

not only the lives of Veterans, but their families as well. His efforts to help so many will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF FRANCIS RUSCIO

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Francis Ruscio of Chester County, Pennsylvania on his retirement after 23 years of law enforcement service with the Tredyffrin Township Police Department.

Corporal Ruscio began his law enforcement career in 1979 when, at 20 years old, he was hired as a police officer by the City of Coatesville Police Department. He participated in 3 major drug investigations and raids with county, state and federal agencies in 1981, 1987 and 1988. Corporal Ruscio also served as Acting Detective Sergeant of Coatesville PD from May thru September 1988.

Corporal Ruscio was hired by the Tredyffrin Township Police Department in September 1988 and served in the Department until his retirement in December 2011. He served as Tredyffrin's DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) instructor from 1997–2003, presenting programs to middle school students in Tredyffrin/Easttown School District, Valley Forge Middle School, Woodlynde School and The Crossroads School.

Promoted to the rank of Corporal in 2003, Ruscio lives with his wife Sandy in Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his years of exemplary service to his community and litany of sterling accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Corporal Francis Ruscio for his invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

CELEBRATING THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA'S  
BICENTENNIAL

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial of The Hibernian Society of Savannah, Georgia.

The Hibernian Society of Savannah originated in 1812 as a society of gentlemen to come to the aid of Irish immigrants in the area. One year later they held the first St. Patrick's Day celebration in Savannah at the Independent Presbyterian Church. In 1824, they invited all of the Irishmen of Savannah to join in on a parade which would become the first St. Patrick's Day parade in Savannah's history.

Their role in the history of Savannah and its people has developed greatly over the years. They have been addressed in the past by notable speakers such as President Taft in 1912 and President Franklin D. Roosevelt by radio in 1937. President Truman addressed the body in 1952 at their 150th Anniversary Dinner

and President Carter addressed their Anniversary Dinner in 1978. Since its inception, these notable figures have recognized the actions and donations of the society for the greater good of the people of Savannah.

The scope of their efforts evolved from just the Irish community to the community of Savannah as a whole. They are very active through The Hibernian Society of Savannah Foundation, Inc. in their charitable contributions to the community. These organizations they support include some local schools as well as the Empty Stocking Fund, the Inner City Night Shelter and the Salvation Army among others.

A rich heritage and strong personal ties to the city and the community have ensured that the The Hibernian Society will continue to play a vital role for those in need in Savannah. What once started as a society of Irishmen helping Irish immigrants in need has transformed into a body whose positive impact can be seen everywhere around the City of Savannah.

I commend The Hibernian Society of Savannah, Georgia for their contributions to the people of Savannah and would like to congratulate them on their bicentennial celebration and their rich and continued history in the area.

HONORING WILLIAM MITCHELL

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the following is a speech given by the former Mayor of South Windsor, John Mitchell, to honor his brother, William Mitchell, for being recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Foundation. These two brothers are united in their love of public service and a willingness to give back to their community. It has been an honor to know them both. John's tribute to his brother offers only a brief glimpse into his many contributions.

Billy is affectionately known to friends and family as "Big," and we call him this because of his big heart, and for always being a big help to anyone who asks. Congratulations Big, and thank you, John, for the following remarks:

In the words of that great S.W. Rotarian and philosopher Robert J. Ignagni, "This is the main event!" Thank you all for coming and being a part of this great evening to honor my baby brother Billy.

For everything and everyone there is a beginning, and this is the way it unfolds . . .

Billy, was the 5th child of 6, born to Joseph and Katie Mitchell. We had 3 older sisters and my father was ready to jump off the Buckley bridge. He always wanted a son and then he got his wish, 3 more children, all 3 boys.

Now, years ago, think about it, our mom gave birth to six children—all in the house wherever we lived at the time. Two girls born in Pennsylvania, 1 in New Britain, Billy and myself in Manchester and Joey in East Hartford. There really wasn't a need for hospitals during this period in our Nation's health care system, but somehow it worked.

Now, if you have ever been poor, it is quite likely, you will remember it. Believe me, you will remember it!

Growing up in East Hartford on Tolland Street during World War II was an experi-

ence for six siblings. Coal was the method that most people used to heat their homes, and our father delivered coal. At our yard there were piles of coal, sometimes as tall as this beautiful restaurant. And for many, many of our young growing years, we would climb those piles of coal and slide and tumble down those huge piles. The neighbors often thought mom had 3 white daughters and 3 black sons, we were the only minorities at the time on Tolland St.

Ice skating was great fun in the winter time, the wooded area across the railroad tracks would contain little locked up areas of frozen ponds that were great for skating all over. Often as our feet grew and the skates didn't we would cut off the front of the skates to accommodate the growth of our feet. Everyone was poor but nobody knew it. Many of you in this room won't remember, except for Kenny Jackson, this is the World War II era, everything is in short supply, gas, soap powder, butter. You name it, it probably was tough to get. Often our family would sit together on the front porch during the air raids at night because Pratt and Whitney was considered a prime target. Wardens would be running up and down the street making sure all lights were out. There were national guard bunkers with guardsmen living in them on the Long Hill Golf Course and on Goodwin Street almost in our back yard, frightening times for kids. And guess what, the Germans do arrive in a sub in Hancock Point, Maine, right where Della lived at the time, and a number of them go walking up Main Street in suits, they were going to infiltrate the area. They are promptly apprehended because they just didn't fit into the local area. Nobody in that part of Maine owned a suit! Talk about not doing your homework!

But we survived it all, and by 1952 the family moved to S.W. where the base of Billy's operations for business is today. Back then it was called North Foster Rd., it was a gravel road and we quickly fit in to our new surroundings by working in the tobacco fields and man were they all over town. After Billy graduated Ellsworth High School, he worked for the family business known as Mitchell Fuel and Trucking and after the coal business died, Billy and Joey started Mitchell Trucking and Mitchell Excavators. Billy became active in town joining the SW Volunteer Fire Dept. and was recently recognized for his service of 50 years and he still to this day, is chairman of the board of fire commissioners. During this period I will never forget 3 incredible fires in town. The Industronic's building on Sullivan Ave., the Pyrofax Propane fire on Rt. #5, and the Fishman Building on Chapel Rd. As the Pyrofax fire was raging, I was standing out in the middle of Rt #5 as huge propane tanks were burning out of control and I saw Billy jump into a piece of heavy equipment and cut a path so the fire trucks could get closer with their suppressants and as the fires burned out of control, one large piece of metal debris landed a short distance from me, I thought how incredibly brave he was, or was he just plain dumb. Needless to say, he survived and this act of bravery did help diminish that huge and dangerous fire more quickly.

Years ago, the trucking business was thriving and Billy actually used to drive a ten-wheeler, Billy calls me around 6:30 a.m., "Johnny could you get a couple of shovels and meet me at the intersection of Crane Road and Wapping Wood Road in Ellington, I said sure, I'll be right there as soon as I can." Now picture this in your mind, Billy's big 10 wheeler is laying over on it's side, gravel all over and I arrive with two small shovels. If ever there was to be a defining moment in our lives, this was it, I knew it, I absolutely knew that I would forever be