

CONGRATULATING RUSS BERRIE
ON BEING NAMED HONORARY
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Russ Berrie on being named Honorary Citizen of the Year by the Oakland (New Jersey) Republican Club. Mr. Berrie's millions of dollars of contributions to a wide variety of worthy causes makes him one of the most active and prominent philanthropists in our state. In fact, *Fortune* magazine has called him one of the 40 most generous people in the nation. But Mr. Berrie is appreciated for more than just his monetary contributions. This Citizen of the Year award reflects his sincere concern about the well being of the community and his true commitment to helping others. He has supported causes as varied as religion, medicine, education and the arts.

Mr. Berrie is chairman and chief executive officer of Russ Berrie and Company Inc., an internationally successful business empire specializing in novelty items and "lifestyle gifts." Mr. Berrie founded the company in 1963 while working as a manufacturer's representative. Today, it is the premier company in its field worldwide, with offices and distribution centers in Cranbury, New Jersey; Petaluma, Calif.; Canada and England. The firm also has offices in Hong Kong, China, Korea and Taiwan. It has 1,600 employees around the globe.

In addition to running a successful business, Mr. Berrie devotes his talents and energy to a number of charitable causes. Most recently, his many contributions have included a \$5 million donation to the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center Foundation and \$13.5 million for the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University.

In addition, he has supported the Russell and Angelica Berrie Early Childhood Wing at the Jewish Community Center on the Palisades, the Russ Berrie Building for the Center for Strategic Studies at the College of Judea and Samaria in Israel, and the Angelica and Russell Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts at Ramapo College. I am particularly proud to have worked with Mr. Berrie on the Center for Performing and Visual Arts project, which was partly funded by a \$500,000 grant I obtained from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He and Mrs. Berrie have been staunch supporters of Ramapo College.

Mr. Berrie has also established the Russell Berrie Foundation, which sponsors the "Making a Difference Award" to recognize unsung New Jersey heroes who have made contributions to their communities or performed heroic acts.

Chairman of the Center for Inter-religious Understanding, Mr. Berrie also serves on the boards of New York University's Leonard Stern School of Business, United Retail Group, the Jewish Community Center and the John Harms Center for the Arts. He has received almost two dozen awards and honorary degrees from universities, cities, religious groups and organizations across the country.

Mr. Berrie and his wife, Angelica, live in Englewood. They have six children.

Mr. Berrie is an outstanding example of a philanthropist. His kindness and generosity have benefited thousands in fields from education to medicine to the arts. He has taken the saying "share the wealth" to heart, and seen to it that his success in business helps countless others as well. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to congratulate Mr. Berrie on being named Honorary Citizen of the Year and in wishing him the best for the future.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. JAMES
HABERKOST

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Rev. James Haberkost, a dedicated pastor in my district who is celebrating his 40th anniversary of service to the Lutheran Church.

Pastor Haberkost is a 1959 graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. That same year he was ordained and installed as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Streamwood, IL., where he served the congregation for 21 years. In August of 1980, Pastor Haberkost began work at St. John's Lutheran Church in La Grange, IL. While Pastor of Grace Congregation, Pastor Haberkost also found the time to serve as part-time Lutheran Chaplain at the Illinois State Training School for Boys at St. Charles. In addition to his duties as Pastor of St. John's Church, he has served on the Northern Illinois Board for Missions and the Town & Country Committee of the District, and led devotions twice a month on WTAQ in LaGrange, until the radio station was sold. Reverend Haberkost proceeds to serve as the senior Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church. The church congregation and school both continue to rapidly increase in number and faith.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Rev. James Haberkost for his many years of commitment and dedication to the church, school, and community. I extend to him my best wishes for many more years of quality service in his noble vocation.

RECOGNITION OF ASHAWAY LINE
AND TWINE MANUFACTURING
COMPANY—175 YEARS OF
SUCCESSFUL SMALL BUSINESS

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ashaway Line and Twine Manufacturing Company, a family-owned firm in Ashaway, Rhode Island, which celebrates 175 years of successful small business this June.

Six generations of the Crandall family have owned and operated this company since its inception in 1824 at its Laurel Street headquarters in Ashaway. Today, it is one of the oldest family-owned companies in the United States and exemplifies this country's proud tradition of manufacturing and innovation. Over the course of the last 175 years, the

company has gone from a local fishing line supplier to a global seller of medical threads, tennis strings, and other specialized lines.

