

THE LIFE OF PHIL ROOS

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a beloved member of the Dubuque, Iowa community. Phil Roos was truly a special teacher and coach and he was tragically taken from us at the age of 57. Phil leaves not only the lives of his family, but of those many students and athletes whose lives he touched for over 30 years. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Phil and ask that the attached article from the Dubuque Telegraph Herald be placed along with my comments in the RECORD.

ROOS MADE EVERYONE FEEL SPECIAL

(By Bill Speltz)

Phil Roos had a special gift.

Oh sure, he was an excellent math teacher and tennis coach and one of the founding fathers of a strong intramural program at Hempstead. He was also a darn good athlete in his day, especially with a racket in his hand (legend has it he'd play his students in a game of badminton to 50, spot them 49 points and still win).

But there are a lot of good teachers, coaches and athletes out there. The fact Roos was all three is impressive, but it all seems small compared to his finest quality as a human being.

Phil was special because he made you feel good about yourself. He made you feel like you were an extraordinary person, and it motivated you to prove him right.

How do you replace someone like that? How do you make sense of Roos dying of brain cancer Sunday at the age of 57?

You don't.

"He had such a wonderful way of bonding with kids," said Natalie Nemmers, Roos' assistant coach for the boys tennis team the past three seasons. "We kind of built this family, and he would've done anything for the boys, because he was so proud of them."

"He used to get so nervous before meets. But he would never show it. He just wanted so much for the boys, and they knew he loved them."

Roos' Hempstead family stretched far beyond tennis players in his 33 years at the school. Between his teaching and an intramural program that has about 500 participants annually, countless young adults were touched by this upbeat, kind-hearted man.

"What a tremendous loss," Hempstead athletic director Harry Robbins said. "His students and his athletes just loved him, and the reason they loved him is because he was able to connect with them."

"The best way I can describe Phil Roos is he stood for all the right things in life. Great father, husband, role model for young people. Students would seek him out because he always had time to talk about whatever they wanted to talk about, just trying to help."

For all his tennis coaching success, Roos' most admirable moment may have come three years ago, when he ended a 15-year coaching retirement to help revive the Mustangs' struggling boys program. Not many would make the same move, mainly because tennis takes a ton of time and weather conditions in the spring are often cold and windy.

Concerned about all the time he would spend away from his family, Roos made Hempstead tennis a family affair. His son, seventh-grader Andrew, joined the team for practice every day. His "other" sons drank

in every bit of advice Phil offered, and the result is a program that's back on the upswing.

"A lot of times, on school (athletic) trips, guys will be fighting for the back seat of the bus because they never want to sit by the coach of the team," Hempstead senior Jason Burkle said. "For me, it was just the opposite with Coach Roos. I wanted to sit up front."

"What I liked most is the way he controlled the team, yet he still knew how to have a lot of fun."

For those who knew him, Roos' kindness was infectious and his calm demeanor admirable. Just ask Craig Olson, Hempstead girls tennis coach and Roos' former rival as leader of the Dubuque Senior boys tennis program in the 1980s.

"With him, there was no screaming or yelling, and he was the same way with his teaching," Olson said. "He'd inspire you."

"I was just tickled he came back to coach again these last few years. I remember when I first started out coaching, I was more of an enthusiastic, 'rah-rah' type of guy. Watching him, I learned patience."

Phil's spirit lives on in all his students, past and present, and all those who knew him. It lives on in his wife, Julie, and his best friend, son Andrew, who is truly a chip off the old block.

By the time Andrew is old enough to play his first high school tennis match, Phil's players are hoping to have the Hempstead courts named in the coach's honor. In the meantime, Phil's extended family will try to make some sense of his death at today's funeral.

That's going to be about as easy as trying to beat Phil in badminton.

"He made people," said Ryan Denman, Hempstead senior tennis player. "He taught us how to live our lives and taught us that it wasn't about winning or losing, but that we always gave 100 percent."

"It's going to be very rough playing tennis this season, from the first day to the last. We'll play the season for him."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRENT RITTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Brent Ritter, and thank him for enriching the lives of his Pueblo, Colorado community. As Pueblo's most distinguished singer, Brent has become a fixture in almost every musical event put on by the city. It is with great satisfaction and pride that I pay tribute to Brent for his many contributions to his community and state.

