

he went on to own and operate the Chester City Dairy Store as well as handle the insurance needs of the citizenry as an agent for Prudential. He has contributed his leadership abilities to numerous organizations, including the Benton Methodist Church, Elks Lodge, and Lions Club. A loyal Democrat, his support of party activities has never wavered.

Despite this record of achievement, he is perhaps best known for his skill and longevity as a high school and college football referee. Calling his first game in 1942, Mr. Blondi blew his whistle for 46 years, well into his sixth decade. Thus he began a distinguished legacy of Blondi officials. His son Bobby, Jr. put on the striped shirt for the first time in 1968, and the two worked in tandem for 20 years. And this year, Mr. Blondi's grandson Robby has joined his father, becoming the third generation of Blondi referees. This record of community service is a testimony to the generosity of self that has come to define the entire Blondi family.

Mr. Speaker, in sports it is often said that the good official is the one that is never noticed. In this case, however, such anonymity will not do. Robert Blondi has given much to the people of Benton. His example is one that we can all look to with pride, and do our best to emulate. It is a privilege to represent him in the U.S. Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES E.  
THOMPSON

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 23, 1996*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. James E. Thompson. Dr. Thompson celebrated his 30th anniversary as the minister of the North Broadway Church of Christ in Mount Clemens, MI on Sunday, January 21, 1996.

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate Dr. Thompson on what I am sure is a proud anniversary. Dr. Thompson began his service to the Lord more than 40 years ago and the congregation in Mount Clemens has been fortunate to have him for the past three decades. The devotion he has displayed to his faith and the community over these years is an inspiration.

Many people depend on the emotional, educational, and spiritual support provided by their minister. Too often, many human needs are simply left unsatisfied in the secular world. Dr. Thompson has conscientiously attempted to see these needs met. Whether conducting a Sunday morning service, counseling congregation members, preparing others to become ministers, or speaking on the radio, he has dedicated his life to the Lord's work.

I am always impressed by the many people committed to improving our communities. In addition to his many responsibilities as a minister, Dr. Thompson has also served as a member of the Board of Education of the Mount Clemens School District and he is currently the vice chair of the city's Zoning Board of Appeals. It is a privilege to pay tribute to someone such as Dr. Thompson who has taken on more than his share of responsibility and is so well respected by the members of the community.

I commend Dr. Thompson for his work and faith and wish him continued success in his role as a spiritual and community leader. I ask my colleagues to please join me in offering heartfelt congratulations to Dr. James E. Thompson on this momentous milestone. May he continue to inspire through his leadership.

SALUTE TO REV. DR. JOSEPH D.  
PATTERSON OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 23, 1996*

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Rev. Dr. Joseph D. Patterson on the occasion of his installation service as president of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia.

On January 14, 1996, the Hickman Temple A.M.E. Church will proudly join with Dr. Joseph Patterson on the occasion of his installation service. Dr. Patterson is beginning his second consecutive term as president of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia. He has served the Hickman Temple A.M.E. Church for 32 years in many capacities from pastor of Hickman Temple A.M.E. Church to president of the Philadelphia African Methodist Episcopal Church Preacher's Meeting and now president of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia. He was appointed advisor to the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives, and is an active member of the Union League.

Reverend Patterson is not only a distinguished pastor, but he has also been involved in many community activities. Patterson is a trustee at Cheyney University, board member of the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corp., board member of the Governance Council at Misericordia Hospital and Reverend Dr. Patterson serves as chairman of the empowerment zone for the West Philadelphia's project. Reverend Patterson has recently retired from the board of education in Chester, PA, where he served with distinction for 32 years.

I proudly join with the congregation of the Hickman Temple A.M.E. Church, friends, family, and the Philadelphia community today in celebrating the installation of Rev. Dr. Joseph Patterson as president of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia. I wish Reverend Patterson, pastor of Hickman Temple A.M.E. Church, and the black clergy the very best as together they continue their service to the Philadelphia community.

TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
ACROSS THE NATION

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 23, 1996*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and all New Yorkers to join me in honoring America's Catholic schools from January 28 through February 2. Serving as the cornerstone of many communities throughout Brooklyn and Queens, Catholic schools have enhanced the lives of many students interested in receiving a first-rate education. Those Catholic schools located in and around my

district are well-known for their rigorous curriculum, while placing a strong emphasis on leadership skills, community service, and moral integrity. Graduates from Catholic schools are well prepared for the challenges of adulthood.

As our Nation enters a new century, the U.S. economy will become more globalized, thus accelerating the demand for technology-driven skills in the job market. It is extremely important for our Nation's youngsters to be prepared for tomorrow's workplace. I am confident those receiving a Catholic education will be ready to meet these challenges.

Communities in Brooklyn and Queens have established a solid reputation for encouraging boys and girls of all backgrounds to receive a Catholic education to fulfill their goals. Many who attend Catholic schools often go on to become community leaders, judges, doctors, public officials, and respected teachers. I am proud to serve in the House of Representatives with other Members who studied in Catholic schools. As our Nation's success is constantly measured by its academic strength and moral fiber, the high quality of instruction and guidance provided at Catholic schools will continue to make a positive impact on the world. I salute all the teachers, students, and parents who value the merits of a Catholic education.

HONORING CHIEF OF THE MILFORD  
FIRE DEPARTMENT, WIL-  
LIAM A. HEALEY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 23, 1996*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today it is my pleasure to honor a distinguished citizen from my district, Chief William A. Healey. After 50 years of exemplary service, Chief Healey is retiring from the Milford Fire Department.

In 1945, Bill Healey followed in the distinguished footsteps of his father and grandfather by joining the Milford Fire Department as a volunteer member of the Fort Trumbull Beach Company 2. After serving with distinction in the U.S. Navy, Bill Healey returned to the Milford Fire Department and was appointed a career member in 1950. Bill's courage, leadership ability, and commitment to public service led to numerous promotions and commendations over the years. For example, he received the prestigious Ralph Ryder Fireman of the Year as a lieutenant for his role in directing a difficult automobile extrication, as well as numerous meritorious service awards and community service awards. In 1973, after serving as a battalion chief, deputy chief, assistant chief and fire marshal, Bill Healey was appointed chief of the Milford Fire Department. He has held this position for the past 22 years, earning the respect and gratitude of all Milford citizens.

During his lengthy and impressive tenure with the department, Chief Healey has presided over many changes, including the reorganization of the department in the 1980's, in order to make services more effective and cost-efficient. Chief Healey is known for his innovative leadership and his commitment to protecting the safety of Milford residents. His leadership has saved numerous lives and resulted in a fire department that has a sterling