

RECOGNIZING THE GENEROSITY
OF ALLEN LEEPA

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary generosity of two wonderful people who live in my Ninth Congressional District in Florida. Allen Leepa and his wife Isabelle have donated a \$2.15 million endowment and a multimillion dollar art collection to be housed in a new museum at the Tarpon Springs campus of the St. Petersburg Junior College in Tarpon Springs, FL.

Mr. Leepa has said that "art is a vehicle to promote education," and his gift will certainly benefit not only the students and faculty of the college, but the residents of Florida's suncoast as well.

The college will be building the Leepa/Rattner Museum of Fine Arts, which is to honor Mr. Leepa and his late stepfather, Abraham Rattner. The museum will house 150 works by Mr. Leepa, an abstract artist, and 20th century modernists including Georges Rouault, Hans Hoffman and Henry Moore. Two works by Pablo Picasso will also be included.

A resident of my birthplace in Tarpon Springs for 14 years, Dr. Leepa studied art in Chicago, New York, and Paris at the Sarbonne. He has taught at several fine universities around the country, and he has published three books about modern art.

Mr. Speaker, art means different things to different people. However, it does serve as an outlet for the creative side of all of us. Throughout history, the expressions of talented artists have contributed to a greater understanding of our society and of ourselves.

As a result of Dr. Leepa's generosity and kindheartedness, Floridians will be able to enjoy the finest in art right in the heart of Florida's suncoast. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Leepa and wishing the Leepa/Rattner Museum all of the best in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SAN
FERNANDO HIGH SCHOOL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to San Fernando High School, which this year is celebrating its 100th anniversary. I know of few high schools in southern California with such a long and rich history.

One way to judge a school is by its alumni. Using that criterion, San Fernando High School receives high marks. For example, Hawley Bowlus, the man who supervised the construction of the Spirit of St. Louis, Charles Lindbergh's plane, was a graduate of San Fernando High. Another alumnus, Denny Crum, is today one of the top college basketball coaches in the country. A third, Jimmy Velarde, is a four-time Emmy winner and producer of shows such as "Culture Clash."

The school has also had its share of sports glory. Two of the greatest running backs in

USC history, Anthony Davis and Charles White, attended San Fernando High. Fifty years earlier, in 1925, San Fernando produced its first championship football team. Other sports fared well; the school has produced champions in baseball, track, and basketball.

San Fernando High School today has many reasons to be proud. The school commonly graduates 675 seniors out of a class of 700, and is virtually free of the crime, drugs, and gangs that unfortunately plague many urban high schools. I have attended several events at the school, and have always admired the spirit of its students and the commitment of its faculty and staff.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting San Fernando High School, an excellent institution with a proud history. Congratulations to all on this special anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO REV. JOSEPH M.
ROLLINS, JR.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rev. Joseph M. Rollins, Jr., who was honored on January 18 for his long and fruitful career as a community activist and pastor of Saint Augustine Presbyterian Church, at 838 East 165th Street in my congressional district, the South Bronx.

Reverend Rollins, a third generation Presbyterian minister, will be retiring as pastor of the church at the end of this year after 24 years of service. The tribute in his honor, entitled "This Is Your Life", highlighted his tireless work in the fight for civil rights and his dedication to the service of his fellowship and community.

Reverend Rollins was born in Newport News, VA, in 1926. He is the great grandson of a former slave, Mrs. Clements, who gained her freedom at the age of 11. Reverend Rollins holds a degree from Johnson C. Smith University, in Charlotte, NC, an institution which was formerly associated to the Presbyterian Church. In 1954, Reverend Rollins organized the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, FL.

A man of tremendous faith, he was among the first who believed in peaceful dissent as a catalyst of equal rights for all people regardless of color. In 1955, he was involved in the organization of the first bus boycott in Tallahassee, right after the arrest of three students from Florida A & M University. Reverend Rollins was among those who marched with Martin Luther King, Jr., during the civil rights movement.

In 1963, he came to New York City and served as associate executive for the Commission on Religion and Race for the Presbyterian Church. In 1968, he became the executive of the National Committee of Black Churchmen, an ecumenical movement.

He was also a member of the National Presbyterian Black Caucus, and served in many community organizations, including Community Board #3, the South Bronx Leadership Forum, and 163 Improvement Council, all three in the Bronx.

Reverend Rollins has received two honorary degrees from University of Dubuque, IA and

Inter-Denominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA. He is the widower of Julia Rollins, with whom he had two children, Cecilia and Metz Rollins, and is the grandfather of three.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rev. Joseph M. Rollins, Jr. for his lifelong commitment to his ministry and for his community activism, which has so well served all of us countrymen.

HONORING THE "LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR" CAMPAIGN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations and support for the "Love Your Neighbor" campaign that is sweeping south Florida.

The "Love Your Neighbor" campaign is dedicated to promoting the use and spirit of the phrase "Love Your Neighbor" in oral and written communications to make Miami and the world a better place; work towards reducing stress and improving our mental health; reduce suffering, violence, and crime by becoming considerate, respectful, and caring towards one another; and identify south Florida as a community that cares for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or social status.

Three years ago, Metropolitan Dade County embraced the "Love Your Neighbor" campaign. Since that time, over 750,000 "Love Your Neighbor" bumperstickers have been distributed, including 16,000 purchased by the Metro-Dade police department and 250,000 distributed by Dade County Public Schools. The Miami-Dade Public Libraries distribute "Love Your Neighbor" bookmarks, the phrase appears on the side of many Metro-Dade Transit buses, and a billboard flashes the sign at Miami International Airport.

The newly-elected mayor of Metropolitan Dade County, Alex Penelas, has endorsed a week of activities for February 9-15, 1997, and Governor Chiles has already proclaimed that week as "Love Your Neighbor" week in south Florida. Even Kenny Rogers Roasters has become involved in the campaign, carrying the message in all of their franchises. Other corporations have donated space on 600 billboards, and are involved in producing a music video and a public service announcement to be aired on local television.

"Love Your Neighbor" was started by Jim Ward, Dade County's Human Resources director. Mr. Ward is an ex-police officer, having protected and served the people of Jacksonville, FL for 17 years. He moved to south Florida 17 years ago, to Miami's great benefit. For the last 3 years he has worked tirelessly to promote the "Love Your Neighbor" campaign, watching it grow from one man's idealistic dream to the massive campaign it has become, spreading throughout south Florida and even as far as Macon, GA.

Mr. Speaker, Dade County and the city of Miami owe a great debt of gratitude to Jim Ward for the "Love Your Neighbor" campaign. I wish him every success in spreading his message throughout our community and our country.