

the 1870s on the heels of political turmoil in Poland.

According to the Texas State Historical Association Houston there were 55,000 people of Polish descent in Houston in 2000. Aspects of the Polish culture are important to Houston's heritage and are celebrated in our annual Polish Festival and Polish Film Festival. Houston is also the home to a Polish consulate. I am proud to support this resolution as an acknowledgement of Houston's enduring ties with Poland.

The relationship between the United States and Poland was first formally established in the wake of World War I. In 1919, the U.S. and the newly-formed Polish Republic established diplomatic ties creating a formal relationship between governments that also served to symbolize the shared cultural heritage. Twenty years ago, communism fell in Poland and was replaced with a democratic government and market economy. While the relationship between the U.S. and Poland was at times difficult under communism, the spirit of mutualism and desire for cultural exchange endured. The Fulbright Educational Exchange Program began in Poland in 1959 allowing students from both sides of the Iron Curtain to maintain and grow our shared heritage.

In the 20 years since the fall of communism, Poland has also developed into a strong ally for our country. In 1999, Poland joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, cementing our shared military interest. Poland has been a strong diplomatic and military ally in our struggle against terrorism across the globe by contributing troops to U.S.-led coalitions. Poland has also demonstrated its close ideological relationship with the United States through joint efforts on democratization, nuclear proliferation, human rights, Eastern European affairs, and reforming the United Nations. The United States and Poland have a strong relationship and I am proud to support this resolution celebrating the 90 years of diplomatic relations.

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**“FRIENDS OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY”**

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I have never learned more in my life than I have learned since 1992 when at the vote of the Massachusetts Legislature, the city of New Bedford and the town of Fairhaven were included in the congressional district I represent. These two communities together form the most successful fishing port in the U.S., and that industry enriches New Bedford and the surrounding areas not just economically but culturally and socially as well.

One of the leaders in that industry is Jim Kendall, a fisherman himself who has served in a number of important posts in helping preserve that industry and protect it against adversity.

He recently wrote an eloquent introduction to the announcement of the Friend of the Fishing Industry Award, which was presented to two men to whom the Greater New Bedford Area is greatly indebted: Raymond and Richard Canastra.

These two brothers have, as Jim Kendall's statement points out, been extremely creative in providing support for this industry. The work they have done for the open display auction confounded many skeptics who thought that it would never work, but their success in New Bedford has in fact been so widely hailed that it's led to the recent opening of a similar facility in Boston, helping revive a fishing port that had been declining to some extent.

Madam Speaker, I join Jim Kendall and others in the fishing industry and subsidies in Massachusetts in thanking Ray and Richie Canastra for their work and I ask that Jim Kendall's statement be printed here as an example of the kind of economic leadership individuals can provide to their community.

OFFSHORE MARINERS

WIVES' ASSOCIATION,

*September 27, 2009.*

**INTRODUCTION OF 2009'S “FRIENDS OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY”**

This year's award to the Friend of the Fishing Industry is a bit different as we are proud to announce that the award is going to not just one, but two individuals. Not only have they contributed to the fishing industry here in New Bedford, but their efforts have extended throughout New England.

It's not often that you find two people who have come so far in a relatively short period of time, and who have returned so much to the industry that they obviously care so much about. Their innovation and foresight has not only proven to be a sound business venture for them, but a boon and stabilizing factor for the Greater New Bedford fishing fleet. It hasn't stop there either, their fortitude and determination now has extended to the ports of Gloucester and Boston.

They pioneered the concept of the open display auction here in New Bedford at a time and place when many of us doubted it could succeed. In 1985 through 1986 the industry had gone through a traumatic strike that changed the way business had been done for many years. The New Bedford seafood auction ceased to exist, and a buyers auction that replaced it, had also closed its doors. The industry was in turmoil, with little or no sense of balance that had existed for years before. The sale of a trip was as hard and as uncertain, as was the fishing trip itself.

They felt that an open display auction could work and benefit the fishermen, and the port of New Bedford, and they set about to prove it. It wasn't easy, it never is trying to convince people that there is a better way to do their business, business that they had been doing in basically the same way for years. They have proven that they were right, and the New Bedford fishing industry has benefited greatly because of it. The auction has provided stability to the sale of fresh fish and scallops, along with the recognition that New Bedford is still the port to go to for your best seafood.

Their efforts in beginning the auction and the continued developments, have helped the port of New Bedford regain the title of the richest fishing port in the country, and continues to help us maintain that distinction.

Recently they opened another display auction in the port of Boston, that is attracting fishing vessels to a port that was all but abandoned by the fishing industry. This is in direct contradiction to what has been occurring elsewhere, with the devastating changes for other ports that have lost not only their auctions, but their fishing industries and communities.

