

the glory of the moment to the memory of his best friend from college and former coaching staff colleague, Dave Rybczyk. Dave past away in September 1999, but he spent 11 years working as assistant coach along side his dear friend Howie. What a moving moment when Howie let Dave's son and former Blue Devil's player, Mark, cut the final strands of the net after the Northeast Conference Championship game in honor of his father.

I had the pleasure of going to college with How Dickenman so I know first hand what a caring individual he is, and how passionate he is about coaching. He takes the legacy passed down to him by his father, a former basketball coach at Norwich Free Academy in Norwich, CT, very seriously. So much so, that he carried one of the bowties that his father used to wear as a coach in his pocket during Central's championship game.

Words of gratitude for this "dream season" must also be expressed to the team's assistant coaches Steve Pikiell, Patrick Sellers, and Anthony Latina. Central's men's basketball program truly encompasses the meaning of the word "team." The dedication and support of Steve, Patrick, and Anthony played a key role in helping these amazing players be their best.

And finally, the amazing players. Each one has helped make this very special moment happen for the school and they should be extremely proud of their accomplishment. Wherever life may take them upon graduation from Central Connecticut State University, the memories of this remarkable season will remain with them forever.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the most selfless act of one player in particular, Victor Payne, which was observed by University President Richard Judd.

A dedicated fan, who is a wheelchair-bound Central student, has attended every one of the team's games. And the team's Northeast Conference championship game in Trenton, NJ, was no exception. After the net was lowered, Victor Payne cut off a string and quietly, without fanfare walked over to this student and handed it to him. What a heart-rendering act of team spirit that embodies what the athletic program at Central Connecticut State University is all about. Victor Payne wasn't told to do that, he just knew in his heart it was the right thing to do.

We offer out most sincere congratulations to the Central Connecticut State University Men's Basketball team on their many successes this season. Thank you for the wonderful memories you have provided.

We wish the Blue Devils many years of continued success. Thanks for making two of your biggest fans very proud.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD HEALEY

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a gentleman from southern Florida who devoted his life to public service. State Representative Edward Healey, a former opponent and a valued colleague passed away last Wednesday.

Ed dedicated his professional and personal life to the people of Florida and as a state leg-

islator he served as one of the most senior members in the history of the Florida House. His contributions to the lives of all Floridians will continue to pay dividends for generations to come. As he was fond of saying, "A life of service is the only life worth living."

Originally from New York, Ed was awarded the Purple Heart for his actions in northern France during the invasion of Normandy. He moved to Florida in 1957 and quickly became involved in public service. Never one to grandstand, Mr. Healey was a true statesman, following his convictions and transcending political wrangling.

Long before ethics and campaign finance reform became buzz words in elections, Ed Healey was an advocate of good government. He worked to build the infrastructure of Florida through a solid knowledge of transportation issues and his work on the Joint Management Committee. He was known as one of the hardest working members in Tallahassee.

He is the epitome of a gentleman. As a former opponent in state politics, I can say he was always a true gentleman and a fair competitor. Ed was a person that would reach out to people whether you agreed with his views or not and was as comfortable meeting with people in Dunkin Donuts as he was at the Breakers. He will be truly missed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Florida, I would like to say thank you to Mr. Healey.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000 which will set us on the course of reaching the commitment the U.S. Congress made 24 years ago to children and families with special education needs. That commitment was to provide children with disabilities access to a quality public education and contribute 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure to assist States and local school districts with the excess costs of educating such children.

Unfortunately, we have failed to fully meet this commitment. Nevertheless, over the past four fiscal years (fiscal year 1997, fiscal year 1998, fiscal year 1999, and fiscal year 2000), we have fought for and achieved a dramatic \$2.6 billion funding increase for IDEA. This is a 115 percent increase in the Federal share for Part B of IDEA. However, this amounts to only 12.6 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure to assist with the excess expenses of educating children with disabilities.

Failing to meet our full commitment contradicts the goal of ensuring that children with disabilities receive a quality education.

The Congressional Research Service estimates that over \$15 billion would be needed to fully fund Part B of IDEA. The fiscal year 2000 appropriation for Part B was \$4.9 billion, leaving States and local school districts with an unfunded mandate of more than \$10 billion.

