

ONE ROOM SCHOOL DEDICATION  
MAY 3, 2003

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, I HAVE BECOME A PRESERVATION  
ADVOCATE.

OVER THE PAST FEW SESSIONS, I HAVE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE  
TIME AND LEGISLATIVE EFFORT TO DEVELOPING STATE POLICY  
THAT WOULD ENABLE PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS AND PUBLIC  
AGENCIES TO REVITALIZE AND RESTORE STRUCTURES THAT ARE  
PART OF OUR HISTORY AND CULTURE.

IT IS A LABOR OF LOVE THAT IS BASED NOT JUST ON A NOSTALGIA  
FOR THE PAST AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES I HAVE GLEANED FROM  
BOOKS AND MOVIES, BUT ALSO ON A FIRM BELIEF THAT IT MAKES  
PERFECT SENSE IN TERMS OF WHAT IS GOOD FOR OUR  
COMMUNITIES.

ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY, THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTS, AS WELL AS A WIDE RANGE OF CHARITABLE  
GROUPS, HAVE RECOGNIZED THE BENEFITS OF PRESERVING THE

STRUCTURES THAT MADE OUR SMALL TOWNS AND BIG CITIES  
UNIQUE.

URBAN SPRAWL AND CONGESTION HAVE RAISED OUR LEVEL OF  
CONSCIOUSNESS AND CONVINCED MANY OF US THAT THERE IS A  
BETTER WAY, OR AT LEAST OUGHT TO BE.

WE KNOW THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES TO THE WAY WE DO THINGS  
NOW, ALTERNATIVES THAT CAN SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE OUR  
QUALITY OF LIFE.

THAT'S WHY I JUMPED AT THE CHANCE TO HELP THE VERY  
DEDICATED PEOPLE FROM THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, DOCTOR  
DOYLE AND THE BOARD MEMBERS, BETTY VALERIO AND THE  
WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS SUCH AS AND DAVE VALERIO, TOM  
HERROLD.

THIS STRUCTURE IS MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER BUILDING FOR THE  
HEMPFIELD STUDENTS TO MATRICULATE AT. RATHER, IT IS A  
PERSONIFICATION OF OUR PEOPLE'S ADVENTERIOUS SPIRIT; OUR

TENACITY FOR LEARNING; OUR COMPLETE AND ABSOLUTE BELIEF THAT NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, AND OUR BELIEF IN OUR CHILDREN AND WHAT THEY HAVE TO OFFER.

THIS BUILDING IS A SYMBOL OF OUR PAST, BUT ALSO A BEACON FOR OUR FUTURE.

IT REPRESENTS OUR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AS WELL AS OUR ACHIEVEMENTS NOT YET DREAMT OF.

IT IS A CELEBRATION OF WHAT IS GOOD ABOUT US, AND DEMONSTRATES OUR VALUES AND OUR PROMISE TO SOCIETIES' BEST YET UNFULFILLED.

THIS BUILDING, THIS PAST REMEMBRANCE, THIS LABOR OF LOVE IS PERFECT IN ITS PURPOSE TO EDUCATE CHILDREN AND IN TURN OUR SOCIETY. I AM VERY PROUD THAT I HAVE PLAYED A SMALL PART IN ITS RESURRECTION.

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