Award, I know first hand the importance that the organization plays in the lives of our nation’s young people. With the help of men like Lester, the Boy Scouts mold young men to be active and productive citizens. I want to honor Lester today for helping to strengthen our nation’s social fabric.

Mr. Speaker, Lester Phillips is a remarkable example of a citizen servant. He selflessly uses his time and energy to better the lives of the young men in Harnett County. He touches so many lives in so many public ways, but Lester’s most important contributions to others are the ones only he knows about. And that is the way he wants it to be. That is a true testament to his unique and special character and the reason we honor him in this House today.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives Len’s distinguished career because he has had a hand in helping to secure the American Heritage River designation for the Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna Watershed in 1998. Working closely with my office, Len was an invaluable assistant in compiling a great deal of information and working with local elected officials and other interested parties. I wish him all the best.

HONORING DR. JERRY SASSON, PRINCIPAL OF TERRACE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI OF PENNSYLVANIA

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jerry Sasson, a friend and constituent, who is retiring after 11 years as principal at Terrace Park Elementary School (TPES) in the Second District of Ohio. Jerry is a special kind of principal because he is a special kind of person. He has been called a one-of-a-kind educator, who spends time in the classroom every day, knows the name and face of every one of his 300 students, writes a personal, hand-written birthday card to each student every year, and sends students notes at home to recognize personal accomplishments. He encourages kindness and respect among students, teachers and parents, and is aware of each student’s specific challenges and talents.

An Ohio native, Jerry received his Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Cincinnati in 1992. He graduated with a Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling and a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Dayton. Jerry received his school psychology certificate from Xavier University in 1972. Jerry began his career as a high school English teacher at Fenwick High School in Middletown, Ohio, and went on to become Fenwick’s Director of Guidance and Counseling. From 1972 through 1979, he served the Hamilton County Office of Educational Services as a school psychologist and, in 1979, he joined the Mariemont, Ohio City School District as Director of Special Services, a position he retained while serving as principal. In 1990, he became the principal of TPES, a school within the Mariemont School District.

Jerry is well known for his regular column on parenting, Parent Pride, which appears in the publication of the Mariemont City School District. He tackles tough subjects such as tolerance, assertiveness, morals and responsibility. He’s not afraid to tell us as parents that the best way to raise happy, productive children is to create and maintain home, school and community environments that focus on nurturing and support for all. Jerry believes that most difficult school-related issues—such as bullying, behavior problems, or violence—are not just school issues, but family and community issues, too. And he’s right: schools can create zero tolerance policies, but it all comes...