

untimely death of his mother landed him and his brothers in an orphanage while his father went off to war.

You may not know that he had enlisted in the Marine Corps and become a champion boxer before he was tragically stricken with polio and collapsed before a fight at the height of his career.

You may not know how he overcame his debilitating illness to raise four daughters as a single parent after their young mother succumbed to leukemia; how he fought against appalling prevailing attitudes toward the disabled to be able to attend college, ultimately earning a masters degree; how he made a difference to hundreds of young students as a high school history teacher; how he then served his community as a local magistrate before he joined me in coming to Washington to help the people of Pennsylvania in yet another capacity.

He has been fighting for years to eradicate institutional discrimination against the disabled. Whether it involves helping a single long-suffering Veteran to obtain needed rehabilitation services and regain self-sufficiency or developing partnerships with employers and vocational rehabilitation facilities to help employ people with special needs, he has been a tireless advocate for "leveling the playing field" for the economic, as well as the physically, disadvantaged.

His passionate advocacy for 'doing the right thing' and his blunt, no-nonsense demeanor have earned him a somewhat fearsome reputation befitting a champion prizefighter. They've coined an expression in Washington. It is known as being "Carmenized," and they say you certainly know when it has happened to you. Yet to those who know him best he is a gentle soul with an enormous heart of gold.

I realize such achievements and praise are usually only associated with high-profile public servants. Carmen has never been high-profile. A true product of the blue-collar hardscrabble steel and coal regions of Pennsylvania from which he hails, he has set about his extraordinary life with near-Biblical humility. He has never once lost sight of his guiding belief that his purpose in life is to serve others and that, although life is certainly not always fair, everyone deserves fair treatment by their government as well as their fellow man.

Again, I am glad to be able to share the attached article with my colleagues and submit it for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that history will remember the life and work of this consummate public servant as staff to the United States Congress.

[From the Eagle, June 9, 2000]

POLIO CAN'T KEEP '53 GRAD DOWN—CARMEN SCIALABBA WINS PRESTIGIOUS BHS AWARD
(By Shari Kitzmiller)

BUTLER TWP—Base your life on what you can do for other people, not what they can do for you.

That's the doctrine that has gotten Butler alumnus Carmen Scialabba where he is today.

It's also the attitude that has earned him a prestigious award from his high school alma mater.

Scialabba was named the 21st recipient of the Butler School District Distinguished Graduate Award during commencement ceremonies Wednesday night.

He is a 1953 graduate of the school.

High school Principal Dale Lumley said recipients are not invited to attend commence-

ment because it usually is too hard for those who no longer live in the Butler area to guarantee they can make it.

Winners are notified after the announcement is made public.

A committee of students picked Scialabba from more than 50 nominees.

Scialabba lives in Silver Spring, Md., with his second wife.

Scialabba's first wife, Janice Ann Collins, died in 1979. She also was a Butler graduate.

Receiving the award is an honor, he said, because a teacher he admired—Margaret Puff—also won the award in 1986.

Puff was a geography teacher in the district who sparked Scialabba's interest in the subject, he said.

"Because of her, I got my master's in geography," he said.

Since that time, Scialabba has led a busy life.

A current associate staff member for the U.S. House of Representatives and a top aide to U.S. Rep. John Murtha of Johnstown, Scialabba started his career in the House in 1975.

Prior to that time, he served as a district magistrate in Johnstown. He also was a junior high history teacher in the Johnstown public school system.

A former Marine, Scialabba once thought he was destined for a professional boxing career.

In 1956 he represented the U.S. Marine Corps in the Southwest Olympic Trial. In 1959, he gained the ALL U.S. Marine Corps Lightweight Boxing Champion title and represented the Corps in the Pan American trials.

He began his professional boxing career when he left the Marines and was named Ring Magazine's Prospect of the Month in August 1960.

His career was cut short just a year later, however, when he was diagnosed with polio. The illness left him paralyzed from the waist down.

But he didn't let his paralysis keep him from achieving his goals. Told he would never walk again, he fought against medical odds and learned to walk with leg braces.

That was just the start of his fight for the rights of the disabled.

Scialabba has taken his personal experience and used it to help others in similar situations.

He is working to get rewarding jobs for Americans who currently are receiving disability compensation because they have been unable to get employment.

"I want to form a non-profit group to talk to industry people to convince them it's wise to hire people with disabilities," Scialabba said, "I have a few members already in place. We're getting there, but we're not quite there yet."

He also has worked with engineers at Penn State University to create what he affectionately calls the "Lazy Carmen."

The invention, which he uses in this office at work, allows him to turn 360 degrees in his wheelchair without having to do it manually.

