

TRIBUTE TO FR. JOSEPH P.
TEDESCO

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, one of our Lord's most faithful servants is Fr. Joseph P. Tedesco, S.M. M.Div., M.A., PCC. I rise today to commend Fr. Tedesco for his many years of service as a teacher, scholar, priest and community leader.

Born in Connellsville, Pennsylvania in 1952, Joseph P. Tedesco professed first vows as a Marianist in 1971 and was later ordained a Catholic priest in 1983. He was a teacher and guidance counselor at Moeller High School in Cincinnati, Ohio as well as moderator of the very successful Lacrosse team. He was also a teacher and counselor at St. Joseph High School in Cleveland, Ohio and Chaminade-Julienne High School in Dayton.

Tedesco received a Masters in Community and Agency Counseling from John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio. Joseph Tedesco has also completed a post Masters certificate in Clinical Counseling, also from John Carroll. He joined the University of Dayton faculty in 1996 teaching courses in Theories of Personality, Tests and Measurements, Adult Development and Aging, and Child Psychology.

Professor Tedesco is an ordained member of the Society of Mary and he serves as the Novice Master of the Marianist Province of the U.S. He holds Masters degrees in Divinity from Toronto School of Theology and Applied Spirituality from the University of San Francisco. Professor Tedesco is a member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Social Services of Miami Valley serving as co-director of programs and community services.

He is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in the State of Ohio. He has served as a child and adolescent therapist since 1983 and presently is in private practice. His special areas of study include addictions, sexual identity, adult development and aging, psychology of religion and adolescent psychopathology.

Mr. Speaker, Fr. Tedesco was one of my high school teachers and I owe him much for his instruction, guidance, and direction. Tedesco loves his students and he thrives on the chance to appear before classrooms to develop his pupils and help them succeed.

Fr. Tedesco also married my wife and me. Through the marriage preparation process, I came to fully appreciate Fr. Tedesco's passion for his ministry and his role in the Church. He is a truly holy man—one who lives his faith and inspires others to know Jesus Christ.

Among his students, friends and colleagues, Joseph Tedesco is loved and admired. He has a warm countenance and an engaging delivery. He has strengthened the minds and grown the hearts of all those who have received his lectures, homilies, and advice. He is a great American.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have been a student of Fr. Tedesco, and honored by his blessing upon my family. I am grateful for the opportunity, as a member of the United States Congress, to tell our colleagues in the House about the many achievements and contributions of this remarkable man.

I ask the House to join me in extending its heartiest congratulations and commendation to

Fr. Joseph Tedesco for his many years of academic excellence and Christian charity. May God continue to bless him, his ministry, and all that he loves.

HONORING JOYCE PROLER
SCHECHTER AND THE SEVEN
ACRES JEWISH GERIATRIC CEN-
TER

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joyce Proler Schechter who will be honored by the Seven Acres Jewish Geriatric Center with its 2002 Spirit of Life Award on October 22, 2002.

Joyce Schechter has spent a lifetime supporting and working for charitable causes and is described by Cylvia Wolff, chair of the Seven Acres award luncheon, as a "person who has given tirelessly of her time and energy to make the world a better place to live."

A native Houstonian, Joyce married Arthur Schechter in 1965, and they have two children, Leslie and Jennifer, and five grandchildren. Prior to Arthur's appointment to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Bahamas in 1998, Joyce was a successful businesswoman, and was listed among "Who's Who in Texas."

A member of Seven Acres' Board of Directors since 1993, Joyce Schechter continues to contribute her time and talents, serving as Vice-President of Resident Services, Administrative Services, and Financial Services. In addition, she has served as co-chair of the Development Committee and has been involved in every fundraising event, including serving as chairman of the 2002 Annual Spring Gala.

Through her good work, Joyce has touched the lives of Houstonians in countless ways. But most of all, she has helped ensure a high quality of life for the residents of Seven Acres. In recognition of her extraordinary service to Seven Acres, in 1999, Joyce received the prestigious Mitzvah Award.

Seven Acres began in 1943, when a small, determined group of men and women of the Jewish faith purchased a frame house on Branard Street in Houston. Their vision was to create a warm, friendly environment for elderly citizens. Originally Seven Acres provided a caring environment for just 14 seniors. As the concept and the need grew, there were milestone expansions. Today, Seven Acres provides the highest standards in adult day health care through the Wolfe Center and specialized geriatric care and services through its 290-bed residential facility. Funds raised by the awards luncheon will help provide financial aid and other benefits for the residents.

The annual Spirit of Life Award "celebrates and recognizes long-term community service performed with the highest standards of integrity. The exemplary individuals so honored have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and serve as role models of dedicated service on behalf of others. The award recipients are persons whose energy and community spirit have earned them the respect and admiration of all those touched by their accomplishments."

