

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT L.  
WILSON

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2001*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mr. Robert L. Wilson, founder of Every Person Influences Children (EPIC).

Mr. Wilson founded EPIC in 1980, following the tragic death of his wife, Linda in 1977. Mrs. Wilson was murdered by a troubled 15-year-old boy that the Wilson family had befriended. EPIC was founded to work with youth to help ensure that this type of tragedy would not be repeated.

Despite its modest beginnings, the EPIC organization has emerged as one of our Nation's most successful parent/children's programs. The organization is devoted to helping children grow up to become responsible adults, and helps parents and teachers work more effectively with children, influence them in positive ways and guide them toward responsible, safe decision-making. In recognition of its worthy goals and many successes, our federal government has committed millions in grants to EPIC.

The overwhelming success of EPIC, its tremendous growth, and the strong impact it has had in our Western New York community is testimony to Mr. Wilson's leadership, commitment and integrity. I am truly thankful for his strong example of service.

As a community, our chief concern must always be our children. Mr. Wilson's focus on helping children become responsible adults must continue to be one of our highest priorities. I will continue to fight for this excellent program, and would encourage my colleagues to join with me in this effort.

EPIC is an outstanding program that helps kids everyday. Now, it is also a lasting legacy to a man whose vision and work inspires us all.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the Western New York community, and communities all across America to honor Mr. Robert L. Wilson for his dedicated service and leadership. Mr. Wilson is survived by his wife, Sarah; four daughters, Linda Stephenson, Terry Vaughan, Margaret Kerr and Hope Hawkins; a sister, Margaret Dodd; fifteen grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. I would like to convey to his family my deepest sympathies, and ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in a moment of silence.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE TOBASH

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2001*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Steve Tobash, a fellow Pennsylvanian and good friend, who recently retired after forty years of faithful service as head golf professional at Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia.

Steve is the sixth of nine children born to Peter and Anna Tobash. He was raised in Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania, where he attended and graduated from the public school system.

Steve developed a love for the game of golf early in life, first as a caddy and later working at a driving range. After apprenticeships in Florida and Baltimore, Maryland, he enlisted in the Army and was assigned to Ft. Meade. The Army quickly recognized his golf talent and placed him in charge of golf operations. After his discharge he remained at Ft. Meade as the golf professional and later became the head professional at Chartwell Country Club. In 1961, he was selected as Golf Professional at Army Navy Country Club.

At Army Navy, Steve developed and maintained a people-oriented operation that served more than two thousand members. He has also been an excellent mentor for young aspiring golf professionals. The measure of his success is that many who got their start with Steve have risen to the top echelon at their respective clubs.

Steve loves the games and all those who play it, from the youngest toddler with a cut down seven iron to the super senior with his custom made golf clubs. All were guaranteed to be greeted by Steve with a big smile and "Welcome to Army Navy."

He is the Dean of Golf Professionals in the Mid-Atlantic and Washington Metropolitan Areas. We are truly going to miss his presence in the pro shop, on the golf course, and around the club. The membership can consider itself fortunate to have had Steve Tobash as their golf professional.

To Steve and Alma, his wife of forty-six years, I wish you God Speed.

JOSEPH RUDAWSKI HONORED

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2001*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the long history of service to the community by Joseph G. Rudawski, President of MMI Preparatory School, Freeland,

Pennsylvania, who will be honored August 4 on the occasion of his retirement after more than 36 years of service to the school.

I have known Joe Rudawski for many years and can attest to his dedication to improving the lives of his students. He has been an extraordinary educator, and the entire MMI Prep community will miss his optimism, tenacity and leadership.

Born in Nanticoke, he is a 1959 graduate of Marymount High School in Wilkes-Barre and a 1963 graduate of King's College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics, minors in education and English. He earned a Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Scranton in 1967.

Mr. Rudawski began his service at MMI in September 1964 as a mathematics and psychology instructor and progressed to the positions of guidance director and dean of faculty before becoming president in 1973. During his time as president, he continued to directly serve the students as guidance director and later as college counselor.

During his tenure, thousands of students have passed through the white doors on Centre Street in Freeland and have gone on to achieve tremendous success. The school has undergone a remarkable transformation under his leadership. The small preparatory school expanded greatly, with a \$1 million addition built in 1979, and a \$1.1 million capital campaign in 1990-91. He also oversaw The Campaign for MMI, which raised more than \$9 million for the school's endowment fund and the construction of a new science and technology wing and an athletics and drama complex.

Over the years, he has served the community in many capacities, including director of the Freeland YMCA, former division chairman of the United Way, director and member of the Freeland Rotary Club, a board member of Lutheran Welfare Services, a member of the PCTN-TV Community Advisory Board, director of the Eckley Miner's Village Association, and chairman and member of several committees at St. Casimir's Church and the Roman Catholic Community of Freeland. He is also a past president of the Luzerne County Counselor's Association.

He has received numerous awards for his academic and community achievements, including the Paul Harris Fellow Award from Rotary International, the Citizen of the Year award from the Freeland Sons of Erin, a Declaration of Achievement from the Pennsylvania Senate, the Community Award sponsored by the Freeland Veterans of Foreign Wars, and an Appreciation Award from the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation.

In May 2001, he announced his intentions to retire from the school so he could spend more time with his wife of 34 years, Jean, his four children—Joe Jr., Tamra Ann, Valerie, and Jeanne, all MMI graduates—and his grandchildren. He expects to continue volunteering in the community.

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