"It takes a lot of effort to turn this thing around," Scialabba said of his wheelchair. "Lazy Carmen" saves a lot of energy and a lot of time."

More information on the invention can be found on Penn State's Web site at www.psu.edu.

Scialabba said the invention is not yet ready to market, but he is looking for a manufacturer for the product.

Aside from his desire to help the disabled, Scialabba has some advice for the graduating class at Butler High School.

"This may sound kind of corny, but work awful hard," he said.

He also encourages the graduates to help those who can't help themselves because it builds good character.

"I've tried to frame my life around what I can do for other people, not what they can do for me," Scialabba said.

Also stay close to your family, he said, no matter where you life takes you.

Scialabba, who said his brother Nick helped him get into college, is still an important part of his life.

Nick and another brother, Anthony, still live in Butler.

CARMEN SCIALABBA

WHAT: 2000 Butler School District Distinguished Graduate Award recipient.

EDUCATION: 1953 Butler High School graduate; 1966 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown; 1965 history department scholar; master's degree in the arts from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

ORGANIZATIONS: Formed the Johnstown Boxing Club.

EXTRA DUTIES: Serves on the Board of Directors for the Governor's Council for the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; Operations and Planning Board member; New Partnerships Task Force member for the Hiram G. Andrews Center in Johnstown; Penn State University Review Board of the Institute for Non-Lethal Defense Technology; the City Planning Commission of Johnstown; and the Governor's Council for the Physically Handicapped.

AWARDS AND HONORS: 1974 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Handicapped Person of the Year; 1975 inductee to the Butler Area Sports Hall of Fame; National Guard Ben Franklin Award for dedicated service to Pennsylvania; National Guard Patrick Henry Award for distinguished patriotic service.

HONORING MICHAEL E. MATZNICK
FROM THE SIXTH DISTRICT OF
NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, with health care reform taking the congressional stage once again, I would like to recognize a constituent and friend of mine from the Sixth District of North Carolina, who will be a key player in the debate. We are proud to announce that a resident of the Sixth District was recently selected as the new president of the National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU).

Mr. Michael E. Matznick has sworn in as NAHU's president for the 2000–2001 term by Alan Katz, the outgoing president. Michael has been a member of NAHU since 1980. He has served as president of the North Carolina state chapter of NAHU and received its distinguished service award. Michael joined NAHU's board as the vice president of the Southeast region in 1996.

Michael is the president of Med/Flex Benefits Center, Inc., a firm founded in 1986 that specializes in individual and group health insurance, employee benefits plans and Section 125. He has a degree in business administration from Illinois State University, and lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, with his wife Carol and their two sons.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I would like to congratulate Michael Matznick for being selected for this national position. We wish him the best of luck

as he leads the National Association of Health Underwriters into the twenty first century.

GUAM'S YOUTH MONTH ISLAND LEADERSHIP DAY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, each year, Guam's Department of Education celebrates April as Youth Month with several activities, including an oratorical contest, a student exchange program, a school showcase, a youth conference, and the much-anticipated Island Leadership Day, during which students assume the roles of Guam's public, private, and military leaders for a day. In coordination with these sectors of our community, the activity gives middle- and high-school students the opportunity to play "boss" at participating offices and agencies. From senators and company accountants to military colonels and hospital nurses, selected students shadow such career men and women to experience an entire day's work.

On the morning of April 26, 2000, three high school students looking sharp and studious, ready to take on the challenge, walked in my office. They were Guam's student Washington Delegate William B. Jones, a senior from George Washington High School, Jonathan Pador, also a GW senior, who was my student District Director, and Madelene Marinas, a senior from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, who was my student Communications Director. Their eagerness—tempered by a not surprising bit of nervousness—took me back to my own high school days and to the very first Island Leadership Day, for which I earned the privilege to be a senator for a day.

After arriving at the legislative session hall on that day in 1964, I made a bee line for the desk of my hero, Senator Antonio B. Won Pat, who, in 1965, was elected as Guam's first delegate to Congress. In 1972, Congress recognized the Guam delegate and Mr. Won Pat served in that office until 1984. Perhaps without realizing it, I took my dreams a step further and began setting my goals on that first Island Leadership Day in 1964. To the extent that Island Leadership Day is intended to introduce and inspire students to leadership positions in the community, I am proud to say that I was among many over the years who were inspired.

