

Rich Cummings, Mike Dracker, Matt Oliver, Eric Fletcher, Tom DiStasio, Steve Kuhns, Matt Rainbow, Brian Dushatinski, Peter Paris, Mark Callahan, Leon Saddler, Stephen Pride, Kevin Didio, Kris Estabrook, Matt Wilson and Bill Urciuoli were all instrumental components of this CBA powerhouse.

Throughout the 2004 season, the team overcame fatigue, injury, sweltering August heat, and a rigorous schedule, to complete an unblemished record of 13 wins and 0 losses, truly exemplifying the definition of a champion.

I commend Christian Brothers Academy's 2004 football team for their hard work and perseverance and congratulate them on a perfect season. You have set the standard for future Purple and Gold teams.

Congratulations to the Champs.

HONORING TEENA M. BOREK

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I would like to rise in order to honor Teena M. Borek—the 2004 Woman of the Year in Agriculture. She is a pioneer in the agriculture industry and an incredible example to young women throughout America.

When her husband tragically died in 1980, Teena decided to run their farm and became the only female vegetable farmer in Miami-Dade County. Impressively, she was able to successfully run the farm while raising two young toddlers, who are now both involved in agriculture.

In the late 1980s, Teena Borek played a large role in bringing needed computer technology to farms and worked with the Community Bank of Florida to ensure that appropriate financing mechanisms were in place to increase access to this important technology. Not surprisingly, Borek Farms was the first Homestead vegetable farm to use a computer.

Using her knowledge from when she first handled the books at Borek Farms, Teena also helped implement an accounting program for farms that is still in use today.

Her achievements in advancing agricultural crops is also unparalleled. Teena became the first Miami-Dade County farmer to use the linear irrigation system and Borek Farms had the first commercially grown Florida 7862 tomato.

One of her greatest achievements, however, is the impact she has had on young women. As a female pioneer in Florida agriculture, she has paved a path for young women in an industry that has largely been dominated by men. Currently, she is serving as the second female President of the Dade County Farm Bureau and has mentored many young women, including the current executive director of the Farm Bureau.

I have had the honor of visiting with Teena and learning about the many achievements she has made for Florida's agriculture industry. After getting to know her and better understand the work of Steven Borek Farms, it seems clear that Teena's contribution to Florida agriculture will be understood well beyond our lifetime.

She may be most recognized for her work in Miami-Dade County, but her achievements have impacted the entire state of Florida.

While advancing the entire industry through technological expansion, she paved the path for generations of women hoping to enter the industry.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Teena M. Borek on being named the 2004 Woman of the Year in Agriculture by the Florida Farm Bureau.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO RALPH CERNY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has made remarkable contributions to the health of the people of northern Michigan. Ralph Cerny is retiring from his position as CEO of the Munson Medical Center in Traverse City on December 31st, closing a long career dedicated to providing his community with quality health care. Mr. Cerny's 38 years as a hospital administrator and community leader serve as a shining example of his profession.

In 1964, Ralph Cerny graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. The year before, he actually had his first experience at Munson Medical Center, working as a summer intern. From Cornell University, Ralph went on to study Hospital Administration at the University of Michigan, where he not only earned a Master's degree, but also met his wife, Maureen.

After graduating from U of M in 1966, Ralph began his career as an Associate Administrator at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He remained there for seven years, but in 1973, he returned to Michigan as the CEO of the Memorial Medical Center of West Michigan in Ludington.

In 1985, the long-time CEO of Munson Medical Center, Jack Bay, asked Ralph to move north and join Munson as Chief Operating Officer. He accepted, and began a 19 year tenure that saw Munson grow into a nationally-recognized hospital and health care provider at the center of a regional network of community-based hospitals.

In his eight years as COO, and eleven years as CEO, Munson Medical Center has created a cardiovascular program that has been recognized on four occasions for superior clinical and operational performance; opened a new South Tower for patient care, opened a new ambulatory surgery center; and initiated an air ambulance service. This excellence has not gone unnoticed either. Munson received the National Quality Health Care Award in 2000 and was named one of the Nation's Top 100 hospitals six times.

In short, Mr. Speaker, Ralph's leadership has had a lasting impact on the quality of care at Munson Medical Center, and on the quality of life in the Grand Traverse Region. I worked closely with Ralph Cerny and the Munson Medical family, and I have seen firsthand his dedication to his work and to his community.

While Ralph will be missed at Munson, he has more than earned this retirement. As much as he has given to his career, Ralph has always had time for his family, and I know he looks forward to spending more time with his wife Maureen, their three sons Tim, Tyler,

and Ryan, and their five grandchildren. I also suspect he will spend more time indulging in two of his favorite pastimes: golf and downhill skiing.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph Cerny's commitment to his family, his community, health care, and Munson Medical Center serves as an example to all of us. I ask the House to join me in honoring him, thanking him for his service, and wishing him well in his retirement.

HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE HAS BROAD JURISDICTION OVER "CONGRESSIONAL CONTINUITY"

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on May 4, 2004, I introduced House Resolution 623. This was a one-line resolution which stated: ". . . That the House of Representatives should address issues relating to the potential incapacity of its Members." I did this to make an important jurisdictional point.

The resolution, which was referred solely to the Committee on House Administration, served to highlight the committee's jurisdiction over how to deal with the status of incapacitated Members, and, by implication, more broadly with certain other matters relating to the continuity of Congress. The committee already has principal jurisdiction over the conduct of congressional and Presidential elections, the qualifications and credentials of House Members, and administrative control over the internal operations of the House, including Chamber security.

I would hope that in the 109th Congress, our committee, where I serve as the ranking minority member, will more forcefully exercise the authority it has to address a range of issues which threaten the ability of Congress to function in the event of a national catastrophe. We need to develop specific, and constitutional, proposals to address the potential absence of incapacitated Members. If the only effective way is through a constitutional amendment, as I suspect it is, then that argument should be clearly made.

Much attention in the 108th Congress has gone to other committees, such as Rules and Judiciary, which have specialized roles in considering certain types of continuity measures. If a proposal is introduced as a House rule, it will be referred to the Rules Committee; if it is a constitutional amendment, it will go to Judiciary. The Rules Committee held a useful hearing this year on incapacity, but its ability to deal with elements of the issue beyond changes to the rules of the House is limited.

This Congress has been a huge disappointment because of its failure to effectively address many issues involving the stability of our structure of Government, deficiencies brought to the forefront by the September 11 attacks, as well as a disturbing tendency to paper over controversies with legislation which fails to substantively address the problem.

For example, the House earlier this year rejected a constitutional amendment offered by Representative BAIRD of Washington which would have reconstituted the House quickly through temporary appointments, pending special elections, if a large number of Members