

In 1997, John accepted Father Cooke's offer to become the college's vice president for college relations and general counsel. Since 1997, he has been the senior development and external relations officer responsible for capital campaigns, planned and annual giving programs, grant services, all external and media relations, alumni relations and college publications. In 2007, Hurley was promoted to the position of executive vice president and took on the additional responsibilities for the coordination of the college's senior leadership team, strategic planning, integrated marketing, and legal and compliance issues. Today, John Hurley succeeds the Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J., who is retiring after a 17-year presidency.

It is my pleasure today to distinguish the unprecedented appointment of John J. Hurley. In recognition of his role as the first lay president of Canisius College, I congratulate John and wish him success in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING STATE  
SENATOR CAP DIERKS

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Senator Cap Dierks on his induction to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement for his long and valuable service to agriculture.

The Hall is an organization whose primary purpose is to acknowledge and preserve the records of those citizens of Nebraska who have made outstanding contributions to the well-being of Nebraska's agricultural way of life.

A rancher and veterinarian by profession, Cap was elected to the State Legislature in 1986 and served as the Chair of the Agriculture Committee for 10 years.

I had the pleasure of serving with Cap in the Legislature, and he is extremely deserving of this honor. I've seen his dedication to Nebraska agriculture firsthand, and his spirit and verve were always an inspiration. He was always there with advice or simply a friendly word of encouragement.

I want to thank Cap for his service and once again, congratulate him on this honor.

HONORING MICHAEL A. ROBBINS

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Michael A. Robbins, who served the City of Chicago and the Chicago Police Department for 22 years before his untimely death on September 13, 2008.

A South Side Chicago native, Robbins enlisted in the Navy shortly after graduating high school and was awarded the Bronze Star for his meritorious service during the Vietnam War. His dedication to public service continued when he joined the Chicago Police Department in 1986 and then went on to serve the United States military in the Navy Reserve.

On September 10, 1994, Officer Robbins responded to a call of shots fired in a neighborhood with a high level of gang activity. When he arrived he was fired upon repeatedly, resulting in 11 bullet wounds. Although he made a strong recovery, three of the bullets remained lodged in his heart.

As a result of this experience Michael Robbins became an avid activist urging better gun control laws. Most notably, he spoke on the issue at the 1996 National Democratic Convention and later served as a victims' advocate for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids.

On September 13, 2008, Officer Robbins was found dead in his home as a result of the bullets still lodged in his heart. Michael Robbins will forever be remembered for his dedication to making the City of Chicago and the United States a safer place.

I rise today, representing the City of Chicago, to express my deepest gratitude and sympathy to Officer Robbins's family for his dedication and courageous commitment to our communities. Officer Robbins will forever be remembered for his heroic sacrifice by the addition of his name to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC on May 15, 2010.

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL  
WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today in support of H. Res. 1149, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 2 through May 8, 2010". I would like to begin by thanking my colleague Rep. BISHOP for introducing this resolution in the House, as quality education should be at the top of our priorities list. I urge my colleagues to support and acknowledge charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening our public school system.

Charter school programs such as Yes Prep, Harmony, WALIPP, and KIPP deliver high-quality education, challenge our students to reach their potential throughout the United States, and provide thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children. Charter schools improve their students' achievement and can stimulate improvement in traditional public schools as well. These unique, public schools are authorized by a designated public entity that is responding to the needs of our communities, families, and students and promoting the principles of quality, choice, and innovation.

Charter schools take a revolutionary approach in educating our nation's students. Today, roughly 4,700 charter schools are now serving approximately 1,400,000 children in 40 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico this year. Charter schools continually demonstrate their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities. Some charter schools even routinely measure parental satisfaction levels while all give parents new freedom to choose their public school.

Charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public system and deliver a high quality education. Chartering is a radical educational innovation that is moving states beyond reforming existing schools to creating something entirely new. Chartering is at the center of a growing movement to challenge traditional notions of what public education means.

Charter schools have demonstrated their commitment to high academic standards, small class sizes, innovative approaches and educational philosophies. Many parents choose charter schools for their small size and associated safety as charter schools serve an average of 250 students.

I am pleased that over the last 15 years, Congress has provided substantial support to the charter school movement through startup financing assistance and grants for planning, implementation, and dissemination. In addition, these schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the administration, Congress, State Governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the United States.

The intention of most charter school legislation is to: increase opportunities for learning and access to quality education for all students, create choice for parents and students within the public school system, provide a system of accountability for results in public education, encourage innovative teaching practices, create new professional opportunities for teachers, encourage community and parent involvement in public education, and leverage improved public education broadly.

Competition from charter schools has been shown to increase composite test scores in traditional district schools. Furthermore, twice as many registered voters favor charter schools as oppose them. The more people learn about charter schools, the more they like them. Congress must lend its support to these schools and their goals, especially since on average, the funding gap between charter schools and traditional schools is 22 percent, or \$1,800 per pupil. The average charter school ends up with a total funding shortfall of nearly half a million dollars. Yet, 12 studies find that overall gains in charter schools are larger than other public schools; four find charter schools' gains higher in certain significant categories of schools and six find comparable gains to traditional schools. I ask my colleagues for their continued support of charter schools and urge them to support this resolution.

MOTHER'S DAY CENTENNIAL COIN  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my strong support for H.R. 2421, "Mothers Day Centennial Coin Act". First and foremost I would like to thank my distinguished colleague from West Virginia, Representative SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO for introducing this bill. The coins minted as a result of this legislation will be in recognition and celebration of mothers and everything they do for us and signify the 100th

anniversary of President Woodrow Wilson's proclamation in designating the second Sunday in May as National Mother's Day.

