

# The 2008 Champions of Choice

## Dr. Ronald Bowes



**D**r. Ronald Bowes graduated from Duquesne University in 1967 and with a masters degree in 1969. After his time at Duquesne, he entered the United States Army as a lieutenant and in 1970 was named an Outstanding Lieutenant in the First U. S. Army. In 1991, he joined the Diocese of Pittsburgh for Catholic Schools and was asked by then Father Douglas Norwicki, now Archabbot Norwicki, to lead the battle for choice in Western Pennsylvania. In the same year he was honored by his alma mater by being inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Graduates.

During the 1990s, Dr. Bowes established a large grassroots network of parents, teachers, administrators and others interested in advancing the cause of parental choice in education. He made hundreds of presentations in a variety of venues and debated the issue on radio and television. He was invited by the President of Notre Dame to speak at the Hesburgh School of Public Policy. He made similar lectures at the University of Pittsburgh, Washington & Jefferson College, Carnegie Mellon University, and just recently at Oxford University in England.

In April 2008, he was asked to speak at the White House Summit on Education concerning Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program.

Dr. Bowes is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and is a former Vice President of the Sierra Club.

## Senator Jane Clare Orie, R-40

**S**enator Orie represents the 40th Senatorial District, which includes Southwestern Pennsylvania communities in Allegheny and Butler counties. She was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in a special election in April 2001 and re-elected to full terms in 2002 and 2004. In January 2007, Orie was chosen by her fellow colleagues to hold the esteemed position of Majority Whip, which is the third highest ranking member of the Pennsylvania Senate. As Majority Whip, she assists with the President Pro Tempore and the Majority Leader in advocating issues within the Caucus and within the Senate. As the first woman elected to Senate Leadership and as the first female to hold this position, Senator Orie considers her post as Majority Whip an honor and privilege.

Senator Orie is one of ten women in the Pennsylvania Senate. Prior to taking her seat in the Pennsylvania State Senate, she began her service being elected to the State House of Representatives in 1996 and serving four and a half years. Before being elected to the Legislature, Senator Orie served as state Deputy Attorney General in the division of Criminal Prosecution and as Assistant District Attorney for Allegheny County, where she focused on prosecuting cases involving homicides and crimes against persons.

Senator Orie has been a lead advocate in the effort to secure increased funding to help expand and improve the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, that empowers parents to choose the best educational setting for their children. It has also been crucial to helping underprivileged children who may have otherwise missed out on the opportunity for success. The EITC has helped local businesses to contribute to programs they believe in and receive a tax credit in return. That is a win-win proposition for our kids and our job creators. Senator Orie has been steadfast in her dedication to education, children and the Commonwealth and will continue to make this a priority.

A lifelong resident of McCandless Township, Orie has B.A. degree from Franklin & Marshall College and a law degree from Duquesne University School of Law.



## Representative Thomas A. Tangretti, D-57

**T**homas A. Tangretti (D-Westmoreland) is currently serving his 10th and final term as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. After 20 years of service to the people of the 57th Legislative District, Rep. Tangretti will retire from the legislature at the end of the current legislative session on Nov. 30.

Rep. Tangretti was first elected in 1988. During the 2007-08, and over the past two decades has worked to advance issues such as reducing health-care costs and expanding health-care access, reducing property taxes, and reforming state government and the legislature. Additionally, he has been a leader in the state legislature in making public transportation – particularly commuter rail service in southwestern Pennsylvania – an important and dynamic component of Pennsylvania's future transportation plans. Rep. Tangretti also has focused on issues such as job creation and economic and community revitalization.

In the current legislative session, Rep. Tangretti serves as chairman of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee. Rep. Tangretti's interest in historic preservation and transportation, which are key components of the tourism industry, are integral to building the success of that industry and of our economy. He was also one of 12 Democratic legislators selected to serve on an important bipartisan committee, the Speaker's Commission on Legislative Reform, which rewrote many of the rules of the House of Representatives to make the process of state government more open and accountable. During the 2005-06 session, the governor signed legislation introduced by Rep. Tangretti that provides state-paid premiums to ensure that all active-duty Pennsylvania National Guard members have the maximum amount of Service Members Group Life Insurance. Legislation he introduced to ensure the safety of patients at abortion clinics also became law.

