

to destabilize neighborhoods and local economies and helped to revitalize and strengthen neighborhoods.

Named as a tribute to the late Pennsylvania Gov. Robert P. Casey, this award is intended to acknowledge the efforts of individuals who have faithfully invested their time and talents to the betterment of the quality of life in north-eastern Pennsylvania and, equally as importantly, to allow others to learn from their service.

Ms. Bovard is a special friend to north-eastern Pennsylvania. As executive director of the Scranton Area Foundation, she has provided dynamic leadership to an organization that has served this community as a catalyst for change and as a vital convener of diverse groups passionate about community action.

Throughout her career, she has overseen direct and measureable improvements to our region's health, education, arts, environment, human services and civic affairs.

Although she consistently and humbly credits the foundation for its remarkable success, it is widely known that it is her own kindness, intelligence, compassion and love for this community that have been the key ingredients to its amazing impact on our region.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Jeanne Bovard on this auspicious occasion. Her example and commitment is an inspiration to all whose lives she has touched.

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#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO RON MASON

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Ron Mason as he retires after 29 years as a leader at Michigan State University. I want to thank Ron on behalf of those individuals who have benefited from his time, contributions, and dedication to world-class academics and athletics.

Ron Mason's Michigan State career began with the 1979–80 season when he became head coach of the Spartan hockey team. He became a seven-time CCHA Coach of the Year and led the Spartans to seven regular-season league championships and 10 playoff crowns. In 2001, the conference honored Mason by renaming the CCHA playoff trophy—the Mason Cup—in recognition of his contributions to college hockey and the formation of the league as well as his success behind the bench.

Considered one of the "Founding Fathers" of the CCHA, Ron joined Bowling Green's Jack Vivian and St. Louis University's Bill Selman in establishing a "coaches' league" in 1971. Among his many accomplishments included an NCAA Championship at Michigan State in 1986. His dedication to upholding the values of sportsmanship and integrity at Michigan State University, and his continued work on behalf of the university and its community, is a testament to his strength of character.

On March 18, 1994, a win over Bowling Green established him as the winningest college hockey coach in history. In 2001–02, Ron's final campaign as the Spartan coach, he recorded his unprecedented 900th win as a college hockey coach with a victory over

Ferris State (Oct. 20, 2001). In 2002, Ron was introduced as the 16th athletic director in Michigan State history. During his five-year tenure, State athletic squads have captured 11 conference championships (regular season and postseason combined) and one national championship. In addition, MSU has been represented at the NCAA Championships 72 times, including Final Four/Frozen Four appearances by men's basketball (2005), women's basketball (2005), field hockey (2002 and 2004) and ice hockey (2007).

Ron is also active in a number of local organizations and charities. He recently completed a 4-year term on the Sparrow Hospital Foundation Board and has set up the Ron Mason Fund for Kids that supports the Pediatric Rehabilitation Department, which has raised nearly \$675,000 since 1998. He also served as the honorary chairperson for the Children's Miracle Network, which has raised \$19 million over the last 19 years, and has worked with the Coaches For Kids campaign, which has raised \$5.3 million in the last 7 years for a pediatrics emergency room at Sparrow Hospital. In addition, he served on the committee for the broomball game for the Legal Eagles, which benefited the Boys and Girls Club of Lansing, and spent several years on the Lansing Safety Council. Ron currently is a board member for the Lansing Chamber of Commerce.

For all his career accomplishments, Ron has been inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame (1994), Lake Superior Sports Hall of Fame (1996) and St. Lawrence Sports Hall of Fame (1999). In addition, the American Hockey Coaches Association honored him with the John Machines Award for his outstanding contributions to hockey in the spring of 2003, and he received the Hobey Baker Memorial Award Foundation's 2004 "Legend of Hockey" award in April 2004.

Therefore Madam Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring Ron Mason's exceptional service to students, athletes, and Michigan State University. May he know that his nation is greatly appreciative of his dedication, and wishes him the best in all his future endeavors.

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MASTER SERGEANT BRIAN  
CREMEANS HONORED WITH  
ARMY SOLDIER'S MEDAL

### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, It was my distinct privilege this morning to participate in ceremonies here at the Capitol to honor Army MSG Sergeant Brian L. Cremeans with the Soldier's Medal for heroism.

During a 2003 tour of duty in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Master Sergeant Cremeans, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, was conducting a controlled demolition of 4,000 pounds of high explosives that were captured from the Taliban when he alertly realized that a fire ignited in the demolition pit. Given the amount of explosives, he realized that there was no time to evacuate the area. Master Sergeant Cremeans, without forethought for his own safety, jumped into the demolition pit and

quickly began covering the fire with dirt, extinguishing it before the entire cache of weapons exploded. He then located the fire's propellant, scooped it into a canister and continued to fight more small flash fires until they were all extinguished. His actions saved the lives of 15 Afghans and 4 American soldiers who would have been killed had he not taken those extraordinary actions.

Madam Speaker, Master Sergeant Cremeans's heroic actions were brought to my attention by my constituent Army MAJ Zachary Norsworthy of St. Petersburg, Florida, who was with the unit at the time of this incident. Having personally witnessed Master Sergeant Cremeans' quick thinking and actions, Major Norsworthy nominated him for the Soldier's Award, one of the Army's highest noncombat honors for valor. Unfortunately, the award package was lost by the Army and when time had passed with no action, Major Norsworthy resubmitted the application but was told that the two-year period for submitting an award nomination had passed and it was too late to resubmit. Major Norsworthy promptly contacted me and I contacted the Secretary of the Army who reviewed the case and quickly saw that Master Sergeant Cremeans was deserving of this honor and ordered the awarding of the medal.

This morning in my office, SMA Kenneth Preston officiated as we presented Master Sergeant Cremeans with this long-overdue recognition. Following my remarks, I will submit for the benefit of my colleagues the Army citation and Major Norsworthy's narrative outlining the brave actions of Master Sergeant Cremeans.

Madam Speaker, Master Sergeant Cremeans represents the best our Nation has to offer. He volunteered to serve our Nation in uniform and to protect our freedom and liberty. He is now retired after 22 years of service to the United States and to the Army. Please join me in saying thank you to him for his actions and his lifetime of service.

#### CITATION

To all who shall see these presents, greeting: this is to certify that the President of the United States of America, authorized by act of Congress, July 2, 1926, has awarded the Soldier's Medal to (Then) Sergeant First Class Brian L. Cremeans, United States Army, for heroism on 6 May 2003 in Meynemah, Afghanistan. Given under my hand in the City of Washington on this 30th day of October 2007.

REUBEN D. JONES,  
*the Adjutant General.*  
PETE GEREN,  
*Secretary of the Army.*

The President of the United States of America, authorized by an Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, has awarded the Soldier's Medal to Sergeant First Class Brian L. Cremeans, United States Army, for heroism: not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy on 6 May 2003, in Meynemah, Afghanistan. As enemy munitions were being placed in a demolition pit, Sergeant Cremeans saw a glimpse of smoke billow from the pit. The demolition pit was covered with approximately four inches of explosive propellant (white phosphorous) at the base that, if ignited, would detonate the 4000 pounds of high explosives rigged for demolition. Without hesitation, he immediately leapt onto the side of the twenty-foot deep pit, which caused dirt to smother the flame that had begun to build. Sergeant Cremeans' actions