

as a rising star, Charlie was hired as an Administrative Assistant to one of my predecessors, Congressman Larry Williams. While serving with Congressman Williams, Charlie developed a keen sense of the local political process. He learned the issues that impact our local communities, and he learned how to communicate our vision and ideals to middle-class working families. After gaining the respect of his neighbors and friends, he was chosen to lead the Republican Party in Springfield Township, a position that he holds to this day. Today, Charlie is one of the most respected political minds in our great state. Much of what I have learned in my career in public life, I learned from Charlie Sexton.

As a breeder of Champion Bloodhounds, Charlie has always maintained an incredible level of commitment and passion. Clearly, a quality that has filtered down to every endeavor he has undertaken.

Charlie Sexton's commitment to his community is not only felt in political circles, but also at two important institutions in my district. For the last 8 years, Charlie has been an outspoken member of the Delaware County Prison Board. He also sits on the Board of Directors at one of the premier hospitals in Pennsylvania, Riddle Memorial Hospital in Media. Both of these institutions are better—and life in our community has improved—because of Charlie's involvement.

Charlie resides in Springfield with his wife Inger. He is father to Annette and Kenneth, and he is a caring grandfather of five grandchildren—Kenneth, Michelle, Sean, Matthew and Christine.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a man who has always stood up for what he believes in. Let us applaud this dedicated, passionate and hard working American, Charles P. Sexton Jr.

RICHARD COSGROVE HONORED AS  
MAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Richard Bernard Cosgrove of Pittston Township, Pennsylvania, who will be honored as the Man of the Year by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick on March 17.

Mr. Cosgrove has a long history of involvement in the community. He is a member and past president of the Wyoming Valley Serra Club of Wilkes-Barre and a past district governor of District 80 of Serra International. He is also a member and past grand knight of President John F. Kennedy Council 372 of the Knights of Columbus in Pittston and a member of the council's Fourth Degree Assembly.

In addition, he is a member of the parish community of St. Casimir, St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph churches in Pittston, where he serves as a Eucharistic minister, an altar server and a member of the parish liturgy committee. He is also a past president of the parish Holy Name Society.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cosgrove is an institution in Northeastern Pennsylvania newspapers.

After graduating from St. John the Evangelist High School in Pittston in 1941, his introduction to the business came in January, 1943, with the Times Leader in Wilkes-Barre. He joined the staff of the Sunday Dispatch in Pittston for the publication of its very first edition on February 9, 1947. He continued in various capacities with the Dispatch until the summer of 2000, when he affiliated with the Citizens' Voice in Wilkes-Barre as a writer, a position he continues to hold today. He also served for several years as a local correspondent for the Scranton Tribune.

Mr. Cosgrove is a son of the late George and Elizabeth Healy Cosgrove. His wife, the former Mary Neary, passed away in April 1981. Their union was blessed with two sons, George B., principal of Pittston Area Middle School, and Joseph M., a practicing attorney in Luzerne County. His family also includes his son George's wife, the former Virginia Berto, and two granddaughters, Jill, a senior at College Misericordia in Dallas; and Mary Ann, a freshman at the University of Scranton.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the good works and distinguished career of Richard Cosgrove, and I join the Friendly Sons in congratulating him on this well-deserved honor.

A SALUTE TO THE PIRATES

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lumberton High School women's basketball team for their tremendous accomplishment this week. Their spirit and determination throughout the 29-1 season has been an inspiration to us all.

On Saturday, March 10, the Lady Pirates defeated East Wake High School 69-45 to win the North Carolina state 4-A girls' basketball title for the first time in school history. This is truly an amazing achievement for Coach Danny Graham, his coaching staff, and the entire Pirate team. It was the first state championship won by Lumberton's girls in any sport. Lumberton's only other state crown was a 2-A football title won in 1951.

Throughout the year, the Lady Pirates have represented the students and faculty of Lumberton High School well by sticking together and demonstrating good sportsmanship. Coach Graham has instilled in his players the ethic of dedication, sacrifice, and teamwork in the pursuit of excellence, and instilled in the rest of us a renewed appreciation of what it means to win with dignity and integrity. Indeed, it was my distinct privilege to have personally experienced Coach Graham's excellence in both instruction and inspiration when I had the opportunity to coach our sons' basketball teams together in the Lumberton Recreation Department's basketball program several years ago.

I also salute the many students, teachers, coaches, administrators, friends and fans of Lumberton High School who cheered our Lady Pirates throughout the season and through the

playoffs to the ultimate victory in Chapel Hill. Your unwavering support made this truly a family affair and an opportunity for unity in our community!

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating this extraordinary group of players and their coaches, parents and classmates who cheered them on and made this year's basketball season one to remember. Congratulations, Pirates!

The 2000-2001 Lumberton High School Lady Pirates (listed alphabetically): Sheena Bell; Katrice Brunson; Juachau Cogdell; Anna Evans; Jennifer Hammonds; Letecia Hardin; Alicia Hunt; Jessica Hunt; Missy Jones; Cheryl Locklear; Shakwonda McArn; Billie McDowell; and LaTonya Washington.

INTRODUCING THE MEDICAID  
ESTATE RECOVERY AMENDMENT

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce an amendment to the Medicaid Estate Recovery Act, that will restore the discretion of the states to decline to participate in the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program.

More than three decades ago, the Medicaid program was enacted and implemented throughout the States with a mission of bringing relief to the poor, with an emphasis on children and the frail elderly, which included long-term or nursing home care for those who could not afford it.

When the Estate Recovery program was instituted, it was at the discretion of the states as to whether they would participate in the recovery of medicaid costs for the care of indigent elderly and disabled persons through the sale of their homes.

Among others, the State of West Virginia had declined to participate in a program that would take the homes of persons, just because they were extremely ill and because they were too poor to pay the costs of long term or nursing home care.

But in 1993 that discretion among the states was taken away, and in its place there was a state mandate to participate in Medicaid estate recovery efforts as a condition of federal Medicaid funding. West Virginia reluctantly enacted a State law that would permit the selling of the homes for elderly victims who died while in the care of Medicaid-funded nursing care. The State did so only after HCFA advised them in no uncertain terms that if they did not they would lose part or all of the State's Medicaid funding.

As a result of the government's mandate, my State enacted the law that would allow the State to practice estate recovery against helpless home owners who happened to be too poor to pay for their own end-of-life care. In protest, the State law as enacted directed West Virginia's State Attorney General to file a lawsuit in federal court, claiming that the mandatory selling of people's homes was a violation of the 10th Amendment of the Constitution. The State's lawsuit is still pending.

That was eight years ago, and no relief is in sight. That is why I have introduced my bill