

women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Social Services Award winner is Barbara Schlichting of Stockton. She has worked for Somerset Treatment Services in Somerville for 32 years, first as a counselor, then as a supervisor, and now as executive director.

Barbara has worked with countless staff and clients to provide quality and meaningful services in the field of drug and alcohol counseling and psychiatric services.

She works tirelessly to secure grants for those with tremendous hardships and runs a successful agency that provides sometimes-difficult-to-find services. The agency's many counselors over the years also have benefited from Barbara's knowledge and dedication.

I am pleased to congratulate Barbara Schlichting for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

HONORING THE SAINT JOSEPH COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County in celebration of its 100th anniversary.

The founding fathers of the Chamber of Commerce realized that as a business community their collective actions would have a much greater impact than those actions taken individually. In order to make their community stronger, both locally and nationally, they would need the business community engaged in all areas of commerce.

Today, the Chamber is immersed in all areas of business, education, and legislative affairs, and it continues to deeply involve itself in the community at large. This is critical to Saint Joseph County residents today, since cities across the land are facing profound issues such as unemployment, budget cuts, and an increase in school drop-out rates.

As a response to these challenges, the Chambers of Commerce across the country have taken on far more active roles within their communities. While still involved in the important networking events that encourage collaboration between the current and future generations of business professionals, the Chamber's role has become far more participatory in the critical issues facing our community. To this effect, the Chamber is partnering with the South Bend Community School Corporation and government officials, as well as with business and community leaders, to lead the school system in a new, dynamic direction.

Two years ago, The Chamber formed the Business Growth Initiative, which proactively addresses and resolves key issues that will help businesses grow and expand in the city of South Bend. Also, the chamber recognized the need to retain and attract young professionals in our community. The Young Profes-

sionals Network (YPN) was created to help address key issues for young professionals living in and relocating to the area.

Many programs have been initiated and conducted with the Chamber taking the lead role, such as the Manufacturing Summit, which addressed the issue of education and the development of a workforce that is technologically advanced; Green Community initiatives, an entrepreneurial forum; and the South Bend/Mishawaka Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Whether it is an issue of advanced business, community, or education, the Chamber is prepared to make a difference now and for the next 100 years. They continue to advance their community and help its citizens make a difference by allowing their voices to be heard. Consequently, I salute the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County on its 100th anniversary and wish them continued success.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SILVER SPRINGS-MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Silver Springs-Martin Luther School on its 150th Anniversary and to recognize the tremendous dedication of staff, administrators, Board of Trustees and supporters of this outstanding facility.

Founded in 1859 in Philadelphia with just one dollar and gritty determination to serve orphaned children, the 36-acre campus in Plymouth Meeting, Montgomery County provides a home, treatment, education and a variety of services to very special, traumatized children and their families.

The extremely dedicated and talented staff at Silver Springs-Martin Luther School, combined with the excellent foster family care, special education school and family resource services, help so many wonderful children overcome the steep challenges they face in their early years.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Silver Springs-Martin Luther School for reaching this extraordinary milestone and in commending the exemplary efforts of the staff, administrators, Board of Trustees and supporters in providing a nurturing and healing environment so that children facing long odds can achieve their full potential.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR MIKE

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a dear friend and one of Connecticut's most dynamic and charismatic leaders. He was known universally as Mayor Mike. A great light left us when Michael J. Peters passed away on January 4, 2009. His engaging personality, his great sense of humor and his devotion to his

city, his friends and his family, will forever endure.

I was fortunate to know him and to be a direct beneficiary of his friendship and loyalty. I was equally honored to be at his funeral surrounded by friends, family and dignitaries, but it was through the remarks of his sister Geraldine and his son Chris that the essence of this great and beloved man was captured. Madam Speaker, I submit to the record of this great Nation these eulogies of Mayor Mike Peters of Hartford, Connecticut, a great American and a great example of devotion and service above self, done with a smile.

EULOGY GIVEN BY CHRIS PETERS

Good morning. I would first like to say on behalf of my mother, my brother, my sister and my entire extended family thank you so much for such a genuine and unbelievable outpour of support over the last several weeks. Your prayers and well wishes helped us all get through this difficult time.

My father was an example to us children of what hard work is and what it takes to raise a family. For most of our childhood my dad worked two jobs to support our family and to give us a roof over our heads. His main and most notable career was as a firefighter but with the schedule being as it was for a firefighter he had days off that allowed him to bring in additional income. One such job was delivering oil for John McCarthy Oil. Although it was against the oil company's policy, my father would often bring me on deliveries with him and he would let me hold the nozzle as we filled the tanks at people's homes. I remember once the tank had overflowed and I was sprayed from head to toe with fuel . . . that was the end of that. I think he realized at that point why there was such a policy but because he worked so often, any chance he had to hang out with us he took advantage, even if it meant bringing me to work and dousing me in a highly flammable liquid.

