

DUQUESNE LAW SCHOOL'S 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Duquesne University School of Law, a widely respected institution of higher learning in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District.

The Duquesne University School of Law was founded in 1911. It was the first professional school added to Duquesne University, a private Catholic university which was established in 1878 by members of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, often referred to as Spiritans.

The Duquesne University School of Law began as a night school with 12 students. Consistent with the Spiritan tradition, the school was a pioneer in providing legal education to the working-class, minorities, and women. It was designed to accommodate students' family and work obligations. Enrollment has increased dramatically over the last 100 years to the current total of 646 students, and the Duquesne University School of Law now offers several degrees in full-time and part-time programs offering clinics, practicums, and international study as well as the Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Law. It continues to offer flexible schedules to expand access for those who could otherwise not pursue a law degree.

The Duquesne University School of Law has embraced the globalization of law in the 21st century. It opened the first summer schools for American Law Students in Beijing, China in 1995 and the Vatican City State in 2001, as well as additional programs in Dublin, Ireland, and Cologne, Germany.

The law school encourages moral and ethical exploration through coursework offerings on the intersection between Law and Philosophy and between Law and different religions. The school's educational philosophy maintains that preparation for the legal profession requires the development of a special character, competency, and disposition.

Alumni of the Duquesne University School of Law make up over a third of membership of the Allegheny County Bar association, with over 7,200 alumni practicing in every field of law, in all 50 states, and in several foreign countries. Alumni serve at the local, state, and federal levels. Duquesne Law alumni have also served as judges of the United States Court of Appeals and the Federal District Courts.

As the Duquesne University School of Law celebrates its centennial anniversary, I want to congratulate its faculty, staff, students, alumnae, friends, and supporters and commend them on their many contributions to the community of Pittsburgh and to our nation.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR SENIOR
CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL
WARFARE OPERATOR THOMAS
ARTHUR RATZLAFF

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Thomas Arthur Ratzlaff who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Senior Chief Ratzlaff was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Senior Chief Ratzlaff was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards and decorations, including five Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Joint Service Commendation Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Combat Action Ribbons, Presidential Unit Citation, and numerous other personal and unit decorations. Additionally, Senior Chief Ratzlaff was awarded the Star of Military Valor, for actions in Afghanistan while supporting Canadian Soldiers. He is only the second American since World War I to have this honor bestowed upon him.

Senior Chief Ratzlaff is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Senior Chief Ratzlaff an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Senior Chief Ratzlaff's family, friends and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

CONGRATULATING ANNELISE
BERGERON

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Annelise Bergeron for being chosen as Queen Evangeline of the 43rd International Acadian Festival held annually in Iberville Parish. The International Acadian Festival is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council #970 of Plaquemine, La, which is the 3rd oldest K.C. council in the State of Louisiana.

It always brings about personal pride to see young students of the Bayou State achieving their goals while simultaneously working to give back and improve their communities. This talented young woman is currently a senior at St. Joseph Academy in Baton Rouge. I have the highest confidence that Annelise will succeed in whatever endeavors she pursues.

I ask my colleagues to join me in passing good wishes to Annelise Bergeron, her family, and the International Acadian Festival. Annelise is truly deserving of this recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAKEWOOD
PARK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lakewood Park, which is being dedicated with an Ohio Historical Marker.

The rich history of Lakewood Park chronicles the history and continuing development of the City of Lakewood. The 31 acres were originally part of a larger piece of land owned by Mr. John Honam, an early settler to the area. Mr. Honam's 1834 house was moved to the grounds of Lakewood Park in 1959 and is now the Oldest Stone House Museum. In the 1860s, Robert R. Rhodes began purchasing land in Lakewood. In 1881, Mr. Rhodes built a mansion on the estate known as "The Hickories." The mansion was home to the Rhodes family until his passing in 1916.

After Mr. Rhodes' passing, "The Hickories" served as a home for wounded World War I soldiers and later, a hospital annex during the influenza epidemic of 1918. The City of Lakewood purchased "The Hickories" in 1919 and the mansion was the home of Lakewood City Hall from 1920 until it was demolished in 1959. A single stone wall of the mansion remains in Lakewood Park commemorating its role in Lakewood's history.