With the enthusiastic support of Guam's public, private and military sectors, more than 300 students from nearly every public, private and DoDEA middle and high school took part in Island Leadership Day 2000. At the Office of the Governor, in the pre-existing official order of precedence, Student Lieutenant Governor Ellen Randall, an Academy of Our Lady of Guam senior, had the opportunity to double as the Acting Governor of Guam. Her student special assistant that day was Bishop Baumgartner Middle School student, Maya Lujan. Meanwhile, at the Guam Legislature, the Student Speaker, Lourena Yco, also of Bishop Baumgartner, was also Guam's Student Acting Lieutenant Governor. In all, thousands of Guam's students participated in the various activities of Youth Month, each planned and coordinated by student leaders

themselves. In particular, the Youth Month Central Planning Committee, was made up of students from Southern High School, specifically Cherika Chargualaf, president; Jermaine Alerta, vice president; Erwin Agar, secretary; Joseph Cruz, treasurer; and Angela Tamayo, activities coordinator. In having planned and executed a very impressive and successful schedule of varied events, our youth genuinely embodied in this year's Youth Month theme, "I Manhoben i Isla-ta, i Fuetsan i Tiempo-ta—The Youth of Our Island, the Strength of Our time."

Our youth are the stepping stones toward a bright future. Oftentimes we hear that children are our future. And indeed they are. Today they play our roles, but tomorrow those roles will be theirs. Seeing these success-bound students taking roles in the different career areas gives me a wonderful vision of Guam's future.

HONORING DR. R. DOUGLAS YAJKO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I consider it a personal privilege and honor to offer this tribute in acknowledgment of Dr. R. Douglas Yajko, an avid hunter and great humanitarian. Recently, Dr. Yajko was recognized by the Safari Club International as the recipient of the highest award given to hunters, the Hunting Hall of Fame Award. The award is given to a member of the SCI who has had noteworthy contributions to the organizations.

Dr. Yajko has spent a lifetime working on behalf of hunters from around the world. His contributions to the hunting community have helped hunters everywhere educate the public about the nuances of hunting and wildlife. Dr. Yajko has participated in an array of associations, including the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, International Sheep Hunters Association, Boone and Crockett Club, and the National Rifle Association. In addition, the good doctor founded the SCI's Upper Colorado River Chapter in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, and served as president for five years. Dr. Yajko has been an avid hunter since his early childhood and has traveled to six continents in which he has successfully taken over 16 dozen distinct big game animals, many of which qualified as SCI records for trophy animals.

Although Dr. Yajko hunting exploits are formidable, his contributions to the medical community are probably more impressive. A general, vascular and thoracic surgeon, Dr. Yajko has been a committed surgeon in my district for more than 25 years, and has been published in various medical journals during that time.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you and congratulations to Dr. Yajko for his life of service and success. Colorado is proud—and fortunate—to call him its own.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, last night I missed two votes on procedural motions numbered 255 and 256. I was attending my son's graduation from high school. If present, I would have voted "aye" on both motions.

IN HONOR OF LARRY AND BARBARA MEISTER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Larry and Barbara Meister, whose many years of volunteer service to the people of Ventura County, CA, in my district, will be recognized this weekend at the Interface Children Family Services' Tribute Dinner.

Larry and Barbara Meister have dedicated their lives to the values of education, charity, and compassion and have served as role models by leading and supporting many charitable causes.

Some of the organizations that have benefited from their dedication are Interface, Ventura Education Partnership, Jewish Family Service, Casa Pacifica, Rubicon Theatre Company, New West Symphony, Ventura Boys & Girls Club, Foster Library, and several local hospitals.

Through their commitment to their Jewish Heritage, Larry and Barbara Meister have received Temple Beth Torah's highest honor. The Meister Scholarship Fund—Youth Trip to Israel has sent 18 students to Israel in the past 13 years.

The social hall at Temple Beth Torah, the boardroom at Casa Pacifica, and the lobby at the Rubicon Theatre Company have been named in honor of Barbara and Larry Meister.

Barbara Meister has served on the board of Casa Pacifica and is a cofounder of its Angels program. She also has served on the boards of Community Memorial Healthcare Foundation and United Jewish Appeal Women's Division. She was chair of the Rubicon Theatre Company's Education Outreach Program. She is a member of Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, the National Women's Political Caucus, and the Ventura County Community Foundation's Women's Legacy Fund Grants Advisory Committee. The latter organization recently established the Barbara Meister Fund for Women.

Larry Meister is a successful business leader as President and CEO of Barber Ford/Volkswagen/Isuzu and Barber Recreation Vehicles. He has received the Ford Distinguished Achievement Award for 32 years and the North American Customer Satisfaction Award for the past 5 years. He was recently awarded the prestigious President's Award from Ford Motor Co. for the second time. He has also supported a host of charitable organizations' events.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a strong supporter of Interface Children Family Services for more than 20 years. The work of the organization