Having a firefighter as a father was such a cool thing as a kid. It's most kids' dream to be a firefighter when they grow up and having him work at Engine 15 right up the street from where we grew up; I was able to show off all the time. Bring my friends into the firehouse and look at the trucks and watch him slide down the pole. He gave us so much to be proud of way before he ever became the Mayor.

He was an umpire for our little league in the south end (he had a very tight strike zone by the way) and was instrumental in organizing fund raisers for the league and helped shape my love for baseball by making sure my brother David and I were Yankee fans at a very early age. I've been told (mostly by him) that he was quite the ball player when he was younger. I think he was proud of my 4 year career in the McGinley Craffa little league and he was happy to get 4 more years out of David, who by the way, was much better than I. Watching a Yankee game with him on a warm summer night, windows open and a warm summer breeze blowing in, is something my brother and I will sorely miss.

His bond with my sister Michelle was something very special between a daughter and her father. In High School, Michelle did what a lot of young teenage girls do; she gave our father a lot of grey hairs. Although we joke about the trouble Michelle got into, truth is she wasn't all that bad. Now that I look back on it, it was more the concern my father had for her and the love he felt for his only daughter. Those years of rebellion helped shape a very special bond between the two of them. My father's love and commitment to making sure he showed her the way

helped shape Michelle into the incredible person she is. A fantastic mother whose children will most certainly miss their Gampy.

As my brother and sister and I got older my father transformed into something different. He became our friend, someone you could tell anything to. He was my best friend, the person you wanted to do things with, anything, go to a game, dinner or just drive around the city and talk about anything.

He married his high school sweetheart Jeannette and if you're not familiar with their relationship I can tell you theirs is one of true love and dedication. My mother spent every day in the hospital over the last 3 months with my father. She has sacrificed so much to sit with him and root him on. She is truly a Saint who lost her true love. My heart will forever be broken for her.

Most of you here today know how he lived. Vibrant, larger than life, caring, loving and concerned for anyone who needed help. He loved to laugh and make people laugh. He had an incredible ability to find the positive in any situation. Always optimistic with a heart bigger than the city. He kept his home phone number listed after he became the Mayor, he would get all kinds of calls at all hours of the day and night and he would always return the call. No matter how strange the request. One night around midnight or so, he got a call from a woman on Yale St. whose cat was stuck in a tree, she knew my dad was a firefighter and begged him to call the fire department and get them to her house to retrieve her cat from the tree. My father calmed her down from the comfort of his bed, told her the fire department doesn't really do that sort of thing and she should go to bed and that her cat will come down on its own and then he asked her "by the way, have you ever seen the skeleton of a cat in a tree before?" The point was well taken and sure enough he called her back the next morning and her cat was ok. This was how he lived, finding humor in situations, compassionate towards the needs of others no matter how extraordinary the request. This is how he lived, with a smile on his face and love in his heart. Now I would like to tell you a little bit about how he died.

(adlibbed)

I want you all to know that my father died peacefully this past Sunday surrounded by his family, we were all there and I believe this gave him great comfort. We believe he is in a better place now, no longer suffering.

Over the last few days many people have been telling me how sorry they are about my father's passing but I'm deeply sorry for all of you as well. I feel like we are all in the same boat. Not only did my family lose a father, grandfather, brother, uncle, husband but we all lost a true champion, a best friend and a confidant. The pain in my heart is no greater than yours. I know this because he meant so much to so many and together we will all heal by remembering him as he was. Happy-go-lucky Mike.

His legacy should be carried out by supporting Hartford, eating in its restaurants (hint, hint . . . plug) and getting involved, seeing something that's wrong and doing something about it. He always said no matter if you live in Wethersfield or West Hartford, Simsbury or Rocky Hill, this is your city. We all need to harness his enthusiasm and do our part no matter how big or small because that's truly what he would want. God Bless you Dad and Go Hartford.

EULOGY GIVEN BY GERALDINE SULLIVAN

There were two princes born on Nov. 14, 1948; Prince Charles and our prince, Michael Paul Peters, the firstborn son of Christine and Paul. Michael, Paula, Eleanor, Robert and I were raised in an apartment down the

street, at 189 Campfield Avenue, surrounded by a loving, extended family. This is the neighborhood where my grandfather owned a tailor shop, where we attended church before gathering for late afternoon meals, and where my parents instilled values in each of us that would carry throughout our lives: the importance of family, respect, compassion, and humor. Despite our family's limited resources, envy was not tolerated. Ultimately, my brother Michael exemplified these values better than any of us, even though he had his own unique way of showing it.

