

JOHN NESPOLI HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. John L. Nespoli, who has been named Community Leaders of the Year by the Arthritis Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania. I am proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

This prestigious award has been described by Arthritis Foundation Chairperson Deborah D. Hannon as an honor "presented to an individual who epitomizes the word 'leader' in both their personal and professional life. The recipient is someone who gives back to their community as a way of thanking them for achieving success in their own life."

John Nespoli is the president and chief executive officer of Mercy Health Partners and one of the senior vice presidents of Catholic Healthcare Partners, which makes him responsible for a \$200 million health care system, including a tertiary referral center, community hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health care, physician group practice and managed care operations.

In addition, John serves on a large number of diverse community organizations. A native of Berwick, John is a dedicated professional with strong commitment to our region. He is the husband of the former Geri Kamps and the father of twins.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Arthritis Foundation for this year's choice for the "Community Leader of the Year" and am pleased to send my year very best wishes to John as he accepts this prestigious honor.

GEORGE NEAVOLL MAKES
THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTION TO
MAINE

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Neavoll, who edited the opinion pages of the Portland Press Herald and the Maine Sunday Telegram newspapers from 1991 until his retirement earlier this month. His readers, myself included, know that he leaves behind very large shoes to fill.

In the words of his colleagues, George Neavoll "set an unapologetically upbeat tone for the opinion pages, wrote extensively about the State's environment and worked to create a consciousness among Mainers that they live in the Atlantic Rim region."

During his time as editorial page editor, Mr. Neavoll championed many causes and highlighted problems in need of attention. From management of our fisheries and protection of our air, land, and water, to the return of passenger rail service in Maine and the need for improved East-West travel routes in our State, George Neavoll enhanced public discourse and made us think.

He also opened up the editorial board meetings to the public, and redesigned the editorial

pages to provide more space for letters to the editor and more opportunity for local residents to submit columns.

Throughout his 30-year career in the newspaper business, Mr. Neavoll was recognized for his commitment to excellence numerous times. He received awards for writing, particularly in the areas of environmental protection and human rights. He received a Global Media Award from The Population Institute in 1996; a Human Rights Award from the Portland chapter of Amnesty International in 1995; and the first Portland Bias Crime Task Force's Diversity Bridge Building Award in 1995.

Although originally from Oregon, his obvious love for Maine and his concern for its people make George Neavoll a true Mainer. His impact on public policy, civic life and political dialogue will be remembered and appreciated for many years to come. I join his many friends and colleagues in offering George and his wife, Laney, best wishes for the future. They have made Maine a better place, and they richly deserve this opportunity to travel and spend time with their children.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE
BRADNER TOWN HALL AND
OPERA HOUSE ON THE OCCASION
OF ITS ONE HUNDREDTH ANNI-
VERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding community from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On Sunday, September 19, 1999, the Village of Bradner will celebrate the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the Bradner Town Hall and Opera House.

In the final year of the Nineteenth Century, the citizens of Bradner decided to take an enormous step—to solidify their position and build a town hall. The Village embarked on a venture to locate a site, procure the necessary funding and materials, and build a truly remarkable building. Their efforts, after concluding the necessary paperwork, votes, and administrative matters, were finalized in 1899 as F.K. Hewitt was hired to design and J.W. Stiger hired to build the Bradner Town Hall.

The Bradner Town Hall has long been the centerpiece of this wonderful community. This small, yet vibrant area holds the same inner-strength found throughout the Fifth Congressional District and throughout the state of Ohio. That strength and common bond is driven from the town hall. For one-hundred years, the Bradner Town Hall has served as the focal point for the community, the symbol of independence and freedom, and the source of the community's pride.

With all its beauty, the Bradner Town Hall symbolizes all that is good in our communities—strength, fortitude, grace, and resilience. The Bradner Town Hall and Opera House has housed the Village fire department, jail, and public utilities offices. It also contains an upstairs Opera House and a library.

Throughout the many changes, its use as the governmental center of Bradner has remained constant as it is home to the mayor's office and village council chambers. After first opening the building one-hundred years ago, the Village of Bradner conducts official business in the town hall to this day.

Mr. Speaker, the individuality of the American culture and the freedom of the American spirit are embodied in our local communities and the town halls located in them. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to the Bradner Town Hall on its One-Hundredth Anniversary.

HONORING BRUCE P. MARQUIS,
HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT CHIEF OF POLICE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Houston Independent School District "HISD" Police Chief Bruce P. Marquis for his outstanding contribution to the safety and well-being of our children attending HISD schools, which was recently highlighted in an article in the Wall Street Journal.

Since the day he took office in 1994, Chief Marquis has embraced a simple, guiding principle—to foster an environment, as he puts it, "for teaching and learning to take place." His work to make our Houston community schools safer for students and teachers has been nothing less than outstanding. Not only has he made our schools safer, but he has made our children feel safer. Chief Marquis is a strong believer in the concept that our children must feel secure in order to learn.

HISD officials made a forward-thinking decision 5 years ago when they created a new Police chief position for the schools and hired Bruce, who was distinguished by his extensive management experience and his background in law enforcement. A former agent in the FBI's Houston office, Bruce brought long-range vision and can-do pragmatism to the creation and management of HISD's police department. Only Texas and Florida State laws allow school districts to create their own police forces. Bruce has built the HISD police department from the ground up, expanding it into the largest in the state.

Since Chief Marquis took over, aggravated assaults in Houston schools have decreased by three-quarters, and weapons' violations are down by two-thirds. Chief Marquis' proactive and aggressive leadership became evident from the beginning of his tenure when he helped persuade the Texas Legislature to transfer authority over school police officers from principals to school police chiefs. Once that was done he made sure that HISD officers wore uniforms and badges, and that they carried guns just like community peace officers. Whether it's dealing with gang activity, drug deals or weapons, Marquis stations his officers throughout our schools to proactively stop problems before they start.

Other innovations Chief Marquis has helped institute include: HISD officers making arrests