The Mother's Day Centennial Commemorative Coin Act, if enacted, would donate half of all surcharges which are received by the Secretary from the sale of coins to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure for the purpose of furthering research funded by the organization and the other half to National Osteoporosis Foundation for the purpose of furthering research funded by the Foundation.

It is of imminent importance that we recognize our mothers have made immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong nation. The services rendered to the children of the United States by their mothers have strengthened and inspired the nation throughout its history.

We honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the home and family as the true foundation of the Nation.

Today, thousands of mothers in this country have become active and effective participants in public life and public service, promoting change and improving the quality of life for men, women, and children throughout the Nation.

Mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding, and compassion, while overcoming the challenges of modern society; mothers throughout our country juggle between work, family and the household, all with a smile on their faces.

I want to congratulate and praise all of the mothers in America for all of their hard work. Mothers have a huge influence on our everyday lives; we owe all of our success to them. As the famous American author Washington Irving put it best, "A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts." We can never thank our mothers enough for all the sacrifices they have made for us. I wish all families a very happy Mother's Day this Sunday.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE THOMAS I. VANASKIE ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Judge Thomas I. Vanaskie on his appointment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Judge Vanaskie was born in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, in 1953.

He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Lycoming College in 1975 where he was a first-team Academic All-American football player. In his senior year, Judge Vanaskie was named outstanding male student-athlete.

Judge Vanaskie attended the Dickinson School of Law where he was a member of the Dickinson Law Review Editorial Staff and was named to the Woolsack Society for outstanding academic achievement. He graduated Cum Laude in 1978.

After law school, Judge Vanaskie clerked for Chief Judge William J. Nealon of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania from 1978 to 1980.

From 1980 to 1994, Judge Vanaskie worked in private legal practice in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He worked in the law firm of Dilworth, Paxson, Kalish & Kauffman until 1992 before leaving to become a principal member of the law firm Elliott, Vanaskie & Riley.

On November 17, 1993 President Clinton nominated Judge Vanaskie to a seat on the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. His nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on February 10, 1994.

Judge Vanaskie was sworn in on March 1, 1994 and served on the U.S. Middle District Court for fifteen years, including as Chief Judge from 1999–2006.

In 2001, Judge Vanaskie began serving on the Information Technology Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. In 2005, he was appointed by the late Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist as Chair of the Judicial Conference Information Technology Committee and served in that position until 2008.

Throughout his career, Judge Vanaskie has continued to give back to his community. He is the former Chair of the Scranton Preparatory School Board of Trustees and a Member of the Scranton Community Medical Center Board of Directors.

On August 7, 2009 President Obama nominated Judge Vanaskie to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 21, 2010 by a vote of 77–20.

Judge Vanaskie was officially sworn-in by Chief Judge Anthony Scirica of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals on April 28, 2010.

He is only the second judge in the 107-year history of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Judge Vanaskie resides in Clarks Green, Pennsylvania, with his wife, the former Dorothy G. Williams. They are the parents of three children, Diane, Laura and Tom.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Judge Vanaskie on this auspicious occasion. His exemplary service throughout his distinguished judicial career demonstrates he is most deserving of this achievement.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1157, "Congratulating the National Urban League on its 100th year of service to the United States."

As a member of the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, I take great pleasure in thanking my

colleague, Representative ALCEE L. HASTINGS, for introducing this important piece of legislation that honors this historic civil rights organization.

Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in recognizing and congratulating the National Urban League for its 100 years of service to historically underserved urban communities across the United States. The National Urban League was originally known as the National League of Black Men and Women. Created in 1910 as a civil rights organization, the National Urban League has since made tremendous gains in equality and empowerment for the African-American community. Throughout the League's 100 years of service the organization has assisted millions of Americans and especially African-Americans in combating poverty, inequality and social injustice.

The National Urban League saw tremendous growth in its partnership with the Federal Government throughout the 1970s. During this time the League began delivering aid to urban areas and making improvements in housing, education, health and minority-owned small businesses. This partnership between the League and the Federal Government revolutionized how the country viewed race relations, challenged the deep discrimination within America's social structure and established the League's reputation as a premier social justice organization.

Since that time, the League has expanded to include 25 national programs, with more than 100 local affiliates in 36 states as well as the District of Columbia.

In my home district in Houston, Texas, the National Urban League has played a strong role in helping the community through outreach programs. The League has sponsored hundreds of such programs over the years from job fairs to Computer Technology courses. These types of educational and community empowerment programs help to improve the quality of life for communities across the United States.

The National Urban League in Houston has also played a strong role in the clean-up and reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. In September 2008, a massive Category 4 Hurricane named Hurricane Ike came ashore and slammed the Texas coastline near my home district of Houston. The National Urban League of Houston has since provided assistance to children, families and senior citizens in the community. I thank the League for its continued support of our community.

Over the past several years, National Urban League has also helped thousands of people weather through one of the worst economic disasters in recent memory. Through the League's Housing and Community Development division the League was able to assist over 50,000 people with mortgage, foreclosure and other similar economic problems in 2009. Furthermore, from this assistance provided by the League's "Foreclosure Prevention" program, 3,000 people were able to avoid filing foreclosure in 2009.

The National Urban League also helps out youth across our nation and promotes childhood education through programs like the League's Education and Youth Development division. Also, programs like the League's "Project Ready" ensure that students will be prepared for the transition from high school to college, or joining the workforce.

The League has also created and outlined 4 new aspirational goals to mark its centennial