

and it is considered one of the premier research universities in the nation. I might add that it also has one hell of a football team, which has been led to many victories over the years by its legendary coach, Joe Paterno.

I look back fondly on my years in State College as some of the best years of my life. I received a world-class education at Penn State between 1971 and 1975, and I also had a pretty darned good time on campus.

Consequently, I am proud to mark this milestone in the life of my alma mater by participating in this special order commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of this remarkable institution of higher learning. I can't wait to see what Penn State and its alumni achieve in the next 150 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY E. LEISHMAN, LIFELONG COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND FRIEND OF NEW YORK CITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Mary E. Leishman, a longtime resident and champion of New York City. Ms. Leishman, who passed away on June 12, 2004, leaves behind a large and caring family, devoted friends, loyal colleagues and an incredible record of community service. Mary worked every day to promote the interests of her community and to better the lives of New York City residents. The city and people of New York will miss her dearly.

Ms. Leishman was known as the "God-mother of Yorkville"—the area of Manhattan she called home for the majority of her life. Yorkville lies between the Upper East Side and East Harlem neighborhoods of Manhattan, which are traditionally regarded as the borough's wealthiest and poorest areas. The great diversity of Ms. Leishman's neighborhood fueled her many accomplishments, and provided the setting for her significant contributions to the public good.

Mary was truly a servant of the people, devoting much of her time and energy to New York City politics and public policy. Ms. Leishman served for more than fifteen years as a District Leader of the Eastside Democratic Club and was a longtime delegate to the Democratic County Convention. Mary worked tirelessly for the causes in which she believed, and showed a particular affinity for "grass-roots" campaigning. Mary was always available to work at polling locations, collect signatures and perform other administrative tasks—duties that are essential to the functioning of our democracy, but that are often overlooked.

Mary was always attentive to the adage that "all politics is local." Ms. Leishman was a devoted member of Manhattan Community Board Eight, serving in both professional and volunteer capacities. Ms. Leishman was the Chairwoman of Board Eight's Roosevelt Island Committee and for decades visited the island at least twice a week to assess neighborhood concerns and needs. Mary is perhaps best remembered, however, for her efforts to help a great many New Yorkers, particularly veterans and the disabled, find affordable places to live.

Indeed, Ms. Leishman led Board Eight's efforts to preserve the Upper East Side's stock of moderate-income housing.

In recent days, many of Ms. Leishman's friends have contacted me to relate stories of Mary's great kindness to individuals in her community. I understand that not too long ago, Ms. Leishman and a friend were walking along 34th Street in Manhattan when a man stopped to ask them for money. Noticing that the man was barefoot, Mary led him to a nearby store and bought him socks and a new pair of shoes. Similarly, Mary was known to regularly provide hot meals to homeless persons she encountered in her travels around the city. These are only a few examples of Mary's generous spirit, but they underscore the fact that Ms. Leishman never ignored the most vulnerable members of her community.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in honoring the late Mary Leishman, whose lifetime of community service exemplifies the tradition of civic involvement that makes America the greatest nation in the world. To Ms. Leishman's friends, family members and colleagues, I offer my continuing respect, admiration and support.

HONORING FATHER FRANK PERKOVICH

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Father Frank Perkovich, for his fifty years of faithful service and tireless ministry.

A native of my hometown, Chisholm, Minnesota, Father Perkovich recently announced his retirement as pastor of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Gilbert, Minnesota, and I know that all who know Father Perkovich will miss his original style of spreading "The Good News."

Father Perk, as he is known, believed it did not matter how one worshiped as long as it raised one's mind and heart to God. Drawing on his strong Slovenian heritage and the culture of his community, Father Perk created a Mass set to the old ethnic melodies of polka music and celebrated the first Polka Mass in 1973. For the next 30 years, this unusual blend of folk music and holy worship has become internationally popular, and Father Perk's recording of the Polka Mass has become one of the top-selling polka albums of all time.

In 1983, Father Perk traveled to Rome and celebrated the Polka Mass on the high altar of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican for Pope John Paul II, who blessed the "Polka Priest's" endeavor. It was the experience of a lifetime for a humble pastor from a small town in Minnesota who only wanted to create a liturgical service that would bring people together and closer to God.

