

WQED'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let my House colleagues know about a notable milestone. WQED Multimedia in Pittsburgh is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year.

Debuting on April 1, 1954, WQED was the nation's first community-owned television station. At the time, leaders in the Pittsburgh community saw a need for an educational TV station in addition to the already present commercial ones. As station founder Leland Hazard stated, "On this station you will find a children's hour designed to determine whether it is necessary for someone to get killed to entertain young folks." And that is exactly what the station has done. Beginning with Fred Rogers' "Children's Hour," the station has continued to produce wholesome, thoughtful, and nonviolent shows that entertain and educate both young and old.

Which is one of the reasons that, today, WQED Multimedia is one of the most valued Pittsburgh institutions, providing educational, cultural, and informational programming for both local and national audiences.

As the programs WQED produces show, education has always been a priority for the organization. Everyone is familiar, of course, with "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," the award-winning children's program, but not everyone knows that WQED has also produced a lot of other high-quality children's educational programs over the years, including "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" and "Once Upon a Classic". In addition, WQED has produced a nationally broadcast science quarterly program entitled "The Infinite Voyage" and a number of National Geographic Specials.

WQED Multimedia is also very involved in cultural promotion and preservation. WQED's radio station broadcasts various types of classical music locally, and it promotes Pittsburgh music nationally and internationally through broadcasts of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and the River City Brass Band, America's only full time professional brass band. Many of WQED TV 13's programs also seek to promote American culture. In fact, other public broadcasting stations throughout the country have copied the station's program "Things that Aren't there Anymore"—and several of Rick Sebak's programs celebrating American's favorite pastimes, such as "Great Old Amusement Parks" and "A Hot Dog Program," have aired nationally. These programs and many others clearly demonstrate WQED's commitment to telling America's Stories with the American Classics, All-American Documentaries, an American Soundtrack and America's Home Cooking series.

Informing viewers about the world and community is another important goal for WQED Multimedia. One outlet it uses to do this is Pittsburgh Magazine, which informs readers about the interesting people and places in and around the city. Additionally, WQED Multimedia provides an Educational Resource Center for teachers and has a community outreach program that combines the power of the media with community involvement to help inform Pittsburghers of important issues affecting them.

The more than 250 awards that WQED Multimedia has won over the years, including 60 Emmy's and 12 Peabody's, bear witness to the consistently high quality of programs the organization is producing.

Today, over 1,000,000 Pittsburgh households depend upon WQED. It is now the parent company of WQED TV Channel 13, WQED radio Channel 89.3 FM, WQED radio Channel 89.7 FM in Johnstown, PITTSBURGH magazine, local and national television and radio productions, www.wqed.org, and the WQED Education Resource Center.

Pittsburgh is justifiably proud of WQED Multimedia. Its broadcast, print, and Internet productions educate and entertain millions of Americans across the country. I want to congratulate WQED Multimedia on its 50th anniversary. I hope that WQED's high-quality contributions to our community—and this Nation—will continue for many years to come.

HONORING JULIO AVAEL FOR HIS
OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO
THE KEY WEST COMMUNITY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Julio Avel, Key West City Manager for his significant contribution to the citizens of the city of Key West. As a tribute to his dedication, the Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners have designated Saturday, February 21, 2004, as Julio Avel Day.

During his 8-year tenure as Key West City Manager, Julio has demonstrated a profound commitment to our community. He has been especially instrumental in enhancing the government through implementation of historic preservation projects, neighborhood and park revitalization, and other citywide infrastructure improvements.

Julio's hard work has enabled him to become not only a dynamic city manager, but also an energetic member of the community.

HONORING SHARP HEALTHCARE'S
WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 14th Annual Sharp Women's Health Symposium. This year's symposium, scheduled for Saturday, February 28 at the San Diego Convention Center, focuses on women recharging for their health, their family, and their career. The Sharp Women's Health Symposium's mission is to empower women to assume greater personal responsibility for their own health and the health of their families. I offer the following resolution in recognition of the Sharp Women's Health Symposium:

Whereas, since 1989, Sharp HealthCare has hosted a daylong health symposium for women in San Diego and this event is widely

recognized as one of the most successful women's health symposiums in the country offer women a day of fun and health education. Since 1989, more than 16,000 women have attended the symposium.

Whereas, the Sharp Women's Health Symposium has become one of the largest women's health events in the country. One of the attractions of this event is keeping the focus on San Diego community and wellness resources. While the event reaches nearly 2,000 women in San Diego, many women travel great distances to attend the symposium because currently, there isn't an event in their geographical area that meets their needs like the symposium does.

Whereas, Sharp recognizes that women have special healthcare needs throughout all stages of their lives. The symposium energizes, inspires and enlightens San Diego women as they invest in their health and their lives. Participants gain new understandings that lead to better decision-making and improved physical and emotional health.

Whereas, women are seeking health and wellness information especially with the trend towards mind-body-spirit medicine. The Sharp Women's Health Symposium was developed to meet the needs of busy women and provide a one-day symposium—a sort of one stop shopping of practical health information.

Whereas, the Sharp Symposium energizes, inspires, and enlightens women to take an interest in their health. The event educates women about their bodies, and hopes that through the knowledge they gain, women will make better decisions regarding their health both physically and emotionally.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate Sharp Healthcare on its continuing success in educating women about healthcare. As a son, a husband, and the father of two daughters who is committed to programs to improve women's health, I applaud Sharp Healthcare for its longstanding efforts to improve the lives of women across the country.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF
TAYLOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taylor Elementary School of Henderson, NV, for the efforts of its administrators, faculty, students, and community in promoting the importance of reading. Through their participation in the National Reading Is Fundamental Competition, the members of Taylor Elementary School exemplify how our children thrive when given support—both in the classroom and from the surrounding community.

As they work to achieve national recognition for their Reading Is Fundamental efforts, the children and faculty of Taylor Elementary have gained the aid of the entire Henderson community; including high school students, local business men and women, and the mayor of Henderson, Jim Gibson. The importance of reading to these children and their teachers highlights the fact that true breakthroughs in education occur most effectively in the classroom. I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the efforts of those involved and