

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. JAMES CRAIK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STATE MESA CHAMPIONS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate a remarkable group of talented young students from Maryland's Fifth Congressional District.

On May 9th, a team from Dr. James Craik Elementary School in Charles County won first place in Maryland's statewide Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) competition held at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel. To participate in the competition, the students first had to prevail in the regional semi-finals against 21 other Charles County elementary schools.

Led by coaches Nick Gardiner and Susan Steinmet, the team took on a series of challenges that tested their ingenuity, creativity, and determination. Although they faced stiff competition, the team impressed the judges and emerged victorious by incorporating green design elements like solar panels and making the most efficient designs. It is the second time Craik has won the competition in just 3 years.

The team's win represents not only a victory for Craik, but for our State and Nation. With the proper education and support, these students have proven that the next generation of American leaders are poised to push the boundaries of science and technology and achieve great things. I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding this great accomplishment.

IN HONOR OF DR. TIM GILMOUR

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor and acknowledge Dr. Joseph E. (Tim) Gilmour for his role as the fifth President of Wilkes University. His unprecedented dedication to education has provided outstanding opportunities for our community as well as all the students of Wilkes University. When Dr. Gilmour leaves Wilkes in the spring of 2012, he will certainly be leaving behind a great legacy.

In June of 2001, Dr. Gilmour accepted the position of President. Dr. Gilmour's accomplishments are too numerous to fully acknowledge. He successfully reached Wilkes University's enrollment goals six years ahead of schedule, increasing the student body by over 26%. He led the creation of an urban planning research-based think tank, the Joint Urban Studies Center. He spearheaded the Institute

of Energy and Environmental Research to study the effects of the Marcellus Shale Drilling. Also, to his credit, was the university's partnership with its neighbor Kings College to help revitalize downtown Wilkes-Barre with the opening of their joint Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

Prior to his position as President with Wilkes University, Dr. Gilmour was an assistant professor of higher education, associate member of the graduate faculty and a senior research fellow at the University of Maryland College Park, associate director of academic affairs for the Council of State College and University Presidents for Washington State, university planning specialist in the Office of Budget and Planning at the Pennsylvania State University, vice president for strategic planning at Georgia Tech, and finally, provost and chief academic officer at Northwest Missouri State University from 1995 to 2000.

In addition to his lengthy service in education, Dr. Gilmour serves on the board of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, the Diamond City Partnership, United Way, Earth Conservancy and the Center for Advancing Partnerships in Education. His history of service to Northeastern Pennsylvania spans well beyond his impressive record of service to the university.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Dr. Tim Gilmour for his dedicated service to our community in northeastern Pennsylvania, specifically his outstanding promotion of Wilkes University's educational goals.

IN MEMORY OF RUTH BRINKER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness I rise to pay tribute to a beloved San Franciscan, Ruth Brinker, who died Monday, August 8th in San Francisco.

Ruth was a visionary hero who brought healing to San Francisco at a time of horrific tragedy in our city's history. In 1985, the AIDS epidemic was ravaging San Francisco. A retired widow and grandmother who loved to cook, and volunteered for Meals on Wheels, Ruth noticed that malnutrition was killing many who were terminally ill with AIDS before the disease took its toll, but there were no social service agencies providing meals to those too weak from AIDS or too impoverished to feed themselves.

First in her kitchen, and then in a church basement, Ruth prepared delicious meals to deliver to seven San Franciscans wasting away from AIDS. She solicited volunteers and within a few years, one woman's attempt to nurture and care for a handful of people living with AIDS grew into an organization serving 500 meals a day.

As the epidemic spread, Project Open Hand expanded its nutritional services for those with

disabling HIV, and, years later, broadened its mission to include "meals with love" for homebound and critically ill clients, seniors and the disabled. They also extended their reach beyond San Francisco to Alameda County.

Long before the advent of powerful medications to control HIV/AIDS, Project Open Hand's home-cooked meals and groceries were a lifeline to the ill and isolated individuals battling this devastating disease. Project Open Hand has been using "food as medicine" with great compassion and care for 26 years, bringing dignity and independence to those it serves. Now in its 26th year, Project Open Hand delivers 3,500 meals every day and serves as a model to more than a hundred organizations in the United States, and increasingly around the world.

In 2005, Ruth received the prestigious Jefferson Award for public service. In 2007, I was proud to nominate Project Open Hand for the national Victory Against Hunger Award from Congress. Last year, Project Open Hand honored her with its Visionary Award which will now be named in her honor.

As our nation marks 30 years since the first AIDS diagnosis, we are inspired by the commitment and compassion of Ruth Brinker in the earliest days of the epidemic.

I hope it is a comfort to her daughters Lisa and Sarah, her grandson Max and great-granddaughter Bailey that so many people loved Ruth and will never forget her. Her wonderful spirit and her legacy will live on in the hundreds of meal-delivery organizations worldwide that she inspired and the millions who have received food and love because of Ruth's courage and compassion.

IN HONOR OF FATHER GHEZZI

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the service that Father Richard G. Ghezzi has provided to the Catholic Church throughout his 25 years in the Roman Catholic priesthood. Father Ghezzi has dedicated his life to the mission of the Catholic Church and, through the execution of those ideals, has benefitted Northeastern Pennsylvania in numerous ways.

After graduating from Pennsylvania State University and working for his family business, Richard Ghezzi received his calling to join the priesthood. In 1978, he began preparations and earned his Masters in Divinity from Mary Immaculate Seminary. He was ordained on August 30, 1986 and began his work in the Catholic Church in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Throughout his service, Father Ghezzi has supported the parishioners of Our Lady of Grace parish in Hazleton, Sacred Heart of Jesus parish in Peckville, St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Archbald, St. Ann parish in Bentley Creek, St. Joseph parish in St. Joseph, and

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