

the next generation of Latino leaders. A living example of this arduous dedication is Ms. Margarita Rosa who is the Executive Director of Grand Street Settlement, a New York based community organization whose primary vision is to improve the lives of those less fortunate or disadvantaged by encouraging self-determination through learning advocacy, support and community building.

Margarita has been a steadfast, passionate advocate of human rights, as the first Hispanic woman to be appointed to the New York State Commission on Human Rights in the early 1990's. Working at the local government level gave her the unique perspective of understanding how public policy affects diverse communities. Margarita's accomplishments have been plentiful—being honored for her eager public service dedication, she received a prestigious teaching fellowship award, and is currently an active member of several Boards of Directors for organizations such as the Public Interest Law Foundation at New York University (NYU) Law School, the New York Civil Liberties Union, and the Lower Union East Side Family Union. These endeavors are a mere representation of Margarita's achievements and willingness to continue empowering those in need.

Another notable and distinguished leader has been an energetic force and true pioneer in the world of cultural and performing arts. Ms. Frances Lucerna founded the Williamsburg Arts and Cultural Council for Youth, a community performing and visual arts program for youngsters. She later became the co-founder and Executive Director of El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice, a Brooklyn youth-based community development organization nurturing leadership for peace and social justice. Frances' leadership and artistic vision motivated her to develop one of the most comprehensive Latino arts and cultural center, which provide young students with the opportunity to express themselves artistically.

As a strong advocate for education and a loving artist, Frances has broken barriers by channeling the talent and skill of thousands of youngsters into a bright path and a hopeful future for many within the community. As a visionary with an artistic soul, Frances has achieved many high recognitions highlighting her efforts, such as the 1998 Heinz Award for the Human Condition, and being appointed to the Advisory Committee to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, and the Community School Task Force for the White House Conference on Character Building for a Democratic, Civil Society. She has also served on the Boards of Directors of the Arts Center of the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Community Youth Development Guide Team of the National Network for Youth.

Among the list of remarkable thinkers impacting higher education is Dr. Maria Montes Morales, Vice-President and Dean of Academic Affairs at Boricua College. Dr. Montes Morales understood the critical value of education and how peoples' lives could be transformed. She lived and realized the educational injustices faced by Latinos, which allowed her to make a difference and change the traditional college learning environment. Her vision and commitment to educate and empower Latinos in New York City motivated her to help establish the first Boricua College campus in Williamsburg, Brooklyn which opened in 1974.

This was a tremendous achievement for the community, especially since many of the Wil-

liamsburg residents were Spanish speaking and interested in furthering their education at an institution that was culturally sensitive, community based, competitive and accessible. Since its creation, thousands of students have graduated from this Boricua College campus, with many remaining in the community and providing professional human services.

Maria's contribution to higher education for all students, especially Latinos, is highly commendable. Her leadership at Boricua College successfully promotes student learning through active participation in meaningful and planned service experiences in the community that are directly related to course content. With a humanistic approach, such as a sense of civic responsibility, self-awareness, and commitment to the community, Dr. Montes Morales makes Boricua College an outstanding and unique higher learning institution in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I am also proud to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by recognizing the great efforts of Mrs. Elizabeth C. Yeampierre, Executive Director of the United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE), Brooklyn's oldest Latino community-based organization. Under Elizabeth's leadership, UPROSE has become the frontier organization on multiracial environmental justice issues impacting the community. Its "Youth Justice" program has set the path to several victories advocating on behalf of low-income and minority communities that are environmentally overburdened.

Elizabeth's dedication and endeavors at UPROSE have included promoting youth, family and community empowerment, and creating awareness for environmental issues impacting the living conditions of residents in Sunset Park. Her accomplishments range from successfully leading UPROSE in opposition to the Sunset Energy Fleet 520—a power plant proposal to place two power plants in the area—to campaigning against the placement of a sewage sludge treatment plant in Sunset Park, and advocating the prevention of child lead paint poisoning.