Brent's passion for singing developed during his youth while participating in his church choir, and has led him to a fulfilling career as a professional singer. His career took off while serving his country in the Air Force where he won local, national, and worldwide military talent shows. After Brent's service with the Air Force, he settled with his family in Pueblo, and soon became a fixture of the community through his performing in church choirs, with the Pueblo Symphony, and with local theater groups. Brent currently serves as Music Director for the Wesley United Methodist Church, and finds his most rewarding work singing at events where he is able to connect with the people in his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear Brent Ritter has a musical gift that he has used to greatly enhance his Pueblo community. His energy, big heart, and tremendous voice have become staples in Pueblo, and it is my privilege to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this nation. I would like to extend my thanks to Brent for being such a positive influence in Pueblo, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on March 3, 2004 for rollcall vote 38, I was unavoidably detained. If I had been present, on rollcall vote No. 38, I would have voted "yea."

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RULING CONCERNING THE FCC

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take note of the decision recently issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia that upholds the intent of Congress in passing the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In the years since the Telecom Act was passed we have seen many important advances in the telecom sector, both technologically and in terms of lower prices for consumers. The Appeals Court found that the FCC did not comply with the Telecom Act when it voted 3-2 last year to adopt its Triennial Review Order. This marks the third time since 1996 that the FCC's rules have been rejected by U.S. Courts. The FCC's failure to get the rules right once again is damaging to consumers, the economy, and the industry. The seemingly never ending intra-industry legal and regulatory battles are resulting in continued uncertainty in the telecommunications and technology sectors. What is at stake is consumer choice, deployment of new and advanced technology, and the livelihood of tens of thousands of workers whose jobs have been lost in this telecommunications recession.

I urge not only the FCC but also the industry itself to end these battles and to devise rules that make sense and which will provide the certainty and incentives needed to free up major investment in the telecommunications sector. Consumers and workers will win only when this happens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROENA FRANK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you to pay tribute to

Roena Frank, an extraordinary woman from my district who has devoted her life to helping the citizens of her community. Roena, who hails from Montrose, Colorado, has dedicated the past thirty years to a career in nursing, and volunteers much of her time working with local charitable organizations. Her work serves as a valuable model of public service to us all, and I would like to ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing her tremendous achievements before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Raising four kids as a single mother, Roena entered the nursing field in order to earn a living for her family. She quickly realized the career she had chosen was her true calling in life. Roena currently serves as a part-time nurse in Delta County, and spends her free time volunteering with local organizations such as the local hospice, a Boy Scout troop, and the Magic Circle Theatre. In addition, Roena, along with her husband Jim, have been very active with the Montrose Christian Church where they have participated in mission trips to Mexico and Chile.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation and pay tribute to the contributions of Roena Frank to her community and state. Throughout three decades of civic and public service, Roena has demonstrated an ardent devotion to her nursing career and charitable work. I would like to thank her today for all the work she has done for her Montrose community and the State of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO BLAIR CROSS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of a dear friend and a great American. Blair Cross was a loving family man, a patriotic veteran, and a dedicated activist.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work closely with Blair and witnessed his tireless advocacy on behalf of Korean War veterans across the country. Specifically, Blair and I have been working on legislation that would grant the Korean War Veterans Association a Federal Charter, enabling the Association to expand its mission and further its charitable and benevolent causes.

Blair was the Korean War Veterans Association's top advocate for this issue, and I am grateful for his activism, and the activism he encouraged among his fellow Korean War veterans.

Mr. Cross's distinguished service did not go unnoticed. The Joint Veterans Committee of Maryland selected Blair to receive the honor of Veteran of the Year and he was to be recognized this April. Blair was chosen to receive this award from over 10,000 veterans throughout the State.

Mr. Cross also helped in founding the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training. The Baltimore homeless shelter has aided thousands of veterans over the years.

