

have in his interpersonal skills, his ability to settle disputes, and his affable manner.

In addition to the dedication Joe has illustrated in his public service, he has been a tireless fundraiser for important charitable causes. He has raised funds for the American Heart Association, a cause especially dear to him because of the death of his father at an early age from this silent killer. Joe became a key figure in the annual fundraising drive, Operation Heartbeat, held every February on WCTC radio station. He has been recognized with an American Heart Association Testimonial, the March of Dimes Franklin Award, the Salvation Army OTHERS Award and the B'nai B'rith International Humanitarian Award. He was also named Man of the Year by the George Otlowski Citizens League, the North Brunswick Italian American Club, and awarded the Hubert H. Humphrey Friend of Labor Award in recognition of his friendship and outstanding work.

Joe and his wife, the former MaryAnn Longo, and their daughter, JoAnn now reside in South River, New Jersey. Their son, Charlie and his wife, Denise, returned to the Borough of Spotswood to begin their life together.

Mr. Speaker, on this day I rise up to acknowledge a truly remarkable individual and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the distinguished Joseph C. Spicuzzo for his untiring dedication and devotion to serving his community.

HONORING FATHER MICHAEL P.  
BAFARO

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2003*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father Michael P. Bafaro for his service to the local and international community.

Father Bafaro studied at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT; Seminary of Philosophy in Montreal, Canada; and Vesovile Seminary in Pordenone, Italy. At Vesovile, Father Bafaro was ordained on June 28, 1953. He worked for 11 years at Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Worcester, Massachusetts before volunteering to travel to Sicuani, Peru to work with the often neglected Andean community.

His experience in Peru was a critical step towards his role as an international community leader and activist. He returned to Worcester to work with the Latino community. In Worcester, he founded the only Latino community-based organization in the city. His role as founder and executive director of Centro Las Americas, in addition to his longtime participation in the community thereafter, caused the organization to grant Father Bafaro the first Annual Lifetime Achievement Award.

Father Bafaro earned the position of Pastor/Administrator of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel-St. Ann in Worcester in 1986. This position had a special spiritual meaning for the Father Bafaro due to his close relationship with the Carmelites of Peru. Once again Father Bafaro excelled as a leader and defender of human rights and equality. He has proven to be a loyal advocate for children's education, cultural awareness, low-income housing, and employment opportunities for those in need. He built

the Mt. Carmel Apartments for low-income and handicapped people in 1991 and the Italian-American Cultural Center.

Father Bafaro has been honored with the Worcester Sons of Italy Achievement Award and Social Justice Award; the Beacon Award from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester; the Pro-Deo Ad Juventudem Medal; and on four separate occasions, he received the key to the City of Worcester. Father Bafaro also participated in organizations such as the Affirmative Action Commission for the City of Worcester; the Board of Directors of the Northeast Hispanic Catholic Pastoral Center; the Priest Senate of the Diocese of Worcester; the Governor's Commission of Puerto Ricans and Hispanics; the Executive Board of Worcester Cooperative Council; City Managers Manpower Commission; Coalition for Peace and Justice; the Federation of New England Catholic Charities and Social Services; the Order of Sons of Italy; the United Way Task Force; and Ad Hoc Committee for Statewide Education.

Father Bafaro supported the Worcester community in December 1999 after the fire that claimed the lives of six firefighters. He provided support and guidance to the families and friends of the fallen heroes.

He is the president of Worcester Community Cable Access television station where important community issues are presented and discussed. These examples show his devotion to raising the consciousness of others and the extent to which he stands for peace and justice. Father Bafaro has touched many lives, and has spent most of his life working to improve the lives of others. He has struggled alongside the underprivileged and promoted open-mindedness among people from multiple backgrounds.

I can attest to the extent at which Father Bafaro has assisted and guided the community of Worcester because he has collaborated with my staff and me on various projects, including the Latino Education Institute. I have witnessed the accomplishments of Father Bafaro as a local community activist and leader who has based his work on the broader goal of promoting justice and equality at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in thanking Father Michael P. Bafaro for his contribution to the community.

TAIWAN'S INCLUSION IN THE WHO

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2003*

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of Taiwan's entry into the World Health Organization (WHO). Time and time again Taiwan has been thwarted from joining this international organization solely because of objections from the People's Republic of China. Most recently this occurred in May at the World Health Assembly in Geneva; even after Congress passed legislation (P.L. 108-028) authorizing the U.S. Government to implement a plan for Taiwan to obtain observer status and Secretary of Health Human Services Tommy Thompson publicly and firmly expressed U.S. support for Taiwan's inclusion in the WHO.

The recent SARS outbreak in Asia has made it very clear how important it is to allow Taiwan to participate in the WHO. While the People's Republic of China was suppressing information and statistics about the disease and covering up its scope, Taiwan, on the other hand, was reporting freely and accurately on SARS. It immediately offered to work with the WHO yet was denied; only later were two WHO experts dispatched to Taiwan. In addition, Beijing was quite unhelpful in alerting the WHO and neighboring countries as to when and where this outbreak originated causing additional infections and deaths.

We all have a responsibility to assist the WHO and inform the world when it comes to global health. For too long, however, Taiwan has not been given this opportunity because of political motivations. It is now time to allow Taiwan to join the WHO or at least allow it to obtain observer status. With the threat of outbreaks such as SARS sweeping across continents and infecting thousands, it is not only absurd but also immoral to keep the 23 million Taiwanese citizens from receiving its assistance. Taiwan, and the world for that matter, will be far better protected when it finally obtains WHO membership.

WHY ME? CLUB

**HON. KATHERINE HARRIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2003*

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary group of high school students, who have set the gold standard for leadership, compassion, and selflessness in my hometown of Sarasota, FL.

In September of 2002, Zak Tanjeloff, a student attending Sarasota High School, founded the Why Me? Club to implement his vision of providing relief to the poverty-stricken children of South America.

Demonstrating amazing dedication and skill, Zak and his fellow students have organized and managed major relief efforts entirely on their own.

Motivated by a soul-searching question—"Why am I lucky enough to live the life I live when so many suffer so greatly throughout the world?"—they have collected and delivered medical supplies, school supplies, sporting goods, dental supplies, toiletries, toys, and other items that most children and adults take for granted to impoverished locations in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Surinam.

While their fellow students vacationed on Florida's beaches during Spring Break 2003, the Why Me? Club, in partnership with Operation Serving Children, delivered over \$100,000 worth of much-needed medical supplies to the people of Chisec, Guatemala. Moreover, a second group of Why Me? members recently traveled once again to Chisec with yet another \$100,000 in medical supplies.

Mr. Speaker, these exceptional young men and women deserve our thanks and our acclaim. Their generosity, their global awareness, and their commitment to the most vulnerable members of the human family demonstrate that the greatest virtues of our Nation still illuminate the hopes and dreams of our children.