

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOSEPH
BALCHUNAS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Joseph Balchunas, a fourth-grade teacher at Fairway Elementary School in Miramar, Florida. On May 18, 2000, the Florida Department of Education and the Burdines Corporation acknowledged his innovative teaching style by naming him Florida Teacher of the Year. I would like to congratulate Joseph on this tremendous honor, and thank him for serving as a positive role model for the students of Fairway Elementary.

With over 130,000 public school teachers statewide, only one person is recognized as Florida's Teacher of the Year. To select the one educator that epitomizes the ability to teach and communicate with students, the Florida Department of Education appoints a selection committee of teachers, principals, parents, and businessmen. This year the selection committee recognized Joseph for his innovative teaching philosophy, for his exemplary school and community service, and most importantly for his ability to inspire a love of learning in students of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Joseph has been teaching for only five years, making him, at age 28, a neophyte in the long list of educators who have previously been acknowledged as Teacher of the Year. A native of New York City, Joseph attended Nova Southeastern University and began teaching at Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary in Davie before moving to his current position at Miramar's Fairway Elementary School. Throughout his short term of service in Broward County, Joseph has proven himself to be a hero in the eyes of his students, speaking to them on a level they can understand. Indeed, he has found a balance between teacher, authority figure, and friend—a balance that makes active learning fun for everyone involved.

Educators statewide will benefit from this amazing South Florida teacher as Joseph serves as an ambassador for the Florida Department of Education throughout the next year. In this role, Joseph will tour the state and share his methodology with others. This award also qualifies him to be considered for the honor of National Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my Florida colleagues will join me in praising Mr. Joseph Balchunas for all of the wonderful things he is doing to help the youth of South Florida. I would like to congratulate Joseph, along with the students and parents of his fourth-grade class, on this amazing accomplishment. Indeed, Fairway Elementary School and the Broward County School Board should be very proud of Joseph for the good work he is doing. In summary, I wish Joseph all the best in his future endeavors, and I thank him for his extraordinary work

of positively influencing the youth of South Florida.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI DR. EUGENE
MARKOVITZ

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a remarkable person, Rabbi Dr. Eugene Markovitz of Clifton, New Jersey, who will be recognized on Sunday, June 11, 2000 because of his 50 years of service as the spiritual leader of the Clifton Jewish Center. It is only fitting that he be honored, for he has a long history of caring, generosity and commitment to others.

Rabbi Markovitz was recognized for his many years of leadership in Clifton, which I have been honored to represent in Congress since 1997, and so it is only fitting that these words are immortalized in the annals of this greatest of all freely elected bodies.

The 50-year relationship between Rabbi Eugene Markovitz and his congregation has added much to the rich history of the State of New Jersey. In addition, it has provided many years of friendship and leadership to the Clifton and Passaic Jewish communities and the community at-large.

Born in Romania, Rabbi Markovitz moved to America when he was 15 years old. His father, already living in the United States, brought him to this country along with his mother and five siblings. His father was a rabbi in Lexington, Massachusetts. Later in 1938, the family moved to New York. During these early years he worked at Wilson's meat packers. He spent most of his youth in Coney Island.

At Yeshiva University in New York, Rabbi Markovitz received both his bachelors and doctorate degrees. After he was ordained he worked as a student rabbi in Dover, New Hampshire. It was the small steps in the beginning of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make him a role model to the people that he now serves.

In 1950, the Rabbi moved to Clifton with his wife Klara. The two lived in Middle Village. Working together with 60 to 75 other families he helped create a new Jewish congregation in Clifton. The Clifton Jewish Center's popularity grew throughout the years. Often attracting 50 to 100 new members a year. People came from Passaic, Paterson, Newark and New York.

Services for the Jewish Center used to be held in the Grand Union on Clifton Avenue and junior congregation services were in the Clifton Theater. In the 1950s the Hebrew School increased in size dramatically, so the building was expanded in 1958. The Jewish Center reached its peak in the late 1960s and early 1970s with 350 children attending Hebrew School each year.

