

McKenna was a legend. At East Hartford High, Ray demonstrated his competitive nature in athletics and excelled at basketball, football and baseball. In 1939, he was the instrumental cog in East Hartford's first Connecticut state basketball championship. With a sense of duty to his country, Ray enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was stationed in the Philippines and the Aleutian Islands. Upon his return, Ray organized a local fast-pitch softball team, the legendary Burnside Dovelettes in 1947. For 30 years, he led the Dovelettes to the top of the semipro league with a record of 1,831–339. While employed by the East Hartford Post Office, Ray formed the Marco Polo Explorers basketball team and coached them to 13 New England Basketball Association titles. In 35 years, the semipro team held an unparallel record of 1,123 to 245. Ray also founded and directed the annual Tap-Off Club Hall of Fame dinner to honor East Hartford athletes for 28 years. Although Ray retired from the Post Office in 1985, his long interest in sports continued and he became Sports Editor for the East Hartford Gazette—the most widely read column in the town.

The impact Ray has had on the town of East Hartford is inspirational. In 1984, East Hartford honored Ray's devotion to athletics by dedicating a local sports field in his name. For over two decades, Ray McKenna Field has been the home for baseball teams of all ages, including the Hartford Hawks. In 1985, Ray was presented with the Gold Key, the most prestigious sports' award in the state of Connecticut. The Gold Key is awarded by the Connecticut Sports Writer's Alliance to those

like Ray, who have made noteworthy contributions to athletics in Connecticut. Representing one of Connecticut's finest, Ray was also inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame at the University of Rhode Island in 2003.

With all his good works and awards of recognition, Ray will most be remembered for his honest love of the game. He lived everyday giving back to his community and inspired the best in all of us. To Ray, true victory was the result of discipline, confidence, and heart. His giving nature, generous laugh and Irish wit will be missed by all those who knew him. For my family and myself, we will forever treasure and value this wonderful man who so loved the game, the competition, and the camaraderie of sports and made it the centerpiece of his life in East Hartford, the state of Connecticut and throughout the Nation.

Our hearts go out to the entire McKenna family, especially his beloved wife Josephine, his son Michael, and daughters Dorene, Susan and Carol, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK ROSE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize State Representative Patrick M. Rose for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

State Representative Patrick Rose is serving his second term as a member of the Texas House of Representatives and currently holds the position of Vice Chair of the House Committee on Civil Practices and is also a member of the Higher Education Committee and the Calendars committee.

He represents the House 45th district which covers Blanco, Caldwell and Hay's Counties. He is working on various state issues such as insurance reform, ethics reform and the public education system. He is a member of the higher Education Committee and works closely with Texas State University on issues such as college affordability and creating scholarships.

His efforts on behalf of his constituents were recognized when he was featured in Texas Monthly as "Rookie of the Year" during his freshman session. He was also honored with the "2003 Civil Justice Leadership Award," the "Texas Medicine's Best" and the "Young Professional of the Year Award." Patrick Rose is a credit to his community and a tremendous resource to his county.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of State Representative Patrick Rose.