

They also have four grandsons, five great grandsons and two great granddaughters.

Mr. and Mrs. Bannon are members of St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Bannon on the occasion of this honor. Mr. Bannon's lifelong service to his family, church and community illustrate his commitment and selflessness and serve as an example for others to emulate.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2007*

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, on March 5, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes Nos. 119 and 120.

Rollcall vote No. 119 was final passage of H.R. 995. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 120 was on final passage of H.R. 497. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

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#### TRIBUTE TO DR. PATRICK CRAWFORD

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Patrick Crawford of Bedford, Pennsylvania, who has been named "2007 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year" by a committee of his peers from the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators. This distinguished award is given annually and is part of the National Superintendent of the Year Program sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators. It is presented to further inspire exemplary leadership and promote a sense of confidence and pride in our Nation's public schools. Dr. Crawford will be recognized in March at the American Association of School Administrators Conference on Education, where the national recipient will be chosen among the State nominees.

Dr. Patrick Crawford has been superintendent of Bedford Area School District since 1996. His outstanding service to the Bedford area has included several noteworthy programs. The Superintendent's Leadership Academy, a 2 year leadership program for high school juniors and seniors; the Bedford Teacher Technology Academy, a staff development program that advances the use of technology in learning; and the Classrooms for the Future initiative which will place laptops on the desks of every high school student in the district. These initiatives all take precedence on the future of education in the Bedford area.

In addition to the time he spends as a superintendent, Dr. Crawford dedicates much of his schedule to the betterment of the Bedford community. He has worked through organizations such as the Pennsylvania Leadership Development Center, the Blended Schools Virtual Learning Consortium, and is serving on the Learning Lamp Board of Directors. He is

also active in community organizations, such as the Sunrise Rotary Club of Bedford and the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership Program and Education Foundation.

Nominators of Dr. Crawford cite his excellent vision and leadership in guiding his colleagues toward innovation and excellence, yet Dr. Crawford selflessly announced "what this award really demonstrates is that there is a whole team of people who are working to make Bedford Area School District a better place." This modest educator is truly a wonderful asset to the Bedford area, as well as the State of Pennsylvania, and is most deserving of this prestigious honor.

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#### CONGRATULATING DR. THOMAS D. MEADE AS HE RECEIVES THE 2007 SWINGLE AWARD FROM THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2007*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Dr. Thomas D. Meade, M.D., who is the recipient of the 2007 Swingle Award from the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Dr. Meade is an orthopedic surgeon and the senior managing partner and president of OAA Orthopedic Specialists, the oldest incorporated medical group in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania. He created and serves as medical director of the OAA Human Performance Center, a nationally recognized medical fitness facility with over 3,500 members. He received the 2002 Founders Award from the prestigious Medical Fitness Association for his lifetime contributions to the field of medical fitness and the Sir John Charnley Award for Orthopedic achievement.

Dr. Meade is a 1975 graduate of Pittston Area High School where he was awarded numerous academic distinctions and still holds the high school diving record. He graduated from Penn State with High Distinction where a diving injury launched him on a career in orthopedic surgery. After nine years in Philadelphia at Jefferson Medical College and five years at Thomas Jefferson University, he traveled to Connecticut to complete a knee and sports medicine fellowship.

Dr. Meade is an avid cyclist and competitive swimmer. He has held top 10 U.S. Masters Swimming rankings and shares national and world records in men's freestyle events with fellow OAA physician, Dr. Charles Norelli.

As an author and educator, Dr. Meade has published articles and books and produced videos on sports injuries, nutrition and fitness related topics. He has also lectured extensively on those topics. He is currently the host of two popular cable television shows on orthopedic and medical issues. He also holds two academic posts at Thomas Jefferson University and Pennsylvania State University and he serves as director of orthopedic trauma residency education at Lehigh Valley Hospital.

He is a recognized expert in the field of knee ligament reconstruction, knee replacements and has developed surgical techniques

and instrumentation as part of a national research and education team. The Philadelphia Eagles have retained Dr. Meade's services as a consultant for summer camp since 1998.

Last July he realized his most ambitious vision by developing a 300,000 square foot integrated health campus offering traditional and alternative therapies in a holistic environment to improve quality of life and longevity. The facility is located in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and is a national showcase model for the future of private practice medical care.

Dr. Meade resides in Allentown with his wife and three children.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Meade on this special honor. His contributions to the field of medicine reflect his deep passion and commitment for improving the quality of life and the standards of human health care.

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#### HONORING NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN MARK J.F. SCHROEDER

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I offer these remarks today in honor of Mark J.F. Schroeder, Member of the Assembly of the State of New York, on the occasion of his being named Irishman of the Year by Goin' South, a prominent civic organization in my constituency.

Rarely does one encounter a public servant so dedicated to the principles of good government and of selfless public service as Assemblyman Schroeder, who succeeded me in representing the people of the 145th Assembly District.

One marvels at the tremendous ability he has demonstrated, in his work in the assembly and previously in the Erie County Legislature, to use the resources of elective office to make tangible improvements to the neighborhoods he represents, and in the lives of the constituents he so ably serves.

While remaining vigilant with regard to his legislative responsibilities—Assemblyman Schroeder is highly regarded for the studiousness with which he considers each piece of legislation before him—Assemblyman Schroeder has also rolled up his sleeves and produced tangible results in the areas of neighborhood-based economic development and adult education in the communities he serves.

A prime example of his successes in the area of neighborhood-based economic development is his creation of, and ongoing support for, the Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. Through this agency, he had demonstrably reduced commercial vacancy rates and otherwise dramatically improved business districts in his constituency.

Now boasting 156 members, the Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce encourages business development through the Irish Feis and Expo, a trade show and concert held in conjunction with Goin' South, a monthly newsletter, a high quality membership directory, a wide range of member benefits, involvement with a wide array of community events and projects, and enthusiastic and unwavering advocacy.