In recent times, we have all heard many disheartening stories of manufacturing plant closings in communities around the country. Some of these firms were unable to compete in the new global marketplace; luckily for the citizens of Ashaway and the Line and Twine's customers, the Crandall family has always been able to adapt to the changing times and remain open for business. Its products are now sold to sixty countries, and fifty percent of its business is currently done outside the United States. The company has discovered new and creative uses for its products, including special strings for NASA to sew up its space suits, and movie props for Hollywood. Because of this resourcefulness and innovative spirit, eighty-seven employees continue to work today at the Ashaway Line and Twine Manufacturing Company plant, operating the 3,000 machines that braid lines, and dyeing and packaging the strings.

The Crandall family and the Ashaway Line and Twin Manufacturing Company are planning an anniversary celebration for June of this year to recognize and thank their many customers and dedicated employees. I would like to take this opportunity to extend the same gratitude to the family and the firm for their loyalty to the community of Ashaway and the state of Rhode Island. Please join with me in the recognition of one of the oldest family-owned manufacturing firms in this country, and let us always remember the incalculable contribution such companies have made and continue to make to this great nation.

HONORING HEAR O'ISRAEL OF
HOUSTON, TX

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a valued organization within the Houston community, Hear O'Israel, which is sponsoring Listen to the Cries of the Children National during the month of April 1999. Hear O'Israel works to make a difference in the lives of the disabled, battered and abused women, the elderly and young people across Houston. They work to give these men and women a stronger sense of self-worth and instill in them the need to treat others with compassion and respect. The following resolution approved by the Houston City Council demonstrates the high regard for Hear O'Israel in our community.

LISTEN TO THE CRIES OF THE CHILDREN
NATIONAL

A non-profit, non denominational organization, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. developed its Listen to the Cries of the Children National campaign to strengthen the unity of families and enhance public awareness of the negative effects that alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children and their families. The campaign's goal is "for everyone to Hear and Listen to the cries; stop violence; have mercy, love, and compassion for our fellow man, and turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the

children to their fathers hence, linking the family together and creating the connection that should be present between every parent and child."

The Listen to the Cries of the Children National campaign strives to focus public attention on the plight of children around the world who are abused, neglected, or physically challenged; and who does not have adequate food, shelter, clothing, and health care and all children, young and old, who are crying out for help. As part of its ongoing effort to help suffering children, I fear O'Israel International, Inc. has been going into schools and detention homes, campaigning with former gang members who were shot and, after becoming quadriplegic, are taking with them the evidence and consequences of their actions in order to help the children to become aware of the price they are paying. Hear O'Israel International, Inc. has also conducted community-oriented programs to help more children become aware of the negative consequences of gang involvement and drug and alcohol abuse.

The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Houston do hereby salute Hear O'Israel International, Inc. for its efforts to improve and enhance the quality of life for our children, and external best wishes for continued success.

Approved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Houston this 8th day of April, 1999, A.D.

CONGRATULATING DEANNE MEYERS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deanne Meyers on receiving the Friends of Agricultural Extension's "Award for Outstanding Achievement."

The "Award for Outstanding Achievement" is designed to identify and bring broad recognition to educational programs devised by University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Farm Advisors and Specialists that represent the most significant contributions to production, agriculture and the consuming public.

Ms. Meyers is a UC Davis-based Cooperative Extension Waste Management Specialist. She represents the University on an inter-agency work-group for confined animal feeding operations. Deanne presented her program on the subject, "Environmental Stewardship Short Course for California Dairy Operators." She is recognized for her research which addresses key areas of environmental concern to dairy operators throughout California. Through her research, Ms. Meyers has focused on creating a balance between the current requirements of agricultural producers and possible future requirements by disseminating information to dairy producers regarding their obligations and liabilities for compliance with water quality regulations.

Five other finalists are also honored: Lonnie Hendricks, Merced County, "Integrated Pest Management in Almonds;" Steve Koike, Monterey County, "Unique County-based Plant Pathology Lab;" Neil McDougald, Madera Coun-

ty, "Rangeland Water Quality Research and Education Program;" Michael McKenry, Kearney Ag. Center, "Orchard Replant Problems and their Management;" and Ron Vargas, Madera County, "Cotton Week Management." Every program submitted is vitally important to production agriculture and every participant received at least one "first" from individual members of the panel.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deanne Meyers as Winner of the "Award for Outstanding Achievement," and recognize each of the five finalists, Steve Koike, Neil McDougald, Michael McKenry, and Ron Vargas. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Meyers and each of the finalists best wishes for a bright future and continued success.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY DARIN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Walden Robert Cassotto for all the joy that he gave to the world through his talent, music, and generosity. He will be honored on his birthday, May 14.

