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Senate

LEO JOHN SWEENEY JR. AND CATHERINE EILEEN CLAFFEY SWEENEY'S 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate John and Eileen Sweeney, who will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on November 25, 2002.

As they celebrate this milestone in their lives, they will surely reflect on the many changes, successes, and accomplishments they have experienced together over the last 25 years. Theirs is a journey of which they can be proud. Leo John Sweeney Jr. is the son of the late Leo John Sweeney Sr. and Isabelle Moore Sweeney, and is a lifelong Wilmingtonian. He is a graduate of St. Elizabeth's Elementary School and Salesianum High School. His wife, Catherine Eileen Claffey Sweeney, is the daughter of the late John J. Claffey and Alice G. Rowan Claffey, and is also from Wilmington. She is a graduate of St. Paul's Elementary School and St. Paul's Commercial School.

John and Eileen met and began dating in early 1976 and became engaged in June 1977. They were married on November 25, 1977, at St. Joseph's on the Brandywine Roman Catholic Church in Wilmington. They made a welcoming home on South Broom Street.

A lieutenant, John has worked at the Wilmington Fire Department for 28 years. In 1961, he played in Delaware's

Annual Blue and Gold All-Star Football Game, and, on the 25th anniversary of the Blue/Gold

Game in 1980, John began umpiring these games. He continues to umpire high school football games today.

Eileen has worked for the Catholic Diocese for 30 years and has also served as Publicity Chair for the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. In 1994, she opened an Irish Shop in the Forty- Acres neighborhood. We have shared many laughs together at the Irish Culture Club of Delaware over the years.

Today, I congratulate John and Eileen on their 25th wedding anniversary. Both have shown great service and commitment to their family and their community. I know that their years together hold many beautiful memories. It is my hope that those ahead will be filled with continued joy and contentment. I wish them both the very best in all that lies ahead.