

not only the lives of Veterans, but their families as well. His efforts to help so many will be greatly missed.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF FRANCIS RUSCIO

##### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Francis Ruscio of Chester County, Pennsylvania on his retirement after 23 years of law enforcement service with the Tredyffrin Township Police Department.

Corporal Ruscio began his law enforcement career in 1979 when, at 20 years old, he was hired as a police officer by the City of Coatesville Police Department. He participated in 3 major drug investigations and raids with county, state and federal agencies in 1981, 1987 and 1988. Corporal Ruscio also served as Acting Detective Sergeant of Coatesville PD from May thru September 1988.

Corporal Ruscio was hired by the Tredyffrin Township Police Department in September 1988 and served in the Department until his retirement in December 2011. He served as Tredyffrin's DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) instructor from 1997–2003, presenting programs to middle school students in Tredyffrin/Easttown School District, Valley Forge Middle School, Woodlynne School and The Crossroads School.

Promoted to the rank of Corporal in 2003, Ruscio lives with his wife Sandy in Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his years of exemplary service to his community and litany of sterling accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Corporal Francis Ruscio for his invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

#### CELEBRATING THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA'S BICENTENNIAL

##### HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial of The Hibernian Society of Savannah, Georgia.

The Hibernian Society of Savannah originated in 1812 as a society of gentlemen to come to the aid of Irish immigrants in the area. One year later they held the first St. Patrick's Day celebration in Savannah at the Independent Presbyterian Church. In 1824, they invited all of the Irishmen of Savannah to join in on a parade which would become the first St. Patrick's Day parade in Savannah's history.

Their role in the history of Savannah and its people has developed greatly over the years. They have been addressed in the past by notable speakers such as President Taft in 1912 and President Franklin D. Roosevelt by radio in 1937. President Truman addressed the body in 1952 at their 150th Anniversary Dinner

and President Carter addressed their Anniversary Dinner in 1978. Since its inception, these notable figures have recognized the actions and donations of the society for the greater good of the people of Savannah.

The scope of their efforts evolved from just the Irish community to the community of Savannah as a whole. They are very active through The Hibernian Society of Savannah Foundation, Inc. in their charitable contributions to the community. These organizations they support include some local schools as well as the Empty Stocking Fund, the Inner City Night Shelter and the Salvation Army among others.

A rich heritage and strong personal ties to the city and the community have ensured that the The Hibernian Society will continue to play a vital role for those in need in Savannah. What once started as a society of Irishmen helping Irish immigrants in need has transformed into a body whose positive impact can be seen everywhere around the City of Savannah.

I commend The Hibernian Society of Savannah, Georgia for their contributions to the people of Savannah and would like to congratulate them on their bicentennial celebration and their rich and continued history in the area.

#### HONORING WILLIAM MITCHELL

##### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the following is a speech given by the former Mayor of South Windsor, John Mitchell, to honor his brother, William Mitchell, for being recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Foundation. These two brothers are united in their love of public service and a willingness to give back to their community. It has been an honor to know them both. John's tribute to his brother offers only a brief glimpse into his many contributions.

Billy is affectionately known to friends and family as "Big," and we call him this because of his big heart, and for always being a big help to anyone who asks. Congratulations Big, and thank you, John, for the following remarks:

In the words of that great S.W. Rotarian and philosopher Robert J. Ignagni, "This is the main event!" Thank you all for coming and being a part of this great evening to honor my baby brother Billy.

For everything and everyone there is a beginning, and this is the way it unfolds . . .

Billy, was the 5th child of 6, born to Joseph and Katie Mitchell. We had 3 older sisters and my father was ready to jump off the Buckley bridge. He always wanted a son and then he got his wish, 3 more children, all 3 boys.

Now, years ago, think about it, our mom gave birth to six children—all in the house wherever we lived at the time. Two girls born in Pennsylvania, 1 in New Britain, Billy and myself in Manchester and Joey in East Hartford. There really wasn't a need for hospitals during this period in our Nation's health care system, but somehow it worked.

Now, if you have ever been poor, it is quite likely, you will remember it. Believe me, you will remember it!

Growing up in East Hartford on Tolland Street during World War II was an experi-

ence for six siblings. Coal was the method that most people used to heat their homes, and our father delivered coal. At our yard there were piles of coal, sometimes as tall as this beautiful restaurant. And for many, many of our young growing years, we would climb those piles of coal and slide and tumble down those huge piles. The neighbors often thought mom had 3 white daughters and 3 black sons, we were the only minorities at the time on Tolland St.

