

Within 48 hours of the Jan. 12 quake, the physician from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge organized a spinal surgery team, called in favors to collect millions of dollars of medical equipment and boarded a plane to the Dominican Republic.

"Instead of going the traditional route through a relief agency, we thought it would be more successful if we took charge of the logistics ourselves," Butler said. "We put together a team that could pretty much handle anything thrown at them."

In one week, the team operated on 11 patients, from 14 to 35, including a 25-year-old pregnant woman whose injuries had left her a quadriplegic. Nine of the patients were Haitian earthquake victims; two were injured in a motorcycle crash.

Despite the severity of the patients' injuries and the tragedy they'd been through, members of the surgical team said they were struck by the Haitians' resolve to live and wait for help.

"When you looked into their eyes, you saw a terror and fear that just burns into your soul," said Dr. Howard Konowitz, an anesthesiologist from Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park who was on the trip. "There was no morphine . . . but no one was moaning, no one was screaming."

The team performed its work at Dario Contreras Hospital, a public hospital in the Dominican capital of Santo Domingo where many Haitians have sought medical attention since the earthquake. Team members chose the hospital consulting with the Ministry of Health on where their skills would be of most help.

The team worked in grueling conditions, operating in rooms where the heat reached 85 degrees. Some patients waited in crowded hallways, others on thin mattresses atop rusted metal frames.

"We were working long hours. The rooms were so hot, people were dehydrated," said Teresa Dudic, a bilingual scrub nurse from Gottlieb. "And the patients, you could see the desperation in their eyes, they were scared."

Konowitz described the trip as "life-changing."

"All the other catastrophes that I can remember in my lifetime, there was nothing medically like this that I can remember," he said. "It's haunting what we saw."

And although it was gratifying to provide what help they could, team members recognized it was a tiny fraction of the need.

"We may have fixed their spine during the week, but we only got to 11 (people)," Butler said. "There were another 20 we couldn't take care of."

And the people they did treat need long-term care.

Maria Korbel, another member of the team who's bilingual and a registered nurse at the Illinois Bone & Joint Institute in Morton Grove, said she hopes their work will inspire others.

"If we were able to start a chain reaction, I think that would be fabulous," Korbel said. "I hope we started something good, something positive, something that will keep going."

Physician's assistant Alicia Granger-Carlson and nurse Aimee Duque-Randolph also were members of the team.

HONORING TIMOTHY REILLY

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Timothy Reilly. Recently, both Tim and his business, Miami Valley International Trucks, were awarded the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

Awarded by Navistar, Inc., the Circle of Excellence is given to dealerships that "achieve the highest level of performance in terms of operating and financial standards, market representation, and, most importantly, customer satisfaction." It is the highest honor that an International dealer can receive from Navistar.

Tim purchased Miami Valley International Trucks in 2004. Since then, he has earned 14 Circle of Excellence Awards and an Isuzu Ichiban Award, given to commercial truck dealers to recognize business excellence and civic-mindedness. Under his leadership, Miami Valley Trucks has grown to include five dealer locations and two parts and services sites in Ohio that employ 367 employees.

These awards are a testament to Tim's reputation as a leader in the trucking industry. This reputation has been honed through his activity and commitment to organizations like the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association, International Marketing, Sales & Finance Advisory Board, and as a former member of the Idealease board of directors. A dedicated supporter of his alma mater, Notre Dame, Tim also is a devoted father to his twin daughters, now 13 years old.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Tim Reilly for his accomplishments, his record of success, and his many contributions to his community, the State of Ohio, and our Nation.

CELEBRATING MINOOKA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BOYS WRESTLING TEAM FOR WINNING THEIR FIRST EVER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Minooka Community High School Boys Varsity Wrestling Team for becoming the 2009–2010 Illinois High School Association Class 3A Dual Team State Wrestling Champions.

Through relentless practice and commitment to their sport, the team captured Minooka Community High School's first ever team state championship title. I congratulate the hard work, dedication, and long hours that everyone involved put in to make this title possible; the coaches for their patience and working with these young athletes, to the parents for believing in their students, to the competitors for believing in themselves and their team.

The members of the championship Indian squad are: Kevin Akers, Mitchell Brozovich,

Clayton Charland, Brandon Collofello, Jacob DeKlerk, Zachary Friant, Joseph Govednik, Brandon Haase, Kalvin Hill, Alex Hoshell, Cody Jones, Sean Kenny, Matthew Meyer, Matthew McEvilly, Michael McNulty, Blake Montella, Mitchell Morris, Colin Nielsen, Corbett Oughton, Jacob Potts, Josh Pullara, Jacob Residori, Daniel Ruettiger, Leo Ruettiger, Kevin Ruettiger, Matthew Stevens, Timothy Wright and Robert Zabel; and are led by head coach Bernie Ruettiger; and the assistant coaches; Jeff Charlebois, Mike Butterbach, Paige Schoolman, Stan Tischer, and Jon Ryan.

Congratulations on a season to be remembered.

CONGRATULATING MARTIN F. QUINN, THE MAN OF THE YEAR OF THE GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Martin F. Quinn, who was named "Man of the Year" by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Quinn is a son of the late Martin J. Quinn and Margaret Mitchell Quinn and was raised in the Cork Lane section of Pittston Township. He graduated from Pittston Central Catholic High School. He also attended Fairleigh Dickinson University and the Electrical Programming Institute, both in New Jersey.

He served and was honorably discharged from the United States Army. He was employed by the Lehigh Valley Railroad and Con-Rail Inc. for over 30 years, retiring as a line foreman in 1999. He is a licensed electrician and was recording secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1153 for many years. He is also a licensed projectionist.

Prior to returning to the Greater Pittston area in 1973, Mr. Quinn was employed in the trucking industry in New Jersey and was vice-president of the Teamsters' Union Local 701.

In addition to his extensive railroad career, Mr. Quinn has contributed a great amount of time to many community activities in the Greater Pittston area. He has served his community for over 20 years as a member of the Pittston Area Board of Education and is actively involved in many local clubs and political organizations. He is a sustaining member of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and is also a charter member of Wolfe Tone Luzerne County Division 1, Ancient Order of Hibernian.

He is a member of the President John F. Kennedy Council #372, Knights of Columbus, and its Fourth Degree Assembly. He is a member of the board of the Parking Authority of the City of Pittston. He is active with the Third District Democrats and served many years as a committeeman in his ward. He is