

work and use their own funds for gas and whatever else is needed to attend missions.

The Guard is activated each time the military reports the death of a soldier in Iraq. This nationwide organization of volunteers is very efficient. State Captains send out e-mails to members in the city where the soldier will be buried, and everyone jumps into action. They ensure that streets along the funeral procession are lined with American flags. Each mission is accomplished through legal and non-violent means. If protestors are present and become loud, the Patriot Guard Riders form a flag line, turn their backs on protesters, and will even drown the sound of the protestors by singing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

One involved Patriot biker, Rich "Boomer" Ford, a former Navy SEAL who served in Vietnam is the State Captain for the Texas Patriot Guard Riders. He is the man in charge of the "missions". If you ask Boomer why he rides, he will tell you that he remembers the lack of respect received when returning home from Vietnam. He wants to make sure that doesn't happen to these brave men and women. Boomer feels that each "mission" recognizes and honors the hard work our soldiers are doing for us overseas. These men and women like Boomer, who volunteer their time to help guard our nation's heroes should be forever remembered for their honor and dignity.

I commend the Patriot Guard Riders for riding for our soldiers whose lives were given in pursuit of a great cause, American freedom. I am proud to recognize these angels on bikes with hearts bigger than Texas. They show their respect for our troops, their families, and our community in an honorable way, one funeral at a time. They make a difference and represent all that is right and good in America. And that's just the way it is.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
DONNY BEACHY FOR WINNING
THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Donny Beachy showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and

Whereas, Donny Beachy was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Donny Beachy always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the green; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Donny Beachy on winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

TRIBUTE TO TONY HESS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and heroism of Tony

Hess. A 23-year-old volunteer firefighter from Kanawha County West Virginia, Hess raced into a burning house last month to save the life of two year old Alyssa Abner.

Hess didn't plan on being a hero on November 23. A business major at West Virginia State University, he was just answering an early morning emergency call; but when he arrived first on the scene he headed directly to a second story bedroom. The smoke was so dense that he had to break a window in order to find Alyssa trapped inside.

After rescuing her from the fire, Tony rode with her all the way to the hospital. I am happy to report that little Alyssa is in an improving condition at a Cincinnati hospital.

Madam Speaker, I join the chorus of West Virginians thankful for Tony's courage and service. Volunteer firefighters are true heroes who sacrifice for the right reasons. In Tony's own words, "I'm not doing it for the publicity or lights or sirens," he said. "I just want to be a fireman."

**RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF DAVID J. WILLIAMS AS
CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT OF
SANOFI PASTEUR AND HIS CON-
TRIBUTIONS TO THE VACCINE
INDUSTRY**

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize David J. Williams of Scranton, PA, for his lifetime accomplishments and his extraordinary contributions to the vaccine industry in the United States.

On January 16, 2008, after 30 years of service, David J. Williams will retire as the chairman, president and chief executive officer of Sanofi Pasteur.

Mr. Williams, born in Scranton, PA, received his accounting degree from the University of Scranton in 1973 and joined Connaught Laboratories in 1978 as the manager of financial services.

As a member of the executive team, Mr. Williams distinguished himself as a leader willing to make courageous decisions to build the vaccine industry, and he was named chief operating officer of Connaught Laboratories in 1989.

Mr. Williams successfully steered the company through several mergers and acquisitions. As an organization that began with just 100 employees and sales of just over \$5 million in 1978, Connaught eventually merged with today's sanofi pasteur, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer with 11,000 employees and more than \$4 billion in sales in 2007.

Under Mr. Williams' guidance, more than a billion doses of Sanofi Pasteur's lifesaving vaccines were administered to more than 500 million people around the world each year, representing more than 25% of the global vaccine market.

Mr. Williams encouraged innovation and he has been at the forefront of the development of many of the world's vaccines, including the

world's first licensed conjugate and combination vaccines, vaccines to protect against meningitis and Haemophilus influenza type B, and most recently, a vaccine to combat avian influenza.

Mr. Williams recognized his company's ability to address current and future public health needs by investing in a robust research and development program and an ambitious production plan for pandemic preparedness in the event that a public health emergency strikes the United States.

Mr. Williams has been a visionary in the vaccine industry, building the domestic infrastructure necessary to protect millions of Americans from deadly diseases and showing a commitment to vaccines that goes beyond his own company to the broader industry and to public health around the world.

Mr. Williams, in his dedication to the larger immunization community, created the Vaccine Policy Committee of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and is a founding member of the Partnership for Prevention, a leading organization of public and private sector representatives who focus on preventative health care policies.

Mr. Williams served as the first liaison member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which sets immunization policy in the United States.

Mr. Williams also served on the board of directors of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and on the Board of Regents of the University of Scranton. He is also one of the founding Board Members of the Medical Education Development Consortium.

Mr. Williams cultivated a culture of community involvement at sanofi pasteur and demonstrated a commitment to philanthropy through the company's contributions to United Way and donations of vaccines through UNICEF, the Global Alliance for Vaccines Immunization, GAVI, the World Health Organization's Global Polio Eradication Initiative and various humanitarian relief efforts.

Mr. Williams has been committed to the economic growth and development of Northeastern Pennsylvania and to expanding the campus in Swiftwater to maintain a domestic manufacturing base for many vaccines, including influenza. Under his guidance, sanofi pasteur grew to become the largest private employer in Monroe County and a purchaser of over \$145 million in goods and services from Pennsylvania-based vendors.

It has been a pleasure working with Dave over the years as his company expanded not only in Monroe County, but also in Scranton, his hometown. He has made an enormous contribution to his community, and on behalf of all my constituents, I would like to express my gratitude.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Williams for his distinguished career and extraordinary leadership as chairman, president and chief executive officer of sanofi pasteur and for his tireless efforts toward the advancement of immunizations and the eradication of vaccine preventable diseases.