

(December 8, 2006) Honoring Nancy Garrity of St. John Fisher School

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THURSDAY DECEMBER 7, 2006

- Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Nancy Roberts Garrity, a teacher at St. John Fisher School and recipient of the National Catholic Educational Association's Distinguished Teacher Award. Mrs. Garrity will receive her award at the NCEA annual conference on April 10, 2007. She was selected out of a pool of more than 100,000 nominees.

- The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), the largest professional association in the world, offers guidance and educational services to its 200,000 members. During the Fall of each year, every member school is invited to nominate one teacher for the Distinguished Teacher Award. This award was established in honor of Sister Miriam Joseph Farrell, who served as executive secretary of the NCEA's Department of Elementary Schools. The NCEA divides the country into 12 geographic regions, with one teacher in each region receiving this award.

- St. John Fisher School is located in Chicago's West Beverly neighborhood. This parochial school provides educational opportunities for preschool through eighth grade students, where teachers serve as influential figures in developing students' lives.

- Mrs. Garrity is guided by the belief that each student uniquely contributes to her classroom. She utilizes creative teaching methods in order to cater to individual educational needs. For example, when teaching her class about A Christmas Carol, she plays the part of Jacob Marley's ghost, complete with chains and a ghostly voice. During the poetry section of her reading class she dresses up as a hippie. Mrs. Garrity's creative methods of teaching allow her students to reach their full potential.

- Mrs. Garrity has been a teacher at St. John Fisher School since 1990. The Catholic educational system has given her the ability to influence her student's lives with her passion for teaching, which is evident in her students' drive to succeed.

- It is my honor to recognize Mrs. Nancy Roberts Garrity as a recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award. Teachers, like Mrs. Garrity, are key to our children's futures.