

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HIGH  
NOON ROTARY CLUB OF DURANGO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the High Noon Rotary Club, an organization that has selflessly worked towards the creation of the new Rotary Youth Park Amphitheater in Durango, Colorado. The work of President Petra Lyon, Jeff Brown and the Board of Directors of the High Noon Rotary Club is responsible for many welcomed additions to the Durango community, not least of which is this new Rotary Youth Park which is to be dedicated this week.

The creation of this Rotary Youth Park has been several years in the making, beginning as the High Noon Rotary Club quickly capitalized on the idea of building a youth park for the children of Durango. By organizing a string of meetings with the City of Durango Parks and Recreation Department director Cathy Metz in the summer of 1999, the first steps were taken towards the reality of a new youth park. In November of that year it was decided that the plans for the Rotary Youth Park would be pursued along with the possibility of several other outdoor facilities, which would be located close to the new Durango Community Recreation Center. The fact that this dream has become reality is a testament to the commitment and vision, which the entire High Noon Rotary Club has for the entire Durango community. Funds from the annual High Noon Rotary Golf Tournament were collected over a three-year period and in January of 2000 the board committed a substantial check for the construction of the Rotary Youth Park.

Since its founding on May 1, 1979, the High Noon Rotary Club has shown an unmatched passion for the children of Durango. After 23 years, the club's service remains focused on projects that support youth while also beautifying the Durango community. The Durango Rotary Club has created numerous valuable public parks and meeting spaces, including the original High Noon Rotary Park in downtown Durango and the Durango Animas River Trail. Furthermore, over the years the High Noon Rotary Club has also been responsible for constructing the new soccer fields at the Animas Valley School.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the opening of the new Rotary Youth Park Amphitheater and to applaud the hard work and dedication displayed by the High Noon Rotary Club. The Rotary is an invaluable part of the Durango community and their commitment to the youth of Durango serves as an inspiration to us all. My appreciation goes to the High Noon Rotary Club for all their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE KLONNE

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Coach Steve Klonne of Cincinnati, Ohio. For 19 years,

Coach Klonne served as the Head Coach of the Moeller High School Fighting Crusaders football team. He provided a total 23 years of leadership and guidance to the Moeller family. For his dedication to the students of Moeller and constant pursuit of excellence, Mr. Speaker, the United States Congress commends Coach Klonne and wishes him continued success.

Klonne's teams went 169–48 and won state titles in 1982 and 1985. In 2001, Klonne's final season at Moeller, the team finished 9–2. In 1982 USA Today named Coach Klonne the nation's "Coach of the Year" based upon his achievement and exemplary leadership.

Throughout Coach Klonne's career, he has been an inspiration, always challenging his players to strive for excellence. He taught the men of Moeller to understand no goal is beyond their reach.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud graduate of Moeller High School, a member of the Class of 1980. During the late 1970's, I was fortunate to play for Coach Klonne. At that time, he was an assistant coach, and I was a split end on the offensive line. I remember the long grueling practices and the endless drills. I will never forget the thrill of winning the 1979 Ohio state championship and the excitement of learning our team was ranked first in the nation. Coach Klonne taught us how to play as a team, to respect each other and to love the game of football, but most of all, he showed us, by example, how to be champions. Our success was due, in part, to the character lessons we learned from Coach Klonne.

I remember most vividly the passionate delivery of a spontaneous lecture on life and morality. Coach Klonne's sage observations and advice to a room full of spellbound young men are words none of us are likely to forget. In fact they have guided me from that moment on. The team was heading into the playoffs for the Ohio State Championship and we were one day away from facing our most formidable opponent.

The coaching staff gathered all the senior players in the old Bill Clark weight-training shed. It was cold and raining outside and the small room barely held us all. I remember teammates sitting on the floor, on the edge of benches, and some could only stand. I sat on a pile of weights.

Instead of the usual pre-game pep talk and strategy session, one-by-one, the coaches addressed us as young men who, through four years of hard work, discipline, and adversity, had become close friends and teammates. Finally, it was Coach Klonne's turn. In a tone we had never heard from him previously, Coach Klonne spoke to us as a father. He reminded us that football was just a sport, but explained to us how a team sport and a Marianist education could provide important lessons upon which we could rely for the rest of our lives—if only we were wise enough to listen and take full advantage of them.