The community, the State, and the country have incurred a tremendous loss with Blair's passing. His advocacy and leadership on behalf of veterans in our State will long be re-

membered and I send my deepest sympathies to his wife Jane, daughter Sharon and Blair's family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 4, 2004 I was unavoidably detained and was absent from the House floor while votes took place. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the consideration of H.R. 3752, the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004, as well as "aye" on the consideration of H. Res. 412, and H. Res. 56. I ask that these comments be submitted for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK KOENIG

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the philanthropic spirit of Frank Koenig of Montrose, Colorado. Frank responded to a call to community service by founding the Sharing Ministries food bank in Montrose eight years ago. The thriving state of the food bank today is a testament to Frank's tireless efforts, but also to his faith that God will provide and that others will give. Sharing Ministries relies on the contribution of some eighty volunteers, as well as the donations of local food distributors and farmers.

In 1996, Frank Koenig, an ordained Baptist minister and World War II Navy veteran, felt a calling to serve the people of his Montrose community through the establishment of a food bank. He had very little money when he began Sharing Ministries, and was often met with resistance in his efforts to get the charity started. Frank was undeterred and he reached an agreement to lease a vacant freight delivery building from the Rio Grande Railroad, where Sharing Ministries began. During its first month, Sharing Ministries distributed ninety-seven boxes of food to the needy in Montrose. Today, thanks to Frank's efforts, the food bank distributes over three thousand boxes per month, serving those in Montrose and the surrounding communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring the service and compassion of Frank Koenig to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. Frank has shown that one person's effort can really make a difference in their community. I would like to wish him the best and sincerely thank him for his service to Montrose and the State of Colorado.

SUPPORTING KAZAKHSTAN

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to an Op-

Ed article published in The Washington Times on March 4 authored by Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, one of our consistent allies in the fight against international terrorism.

I had the pleasure to meet President Nazarbayev in December 2001 during his official visit to the United States and ever since I closely follow the development of this country. I know that Kazakhstan has achieved significant progress in implementing political, social and economic reforms during the dozen years of their independence. Recent evaluation by The Economist magazine shows Kazakhstan to be among the five most dynamically developing countries in the world with an annual GDP growth of 10.1 percent.

Of course Kazakhstan faces challenges on its path to true democracy, and a lot remains to be done. Nevertheless, Kazakhstan is well on the road to a free market economy and a functioning democracy. Significantly, as a Muslim-majority country, it is also showing the world how to promote a religiously tolerant, and open, society.

It goes without saying that converting from a communist economy to a free-market system in a little more than a decade is, under any circumstances, a formidable challenge.

In the wake of the September 11 attacks on the United States, President Nazarbayev has been one of the first to support us in the fight against the global evil of international terrorism. During Operation Enduring Freedom, his government gave the United States fly-over and landing rights as America led the fight for freedom and democracy in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan was the first and still the only Central Asian country to contribute troops to the multinational peacekeeping force in Iraq.

I believe it is in our nation's interest to continue to support Kazakhstan, a country whose actions have demonstrated its commitment to global security, nuclear nonproliferation, stability, and tolerance for ethnic and religious minorities. Mr. Speaker, I am confident that in Kazakhstan we have a crucial ally. I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and urge all of my colleagues to read it carefully.

[From The Washington Times, Mar. 4, 2004]

PROGRESS IN KAZAKHSTAN

(By Nursultan Nazarbayev)

There can be few greater challenges than to attempt to complete in little more than a decade a political process that in the West took many decades, if not centuries. But this is what Kazakhstan has been attempting since becoming independent in 1991.

In the United States, markets preceded democracy. In Kazakhstan, however, we have sought to lay the foundations of a market economy, civil society and democracy simultaneously. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, we believed this was the only way to pursue economic growth and raise living standards while maintaining stability. Without all three, there was little realistic expectation that an oil-rich state the size of Western Europe, but with a population smaller than that of Holland, could remain free.

Our actions in the early 1990s, including the decision to remove our arsenal of nuclear weapons inherited from the Soviet Union, laid the foundations of our stability and prosperity. As Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld commented during his visit to my country last week, had Saddam Hussein followed Kazakhstan's example, the war in Iraq