

by the Washington, DC based Leapfrog Group. The Leapfrog Survey, which launched in 2001, focuses on four critical areas of patient safety: the use of computer physician order entry to prevent medication errors, standards for doing high-risk procedures, protocols and policies to reduce medical errors and other safe practices recommended by the National Quality Forum and adequate nurse and physician staffing. In addition, hospitals are measured on their progress in preventing infections and other hospital-acquired conditions and adopting policies on the handling of serious medical errors, among other things.

Inland Hospital has displayed a tremendous commitment to providing the best quality health care for their patients. I am proud to congratulate the employees, providers, board members and volunteers for their dedication to providing the best care to our rural communities. Their skills, compassion and dedication make this hospital a well-deserved award recipient.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Inland Hospital for their devotion to ensuring that patients and families receive the best possible health care.

A TRIBUTE TO ROGER MILLIKEN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina has lost a titan of industry and a visionary to establish the modern Republican Party with the loss of Roger Milliken of Spartanburg.

On this historic day of swearing-in the largest number of Republican Congressmen from South Carolina is more than 130 years, it is fitting to recognize the benefactor of establishing the two-party system in our state with an editorial from The Spartanburg Herald-Journal published December 31, 2010.

ROGER MILLIKEN LEFT HIS IMPRINT ON MOST ASPECTS OF LIFE IN THE UPSTATE

ENDURING LEGACY

No one in the 20th century had the impact on Spartanburg that Roger Milliken did.

The businessman, philanthropist, political mover and conservationist, who died Thursday, affected most aspects of life in the Upstate.

Spartanburg has the business climate it enjoys today because of Milliken. He saw the potential in this area and brought his corporate headquarters and his research center here. Milliken's presence and leadership led to the tremendous investment that European textile equipment manufacturers made in Spartanburg, and that international presence helped bring BMW here.

Milliken doggedly fought to protect the nation's textile industry and American jobs from foreign competition. At the same time, he rebalanced his own business to adjust to world markets, finding new areas in which to compete. His foresight included knowing when to step down from the leadership of his company and paving the way for it to continue without him.

Milliken was a political leader, supporting candidates in local, state and national politics. Long before South Carolina enjoyed its early spot in the presidential primary season, national candidates came to Spartanburg, raising the community's pro-

file, because of the need to secure Milliken's support.

He invested in the educational life of this community. Wofford and Converse colleges would not be the institutions they are today without his generous support. He helped found Spartanburg Day School.

Milliken recognized that this region would need first-class air transportation to compete with other areas and attract industry. He helped establish Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, and the airport commission, for the first time in its more than 50-year history, now has to look for a new chairman. It would be appropriate for the airport to be renamed in Milliken's honor.

He also left his mark on Spartanburg in a very visible way. He was passionate about trees, creating arboretums at his research center and on the Wofford campus. His Noble Tree Foundation has helped to improve the environment in many cities.

One of Spartanburg's most popular parks is not a public park at all. It is the grounds of the Milliken Research Center, a beautiful landscape planted with a multitude of diverse trees. It has been open to the public so that generations of Spartanburg families have been able to enjoy feeding ducks at the pond or walking the sunny grounds.

Many wealthy businessmen focus on building their companies, their wealth and their power. Milliken was accomplished in these areas, but he also focused on building this community and region.

His legacy includes the education and transportation systems we rely on today, an economic climate that enabled Spartanburg to weather the loss of the textile industry and even much of the beauty of this community.

Milliken left instructions that his epitaph would read simply, "Builder." It is accurate. More than anyone else in the previous century, Roger Milliken built Spartanburg.

INTRODUCING THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Prescription Drug Affordability Act. This legislation ensures that millions of Americans, including seniors, have access to affordable pharmaceutical products. My act removes needless government barriers to importing pharmaceuticals and it protects Internet pharmacies, which are making affordable prescription drugs available to millions of Americans, from being strangled by federal regulation.

