

CONGRATULATING DR. C. RICHARD HARTMAN AS HE RETIRES AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SCRANTON PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Dr. C. Richard Hartman, who is retiring as president and chief executive officer for the Scranton Pennsylvania Community Medical Center.

Dr. Hartman has served at the helm of Scranton CMC since January 17, 1996.

During his tenure, Dr. Hartman made many improvements to CMC including a fully accredited Regional Level II Trauma Center.

He also introduced a comprehensive vascular service line that includes open heart surgery and interventional cardiology.

He established a partnership with Maternal and Family Health Services for women's and children's services. He also established a partnership with the Children's Advocacy Center and he was responsible for a newly expanded emergency department.

Dr. Hartman has kept CMC at the forefront of the many changes and challenges facing health care today. Mr. William E. Aubrey II, chairman of the board of CMC Healthcare Systems, noted that in addition to his responsibilities as President and CEO, Dr. Hartman served on many boards and displayed a dedication to the entire community. He also noted that Dr. Hartman was part of the effort to reform medical malpractice liability, Medicare reimbursement and, most recently, was part of the effort aimed at developing a new medical college in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Prior to serving at CMC, Dr. Hartman was vice president of medicine and academic affairs at St. Vincent Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio; vice president of medical affairs for the Washington DC Hospital Center; professor of Medicine for George Washington University and several posts at the University of Kansas Medical Center including chief of staff; Vice Chancellor of Clinical Affairs and Emergency Services Director.

Dr. Hartman is a fellow of the American College of Physicians. He is board certified in internal medicine and endocrinology and he completed his medical education, residency in internal medicine and fellowship in endocrinology through the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Dr. Hartman's memberships include diplomat status in the American College of Healthcare Executives; president and board member of the American Heart Association, Lackawanna Division and board member of the United Way, the Scranton Everhart Museum and the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Non Profit Organizations, Lackawanna Industrial Fund Enterprises through the Scranton Chamber of Commerce; Keystone College President's Advisory Council; the Lackawanna County Medical Society and the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Hartman on the occasion of his retirement. His tireless efforts to improve med-

ical care and treatment has enhanced the quality of life for thousands of people in northeastern Pennsylvania and, for that, we are all grateful.

RECOGNIZING BERNIE HANSEN'S SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE GREAT LAKES

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the House Great Lakes Task Force, I rise today to honor former Chicago Alderman Bernie Hansen for his outstanding service as a member of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. As a member of this prestigious, binational commission, Alderman Hansen worked tirelessly to support measures that protect the Great Lakes fishery and helped to improve the regional economy and environment. He held several positions on the commission including Chair, Vice-Chair, U.S. Section Chair, and Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee. He retired from the commission earlier this year after 12 years of dedicated service.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission was established by the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, a treaty between the United States and Canada. The commission is responsible for conducting fisheries research, making recommendations to the government about how to improve fish stocks of common concern, and, most notably, controlling the destructive, invasive sea lamprey. U.S. commissioners are appointed by the President of the United States and serve because they are honored to do so, without compensation.

Alderman Hansen excelled at his job as commissioner. As a sitting Chicago Alderman, his knowledge of the Great Lakes' political landscape was a great benefit to the commission, particularly during the work of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, convened under President's Bush's Executive Order for the Great Lakes. He vastly improved communications between the commission and elected officials, he consistently brought new and relevant issues to the commission's attention, and he helped the commission better manage and evaluate its programs. He left a lasting mark on many commission products and programs including the Strategic Vision for the First Decade of the New Millennium and the communications program.

Alderman Hansen is a life-long resident of Chicago and served as Alderman for 20 years, retiring in 2002. He is particularly proud of his role on the City Council for environmental and recycling legislation, which gave Chicago one of the most aggressive and workable recycling programs in the country.

Alderman Hansen is a true asset to Chicago and to the Great Lakes region. Because of his work on the commission, the fishery is stronger, the environment is healthier, the people of the region are better off, and the commission itself is a better institution. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his remarkable service to the Great Lakes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TROOPS TO TEACHERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Troops to Teachers Improvement Act of 2006, along with Congresswoman Doris Matsui, to improve opportunities for veterans to transition into second careers in teaching. I have been a supporter of the Troops to Teachers program since its authorization and I am proud of its success over the last decade. Since 1994, this program has placed nearly 10,000 veterans in our nation's classrooms.

Troops to Teachers is a unique program that provides veterans with a \$5,000 stipend to help cover the costs of teaching certification in exchange for three years service in a high-need school, which until recently was defined as receiving grants under part A of Title I. To further encourage participants to teach in schools with the greatest need, a \$10,000 bonus is offered to those who agree to teach for three years in a school with 50 percent of students below the poverty level.

This structure has proven very effective in transitioning qualified retiring military personnel into second careers in teaching. Indeed, Troops participants fill several critical needs among educators: eighty-two percent are male, over one-third ethnic minorities, and a majority bring an expertise in science and math to the classroom. In an increasingly globalized economy, these valuable characteristics provide a vital resource for schools across the country.

However, this success is now in jeopardy due to a drafting error in the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act which has inadvertently restricted the number of schools in which participants may fulfill their service. The applicable definition for "high-need local education agencies" for Troops to Teachers was inadvertently changed as it was included in the section of the legislation regarding other alternative programs that had a different definition. This stricter definition requires a higher threshold for "high-need" requiring the school to have either 10,000 students or 20 percent of students from families below the poverty level. However, the original Title I definition of high-need was also retained in the law in the section specifically detailing the Troops program. Essentially, Congress accidentally created two conflicting definitions of "high-need" with regard to this program.

Early on, the Department and the Troops to Teachers program recognized this unintended, change in law and worked together to address it. From 2003–2005, while discussions were being held on how to reconcile this discrepancy, the program continued to operate under the original and intended definition. However, after the completion of a negotiated rule-making process in September 2005, the Department issued a regulation stating that the new, stricter definition was not an error but congressional intent. As one of the leading supporters of this program during the drafting of No Child Left Behind, I can assure my colleagues that this was clearly not the intent of the supporters of the program.