

Growing up in a Brooklyn housing project, La-Kee-A found a sanctuary in her public library, heading there after school and remaining until closing time. One day she arrived at the library to find a sign announcing it was being shut down due to budget cuts. Horrified, La-Kee-A moved immediately to action. She started a local petition, collected over 1500 signatures, and organized her classmates to write letters to the White House. She appealed to elected officials in her area and at one point even staged a sit-in in front of the library. Local gang members threatened La-Kee-A and her grandmother, who largely raised her, begged her to just "let it go". But La-Kee-A prevailed and the library remained open. Today, La-Kee-A helps others reap the benefits of her work by, among other endeavors, working with children to spread the pleasures of reading.

La-Kee-A is a young woman who demonstrated through pride and courage that young people can make a difference. I am proud that Seventeen and Cover Girl have recognized her important contributions to the Brooklyn community. Their efforts to reward the positive actions of young women are highly commendable and should be replicated by others. La-Kee-A is truly an example for young

people everywhere that volunteerism can make a difference in their communities. Congratulations, La-Kee-A for your courage and for showing the world that young people can make important contributions if they are simply willing to stand up for their beliefs.

IN HONOR OF TONY GEORGE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American. Tony George is an entrepreneur, a civic leader and a family man who has, over his lifetime, made a deep impression on Cleveland, Ohio.

Tony is known around Cleveland for his chain of sports bars, Slam Jams, and his new restaurant, the Harry Buffalo opening on April 6, 1998. All of Cleveland flocks to Tony's restaurants, and he has served host to some of America's luminaries. His fine establishment has been patronized by the Honorable William J. Clinton and Donna Shalala, Sec-

retary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Born in Cleveland in 1957 to Arab-American immigrant parents, Tony George is a hard-working, innovative and personable man. His sweet demeanor and generosity spring from deep within him. He is a man who has known adversity and has overcome it.

When he was just seventeen, Tony's father passed away, leaving Tony, his five sisters and mother. Tony grew up quickly. He assumed the responsibility of maintaining his father's business. He continued where his father left off to provide for the family. Tony also handled all of the family's finances. He even managed to finish school, graduating from St. Edward's High School. Tony's ability to put family values into effective action made it possible for his sisters to grow up and mature into fine individuals.

Tony is raising his own family in Fairview Park, Ohio with his wife, Christine. Their five children are fine young people: Joseph, Bobby, Justin, Krystle, and Jonathon.

Tony George is a man who does so much for so many people. Cleveland and all those who know him around the country are fortunate to have such a man among us.