The Prescription Drug Affordability Act brings competition to the market for pharmaceutical products by allowing anyone wishing to import a drug to simply submit an application to the FDA, which then must approve the drug unless the FDA finds the drug is either not approved for use in the U.S. or is adulterated or misbranded. This process will make safe and affordable imported medicines affordable to millions of Americans. Mr. Speaker, letting the free market work is the best means of lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

I need not remind my colleagues that many Americans impacted by the high costs of prescription medicine have demanded Congress reduce the barriers which prevent American consumers from purchasing imported pharmaceuticals. Congress has responded to these

demands by repeatedly passing legislation liberalizing the rules governing the importation of pharmaceuticals. However, implementation of this provision has been blocked by the federal bureaucracy. It is time Congress stood up for the American consumer and removed all unnecessary regulations on importing pharmaceuticals.

The Prescription Drug Affordability Act also protects consumers' access to affordable medicine by forbidding the federal government from regulating any Internet sales of FDA-approved pharmaceuticals by State-licensed pharmacists.

As I am sure my colleagues are aware, the Internet makes pharmaceuticals and other products more affordable and accessible for millions of Americans. However, the federal government has threatened to destroy this option by imposing unnecessary and unconstitutional regulations on Web sites that sell pharmaceuticals. Any federal regulations would inevitably drive up prices of pharmaceuticals, thus depriving many consumers of access to affordable prescription medications.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to make pharmaceuticals more affordable and accessible by removing barriers to the importation of pharmaceuticals and protecting legitimate Internet pharmacies from needless regulation by cosponsoring the Prescription Drug Affordability Act.

MARDEE XIFARAS: SOUTHCOAST WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the New Bedford Standard Times, an excellent newspaper, regularly recognizes leaders of the community that it serves by designating a SouthCoast Woman of the Year and a SouthCoast Man of the Year. This year's SouthCoast Woman of the Year is an extraordinary person, who is a leader in so many fields of endeavor that I think the Standard Times must have been tempted to call her "Women of the Year."

MarDee Xifaras is an able attorney, who has been a leader politically, economically, educationally, and in civic affairs in general. Most recently she has been a spearhead in getting the State of Massachusetts to take over the Southern New England Law School, creating for the first time in Massachusetts a state university law school, to the great benefit of the population of that area, and I believe to the practice of law in Massachusetts, by providing a source of socially-conscious graduates for years to come.

MarDee Xifaras is an extraordinary force for a wide range of good causes, and I am delighted that she has been recognized by the New Bedford Standard Times, but not surprised. I've had the benefit of her advice, counsel and friendship, as did my late and much-missed predecessor, Gary Studds, whose work in this body benefitted enormously from her input, as has mine.

Mr. Speaker, as an example of what citizenship is at its best, at a time when we very much need that, I ask that the New Bedford Standard Times article about Woman of the Year MarDee Xifaras be printed here.

[From SouthCoastToday.com, Jan. 2, 2011]

MARDEE XIFARAS: SOUTH COAST WOMAN OF THE YEAR

(By Jack Spillane)

A bogus study pretending to be an independent report. Last-minute telephone calls from an incumbent governor twisting arms.

The smearing of a small law school's reputation by people on the boards of competing larger schools.

And ultimately, the slurring of an entire region of the state as not having enough of a talent pool to merit a public law school.

Margaret "MarDee" Xifaras dealt with every conceivable insult and underhanded political tactic when it came to the unsuccessful 2004-2005 fight to merge the Southern New England School of Law with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. But she did not get down into the gutter with her opponents.

Instead, Xifaras, the then-chairman of the SNEsL board of trustees, went back to work running the small, private Dartmouth law school in the same determined way that it had operated for more than two decades.

She also went to work leading the effort to meticulously document the legal and financial case that would make a 2009-2010 effort to absorb the school into UMass Dartmouth unassailable.

MarDee Xifaras' leadership achieved what very few SouthCoast political or public officials of any kind have done over the last half century. She went up against the state's Boston-centric power establishment and won.

And she won hands down.

For her efforts coordinating the campaign to establish a state law school in Massachusetts, a school that has now been located in Southeastern Massachusetts, Margaret D. Xifaras is the 2010 Standard-Times SouthCoast Woman of the Year.

Nominations for the award came from the community and members of the newspaper staff. Recipients were selected by a newsroom committee.

LEARNING LESSONS

"Out of the '04, '05 negativity and bad experience, came some lessons," Xifaras remembered of that first law school fight.

