

Nursing into Mennonite College of Nursing, awarding a four-year baccalaureate degree, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

The North Central Association awarded Mennonite College of Nursing institutional accreditation in 1986. Mennonite College of Nursing made nursing history as the first independent upper-division single purpose institution of nursing education in the U.S. to receive accreditation from the National League for Nursing.

In 1995, Mennonite implemented the Graduate program, with its first educational track for Family Nurse Practitioner. And in 1998, the Master of Science in Nursing degree program was awarded initial accreditation by the National League of Nursing.

The mission of the Mennonite College of Nursing is to educate beginning and advanced practitioners of nursing to go beyond academia and serve the citizens of central Illinois and the world. In keeping with the traditions of its roots, this fine institution has placed a particular focus on addressing the health care needs of both urban and rural populations, including those who are most vulnerable and under served.

In reviewing the work of the College's many graduates, it is clear they have been successful in not only teaching the technical skills of the nursing profession, but in instilling a whole philosophy of ministering to the sick. Unlike other schools, at the core of its curriculum, the Mennonite College of Nursing promotes four key values. They are: the affirmation of the dignity and worth of all persons; the recognition of the wholeness of life; the responsible use of nature; and the promotion of a life of peace.

Mr. Speaker, I am greatly honored to have this fine professional school in my district. With 83% of its graduates remaining in Central Illinois, I can affirm the fact that the quality of life in our communities has benefited greatly the Mennonite College of Nursing.

Mr. Speaker, the important work of the Mennonite College of Nursing needs to be recognized by this Congress, so that the school is forever acknowledged before the American people as it becomes the sixth academic college of Illinois State University. I am very proud to have the Mennonite College of Nursing in the 15th district of Illinois, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in extending our heartfelt congratulations to this outstanding institution.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD D. REYNOLDS

**HON. DAVID D. PHELPS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 7, 1999*

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Richard D. Reynolds, a life long resident of Southern Illinois, who was born on April 13, 1938. I want to take this opportunity to recognize a true gentleman who stands firmly on his commitments. Richard has had a long history working for labor in southern Illinois and is retiring as business manager/secretary treasurer of Southern and Central Illinois Laborer's District Council at the end of this month. Richard joined the union movement in 1975, when he joined Southern Illinois

Laborers' Local Union 1330. Richard has dedicated many years of his life to protecting the rights of workers and laborers in Illinois. His tireless efforts have led to many improvements for a great number of Southern Illinoisans. He represents a group of people who do honest work and expect, and have received from Richard, strong and dedicated union leadership. He has contributed to nearly double the counties his union covers. The union staff has grown from 1 to 20, and he has helped the union raise thousands of dollars for charitable causes. Richard's service with the union is truly outstanding and has helped push the labor movement forward to a stronger level.

Richard's accomplishments will not soon be forgotten and I know that he will be greatly missed by many. When a man retires who has dedicated so much of his life to improving the lives of others, we all must strive to keep up the good work of that man and not forget the ideals and values which guided him. Mr. Speaker, I invite all of my colleagues to honor Richard Reynolds and to not only wish him the best in his retirement but also God's speed.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE EXPLORAVISION AWARDS PROGRAM

**HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 7, 1999*

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mrs. MORELLA, and I are proud to announce the introduction of the ExplorAVision Resolution, a concurrent resolution to honor the ExplorAVision Awards Program and to encourage more students to participate in this innovative national student science competition.

This program, sponsored by Toshiba and administered by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), is the largest K-12 student science competition in the world. Working in teams of 3 or 4 with a teacher-advisor, students use their imaginations to envision a form of technology 20 years from now, and compete by sharing their vision through written descriptions and story boards.

ExplorAVision is truly an innovative program that energizes students with a desire to learn and increases their interest in the world of science. We are pleased to see the role this competition takes in developing students' science skills to meet the challenges of the future. We commend the efforts NSTA and Toshiba put into making the competition meaningful and beneficial to the students.

On June 4, more than 40 students came to our Nation's capital to receive top honors in the 1999 ExplorAVision Awards. We applaud the student winners for their hard work, creativity, and ability to function together as a team to explore innovative scientific work for the future. With their enthusiasm for learning and their commitment to scientific excellence, the future of our Nation is in good hands.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this resolution to support the goals of the ExplorAVision Awards Program, and to commend the student winners for their outstanding accomplishment.

#### MASAKOWSKI ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 7, 1999*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my long time friend, Monsignor John C. Masakowski, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his Ordination on June 4, 1999. It is my pleasure to have been invited to participate in this milestone celebration.

Monsignor Masakowski, or Father John as he is affectionately known to his parishioners, is the son of the late John and Stasia Gorney Masakowski. He was born in my hometown of Nanticoke in 1924 and educated in our local schools. Father John left the area to receive his degree in philosophy at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan and his degree in theology from SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, also in Orchard Lake. He was ordained at St. Peter's Cathedral of Scranton by the late Bishop William Hafey.

Father's first assignment was at St. Mary's parish in Swoyersville, where he served for ten years. Father John, along with the help of Judge Bernard Brominski, established the Assumpta Council of the Knights of Columbus and served as the Council's chaplain.

Father John served as secretary to Bishop Henry Klonowski at Scranton's Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary parish for the next several years before serving at St. Mary's Church in Wilkes-Barre. He was assigned as the administrator of St. Mary's Church in Wanamie and later as administrator of St. Joseph's Church in Hanover, where he oversaw the extensive remodeling and repairs of the church building.

In 1971, Father John became the twelfth pastor of his present church, Larksville's St. John the Baptist Church. Father John has had the church remodeled and refurbished during his tenure at St. John's and built a chapel in the parish cemetery in 1985. He reorganized the parish societies and reinstated the locally-famous parish picnic. Not long after he came to St. John's, he organized the construction of a grotto to Our Lady of the Pines. In 1983, he organized the Fourth Degree Assembly in honor of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Mr. Speaker, the beautiful St. John's Church is a landmark in Larksville due to the labors of the church's dedicated parish leader. His church and parish have always remained his top priority. On July 10, 1990, Father John was rewarded for his dedication with his designation as Monsignor Masakowski.

I have always considered Monsignor Masakowski to be a close family friend and have appreciated the warm welcome I always receive when visiting. Father John's extraordinary sensitivity was demonstrated to me when he offered me great comfort by participating in my mother's funeral mass. I will always be grateful for the warmth and kindness of that gesture.

As St. John the Baptist Church celebrates its Centennial Celebration this year, I am pleased and proud to join with all of my friends at the parish in congratulating Monsignor Masakowski on his milestone anniversary. I send my very best wishes to this beloved and respected man.