

Largest Laundromat is as an exceptional model of a cost-effective, energy conserving business—the best of both worlds.

Tom Benson's resourcefulness and visionary outlook extends to the social atmosphere of his laundromat as well. Aside from a spacious interior and 15 flat-screen TVs, the facility offers free wireless access, free pizza on Wednesday nights, and hosts many special events. Additionally, the World's Largest Laundromat has a reputation for promoting community programs that encourage education. One program, Read to Ride, awards bikes to children who read books during the summer.

On November 4, 2006, Benson was presented with the Charles E. Piper Award for his efforts and positive influence on the Berwyn business community. It is my privilege and pleasure to congratulate Mr. Benson on this award and acknowledge his contributions to the community. His unique approach, dedication, and determination serve as an inspiration to the business community, as well as all citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES
WILLIAMSON

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles H.K. Williamson, a long-time educator and winner of the Carnegie Foundation's 2006 Professor of the Year Award for New York State.

Professor Williamson, during his 16 year tenure in the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Cornell University, has impacted countless individuals, from undergraduates to Ph.D. candidates to fellow professors. As a colleague states, "Professor Williamson is the most creative and talented educator I have encountered . . . he has no equal on our faculty in integrating research into teaching and teaching into research."

It seems fitting that Professor Williamson began his teaching career among royalty, tutoring Prince Pavlos of Greece before leaving London to emigrate to Pasadena, California, and Caltech in 1984. In 1990, he found himself an assistant professor at Cornell, apprehensively standing in front of 100 students in a thermodynamics class. "I remember coming out of that first class on a high," he recalls. "I realized that the students really want to learn and are eager to know that the teacher genuinely wants the same thing."

From that point on, Professor Williamson has been a trailblazer, pioneering new approaches to lecturing. His classes are unpredictable but always educational, using anything from footlong smoke rings to Beatles albums to jet engines to demonstrate the principles of thermodynamics and fluid mechanics.

Professor Williamson's unique teaching methods, combined with his love of the subject, touches students in a way that educators seldom do. His student evaluation scores are by far the best in his department and among the highest in the university: His average over 16 years at Cornell is 4.57 out of 5, an unequaled level of consistency and excellence.

In addition to being an entertaining lecturer, Professor Williamson is also a true mentor to

students, inspiring and supporting them throughout their education, even attending student sporting events. "Without the confidence and skills I learned from Professor Williamson, I never would have . . . received a doctorate in plasma physics," a former advisee recounts.

Professor Williamson is an inspiration to us all, an individual who truly makes a difference in the lives of those around him. I am honored to congratulate him on receiving the Carnegie Foundation's 2006 Professor of the Year Award.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN SELESKY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents who has distinguished himself through service to his country, his State and his community. Mr. John Selesky has been selected as "Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year" by the Ogemaw County Veterans Alliance. Mr. Selesky is truly deserving of this unique honor.

Mr. Selesky enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet in 1942. He was trained in Oxnard, California, and Roswell Army Airfield. After flight training, Mr. Selesky was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

In 1943, Mr. Selesky left on a night flight at 11 p.m. After takeoff, Mr. Selesky's plane underwent engine failure causing him to undergo a forced landing at the end of the runway.

Injured, Mr. Selesky walked back to the runway and then back to the flight line. The staff in the flight office called the base hospital, which dispatched an ambulance. Mr. Selesky awoke on an operating table where surgeons were sewing up cuts on his head and face. Sadly, Mr. Selesky lost his left eye in the accident.

After being discharged from the Army in 1943, Mr. Selesky returned home to Grayling, Michigan. A member of the greatest generation, Mr. Selesky did not take much time to rest after his discharge. Instead, he almost immediately went back to work in the family store. He also started a family of his own. Ultimately, Mr. Selesky and his wife, Virginia, would have five children, John, Jr., Verna, Barbara, Jeffery and Mike.

After purchasing a small farm, Mr. Selesky went back to serving his state and his country by joining the Conservation Department as a Forest Fire Tower Lookout out of the Mio District Office in Mio, Michigan. In 1957, Mr. Selesky was promoted to Conservation Foreman and supervised a prison inmate labor crew at the Southern Michigan State Forest Nursery near Brighton, Michigan.

In 1963, the State of Michigan eliminated the Fire Tower Fire Watch system and began using aircraft for fire detection. With his military flying experience and additional flight time he had accrued thanks to the GI Bill of Rights, Mr. Selesky was promoted to District Pilot at the Mio District Office. Mr. Selesky piloted one of only four planes used by the State of Michigan. In 1980, Mr. Selesky retired after 29 years of service as an employee in the State of Michigan having served as Conservation Foreman and as a pilot.

Mr. Speaker, with our brave men and women deployed abroad, it is more important than ever that all of us observe Veteran's Day. By honoring past heroes, we salute those who serve today. With that in mind, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in saluting Mr. Selesky for his service and in congratulating him for being awarded Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO THE ASIAN-
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian-American Medical Association, which hosted the 30th Annual Asian-American Charity Ball on Saturday, November 4, 2006, at the Avalon Manor in Hobart, Indiana. Each year, the Asian-American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, individuals are honored at this annual banquet and are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award.

The Asian-American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical service to the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, and they have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's charity ball, the Asian-American Medical Association presented Surjit S. Patheja, M.D., with the Crystal Globe Award. Dr. Patheja was born in Pakistan in 1947 and graduated from Rangoon University Medical College in 1959. He practiced medicine in Burma for several years until immigrating to the United States in June 1964. After practicing medicine in locations such as Connecticut, New York, and Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Patheja relocated to Northwest Indiana, where he has resided for the past 35 years. Although now retired from his practice, Dr. Patheja, board certified in Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, has been an invaluable member of the medical community since his arrival in Northwest Indiana, even serving as President of the Porter County Medical Society and the Tenth District Medical Society. Aside from the many accolades he has earned in the area of medicine, Dr. Patheja has also been instrumental in establishing scholarships and endowments for young adults. As if these accomplishments were not impressive enough, Dr. Patheja has always remained an active member of the community, donating his time through membership in several clubs and associations, including the Valparaiso Rotary Club, the Sikh Religious Society of Chicago, the Indian Medical Association of Northwest Indiana, and, of course, the Asian-American Medical Society. He is also a member of the American College of Radiology and the Radiological Society of North America.

Although Dr. Patheja has devoted so much of his time to medicine and to the Northwest Indiana community, he has always made a special point of sharing as much time as possible with his loving wife of 61 years, Mindy,