

HONORING ROB RATNER

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rob Ratner on the occasion of his retirement from teaching. For 35 years Mr. Ratner has been a teacher, serving the last 22 years with the Mineola Public School District with passion and commitment. Mr. Ratner began his teaching career in 1974 with the William Floyd School District, eventually serving as Music Chairperson. In 1987, Mr. Ratner was appointed Mineola's Director of Performing and Fine Arts.

Mr. Ratner has been a brilliant asset to his colleagues, the Long Island music community, and particularly to the students he has influenced and taught. The Mineola Arts Department has not only grown under his leadership, it has flourished. Mr. Ratner's goal has always been the intellectual and emotional development of his students through the arts; a goal which he has certainly achieved. Even in retirement, he will continue to educate through teaching college courses in school administration and the arts as well as educational consulting. Currently, he is preparing to record a jazz CD with his two sons.

The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children, and our community and our nation are enhanced by the contributions of talented, passionate and committed teachers like Rob Ratner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to personal health reasons, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 273: "Yes". Rollcall No. 274: "Yes". Rollcall No. 275: "Yes". Rollcall No. 276: "Yes". Rollcall No. 277: "No". Rollcall No. 278: "Yes". Rollcall No. 279: "Yes". Rollcall No. 280: "No". Rollcall No. 281: "No". Rollcall No. 282: "Yes". Rollcall No. 283: "Yes". Rollcall No. 284: "No". Rollcall No. 285: "Yes". Rollcall No. 286: "Yes". Rollcall No. 287: "No". Rollcall No. 288: "Yes". Rollcall No. 289: "No". Rollcall No. 290: "No". Rollcall No. 291: "No". Rollcall No. 292: "No". Rollcall No. 293: "Yes". Rollcall No. 294: "No". Rollcall No. 295: "Yes". Rollcall No. 296: "Yes". Rollcall No. 297: "Yes". Rollcall No. 298: "No". Rollcall No. 299: "Yes".

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JORDAN WIRSZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jordan Wirsz for being honored by

the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration as the Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Jordan began demonstrating his entrepreneurial talents at a very young age. When Jordan was 14 years old, he started his own aircraft brokerage firm. He began brokering helicopters and as a result of his business endeavors, Jordan started to fly helicopters when he was 15 years old. At the age of 16, Jordan conducted and completed his first solo flight. He earned his pilot's license at 17 years old and he also earned his multi-engine instrument license. The following year, he received his commercial pilot's license. After obtaining his commercial pilot's license, Jordan decided to pursue another business endeavor. Jordan subsequently became involved with residential private money lending. Presently, Jordan at the age of 24 years old is the CEO of Diamond Bay Investments.

In addition to his professional endeavors, Jordan also supports several philanthropic organizations and charities in Southern Nevada. He is very active with the Big Brothers, Big Sister's Program as well as the Candle Lighters Childhood Cancer Foundation. Furthermore, Jordan's first book about his professional experiences, *The Maverick Millionaire*, is due out in June.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Jordan Wirsz. His professional success and philanthropic pursuits are truly commendable. I applaud his efforts, congratulate him for his extraordinary success and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALEC ORNSTEIN

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Alec Ornstein, who will be recognized tomorrow on Long Island by the Long Island Builders Institute.

Mr. Ornstein is a leader on Long Island. As the co-founder of Ornstein Leyton Company, he has been involved in the real estate development community for over 15 years. He is dedicated to offering a wide range of housing alternatives to hundreds of satisfied home owners on Long Island and neighboring counties. Mr. Ornstein is committed to responsible economic development of Long Island and has worked towards this goal as the President of the Long Island Builders Institute. As the President of the LIBI, Mr. Ornstein has supported the philosophy of protecting Long Island's valuable resources and making our community accessible to everyone. He has also taken on a new role as a member of the Board of Directors for the Long Island Housing Partnership.

Mr. Ornstein has also taken on significant charitable and philanthropic causes. He and his family established the Ornstein Scholarship Fund at his alma mater, Syracuse University. For the past nineteen years, he has bestowed the American Jewish Committee's Franklin H. Ornstein Humanitarian of the Year Award to those that have battled racism and inequality in our communities. Mr. Ornstein has held executive positions and served on many philanthropic boards in the past, including Long

Beach Memorial Hospital, the Science Museum of Long Island, Temple Emanuel of Great Neck and Temple Beth-El of Huntington.

I am proud to honor Mr. Alec Ornstein for his service to the Long Island Builders Institute, and his dedication to the betterment of our community.

WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIENT LOONG OF SINGAPORE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam. Speaker, I rise as Chairman of the Singapore Caucus to welcome Prime Minister LEE Hsien Loong of Singapore on the occasion of his visit to the United States. Our friends in Singapore have always been great allies. Our two countries share a common vision of promoting peace, stability, security, and prosperity—not only in the Asia Pacific Region—but also throughout the world.

During Prime Minister Lee's previous visit, he affirmed his countries continued commitment to peace and security by signing with President Bush the "Strategic Framework Agreement between the United States of America and the Republic of Singapore for a Closer Cooperation Partnership in Defense and Security." This agreement formalized the growing bilateral security and defense relationship in counterterrorism, counter-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, joint military exercises, policy dialogues, and shared defense technology.

Home to the world's busiest port, Singapore has consistently demonstrated its commitment to maritime security. It was a founding member of Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), a program that aims to interdict shipments of weapons of mass destruction-related materials and was the first Asian country to join the Container Security Initiative (CSI), a series of bilateral, reciprocal agreements that allow U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officials to pre-screen U.S.-bound containers.

The relationship between the United States and Singapore extends beyond the current campaign against terrorism and is reinforced by strong ties of commerce. Since entering into a Free Trade Agreement on January 1st, 2004, commerce between the United States and Singapore has strengthened. We are Singapore's second largest trading partner with more than 1,300 United States companies currently operating in Singapore and many more seeking opportunities.

I would also like to commend Singapore for working with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand to organize the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Since its inception forty years ago, the Association has accelerated economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region, and it has promoted regional peace and stability among countries in the region. As the organization celebrates its 40th Anniversary, I applaud them for their leadership and wish them many more years of success.

I wish Prime Minister Lee and the Singapore delegation a prosperous visit. I know this Congress will continue to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between our two countries.