

a reputation as a consensus builder on many local issues.

Tom is best remembered for his humanitarian efforts and his enthusiasm as a tireless advocate for San Diego. His carefree nature and long white hair made him stand out in a crowd. Although he is gone now, Tom left an inspiring legacy for entrepreneurs, civic leaders, and youth in our community.

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Tom Fat's family and honor his life and contributions to the San Diego community. He was admired by so many people for so many reasons, and the impact he had on San Diego will stay alive in the many positive changes he helped to achieve and the memories of him which we will never forget. He will be greatly missed.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to honor such a remarkable individual.

CONGRATULATING SWEDESBERG
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY ON
THEIR 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company, located in Upper Merion, Pennsylvania on their 65th anniversary.

Established in 1942 as a civilian defense in the face of World War II, the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company has become an essential and respected service institution in my district, providing unrivaled emergency response and civic services. Its first engine, a Hale-Ford 500 GPM pumper was purchased for just \$5,000. Today a comparable truck would cost around \$400,000.

Over the course of the past 65 years we have seen a distinct evolution in the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company, but one thing has remained constant—the Company's volunteers have been steadfast in their service and dedication to the community.

As we look back on the past 65 years, there are some important dates to note:

May 11, 1942: Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company is incorporated by Montgomery County. Its first meetings are in Michael Brodowski's Tavern and Stanley Knaisiak's barbershop.

1946: Swedesburg's Ladies Auxiliary is established by company president, Bernard S. Gutkowski, Sr.

1951: Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company's original fire house is built on Church Road thanks to generous contributions from James Lees & Sons, among many others.

1953: The development of the PA Turnpike Delaware River Extension charges right through Swedesburg's back yard and the firehouse, along with 32 homes, are razed for its development.

1954: Volunteers and the community rally to construct the present-day firehouse on Jefferson Street.

1960s: The Junior Fireman's Corps is established for volunteers between the ages of 17 and 21.

1975: The Company establishes a Vehicle Rescue Unit with its first "Jaws of Life".

1983: Swedesburg is among the first companies in Pennsylvania to be certified in vehicle rescue.

1986: Swedesburg establishes its water rescue team with the purchase of its first boat and hours of training for 30 personnel.

1991: An addition to the existing firehouse is completed, with a larger engine room and improved radio room, a new meeting room and offices.

One of the greatest services in my district comes from first responders who are on the frontlines protecting us. They are required to balance the demands of their service with their families and full-time careers. I ask that everyone please join me in congratulating the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company and all of the men and women that have helped serve their community over the past 65 years.

HONORING MINNESOTA'S EMERGENCY SERVICES WORKERS—EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE, EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the emergency service workers of Minnesota. This week is National Emergency Services Week and I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary dedication and service of Minnesota's Emergency Medical Dispatchers, First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, Emergency Department Nurses and Physicians and introduce this brief proclamation.

Whereas, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

Whereas, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide life-saving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

Whereas, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

Whereas, the emergency medical services system consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others; and

Whereas, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; and

Now, therefore, I—KEITH ELLISON—Congressman for the Fifth District of Minnesota hereby proclaim the week of May 20–26, 2007, as National Emergency Services Week.

IN HONOR OF HARRY AND
BARBARA KRAMER

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 2 true western Pennsylvania heroes,

Mr. Harry Kramer and his wife, Barbara. "Uncle Harry," as he is known to generations of campers, was Executive Director of YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee in Fombell, Beaver County for 37 years, before retiring this spring. On June 2, hundreds of campers, parents, counselors, and others touched by Harry's kindness and selflessness will return to Camp Kon-O-Kwee to honor Uncle Harry and his wife, Aunt Barbara, and to dedicate the brand new dining hall as "Kramer Hall."

Harry and Barbara have devoted their lives to helping others. Together they turned Camp Kon-O-Kwee from a ramshackle boys camp slated for closure into the country's premier camp for special needs children and adults. Kon-O-Kwee also serves as a place for at-risk youth retreats, senior citizen camping trips, school field trips, and parent-child weekend campouts. Over 17,000 campers come to Kon-O-Kwee each year, and Uncle Harry and Aunt Barbara's warm smiles and big hearts have made an indelible imprint on each and every one.

Madam Speaker, these 2 western Pennsylvanians are shining examples of what the rest of us should strive to be. They have worked tirelessly for almost 40 years to create a magical place that Uncle Harry has called "heaven on earth." And for the thousands who have passed through Camp Kon-O-Kwee—be it for a day, a weekend, or a week—it has been exactly that.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I extend to them my deepest thanks for their years of service to western Pennsylvania and I wish them the very best in their well-earned retirement.

CONGRATULATING CHANGING
HANDS BOOKSTORE PUBLISHER'S
WEEKLY BOOKSELLER OF THE
YEAR 2007

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the awarding of the Publisher's Weekly Bookseller of the Year for 2007 to my favorite bookstore, Changing Hands, in my hometown of Tempe, Arizona.

Changing Hands bookstore is a model for independent businesses. It has not only survived, but thrived in the age of "chain stores". Changing Hands regularly hosts teens' and kids' programs, features book signings by local and national authors, and is a meeting place for book groups. President Jimmy Carter, former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, as well as Senator HILLARY CLINTON are just a few of the notable authors who have been featured at events at this Tempe institution.

Changing Hands has been a Tempe destination since it first opened its doors in 1974. It has attracted a loyal following that draws an eclectic group of individuals whose interests range from New Age to older age to teen age.

The business thrives because owners Gail Shanks, Bill Sommer, and Suzie Brazil are committed to innovation, employee participation and customer service. Without them, the community would have an intellectual void.

If one were to choose a place in Tempe to represent what the community should value,