

Rep. Thomas Tangretti
Dedication of South Greensburg
Commons
July 11, 2000

Good afternoon, and thank you for inviting me here today to help officially dedicate South Greensburg Commons.

When I was invited to speak to you today, I was told that it was because I had a part in making South Greensburg Commons a reality.

I thank you all for that recognition, but I must say, in the long list of people who were instrumental in making South Greensburg Commons happen -- along with the many other positive economic and cultural

improvements taking place in Greensburg and the rest of Westmoreland County -- I rank quite far down the list.

So I am here today to pay tribute to those who are most responsible for the positive direction in which Westmoreland County is headed, a direction signified by successful projects like South Greensburg Commons.

Those people are your local public officials and the citizens who elected them and supported the vision they had of an economically, technologically and culturally revitalized and vibrant Westmoreland County.

Fifteen years ago, officials in Westmoreland County committed themselves to a plan that they believed would make this region economically strong once more.

During the past decade and a half, elected officials at the county and municipal level have stuck to that plan, and with the support of the businesses and residents of Westmoreland County communities, have seen that plan through.

The dedication of South Greensburg Commons marks the culmination of a truly great turnaround for this region.

In the past 15 years, eight industrial parks have been

developed in the county,
bringing scores of new
businesses, allowing many
existing businesses to grow
and resulting in hundreds of
new jobs.

The light industrial
companies that will occupy
this space alone are expected
to create 250 new jobs.

Add to that the new roads,
increased housing
opportunities, exciting new
retail and service businesses
moving into the area, and the
revitalization of many of the
county's historical and
cultural landmarks, and you
have the recipe for future
success on a grand scale here
in Westmoreland County.

You know, in the early 1980s, Allegheny County was the shining star of western Pennsylvania.

Nowadays, talk to any state official, business owner looking for a new home in this region, or family looking for a great place to live, and they will tell you that Westmoreland County is now that shining star.

For any small role that I might have played in helping this to happen, I assure you, I am quite proud.

But mostly, I am proud to say that I represent a region whose public officials and citizens realize that moving forward in today's world

takes long-term commitment,
not just short-term promises.

You know, we get a lot of
those kind of short-term
promises these days, but
rarely do we see the kind of
commitment from public
officials and residents
necessary to bring about the
kind of results we see here
today.

But obviously, that
commitment exists here in
Westmoreland County, and we
are seeing the results -
fantastic results - to prove
it.

Not only have local officials
made the promise, they have
made the commitment, and with
the support of the people,

have seen that commitment
through.

For that, the entire
community is to be
congratulated, and most
certainly will be rewarded.

Let me be one of the first to
offer that congratulations,
and to say that the benefits
to come are much deserved.

Thank you.

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