He spoke about courage, honor, honesty, trustworthiness, morality, and most essential of all, faith in God and the importance of living as disciples of Jesus Christ. "Sometimes you will veer from the path to glory," he said. "But times like these combined with unyielding faith in God will always bring you back, and that's why I'm proud of you all and what you have become. As men, you're the finest." That speech has stuck with me for 23 years and is part of the reason I'm in Congress right now.

I learned how to win at Moeller. Steve Klonne was my coach.

Moments like these, and teachers Mr. Klonne are the essence of the Moeller tradition—a tradition that has inspired thousands of students, graduates, and families.

Steve Klonne is a great teacher. He is a man of high honor and profound dignity. A great coach at Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, Steve Klonne is also a truly great American. He not only makes his community proud, he has enriched the lives of countless students, including me, and he continues to do so today. He is first class, all the way.

I ask the House to join me in extending its warmest congratulations and commendation to Coach Steve Klonne.

HONORING WILLIAM FITZGERALD  
SONNTAG AND THE ARC OF A  
SPECIAL EDUCATION

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. William Fitzgerald Sonntag, upon the completion of the Fairfax County Public School's special education program.

On June 17, 2002, Bill Sonntag will join his friends in the Class of 2002 to take part in commencement. It will be a very proud day for the Sonntags and all families of graduating seniors. Similar ceremonies will be taking place in thousands of communities throughout the Nation this month. To be sure, each event will be a milestone marking the tangible achievements of each student's personal and academic development, while symbolizing the threshold to adulthood and quest toward one's highest potential in life.

Bill is a most remarkable young man with autism and mental retardation whose gentle determined spirit has defied the limits of these disabilities which have been present since his birth in Virginia on May 29, 1980. Throughout a public school education, which began in the pre-school program at Prince William County's Ann Ludwig School in 1983, Bill has been guided, supported, and encouraged by a loving family and scores of truly dedicated teachers, classroom aides, occupational and speech therapists, school staff members, custodians, bus drivers and bus aides, School Age Child Care staff, and vocational and transition counselors.

During the arc of his special education in Prince William and Fairfax County Public Schools, many genuinely kind and thoughtful teachers and mainstream students have gone out of their way to include Bill and his classmates in the social fabric of student life beyond the walls of their classroom. The simple things that some students might take for granted—recognizing each other in the hall, eating together at lunch, enjoying the camaraderie in "PE" class, sitting together at assemblies, going on field trips, attending a dance, listening to music, and appreciating the everyday gestures of friendship—have been as key to Bill's special education as they have been for those mainstream students who have undoubtedly learned much about their own character. The obvious enthusiasm Bill displayed

each day in raising the American flag over Cooper Middle School several years ago, still offers a lasting example of pride in school and love of country for us all.

In spite of many communications challenges, Bill and his special education classmates offer a unique and engaging ability to inspire people of all ages to see past the disabilities and to focus on each individual's enormous value and potential. Everywhere he travels in the course of a day, he teaches people to smile with him rather than to stare at the circumstances of his disabilities. In this respect, the most encouraging aspect of Bill's personal academic achievement can best be seen in those whom he has educated and influenced along the way.

In Bill's case, commencement marks more than just the beginning of his transition to a productive and promising supported-employment opportunity secured through the coordinated efforts of the Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, and the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services. It also marks the opportunity for many other Fairfax County Public School graduates to remember the lessons they learned from one of their classmates and apply them beyond the walls of the school—to seize those moments ahead in which they can continue to widen the banks of the mainstream, raise the standards of inclusion and accessibility, and improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to Bill Sonntag, the 2002 class of Langley High School, the students, teachers and countless others who have helped to re-define his potential throughout the arc of his special education and their continuing opportunity to make a difference and strengthen the general welfare of our Nation, as they embark on life's great journey. I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding this remarkable achievement.

IN HONOR OF MARTIN FLEMING

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as the family and friends of Martin Fleming gather together at memorial services on June 20, 2002, they will honor the life of an Irish American who touched the lives of so many. Martin passed away on June 16, 2002, and is survived by his wife, Ruby Fleming, and his daughter, Ann Kathleen.

Martin Fleming was a prominent leader for Irish Americans in the Detroit area for the past sixty years. He was born July 28, 1912 in Galway City, Ireland. At the age of sixteen, Martin emigrated to Michigan and settled in Dearborn, where he began his lifelong service to the Irish American community.

