police department, community organizations, businesses, and residents have worked hand-in-hand to create an environment that embraces its young residents. They've established the Abington Community Taskforce, which is comprised of parents, caregivers, religious and civic leaders and has launched programs to teach effective parenting skills, create tolerance and respect, and promote community safety. They've successfully established cooperative agreements between the school district and police department, including an anti-drug program and joint fundraising challenges. And, they've created the Community Partnership of Youth and Adults to mobilize community spirit and participation.

Abington was included on the America's Promise list because it has demonstrated true public leadership with regard to the needs of children. And, we in Congress must make sure to encourage and support these kinds of grassroots, community-based efforts, like that in Abington, because they play an important role in ensuring that our young people have the strength of character and tools necessary to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't be prouder of Abington for the outstanding work it has done on behalf of young people, and I look forward to working too with area officials to make sure our neighborhood remains a safe and caring environment.

So again, congratulations to Abington on their selection as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People. Keep up the good work!