

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HIGH  
NOON ROTARY CLUB OF DURANGO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the High Noon Rotary Club, an organization that has selflessly worked towards the creation of the new Rotary Youth Park Amphitheater in Durango, Colorado. The work of President Petra Lyon, Jeff Brown and the Board of Directors of the High Noon Rotary Club is responsible for many welcomed additions to the Durango community, not least of which is this new Rotary Youth Park which is to be dedicated this week.

The creation of this Rotary Youth Park has been several years in the making, beginning as the High Noon Rotary Club quickly capitalized on the idea of building a youth park for the children of Durango. By organizing a string of meetings with the City of Durango Parks and Recreation Department director Cathy Metz in the summer of 1999, the first steps were taken towards the reality of a new youth park. In November of that year it was decided that the plans for the Rotary Youth Park would be pursued along with the possibility of several other outdoor facilities, which would be located close to the new Durango Community Recreation Center. The fact that this dream has become reality is a testament to the commitment and vision, which the entire High Noon Rotary Club has for the entire Durango community. Funds from the annual High Noon Rotary Golf Tournament were collected over a three-year period and in January of 2000 the board committed a substantial check for the construction of the Rotary Youth Park.

Since its founding on May 1, 1979, the High Noon Rotary Club has shown an unmatched passion for the children of Durango. After 23 years, the club's service remains focused on projects that support youth while also beautifying the Durango community. The Durango Rotary Club has created numerous valuable public parks and meeting spaces, including the original High Noon Rotary Park in downtown Durango and the Durango Animas River Trail. Furthermore, over the years the High Noon Rotary Club has also been responsible for constructing the new soccer fields at the Animas Valley School.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the opening of the new Rotary Youth Park Amphitheater and to applaud the hard work and dedication displayed by the High Noon Rotary Club. The Rotary is an invaluable part of the Durango community and their commitment to the youth of Durango serves as an inspiration to us all. My appreciation goes to the High Noon Rotary Club for all their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE KLONNE

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Coach Steve Klonne of Cincinnati, Ohio. For 19 years,

Coach Klonne served as the Head Coach of the Moeller High School Fighting Crusaders football team. He provided a total 23 years of leadership and guidance to the Moeller family. For his dedication to the students of Moeller and constant pursuit of excellence, Mr. Speaker, the United States Congress commends Coach Klonne and wishes him continued success.

Klonne's teams went 169–48 and won state titles in 1982 and 1985. In 2001, Klonne's final season at Moeller, the team finished 9–2. In 1982 USA Today named Coach Klonne the nation's "Coach of the Year" based upon his achievement and exemplary leadership.

Throughout Coach Klonne's career, he has been an inspiration, always challenging his players to strive for excellence. He taught the men of Moeller to understand no goal is beyond their reach.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud graduate of Moeller High School, a member of the Class of 1980. During the late 1970's, I was fortunate to play for Coach Klonne. At that time, he was an assistant coach, and I was a split end on the offensive line. I remember the long grueling practices and the endless drills. I will never forget the thrill of winning the 1979 Ohio state championship and the excitement of learning our team was ranked first in the nation. Coach Klonne taught us how to play as a team, to respect each other and to love the game of football, but most of all, he showed us, by example, how to be champions. Our success was due, in part, to the character lessons we learned from Coach Klonne.

I remember most vividly the passionate delivery of a spontaneous lecture on life and morality. Coach Klonne's sage observations and advice to a room full of spellbound young men are words none of us are likely to forget. In fact they have guided me from that moment on. The team was heading into the playoffs for the Ohio State Championship and we were one day away from facing our most formidable opponent.

The coaching staff gathered all the senior players in the old Bill Clark weight-training shed. It was cold and raining outside and the small room barely held us all. I remember teammates sitting on the floor, on the edge of benches, and some could only stand. I sat on a pile of weights.

Instead of the usual pre-game pep talk and strategy session, one-by-one, the coaches addressed us as young men who, through four years of hard work, discipline, and adversity, had become close friends and teammates. Finally, it was Coach Klonne's turn. In a tone we had never heard from him previously, Coach Klonne spoke to us as a father. He reminded us that football was just a sport, but explained to us how a team sport and a Marianist education could provide important lessons upon which we could rely for the rest of our lives—if only we were wise enough to listen and take full advantage of them.

He spoke about courage, honor, honesty, trustworthiness, morality, and most essential of all, faith in God and the importance of living as disciples of Jesus Christ. "Sometimes you will veer from the path to glory," he said. "But times like these combined with unyielding faith in God will always bring you back, and that's why I'm proud of you all and what you have become. As men, you're the finest." That speech has stuck with me for 23 years and is part of the reason I'm in Congress right now.

I learned how to win at Moeller. Steve Klonne was my coach.

Moments like these, and teachers Mr. Klonne are the essence of the Moeller tradition—a tradition that has inspired thousands of students, graduates, and families.

Steve Klonne is a great teacher. He is a man of high honor and profound dignity. A great coach at Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, Steve Klonne is also a truly great American. He not only makes his community proud, he has enriched the lives of countless students, including me, and he continues to do so today. He is first class, all the way.

I ask the House to join me in extending its warmest congratulations and commendation to Coach Steve Klonne.

HONORING WILLIAM FITZGERALD  
SONNTAG AND THE ARC OF A  
SPECIAL EDUCATION

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. William Fitzgerald Sonntag, upon the completion of the Fairfax County Public School's special education program.

On June 17, 2002, Bill Sonntag will join his friends in the Class of 2002 to take part in commencement. It will be a very proud day for the Sonntags and all families of graduating seniors. Similar ceremonies will be taking place in thousands of communities throughout the Nation this month. To be sure, each event will be a milestone marking the tangible achievements of each student's personal and academic development, while symbolizing the threshold to adulthood and quest toward one's highest potential in life.

Bill is a most remarkable young man with autism and mental retardation whose gentle determined spirit has defied the limits of these disabilities which have been present since his birth in Virginia on May 29, 1980. Throughout a public school education, which began in the pre-school program at Prince William County's Ann Ludwig School in 1983, Bill has been guided, supported, and encouraged by a loving family and scores of truly dedicated teachers, classroom aides, occupational and speech therapists, school staff members, custodians, bus drivers and bus aides, School Age Child Care staff, and vocational and transition counselors.

During the arc of his special education in Prince William and Fairfax County Public Schools, many genuinely kind and thoughtful teachers and mainstream students have gone out of their way to include Bill and his classmates in the social fabric of student life beyond the walls of their classroom. The simple things that some students might take for granted—recognizing each other in the hall, eating together at lunch, enjoying the camaraderie in "PE" class, sitting together at assemblies, going on field trips, attending a dance, listening to music, and appreciating the everyday gestures of friendship—have been as key to Bill's special education as they have been for those mainstream students who have undoubtedly learned much about their own character. The obvious enthusiasm Bill displayed