Today, Lakewood Park serves as a gathering place for the residents of Lakewood. Lakewood Park is home to Foster Pool, the Lakewood Skate Park, the Lakefront Promenade, the Lakewood Park Bandshell, Kids Cove Playground, the Woman's Club Pavilion, the Kiwanis Open Pavilion and numerous sand volleyball courts, softball fields and picnic areas.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the dedication of the new Lakewood Park Ohio Historical Marker.

JEAN MACCORMACK MOVES TO
THE NEXT PHASE OF A GREAT
CAREER

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, many of us in Southeastern Massachusetts—and indeed in Massachusetts as a whole—had very mixed emotions on learning of the decision by University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Chancellor Jean MacCormack to retire. She will be greatly missed, and we cannot help but express our deep regret that she will be moving on from the position from which she has shown such extraordinary leadership educationally, economically and culturally. But given how hard Jean MacCormack has worked, how dedicated she has been to her students, to the faculty, and to the region of which that institution is such an important part, no one can begrudge her the decision to take a pause and move to different work.

I say different work, Mr. Speaker, because no one who knows the energy, passion for helping others and improving the world around her, and great gift for friendship that Jean

MacCormack possesses doubts that she will soon be doing something else of great value. But this is an appropriate time to note the wide range of very important contributions she has made to our region.

As the Member of the House proud to represent what has been for many years the leading fishing community in the United States, New Bedford, and its surrounding towns, I have derived enormous strength from the work that has been done at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth to support the fishing industry with first-rate research, and Jean MacCormack has been an essential factor in that effort.

Under her leadership, UMass Dartmouth has become a very important source of research and leadership for economic development in dealing with our ocean resources in general and UMass Dartmouth has played a very essential role in promoting the economic development of our region both with regard to some specific industries, including textiles and cranberries, in addition to fishing, and in general.

Many people talk about the important synergies that come from making sure that first-rate academic work is coordinated with economic development. Jean MacCormack has done as much as anyone I know to make that a reality. And I was very proud to be one of those who worked under her leadership to create the first public law school in the history of Massachusetts, with the merger of Southern New England Law School into the University of Massachusetts system, headquartered at the Dartmouth branch.

Mr. Speaker, Jean MacCormack was to me not just a great educational leader, but a great friend. No one could be in her presence without being made to feel valuable and to be entertained and instructed at the same time. I join with the population of Southeastern Massachusetts in thanking her for a job very well done and in wishing her well as we watch her move on to her next work.

And Mr. Speaker, as an indication of the impact Jean MacCormack has had, I ask that the excellent article from the New Bedford Standard Times about her career be printed here.

UMASS DARTMOUTH CHANCELLOR STEPPING
DOWN AFTER THIS YEAR
(By Steve Urban)

DARTMOUTH.—Expressing deep concern for the future of public higher education in America, Jean F. MacCormack Tuesday announced she will retire at the end of this academic year as chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

MacCormack, 64, notified the campus at the annual faculty/staff convocation breakfast and in a campus-wide email.

Noting the shrinking financial support for state-run colleges and universities, MacCormack, both in her address and in an interview, lamented the dwindling public support and today's increasing hostility toward the public sector. "They're angry at the government and it spills over," she said.

But she did not say that was the reason for her retirement; rather, she cited the wish to pursue other interests after three decades of working "24/7" in college administration. And despite the fact she has come under criticism politically, she said politics had no bearing on her decision.

Citing the 1862 Morrill Act signed by President Lincoln establishing land-grant colleges, MacCormack said: "We simply cannot allow the debate to be dominated by nega-

tive voices and allow the spirit and intent of the Morrill Act to be hijacked. We cannot accept the new dogmas of the stormy present to prevail. Too much is at stake for our nation and our democracy."

She said in her address that she sees no obvious strategy. "I would love to tell you that I see a clear pathway for improvement on the national issues, but instead I think those possibilities are only slowly emerging from the name-calling and the rancor. What I am quite certain about is that we must find our voice in this national debate and become strong advocates for not abandoning our nation's longstanding commitment to the clear mission of public higher education."

New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang, who has conducted hardball negotiations with MacCormack and the university over land at Fort Taber to expand SMASIT, was effusive in his praise for the chancellor.

"She's left a very long-lasting, positive legacy for the university," Lang said. "She's left a tremendous amount of momentum in key areas that the next chancellor will need to build on."