The bill I am introducing today sets a schedule to meet the 40 percent commitment by the year 2010. While many of us believe we

should already be paying our fair share, this bill will authorize increases of \$2 billion each year to ensure that our commitment becomes a reality in 10 years.

This Congress overwhelmingly passed a resolution stating that our highest education funding priority should be fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I think that before we create new programs out of Washington, the Congress needs to ensure that the Federal Government lives up to the promises it made to the students, parents, and schools over two decades ago. If we had followed that commitment, local school districts would have the funds necessary to build new schools, hire new teachers, reduce class size and buy more computers. All new programs that the Administration has promoted over the last several years without funding the promise we made in 1975.

In my district, the York City School District receives \$363,557. If IDEA were fully funded, this school district would receive \$1,440,000, an increase of \$1,080,000. The York City School District currently spends \$6.4 million each year on special education services, which represents about 16 percent of its total budget. The Federal contribution is currently only 5.7 percent of this.

If the Federal Government paid the promised 40 percent for special education, York City would have approximately \$1.1 million in additional funds to spend on other pressing educational needs. While \$1.1 million may not sound like a lot of money, I can assure you that in a school district like York City, this represents a significant source of funds.

Just 3 years ago, Congress and the administration worked together in a true bipartisan fashion to reauthorize IDEA so those children with special needs can have more options and services. It is my hope that we can continue that bipartisan work to fully fund the IDEA and finally make good on our commitment.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELLE-SCOTT COMMITTEE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the Belle-Scott Committee of Belleville and Scott Air Force Base, IL.

The Belle-Scott Committee evolved from the "Belleville Plan" which was created in 1950 by then Belleville mayor, H.V. Calhoun, Maj. Gen. Robert Harper, commander of the Air Training Command at Scott Air Force Base and Col. George W. Pardy, Scott's commanding officer.

The "Belleville Plan" was announced at the First "G.I. Pal Dinner" which was held on November 29, 1950, at the U.S.O. Canteen in Belleville, IL. This committee, which has been in continuous existence since that time, offers a direct means by which the two communities, military and civilian, work together to promote matters of mutual interest.

Military and civilian representatives meet on a monthly basis to discuss cooperative social, recreational and cultural efforts between Scott Air Force Base and the city of Belleville, IL.

The group works toward more cooperative active participation in religious and educational programs and also fosters a closer working relationships between both Belleville and Scott's governmental operations.

The Belle-Scott Committee arose from the need to address community and base relationships in the late 40's and early 50's. Media reports at that time, which indicated that local military personnel were treated as second class citizens, paying higher prices than normal and unable to secure appropriate housing opportunities were reasons that the Belle-Scott Committee came into existence.

Since then, the Belle-Scott Committee has received national recognition. It was featured on the CBS Radio Network's "The People's Act" series in March 1952, and at least 10 nationally circulated magazines have published special features to list their achievements. In addition, newspapers throughout the country have also published articles dealing with the work of the committee. Several other air force bases and their host communities are using "Belle-Scott" as a guide in developing their efforts. The committee's research leads them to believe that they are the oldest military/community cooperation committee in continuous existence at any U.S. military installation.

This year will be the 50th anniversary of the first "G.I. Pal Dinner" now known as the "Belle-Scott Enlisted Dinner." The event brings more than 150 civilians, 50 officers from Scott Air Force Base and more than 100 enlisted guests. While the reasons for the formation of this committee had initially to do with civilian-military cooperation, it is the solving of these problems by persons both from the Base and from the city and the 50 years of continuous good relationships fostered by the Belle-Scott Committee that we now look to with pride.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of the Belle-Scott Committee and for the assistance it provides in fostering the support of our civic and military personnel.

MEDICARE BOARD: BAD IDEA NO. 4

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, some people are proposing legislation, such as S. 1895, that would turn Medicare over to a 7-person board and noncivil service staff.

Bad idea.

For the last 3 days I've entered in the RECORD portions of Congressional Research Service memos describing the administrative problems such a board could create.

I would like to submit in full the following footnote from the CRS memo that quotes the National Academy of Public Administration's warning about boards:

The National Academy of Public Administration is on record as being opposed to boards of directors for most corporate bodies.

