

Script for the PA Announcer and for Cathy Baase for the Award Presentation

August 31, 2009

President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Community Leadership Award Presentation to Helen Fry

PA announcer Script:

Today we are privileged to have a remarkable event happening here at the Loons stadium. A member of our community will be presented with a 2009 Community Leader Award by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Our community is privileged to have one of only 16 individuals in the country to receive this community leader award. Today, right here, right now we will have the award presentation. So, ladies and gentlemen, let's have a round of applause to kick it off. Wow!

Dr. Catherine Baase, who has served on the President's Council for Physical Fitness and Sports, is here on behalf of the President's Council for the ceremony. Dr. Baase is also the Chief Medical Officer at Dow.

The Award is being presented to Helen Fry, the founder and leader of Gym-Jester Gymnastics in Saginaw.

Catherine Baase Script for Award Presentation

The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (PCPFS) has chosen Helen Fry to receive a 2009 PCPFS Community Leadership Award.

This award is given annually to individuals who improve the lives of individuals within their community by providing or enhancing opportunities to engage in sports, physical activities, or fitness-related programs.

Individuals are nominated for this award through nomination forms available on the website of the President's Council www.fitness.gov. Nominations are thoroughly reviewed by teams of the members of the President's Council. Only those with the highest scores are ultimately selected for the award.

This year, the President's Council presented the Community Leadership Award to 16 individuals across the country for making sports, physical activity, and fitness-related programs available in their communities. The leaders were announced in the second quarter. Winners of the last three years are listed on the website.

For the last 47 years, Helen has provided the endless drive and energy force behind Gym-Jesters Gymnastics organization. Today, this program enrolls over 1000 students annually in an incredible physical fitness and movement set of courses for ages 10 months through high school. Programs are in three major categories including children's programs, recreational gymnastics and competitive gymnastics teams. Throughout the last 4+ decades more than 25,000 children have benefited by being enrolled in one or more of the Gym-Jester programs.

Helen Fry moved to Saginaw Michigan in 1961 for her first physical education teaching job.

She was filled with a dream and passion to do something truly special.

Starting in 1962 she became a pioneer and started a gymnastics program for middle school girls - building balance beams in her home with her husband Tom and holding fund raising to get a program in place.

Even while raising her own family and teaching, with her amazing drive and enthusiasm the program grew in size and diversity of offerings moving from the school grounds to leased facilities and eventually to a permanent structure.

It is a great service to the community to have such high quality fitness and movement programs available. Helen truly exemplifies the characteristics of those honored by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports as Community Leaders.

It was my great privilege to serve as a member of the President's Council for Physical Fitness and Sports from 2006-2008.

On behalf of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and acting director RADM Penelope Slade-Sawyer, I am honored to present this award to Helen Fry.

I know that your family who has supported you and Gym Jesters for so long and the many extraordinary coaches and instructors applaud your leadership and success. I know that we have a huge crowd from Gym Jesters here tonight and I ask them and the entire Lyons audience to join me in a round of applause.

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About The Council

The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (PCPFS) is an advisory committee of volunteer citizens who advise the President through the Secretary of Health and Human Services about physical activity, fitness and sports in America. The Office of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (PCPFS), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is the HHS office containing the PCPFS Executive Director and support staff. Through its programs and partnerships with the public, private and nonprofit sectors, the Office of the PCPFS serves as a catalyst to promote health, physical activity, fitness and enjoyment for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities through participation in physical activity and sports. For more information about PCPFS please visit www.fitness.gov.

Name of Nominee: Helen Fry, Gym-Jester Gymnastics, Inc.

Address (postal): 2709 Pine St. City: State: Zip Code: Saginaw, Michigan 48604

Phone Number: 989-754-7401