

# NEWS

## UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

A JESUIT UNIVERSITY

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SCRANTON ALUMNUS/TRUSTEE AND WIFE ESTABLISH MAJOR PROGRAM, BUILDING RENAMED LEAHY HALL IN RECOGNITION OF GIFT

SCRANTON--In honor of their late son, a University of Scranton alumnus-trustee and his wife have established an endowment to benefit health care education at the University.

The gift will be used to establish the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Center for Faculty Research and Development in Nursing, Physical and Occupational Therapy, and Related Health Care Areas. It was announced yesterday (Oct. 10) at a private ceremony where the University renamed Jefferson Hall the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Hall in recognition and appreciation of the Leahy family.

Edward was the only child of Edward Leahy, a 1968 graduate of the University of Scranton, and Patricia Leahy of McLean, Va. Edward Jr. was born in 1984 with cerebral palsy and several related disabilities and passed away in 1993.

"We wanted to do something significant to benefit the nursing, physical therapy and occupational therapy programs at the University in honor of Edward," Leahy said.

"Edward benefited so much during his short life from the dedication of people in those professions," Leahy continued. "Therefore, it was important for us to honor Edward's life and memory by supporting education and research in those areas so that others, too, can benefit."

The endowment will provide support for faculty research and development in nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and other related areas. It will have a particular emphasis on support for projects that relate to health care issues for persons with disabilities, especially children.

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Leahy Hall houses the University's physical therapy and occupational therapy offices and laboratories and includes student residences.

Tuesday's ceremony included faculty, students, administrators, trustees and friends of the Leahy family. Leahy offered brief comments as did Rev. J.A. Panuska, S.J., University president; James J. Pallante, Ed.D., dean of the College of Health, Education, and Human Resources; and Robert J. Sylvester, vice president for institutional advancement.

A plaque was unveiled at the ceremony, which reads, "This building is dedicated in memory of Edward R. Leahy, Jr., to the compassion, energy and commitment of the health care professionals who prepare here for a career of service to others."

Fr. Panuska said the new name, Leahy Hall, will provide inspiration for the University's basic mission in health sciences.

"Of all the famous names placed upon walls on our campus," he said, "this naming will perhaps be one that touches our students most intimately, inspires them to achieve their potential in the Jesuit tradition, and inspires them to be faithful to the heart of their profession, service of others."

Pallante, dean of the Scranton college that includes the nursing and physical and occupational therapy programs, said the endowment will help professors keep up with the changes in those health care areas.

"Through the generosity of your gift, and the spirit in which you give it," Pallante told the Leahys at the ceremony, "you affirm the talent and skills that these scholars, teachers and practitioners bring to their students and patients every day."

Edward Leahy graduated with honors from Scranton in 1968 and from the Boston College Law School in 1971. He served as Editor-in-Chief of the Boston College Law Review and, after graduation, as a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr.

Leahy is a partner in Thatcher Proffitt & Wood, where he practices in the Litigation, Corporate/Securities and International departments.

He was elected to Scranton's Board of Trustees in 1994 and serves on its finance committee and is a member of the advisory board of the University's Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library.

In 1988, Leahy established the Edward P. Leahy Scholarship Fund in memory of his late uncle who encouraged him and many others to attend the University of Scranton.

Patricia Leahy, a native of Boston, is a Presidential appointee in the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Office of Special Education of the U.S. Department of Education. She is an 18-year staff veteran in the U.S. House of Representatives where she served as the Administrative Assistant for U.S. Rep. John Dingell's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Commerce Committee. She graduated from Boston College with a bachelor's degree in English.

Leahy Hall, which is at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Linden Street, was originally the YWCA building. The University purchased the building from the YWCA in 1977 and has conducted several renovation projects since then. A \$1.6 million project to provide space for the University's new occupational therapy program is nearing completion.

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