

TRIBUTE TO FR. JOSEPH P.
TEDESCO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, one of our Lord's most faithful servants is Fr. Joseph P. Tedesco, S.M. M.Div., M.A., PCC. I rise today to commend Fr. Tedesco for his many years of service as a teacher, scholar, priest and community leader.

Born in Connellsville, Pennsylvania in 1952, Joseph P. Tedesco professed first vows as a Marianist in 1971 and was later ordained a Catholic priest in 1983. He was a teacher and guidance counselor at Moeller High School in Cincinnati, Ohio as well as moderator of the very successful Lacrosse team. He was also a teacher and counselor at St. Joseph High School in Cleveland, Ohio and Chaminade-Julienne High School in Dayton.

Tedesco received a Masters in Community and Agency Counseling from John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio. Joseph Tedesco has also completed a post Masters certificate in Clinical Counseling, also from John Carroll. He joined the University of Dayton faculty in 1996 teaching courses in Theories of Personality, Tests and Measurements, Adult Development and Aging, and Child Psychology.

Professor Tedesco is an ordained member of the Society of Mary and he serves as the Novice Master of the Marianist Province of the U.S. He holds Masters degrees in Divinity from Toronto School of Theology and Applied Spirituality from the University of San Francisco. Professor Tedesco is a member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Social Services of Miami Valley serving as co-director of programs and community services.

He is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in the State of Ohio. He has served as a child and adolescent therapist since 1983 and presently is in private practice. His special areas of study include addictions, sexual identity, adult development and aging, psychology of religion and adolescent psychopathology.

Mr. Speaker, Fr. Tedesco was one of my high school teachers and I owe him much for his instruction, guidance, and direction. Tedesco loves his students and he thrives on the chance to appear before classrooms to develop his pupils and help them succeed.

Fr. Tedesco also married my wife and me. Through the marriage preparation process, I came to fully appreciate Fr. Tedesco's passion for his ministry and his role in the Church. He is a truly holy man—one who lives his faith and inspires others to know Jesus Christ.

Among his students, friends and colleagues, Joseph Tedesco is loved and admired. He has a warm countenance and an engaging delivery. He has strengthened the minds and grown the hearts of all those who have received his lectures, homilies, and advice. He is a great American.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have been a student of Fr. Tedesco, and honored by his blessing upon my family. I am grateful for the opportunity, as a member of the United States Congress, to tell our colleagues in the House about the many achievements and contributions of this remarkable man.

I ask the House to join me in extending its heartiest congratulations and commendation to

Fr. Joseph Tedesco for his many years of academic excellence and Christian charity. May God continue to bless him, his ministry, and all that he loves.

HONORING JOYCE PROLER
SCHECHTER AND THE SEVEN
ACRES JEWISH GERIATRIC CEN-
TER

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joyce Proler Schechter who will be honored by the Seven Acres Jewish Geriatric Center with its 2002 Spirit of Life Award on October 22, 2002.

Joyce Schechter has spent a lifetime supporting and working for charitable causes and is described by Cyvia Wolff, chair of the Seven Acres award luncheon, as a "person who has given tirelessly of her time and energy to make the world a better place to live."

A native Houstonian, Joyce married Arthur Schechter in 1965, and they have two children, Leslie and Jennifer, and five grandchildren. Prior to Arthur's appointment to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Bahamas in 1998, Joyce was a successful businesswoman, and was listed among "Who's Who in Texas."

A member of Seven Acres' Board of Directors since 1993, Joyce Schechter continues to contribute her time and talents, serving as Vice-President of Resident Services, Administrative Services, and Financial Services. In addition, she has served as co-chair of the Development Committee and has been involved in every fundraising event, including serving as chairman of the 2002 Annual Spring Gala.

Through her good work, Joyce has touched the lives of Houstonians in countless ways. But most of all, she has helped ensure a high quality of life for the residents of Seven Acres. In recognition of her extraordinary service to Seven Acres, in 1999, Joyce received the prestigious Mitzvah Award.

Seven Acres began in 1943, when a small, determined group of men and women of the Jewish faith purchased a frame house on Branard Street in Houston. Their vision was to create a warm, friendly environment for elderly citizens. Originally Seven Acres provided a caring environment for just 14 seniors. As the concept and the need grew, there were milestone expansions. Today, Seven Acres provides the highest standards in adult day health care through the Wolfe Center and specialized geriatric care and services through its 290-bed residential facility. Funds raised by the awards luncheon will help provide financial aid and other benefits for the residents.

The annual Spirit of Life Award "celebrates and recognizes long-term community service performed with the highest standards of integrity. The exemplary individuals so honored have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and serve as role models of dedicated service on behalf of others. The award recipients are persons whose energy and community spirit have earned them the respect and admiration of all those touched by their accomplishments."

In addition to Joyce's work with Seven Acres, she has also tirelessly contributed her

time and resources to Congregation Beth Israel, serving on the endowment and art committees. Other organizations that have benefited from her involvement are the American Jewish Committee and the Holocaust Museum of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Joyce Proler Schechter for her unyielding commitment to the people of Houston and the residents of Seven Acres. Her passionate work on behalf of the Jewish community has set an example for generations. I applaud her leadership and service, and wish her continued success in the years to come.

RAMAPO COLLEGE INAUGURAL
ADDRESS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the following is the Inaugural Address of Dr. Rodney D. Smith, President of Ramapo College in New Jersey. I want to wish him and the entire community at Ramapo College a successful academic year.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS, MAY 2, 2002, OF RODNEY
D. SMITH

"Whatever you vividly imagine, ardently desire, sincerely believe, and enthusiastically act upon . . . must inevitably come to pass!"—Paul J. Meyer.

Chairman Ramirez, Trustees, Ambassadors, Honorable Congresswoman Roukema, Honorable Governor McGreevey, other distinguished platform guests, Distinguished guests in the audience, Ramapo College colleagues, students, fellow college/University Presidents, delegates, family members, dear friends, ladies and gentlemen:

Today, standing on this beautiful campus of rolling hills . . . with stately evergreens surrounding a mixture of architectural centuries old beauty and 21st century ingenuity—I am exhilarated by the convergence of Ramapo's potential and its rich history.

Indeed, I am inspired by the challenges and magnitude of the charge of leading this most innovative of institutions into the future.

Often in life we find ourselves taking on challenges that both weigh heavily and strengthen us at the same time.

While they empower us, these challenges also require all the strength, creativity, skill, patience and sensitivities that make us who we are.

Today, I remember growing up on a small island, away from the U.S. mainland, in the Atlantic Ocean—where we took it for granted that we could fish whenever we wanted, swim where we wanted, and live wherever we wanted.

I remember the cool tropical breeze sweeping over the sea . . . as I looked out at the vast ocean where the sky met the sea—watching the sun sink deep into the water.

I remember wondering what was beyond those deep waters—I wondered about what future awaited beyond the horizon.

As we forge ahead in this new partnership, this strengthened relationship, we must look to the future as we reflect on where the College has been, the courses that were chosen, the choices made, and then move to establish a clear vision beyond the vast unknown oceans that lie ahead.

We must seek to understand the tides, the many currents, the uncharted seas.

We must appreciate the richness of the ocean and respect the unknowns . . . that await within its depths.