

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
PAMELA MCCARTHY

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor someone very dear to my heart and very dear to the people of Missouri: my sister Pamela G. McCarthy. After 34 years of dedicated public service, she retired from the Missouri Department of Social Services on January 31, 2002.

Pamela has been a foot soldier in the evolution of social policy in Missouri. She began her service with the State of Missouri as a Caseworker II on August 8, 1967 in the Income Maintenance unit of the Division of Family Services in the Jackson County office. At this time the Department of Social Services had not been established. The department did not become a reality until seven years after Pam began her fight for adequate social services for Missouri's most needy families. Throughout the following 34 years, Pam became an expert in many areas serving as: Caseworker Supervisor, Social Services Supervisor, Program Development Specialist, Planner, and Assistant Area Director.

Since its establishment in 1974, the Missouri Department of Social Services has grown into a comprehensive department encompassing five agencies that previously operated social programs under separate administrations. The efficient umbrella structure at the organization's core innovatively combines the efforts of related agencies and promotes a cooperative approach toward delivering social programs to Missourians in need. With the efforts of Pamela and her associates, the department has developed sound policy initiatives that: provide assistance to children and their parents, help the elderly with in-home services and institutional services, aid troubled youth and furnish health care for the poor. The hallmark of these social services is the fundamental goal of helping those in need reach their full potential, a life long dream of Pamela's.

As a result of Pamela's selfless leadership the State of Missouri was able to implement many important and far reaching social policy programs that have positively impacted the lives of Missouri's working families. During her tenure with the Department of Social Services, Pam was an integral part of the implementation and evaluation of the Title XX Children's Services Block grant for western Missouri. She also established the Silver Citizen Discount Program for the Division of Aging and developed policy for the Division of Child Support Enforcement.

In 1985, Pam left the Department of Family Services central office in Jefferson City and became the Kansas City Assistant Area Director. Under her capable and devoted leadership, two new satellite offices were built, one in south Kansas City and one in Midtown. She also spearheaded the relocation of the East Jackson county office and the remodeling of the downtown Department of Family Services office on two occasions. Pam's ongoing efforts to streamline the Family Services network was demonstrated by her devotion to ensuring that all offices had access to the latest technological advancements in order to better serve

the families and children in the State of Missouri. All of these improvements grew out of her desire to facilitate access to the services provided by the Department to families.

Though Pam's retirement on January 31 is official, her service to providing adequate family services is never ending. Many colleagues and friends do not believe Pam is retiring because she has worked through her previous retirements. And Pam's dedication has proven them right again. Starting February 3, she will continue her work on behalf of children and families in a part time capacity.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating my sister, Pamela G. McCarthy, on her 34 outstanding years of service to the State of Missouri. Many people speak about dedication, but rarely do you find one like Pamela who lives it and breathes it everyday. She has truly made our state a better place.

IN HONOR OF FOREST FARLEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Forest Farley, who has been highly committed to our nation's veterans and has just been appointed Medical Center Director of the Lexington, Kentucky V.A. Medical Center.

Mr. Farley came to Cleveland, Ohio in 1996 as the Associate Medical Center Director for the Cleveland V.A. Medical Center. In his present role, Mr. Farley is the Chief Operations Officer (COO) for the Louis Stokes Cleveland V.A. Medical Center where he is responsible for directing and coordinating all operations for the Wade Park and Brecksville Divisions. His dedicated service to Cleveland veterans since 1996 has been greatly appreciated.

Forest Farley earned his Bachelor's Degree in mass communications from the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida, in 1984. He continued his education by completing graduate studies at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois and earned graduate certificates from the Harvard School of Public Health of Harvard University, Wharton of the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Illinois in Chicago.

His great dedication to V.A. medical centers stems from being a Vietnam Veteran himself. During his military career with the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Farley was awarded three Purple Hearts.

Mr. Forest Farley began a career in Veteran Affairs in 1981 at the St. Petersburg, Florida, Vietnam Veteran's Outreach center. His honorable career has also included assignments as Deputy Regional Manager of the Central Regional Adjustment Counseling Service at the Hines V.A. Medical Center, Acting Regional Manager, Acting Director, Acting Associate Director and Associate Director-Trainee at the Chicago West Side V.A. Medical Center. Additionally, Mr. Farley has served the Vietnam Veteran's Outreach Center in both Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida.

We in Ohio will greatly miss Mr. Farley's devoted service to our veterans, but wish him the best in his future career in Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Farley is respected by many including his wife and five children.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating the noble achievements of Mr. Forest Farley and his recent appointment as Medical Director of the Lexington, Kentucky V.A. Medical Center.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2002

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy peacoats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than any other district in the county. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average proportion of its sons and daughters to the Nation's military academies for decades.

This shouldn't come as a surprise. The educational excellence of our area is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of the Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, one further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism that handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of nine local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication to seeing that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as is true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and to thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work

and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform their Representative of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In mid-December, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

Last year, the board interviewed over 40 applicants. Nominations included 10 to the Naval Academy, 10 to the Military Academy, 5 to the Air Force Academy, and 4 to the Merchant Marine Academy—the Coast Guard Academy does not use the Congressional nomination process. The Board then forwards their recommendations to the academies by January 31, where recruiters review files and notify applicants and my office of their final decisions on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is currently fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it be in Afghanistan as part of "Operation Enduring Freedom", Bosnia, the Persian Gulf or in other hot spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

And while a few people may question the motivations and ambitions of some young people, the academy review process shows that the large majority of our graduates are just as highly motivated as the guidance from loving parents, dedicated teachers and schools, and from trusted clergy and rabbis. Indeed, every time I visit a school, speak at a college, or meet a young academy nominee, I am constantly reminded that we as a nation are blessed with fine young men and women.

Their willingness and desire to serve their country is perhaps the most persuasive evidence of all.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2002, 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Matthew C. Bloemer, Sparta, Sparta H.S., Edwin Fairfield, Morristown, Morristown

H.S., Scott A. Pontzer, Sparta, Pope John XXIII H.S., William G. Rock, Caldwell, James Caldwell H.S., Eric R. Dittman, Hackettstown, United States Air Force Academy.

MERCHANT MARINE

Edmond Grant, Chatham, Oratory Prep, Mark A. Levis, Chatham, Chatham H.S., Matthew J. Pulitano, Randolph, Morris Catholic H.S., Luke O. Saalfeld, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Lee W. Barnes, Mendham, Morris County College, Robert Brougham, Randolph, Berkshire School, Christopher Cimorelli, Pompton Plains, Pequannock H.S., Geoffrey Crater, Chatham, Chatham H.S., Philip Durkin, Sparta, Pope John XXIII H.S., Edward Gibbons, Jr., Chatham, Chatham H.S., Nicole Miller, Chester, West Morris Mendham H.S., Peter H. Newman, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S., Lisa Torsiello, Morristown, Morristown H.S., Todd Trautz, Long Valley, West Morris Central H.S.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Zachary Alpern, Morristown, Newark Academy, Benjamin DeWitt, Mendham, West Morris Mendham H.S., David Faherty, Sparta, Pope John XXIII H.S., James Flannery, Jr., Bridgewater, Saint Joseph's H.S., Matthew Gonabe, Lake Hopatcong, Pope John XXIII H.S., Robert Hayes, Chatham, Chatham H.S., Katelyn McCormick, Stirling, Morris Catholic H.S., Stanford Shaw III, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S., Ross Towers, Stanhope, University of Pittsburgh, James Wyatt, Randolph, Randolph H.S.