

bills. Members of the Mutuo pulled together to help each other. Each member was in effect his brother's keeper.

When my grandfather came to Vermont from Italy, he went to the granite quarries to earn a modest living. Life was not easy—tough work, low pay, and health hazards. But in this foreign land, he had the Mutuo Club as a special community to share friendships in good times and a helping hand in bad times.

I remember as a small child walking with my grandfather down the streets of downtown Barre. He would often stop in the street to visit with fellow Mutuo Club members. They would tell stories, plan to help each other, or just learn the latest joke. I remember sensing a special bond of community and friendship between my grandfather and the other Italian-Americans of the Mutuo Club.

Now, the Mutuo Club is open to Americans of all nationalities. And that same special bond of community and friendship enjoyed by my grandfather is still shared by members of the Mutuo Club today.

Mr. President, the Mutuo Club is a living tribute to that special bond. In celebrating the Mutuo Club's 90th birthday, we celebrate that special sense of community and friendship shared by the Mutuo Club members of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.●

STEPHEN NORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Stephen North for being named New Hampshire's Secondary School Principal of the Year. Steve is the principal of Profile Junior and Senior High School in Bethlehem, NH, a position he has held since 1977. As a former teacher and school board chairman myself, I congratulate him for receiving this prestigious award.

Steve celebrates a long and distinguished career in education. He has been a teacher at Hanover High School, Curriculum Coordinator for the Dresden-Hanover School Districts, and both principal and assistant principal at Frances C. Richmond Middle School in Hanover. Steve's 18 years in education have been marked with success and leadership in this regional school district. He has built a reputation for excellence and achievement in many areas, from teacher to administrator. An example of Steve's achievement is the completion of much needed additions and renovations for Profile Junior and Senior School. This project, under his leadership, was completed in just 5 years.

Steve's achievements can be seen in more than new buildings, he has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his efforts. He is an excellent role model for his peers because of his professional activities, leadership abilities, and commitment to community. Steve is involved in various edu-

cational organizations including the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the New Hampshire Association of School Principals, and the North Country Principals Association.

Teachers and students alike admire Steve for what he has done for the school. He is known as someone who mentors new teachers, encourages innovation, promotes professionalism, and creates a sound educational environment. Under his supervision, Profile Junior and Senior High won the 1995 Sportsmanship Banner for exemplifying the positive tenets of good sportsmanship. This type of achievement reflects the type of motivation Steve provides for his school.

Our children are very important to our future and I am proud to see that they are in such capable hands. New Hampshire is fortunate to have such a talented educator and administrator like Steve North. I commend Steve for his outstanding career in the field of education.●

WEST VIRGINIAN RECEIVES VA 1996 EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARD

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, on June 6 of this year, the Department of Veterans Affairs presented four very prestigious awards recognizing excellence in nursing. I am proud to congratulate all of these nurses, but I am especially proud of a fellow West Virginian, Sharon Shade, the recipient of VA's 1996 LPN of the year award. Sharon's performance in the nursing home care unit of the Martinsburg, VA Medical Center is truly outstanding. As a member of the Martinsburg community, she has made a great difference.

Sharon has made many changes, both big and small, that have improved the lives of her patients. Because she works with the patients on a one-on-one basis, she learns about their interests while determining their needs. For example, she found out that a reclusive patient had an interest in music. With her help and encouragement, he began to DJ at the noon meals and is now a thriving member of the high-level communication group. A bedridden patient now joins the noon dining group with the help of a walker, due to Sharon's special attention. These are just a few examples of the changes Sharon has made in the lives of individual patients.

Sharon is truly creative and original in her approach to care, with ideas that benefit the entire program. One of her more innovative techniques includes an Adopt-A-Plant program. Here patients can adopt a plant to take care of, giving them a sense of hope. Another program includes a reminiscence group in which the patients talk about days gone by. Sharon also arranged to move wheelchair-bound patients nearer to the windows in the dining hall where they can get a better view of the outdoors. These simple, yet thoughtful acts have made an enormous difference

in the overall morale of both the residents and staff.

Sharon is known for her dedication to her profession. She is constantly working to make things better for her patients and for the staff. In addition to attending meetings and training seminars, she took initiative in developing her own survey to evaluate the program. To lend support to her coworkers, she has implemented a monthly restorative LPN meeting where she shares ideas and literature. She is praised by fellow members of the staff, her patients, and their families for her tireless efforts. The human spirit needs support and encouragement, both of which Sharon has generously given.

I am proud to recognize Sharon Shade and her remarkable talent for making the lives of the veterans at Martinsburg better. It is clear that Sharon is a valuable asset to her staff, her profession, her patients, and our State of West Virginia. Her commitment to her profession and her community makes me enormously proud to say that she is a fellow West Virginian.●

MICHAEL TOCCI, NEW HAMPSHIRE'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Tocci for being named New Hampshire's Secondary School Principal of the Year. Mike is the principal of Gilford Elementary School in Gilford, NH, a position he has held since 1964. As a former teacher and school board chairman in the Lakes Region myself, I congratulate him for receiving this prestigious award.

Mike celebrates a long and distinguished career in education. He received his bachelors in education in 1967 his masters in public school administration and Supervision in 1973 from Plymouth State University. Mike has served as teaching principal at Danbury Elementary and supervising elementary principal for Newfound Area School District in Bristol. In his 30-year career, he has built a reputation for excellence and achievement in many areas, from teacher to administrator.

Mike is known among his colleagues for his leadership, enthusiasm, dedication, and contribution to children's education. His honest and caring spirit is reflected in the school's positive atmosphere. As an individual of distinction, Mike provides an excellent role model for his students and his teachers. He is admired by his school and his community for his concern and his commitment to community development.

Granite State children are fortunate to have such a talented educator and administrator committed to their education. Gilford Elementary School's success and achievement is reflective of the outstanding leadership Mike has