The impulse of some might have been to sue the private law schools—Suffolk University and New England School of Law—that coordinated the effort to prevent UMass from competing with them.

Instead, Xifaras waited for an opportune time when the numbers worked for the establishment of a state law school. And then she coordinated with SNEsL Dean Robert Ward and UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Jean MacCormack to devise a new financing plan under which the state law school would be a self-sustaining arm of the university, needing no assistance from the government.

Both savvy and practical, Xifaras hired O'Neil & Associates, the state's best-wired P.R. firm to help her navigate the state's notoriously provincial political waters. She also kept an eye on her own governing board, re-documenting for them once again the case as to why SNEsL donating \$23.5 million worth of its own assets to the state made sense for the school's development in the long run.

Xifaras' skill in coalition-building ultimately helped UMass and SNEsL build an iron-clad case that convinced Secretary of Education Paul Reville, Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland, and finally Gov. Deval Patrick himself that a UMass law school was the right thing to do.

In effect, they convinced the powers-that-be to give access to legal education to middle- and working-class students previously disenfranchised in Massachusetts.

And they convinced them that the most cost-effective way to do it was by accepting SNEsL's existing Dartmouth campus as a donation.

"If there's anything we were over the years, it was determined," said Xifaras.

THE STUDENT FACTOR

Xifaras and the UMass and SNEsL boards had one more huge asset: the SNEsL students themselves—the primarily working- and middle-class students who had risen up 25-odd years ago, and with the help of interested area lawyers, created a fledgling law school out of little more than their own imaginations and desire.

After being victimized by the 2005 stealth political campaign, the SNEsL Student Bar Association hired one of the school's most successful graduates, Lee Blais, and sued Suffolk University, along with a onetime official of the Romney administration.

They sued for nothing less than public corruption.

They charged that Suffolk and a former Romney official turned lobbyist, Charles Chieppo, had colluded to try to keep the proposed UMass law school from competing with a lower-priced public school.

And though the case was never settled, the Board of Higher Education as much as admitted wrongdoing in the merger application process. It agreed to write a "letter of understanding" pledging the state to a fair, rigorous and documentable process when, and if SNEsL and UMass ever tried to unite again.

"They succeeded because of the basic unfairness, and violation of due process that occurred," Xifaras said.

And because of the tenacity of the students and their lawyer.

"We didn't allow ourselves to get out-litigated," Xifaras said.

"Lee Blais, at every turn was doing depositions, fighting back motions to dismiss, fighting back motions for dismissal for lack of standing."

Blais may have been taking the depositions, but it was Xifaras, according to Blais, who was the general planning the battle.

"She's someone who can plot out a strategy and implement a strategy," he said. "She's one of the most effective leaders I've ever met."

Blais also credited Xifaras with having the necessary political skills and vision.

She understood the politics of the state of Massachusetts—who could help and who couldn't, what would work and what wouldn't, he said.

Further, she understood the great rationale for a public law school itself in Massachusetts—a school that could focus on the need for lawyers to devote some segment of their careers to public service.

"Her skills, not only in the area of politics, but in the area of public policy, are just incredible," Blais said.

THE POLITICAL MAVEN

Robert Ward, the longtime dean of SNEsL, said Xifaras recommended a key change in approach for the second application.

It would be all about UMass and the need for a public law school, and not about addressing SNEsL's need for American Bar Association accreditation (a process that usually demands the resources of a larger school.) "That subtle twist is the kind of thing that really good lawyers do," said Ward. "You look into the dominant narrative and, you sort of find a way to tell your story in a way that resonates."

At the time of the second merger application, the nation was consumed by a large debate over health insurance, Xifaras noted, and whether there should be "a public option" for health insurance. In the same way, she decided, UMass would argue for a public option for an affordable legal education.

Xifaras said the SNEsL board had been inspired by the establishment of the state medical school in Worcester 40 years ago, also for students of limited means. And in 2009, the time was ripe for making an argument that Massachusetts needed an affordable, public law school, a school that, like UMass Medical, would train lawyers to dedicate at least part of their careers to public service.

Already, the new public law school has awarded 35 scholarships for that purpose.