Their involvement has deepened over the years with them becoming deeply involved with the management process and fishery

science. Working with, most notably, Drs. Brian Rothschild and Kevin Stokesbury from the School for Marine Science and Technology at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. They have also helped to organize the fishermen not only here in New Bedford, but in Gloucester as well.

What may turn out to be one of their most important innovations is the Project to Save Seafood and Ocean Resources, along with its associated website, [Savingseafood.org](http://Savingseafood.org).

At a time when information is king, providing factual and unadulterated information to the American public is crucial. There is a desperate need to show the American consumer the value of New Bedford seafood, and the efforts that the New Bedford and New England fishermen have taken in order to provide them with healthy seafood. There is also a need to inform the consumer how we are striving to provide them their healthy seafood in a safe and sustainable manner. The American consumer and public also needs to know what the fishermen and their industry has gone through in order to bring this to them. I encourage you to visit the website at [www.savingseafood.org](http://www.savingseafood.org).

Richie lives in North Dartmouth, with his wife Roberta, and their two lovely daughters, Sophia, and Noella. Raymond lives in Rochester with his wife Debbie and their two children Cassie and Kyler.

It gives me great pleasure to present “The Friend of the Fishing Industry Award” to two men whom I'm proud to have worked with over the years, my friends; Raymond and Richard Canastra.

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**A TRIBUTE TO JACK LEFKOWITZ**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jack Lefkowitz for his record of extraordinary service to New York's Tenth Congressional District.

Jack Lefkowitz is the President and Chief Executive Officer of New York MedScan, providing high quality diagnostic imaging services in a comfortable hospital outpatient environment. He greatly contributes to the quality of life for Brooklyn's neediest patients, working through the organization Yad Ephraim to prepare and deliver home-cooked meals tailored to the needs of each patient. Mr. Lefkowitz chairs Maskil El Dat, providing financial aid, meals, transportation, babysitting, and emotional support for impoverished Jewish families. I applaud Jack Lefkowitz's philanthropic activities, contributing both professionally and privately in our communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jack Lefkowitz.

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**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HARLEM'S BELOVED THORNTON J. MEACHAM, JR., ESQ. A TRAILBLAZER FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS, LAWYERS AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great pride as I pay tribute to my dear friend

and life-long buddy, Thornton J. Meacham, Jr., Esq., as we celebrate one of Harlem's greatest legal advocates at the great Cathedral of Riverside Church in Harlem today. As I speak with profound honor and respect for my friend Thornton, I ascend to celebrate a life well-lived and to also remember the many legal professional accomplishments of this remarkable man. Thornton Meacham etched his name in history as a passionate and dedicated legal advocate for all African-American lawyers and legal professionals throughout this city and Nation.

Thornton's death on October 4, 2009, brought immense sorrow and loss to me, his family, his friends, and to the countless lives he touched over the years in our beloved community. I am blessed to say that I was able to have spent some time with Thornton during his final days. As we said our good-byes, he left in my heart a reminder of all the many exciting moments of his life and all of the good times we shared together. He was undisputedly one of Harlem's greatest lawyers, largely responsible for blacks being admitted to the New York Bar Association. This strong-willed and exciting man represented Harlem in all of its glory, and we are all consumed by his passing.

Thornton J. Meacham, Jr. was born on March 10, 1917 in Terrell, Arkansas as the first son to Dr. Thornton J. Meacham and Lila Celesta. His younger brother, Dr. Henry Wade Meacham, who also had an outstanding professional career passed away in 2004. After the family moved to Jackson, Tennessee, Thornton attended public school and graduated from Lane College. Upon his graduation from college, Thornton was accepted to attend law school at Harvard University, Columbia University and New York University, but chose to attend Fordham University, thus becoming the second African American to attend Fordham University and the first to graduate from its Law School in 1942.

Just a few years ago, we all celebrated Thornton's 66th Anniversary of his graduation from Fordham Law School. He loved Fordham Law and dedicated his entire life to helping young aspiring jurists succeed.

Admitted to the Bar in 1943, Thornton set the mark that raised the bar for all of us. He was the first Black attorney to join the legal staff of the Office of Price Stabilization on Broadway in New York; first to argue a case before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; first African American to be featured on the cover of *The New York Law Journal*; first to try both criminal and civil cases in the Bronx and Queens County Courts; and the first to open a law practice in Harlem.

Thornton always spoke of his experiences in the 1950s when the New York City Bar Association refused him membership due to his race. During segregation, he tried and won cases in Florida, North Carolina, Virginia and New Jersey. He represented Hulan Jack, Congressman Adam C. Powell, Dorothy Dandridge, Louis Armstrong, Bessie Buchanan, Mile Davis, the NAACP and Carver National Bank—a legacy of history that makes us all proud to be Americans.

