

Altmire Introduces Legislation to Honor Rachel Carson

(Washington, DC) - Rep. Jason Altmire (PA-4) introduced legislation on Friday to officially designate the Springdale Post Office in honor of Springdale native and scientist Rachel Carson.

"This year marks the centennial of Rachel Carson's birth, on May 27, 1907, in Springdale," said Rep. Altmire. "Rachel Carson is one of Pittsburgh's greatest heroes and an important role model for our children. Her lifelong love of nature changed the way we look at the natural world and all life in it."

After graduating from the Pennsylvania College of Women (now Chatham College) in 1929, Carson received a master's degree in zoology from Johns Hopkins University. During a 15-year career with the federal government, Carson worked as a scientist, writer and editor for the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She also supplemented her income during the Depression as a reporter for the Baltimore Sun. Carson resigned from federal service in 1952 to focus on her writing.

Rachel Carson is best known for her writing on natural history, environmental research, and the promotion of policies to protect public health. Her most famous work, *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, inspired widespread public concerns about the use of pesticides and led to the ban of DDT. In 1999, *TIME Magazine* named Rachel Carson as one of the 20th Century's most important people.

"Rachel Carson was a child of the Allegheny," added Patricia DeMarco, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Rachel Carson Homestead Association. "Her early days on the banks of the Allegheny River and exploring the sixty-five acres around her home in the then rural community of Springdale truly shaped her appreciation of nature."

"Rachel Carson made our community and communities across the country better and safer places to live," concluded Rep. Altmire. "I am pleased to honor the life and legacy of Rachel Carson by offering this bill in Congress to officially rename the facility at 896 Pittsburgh Street in Springdale as the "Rachel Carson Post Office Building."