Elizabeth has also created an effective "Youth Justice" program which provides young environmental activists across the country with opportunities to promote environmental issues. As a result, these young leaders were able to organize the first environmental justice conference in Sunset Park. The outstanding work and contributions of UPROSE under Elizabeth's leadership has had a valuable impact on the residents of Sunset Park.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to commend and acknowledge the highly regarded work of Reverend Jorge L. Roa, Jr. a native of Brooklyn and a devoted pastor who committed his life to God, and assisting those most in need, including youngsters and the Hispanic community. Rev. Roa has been a true inspiration who has excelled in promoting youth programs within his church, "the Missionary Christian Church," in Manhattan where he preaches and is very pro-active on social and justice issues.

Rev. Roa has touched many lives by helping his community seek spiritual guidance and a path, collaborating in missionary projects such as rebuilding churches, and collecting donations for relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. He has been a humanitarian champion in this country and abroad,

taking part in missions providing food, water, medicine and other resources to impoverished communities throughout different countries, including Latin America and Africa.

Rev. Roa, is also the program director of a radio and TV show known as "En sus Pasos" or "In Your Steps," which is transmitted in Manhattan. He is also the author of a renowned book, "Una Luz de Dios, La Historia de la Iglesia Cristiana Misionera," "A light of God, the History of the Christian Missionary Church." Rev. Roa's true vocations have enlightened the community and changed the lives of many youngsters throughout his 24 years of ministry. His excellence in leadership and service is laudable for Latinos and residents of the Manhattan community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor for me to rise today and recognize these wonderful Hispanic leaders who I firmly believe possess key elements that strengthen our culture, community and nation. In commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month, it is essential and truly important to emphasize the life-time commitment these remarkable persons have demonstrated in breaking down stereotypes about Latinos, and empowering the Hispanic American community.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. HENRY
MCGILL, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute today to the extraordinary pastor of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church of Marion, South Carolina. For more than 40 years of dedicated service and compassionate leadership, Reverend Dr. Henry McGill, Jr. has served his parishioners and community with great respect and dignity. He has spent decades reaching out to those in need of strengthened faith and fellowship.

Reverend McGill grew up the son of a deacon and quickly incorporated strong values and understanding of others in his everyday life. His education started in a one-room schoolhouse in Lake City, South Carolina. He went on from that meager beginning to achieve degrees in social studies and divinity at Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina. He heard and heeded the call to the ministry at an early age and focused his life on the teachings of peace and cooperation among all people. Reverend McGill's expertise on theology has also earned him positions among some of the most prestigious public service boards, as well as university and ministerial committees. He continues to be a devout advocate of the church in sharing his thoughts on fairness and finding the good in every person. Because of his widely-honored achievements in academia and religious education the Manhattan School of Theology in New York awarded him an honorary degree.

A successful businessman, Reverend McGill owned the funeral home founded by his father-in-law, Henry L. Jackson, for many years. He has since passed the family business, Jackson & McGill Funeral Home Service, to the third generation of owners.

I am pleased to join the parishioners of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church and so many other

grateful members of the community in thanking Reverend McGill for always searching to find what is best for his church, his community and his state. He continues to respond to the needs of the less fortunate and putting education at the forefront of his message. His saying, "Everyone is someone special," embodies his considerate and personal nature.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Reverend Dr. Henry McGill, Jr. He is special to the people of his church and community, and I wish him good luck and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained yesterday, October 26, 2005, due to a death in my family. As a result I missed rollcall votes Nos. 539 through 547. Had I been present I would have No. 541 "no"; rollcall No. 542 "no"; rollcall No. 543 "no"; rollcall No. 544 "no"; rollcall No. 545 "no"; rollcall No. 546 "aye"; rollcall No. 547 "aye."

RECOGNIZING FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOE BATTISTO AS HE RECEIVES THE FIRST LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE MONROE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, DEMOCRATS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to former Pennsylvania State Representative Joe Battisto, of Monroe County, on the occasion of receiving the first annual Lifetime Achievement Award from the Monroe County Democrats.

Joe Battisto distinguished himself during 18 years of public service in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives following a career as public school teacher and chairman of the language arts department of the Pocono Mountain School District.

Despite moving to the realm of public service, Joe was well known for maintaining his connection with the youth in his community and frequently served as mentor for young people who were behaviorally troubled.

Prior to being elected to the State House of Representatives, Joe served in the public arena first as a borough councilman in the Borough of Mount Pocono, rising to become the council president. He also served as mayor of Mount Pocono Borough.

Joe Battisto subsequently was a driving force in the formation of the Pocono Mountain Library and in the construction of a municipal sewage system.