We believe that this arrangement, borrowed from the private corporation model, has more drawbacks than advantages and that in most cases the governing board would be better replaced by an advisory board and the corporation managed by an ad-

ministrative with fully executive powers. A governing board may cut or confuse the normal lines of authority from the President or departmental secretary to the corporation's chief executive officer. With an advisory board, the secretary's authority to give that officer policy instruction is clear, as is the officer's right to report directly to the secretary and to work out any exemptions from or qualifications of administration or departmental policies and practices which the corporation requires.—National Academy of Public Administration, NAPA Report on Government Corporations, vol. 1 (Washington: NAPA, 1981), pp. 31-32.

CASTELLINO HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a close personal friend and devoted public servant, Frank Castellino, upon the occasion of his retirement. Frank will be honored by his friends and colleagues on March 23rd, and I am honored to have been asked to participate in this event. Frank Castellino is an institution in Luzerne County Courthouse, and his daily presence will be missed by everyone who has become so accustomed to his warmth and genuine concern for people.

Frank Castellino began his public service as a clerk in the Luzerne County Recorder of Deeds office in 1940. In 1968 he was elected Recorder of Deeds and proceeded to serve eight consecutive terms. No matter how busy he was, Frank always had time to get personally involved in solving people's problems.

I first came to know Frank Castellino when I was a boy tagging along with father as he visited the Recorder of Deeds office in his law practice. Later I grew to know him as the father of one of my classmates at Dickinson School of Law. Once I began my own practice of law, I frequently took advantage of his considerable expertise and helpfulness.

A lifelong resident of Pittston, Frank also served as Alderman from 1946 to 1966. He is a member and past president of the Pittston Lions Club and the Luzerne County Columbus League, which erected the Columbus memorial in Pittston. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Under Frank's leadership, the Luzerne County Recorder of Deeds office was the first in the state to computerize its records.

Mr. Speaker, the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners paid a fitting tribute to Frank when they praised him as a "gracious and good-natured gentleman, who carried out his professional and personal responsibilities with a zeal many of us would envy, and whose broad community impact can never be fully measured."

I am pleased and proud to join with the Commissioners in thanking Frank Castellino for his years of dedicated service to Luzerne County and commending him on a "job well done." I send my sincere best wishes for a happy, healthy and productive retirement.

BENIN MAKES PROGRESS IN DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to the West African nation of Benin and its President, Mathieu Kerekou. This country's story is a remarkable one, and an encouraging one. Under President Kerekou's leadership in the 1970s and 1980s, Benin made the difficult transition from authoritarian rule to democracy. President Kerekou won the country's second free election in 1996, an election which our Department of State called "generally free and fair"—strong praise for a country on this continent where democracy has suffered many setbacks in recent years. President Kerekou succeeded the former president in a peaceful transition of power.

The State Department's 1999 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices notes that President Kerekou "continued the civilian, democratic rule begun in the 1990-91 constitutional process." The report also notes that the government has generally respected the human rights of its citizens. The Constitutional Court has shown its independence of the government, and when the court recently ruled provisions of a decentralization law unconstitutional, the legislature and the President accepted this decision.

Benin is a small country and a poor one, but the Kerekou government has taken positive steps to strengthen its economy through privatizing state-owned enterprises and deregulating the economy. Under President Kerekou's leadership, Benin has been peaceful and stable.

Mr. Speaker, Benin has been willing to take courageous foreign policy decisions that run counter to generally accepted practice. The Government of Benin recently announced that it plans to open an embassy in Israel's capital city of Jerusalem. Benin becomes just the third country to establish an embassy in Israel's capital, after Costa Rica and El Salvador. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the time when the United States will join these three countries and move our embassy in Israel to Jerusalem as mandated by the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me paying tribute to the nation of Benin and its President, Mathieu Kerekou.

HONORING THE GOOD SHEPHERD REHABILITATION FACILITY VOLUNTEERS

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a group of my constituents who do volunteer work helping others in my district. Over 300 volunteers at the Good Shepherd rehabilitation facility recently received Raker Memorial Awards for their service. These volunteers contributed over 38,000 hours of service in 1999, helping to improve the lives of thousands of people in the community. From assisting residents with their chores to inspiring