"I regard her as a friend. We don't agree on every issue and we never, never will. But I enjoyed working with her. It's in the interest of everyone in this region that our university be extremely successful, innovative and a true partner," Lang said.

During her tenure, which began in 1999 when she arrived from UMass Boston, the campus expanded greatly, including a visual and performing arts campus in downtown New Bedford, the state's first public law school in Dartmouth, the Charlton College of Business, vastly increased on-campus housing, establishment of the School of Public Policy and Education, and the Advanced Technology Manufacturing Center, among others.

In her letter of resignation to UMass President Robert L. Caret, MacCormack listed several pieces of unfinished business that she hopes to complete. They include expansion of the School of Marine Science and Technology in New Bedford, the Bio-Manufacturing Center in Fall River, securing American Bar Association accreditation for the law school, finishing the renovation of the Claire T. Carney Library, and "re-engineering enrollment and retention strategies to address a changing marketplace."

MacCormack expressed frustration at the difficulty in getting enrollment up to 10,000 from 6,000. That's important, she said, because the campus had a 10-1 student-teacher ratio when it could support 16-1. With growth, she said, comes fiscal stability because students pay fees and tuition, which supports programs and development.

It also offsets steadily declining state support, down below 20 percent of the budget from as much as 78 percent two decades ago.

And yet, she said, public higher education accounts for 80 percent of enrollment and does—in theory, at least—offer as good an education as private schools, although perhaps without the connections a student can make at Harvard, for example.

MacCormack touted her efforts to connect UMass Dartmouth with the community, and said she will remain in SouthCoast to perhaps write a book and take up community-related interests. But she will retire, not return to teaching, to give herself a breather after 30 years in administrative jobs that required all of her time.

"UMass Dartmouth is already a model of a university whose teaching and discovery is fully engaged in the life of its community. I am sure that this campus will be attractive to higher education leaders who strive to be entrepreneurial and bold," she said in her address.

Margaret "MarDee" Xifaras, a local attorney and former chairman of the Southern

New England School of Law, which was absorbed by UMass, said she doubts MacCormack will slow down all that much.

"Neither one of us is constitutionally capable of doing that," she said.

MacCormack's pending retirement did not strike her as much of a surprise, she said. "She always had a sort of a long-term plan that obviously would include retiring, but she was anxious to get things done, and she'll make sure certain things are well under way."

For merging the law school, Xifaras said, she will be "eternally grateful" to the chancellor. "She was a critical moving force," she said.

"Now its time for her to step back from a lifetime of commitment to education. She will be missed."

Fall River developer James Karam, chairman of the UMass Board of Trustees, said, "Jean has always understood that educational opportunity was vital to our area and has worked tirelessly to make sure that education of the highest quality was available to all of our citizens."

He added that MacCormack "has worked to transform our lives and in the process has transformed our region. She has championed the SouthCoast and has our undying gratitude."

HONORING OFFICER GARY
CONKLIN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a brave public servant Officer Gary Conklin of the Linden Police Department.

Recently, tragedy struck the town of Fenton when two contractors fell twenty feet into a sewer filled with methane gas. One of the contractors was killed in the accident and the other severely injured. If it were not for the bravery of Officer Conklin there would be two families grieving the loss of a loved one.

Upon arriving at the scene Officer Conklin saw the two men laying face down in two feet of water. Knowing the risk the gas posed Officer Conklin obtained a respiratory device from his vehicle. The device was not made for these types of toxic situations but he knew it was better than nothing. Putting himself in harm's way he entered the sewer and began working to stabilize the men.

He was able to prop the survivor Joseph Flipansick up on the side of the sewer. A civilian entered the sewer to assist and the two of them were able to roll the other victim over so he did not drown. After moving the men Officer Conklin felt his time running out and exited the sewer ordering the civilian out as well.

When Linden Police Chief, Scott Sutter asked Officer Conklin why he entered the sewer Officer Conklin responded simply "that's what I signed up for." Because of Officer Conklin's selfless act of courage and bravery Joseph Flipansick is alive.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sympathies to the family that lost their loved one that day. I would also like to thank Officer Conklin for acting with such brazen courage. He embodies what it means to be a public servant and his commitment to "protect and serve" is inspiring to all.