

Many Express Thanks To Hayes At Banquet

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vice to the people of the 81st District.

Dr. Robert Neff of Juniata College began the evening with greetings. "It is appropriate," Neff said, "that a dinner honoring Sam Hayes be held in an educational institution. Sam has been a friend of education, but more importantly, a friend to all of us, a true public servant."

Moderator Dr. Don Evans, assistant dean of Penn State's College of Agricultural Science, chronicled Hayes' life. Born in Johnstown, Hayes' family moved to Pine Grove Mills and then to the Warriors Mark area where Hayes became active in 4-H and FFA. Through high school, Hayes worked on the Peterson Farm, and after graduation he served five years in the Army.

He returned to Penn State in agricultural extension education and was graduated in 1958. While returning to the Army for the Vietnam War as a commissioned officer, Hayes earned the Bronze Star. Hayes taught at the Tyrone Area High School, and in 1970 was elected to the House of Representatives. He was elected 10 more times for a total of 22 years of service to the 81st District.

To show their appreciation, 24 speakers from Huntingdon and Blair counties, representing all walks of life, took to the podium to express their thanks to Hayes, and to outline the specific ways he helped their particular organization.

The kaleidoscope of speakers began with Christy Christoff, a student at the Huntingdon County Area Vocational Technical School. Ben Gordan, FFA member and senior at Juniata High School, noted Hayes' active membership in the Warriors Mark Chapter of the FFA as a teenager and is now the State FFA Foundation President. Hayes formed leadership conferences for FFA students and exemplified the FFA motto, "Learning to do, Doing to

learn; Earning to live, Living to serve."

Dawn Rudy, a senior at the Huntingdon Area High School, said Hayes took his knowledge of rural Pennsylvania to the state legislature, was involved in legislation for school funding, and arranged educational trips for students to Harrisburg, earning the respect and gratitude of all.

Amber Leman, Huntingdon dairy miss, represented the dairy industry, while Kim Brown, president of the Huntingdon County 4-H County Council, thanked Hayes for his words of encouragement to the youth in his district, through visiting the fair and letters to kids for their accomplishments.

Speaking for extension volunteers, 4-H leader Fred Brown said Hayes deserves to take a lot of pride in the Huntingdon County Fair, for having a hand in building the exhibition halls and for investing in the future of our young people. Brown said 4-H turns out future leaders, and appreciates the role model Hayes has been to kids everywhere.

Senior citizens were represented by Shirley Myers while Barb Stapelton spoke for the Huntingdon County Sunday School Association. Stapelton said, "Because of his good name and integrity, people depended on him and trusted him to make decisions, to promote a better life for all of us in Central Pennsylvania."

Mark Saussure of the Ambulance Association said we all owe our life to Hayes for obtaining vital medical services. Hayes assisted in obtaining low interest loans, provided Hepatitis B vaccines for emergency personnel, and, in his last term of office, spearheaded a project to supply pagers for paramedics, for reaching the paramedic closest to an emergency.

John Neuman of the Volunteer Fire Service commended Hayes, whose district has 60,000 people, for always having time to chat with people, and George Fitzgerald, who represented the Hunting-

don County Fair, the Sinking Valley Farm Show, the Bellwood Antis Farm Show, and the Williamsburg Farm Show, said Hayes' efforts contributed to the success of these fairs.

Boy Scout representative Linda Goodman pointed out that only one out of 1,000 boys in Scouting reach the level of Eagle Scout. Goodman said Hayes appeared at many of the Eagle Scout ceremonies, something a Scout is bound to remember.

Peter Hofstetter spoke for health care agencies while Larry Newton of the Bar Association said, "It is said that success has nothing to do with what you gain in life or what you accomplish for yourself, but what you do for others. We make a better life by what we give, and that is Sam Hayes."

Don Talasky hailed Hayes' service to the 360 members of the Huntingdon County Business and Industry Association, and Police Chief Dan Varner, who represented all enforcement, said Hayes earned respect by working hard, by being the first to turn the Rotunda lights on in the morning and one of the last to turn them out at the end of the day.

Jim Hunt, editor of the Daily News in Huntingdon, said politicians and the media often have a love-hate relationship, but in this case, Hayes can appropriately wear the title Honorable because Hayes, in all he did, never set out

to praise Sam Hayes.

Eugene Garner spoke for the Huntingdon County Grange, and Shirl Dillon represented Blair County Grange. Clair Grove of the Huntingdon County Farmers' Association said Hayes always gave real good advice when they had questions, and that Hayes' wife Betty Lee deserves a special thanks for putting up with Sam's schedule. He encouraged everyone to get involved locally for positive change, and to continue to support our legislators.

Van Montague of the Huntingdon County Township Officials thanked Hayes for giving local government more flexibility, to allow local officials to be more responsible to local people.

Former Huntingdon County extension agent and current chairman of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, Harold Lockoff, credited Hayes for his part in the billion dollar bridge build program and for his dedication to the youth at the fair.

Dr. Robert Neff, representative for higher education at Juniata College, thanked Hayes for seeing the future of this state in the minds of students, for talking about responsible citizenship, and for establishing student internships in government.

Blair and Huntingdon County extension agent Terry Maddox bestowed the title of Honorary County Agent to Hayes, an award given only 30 times in the 74-year

history of the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents. Maddox said, "Sam's interest in helping people paralleled the same interests of County Agents. We bestow the title of Honorary County Agent to you and the privileges that go with it — long days of work, lots of meetings, and time away from home helping people. These are the things Sam has been doing for the past 22 years."

"Friends of Extension Award" is a national honor for outstanding public service and support of Penn State Cooperative Extension and Education Programs and the highest honor to a special friend in Extension. Hayes received that award from Lee Miller, county extension director of Beaver County, and from Extension fraternity Epsilon Sigma Phi. Miller said Hayes earned this award for key legislation for forming the new Governors School of Agriculture, for facility improvements, for computer based extension education programs, and has been named the dean of agriculture and education on the Hill.

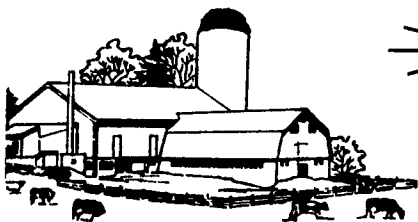
Hayes heard letters from Congressman Shuster, and Bob Jubelirer commended Hayes for "putting in extraordinary hours, wrestling with details of legislation, and cutting through the puffery of politics."

Senator Harris Wofford paid tribute to Sam Hayes for his com-

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