In addition to Joyce's work with Seven Acres, she has also tirelessly contributed her

time and resources to Congregation Beth Israel, serving on the endowment and art committees. Other organizations that have benefited from her involvement are the American Jewish Committee and the Holocaust Museum of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Joyce Proler Schechter for her unyielding commitment to the people of Houston and the residents of Seven Acres. Her passionate work on behalf of the Jewish community has set an example for generations. I applaud her leadership and service, and wish her continued success in the years to come.

RAMAPO COLLEGE INAUGURAL
ADDRESS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the following is the Inaugural Address of Dr. Rodney D. Smith, President of Ramapo College in New Jersey. I want to wish him and the entire community at Ramapo College a successful academic year.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS, MAY 2, 2002, OF RODNEY D. SMITH

"Whatever you vividly imagine, ardently desire, sincerely believe, and enthusiastically act upon . . . must inevitably come to pass!"—Paul J. Meyer.

Chairman Ramirez, Trustees, Ambassadors, Honorable Congresswoman Roukema, Honorable Governor McGreevey, other distinguished platform guests, Distinguished guests in the audience, Ramapo College colleagues, students, fellow college/University Presidents, delegates, family members, dear friends, ladies and gentlemen:

Today, standing on this beautiful campus of rolling hills . . . with stately evergreens surrounding a mixture of architectural centuries old beauty and 21st century ingenuity—I am exhilarated by the convergence of Ramapo's potential and its rich history.

Indeed, I am inspired by the challenges and magnitude of the charge of leading this most innovative of institutions into the future.

Often in life we find ourselves taking on challenges that both weigh heavily and strengthen us at the same time.

While they empower us, these challenges also require all the strength, creativity, skill, patience and sensitivities that make us who we are.

Today, I remember growing up on a small island, away from the U.S. mainland, in the Atlantic Ocean—where we took it for granted that we could fish whenever we wanted, swim where we wanted, and live wherever we wanted.

I remember the cool tropical breeze sweeping over the sea . . . as I looked out at the vast ocean where the sky met the sea—watching the sun sink deep into the water.

I remember wondering what was beyond those deep waters—I wondered about what future awaited beyond the horizon.

As we forge ahead in this new partnership, this strengthened relationship, we must look to the future as we reflect on where the College has been, the courses that were chosen, the choices made, and then move to establish a clear vision beyond the vast unknown oceans that lie ahead.

We must seek to understand the tides, the many currents, the uncharted seas.

We must appreciate the richness of the ocean and respect the unknowns . . . that await within its depths.

John Dewey, in Democracy and Education, wrote: 'To Learn from Experience is to make a backward and forward connection between what we do to things and what we enjoy or suffer from things in consequence.'

Today, I add my humble experiences as a new factor in the Ramapo College Equation. I bring lessons taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Education—"To always seek what is truth—even in our acceptance that some questions have no answers."

I bring almost ten years of experiences from one of the most premier institutions in the country, Hampton University, led by one of America's most successful and innovative leaders within the higher education enterprise, Dr. William R. Harvey. William Harvey has taught me many lessons over the years but one that stands out, that I now bring to Ramapo College, is the importance for leaders to listen to advice, pay heed to guidance, consult, go away and cogitate, if you have to, but at the end of the day always stand up for what you believe is the right thing to do, do it . . . and let the chips fall where they may.

Our Founding President, George Potter, visualized an innovative college offering traditional academic values . . . in a non-traditional setting, a college that would be devoted to the development of the individual student's talents . . . through a dynamic, interdisciplinary curriculum . . . based in the liberal arts and sciences. As Ramapo celebrated its 15th year, Dr. Robert A. Scott continued the dynamic leadership in June 1985. Under President Scott's leadership Ramapo's niche became redefined and was focused in International and Multicultural Education. Scott noted that more than one half of Ramapo's faculty had substantial experience in other nations and cultures; and some were nationally known for their leadership in International Education.

He noted that Ramapo College's Model UN program consecutively took best delegation honors in competitions against Harvard, Army, Georgetown, Pittsburgh and other prominent institutions.

He noted that northern New Jersey continued its expansion as home for the headquarters of many multinational and international firms.

Ramapo's neighbors came to include such firms as: Sharp, Minolta, Sony, Simac, Seiko, Samsung, Konica, Laura Ashley, Jaguar, UPS, KPMG, and many, many others.

In addition to the large populations of ethnic groups already settled here, large numbers from Spanish-speaking, Asian and Caribbean countries also came to the area.

Eventually, the combination of these market forces resulted in Ramapo's mission being more clearly defined with four distinct pillars:

Interdisciplinary Teaching,
Experiential Learning,
International Education, and
Intercultural Understanding.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Today, Ramapo continues to expand study abroad and exchange opportunities. It is the home for the Governor's School for International Studies. Today, Ramapo continues to expand mutually beneficial partnerships with its corporate neighbors.

We will expand corporate partnerships to offer newly designed post-9/11 Executive Development Seminars for renewed understanding and appreciation for world events and meanings.