On the occasion of his retirement, I want to join his many friends and parishioners to congratulate Father Perkovich for his many years of service to his Catholic faith community and Minnesota's Iron Range.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family, I was absent from the House of Representatives on June 24, 2004 and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

Rollcall No. 303 (H. Res. 692) "yea,"; Rollcall No. 301 (H. Res. 685) "nay,"; Rollcall No. 304 (H. Res. 676) "yea,"; Rollcall No. 319 (H. Res. 691) "yea,"; Rollcall No. 318 (H.R. 4663) "nay."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MERLE W. MARBURGER ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas Merle W. Marburger was born on July 21, 1914 and is celebrating his 90th Birthday today; and

Whereas, Merle W. Marburger is a long-time active participant in the social and civic life of the community; and

Whereas, Merle W. Marburger has exemplified a love for his family and friends and must be commended for his life-long dedication to helping others.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Merle W. Marburger as he celebrates his 90th Birthday.

RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF MICHAEL LEHNEN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Assistant Fire Chief Michael Lehen of Bethalto, Illinois. Chief Lehen passed away at the age of 57 after 29 years of service to his community. His funeral held in Bethalto drew large crowds of grateful citizens.

I rise today to honor more than simply one life of one man from my home district. I rise to honor a man, Michael Lehen, whose work as a fireman represents what's truly good in America. He lived his life, day in and day out, always ready to rush into burning buildings to save the lives of whoever was in danger. Firemen and women, like Mike don't get many monuments, they don't get much in the way of recognition, but they should; because they represent the best that we should all aspire to be ourselves.

We live in a time where sports stars, rock stars and pro-wrestlers are our children's heroes. I hope that we might also commit ourselves to showing our children and grandchildren who are the real heroes in their lives—the many Michael Lehen's who serve their communities each day.

At Michael's funeral there were tears, particularly when the fire alarm sounded again in his honor. But more than sadness it was a celebration. Michael had lived a life of service to others. He put himself at risk of death every day for his fellow man. He is a man who we, while reflecting on his life, can honestly say made a difference.

What greater tribute can there be to a man than when his wife and family looked out at the huge crowd paying their respects, they may have asked themselves who in that crowd wouldn't be there today had Michael not lived. The incredible impact of saving lives has a power that far outlives the hero who makes it happen.

I'm sure some might find it trivial to pay respects to an Assistant Fire Chief from a small town in Illinois. But, Mr. Speaker, I would argue that there are few greater heroes we can praise from this noble House. I extend condolences and our thanks to the family of Michael Lehen.

COMMENDING CAPTAIN BRENT
DAVIS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend a resident of my district who has raised the bar for personal sacrifice on behalf of others. His name is Captain Brent Davis, and he serves as the chief of public affairs for the 910th Airlift Wing at Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

What impresses me most about Capt. Davis is his desire to serve above and beyond the call of duty. Already serving his country in uniform, Capt. Davis was approached to shore up support for the C.W. Bill Young Dept. of Defense Bone Marrow Program, and he accepted the task with enthusiasm. He registered himself in the program, named for my distinguished colleague who formally served on the Armed Services Committee, and when he received word that he was a perfect match to donate marrow, he was equal to the task. With the support of his wife, Sonya, Capt. Davis went through the rigorous screening process to ensure his compatibility with the recipient, and on December 8th of last year, he successfully donated bone marrow at Georgetown University Hospital.

The recipient was a 17-year-old young man who was suffering with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of cancer that afflicts the body's lymphatic system. A parent himself, Capt. Davis was determined to help this family. He was concerned first and foremost with the welfare of the recipient and was committed to helping him survive.

Mr. Speaker, our struggle with cancer in all its forms is one we must win. While we search for cures and effective treatments, I take comfort in the fact that there are men and women like Capt. Davis out there, volunteering and even risking their own health so that others may have hope of recovery. I commend Capt. Davis for his courage and sacrifice; he is a model citizen and exemplary officer.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT POSTHUMOUSLY AWARD THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO HARRY W. COLMERY

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the vision and achievements of Mr. Harry W. Colmery, from Topeka, Kansas.