Martin quickly found an organization to call home, when he joined the Gaelic League of Detroit. He served as President of the Gaelic League for thirteen terms, from 1938 to 1967. During this tenure, he helped build and

strengthen the Irish American community in Michigan. Through his hard work and dedication, he managed to bring prominent Irish leaders and officials to Detroit, including Eamon DeValera, who later became the President of Ireland.

Martin's service to the Irish American community continued, as he founded the United Irish Societies (U.I.S.) in 1959, served as president of the U.I.S. for eight terms, and returned the Saint Patrick's parade to Detroit. He was also a supporter and friend to myself and other elected officials and leaders of the Democratic party. His work and guidance on issues important to the Irish American community served as an inspiration to us all.

Those who worked closely with Martin considered him the "godfather" of the Detroit Irish community. He was always there to help, serve, and better the Irish American community for generations to come. When asked what he would say to young Irish Americans today, he responded: "I would tell them they should study Irish history and find out where their ancestors came from—and they should become involved and do what they can to help the Irish cause along."

His mark on the City of Detroit and Irish Americans will always be remembered. He will truly be missed. I invite my colleagues to please join me in paying tribute to one of the most influential Irish Americans of Michigan, Martin Fleming, and saluting him for his exemplary years of care and service.

TRIBUTE TO LIONEL JAY  
SILVERFIELD

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American citizen, and I am proud to recognize Lionel Jay Silverfield in the United States Congress for his invaluable service to Arkansas and our nation.

Lionel Silverfield was born July 6, 1932 in Memphis, Tennessee, but considers himself a lifelong resident of Osceola, Arkansas. He studied at the University of Alabama and nobly served his country in the United States Army, where he rose to the rank of 1st Lieutenant. On July 28, 1958, Lionel married Lenora Pevsner of Oklahoma City. The couple has a son, Martin Silverfield, two daughters, Debbie Scheinberg and Elise May and a grandson, Matthew May.

Lionel enjoyed a successful career as a business leader in Osceola. He was the owner and president of Silverfield's Department Store which closed in March 1995 after 75 years in downtown Osceola. He also served on the local Chamber of Commerce for 36 years, including two stints as Vice President. The city of Osceola proclaimed March 15, 1995 Lionel Silverfield Day in Osceola for his leadership in the local business community.

In addition, Lionel has been a committed public servant and a leader in a variety of community groups. He served on the Osceola Planning Commission for 40 years and is a founding board member of the Riverlawn

Country Club. He maintains a 43-year perfect attendance record in Kiwanis International and was recognized for his leadership with the George F. Hixson Award by Kiwanis International in 1999.

The state of Arkansas is a better place because of Lionel Silverfield, and I am proud to call him my friend. On behalf of the Congress, I extend congratulations and best wishes to this great Arkansan on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE  
PIERRE S. DU PONT IV

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today and pay tribute to a man to whom Delaware owes much gratitude—the Honorable Pierre S. du Pont IV, known to all of us as Pete.

Throughout his years in public office, Pete du Pont has become known as one of the most clear and concise political thinkers, not only in Delaware but across the entire Nation. His commentaries and opinions have been highly regarded as the industry's best. But it is his commitment to the State of Delaware that has prompted my remarks in front of this body today.

First elected into public office in 1968 as a member of the Delaware General Assembly, Pete du Pont was recognized for his abilities and elected two years later to represent Delaware as its lone member of the United States House of Representatives. Serving for six years from 1970 to 1976, Pete du Pont was picked by Time Magazine as one of "200 Faces for the Future".

After his terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Pete returned to serve as Governor of Delaware. Facing a near bankrupt government, then Governor Pete du Pont was able to pass legislation that lowered taxes, balanced the State's budget, and boosted educational programs across the State. Welcoming large banks inside our borders, his tax laws helped to reestablish Delaware's financial strength, and helped the State's economy prosper. Re-elected in 1980, Pete's eight years as Governor ended as his Presidential campaign began.

Running for the Republican nomination during the 1988 Presidential Campaign, Gov. du Pont confronted America with a no-nonsense attitude on education and retirement; his views heralded as both honest and principled.

As an advisor to governments here and abroad, Pete du Pont has proven himself as one of America's prolific politicians. Recognized as a first-class commentator, and respected as a National policy columnist, he still serves as a Director of Wilmington's prestigious Richards Layton & Finger law firm, editor of IntellectualCapital.com, and as a guest on many radio and television programs.

A stalwart hero to those who desire clarity in their politics, Pete du Pont's dedication to government and education throughout the years is extraordinary, and I salute him for his years of service to both Delaware and the Nation.