

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to John on his very distinguished career and I wish him and his family my best. Although we will sorely miss his presence, we wish him great success in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO JULIA A.  
KRASCHNEWSKI

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a student from my Congressional District in Wisconsin, Julia Kraschnewski. Julia is senior at Burlington High School, and she is the winner of the VFW's 1999 Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest for the state of Wisconsin. Julia wrote about an experience she had while volunteering at a local nursing home and the effect that experience had upon her life. Julia is no stranger to civic and student activities. She has been involved in 4-H, Student Council, Girls State and Girls Nation, and she is the current Miss Burlington. Julia is truly an example for students all across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Julia's winning script for the RECORD.

I walked into the nursing home that day, with no idea of what I was getting into. What I would say? How I would act around elderly people? Would I be matched with someone specific? Soon I was paired with a short old man in a plaid shirt. The caretaker told me that this man's name was Roy. I wheeled Roy down to the Activity Room, not sure of what to say. When we get to the room, we both set up our BINGO cards and prepared to play. "B-5" said the lady behind the head table. Roy gave me a shy smile as I helped him place a little red chip on the card.

It has been said, "The purpose of life is life with a purpose." What better purpose is there than to serve—to help someone else, someone who is perhaps less fortunate than us?

The United States of America is committed to safeguarding the rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," for all of its citizens, regardless of their financial status or physical abilities. While our country has come a long way since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, some aspects of our society continue to demand our concern.

One such area is the treatment of our elderly. While it was traditional in years past for older relatives to live with younger family members, these days, with both parents working outside the home, this can often become quite impossible. True, the government helps aid the elderly through programs such as our Social Security system and Medicare, but today's alternative for caring for aging members of the family who are unable to care for themselves is a nursing, or retirement home. Such places provide a residence for the elderly and take care of their physical needs. However, even in a "percent world," our government could not possibly be expected to meet the mental or emotional needs of some of our forgotten elderly. But this does not mean that as individuals, we cannot do something.

"N-45!" the director called in the afternoon's first game. "BINGO!" Roy called, his

hand shaking slightly. Roy was excited about the bird ornament he won, recalling that "there were lots of birds like this one" back on his farm. He told me about the "special" birdseed he used to but to attract his wife's favorite orioles. As he stared at the little bird ornament, Roy seemed to be reliving happier days gone by. When we got to his room, my new friend showed me his pictures on the wall, unable to identify everyone in them. He talked about his farm and about his grandchildren. He started crying when he explained that he had not seen them in over a year, and they had forgotten his 100th birthday the month before. While I tried to comfort Roy, I began to understand the loneliness that our forgotten elderly must feel everyday.

Our government allows us to excel. It gives us priceless freedoms but we cannot abuse them or fail to cherish them. We must give as well as take. We must serve to strengthen society. "A life without service to others is a life not worth living." These words of President Woodrow Wilson illustrate our country's tradition of helping others. People serve our country in many ways. Some hold political office, some devote themselves to teaching or social work. Some volunteer their time helping others through community service. Some give the ultimate service—placing their lives on the line in times of war.

I can still remember Roy's words to me at the end of our visit. "This is so nice that you young people take the time to come out here and spend with us. We don't have a lot to look forward to here, but we love it when you come and visit us. Thank you." I looked at his eyes, old and tired, yet sparkling with something so alive. At that moment my heart glowed with a certain satisfaction to know that I had helped to make someone's day a little bit brighter. My visit had meant a lot to him. I had taken my first step of service to our society.

In the 3 years, since my 1st visit to Mount Carmel to see Roy, I have come to know Alex, Sadie, and Henry. I have shared stories, and pushed wheelchairs and I cherish every moment in this experience.

Andrew Carnegie once said, "All good things start out small." As Americans, we must challenge ourselves to be the best we can. In our "one nation under God," we must do unto others. On the little league sidelines, in soup kitchens, in nursing home BINGO rooms, with our monetary donations to worthy causes, with our well informed votes, and with our lives on the battlefield, if need be, from sea to shining sea we must unite in our commitment to "service to America."

TRIBUTE TO STEVE COURIER ON  
HIS INDUCTION TO THE UPPER  
PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF  
FAME

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, since 1993, 11 outstanding labor leaders, individuals who have contributed to organizing, workplace fairness, worker dignity, and the advancement of the labor movement in northern Michigan, have been honored with induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is housed in the Superior Dome on

the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

I have the honor once again this year to participate in this important and inspiring induction ceremony, which pays tribute to the dedicated efforts of Steve Courier of Escanaba on behalf of the labor movement.

A brief look at his resume, Mr. Speaker, reveals an individual who had dedicated himself to community service. Not only has Steve demonstrated his commitment to the labor movement, but he has served his friends, neighbors and community in elective office and in social and professional organizations.

Here's just a glimpse, an index, a catalogue listing, of the many groups that have benefited from Steve's many hours of service.

The son of a pipefitter in Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 506, Steve served his own apprenticeship and went on to become the youngest elected business manager in the history of the Michigan Pipe Trades Council. He is now Third Vice President of the Michigan State Pipe Trades, and serves on the Board of Trustees for the Upper Peninsula Plumbers and Pipefitters Fringe Benefits Funds. Steve also serves as a member of the executive board of the Upper Peninsula Construction Labor Management Council.

Steve served on the Delta County Board of Commissioners, has been active in his local Masons lodge, served with the Escanaba Community Foundation, Elks Lodge 354, and the fund-raising committee of Escanaba's Bonifas Arts Center.

By his lifelong commitment in support of a wide variety of activities, Steve has convincingly demonstrated how strongly the labor movement is tied to the general well-being of the entire community. He has truly earned his place of honor with other labor leaders in our region.

I look forward each year to the opportunity to gather with friends and associates in northern Michigan to praise these men and women, people like Steve Courier, who have dedicated themselves to doing great work as an ordinary, everyday task. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in praising these remarkable efforts.

HONORING THE 9TH ANNUAL  
WILLIE VELASQUEZ HISPANIC  
EXCELLENCE AWARD

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 9th Annual Willie Velasquez Hispanic Excellence Award. This Award is designed to honor the Foremost Distinguished Hispanic Citizen in the arts, education, business, public and community service realm within Houston.

For nine years, the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the Tejano Center for Community Concerns, and KTMD-TV Telemundo 48 have sponsored this Gala event that is designed not only to award outstanding Hispanic citizens but to raise money to benefit Hispanic education. Recipients of the award are citizens