The congregation under the leadership of Rabbi Markovitz has had many significant achievements. First, the Hebrew School helped to produce six rabbis. In addition, the annual silent Kol Nidre appeal is a wonderful accomplishment.

Noted for his civic involvement, the Rabbi is active throughout the City of Clifton. He is noted as the spiritual leader of the Clifton Jewish Center and as a good friend of the Clifton/Passaic community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Rabbi Markovitz's family and friends, the Clifton Jewish Center, Passaic County, the State of New Jersey and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Rabbi Dr. Eugene Markovitz.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF SMALL BUSINESS AND PAY-
ING TRIBUTE TO THIS YEAR'S
SMALL BUSINESS AWARD RE-
CIPIENTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize several small businesses and small business leaders from my home state of New Hampshire. As we all know, small businesses in the United States serve as the backbone of our economy, accounting for more than ninety-nine percent of America's employers and employing fifty-three percent of America's workforce. The role of small businesses, especially in New Hampshire, is essential in strengthening our economy, expanding opportunities for employers and employees, and providing goods and services that are second to none.

This year, several individuals and businesses from New Hampshire have been recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration for their exemplary contributions to the state. At the annual "New Hampshire's Salute to Small Business" dinner and awards ceremony, the following individuals and businesses will be honored for their overall promotion of small business and for their individual successes during the past year:

Joseph C. Leddy, CEO of Work Opportunities Unlimited, Inc., in Stratham, will be presented with the New Hampshire Small Business Person of the Year Award;

Carolyn Martin, of the Keene Sentinel, will be presented with the New Hampshire Small Business Journalist of the Year Award;

The Belknap County Economic Development Council, in Laconia, will be presented with the New Hampshire Small Business Financial Services Advocate of the Year Award;

Eileen Kennedy, of the Telegraph, in Nashua, will be presented with the New Hampshire Small Business Women in Business Advocate of the Year Award; and

Secure Care Products, Inc., in Concord, will be presented with the New Hampshire Small Business Exporter of the Year Award.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased that Joseph, Carolyn, the Belknap County Economic Development Council, Eileen, and Secure Care Products have been recognized for their contributions to small business in New Hampshire. As a small business owner myself, I clearly understand how necessary small business is to our economy, our community, and, most important, to our way of life. New Hampshire is indeed fortunate to have individuals and businesses of this exceptional caliber as members of the small business community. I hope that the House will join me in extending our congratulations to this year's small business award recipients.

**NATIONAL TASTE OF PIZZA
MONTH**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to salute the contributions of the Tony Modica Pizza Dance Foundation and One World-One Heart, Inc., organizations which exemplify our nation's direction of unity and cultural exchange through inter-generational activities and programs.

One World-One Heart, Inc., a non-profit organization, serves to provide access to educational, recreational, cultural and intergenerational programs for participants from all ethnic, religious, economic and cultural backgrounds. The founders, Catherine Laport and Steven Kaplansky have over 30 years of experience of providing non-profit, social and recreational services to communities at large.

Tony Modica came to this country as an immigrant and became successful in the pizza industry. This foundation is a means for him to give back to the community through a program that benefits the elderly and the youth. Modica uses pizza as an international symbol of unity. Pizza is a favorite food of both young and old and its incorporation into a program which features song and dance makes for an enjoyable experience for all involved. The foundation has created programs that promote unity; and encourage children to stay in school and improve their grades. After his lectures, the students and seniors socialize and are treated to pizza. The Tony Modica Pizza Dance Foundation and One World-One Heart join together every year in June and sponsor a month-long celebration of unity and to raise awareness of the joys of life through free public activities for all ages which include lectures, song, dance and pizza.

The concept behind the pizza campaign is a simple but powerful one. They are not merely celebrating the worldwide love of the delicacy, but also the theory that the pizza with its varied toppings on a round of bread is symbolic of the many cultures in our society. Our culture, like the toppings on the pizza is very different, yet the toppings taste great on one foundation of bread. We as a global society have more in common than we sometimes can imagine, and our differences can be greatly appreciated. It is this commonality which is embedded in the joy of life, and respect for one another that is celebrated in the

month long pizza campaign in June. The events celebrate unity and cultural diversity in a fun, spirited way. The campaign brings together corporate, non-profit, religious and elected officials who come together to support a month of unity; understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. The Tony Modica Foundation and One World-One Heart, Inc. are positive examples of how private citizens and non-profit organizations can make a difference in the community with the support of business and government.

