

COMMENDING DICK STRAHM

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend to the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives the achievements of Dick Strahm, a great football coach, civic figure, and role model for our young people.

Dick Strahm's accomplishments as the head football coach at the University of Findlay were formally recognized in August when he was inducted into the National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame in South Bend, Indiana.

Simply put, Dick Strahm is Findlay football. In his 24 years as head coach for the Findlay Oilers, he compiled a record of 183–64–5 that included four National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) championships. His fourth and final national title came in 1997 when the Oilers were a perfect 14–0. During one remarkable ten-year run, his teams won nine Hoosier-Buckeye Conference championships. The team's record in the 1990s was the best in the country for NAIA schools.

Dick is a 12-time NAIA District 22 Coach of the Year and four-time National Coach of the Year. With his induction into the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame, he joins such coaching legends as Woody Hayes, Knute Rockne, and Amos Alonzo Stagg.

But while my hometown of Findlay is proud of Dick Strahm's record on the football field, it has even greater respect for the influence that he has had on the lives of the young men in his program and in his community.

Because they do not receive athletic scholarships, those who attend NAIA schools truly are students first and athletes second. Dick Strahm always recognized that. He insisted that his players be as diligent in the classroom as they were on the field. By teaching the importance of commitment, discipline, and perseverance, Dick Strahm has prepared countless young men to become successful businessmen, public servants, and husbands and fathers.

Dick Strahm will be honored at a dinner at the University of Findlay on Saturday, September 25. Findlay continues to look to Coach Strahm for advice and guidance. We are glad that the nation now knows what we've known all along: our community is blessed to have such a great teacher and leader in our midst.

RECOGNIZING DR. LINDA
PENDERGAST**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Linda Pendergast from Baton Rouge, Louisiana—my nominee for the 2004 Angels in Adoption Award.

Dr. Pendergast is a reunited birthmother who has devoted a large part of her life in volunteer service to the adoption community of Louisiana. As a member of the Catholic Community Services Adoption Advisory Board, she has provided prenatal education and support

to pregnant teens in residence at Sanctuary House, a ministry of Catholic Services in Baton Rouge. She also has conducted behavioral/temperament assessments of infants placed for adoption through Catholic Community Services as a post-adoption strategy to foster family cohesiveness, parental satisfaction with the parenting role and optimal infant development.

Dr. Pendergast is a coordinator and facilitator of a search and support group for adult adoptees, birthparents, and adoptive parents. She also serves as an advisor to Louisiana Adoption Advocates—a legislative group dedicated to adoption reform. A member of the Louisiana Adoption Advisory Bd. Inc., Dr. Pendergast has served 4 years as Board secretary and is in her second term as Vice Chair in addition to numerous other involvements in scholarship and volunteer programs.

Her fight for Louisiana's children is a personal one. The happiness of her reunited family is a bright example of her commitment. It is individuals like Dr. Pendergast and her colleagues on the Louisiana Adoption Advisory Board who are truly making a difference in our communities.

This week the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute is honoring Linda and hundreds of devoted volunteers like her in ceremonies in Washington, DC. I am proud to honor Dr. Pendergast as one of Louisiana's Angels in Adoption.

HONORING HAWTHORNE POLICE
CHIEF JOHN L. SHANNON, JR.**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Police Chief John L. Shannon, Jr. of Hawthorne, New Jersey. Chief Shannon retires at the end of September, concluding a nearly 36 year career in law enforcement. In fact, Chief Shannon has spent much of his life bravely serving our country—first as a decorated soldier in the United States Air Force stationed in Vietnam and later as a committed member and leader of Hawthorne's Police Force. I commend Chief Shannon for his dedication to our nation and its ideals of justice and freedom, both at home and abroad; Chief Shannon's lifetime of service is befitting a true patriot.

Since first joining the Hawthorne Police Department in 1968, and with each position he has held between Patrolman and Police Chief, Chief Shannon has continually worked to improve the safety and quality of life for Hawthorne residents by involving them in Police Department decisions and programs. Chief Shannon was a leader in the development of the Cops in Schools program in Hawthorne to ensure that, while in school, students can concentrate on achievement and not be distracted by concerns for their safety. He established a School Emergency Response Plan, implemented a Junior Police Academy, created a traffic unit to focus on motorcycles and drunk and aggressive driving, and worked with seniors and business owners to create targeted crime prevention programs. Chief Shannon introduced the community policing concept to

Hawthorne and thus encouraged residents and police to work together to improve their shared community.

Judging by the unanimous vote that allowed Chief Shannon to serve for 3 terms as the President of the Passaic County Chiefs Association, his Vice Presidency and role as State Delegate of the Hawthorne PBA Local 200, and his membership in the New Jersey, National and International Police Chiefs Associations, Chief Shannon is clearly admired and respected by his peers. The impact of his leadership will be seen for years to come in Hawthorne and Passaic County.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chief Shannon for his estimable service and wish him well in his much deserved retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROLE
WOOD, A 2004 RECIPIENT OF THE
MARY PHILBROOK PUBLIC IN-
TEREST AWARD**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carole Wood as a 2004 recipient of the Mary Philbrook Public Interest Award. This award is given annually by the Women's Law Caucus and the Association for Public Interest Law, in cooperation with the Rutgers University Law School and its Alumni Association, to acknowledge gifted, dedicated individuals who contribute outstanding work on behalf of social justice and equality.

Ms. Wood currently serves as the Immigration Coordinator at the Camden Center for Law and Social Justice. She has spent much of her career as a devoted advocate for indigent immigrants, beginning first with her work as a VISTA volunteer following her graduation from Chicago-Kent College of Law. From there, she went on to serve as supervising immigration attorney at Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, where she not only represented clients, but also trained attorneys and assisted community groups in their efforts. In addition to her current role at the Camden Center, which includes working with clients, training attorneys, and supervising students at the Rutgers Immigration Pro Bono Project, Ms. Wood is the Southern Regional Coordinator for the New Jersey Immigration Policy Network and the regional representative on statewide committees, a Lead Trainer for the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, an extremely active member in the National Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), and a member of the Diocese of Camden's Racial Justice Committee.

I have also had the honor and privilege of working with Ms. Wood personally. She has proved extremely responsive in the context of emergency constituent cases with which my district office has dealt and has been more than willing to share her vast knowledge of immigration law with my staff in their efforts to aid my constituents. Additionally, over the past several years, she has proved invaluable in her efforts to assist my district office with the process of restructuring our immigration case-work system. She has devoted considerable time to reviewing our existing system and meeting with the relevant staff in my office to