"It was up to MarDee to rethink the rationale of going forward," Ward said.

"There has to be someone to find the right note. And that, again—because of her political savvy—that's what happened," he said.

UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Jean MacCormack said that while it was clear that SNEsL's \$23.5 million campus and experienced law-school faculty offered an opportunity to the university, the university brought to SNEsL the size and the resources necessary to win accreditation.

But Xifaras' charisma and political skills, MacCormack said, allowed the vision to happen. "She's incredibly optimistic in the face of huge obstacles," she said.

And the dividends of the state law school being located in Southeastern Massachusetts will be even more apparent in the future, MacCormack predicted.

"This is going to be a legacy activity," she said. "You're going to see more people coming to the South Coast. Already, of these students, 50 percent of them come from out of state."

A PERSONAL BATTLE

Winning the battle to establish a state law school was impressive under any circumstances, but few knew that Xifaras won it while beating back a flare-up of the breast cancer she first defeated some 14 years ago.

Xifaras, 65, is amazingly matter-of-fact about her life-or-death battles.

Although she admits to some personal, private moments of emotion, in the end, she said she simply didn't want to waste time or energy feeling sorry for herself.

She just did what needed to be done with the cancer—on the first round she had chemotherapy, radiation therapy and a stem-cell transplant—and last year, she had two more nodes removed.

Xifaras maintains a busy work schedule that's complemented not just by her effort to establish the law school, but by her long-time work as a sought-after political operative for the Democratic Party.

She has played key campaign management roles in the presidential efforts of everyone from Ted Kennedy to John Kerry to Barack Obama, not to mention local political efforts like the congressional campaigns of Paul and Niki Tsongas.

On top of all that, Xifaras works in a busy law practice (she's one of Mayor Scott Lang's law partners), and fills in as grandma for her daughter Amy, a law school student with a four-month old.

By the way, that's a throwback to Xifaras' own career when back in the mid-1970s she used to put in 10-plus hour days traveling back and forth to Boston University law school, while she had two children still in diapers and one who was in pre-school.

"I think back on it—if this alternative (a local law school) had been available to me at that time, clearly I would have gone," she said.

Xifaras said she didn't need to attend a big-name school for the public-service career she had in mind. She needed a school like UMass Law.

"My orientation was always more of a community-based orientation. Doing regular work for regular folks in a terrific, down-to-earth setting," she said.

BELOVED BY HER PEOPLE

If you ask the people who've worked closely with MarDee Xifaras how she pulled off leading the charge for the state law school, or any of her other impressive life accomplishments, they'll tell you she just has this remarkable ability to "connect" with people.

By the way, Xifaras has also been a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa; a fellow at the Fletcher School of Diplomacy at Tufts; an MBA from UMass Dartmouth; a grassroots political organizer and one of the moving forces behind Gerry Studds' first anti-war campaign for Congress.

Xifaras is startlingly, and charmingly, straightforward. She seems to understand that human beings are not perfect entities, and she has the ability to meet them where they live and inspire them to be better.

"It is the privilege of a lifetime to work with her," Ward said; "The quality of my life improved dramatically when I met her."

Jay Lynch, Xifaras' vice chairman on the SNESSL board, said that often it was only Xifaras' personal connections that kept the public law school dream alive.

"She never gave up on it," he said.

Xifaras succeeds, Lynch said, because she reaches people. She never badmouths folks, even opponents—either in public or in private—he noted.

"I think it was her unique ability to connect with everyone involved," he said.

Perhaps the most impressive endorsement comes from Michelle Keith, a 2009 graduate of SNESSL, and one of the mid-life law students for whom Xifaras seems to have fashioned the public law school.

Keith met Xifaras at a Women's Bar Association event, one of the many ongoing community events that Xifaras has made sure take place at SNESSL over the years.

Keith, a homemaker who had homeschooled her two children; said she went to SNESSL because she loves both Greater New Bedford and the school's public service ethic. She passed the bar on her first try.

She compares MarDee Xifaras to George Bailey in the Christmas film classic "It's a Wonderful Life." And she calls SNESSL the "Savings and Loan" bank that, in the classic movie, granted mortgages to low-income and middle-class people.

