

RECOGNIZING THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. By offering regional planning advice, technical consulting, and financial assistance, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has worked to empower communities through long-term livability and vitality. TCRPC has exemplified an unwavering commitment to resolving regional issues facing my constituents in 103 municipalities of Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry counties.

Founded in 1966 as a forum for information sharing, consensus building, and coordination among communities in central Pennsylvania, TCRPC has worked tirelessly to advance quality of life issues across the region. They continue to promote the area's long-term sustainability through resource protection and the adaption of existing infrastructure to meet today's most pressing economic and social issues.

TCRPC's Regional Growth Management Plan stimulates community development and revitalization by supporting programs that integrate transportation, land use, and economic development efforts as well as environmental practices that protect air, land, and water resources. The Regional Growth Management Plan has contributed to lower energy costs for individual households, increased energy efficiencies, fostered greater availability of transportation options, opened more parks and community spaces, improved individual health, and heightened access to local food supplies.

Mr. Speaker, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has remained committed to the vision that central Pennsylvania is stronger when we work together. After five decades of committed service, Pennsylvanians in my district and beyond owe a debt of gratitude for the selfless work provided by TCRPC. I wish to congratulate TCRPC on 50 years of meaningful community engagement, and look forward to witnessing firsthand the continued service provided by such a strategic and charitable organization.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
SISTER DENISE A. ROCHE

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and legacy of service of Sister Denise A. Roche, GNSH, Ph.D. upon the occasion of her retirement as President of D'Youville College.

A Buffalo native, Sister Denise is a graduate of Holy Angels Academy and D'Youville College. She went on to earn a master's degree in sociology from Boston University and a doctorate at the University of Massachusetts. Prior to being named President of D'Youville

in 1979, she served as an instructor, acting chair, teaching assistant, assistant professor and associate dean at the college.

Sister Denise was named 14th President of D'Youville when she was just 36 years old, the youngest person ever to serve in that position. During her remarkable tenure lasting over 36 years, she has overseen 400 full-time employees and managed a \$50 million operating budget. Sister Denise led the college to triple its enrollment from 1153 in 1980 to more than 3100 in 2014, created major new academic offerings that attracted a significant number of new students, and achieved fiscal stability.

Under her leadership, the college endowment grew from \$1.2 million to \$34 million. During her presidency \$77 million was invested in the campus including a new library, three academic centers, gymnasium, apartment-style residence hall, athletic fields, and property and parking additions. These investments have improved on-campus life and helped stabilize the dynamic and diverse neighborhood in Buffalo's West Side surrounding the college.

Her strong belief in helping and encouraging all students has seen a multitude of success stories as former students come back to thank her for her faith in them and motivating them to succeed. She has supported "City As School," an alternative program for non-traditional high school students at D'Youville for more than a decade, resulting in young people reaching higher academic achievements and leading more productive lives.

To our community, Sister Denise is much more than president of the college. She is a consummate community leader whose advice and counsel is sought on a wide range of issues affecting the city of Buffalo. Her thoughtful and caring demeanor has endeared her to all whose lives she has touched.

Sister Denise has received many awards and accolades for her work at D'Youville and throughout Western New York, including Citizen of the Year by The Buffalo News in 1994, the Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medal from the University at Buffalo, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the WNY Hispanics and Friends Civic Association, and a Special Award presented to her by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She is a member of the WNY Women's Hall of Fame, and both Canisius College and Niagara University have awarded her honorary degrees.

While a very grateful community extends deep appreciation for Sister Denise's extraordinary leadership at D'Youville College, her work is far from over as she was recently nominated by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve as chair of the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority (NFTA). In this role, she will be responsible for the oversight of Erie and Niagara Counties' public transportation system, including the bus and rail systems, the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport and the Niagara Falls International Airport. As Chairwoman, Sister Denise will bring her decades of experience and expertise to the NFTA to continue serving the public.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the life and distinguished career of this outstanding educator, leader and devoted Sister of the Grey Nuns, Sister Denise A. Roche. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our congratulations on an exemplary career and to commend her for her admirable work to enrich D'Youville

College and the Western New York community and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

COMMENDING CAPTAIN WILLIAM KENNETH EARMAN ON HIS OUTSTANDING MILITARY SERVICE

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Captain William Kenneth Earman on his outstanding and exemplary military service.

In 1942, Mr. Earman joined the Army Air Force Cadet Program in the immediate aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Like many Americans of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Earman put his life on hold to defend our country against the evils that threatened our convictions, ideals, and existence.

Upon graduating from bombardier school in Big Spring, Texas, as a Second Lieutenant, Mr. Earman was assigned to the Seventh Air Force, which introduced him to the Pacific Theatre. Mr. Earman flew over forty missions in the Central Pacific in a B-24 J bomber named "The Sunsetter." He and his crew received numerous commendations and awards for their valor, including four Air Medals and two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

After his time in combat had concluded, Mr. Earman was promoted to First Lieutenant and returned to Big Spring to instruct incoming Army Air Force cadets, a reflection of his exemplary performance and expertise as a bombardier and navigator. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Earman was promoted and served as Flight Commander of the Ready Reserve Airmen in Rockdale, Texas, where he would eventually be promoted to Captain.

In June of 1961, Captain Earman received an Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force after nearly twenty years of meritorious service. This would mark the end of Captain Earman's long and distinguished military career.

On May 6th and 7th, Captain Earman will be participating with other World War II veterans in the twenty-ninth Dallas/Fort Worth Honor Flight to our nation's capital, accompanied by his son, William Kenneth Earman, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to recognize the service Captain Earman has given to this nation. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to rise with me today in appreciation of Captain Earman's remarkable service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING MI WINDOWS AND DOORS, LLC UPON RECEIVING THE MANUFACTURERS EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help recognize MI Windows and Doors, LLC