

welcomed 20 women and their children. The resolution of this crisis situation illustrated not only the dedication of the staff and volunteers of A Safe Place, but also the value and appreciation that the bay area community had for its services.

That was over 15 years ago. Since then, countless women have benefited from the care and dedication of this organization. Those who have entered A Safe Place receive much more than shelter, they experience physical, emotional and spiritual comfort and support which empowers them to begin a new way of life. In my opinion, the entire community reaps the benefits from the seeds planted and sown by A Safe Place which through its educational focus attacks domestic violence at its source and establish new patterns of productive living.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute A Safe Place and the role it has played in creating a safer, healthier, and more peaceful bay area community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking this organization for its invaluable service.

IN HONOR OF MIGUEL PEREZ: AN
OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL AND
VALUED COMMUNITY MEMBER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special gentleman, Miguel Perez, who has distinguished himself through continuous dedication and hard work for the Latino community. Mr. Perez will be honored by the Bergen County Hispanic-American Advisory Commission on October 16, 1997 at the board of freeholders in Hackensack, NJ.

Throughout his long career, Mr. Perez has been an educator, role model, and strong voice for the downtrodden. He entered the United States as a refugee at an early age. He didn't speak a word of English, but by the time he reached high school, he became the sports editor of the Miami High Times. This was the beginning of a long and illustrious career in the media. Mr. Perez went on to become editor of two college newspapers, including, "The Falcon Times" of Miami Dade Community College, which received the Pace-maker Award, given to top six college newspapers in the nation. He was also founder and first editor of the Good Times of Florida International University, where he graduated in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in political science. Mr. Perez continued his passion and advocacy for those who are ignored, mis-

understood, and victims of discrimination, serving as a bridge to non-Latinos. "Teaching important lessons about our community," stated Latin New York magazine, "and tries to instill a sense of pride in Latinos."

Mr. Perez's commitment to serving his community extends beyond his journalism. In 1979 he was instrumental in helping police persuade three Spanish speaking gunmen to release two dozen hostages held in a Brooklyn supermarket. Two years later he spent three months disguised as an illegal alien and wrote a four-part series for the Daily News on sweatshops: "The new slavery," for which he was awarded the Public Service Award of the Public Relations Society of America, New York chapter. Upon graduation from Columbia, he went to work for the Daily News as one of the few English-language Latino columnists in the country at that time. In 1982 Perez won the Mike Berger Award, considered the top print journalism award in New York. This year he won a fellowship from the Newspaper Association of America to study interactive media at the prestigious Poytner Institute in St. Petersburg, FL.

A journalist more than twenty-four years, born in Havana, Cuba, 47 years ago, Mr. Perez has been covering the New York metropolitan area's Latino community relentlessly. He epitomizes excellence in community service, and it is an honor and a pleasure to have him residing in my district. I am certain that my colleagues will rise with me and honor this remarkable individual