Xifaras, Keith said, really looks out for the school's students and advocates with them for public service to the community.

"There's a lot of successful people out there, but they go about it without any sense of honor," she said.

MarDee "has an inherent sense of honor and that's rare."

HONORING ROBERT JOSEPH PENCE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert Joseph Pence. Robert is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Robert has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Robert has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Rob-

ert has earned the rank of Assistant Patrol Leader. Robert has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Robert aided the City of Kearney, Missouri by repainting many of the town's fire hydrants.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Robert Joseph Pence for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING A REMARKABLE PUBLIC SERVANT, THE HONORABLE TOM VANDERGRIFF

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a remarkable public servant, the Honorable Tom Vandergriff. Judge Vandergriff began his 55 year long public service career as the youngest elected mayor of Arlington, Texas. There he made great strides to bring economic opportunity and expansion to the area with the luring of a General Motors plant, Six Flags theme park, and by bringing the Texas Rangers to the city.

These developments were no small task as it took thirteen years to bring Major League Baseball to North Texas and the positive effects can be felt through the vitality of Arlington as well as the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex to this day.

Six years later, he went on to become the first Congressman of the 26th district of Texas in 1983. Although he only served one term, he played a fundamental role in establishing the office and representing the district.

For more than 25 years, Vandergriff served as County Judge of Tarrant County which includes more than 1.7 million residents and is one of the most populous in the United States. He retired from his role in 2007.

It is my great honor to recognize Judge Tom Vandergriff for his dedication, innovation, and insight that he has contributed to the North Texas region. I will always remember those exciting radio broadcasts when Judge Vandergriff was "the voice of the Texas Rangers" in the 1970s. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. He was a great public servant, and all North Texans are thankful for his servitude.

CREATING JOBS, NOT EXPLODING THE DEFICIT

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, day one of the 112th Congress and House Republicans are already violating their campaign promises and the needs of the American people. The set of rules they introduced today will explode our debt and deficit, kill our economic recovery and make the House of Representatives less transparent.

Like a lemming, the set of budget rules contained in this package will push us further off the deficit cliff. It breaks the promise so many

of us made to reduce the deficit and control the debt by refusing to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest of Americans and forces future generations to foot the bill. Over the cliff like a lemming; but I suppose there is nothing like a little lemming to go with tea.

Instead of transparency, this set of rules confers "King for a Day" status to one Member of the House of Representatives—allowing him to set the entire budget for the federal government without any public input.

The last time this country allowed that was never. Only before we were a country did a king set our budget. And now Republicans are set to give this authority again to one person, the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, a person I admire as a Member of Congress—as a King, not so much.

And, in the next few days, the new House majority wants to repeal help for seniors on prescription drugs and take away consumer protections from families battling insurance problems. This effort will add \$143 billion to the deficit over the next ten years.

This is all happening while we should be focusing on the economic recovery that is underway thanks to the tough decisions that the last Congress made. We need to redirect our focus to the economy and stop exploding the deficits and debt.

INTRODUCING THE SOCIAL SECURITY FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS ONLY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Social Security for American Citizens Only Act. This act forbids the Federal Government from providing Social Security benefits to non-citizens. It also ends the practice of totalization. Totalization is where the Social Security Administration takes into account the number of years an individual worked abroad, and thus was not paying payroll taxes, in determining that individual's eligibility for Social Security benefits.

Hard as it may be to believe, the United States Government already provides Social Security benefits to citizens of 17 other countries. Under current law, citizens of those countries covered by these agreements may have an easier time getting Social Security benefits than public school teachers or policemen.

Obviously, this program provides a threat to the already fragile Social Security system, and the threat is looming larger. The prior administration actually proposed a totalization agreement that would have allowed thousands of foreigners to qualify for U.S. Social Security benefits even though they came to, and worked in, the United States illegally. Adding insult to injury, this proposal could have allowed the Federal Government to give Social Security benefits to non-citizens who worked here for as little as 18 months. Estimates of what this totalization proposal would cost top \$1 billion per year.

Despite a major public outcry against extending Social Security benefits to those who entered this country illegally, a version of this proposal actually passed the other body in the