

Olivia ran for school board and soon made that her full-time job.

Olivia and her husband had four children: Judy Herman Hunsicker, twins Darryl and Derry, and Rudy, who passed away at the age of 40.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of an extraordinary woman who helped so many children and adults throughout her life as the Olivia Herman Track and Field Complex is dedicated in Lehighton.

RED LAKE SCHOOL TRAGEDY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest condolences to the Red Lake Nation of northern Minnesota for the profound tragedy that took place on March 21, 2005. On that day a young man killed nine people on the Red Lake Reservation and then he killed himself. This extreme violence shatters our own sense of security because we all know it can happen anywhere at any time. All Americans and all Minnesotans extend our prayers, condolences, and support for the families of the Red Lake Nation as they heal and rebuild their community.

Violence, untreated mental illness, the epidemic of alcohol and drug abuse, and the ubiquitous availability to guns are all scourges. They are potentially contributing factors to an environment throughout our nation in which rational problem solving is all too often replaced with irrational destruction and death. We will never know why this young man was driven to enter his own school and embark on a campaign of murder. We only know the outcome; the painful consequences and the bewildering agony of families and a community torn apart.

As adults we have a responsibility to our children. We must listen to them, talk to them, and look for the warning signs. We must work together as a community to ensure their basic needs are met because even parents who are doing all they can still need assistance. In this country, violence surrounds our children, our families, and our communities. Violence is a plague which is promoted, glorified, and condoned in popular culture through movies, music, video games, and the endless television news cycle. It is a disease that is killing our children in our streets and in our schools and it must be stopped.

The shooting at Red Lake is another tragic episode that is no longer rare or abnormal. It is now all too commonplace and we are not nearly as shocked by such tragedy as we once were. Sadly, Red Lake is another example of this very tragic trend. And as Red Lake knows all too well, our nation's children are at risk and America needs to be hearing their voices, investing in their future, and supporting their very real needs.

HONORING HIS HOLINESS, POPE
JOHN PAUL II

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II. With his passing on April 2nd, the world lost one of the most influential and inspirational leaders of our time. He was a great leader, a man of peace, and a source of hope to millions across the globe.

Pope John Paul II was born Karol Josef Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland on May 18, 1920. He made history by becoming the first Slavic Pope and the first non-Italian Pope in more than 400 years. He traveled more than any other Pope in history, visiting over 130 countries and 900 Heads of State.

The Pope's strong will and vision were instrumental in delivering hope and inspiration to people around the world. As a young man in an oppressed country, he courageously protected all people from oppression and tyranny. Under his reign, Pope John Paul II served as an important symbol that helped bring about the fall of communism throughout Europe.

Particularly important for Poland, he was an outspoken advocate for human rights. His peaceful message of human rights and religious freedom resonated among Polish Catholics, ushering in Poland's peaceful revolution in their fight against communist rule.

Pope John Paul II ministered to all people through his personal example of sacrifice and collaboration. He worked tirelessly to spread the message of compassion, courage, and sacrifice that inspired millions. Pope John Paul II brought together and forged dialogue between people of different faiths, promoting cooperation and peace. He was the first Pope to visit synagogues and mosques as well as areas of conflict, including the Holy Land.

When the world most needed his eloquent voice, he inspired us. When the world needed his prayers, he prayed for us. When the world needed his guidance, he showed us the way. Mr. Speaker, he will forever be remembered as a tireless promoter of peace for all people and regions of the world.

SALUTING SNOWSHOE RESORT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Snowshoe Resort and its adaptive skiing program's extensive commitment to enabling disabled persons to enjoy the recreation of alpine sports.

The Snowshoe Resort adaptive skiing program, under the direction of Dave Begg, has been very active in providing opportunities for a wide range of disabled persons and has seen continued growth over the past decade. The program uses certified Professional Ski Instructors of America, trained in adaptive skiing, to teach many disabled persons to ski, including those with spinal cord injuries, amputations, cerebral palsy, sight and hearing impairments, traumatic brain injury, and development disorders.

Snowshoe has worked in cooperation with the Challenged Athletes of West Virginia organization to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities through outdoor sports and recreation. This organization has sponsored training events at Snowshoe for the adaptive skiing program and is actively involved in creating other outdoor recreational opportunities for disabled persons for not only their enjoyment, but also as part of a rehabilitation process.