Ice skating was great fun in the winter time, the wooded area across the railroad tracks would contain little locked up areas of frozen ponds that were great for skating all over. Often as our feet grew and the skates didn't we would cut off the front of the skates to accommodate the growth of our feet. Everyone was poor but nobody knew it. Many of you in this room won't remember, except for Kenny Jackson, this is the World War II era, everything is in short supply, gas, soap powder, butter. You name it, it probably was tough to get. Often our family would sit together on the front porch during the air raids at night because Pratt and Whitney was considered a prime target. Wardens would be running up and down the street making sure all lights were out. There were national guard bunkers with guardsmen living in them on the Long Hill Golf Course and on Goodwin Street almost in our back yard, frightening times for kids. And guess what, the Germans do arrive in a sub in Hancock Point, Maine, right where Della lived at the time, and a number of them go walking up Main Street in suits, they were going to infiltrate the area. They are promptly apprehended because they just didn't fit into the local area. Nobody in that part of Maine owned a suit! Talk about not doing your homework!

But we survived it all, and by 1952 the family moved to S.W. where the base of Billy's operations for business is today. Back then it was called North Foster Rd., it was a gravel road and we quickly fit in to our new surroundings by working in the tobacco fields and man were they all over town. After Billy graduated Ellsworth High School, he worked for the family business known as Mitchell Fuel and Trucking and after the coal business died, Billy and Joey started Mitchell Trucking and Mitchell Excavators. Billy became active in town joining the SW Volunteer Fire Dept. and was recently recognized for his service of 50 years and he still to this day, is chairman of the board of fire commissioners. During this period I will never forget 3 incredible fires in town. The Industronic's building on Sullivan Ave., the Pyrofax Propane fire on Rt. #5, and the Fishman Building on Chapel Rd. As the Pyrofax fire was raging, I was standing out in the middle of Rt #5 as huge propane tanks were burning out of control and I saw Billy jump into a piece of heavy equipment and cut a path so the fire trucks could get closer with their suppressants and as the fires burned out of control, one large piece of metal debris landed a short distance from me. I thought how incredibly brave he was, or was he just plain dumb. Needless to say, he survived and this act of bravery did help diminish that huge and dangerous fire more quickly.

Years ago, the trucking business was thriving and Billy actually used to drive a ten-wheeler, Billy calls me around 6:30 a.m., "Johnny could you get a couple of shovels and meet me at the intersection of Crane Road and Wapping Wood Road in Ellington, I said sure, I'll be right there as soon as I can." Now picture this in your mind, Billy's big 10 wheeler is laying over on it's side, gravel all over and I arrive with two small shovels. If ever there was to be a defining moment in our lives, this was it, I knew it, I absolutely knew that I would forever be

mom's favorite. The trucking business was tough enough, but when something like that happens, it did hurt. You'd hire the trucks out for \$45 an hour and it would cost \$47 to run them. But, I attribute his love of the trucking business was due to the fact that he never had any toys to play with.

Now I'm going to fast forward to 20 years ago, because I know the attention span of the average S.W. Rotarian is less than 10 minutes. And there is already a fair amount of money that has been bet on the over and under, 10 minutes.

Billy started Environmental Services, they now employ over 55 people and have approximately 100 different pieces of specialized equipment. The office often is in a constant state of confusion and activity, Billy's computer screen clearly shows where he has left off on the game of solitaire. A quick look around reveals all the latest types of health foods imaginable (and boy if that isn't an understatement). Visitors coming and going, and so when I go there and bring him a coffee, it's so easy to understand why I forgot what I went there for in the first place. But, I'll tell you this, Billy loves oil companies, just loves us passionately. You see we deliver oil products for \$3-\$4 per gallon and God help you if you spill it, he will clean it up for \$100 per gallon!

Throughout his many years, Billy has had a unique way of handling pressure, and I really admired this talent. Picture this, "courtroom scene" Billy is the co-defendant in a suit brought against him. He is represented by the Big East Hartford law firm, Leone, Throwe, Teller and Nagle. In the midst of the proceedings, Judge George Ripley smacks his gavel down and says Attorney Throwe approach the bench, so Jim approaches the bench and Judge Ripley says if you don't wake your client up I'll hold you both in contempt. Can't you see we have students present observing these proceedings. That's about as relaxed as you can get!

Not long ago Billy was honored by the S.W. Volunteer Fire Department for his many years of service and recently he was selected to be the Town Marshall representing the Town of S.W. for the St. Patrick's Day parade. This is despite the fact that I think he is actually polish. Oh well!!!

Additionally his recent awards and citations include one from Governor Dan Malloy, Secretary of State, Denise Merrill, the General Assembly, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, Mayor John Pelkey and the S.W. Town Council, Atty. General George Jepson and State Comptroller Kevin Lembo. (I think he's trying to snag his signature stamp). After all this prominence, I decided to stop by the office and ask him if he was dying. Billy says "No, why how do I look?" I said well maybe you might want to lose a pound or two and don't roll up your tee-shirt so high—but we are who we are.

Over the many, many years, Billy has always supported Rotary's fund raising efforts by either donating items for the auction or the purchasing of countless car raffle tickets, which was started by Andy Charboneau, and Rotary's many other worthy causes.

