

## SALUTE TO EARTH ANGELS

**HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, today we commemorate Earth Day—an important occasion that has raised our national consciousness about environmental protection. In celebration of this event, I would like to pay tribute to one of the most committed environmental groups in the United States today, St. Louis' Earth Angels.

The Earth Angels are a very special group of young environmentalists who are dedicated champions of our natural world. A grassroots group, there are now 150 Earth Angels working to preserve and protect the natural environment in our city. Many of the children who become Earth Angels come from homes of limited resources and few privileges. And they are courageously committed to improving their lives by helping to improve the quality of life in our community.

The Earth Angels have adopted a noble mission. They are working to preserve the natural life of our planet. These children have worked thousands of hours recycling garbage, planting trees and raising funds to help protect the environment. They created and recently expanded a Model Prairie Garden at the Delmar Landing Metrolink station and now are hard at work on their third butterfly garden established on a vacant inner city lot.

Over the years, the Earth Angels have received many national awards for their environmental achievements. Today the Earth Angels are receiving a "Renew America Award" from the National Awards Council for Environmental Sustainability (NACES), a coalition of 60 national environmental, nonprofit, government and business organizations including the National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, AT&T, National Geographic and the Smithsonian Institution. Later this month, the Earth Angels will receive the National Arbor Day Foundation's Annual Award for 1998 in the category of Environmental Education. And recently St. Louis' Earth Angels received a Giraffe award from the Giraffe Foundation of Washington State—an honor given to those who have "stuck their necks out" for the common good.

Mr. Speaker. The Earth Angels are truly among the finest citizens in the city of St. Louis. These children are wise beyond their years and are sure to become tomorrow's leaders. The Earth Angels have the highest respect for the living world. They observe Earth Day every day. The Earth Angels are hard-working achievers who have made many invaluable contributions to the St. Louis community—I am proud to salute these outstanding young people.

## TRIBUTE TO LORA LUCKS

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Lora Lucks, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service and education. She will be honored to-

tomorrow evening for her outstanding contributions to the community at the Ninth Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance that will be hosted by the Association of Jewish Professionals, Inc. in New York.

Born and raised in Brooklyn and a graduate of Brooklyn College, Lora Lucks started her teaching career at Mark Twain Junior High School. Thirty one years ago she joined P.S. 48 in the Bronx where she started her supervisory career. For the past 22 years she has served as Principal at P.S. 48 and played a prominent role as a true educational leader.

In addition, Mrs. Lucks has been the Project Director of the Hunts Point Cultural Arts Center for the past 14 years. This after-school program nurtures the artistic talents and fosters a sense of pride and accomplishments in students within the South Bronx Community. Having forged a strong alliance with businesses, organizations, and foundations, Lora has been able to bring much-needed resources to the school and the children of Hunts Point.

Through her years of service she has been given several awards. In 1992 she was honored as the District 8 Supervisor of the year and in 1993 she was the recipient of the Reliance Award for Excellence in Education.

Mrs. Lucks is married and has two sons, Stuart and Robert, one grandson, Arie, and a daughter-in-law, Charlotte. Her husband, Solomon is a retired New York City educator and supervisor. He served as the chairman of the Technology Department at Bayside High School for 27 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Lora Lucks for her outstanding achievements in education and her enduring commitment to the community.

THE PEOPLE OF BAYONNE  
REMEMBER THE HOLOCAUST**HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the people of Bayonne, New Jersey for the commitment they have made to honor the victims of the Holocaust. On May 4, 1998, the Inter-Faith Clergy and the Bayonne Jewish Community Council will sponsor The Holocaust Memorial Observance Program at the City Hall Council Chambers of Bayonne to acknowledge the fifty-second anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps of Europe at the end of the Second World War.

We must never forget that from 1933 to 1945, more than six million Jews were tortured and killed in the Holocaust.

I bring this event being held in Bayonne to the attention of my colleagues as a reminder that it has become the duty of us all, as citizens of a free and democratic society, to maintain an unwavering vigilance in order to ensure that the horrors of the Holocaust are never repeated. This responsibility is dedicated to the observance of Yom Hasboab, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

By honoring the memory of those slain in the Holocaust and by emphasizing the importance of remaining vigilant against bigotry and tyranny, the people of Bayonne are doing their part to ensure that such atrocities will never again be committed.

VINCENT A. BERGAMO'S OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO HARNESS RACING

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to announce the well deserved retirement of Vincent A. Bergamo from the New York State Racing and Wagering Board. There will probably never be another individual who has accomplished or meant as much to the sport of Harness Racing as Vincent Bergamo has. Due to Vincent's career of hard work and dedication, harness racing has been improved for the better.

Having had the honor and distinction of working with Vince, I believe he exemplifies all that is great about this sport: he is dedicated, hard working and honest. Mr. Bergamo has served Harness Racing for 40 years and will be sorely missed.

Mr. Bergamo's distinguished career began in 1958 at the Monticello Raceway. However, his love for harness racing began long before. As a native of Goshen, NY, Vince early became acquainted with the sport. As a young man he worked as a stable boy for the Harriman Family and then for five years, while teaching history and math in Middletown NY, he worked summers as a judge at several race tracks. At the age of 23, Vince's love for the sport became a full time commitment, as he became the youngest Presiding Judge in the history of the Saratoga Harness Racing Track.

Throughout his distinguished career Vince fulfilled the presiding judge responsibilities at every track in New York State and at tracks in the state of Florida, Maryland, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania. Known for being tough, but fair, Vince fostered an environment of true integrity and competitiveness in the sport wherever he went.

As one of its founding members, Mr. Bergamo has been devoted and responsible for saving and preserving the Goshen Historic Track, the oldest existing sporting site in the United States. The Goshen Historic Track was greatly endangered when the Harriman Family relinquished its title after nearly a century of ownership. Vince's exhaustive efforts, purely voluntary, on behalf of the track, directly led to its designation as a Historic Site in the National Register. Today, the men and women who serve on the Goshen Historic Track Board of Directors successfully keep the track alive and well, as a non-profit corporation.

During his illustrious career Mr. Bergamo has been the proud recipient of numerous awards and honors, including: 1994 William Houghton Memorial; 1993 Elected Trustee of the Harness Racing Hall of Fame and Museum; 1992 Presidents Medal of Harness Racing; 1991 National Amateur Lifetime Award; 1987 USHWA Distinguished Service; 1986 Recognized for 25 Years Historic Track with "Bergamo Day"; 1986 Member of the USHWA; 1971 Founded C.K.G. Billings Series; 1961 Founded the Goshen Matinee Program.

Along with all of his accomplishments, Vincent A. Bergamo is also a family man, who has raised 10 children: 7 sons and 3 daughters. He is a dedicated man, whether it be to