The program also works extensively with veterans of past wars and those returning from our current conflicts abroad, for which this program should be commended for providing our soldiers with ample opportunity to continue a healthy lifestyle through outdoor recreation.

Each student who enters into the program is worked with on a one-on-one basis by a professional instructor as well as with help from one of the many volunteers who come to assist the program. There is a multitude of equipment for the adaptive skiers to choose from when they hit the slopes, so that they may find what they feel is the most comfortable to use while skiing.

The adaptive skiing program at Snowshoe has continually provided a venue for disabled persons to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle, and I wish to honor them for this. I implore my fellow members to join me in honoring Snowshoe Mountain Resort and also to encourage all ski resorts to follow the example of Snowshoe Mountain in promoting the equal opportunity for all disabled persons to participate in sports.

MATH AND SCIENCE INCENTIVE ACT OF 2005 (H.R. 1547)

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Math and Science Incentive Act of 2005, which today was introduced by Rep. WOLF. I thank him and his staff for their work on this important legislation. I am very pleased to join him as the lead cosponsor, and pledge that I will work with Rep. WOLF to move this legislation through the House.

A number of developments in recent years have fueled concerns that world technology leadership could shift from the United States to other countries. In today's global economy, American manufacturers and other businesses rely on innovation to stay competitive. For the United States to remain a prosperous country, we must maintain our technological leadership in the world.

Our knowledge-based economy is driven by constant innovation. The foundation of innovation lies in a dynamic, motivated, and well-educated workforce equipped with math and science skills. An understanding of scientific and mathematical principles, a working knowledge of computer hardware and software, and the problem-solving skills developed by courses in science, technology, engineering and math are now basic requirements for many entry-level positions or for admission to college. In fact, I fully expect that all of the jobs of the future will require a basic understanding of the concepts and principles of math and science.

Unfortunately, we are continuing to see disturbing trends in American student performance on basic math and science tests. The recent Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and Trends in International Math and Science Study (TIMSS) highlight the shortcomings of current K–12 science and math students in the United States when compared to other developed countries.

We have also seen that fewer students are pursuing degrees in math and science. This should be of particular concern when we consider the large educational and workforce development investments made by emerging economies with huge populations, such as China, India and Russia.

We must encourage girls in grades K–12 to become interested in math and science and urge young women to pursue degrees in math and science. While the percentages of women holding baccalaureate degrees in biological and physical sciences closely mirrors that of their male counterparts, recent statistics from the National Center for Education Statistics show that women are underrepresented in engineering and computer science baccalaureate degrees.

The Math and Science Incentive Act of 2005 is a direct response to the needs I have outlined. The bill will help recruit and retain direly needed science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) teachers and workforce professionals. It allows the Secretary of Education to pay up to \$10,000 in interest on undergraduate loans for those who qualify and agree to enter into a five-year service agreement with the Secretary.

Clearly, we must recommit ourselves to leadership in science, technology, mathematics and engineering. This legislation puts us on the path toward ensuring that we will have STEM teachers and workforce professionals in place.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS.
BELVA TEAFORD

HON. JOHN A. BOEHRNER
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. BOEHRNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, thank, and recognize my constituent Mrs. Belva Teaford. Belva is a testament to the innate goodness of human nature and the overwhelming positive effect one individual may have on the community.

As a wife, mother, and tireless volunteer in Ohio's Eighth Congressional District Mrs. Teaford has quietly given much more than she has taken. Her work, throughout Darke County over so many decades is a constant source of pride and unconditional praise. As a volunteer for the Darke County Republican Party Belva's friendship and reassuring demeanor have helped guide countless candidates, myself included, to success. Yet, Belva's efforts stretch far beyond politics. She is, in the truest sense of the word, a humanitarian whose unyielding belief in the goodness of her neighbors has helped make Darke County a truly remarkable community.

Belva's attitude, fierce determination, and community spirit are a constant source of energy for all those around her. So much of Belva's work is done quietly and without re-

ward and it is my honor to take this moment and say thank you and it is with a great deal of personal joy that I congratulate Belva and wish her a very happy 90th birthday.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF JUDGE DANNY VALDEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of Judge Danny Valdez of Laredo, TX.

