

age. As a freshman in 1933, Rudy coached the School 10 baseball team to the city championship. An athlete in his own right, Rudy was invited to train with a professional team in Florida in 1946. However, he was unwilling to leave his wife, who was pregnant with his first child, and remained in Paterson. Foregoing his own dreams of professional athletics, Rudy channeled his energies into coaching, serving the Paterson area in various capacities for 64 years. Those who have been taught the fundamentals of baseball by Rudy remember him fondly. He is well known as a coach that focused on the individual needs of each athlete, often treating them like members of his own family. Not surprisingly, Rudy often shocks former pupils by calling them by their first name, sometimes 20 or 30 years after he coached them.

Rudy's distinguished career has been an unqualified success. For 14 years, he volunteered his time as an assistant baseball coach at John F. Kennedy High School in Paterson. Still an active member of the Passaic County American Legion Baseball Committee, he coached the team for Raymond Pellington American Legion Post 260 for many years. Rudy's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. In 1985, he was named Paterson's Youth Guidance Man of the Year. In 1987, Rudy was named the vice president of the Metropolitan Semi-Pro Baseball League. In 1993, he was named commissioner of that organization. In 1994, he was honored by the Passaic County Coaches Association, an organization of which he has been a lifelong member.

In addition to his successes in coaching, Rudy is the proud father of four. Two of his progeny, son, Al, and granddaughter, Annette, have also been honored with awards from the Old Timers Athletic Association. The former driver for the Paterson News, Rudy also serves as president of the Senior Group of Our Lady of Pompei Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Rudy's family and friends, the city of Paterson, and the hundreds of Paterson youth that have benefited from Rudy's guidance in recognizing the wisdom of the Old Timers Athletic Association's choice of Rudy Demarest as the 1997 winner of the Lou Costello Athletic Memorial Award.

SALUTING THE 18TH ANNUAL TESTIMONIAL DINNER OF MASJID BILAL

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 18th annual testimonial dinner of the Masjid Bilal. This event will take place on November 1, 1997, in my congressional district. The Masjid Bilal is under the direction of Imam Clyde Rahman. I take special pride in recognizing the Masjid Bilal as it marks this important juncture.

The theme for the 18th testimonial dinner is "The Lamp of Education; the Light of Reli-

gion." In selecting this theme, we will be able to focus on the importance of educating our youth as they prepare to become the leaders of tomorrow. We will also direct our attention to the role that religion plays in guiding individuals and families to assume greater responsibility within the community at large.

Mr. Speaker, one of the highlights of the testimonial dinner will be a tribute to three individuals within the Greater Cleveland community. The honorees are: Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton, president of Cuyahoga Community College; Terry Butler, principal of East Technical High School; and Imam Ahmed Abbas, a high school teacher and religious leader. Each of the individuals being honored have demonstrated an untiring commitment to youth throughout the Greater Cleveland area. I am pleased that their efforts are being acknowledged, and I extend my personal congratulations to each of them.

Over the years, I have enjoyed a close association with Imam Clyde Rahman and members of Masjid Bilal. I note with pride the fact that his is the first Masjid to be built on American soil, with financing for the project coming from the African-American community. Imam Rahman is also a leader who has reached across racial and religious lines to promote universal understanding and peace.

On the occasion of the 18th annual testimonial dinner, I join many others in applauding Imam Rahman for his continued leadership to the Greater Cleveland community. I salute him and wish Masjid Bilal continued success.