At a young age Mike was able to come up with creative solutions to solve life's most difficult problems. I remember when Michael first entered kindergarden at Naylor School. On his way to and from school, there was a group of first grade thugs who would taunt Mike and threaten him. When he told my parents about the situation, my father spent the evening teaching him how to box and defend himself when attacked. It was a priceless father-son moment. The next day, my father rushed home from work to hear the news. When asked if he was bullied again, Mike answered, "No". My father proudly asked, "Well . . . what happened?" Mike was equally proud when he responded, "I took a different route home from school". That was my brother's way throughout his life. He thought of creative solutions. For example, he worked closely with Don Walsh to develop Mayor Mike's Companies for Kids, where they raised \$1 million for youth programs in Hartford.

Another one of Mike's greatest attributes was his ability to treat all people with respect. My father, Paul, was unusual for his time in his ability to reach across racial and economic barriers to show respect for others. In fact, he was so concerned about respect, he enlisted Michael to attend proms and dances with any girl who had circumstances that prevented her from having a date. My parents' friends soon learned of this, so when someone's daughter was left without a date to the prom, they called Paul and Christine. Michael attended proms and dances all around the region. Even though renting a tux and buying flowers was difficult on a meager family budget, Mike put on his tux and attended without complaint. He treated every girl like she was the prom queen. He always had an amazing gift of making people feel special, as witnessed by us over the last few days. Our family has been overwhelmed by the tremendous outpouring from people of all races, ages, and socioeconomic backgrounds and their stories about our brother. Throughout his life, Mike made powerful connections with people because he treated them with dignity and respect.

A third attribute that I'd like to mention about my brother was his ability to get the job done. I remember when he had a paper route, delivering the afternoon paper of the Hartford Times. Every evening when we sat down to dinner, the phone rang with people looking for papers that were never delivered. My father lectured him every night about the importance of being reliable and having a good work ethic. Eventually the phone stopped ringing during dinner and my father was proud that his son finally learned good business practices. Then one day, my parents were driving home from work and their car was stopped at the light on the corner of Preston and Campfield Avenue. When my father looked out the window, he saw the top of the green city sand box slowly rise. Michael was hiding inside and peering out at the exact same moment. They quickly realized that Mike franchised out his route to ten workers while he laid in a sand box hiding and still managed to make a profit. As mayor, Mike knew how to enlist the talents

of various people to get the job done. His work with John Wardlaw, federal agencies, and community groups resulted in tremendous improvements in the quality of public housing in Hartford.

There are countless stories about Mike's childhood, his days as a fireman, and of course, as mayor of Hartford. The best way to honor him is to share his stories, laugh often, and live by these same attributes that defined my brother: love of family, respect for all, and compassion towards others. One of his favorite sayings was, "you don't have the biggest house on the block by tearing everyone else's house down". Michael could not stand seeing people treated unfairly, and at times he took on unpopular political battles to correct what he felt was wrong. To continue his legacy, have the courage to stand up against injustice and work together to make Hartford, this city that Mike loved with his heart and soul, a place where all people are treated with dignity and respect.

In closing, I'd like to take a minute to say something, on behalf of my entire family about the love of Mike's life, our sister Jeannette. They met in high school and were perfect for each other from the moment they met. Although he loved to go out and be social, while she was content sitting home under a blanket watching her favorite shows, they had deep love and respect for one another. Jeannette has always been the light of my brother's life. Her unwavering devotion was especially obvious over the last three months. She was there with him, by his side . . . holding his hand . . . praying with him. In the last few weeks, when he couldn't speak, his eyes would search the room looking for her, and he only found peace and comfort when he found her. They're the perfect love story and she remained by his side until his last moments on earth. Jeannette, we love you and thank you for making our brother so happy.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN L. HELGERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 37 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of great integrity and an unerring sense of humor, Mr. John Helgerson, on the occasion of his retirement after 37 distinguished years in the Intelligence Community.

During the last seven years as CIA Inspector General, John has demonstrated the unfailing courage, sense of fairness and independent judgment that Congress envisioned when it created the position of Inspector General. Under his leadership, the Office of the Inspector General grappled with some of the thorniest issues in the Intelligence Community. John is one of those rare few individuals who is always willing to speak truth to power.

Prior to becoming Inspector General, John served as Chairman of the National Intelligence Council, Deputy Director of the former National Imagery and Mapping Agency, now the National Geospatial Agency, and Deputy Director for Intelligence at CIA. There are few individuals in the Intelligence Community with as wide-ranging and distinguished experience as John. Our country is better-informed and safer as a result of his service.