In May 1982, Danny Valdez was elected as Justice of the Peace, and is currently serving his sixth four-year term.

Judge Valdez has also received numerous awards. Some include: the 2000 Martin High School Tiger Legend, the Liberty Bell Award from the Laredo Bar Association, and the Community Service Award from Lulac Council #12.

Aside from presiding over one of the state's busiest courts, he makes time for many community activities. He has worked with at-risk students for the past 23 years, addressing issues such as truancy, gang violence, drug abuse, teen pregnancy and juvenile delinquency. He has been working with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Education Program to bring male and female inmates to our local middle and high schools to tell their life stories in an effort to educate, warn, and inform students about the dangers and consequences involved in making the wrong choices.

Judge Valdez has worked with the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust in the development of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Boy Scout Camp Huisahche and was also instrumental in the development of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Inner City Recreation Center.

Judge Valdez chairs the Annual Toys for Tejanitos Drive and the Angel Wish Program that benefits needy families in our community. He also chairs the Annual Fishing Derby for physically challenged students. This event has received Texas state wide recognition. He has also awarded over \$60,000.00 in scholarships to deserving students from L.I.S.D. in Laredo, TX.

Judge Valdez is married to Isabel Valdez and has a son, Danny, Jr. and daughter, Maribel.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Judge Danny Valdez.

CONGRATULATING MARTIN
FLAHERTY ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
WILKES-BARRE VETERANS AF-
FAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Martin Flaherty on the occasion of his retirement from the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Wilkes-

Barre, Pennsylvania after more than 30 years of dedicated service. Martin, or "Marty," as he is known by friends, co-workers, veterans, and volunteers at the VA, will be greatly missed and I wish him luck in the next phase of his life.

Martin's service to the government began on April 4, 1966 when he joined the Army. He spent two years on a tour of duty in Germany and was honorably discharged on March 17, 1968 at the rank of Spec 5. After the Army, Marty worked for the Domestic Intelligence Division in Washington, D.C., and in September of 1970 he joined the Metropolitan Police Force in Washington.

In the evenings, he attended Georgetown University. Marty was off to a promising start in life. His career in Washington was cut short when he left in 1973 to move back home to the Wyoming Valley to care of his father, who had taken ill.

In that same year, Marty started to work for the VA Medical Center as a housekeeping aide. Marty worked his way up through the ranks with hard work and landed a job in the warehouse. From there, Marty's career took off.

Now Marty is the supervisor of the Inventory Management Department, where he oversees the warehouse, inventory personnel, and SPD. He possesses great motivational skills to rally staff to accomplish tasks where others would say: "it can't be done." And at the start of each day, you'll hear Marty coming down the hallway, thanking his employees for coming to work that day. In return, he receives a "thank you" back.

Marty has received superior performance awards over his career at the VA and possesses the respect of managers above him. G. Michael Miller, the VISN 4 Chief Logistics Officer, states that: "Marty is one of the people that makes the VA Wilkes-Barre a special place to work." Jackie Malhoyt, the former Facilities Management Director, stated that: "Marty looks at change as a challenge and opportunity, never as a threat or bother. He is an example of the heart of this medical center."

But this is not the whole story of Marty. Walk around the VA and you will hear other stories of Marty's selflessness and dedication, whether it's assisting patients to their next appointment or being a sounding board for a co-worker in need. You may find him purchasing the balance of chances for a drawing from veteran volunteers in order to help them meet their goal. Still, what you will probably hear most about Marty is how people were moved by his singing voice.

You see, Marty has been blessed with a beautiful voice and has been singing since he was nine years old, when he received his first lessons from Mrs. Helen Schivell of Wilkes-Barre. Over and over again, Marty is asked to share his singing voice at various hospital events, whether it's a Veterans Day ceremony or an employee awards program. You may also find him belting out songs in patient rooms or in the VA's nursing home on other occasions.

George Bath, the VA's Network Contracting Manager and Marty's former supervisor, notes one instance where there was an unusually large turnout at an employees' recognition program. George recalls: "I walked into Liberty Hall and nearly every seat was taken. I turned and there at the head of the room, with a mike