He founded the Monroe County Litter Control and Beautification Task Force.

During his nearly 2 decades of service in the State House of Representatives, he served on the Education and Appropriations

Committees and rose to become chairman of the Transportation Committee.

While serving as a State Representative, Joe launched the reconstruction of the Pocono Mountains Welcome Center, led the efforts to build the badly needed Marshalls Creek Bypass, and ensured the environmental cleanup of major industrial and disposal sites in Monroe County.

He also obtained funding for an open space trail system and for highway safety and signalization projects. He fought to preserve rights of way for possible future rail service to major metropolitan destinations.

In addition, he obtained funding for street lights in downtown Stroudsburg and streetscaping work in the Delaware Water Gap.

Joe Battisto was the first lawmaker to receive the prestigious East Stroudsburg University's "Legislative Fellow" award created to establish a stronger bond between the university and elected state officials. The award was especially meaningful to Joe because he graduated from ESU in 1956.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Joe Battisto on this auspicious occasion. The quality of life in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, has been made far better due to the achievements of Joe Battisto and others like him. His integrity and commitment to his community serve as wonderful examples of what it means to be a true public servant.

DAVIS MOORE—SALUTE TO HURRICANE VOLUNTEERS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute those individuals and organizations that opened their hearts and dedicated both financial and emotional support to the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. All of the States along the Gulf Coast have endured terrible hardships during this hurricane season, and I know that the generosity of North Texans played a vital role in bringing some peace into their lives.

Today, I want to specifically thank one man, his office and his donation. Davis Moore, a dentist in Euless, donated 150 adult toothbrushes, 50 children toothbrushes, 150 tubes of toothpaste and floss for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

I stand here today to sincerely thank Davis Moore for his donation. It is people like him that I am proud to call a fellow Texan. Through his contribution, he not only stands as a devoted and giving American citizen, but he serves as an inspiration to others.

OXI DAY SPEECH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the Hellenic-Americans and Philhellenes in my district and throughout the country in celebrating "OXI Day (No Day)," which falls on the

28th of October. This year marks the 65th anniversary of a very important day in Hellenic history, the day on which brave Greek patriots said "NO" to fascism, "NO" to injustice, and "NO" to slavery.

For those individuals who lived through that momentous period and their descendants, many of whom live in the 14th Congressional District of New York, "OXI Day" is more than a memory: it is the embodiment of Hellenism and its highest ideals.

On October 28, 1940, a terrifying sound went up throughout all Greek cities and towns, the sound of sirens and klaxons announcing the invasion of Greece by the Nazis. Walls that before had echoed only with the tolling of church bells now reverberated with the din of alarms.

At a time when Europe was descending into the inferno of another world war, the people of Greece did not panic. Men went calmly to their closets and retrieved their military uniforms and weapons. Women went about their necessary tasks, and the children assisted as they were able. With level-headed determination and steadfast resolve, the citizenry of Greece mobilized against the coming invaders and delivered their resounding "NO!" to the Axis aggressors.

On OXI Day, the people of Greece chose the harder path, the path of resistance. If they had opened their gates to the invaders, much bloodshed and many deprivations might have been avoided. That brave generation of Hellenes, refused to submit to oppression, even at the cost of their homes, their land, and their lives. They chose to fight and even to die so that their children and the children of other nations might live in liberty. Theirs was an act of self-sacrifice that clearly proclaimed the humanitarian ideals of their Orthodox Christian faith and their ethnic heritage.

Demonstrating poise under pressure, the heroes of that period fought against tyranny and delayed the Axis onslaught in the Balkan Peninsula. The Greek nation which said "OXI" contributed to the eventual downfall of the Fascist powers in Europe.

This year the Hellenic community is celebrating another great moment in their history, having successfully hosted a magnificent and peaceful Olympics at a time when terrorism imperils every public gathering. The smallest nation to ever host the Olympics, Greeks once again showed that they always rise to the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the heroes of OXI Day. In their brave words and deeds we see all of the highest virtues of Hellenic heritage: passion for justice, courage at a time of trial, unity in the midst of conflict, and willingness to sacrifice one's life for the good of others. On this day, we thank Greece for saying "OXI."

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARY CRANE

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cary Crane—the recipient of the 2005 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Award. Mr. Crane and his company, Apple &