

RECOGNIZING R.S. OWENS &  
COMPANY

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional craftsmanship of R.S. Owens & Company, the manufacturers of the Academy Awards for over 20 years. I am proud to have "Oscar" as a constituent, and I hope my colleagues will join me in watching the work of R.S. Owens & Company arrive in Hollywood from Chicago.

With the Oscars soon approaching, television sets around the Nation will be tuned in to watch movie stars as they stroll down the red carpet, hoping to receive the Academy Award, an internationally recognized symbol of excellence in film. While the main attraction of the night may be the directors, actors, and film makers receiving the awards, the 13½ inch, gold-plated statuettes hold an important place in the night's event and traditions.

R.S. Owens is the Chicago-based award-manufacturing company responsible for producing the world-renowned Academy Award. Since they were recommended for the manufacturing of the award in 1983, the academy has selected R.S. Owens to produce the statuettes year after year, in recognition of their fine work in the field of award design and production and of their exemplary dedication to the craft.

R.S. Owens has been involved in awards manufacturing since 1938. It began, as many great things do, as a small idea from an enterprising man, Owen Siegel. His idea has grown from a small dream into one of the most successful award manufacturing companies in the United States.

While so many companies in the manufacturing field have turned to automated machine work, R.S. Owens has remained grounded primarily in handwork. The company employs workers who are masters in their craft, and take great pride in their work—pride that is evident in the quality of award they continually produce in a field where the product is so closely scrutinized as to allow no errors in workmanship.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the excellent craftsmanship of R.S. Owens & Company in their production of the Academy Award. The company's fine work and dedication make it an excellent example of flourishing businesses throughout Chicago. It is an honor to know that such an innovative and responsible company calls Chicago its home. On behalf of the Fifth District of Illinois and the city of Chicago, I congratulate R.S. Owens on their continued excellence in their field, and look forward to the showcase of this year's batch of awards at the ceremony this March.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR CATO  
BROOKS, JR.

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and sincerity that I wish to honor

Pastor Cato Brooks, Jr. of the Tree of Life Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana, and his wife, Mrs. Bettye Brooks. The members of the Tree of Life Missionary Baptist Church will be honoring Pastor and Mrs. Brooks throughout the month of March for their many years of service to the congregation.

Pastor Brooks was born in Forrest City, Arkansas, where he attended Steward Elementary School and Lincoln High School. During high school, Pastor Brooks proved himself to be a stellar athlete, having been honored as an All-State football and basketball player. For his efforts in athletics, in 1999, Pastor Brooks was honored by his hometown and inducted into the Hall of Fame. Following high school, Pastor Brooks attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA and then answered the call to serve a tour of duty in the U.S. Army. Upon completion of his tour, he returned to school at the University of Kansas, seeking a degree in Sociology. Pastor Brooks has also attended the Mid-America Baptist Seminary, Ouachita Baptist University, and Indiana Christian University, where he earned a bachelor's and a master's Degree, as well as a doctorate of divinity. Pastor Brooks also received his Ph.D. in Communiology from California Western University of Palo Alto, CA.

Pastor Brooks began his ministry on January 26, 1969. He served as Pastor of the Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas from 1970 to 1977 before relocating to serve as Pastor of the First Baptist Church in East Chicago, Indiana; 18 months later, Pastor Brooks organized the Tree of Life Missionary Baptist Church, serving a congregation of only 26 members, where he continues to serve today as Senior Pastor. He is also the Chairman of the Tree of Life Community Development Corporation and Care Center and a former Chaplain for the Gary Police Department.

Pastor Brooks has also achieved many accolades and accomplishments throughout his lifetime. To name a few, Pastor Brooks has been recognized by the NAACP, A Walk Without Fear, for his efforts in the civil rights movement, and on May 23, 2004, he was elected Moderator of the Northern Indiana Missionary Baptist District Association. In addition, Pastor Brooks published his first book, *Studies in Ephesians*, in September 2003.

The youngest of 9 children, Bettye Brooks was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she attended the Little Rock public schools. She later attended Arkansas Baptist College, Henderson State Teachers' College, Philander Smith College, and Indiana University Northwest. Mrs. Brooks has a degree in Business Administration and is a certified Personnel Management Specialist, Housing Counselor, and Housing Development Professional.

Mrs. Brooks has held several positions in government and community service throughout her professional career. She has been a Grants Management Supervisor for the City of Little Rock, a State Planner for the State of Arkansas, serving under then-Governor Bill Clinton, a personnel director for Pulaski County, AR, a Regional Program Specialist for the National Urban League, and an Employment Specialist for the Lake County Job Training Corporation.

After coming to Tree of Life in 1991, Mrs. Brooks became the Executive Director of the

Tree of Life Community Development Corporation. In this capacity, she and her housing development partner have successfully rehabbed over 600 housing units in Gary, East Chicago, and South Bend, Indiana. In addition, Mrs. Brooks serves as the administrator for Treasure's Child Development Center and was recognized for her efforts in 1993 with the Athena Award by the Gary Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Brooks also serves in many other capacities within the church and the community. She is a Sunday School teacher, a trustee, Executive Director of Development and Training, Finance Coordinator, and First Cook at the church. She is also a past president of the Ernie Pyle PTA and the Inter-Denominational Association of Minister Wives' and Widows' of Gary and Vicinity.

Most impressively, the Brooks's never let their accomplishments get in the way of their family. Pastor and Mrs. Brooks are also the proud parents of 6 children and 13 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Pastor and Mrs. Cato Brooks, Jr. as they are honored for their service and ministry throughout the month of March. Their years of service have touched and improved the lives of all whom they have served. Their unselfish and lifelong dedication is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

HONORING DR. LILLIAN VITANZA  
NEY FOR BEING AWARDED THE  
PAUL HARRIS FELLOW AWARD

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Lillian Vitanza Ney of Jamestown, NY, for being awarded the Paul Harris Fellow award, the Rotary Club's highest honor.

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition is given to show appreciation for contributions to the Rotary Club's charitable and education program. A contribution of \$1,000 was given on behalf of Dr. Ney.

Dr. Ney is a graduate of Jamestown High School and Wells College. She earned her medical degree from State University at Buffalo. She serves as wellness director, cardiology director, medical education director and vice president of medical affairs at WCA Hospital and is a member of several professional organizations.

Dr. Ney is also highly involved in the community she served as a city councilwoman including being the first female city council president. She was one of the founding members of the Jamestown Area Youth Orchestra and is a board member for several community organizations.

Dr. Ney has shown great dedication and excellence in her work and community. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor her today.