Ramapo College will maintain its position as a pace-setter in the corporate/higher education arena. And, In the very near future, we will bring all these resources and partnerships together in the creation of even more innovative opportunities under the Marge

Roukema Center for International Education and Entrepreneurship.

Our students must have a solid understanding and concern for the fundamental issues of world peace, poverty, commerce, and politics . . . including: war, terrorism, racism, global warming, pollution, and the depletion of our forests and fisheries.

In that respect, part of our Mission is to develop Ramapo's relationship with the United Nations and other global players.

This will be a powerful new strategy that fully exploits the fact that the United Nations is in our backyard.

Look, for example, at the plight of women and children around the globe:

Women and children make up 70 percent of the world's poor.

Women comprise over 3/4 of the world's illiterate population.

Women and children account for 80 percent of the world's refugees.

Women produce, process and market 3/4 of all the world's food.

Women may perform as much as 3/4 of the world's work.

And yet-women receive only 1/10th of the world's income.

And women own less than 1/100th of the world's property.

These are the kinds of fundamental issues that our students—our world citizen—must be prepared to challenge.

There are more than six billion people living on the Earth today. But if we imagine that the Earth's population, as a village of just 100—people maintaining the existing ratios—what would our global village look like? Dr. Phillip Harter of the Stanford University School of Medicine calculated the following:

57 would be Asian
21 would be European
14 would be from the Western Hemisphere
8 would be African
52 would be female
48 would be male
70 would be nonwhite
30 would be white
70 would be non-Christian
30 would be Christian
89 would be heterosexual
11 would be homosexual
6 people would possess 59 percent of the entire world's wealth, and all 6 would be from the United States.
80 would live in substandard housing
70 would be unable to read
50 would suffer from malnutrition
1 would be near death
1 would be pregnant
1 would own a computer
And only one would have a college education. That college education is both . . . an opportunity and an obligation.

INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Therefore, in fulfillment of our mission of Intercultural Understanding. We will not confuse America's richness in multi[chyph]culturalism with inter-cultural and intra-cultural understanding.

Despite America's diversity, we have remained shut-off, segregated in our knowledge and understanding of our fellow Americans . . . and thus the world-at-large.

At Ramapo College we will create forward and backward linkages to the past and the future.

Ramapo College believes that the key to international understanding and world peace begins at home. In expanding our mission to seek opportunities to make education accessible to underserved populations. We will seek to expand services to the community by providing continuing education opportunities; we will ask the faculty to explore a means of keeping a promise made to our

founding Trustee, Mrs. Thomases back in 1969.

We will seek to establish the Ramapo College Hackensack Center as a direct means to provide educational and training opportunities. In the words of Langston Hughes: "The dream belongs not just to the dreamer, but to all the hands that help to build."

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEACHING

Towards our mission of Interdisciplinary Teaching. The faculty will collaborate and continue exploring future changes in subject and area majors.

We will seek ways to expand summer programs, thus giving students the opportunity to complete undergraduate degrees in three years.

Our Interdisciplinary approach will be expanded, allowing faculty to explore the implementation of five-year masters degree programs that allow undergraduates to work toward advanced degrees.

LIBERAL EDUCATION

Our students will be world leaders who have passion and compassion. Their liberal education will equip them to deal effectively in a rapidly changing world. Through our emphasis on the liberal arts, our students will learn not only skills of math, sciences and technology, but also gain knowledge of cultures, languages, history, literature, art, geography, all with a global perspective on the world's issues.

We will not seek University status.

We will seek even greater recognition as a liberal arts college of distinction, focusing on a rigorous undergraduate academic program . . . while offering graduate and professional opportunities.

We have engaged the entire Ramapo community, with a mandate from the Board of Trustees, toward successful strategic planning. . . . The Ramapo College Ten Year Strategic Plan will be released this summer.

In order to accommodate the mind-boggling demand for quality higher education in our state, a demand that will increase at a rate faster than any other period in the history of American higher education, we have moved forward on: the construction of a \$34 million, 528-bed, townhouse complex; finalized plans and begun a capital campaign for an expanded \$24.3 million Sports and Recreation Center; completed plans for a nine-story, state-of-the-art, environmentally-compatible, residential center; completed plans for a state-of-the-art Sustainability Center, that enhances our reputation as the first college along the east Coast to conserve energy with Fuel Cells.

And, with assistance from our corporate partners, the great state of New Jersey, our many friends in Congress, especially congresswoman Roukema, we will in short order begin a world of opportunities through the Marge Roukema Center for International Education and Entrepreneurship.

Our students will be able to work effectively across America and across different cultures.

The future belongs to them. And they shall be prepared for it!

Our goals have been set.

The future of Ramapo College continues to beckon as a beacon for this 1969 innovation that became a 1986 tradition and now, in 2002, a 21st century pacesetter leading international understanding and 21st century partnerships!

I am honored to be the new president of Ramapo College of New Jersey.