It is for these reasons that I implore my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in recognizing The Tony Modica Pizza Foundation, One World-One Heart and "the Pizza" in proclaiming June, "The National Taste of Pizza Month."

**HONORING THE WESTCHESTER
LARIATS**

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Westchester Lariats, a non-profit educational folk dance troupe for young boys and girls in grades 5 through 12. The organization will soon celebrate 50 years of community involvement.

The Westchester Lariats was founded in 1950 by Dr. J. Tillman Hall as an after school dance club for local youth. The club has evolved over the years into an important community program for young adults.

It is also a valuable cultural experience for the members of the dance troupe. They have traveled extensively throughout the country performing at various venues. The Lariats have also performed in Mexico, Canada, Europe and Australia.

Performing American swing and square dances, in addition to Hawaiian, European, and Middle Eastern dances, the dance troupe has entertained the local community for the last fifty years.

I congratulate the Westchester Lariats on achieving this milestone. You have provided joy and entertainment to many throughout the Westchester community. I wish you continued success.

**SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO CARL AND
MARTHA CLOSE ON THE OCCA-
SION OF THEIR 40TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY**

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding couple from Virginia's Eleventh Congressional District, Carl and Martha Close. I extend my best wishes to Carl and Martha, who marked their 40th wedding anniversary on Thursday, May 18. The wedding anniversary was celebrated by the congregation at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I join together today with the extended family of St. Paul's Episcopal

Church to commend Carl and Martha on this joyous occasion and to share the warm wishes of the citizens of Virginia's 11th Congressional District.

Carl was born in Oregon and grew up in Colorado, while Martha is a native of Alabama. He is a Harvard graduate and was the Assistant Director of Eastern Field Operations for the Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining. Martha attended Radcliff and is a graduate of American University. She completed her Masters of Science Degree at Catholic University in Library and Information Science. Together, they have lived in the Washington Metropolitan area for more than thirty years. The Closes are the proud parents of two children, Carol and Stewart.

True to their marriage vows, they have dedicated their lives to each other and shared in the joys and challenges of marriage. As we honor their fortieth anniversary, let us reflect on their lives, their love for one another, and wish them a happy and healthy marriage in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as Carl and Martha Close celebrate this very special occasion, I wish them, their children, and all of their family many years of love and happiness. I am grateful to be reminded of such a couple and to have the opportunity to recognize such a momentous day in their lives. I hope that their anniversary was spent celebrating the memories of their most cherished memories together. Carl and Martha are to be commended for their commitment to one another, and for the wonderful example they set for their many friends and family. I wish them many more happy and healthy days together.

**TELEPHONE EXCISE TAX REPEAL
ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as one of two Members of Congress to oppose H.R. 3916, the telephone excise tax bill, I believe there is a need to explain the reasons for my vote. I opposed H.R. 3916 because this is just another fiscally irresponsible way for the Republicans to reduce federal revenues for the vital programs that the working families of this country rely on. The leadership of the 106th Congress doesn't care if it squanders \$20 billion in tax revenues by repealing the telephone excise tax because it doesn't care if we have enough money to save Social Security and Medicare for future generations. But I do care and did not vote to repeal the excise tax.

I never heard from one constituent asking me to repeal the federal excise tax on their phone service because it was a hardship. I did, however, hear from Bell Atlantic who will soon raise its phone rates and from big companies asking me to lower their phone bill. This bill will save the average family \$34 per year—no wonder there wasn't a clamor from constituents demanding the repeal. I do hear from working families who want a better education for their children, and from seniors who want a Medicare prescription drug benefit. I also hear from families who don't have any health insurance for their children or who want a cleaner environment.