

FINALIST FOR THE 2005 NURSING  
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Charles Reed, RN, BSN, CNRN, Patient Care Coordinator for the University Health System in San Antonio. Every year, thousands of nurses across the country are nominated for the 2005 Nursing Excellence Awards. The RNs are nominated by their colleagues, peers, and managers and selected by a panel of nurse leaders. The Nursing Excellence Awards exemplify the best that professional nursing has to offer. They bring initiative, ingenuity, and inspiration to their workplaces and communities, setting the standards for accomplishment in communities, setting the standards for accomplishment in nursing. In addition, the Nursing Excellence Awards recognize extraordinary nurses who represent the countless other dedicated nurses who play a crucial role in the nation's health care system. Mr. Reed's outstanding performance earned him a finalist position in this year's competition.

Mr. Reed rose through the ranks from student nurse to patient care coordinator in the health system and now has duties ranging from meeting staffing needs and coaching, counseling, and mentoring nurses to managing patient care. He ensures clinical practice is kept to the highest standard, frequently by working one-one with nurses, and he often meets with families of ICU patients, once staying over an additional 4 hours to be sure a family's concerns were addressed.

I commend Mr. Reed for all the hard work and dedication he gives to his patients at University Health System and I wish him the best of luck next year.

HONORING THE WHITE ROCK  
ROTARY CLUB

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the White Rock Rotary Club for their 45 years of service to the community. Throughout its history, the White Rock Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The White Rock Rotary Club has raised money to support charities and programs, such as Journey of Hope. The White Rock

Rotary Club has also been very involved in a local community project building a picnic pavilion in conjunction with two other local rotary clubs in honor of Rotary International's 100th Anniversary. In addition, they support community endeavors such as tutoring programs and nursing home visits for senior without family members.

Through these initiatives, the White Rock Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY  
LEGISLATOR ELISE M.  
CUSACK

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 4 years of elective service by retiring Erie County Legislator Elise M. Cusack.

Legislator Cusack was elected in 2001, replacing a man who was then the Legislature's longest-serving member, William A. Pauly. Legislator Cusack's district includes the towns of Amherst and Tonawanda, but includes a small portion of the town of Cheektowaga, which is located within the 27th Congressional District.

Elise Cusack has been an energetic representative of her constituents, maintaining a full service district office and garnering a reputation for effective constituent service. Although Legislator Cusack and I sit on different sides of the political aisle, I have always respected her intellect and her demonstrated commitment to her constituents.

Beginning on January 1, 2006, Elise Cusack will be able to don her other governmental hat—that of a member of the Board of Trustees of the New York Power Authority—on a full time basis. As someone with a keen interest in the actions of that public authority, I look forward to many anticipated future opportunities to interact with Legislator Cusack in a professional capacity.

In closing, I appreciate this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to rise and honor the service of Legislator Elise Cusack and I want to offer to her, her husband and children my very best wishes of good luck and Godspeed in all of her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDAN DENIS  
O'CONNOR ON THE OCCASION OF  
HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as Congress prepares to recess today for the Thanksgiving holiday, I wish to take a moment to congratulate my friend Brendan O'Connor on the recent occasion of his 50th birthday, November 3, and to express my gratitude for his extraor-

dinary contributions to the greater Worcester, Massachusetts community. In a place rich with kind people and colorful characters, Brendan stands apart but certainly not alone. His quick wit, brilliant sense of humor and boundless compassion have endeared him to countless admirers both near and far. This was never more evident than at the spectacular 50th birthday celebration his wonderful wife Claire and devoted sons Rory and Eamon hosted for him at Worcester's historic Tuckerman Hall on Saturday, October 22, 2005. My wife Lisa and I were honored to attend that unforgettable evening with scores of Brendan's family and closest friends. The night was made truly special by the presence of Brendan's father, Sean, who traveled from the family's native Limerick City, Ireland; and all four of his siblings—his brothers, John, Kevin and Declan, and his sister, Carmel. And while Brendan's dear departed mother Joan (Horgan) O'Connor was not able to be there in person, her spirit was felt in the festive atmosphere that continued well into the night. All in all, the birthday party was an incredible tribute to Brendan but it does not reveal the full measure of the man.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to being a great human being, Brendan O'Connor is a also a very successful entrepreneur. As proprietors of the renowned O'Connor's Restaurant and Bar in Worcester, Brendan and Claire have graciously welcomed thousands upon thousands of hungry and thirsty patrons to their establishment. Every customer that comes through their doors is treated to excellent cuisine accompanied by the sterling service and warm hospitality the Irish have made famous. In fact, O'Connor's has grown to become much more than just a popular dining destination. It has become an institution deeply embedded in the fabric of the Worcester community. This is due in large part to Brendan's remarkable gift for making everyone he encounters feel special and at home.

However, it is important to note that Brendan does not reserve his gifts and talents for his patrons alone. He has generously given his time and energy to numerous civic and charitable causes. As a long-time board member and past-president of the Emerald Club of Worcester County, Brendan has raised enormous financial support for the clients of the Mercy Centre through the promotion of Irish cultural events. His tireless efforts on behalf of the Emerald Club and the Ancient Order of Hibernians earned him the well-deserved honor of having been previously selected as the Grand Marshal of Worcester's annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Brendan has also shared his talents with the Worcester area youth as a volunteer soccer coach for many years. His unbridled passion and skillful teaching of the sport have produced numerous championship teams at various competitive levels. More importantly, he has been a positive guiding force in the lives of an untold number of young people.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to simply say that Brendan O'Connor is among the most beloved figures in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts. His charm is exceeded only by his devotion to his family and fellow man. I look forward to celebrating many more happy occasions with he and his wife

Claire and congratulate him again on this important milestone in his life.

