

women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Social Services Award winner is Barbara Schlichting of Stockton. She has worked for Somerset Treatment Services in Somerville for 32 years, first as a counselor, then as a supervisor, and now as executive director.

Barbara has worked with countless staff and clients to provide quality and meaningful services in the field of drug and alcohol counseling and psychiatric services.

She works tirelessly to secure grants for those with tremendous hardships and runs a successful agency that provides sometimes-difficult-to-find services. The agency's many counselors over the years also have benefited from Barbara's knowledge and dedication.

I am pleased to congratulate Barbara Schlichting for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

HONORING THE SAINT JOSEPH COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County in celebration of its 100th anniversary.

The founding fathers of the Chamber of Commerce realized that as a business community their collective actions would have a much greater impact than those actions taken individually. In order to make their community stronger, both locally and nationally, they would need the business community engaged in all areas of commerce.

Today, the Chamber is immersed in all areas of business, education, and legislative affairs, and it continues to deeply involve itself in the community at large. This is critical to Saint Joseph County residents today, since cities across the land are facing profound issues such as unemployment, budget cuts, and an increase in school drop-out rates.

As a response to these challenges, the Chambers of Commerce across the country have taken on far more active roles within their communities. While still involved in the important networking events that encourage collaboration between the current and future generations of business professionals, the Chamber's role has become far more participatory in the critical issues facing our community. To this effect, the Chamber is partnering with the South Bend Community School Corporation and government officials, as well as with business and community leaders, to lead the school system in a new, dynamic direction.

Two years ago, The Chamber formed the Business Growth Initiative, which proactively addresses and resolves key issues that will help businesses grow and expand in the city of South Bend. Also, the chamber recognized the need to retain and attract young professionals in our community. The Young Profes-

sionals Network (YPN) was created to help address key issues for young professionals living in and relocating to the area.

Many programs have been initiated and conducted with the Chamber taking the lead role, such as the Manufacturing Summit, which addressed the issue of education and the development of a workforce that is technologically advanced; Green Community initiatives, an entrepreneurial forum; and the South Bend/Mishawaka Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Whether it is an issue of advanced business, community, or education, the Chamber is prepared to make a difference now and for the next 100 years. They continue to advance their community and help its citizens make a difference by allowing their voices to be heard. Consequently, I salute the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County on its 100th anniversary and wish them continued success.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SILVER SPRINGS-MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Silver Springs-Martin Luther School on its 150th Anniversary and to recognize the tremendous dedication of staff, administrators, Board of Trustees and supporters of this outstanding facility.

Founded in 1859 in Philadelphia with just one dollar and gritty determination to serve orphaned children, the 36-acre campus in Plymouth Meeting, Montgomery County provides a home, treatment, education and a variety of services to very special, traumatized children and their families.

The extremely dedicated and talented staff at Silver Springs-Martin Luther School, combined with the excellent foster family care, special education school and family resource services, help so many wonderful children overcome the steep challenges they face in their early years.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Silver Springs-Martin Luther School for reaching this extraordinary milestone and in commending the exemplary efforts of the staff, administrators, Board of Trustees and supporters in providing a nurturing and healing environment so that children facing long odds can achieve their full potential.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR MIKE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a dear friend and one of Connecticut's most dynamic and charismatic leaders. He was known universally as Mayor Mike. A great light left us when Michael J. Peters passed away on January 4, 2009. His engaging personality, his great sense of humor and his devotion to his

city, his friends and his family, will forever endure.

I was fortunate to know him and to be a direct beneficiary of his friendship and loyalty. I was equally honored to be at his funeral surrounded by friends, family and dignitaries, but it was through the remarks of his sister Geraldine and his son Chris that the essence of this great and beloved man was captured. Madam Speaker, I submit to the record of this great Nation these eulogies of Mayor Mike Peters of Hartford, Connecticut, a great American and a great example of devotion and service above self, done with a smile.

EULOGY GIVEN BY CHRIS PETERS

Good morning. I would first like to say on behalf of my mother, my brother, my sister and my entire extended family thank you so much for such a genuine and unbelievable outpour of support over the last several weeks. Your prayers and well wishes helped us all get through this difficult time.

My father was an example to us children of what hard work is and what it takes to raise a family. For most of our childhood my dad worked two jobs to support our family and to give us a roof over our heads. His main and most notable career was as a firefighter but with the schedule being as it was for a firefighter he had days off that allowed him to bring in additional income. One such job was delivering oil for John McCarthy Oil. Although it was against the oil company's policy, my father would often bring me on deliveries with him and he would let me hold the nozzle as we filled the tanks at people's homes. I remember once the tank had overflowed and I was sprayed from head to toe with fuel . . . that was the end of that. I think he realized at that point why there was such a policy but because he worked so often, any chance he had to hang out with us he took advantage, even if it meant bringing me to work and dousing me in a highly flammable liquid.

Having a firefighter as a father was such a cool thing as a kid. It's most kids' dream to be a firefighter when they grow up and having him work at Engine 15 right up the street from where we grew up; I was able to show off all the time. Bring my friends into the firehouse and look at the trucks and watch him slide down the pole. He gave us so much to be proud of way before he ever became the Mayor.

He was an umpire for our little league in the south end (he had a very tight strike zone by the way) and was instrumental in organizing fund raisers for the league and helped shape my love for baseball by making sure my brother David and I were Yankee fans at a very early age. I've been told (mostly by him) that he was quite the ball player when he was younger. I think he was proud of my 4 year career in the McGinley Craffa little league and he was happy to get 4 more years out of David, who by the way, was much better than I. Watching a Yankee game with him on a warm summer night, windows open and a warm summer breeze blowing in, is something my brother and I will sorely miss.

His bond with my sister Michelle was something very special between a daughter and her father. In High School, Michelle did what a lot of young teenage girls do; she gave our father a lot of grey hairs. Although we joke about the trouble Michelle got into, truth is she wasn't all that bad. Now that I look back on it, it was more the concern my father had for her and the love he felt for his only daughter. Those years of rebellion helped shape a very special bond between the two of them. My father's love and commitment to making sure he showed her the way