Known as Bobby Darin, Walden Robert Cassotto was born in Harlem on May 14, 1936. For most of his young life he lived at 629 East 135th Street in the Bronx. He attended PS 43 and Elijah D. Clark Junior and graduated from the Bronx High School of Science in January 1953, at the tender age of 16. Darin's first paying musical job was at a school dance at Bronx Science. For their performance, Bob and his band mates were reportedly paid "twenty cents and a stick of gum each," a rather inauspicious start to what would turn out to be a brilliant career. Just a few years out of high school, Bobby Darin would find fame and fortune.

Mr. Speaker, between the ages of 8 and 12, Bobby suffered of rheumatic fever four times. In those days, there was no effective treatment for the disease. During one of his bouts with the illness, Bobby overheard the doctor tell his mother that he wouldn't live to see his 16th birthday. From then on, the young man became driven to succeed. He wanted desperately to leave his mark on the world.

Blessed with talent and determination, Bobby Darin would see his dream come to fruition. With his musical gifts, and his intuitive acting ability, and by the sheer force of his personality, Bobby Darin did indeed become a legend in his own time.

On December 2, 1959, Darin was the subject of Ralph Edwards' "This is Your Life." One of the gifts bestowed upon Bobby that night was the establishment of The Bobby Darin Award at Bronx Science—a medal presented to outstanding music students at Bobby's old high school until it lapsed in 1965. Sadly, on December 20, 1973, at the age of 37, Bobby Darin passed away following heart surgery. He left a son, Dodd.

Mr. Speaker, for me, Bobby Darin was more than a great singer. He added great musical joy to my world with his style and grace, the

lyrics of his songs, and his music. His first major hit came in 1958 with "Splish Splash" and "Mack the Knife" which exploded onto the charts, rocketing to number 1, and stayed there for months.

Bobby inspired me and so many other young people from the Bronx. He had a remarkable passion for life, tenacity to accomplish what he was set to do, great courage and sensitivity. I can remember how proud we were in the Bronx to know that he came from our own Borough.

Mr. Speaker, May 14, 1999 has been proclaimed "Bobby Darin Day" in the Bronx by Bronx Borough President, Fernando Ferrer and, at the Bronx Science Spring Concert, the school's alumni association will revive the Bobby Darin award as a scholarship for talented music students. What a fitting tribute.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a great American artist and in wishing the Bobby Darin Award Committee continued success.

HONORING AZTECA BOXING TEAM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the longtime success of a group that has provided a valuable community resource in helping to teach many youths discipline and character. On May 7, local officials, family, and friends will gather to celebrate the Azteca Boxing Team of Pontiac, MI, for 25 years of service.

Twenty-five years ago, Pontiac resident Ruben Flores, a former Golden Gloves champion, envisioned an opportunity to give Pontiac youth a chance to help young people off of the streets and into positive activities that promoted self-esteem and responsibility. He was joined in this endeavor by Juventino Prieto, and the Azteca Boxing Team was born. In 1977, Flores and Prieto were joined by Robert Paramo as a coach, and the three of them began a quarter of a century of teaching youth not only about boxing, but about dedication, physical well being, and pride in one's self and one's abilities.

Since 1973, over 2,800 young people have benefited from the programs that the Azteca Boxing Team has had to offer, many of whom have ventured and excelled in the field of professional boxing. The large volunteer staff they maintain assist in the children's total development, including educational guidance, diverse cultural experiences, and community activism and awareness. The group, an official non-profit organization, receives 98 percent of its funding from donations, including computers for their students, field trips, and more. The remaining 2 percent comes from a \$2 membership fee, however they have pledged never to turn away a child due to lack of funds.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions that the Azteca Boxing Team has given the Pontiac community is tremendous. Many of these youngsters owe their very lives to the impact that the group has made. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating Ruben Flores, Juventino Prieto, and Robert Paramo for all their efforts.