COMMENDING THE FEDERATION  
OF FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (FFCMH) upon the occasion of their 17th Annual Conference. Their conference will be held this weekend in Washington, D.C., and will be hosted by I Famagu'on-ta, the chapter and delegation from Guam.

The Federation is a national family-run network of community-based organizations dedicated to improving mental health services for children through advocacy, training, family support, and engagement in the public policy process. I commend the Federation for their support, service and commitment to children with mental health needs and their families throughout the United States.

In January of 2002, Guam advocates for families reached out to the Federation for assistance as resources and support for children with mental needs and their families in our community were largely unavailable on island. The association with Guam was born of the efforts initiated by Mary-Therese Edgerle, who at that time was a concerned parent on Guam. Through her vision and dedication, a family organization for parents whose children experience serious emotional disturbances or S.E.D. was established in the territory.

Through its former executive director, Barbara Huff, the Federation lent extraordinary assistance and key backing to Guam advocates in the early efforts to organize on behalf of children with mental health needs. Barbara personally saw to it that the Federation grew to include membership and organization in Guam. As a result of the collaboration between Guam advocates and Federation leaders, Guam's families began to learn and understand their rights and the many possibilities and programs that could be developed to help their children affected by S.E.D.

Sandra Spencer, the current Federation executive director, has been equally supportive of Guam. Under her direction and guidance, Guam has been blessed with ongoing leadership training through Lisa Conlan, the technical assistance partnership and peer mentor. The various board, individualized evaluation plan, crises, and family partners train-the-trainer programs, as well as their technical support, have provided invaluable expertise and assistance to the families and most especially, the children of Guam. The Federation staff members have given of their time willingly and unselfishly, as have other Federation Chapters, to provide Guam with much needed support, resources and information. In particular, I would like to recognize Sue Smith from the Parent Support Network in Georgia for her steadfast dedication and assistance to the Guam Chapter.

With the benefit of a \$180,000 statewide Family Network Grant award in October 2002, the Guam Chapter successfully identified and

strengthened local families through early program development stages. This work has resulted in a \$9.5 million grant. The Child Mental Health Initiative Cooperative Agreement with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration was entitled Project I Famagu'on-ta or "Our Children," in support of children and youth on Guam affected by S.E.D. As a result of Federation training, Guam Identifies Families Terrific Strengths, Inc., or G.I.F.T.S. was awarded tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization in October 2005.

The development and passing of legislation in Guam has further helped to shape and create a nationally recognized system of care on Guam. This legislation has also helped form G.I.F.T.S. as a new Federation chapter. It is this territorial chapter that is hosting the registration of the Federation of Families National Conference this weekend. The establishment of G.I.F.T.S. marks the beginning stage of an association providing much needed services to children and families on Guam.

I commend and congratulate the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health for their unselfish devotion, commitment and support provided to those affected by S.E.D. I further express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude for their outstanding work in making a difference in the lives of the families and children of Guam and in other communities throughout the nation. Through the efforts of the Federation our nation has the ability to foster healthy emotional development for our children in need. I wish the Federation a successful and productive conference. *Dankulo na Si Yu'os Ma'ase* and thank you.

HONORING THE ROWLETT ROTARY  
CLUB

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Rowlett Rotary Club for their 20 years of service to the community. Throughout its history, the Rowlett Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Rowlett Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships for local youth. They have been involved in local community projects, such as a community sleeping bag collection to provide over 100 sleeping bags for the homeless. They also work with neighborhood organizations like Jonathan's Place, a home for children who are victims of drug and alcohol abuse. In addition, they support charities such as Equest, New Beginning's Center, and Rowlett Needy Children's Fund.

Through these initiatives, the Rowlett Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY  
LEGISLATOR STEVEN P.  
McCARVILLE

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the service of a public official with more than fourteen years of continuous service as an elected official. I rise to honor the distinguished service of my friend, Erie County Legislator Steve McCarville.

Steve McCarville is a lifelong resident of the town of Orchard Park, and began his public service as a member of the Orchard Park Village Board in 1991. Serving as Village Trustee from 1991 to 1997, Steve was part of a village team, including then-fellow trustee and current New York State Supreme Court Justice John Curran, that oversaw a transformation in the village of Orchard Park into what we see today—a vibrant, bustling village environment in one of Erie County's most successful suburban towns.

In 1997, Steve won election to the Orchard Park Town Board, a position he held until his appointment to a vacant 13th District seat in the Erie County Legislature. In 2001, Steve was appointed to serve the balance of a two year term and was later elected in his own right to represent the 13th district, which encompasses the towns of Aurora, Colden, Collins, Concord, and Orchard Park.

In the Legislature, Steve's work has been marked by a strong deliver of constituent services. In addition, he has secured funding for vital county road repairs in his district, opened the first Satellite Office in the town of Boston, and has worked to revitalize the Emery Park Inn.

Steve McCarville and I have an interesting past, in that he was my first opponent for a seat in the New York State Assembly in 1998. Although it was a tough and hardfought contest, it speaks well of Steve's character and integrity that we were able to resume our friendship at the end of that contest. Politics is politics, Mr. Speaker, but I am pleased to know that in the area of serving the public and the people who elected us to our respective offices, Steve McCarville and I were able to work cooperatively and effectively. We checked our politics at the door, and the public was better served for it.

Steve has at all times, expressed a sincere and steadfast intention to effectively represent the residents and taxpayers of Erie County in general and of his district in particular. He has served well, Mr. Speaker, and I am honored and privileged to call the House's attention to that service here today, and am grateful to have this opportunity to honor him.