

poet and precocious young man from my district. Mattie died recently from complications due to a rare form of muscular dystrophy. The 13-year-old captured the hearts of millions with his poetry and message of peace.

Mattie will forever be remembered as a bright-eyed boy with a big, dimpled smile whose personal philosophy was "remember to play after every storm." Mattie's poetry rose to the top of the New York Times best seller list and will now inspire people for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, Mattie was an incredible role model and inspiration for all Americans. In spite of his hardships, he dedicated his life to spreading harmony and hope. Mattie's message will live on through his poetry. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends during this time of loss.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BROOKE
AND MIKE MAROTH

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brooke and Mike Maroth—the recipients of the 2004 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Award. Mr. and Mrs. Maroth have provided food aid to thousands of the nation's less fortunate. By greatly expanding the Rock and Wrap It Up! program, they are feeding the hungry in Detroit and around the nation.

Mr. and Mrs. Maroth's innovation came at Mike's workplace—he has been a pitcher for the Detroit Tigers since 2002. After games at Comerica Park, leftover food would simply be thrown away. Brooke and Mike connected their effort to distribute that food with Rock and Wrap It Up—a program which donated leftover food from concert events—and started a whole new facet of the mission. Sports Wrap was the new venture, using the leftover food recovered from the stadium and clubhouse at Comerica. They have fed over 5,000 people in the Detroit area since 2003.

Programs are underway at other stadiums throughout the country. Because of the philanthropic vision of Mr. and Mrs. Maroth, their good work has been repeated in other major-league cities. That is the mark of great volunteers—that others repeat their example. This is truly the case with Mr. and Mrs. Maroth.

This is the vision my husband Bill Emerson had for domestic food aid programs when he worked to pass the Good Samaritan Food Act protecting these donations from liability.

Mr. and Mrs. Maroth have more than earned the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Award. Bill's hopes for hunger relief in America were very high when he worked to make Rock and Wrap It Up! possible in 1990.

Rock and Wrap It Up! is a volunteer hunger relief charity, which has fed over 20 million since its inception. With over 4,000 volunteers in 500 cities across America, its dedicated supporters recover food in schools, colleges, music concerts, sporting events, and political and corporate functions. Rock and Wrap It Up! was adopted by resolution in 2003 by the United States Conference of Mayors to teach its successful strategies to cities to fill America's food pipeline to feed the indigent.

Brooke and Mike are a major reason the program continues to gain notoriety and grow.

They are proof that our commitment to feed America's hungry can always use new initiative and better ideas. As long as there are men, women and children who need the helping hand of other Americans, others like Brooke and Mike Maroth have proven they will be there with a helping hand to offer.

Thank you for your kind service to our nation, Mr. and Mrs. Maroth. Congratulations on earning the 2004 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Award. Best of luck to both of you as you continue your noble work.

RECOGNIZING PENN STATE'S 150TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1854, a young and dynamic America witnessed several historic events. The Republican Party was organized. Commodore Matthew Perry signed a treaty opening Japan to American trade. And Penn State University was founded.

Penn State was at the forefront of the uniquely American practice of widespread higher educational opportunity. In 1863, Penn State became one of the first two land grant educational institutions. Penn State now includes over 20 campuses with 83,000 students.

Penn State is nationally known for its athletic triumphs. More importantly, it has affirmed the value of the scholar-athlete. Penn State graduates its athletes at rates substantially higher than fellow Division I schools. It's no accident that Penn State's library is named for its beloved Joe Paterno while its sports arena is named for a former Penn State president.

Penn State consistently demonstrates its prowess in the sciences and engineering. My district's Kennedy Space Center has launched four Penn State alums into space including Guion Bluford, the first African American to fly into space. Penn State ranked ninth in university patent recipients in 2002. Several Penn State graduate schools rank in U.S. News & World Report's top ten.

But alumni are the real interpreters of Penn State. 466,000 serve as teachers, farmers, physicians, lawyers, artists, scientists, engineers, and yes even Congressmen and women.

So this Penn State alum sends his congratulations to Penn State for its sesquicentennial.

A TRIBUTE TO MEDGAR EVERS
COLLEGE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Medgar Evers College for adding a Baccalaureate degree program in Social Work to its curriculum. Social Work is an invaluable profession for creative and positive change in our communities, and I commend Medgar Evers for fulfilling this vital social need.

The announcement of this degree program coincides with National Social Work Month. Being a social worker myself, I know the vital role this profession plays in empowering individuals and enhancing social well-being.

Social workers are able to reach the most disaffected members of our communities. People who otherwise would have fallen through the cracks are taught to identify and manage the underlying environmental forces behind their social problems.

There are approximately half a million social workers actively involved in helping individuals with various needs in areas such as health, mental illness, diversity, children, families, aging, poverty, human rights, and social justice. Despite the far-reaching benefits of social work it is a profession in need of new members. Nearly three fourths of all social workers were born before 1960, and their median age is 50. Programs like the one being started at Medgar Evers are essential for preparing a new generation of social workers to address the complex problems facing society today.

Social workers are on the front lines, battling the many social problems plaguing our communities. The very nature and goal of social work is to help people. I cannot think of a profession more worthy of praise or more significant in impact.

Medgar Evers College faithfully serves the community by fulfilling its mission of meeting "the educational and social needs of Central Brooklyn through the development and maintenance of high quality, professional career-oriented undergraduate degree programs in the context of liberal education." The creation of a degree in Social Work is another step forward in this fine educational tradition.

I know that my own education in social work has been invaluable in both my personal and professional lives, and I am happy that Medgar Evers is supporting this noble and important profession.

Mr. Speaker, Medgar Evers College is working hard to serve its community through the addition of a Social Work degree to its curriculum. As such, it is worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable institution.

HONORING PENN STATE
UNIVERSITY

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania State University is among the most recognizable institutions of our state.

The school is home to one of the country's most storied and successful college football programs.

Today, we celebrate its 150th anniversary, not for its football program, but for its service to our state and its world class academic traditions.

For even the football program, led ably by Joe Paterno, sets the academic standard for programs across the nation. It is part of an athletic department defined by excellence on and off the field.

Penn State graduated 80 percent of student-athletes from the entering class of 1996—