Thornton Meacham was Counsel to the law offices of Assemblyman William T. Andrews, Judge Harold Stevens and Attorney John Briggs. He later became a Law Partner to Judge Thomas Dickens. Thornton, along with

some of Harlem's elite class of attorneys, co-founded the Harlem Lawyers Association, which later merged into the Metropolitan Black Bar Association.

Thornton Meacham was a very active member of the National Bar Association (NBA) and was acknowledged as a legal dignitary by the organization on several occasions. He was a recipient of the NBA Wiley A. Branton Issues Award and in 1994, he was inducted into the prestigious National Black Association Hall of Fame, which recognizes lawyers who have practiced for over 40 years and have made significant contributions to the cause of justice. Thornton was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Williams Institutional Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Harlem.

Meacham's extraordinary accomplishments as a revered legal professional exemplified the pioneering leadership of many through his commitment and exemplary service to the legal community. He will long be remembered for his extraordinary commitment, humor, liveliness, energy, wisdom, discipline, principle and clear purpose which won the admiration of all who were privileged to come to know and work with him during his distinguished career.

Madam Speaker, I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to observe and experience his example as a personal inspiration. Though Thornton is no longer with us, we will continue to keep his memory alive in our hearts and minds, and continue to honor his legacy with our advocacy for the issues he cared about the most.

#### HONORING MILDRED ROSS BEAN

##### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Mildred Bean of Walnut Creek, California. A proud wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. "Millie" was exemplary in her unconditional familial devotion, diligent work ethic, dedicated national service, and her love of arts and travel. With her passing on May 27, 2009, we look to Millie's family to remind us of her life's journey and the joyful legacy she inspired.

Mildred Ross was born on January 30, 1934 in Sacramento, California. After graduating high school, Millie began local secretarial work for the government. As her family fondly tells it, Millie's long love story with Air Force officer Richard "Dick" Bean began when he spotted her in a red party dress. The two were soon married and embarked on a military career that would span the next two decades.

Over the following ten years, Millie and Dick raised their three young children on Long Island, New York's Suffolk County Air Force Base. After a brief assignment in North Carolina, the family moved to Clark Air Force Base located in the Philippines.

It was there that Millie and her family had the great joy of spending two years stationed together with her sister Laura Brown, Laura's husband Joe, and their four children. Millie also enjoyed her time abroad by cultivating a love of travel. She and Dick were able to visit

Singapore, Bangkok, Saudi Arabia, India, Spain, and Thailand during their time in Southeast Asia.

The family eventually returned to California for their last assignment on Travis Air Force Base. After Dick retired as an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel in 1973, the couple built their dream home in Walnut Creek. When the Bean's two eldest children had left for college and their youngest was a high school sophomore, Millie returned to work and decided to pursue a college degree herself.

While working full time, Millie graduated Cum Laude from the University of San Francisco with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Millie then began a respected career with the Alameda Naval Air Station where she earned numerous awards, including the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the highest honor given by the Navy to a civilian. At the time of her retirement in 1996, Millie had contributed 27 years of service to the Navy and was a GM-13 Performance Review Division Head.

In the midst of many accomplishments, Millie was quick to remind others that she was most proud of her children, Tony Bean, Kimberly Perry, and Laurie Adams. Millie's highest priority was to nurture and enjoy her extended family, which grew as her children married their spouses and gave Millie and Dick five beautiful grandchildren.

I have known Millie for many years. Her generosity, her friendship and her beautiful smile will forever be etched in my heart. She was a consistent supporter and encouraged me every step of the way. I cherished her friendship and will miss her tremendously.

After retirement, Millie and Dick enjoyed season tickets to the symphony and ballet, travel adventures in Europe and Asia, weekend getaways in Cannel, and a final vacation to Hawaii that Dick will forever treasure. Millie's joy for life was not only contagious, but an invaluable lesson to her loved ones in times of uncertainty and doubt.

Always social and active, Millie kept a monthly lunch date with friends and enjoyed taking her grandchildren to the Nutcracker Ballet. Undoubtedly, the countless small and subtle acts of love that Millie demonstrated in her lifetime will continue to be powerful gifts to the people she cherished most.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great human being, our beloved Millie Bean. We extend our deepest condolences to Millie's husband and family. Thank you for sharing her great spirit with us. May her soul rest in peace.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on October 14, 2009, I was unable to cast votes, due to personal reasons. I was not present for roll-call votes 775 through 779. Had I been present, I would have casted a "yea" vote for final passage of H. Res. 768, Expressing support for the designation of the month of October as "National Work and Family Month"; H.R. 1327, Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009; H. Res. 816, Mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that