

LOU BARLETTA

11TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

**TRANSPORTATION AND
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October 30, 2015

Mr. George Curry
Head Football Coach
Berwick Area Senior High School
1100 Fowler Avenue
Berwick, PA 18603

Dear Coach Curry:

On the occasion of your final home game as the head football coach at Berwick Area High School, I write to congratulate you on a legendary career of molding championship teams, standout players, and fine young men. Your record of achievement on the football field is something that will be difficult to match, but your history of positively influencing countless lives is something that will never be equaled.

Very few scholastic coaches can lay claim to such an impressive résumé as yours. Twice named National Coach of the Year by *USA Today*, and three times awarded that newspaper's National Championship, you and your teams earned praise from across the country. At home in Pennsylvania, Berwick Area High School was State 3A Champion six times under your leadership, as you won some 450 games – 400 with Berwick Area High School alone – over 46 years of coaching. As the winningest high school football coach in Pennsylvania history, you have an unparalleled record of accomplishment that even the great Vince Lombardi would envy.

But the impact of a coach should be evaluated by more than simply counting wins and losses, and on that score you truly are a champion. By most estimates, more than 700 George Curry-coached players went on to collegiate careers, with over 200 landing scholarships to top Division I programs in Pennsylvania and in places like Maryland, Syracuse, West Virginia, and Notre Dame. Other players earned spots in academic powerhouses like the Naval Academy, Harvard, Princeton, Penn, Yale, and M.I.T. Many of these young men are certain that they never would have had access to such world-class educations if you had not been such a strong presence in their lives. Through your leadership and guidance, they were afforded a greater opportunity of bettering themselves than they might otherwise have had.

Success among former Berwick players on the fields of America's colleges and universities is well known, but there are some stories that are not as prevalent. One practice of yours which should be trumpeted is that you would also spend hours putting together promotional packages for college recruiters on behalf of high school players who did not even attend Berwick. By doing that, you helped youngsters – those you did not even coach – achieve their dreams of college scholarships. Such was the influence your name and stamp of approval had accumulated over the decades, and such was your concern for the success of young people from across our region.

It is that dedication to the development of future generations of Pennsylvania young men which has left its most lasting mark on our community. Players you have led to championships have gone on to college, and some even to the National Football League. But still others never played a single down of football beyond high school, and went right into careers, or trades, or into the military, and took with them lessons about life that you taught them in the locker rooms and on the gridiron. They have raised, are raising, or soon will raise families that will become part of the expanding fabric of our community. These are the innumerable futures you have shaped, and the lives you have touched, which multiply exponentially up to this very moment.

This is the true measure of a high school football coach and mentor.

I wish you well as you embark on this next chapter of your life. And please know that grateful football fans, parents, young men, and all Pennsylvanians sincerely thank you for a life of good works.

It remains an honor to serve you in the United States House of Representatives.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lou Barletta". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress