

Director role of Pyramid Alternatives. It is with great respect and deepest appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing George Torney and Pyramid Alternatives.

IN HONOR OF BUDDY LAROSA AS HE RECEIVES THE TREE OF LIFE AWARD

**HON. JEAN SCHMIDT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 20, 2007*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Buddy LaRosa as he receives the Tree of Life humanitarian award on April 30, 2007 from the Jewish National Fund.

The Jewish National Fund has bestowed its highest honor, the Tree of Life award, annually since 1981. Recipients of this prestigious honor are chosen on the basis of outstanding community involvement, professional leadership and humanitarian service. Previous national recipients have included Hank Aaron, Archbishop Joseph Bernardin and Donald Trump.

The Tree of Life award was named to symbolize the Jewish National Fund's efforts to reclaim and develop the land of Israel from barren and uninhabitable land into a land of lush green forests and fields, productive farmlands and varied tourism and recreation facilities.

The Jewish National Fund is honoring Mr. LaRosa because of his outstanding community service, active civic involvement and ongoing dedication to helping those less fortunate.

This talented and generous man is the name behind one of Cincinnati's most recognized and beloved eateries, LaRosa's Restaurant. A lifelong native of Western Hills, Buddy opened his first pizzeria there in 1954 with a couple of partners, limited funds, and his Aunt Dena's recipe. Today, Buddy is known as the "Pizza King" and LaRosa's, with its 15 company-owned restaurants, 45 franchise locations across the region, and more than 1,500 employees, is a household name synonymous with great pizza.

Buddy's commitment to the youth in the Cincinnati area is legendary. Buddy has often said, "To live a full life, be a credit to my family and community, and touch young people so that one day they too may experience the joys I have had." This philosophy, combined with a strong work ethic, is no doubt the recipe to Buddy's success.

Buddy was inspired to give back to the youth of our community after a fire devastated his Western Hills restaurant in 1973. Hundreds of area high school students, through their sports coaches, helped to rebuild his restaurant in a record 40 days. As a way to fulfill his personal goal of giving back to students in the community, Buddy founded the Buddy LaRosa High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1975. The Hall of Fame has seven new inductees each year and honors 12 local high school students for their academic and athletic achievements. Today, this outstanding program is a cornerstone of our community and has touched the lives of countless young people.

Over the years, Buddy has generously given back through his involvement with the Cincinnati Golden Gloves for Youth Program and the Greater Cincinnati Police Athletic League.

Some of his other beneficiaries include various schools and charitable organizations such as Children's Hospital Medical Center, WCET-TV, and the Free Store Foodbank, Inc.

Buddy is a graduate of Roger Bacon High School and earned an associate degree in business technology. He also served his country in the United States Navy from 1948–1952. Buddy has been married to his wife, JoAnn Augustine, for 55 years and they have 4 children and 13 grandchildren.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate Buddy LaRosa on receiving the Tree of Life humanitarian award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FORT STANTON-SNOWY RIVER CAVE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ACT

**HON. STEVAN PEARCE**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 20, 2007*

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area Act. This bill is a companion to legislation introduced by my state's Senior Senator, Mr. DOMENICI. Last year, the Senate passed this legislation but the House was unable to act on it before we recessed. It is my hope by introducing the bill today we can push the process along and get this legislation done this year.

The Fort Stanton Cave is a tremendous national resource, which includes a cave that has calcite flowing all along the cave formations. This truly rare resource deserves our protection. As the Representative of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, I am aware of how amazing cave formations can be and how valuable they are to educate and inspire our children.

This legislation does the following: (1) creates a Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave Conservation Area to protect, secure and conserve the natural and unique features of the Snowy River Cave; (2) instructs the BLM to prepare a map and legal description of the Snowy River Cave, and to develop a comprehensive, long-term management plan for the cave area; (3) authorizes the conservation of the unique features and environs in the cave for scientific, educational and other public uses deemed safe and appropriate under the management plan; (4) authorizes the BLM to work with State and other institutions and to cooperate with Lincoln County to address the historical involvement of the local community; (5) protects the caves from mineral and mining leasing operations.

This cave is a valuable resource that in time will share with us its many wonders, but to do that we must preserve this resource for the future. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting these important protections.

IN RECOGNITION OF HONOR FLIGHT MICHIGAN

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 20, 2007*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous gen-

erosity of Honor Flight Michigan, Inc. This organization's work to honor our veterans should be commended.

Honor Flight Michigan was founded in Royal Oak, Michigan by David Cameron and his wife Carole. After watching a report about a man in North Carolina who took World War II veterans to see their monument in Washington, DC, the couple was inspired to do the same. Realizing that many veterans lacked the funds or the ability to travel alone, Mr. Cameron made it his goal to take as many World War II veterans as he could to our nation's capital. Working closely with the Royal Oak American Legion Post 253, Honor Flight Michigan has begun its statewide effort to reach that goal.

This week, Honor Flight Michigan will be making its inaugural flight to Washington bringing 60 veterans to see the memorial they have waited 60 years to see. Mr. and Mrs. Cameron plan to take these trips monthly to ensure every veteran living today can see the memorial we have constructed to honor their bravery and sacrifice.

Out of the sixteen million who served in World War II, sadly only three million are alive today. In addition, we are losing them at a rate of twelve hundred a day. It is important that we let those veterans know the appreciation we have for them. Honor Flight Michigan does that, by treating these veterans as the heroes they are.

Today I salute Honor Flight Michigan for their tireless efforts on behalf of one of our nation's greatest assets, our veterans. When I look around this chamber and see the essence of our democracy I can't help but think of those who fought to ensure our freedom, our strength, and our democracy.

IN RECOGNITION OF EUGENE BAK

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 20, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eugene Bąk for his outstanding efforts and devoted work to Polonia and America, and his tremendous amount of civic work for the benefit of the Polish American Cultural Center.

Gene and his family immigrated to the United States in 1952, after spending a total of seven years in deportation in Siberia as well as Polish refugee camps. He obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Seton Hall University and attended business programs at the University of Michigan, Harvard University and Syracuse University. Gene has spent his entire career in the chemical industry and retired as Board Director of OMC Group (OMC) in 1999.

In 1982, Gene's affection for his beloved homeland led him to help the American Foundation raise funds to ship medicine and medical supplies to the people of Poland. He has since been a vital asset to efforts to expand Polish culture in the Cleveland area, and as cofounder and Executive Director of the Polish American Cultural Center he has refurbished facilities to house distinguished Polish speakers, artists, shows and displays. Under his leadership, the Polish Heritage Museum opened as part of the Cultural Center to celebrate Polish history, as well as the history of Polish Americans.

Gene serves on a number of boards, such as the Advisory Board of Marymount Medical Center. Moreover his concern for people, both here and abroad, is impressive and admirable. As part of his titanic work he is helping the people in Poland to raise funds for the Laski Institute for the Blind as well as the Polish Children's Heartline Foundation, and he has significantly contributed to the cooperation between Poland and the United States.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Eugene Bąk for using his unique skills and numerous talents in service to the people of Polonia and Northeast Ohio. May his tireless dedication and his achievements continue to inspire us all.

#### RECOGNIZING MARK EVERSON

##### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 20, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mark Everson for his dedication to public service and to congratulate him on his new position as President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross. Everson's commitment to this country as the Internal Revenue Service Commissioner is an example for everyone in public service.

Mark Everson has served as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) since 2003, and we will certainly miss him when he officially leaves to lead the American Red Cross on May 29th. His dedication to making sure that taxpayers' needs were heard, and his commitment to expanding access to and knowledge of the Earned Income Tax Credit deserve our congratulations.

Prior to his confirmation as IRS Commissioner, Everson has worked in several other high-profile positions in the public and private sectors. During the Reagan Administration, he worked tirelessly in various positions at the U.S. information agency and the Department of Justice, and he also served at the Office of Management and Budget for the current Administration.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to call Mark Everson a friend, and I thank him for his fine work at the IRS over the last four years. It has been an honor to work with him throughout the years. He is a true public servant who is committed to the highest level of integrity, and the American Red Cross will be well served by his dedication and leadership.

#### RECOGNIZING FRAN AMIR

##### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 20, 2007*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fran Amir, a constituent from Plainsboro, to honor her on the occasion of her tenth anniversary as Principal of the Religious School at The Jewish Center of Princeton.

Ms. Amir grew up in New York City and has been in the field of education and youth programming most of her life. A graduate of Brooklyn College, Ms. Amir taught social stud-

ies in the New York school system for many years. Ms. Amir did graduate work at Wayne State University in Jewish Studies, and has taught in Hebrew Schools in New York, West Bloomfield, Michigan, Toronto, and The Jewish Center of Princeton. She has directed teen programs both in summer camps and during the school year, and has served as the Youth and Family Programs Co-chair at the Jewish Center for five years.

Ms. Amir's students receive far more than just the basics of Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah preparation in her religious school curriculum. When becoming Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah, a young person is expected to assume the moral and ethical responsibilities of an adult, in particular, service to the community, or "mitzvot." Ms. Amir provides the best possible role model of one who performs mitzvot. Along with her service to the local Jewish community, for example, she traveled with a group of her tenth graders to Biloxi to help with cleanup of the local synagogue, Beth Israel, after Hurricane Katrina. The students carefully removed and wrapped memorial plaques from the wall, ensuring their safe storage until a new temple could be built. Not only did the students help in a practical way, but also helped maintain the Jewish tradition of reverence for the synagogue and its trappings.

The highest responsibility in the Jewish faith is to learn and teach the Torah. Through religious classes, youth programs, and by example, Ms. Amir exemplifies someone who celebrates her faith and tradition through her daily life. She shares her passion with her family and friends, and touches the lives of countless students, their families, and the congregation.

I am proud to recognize Fran Amir for all that she has given to the community on the occasion of her tenth anniversary as Principal of the Religious School of The Jewish Center of Princeton.

#### COMMENDING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

SPEECH OF

##### HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2007*

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today in strong support of House Resolution 300, which commends the significant achievements of the Rutgers University Women's Basketball team.

I wholeheartedly join the citizens of our Nation, the people of New Jersey and my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives in congratulating the team for a job well done.

I was not able to formally vote for this important measure that I proudly cosponsored yesterday, because I was in Bound Brook, New Jersey working with local, State and federal officials mapping out a plan to respond to the significant destruction many 7th Congressional District Communities sustained as a result of the massive Nor-easter weekend storm. Had I been present, I would have wholeheartedly voted Yes.

By advancing to the Final Four of the women's National Collegiate Athletic Association championship—the Rutgers University Scarlet

Knight basketball team achieved a tremendous success. Each and every member of the team should be proud of their excellent season and their significant accomplishment. The team's 27–9 season record is testament to their hard work and dedication.

I am honored and proud to join our Nation and the citizens of New Jersey in commending the team and their coach C. Vivian Stringer for this accomplishment. Each and every member of the team are true heroes and provide a real inspiration to young people across the Nation.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1591, U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

##### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I could not support this motion to instruct House conferees on the Defense Supplemental appropriations bill, for two reasons: First, I do not support the idea of rigidly insisting on the parts of the House-passed bill that the motion says the conferees should not change. Second, I believe the funding of our troops and the future of our involvement in Iraq are too important and too serious to be used for cheap partisan tricks.

My vote was based on my appraisal of the merits of the motion, without regard to how others may have decided to vote. In other words, unlike the gentleman from California who offered it, I took the motion seriously—and, like its author, I opposed it.

Earlier, when the House considered the Defense Supplemental bill itself, I voted for the bill to ensure that America's soldiers get the equipment and resources they need and the top-quality health care they may require when they come home.

My vote for the bill was not a vote to support the Bush Administration's policy in Iraq. We are 4 years into a war the Bush Administration assured us would be short and decisive. The Administration's misjudgments, lack of planning and poor leadership have made a bad situation worse—and the tactic of increasing troops for a temporary "surge" is no substitute for what is needed, namely, a strategy for containing civil war and a wider regional war.

While I am convinced that it was a strategic mistake to go to war in Iraq in the way that the Bush Administration did, we are still deeply engaged there—and while our troops are in the field, we must provide them what they need. Beyond supplying our soldiers, however, we must extricate them from what objective defense experts have characterized as an emerging civil war.

Disengaging from that civil war is the purpose of the provisions in the House-passed bill designed to hold the president accountable to the benchmarks set by his own administration and the Iraqi government—including enactment of a hydro-carbon law; conducting of provincial and local elections; reform of current laws governing the de-Baathification process; amendment of the Constitution of Iraq; and allocation of Iraqi revenues for reconstruction projects.