

In August of 1976, the music department at OTHS was poised for change. The newly established Panther football program was open for competition and Edward A. Fulton was moving from the High School music program to his roots in the junior high music program. The Marching Panthers Band of OTHS was just 10 years old. The Panthers first were served by John Albert, then Ed Fulton and then it came to Vince Cosmano. At that time, the band consisted of 130 members with a total of 4 buses and no equipment trucks. Vince debuted with the Panthers at the 1977 U of I field show competition, winning second place in field, third in parade and a drum major caption award.

The OTHS Marching Panthers have since garnered grand championships, national parades (including appearances at the Macy's and the Tournament of Roses parades), television appearances and hundreds of other awards. Through all of the trophies, awards and citations, the OTHS Marching Panthers have gained national renown and an even stronger program under Vince's direction. Currently, the music program is comprised of 250 students, six buses, three equipment trucks, legions of OTHS alumni with support from parents, colleagues, fans and friends.

Vince always credited the students of the Marching Panthers for their diligence and hard work—only with great reluctance did he ever accept individual recognition. He was previously named "O'Fallon's Man of the Year" and served as the President of the Illinois Music Educators Association, District 6. In 1999, the Illinois High School Association honored him as the state's Outstanding Music Educator. A national honor quickly followed as Vince was chosen as the Outstanding Music Educator for a seven state area by the National High School Association. Vince exemplifies the philosophy that hard work equals good things.

As Vince retires, he will enjoy time with his fiancée Sue and his three sons, Tim, Jeff and Patrick. His favorite teaching activities—concert band, music theory and private lessons—will be replaced by fishing, swimming and gardening. Vince will always be remembered as a man of presence and a man of action. Whether getting the students up at 4 a.m. to be ready to march in the Macy's parade or helping to take tickets at a Panther Football game, Vince was there.

It has been through his direct efforts that he has instilled the qualities of music and respect into the hearts of the many students he has touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vince Cosmano and to recognize his commitment to community service.

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TRIBUTE TO DAMON SZYMANSKI

**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2001*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say a few words today about one of my constituents, Damon Szymanski. Damon recently finished his 50th assignment as an

ACDI/VOCA volunteer, a truly extraordinary achievement.

During Damon's missions, he has played a crucial role in helping improve agricultural development around the globe, particularly in central and eastern Europe. He has contributed dramatically to our national goal of opening global markets through an infusion of our values of democracy and economic freedom. Damon has served as a strong bridge between the United States and the rest of the world.

He is here in Washington this week to receive an award from ACDI/VOCA for his record of outstanding service. On behalf of all of us, I'd like to say "thank you" to Damon—for everything he's done to improve U.S. foreign relations and for everything he's done to improve the quality of life of people in other nations.

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DR. THOMAS E. STARZL

**HON. FRANK MASCARA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2001*

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Thomas E. Starzl for his leadership in the field of clinical medicine and his lifelong commitment to advancing the promise of organ transplantation.

Known as the "father of transplantation," Dr. Starzl performed the world's first liver transplant in 1963 at the University of Colorado. Almost 20 years later, he would join the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and lead a surgical team at Presbyterian University Hospital (now UPMC Presbyterian) in performing the area's first liver transplant on February 26, 1981. That was the beginning of a transplant program and research institute led by Dr. Starzl that would pave the way for organ transplantation to become an accepted practice in the medical community. The internationally renowned program has performed over 11,000 lifesaving transplants, by far the most of any single program in the world, and influenced the careers of countless surgeons and physicians. Retired from clinical and surgical service since 1991, Dr. Starzl remains active in transplant research as director emeritus of the institute that was renamed in his honor in 1996.

On April 27 and 28, 2001, the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute and the University of Pittsburgh will hold a tribute event for Dr. Starzl. This tribute is called a "Festschrift," which is a presentation of a collection of articles by colleagues, former students and others published in honor of a noted scholar. The event celebrates Dr. Starzl's 75th birthday and also marks the 20th anniversary of the first liver transplant performed in Pittsburgh. In addition to oral and visual presentations, the Festschrift will officially inaugurate the Starzl Prize in Surgery and Immunology and unveil a portrait of Dr. Starzl that will be displayed in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Such an event is fitting for a man whose résumé includes more than 1,200 presentations; 22 editorial boards; membership in no

less than 58 professional organizations; the authoring or co-authoring of more than 2,000 scientific articles and four books; 21 honorary doctorates and more than 175 awards and honors. Dr. Starzl has been a champion in advancing the science of organ transplantation, and in improving and saving the lives of countless people.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, a true national hero.

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TRIBUTE TO THE DELTA SIGMA  
THETA SORORITY

**HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2001*

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter on their decade of public service.

In 1913, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded at Howard University by twenty-two African American Women. Since then, over 200,000 women have joined chapters all over the world. The Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter in my district was founded on February 10, 1991 by 27 civic-minded women who saw the need for public service in the western suburbs of Philadelphia.

The Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter has been active in a number of areas such as economic and educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health and political/international awareness. Through their efforts, they have successfully produced many community programs and projects. One such program, "Patriots of African Descent," commissions artists in memory of African Americans who fought for our nation's independence.

I am pleased and honored to celebrate this outstanding occasion with the alumnae. They have played an important role in our community and for this they should be commended.

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WOMEN'S CENTER OF MONMOUTH  
COUNTY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS  
OF SERVICE

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2001*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Women's Center of Monmouth County's 25th Anniversary. Over the last quarter of a century, the Women's Center of Monmouth County (WCMC) has made a tremendous difference in the lives of women and their families throughout Monmouth County.

The WCMC is a New Jersey-based private, non-profit organization dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault. Since its inception in 1976, the Center has helped more than 100,000 women, children and men gain control of their lives and stop the violence. Through the help of individuals, government agencies, small businesses and corporate