Billy's never been a Rotarian although he's been asked many, many times. He never held a public office, he never excelled in sports and when we played baseball in the lot next to our home in East Hartford and things didn't go well for our youngest sister, the game was over because it was her bat and her ball. Billy exhibits the kind of quality that you would like to see in everyone, a compassion for his fellow man and a willingness to help whenever and however he possibly can. He exhibits to the highest degree, the first rule of Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self". Billy's life style reflects the work ethic of a seemingly distant era, except

for maybe his favor nephew Davids. Billy is asleep by 8 p.m., awake by 4 a.m. and on his way to the 7-11 on Ellington Rd., where he may be asleep in the parking lot, stocking shelves or making coffee for the attendant. It was on one such early Sunday morning on his way there that he noticed a raging garage fire starting to lick the side of a home. A mother with her 3 children lie asleep inside and he pounded on the door and was able wake them and call the Fire Department to respond. It is quite likely that he saved their lives.

When that final book is written, I believe it will not be the measure of one's achievements or wealth but what that person has done with his or her life to help make this a better and caring world.

Fellow Rotarian's and guests, I submit to you the nominee for Rotary's highest award, the Paul Harris Award to Billy F. Mitchell.

#### MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY MS150 BIKE RIDE FROM HOUSTON TO AUSTIN 2012

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, rise to discuss Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and to support the Multiple Sclerosis MS150 Bike Ride from Houston to Austin occurring this weekend. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society has sponsored this and many other events over the course of last 32 years.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS), itself, is an unpredictable disease of the central nervous system which disrupts communication between the brain and other parts of the body.

Sadly, there is no known cure for multiple sclerosis at this time. However, there are therapies that may slow the disease. The goal of treatment is to control symptoms and help you maintain a normal quality of life. Most people experience their first symptoms of MS between the ages of 20 and 40; the initial symptom of MS is often blurred or double vision, red-green color distortion, or even blindness in one eye.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) affects women more than men. 75% of the people diagnosed with MS are female. The disease is most commonly diagnosed between ages 20 and 40, but can be seen at any age.

I would personally like to thank the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for spreading awareness about MS and for organizing the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's 2012 X Event/ Bike Ride from Houston to Austin.

In additions, I would like to thank all the participants who are biking and supporting those who are participating in this meaningful bike riding.

Their efforts have raised funds and hopes not only in support of researching a cure for Multiple Sclerosis, but also providing programs for people affected by the disease to address their daily challenges.

Multiple Sclerosis is known to be one of the most debilitating chronic diseases. It is a terrible affliction that interrupts the flow of information from the brain to the body. Every single day, over 400,000 people battling with the physical, mental and emotional challenges of this disease.

It is an unpredictable disease that affects each person differently. Symptoms can be

mild, such as some numbness in the limbs. Or, they can be severe, such as paralysis or loss of vision. The progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS are erratic and vary from one person to another.

Thanks to organizations like the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, however, today new treatments and advances in research are giving new hope to people affected by the disease.

#### BIKE MS150 OVERVIEW

Beginning in 1980, Bike MS150 has grown to be the largest organized charity bicycling event in the US, inspiring over 100,000 volunteers to participate every year. For the last 6 years my office has volunteered to participate in the MS150. Together, we have raised more than \$600 million for this noble cause.

I also know there are other Multiple Sclerosis events, such as MS walks and golf tournaments through which people raised the public awareness and delivered their love, support and care to the members of the MS community.

#### THE STORY OF NICOLE

I would like to share with you the story of Ms. Nicole. Diagnosed with MS in 2000 while attending nursing school, Nicole didn't give up her dream, persevered, and finished her degree. Sadly, the development of the MS forced her to give up her nursing career in 2009. But the disease never stopped her from pursuing a full and beautiful life.

Nicole started a personal blog and re-adapted to all the physical difficulties in her life. I would like to take this moment to share with you a sentence from her blog, "emotionally I'm stronger, more resilient and tenacious than ever. Looking forward, my new normal is uncertain. In my heart I feel it is going to get better."

It is going to get better because Nicole has a determination to battle the disease; because everyone of us here today are dedicated to offer our support; because together we believe we can make a difference to people and their families living with the diseases.

Again, I am honored to be part of this event, and applaud all of those involved in the effort to free people from MS.

#### KEY POINTS

##### 1. The Disease.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is caused by damage to the myelin sheath, the protective covering that surrounds nerve cells. When this nerve covering is damaged, nerve signals slow down or stop. The nerve damage is caused by inflammation. Inflammation occurs when the body's own immune cells attack the nervous system. This can occur along any area of the brain, optic nerve, and spinal cord. It is unknown what exactly causes this to happen.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) affects women more than men. 75% of the people diagnosed with MS are female. The disease is most commonly diagnosed between ages 20 and 40, but can be seen at any age.

Those living with MS experience muscle weakness in their extremities and difficulty with coordination and balance. These symptoms may be severe enough to impair walking or even standing.

In the worst cases, MS can produce partial or complete paralysis. Most people with MS also exhibit paresthesias, transitory abnormal sensory feelings such as numbness, prickling,