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February 3, 2005

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Washington, DC - Recognizing the great contributions of Catholic schools throughout New Jersey, Congressman Steve Rothman joined his colleagues in celebrating National Catholic Schools Week (January 30th-February 5th). Rothman delivered the following statement on the Floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, on February 1st, 2005.

"Mr. Speaker, so what is a nice Jewish boy like me doing here on the floor of the House praising Catholic schools? Because Catholic schools do so much for our country and so much for our children by providing them with the basic tenets of the Catholic faith -- a faith that has added so much to the civilization of the world and made the world a better place.

Catholic schools recognize that people are physical, spiritual, moral as well as intelligent beings. They provide so many good values to our children. We have 408 Catholic schools in the State of New Jersey alone. And I can tell you from all of my dear friends over a lifetime who have told me about their Catholic school experiences -- that this is where they learned respect for elders, the tenets of the Catholic faith and discipline and respect for other faiths.

I want to pay particular attention and I want to particularly praise the teachers at Catholic schools who have done and sacrificed so much to teach our children all of these valuable and important lessons that have helped our country and the world by helping these young men and women become better human beings. They often do this for far less pay than in the public schools, but they are some of the greatest and finest teachers you will find in our country.

So I am delighted and proud that we rightfully honor the contribution of Catholic schools here in the United States Congress, and I thank all of those in the Catholic faith who have made it possible for these young people to enjoy the blessings of these wonderful institutions."

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