Because of Mr. Colmery's remarkable service to our country, I urge my colleagues to pass H. Con. Res. 257, calling on President Bush to posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry Colmery. President Truman established the Medal of Freedom in 1945 as an honor for exceptional service in war, and President Kennedy reintroduced the Medal in 1963 for distinguished service in peacetime. Harry Colmery embodied both of these things and is deserving of this highest civilian honor.

After serving as an Army aviator in World War I, Mr. Colmery spent his civilian life actively promoting and defending the rights of America's veterans. In 1929, he was part of a coalition that worked to pass a major veterans' hospital construction bill. In 1936, he was elected National Commander of The American Legion.

In 1943, while staying in Washington's Mayflower Hotel, Harry Colmery wrote the first draft of what would later become the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the World War II GI Bill of Rights. This legislation provided historic new benefits to military veterans as they transitioned back into civilian life. Most importantly, the new educational benefit would revolutionize America's higher education system.

Since the enactment of the GI Bill, America has continuously provided educational support for our nation's veterans. Exceeding all expectations, more than two million eligible men and women went to college using these educational benefits in the decade following World War II. The result was an American workforce enriched by 450,000 engineers, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, 22,000 dentists, and another million college-educated men and women.

Building upon the success of the original GI Bill, Congress subsequently approved the Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966 and the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program for the post-Vietnam Conflict era. Finally, in 1985, Congress passed the Montgomery GI Bill.

Awarding the Medal of Freedom to Harry Colmery would be a tribute to all veterans in 2004, as we mark the 60th anniversary of the GI Bill.

HONORING PENFIELD TATE III OF
DENVER, COLORADO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize

Mr. Penfield Tate III of Denver, CO, for his outstanding career of public service and his inspiring role as father and husband. I would like to thank him on behalf of all Coloradans for the depth and diversity of contributions he has made to ensure our public life.

Before my election to Congress, I served in the Colorado House of Representatives with a number of remarkable individuals who made a difference through their legislative excellence. I also served with some legislators noted for their warm, energetic personalities. However, in my experience there are very few people as gifted—personally and professionally—as Pen Tate.

Every day I worked with him reaffirmed the ideal qualities of a public official: idealistic, caring, optimistic, intelligent and principled. Spirited in debate, Pen was, nevertheless, always a gentleman, being open-minded and respectful to everyone with whom he worked. As a state representative, state senator, and mayoral candidate he was a tireless seeker for solutions to some of Colorado's most pressing problems, and a peerless advocate for children, seniors, workers, and civil rights, causes he championed both in and out of the State Capitol.

Since ending his tenure in the Colorado Legislature, Pen has returned to his law practice in Denver. He has also been given more time to spend with his wife Faye and daughter Elleana. Although he has returned to life as a private citizen, Pen remains as dedicated to his causes today as he was during his time in the legislature. He is active in many charitable organizations and gives generously to his community.

Not surprisingly, Pen's contagious combination of effective legislator and humanitarian has inspired members of his community to award him numerous civic distinctions. His unyielding pursuit of justice and equality was recognized with the 2003 Civil Rights Award given by the Anti-Defamation League. Most recently, Pen was awarded the 2004 Father of the Year by the National Father's Day Council and the American Diabetes Association. This impressive award is only a token of appreciation to a man who dedicates so much of his time to his family. I am attaching a newspaper report of this honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting such an honorable person and his distinguished career in public service. My family and I wish him, his wife, Faye, and their daughter, Elleana, good health and happiness in their future together.

[From the Denver Post, June 19, 2004]

A TIP OF THE HAT TO TATE THE DAD

MAYORAL ADVISER IS ONE OF SIX MEN HONORED AS REGIONAL FATHERS OF THE YEAR

(By Erin Cox)

For Elleana Tate, daughter of Denver lawyer and former state senator Penfield Tate III, it only takes a little task for Daddy to make her happy. "Tuck me in," said 14-year-old Elleana, flashing her smile at her father. Tate, nestled next to his disabled daughter on a couch in his 27th-floor downtown Denver office, looked at her with soft eyes. "Tuck you in still?" Tate said, beaming.

Tate, partner in a Denver law firm, adviser to Mayor John Hickenlooper, winner of a 2003 Civil Rights Award and former state senator, is first and foremost a father. The National Father's Day Council and the American Diabetes Association honored him as a 2004 Father of the Year, along with five