

to join with my colleagues in honoring Linda here today.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL LEGGIERO

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Leggiero for his leadership and dedication to the North Hudson Community Action Corporation. Mr. Leggiero was honored with the Louis T. Scialli Memorial Award by the United Way of Hudson County on September 16, 2003, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, New Jersey.

As President and CEO of the North Hudson Community Action Corporation, Mr. Leggiero's vision and leadership has helped make the organization the largest and one of the most highly regarded community organizations in Hudson County. The North Hudson Community Action Corporation is currently the largest provider of health and social services in the county and serves as a model for the quality of services it provides the community.

Mr. Leggiero first came to the North Hudson Community Action Corporation in 1971. Through his hard work and communal spirit, Mr. Leggiero assumed directorship in 1978. At that time, the North Hudson Community Action Corporation administered seven programs, which served 5,000 residents per year. After 25 years under Mr. Leggiero's leadership, the North Hudson Community Action Corporation now runs 20 programs that serve over 55,000 Hudson County residents each year.

Mr. Leggiero's foresight and understanding of the community issues has been a great asset to the North Hudson Community Action Corporation. Mr. Leggiero helped create a state-of-the-art community health center, which now provides care and assistance to over 2,000 patients each week. In 1996, Mr. Leggiero spearheaded the production of 49 new affordable housing units and just recently completed a similar venture, which provided the North Hudson community with 37 new housing units.

Michael Leggiero is a lifetime resident of Union City, where he lives with his wife Lois. An active member of his church, Mr. Leggiero is known for his love and dedication to his congregation, with whom he shares a commitment to giving back to the community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Michael Leggiero for his outstanding leadership and service to the people of Hudson County.

TRIBUTE TO THE INSTITUTE FOR THE PUERTO RICAN/HISPANIC ELDERLY, INC.

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc., an organization dedicated to improving the lives of low income minority seniors and their families in the city of New York. This in-

valuable organization will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Friday, October 3, 2003.

The Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc., was founded in 1978 to remove communication and other service barriers that separated Puerto Rican and Hispanic seniors from their rights and entitlements under the law. Today, the Institute is the premier Hispanic non-profit organization serving New York City's ethnic minority seniors and their families, with the mission to improve their quality of life.

Serving more than 140,000 seniors annually, the institute's services are delivered in a citywide complex of offices, facilities, programs and senior centers. In addition, the Institute has four subsidiaries: El Cemi Houses, which provides affordable housing for homeless seniors; the Institute Home Care Services; the licensed Innovative Home Health Care Systems; and Clinica Nueva Esperanza, a mental health clinic for seniors.

The Institute also serves as an important resource for non-profits, government agencies and businesses, providing technical assistance and consultation in areas such as management training, culturally responsive service delivery, and access to minority communities.

Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of Suleika Cabrera Drinane, this fine institution has helped to provide essential and quality services to the low income minority seniors of New York City for a quarter of a century. Because of its pioneering and outstanding work, the Institute has received awards and recognitions from city, state, and federal agencies, as well as by other organizations in the community.

For their long standing commitment to the disadvantaged seniors of New York City, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc., on their 25th Anniversary.

IN MEMORY OF BILLIE LOU  
"PEACHES" PARKER BROOKSHIRE

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the citizens of Tyler, Texas, lost one of their dearest and most influential members, Billie Lou "Peaches" Parker Brookshire, who passed away at the age of 72 following a lengthy illness.

The Brookshire family has long been known in the Tyler area for their many contributions to East Texas—with Peaches being a central figure in their philanthropy. Peaches was actively involved in numerous worthy causes, including the Salvation Army Center of Hope, Junior League of Tyler, Tyler Junior Garden Club, American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, Green Acres Baptist Church, All Saints Episcopal School, Grace Community School and Hospice of East Texas. In all that she did and with all whom she met, she brought enthusiasm, compassion, a positive attitude and a legendary sense of humor. Peaches also was an accomplished artist. Several of her paintings were recently donated to the Tyler Cancer Center to encourage patients receiving treatment there.

Above all Peaches was a devoted wife to her husband and partner of 53 years, Bruce, whom she met while attending the University of Texas at Austin, and a loving and loyal mother and mother-in-law to Tim and Michelle and to Britt and Sunni. She was known endearingly as "honey" to her nine grandchildren: Amy, Clint, Garnett, Blake, Chad, Ross, Caroline, Emma and Bruce, Jr. Clint Brookshire ably served as my Congressional Assistant in Washington, D.C., and later as District Assistant in my Rockwall, TX, office, before pursuing another career in Dallas. He was a valued and well-liked member of my staff and remains my good friend. Peaches maintained a close relationship with Decie Brookshire, mother of Clint and the two other eldest grandchildren. She also leaves behind her two dear sisters and their husbands, Kay and Darold Cannon Jr. and Judy and Ray Clymer Jr. of Wichita Falls; her mother-in-law and lifelong friend, Mrs. Louise Brookshire of Tyler; numerous nieces and nephews; and caregivers Jeanell and Jesse Richardson of Tyler.

Peaches was the daughter of William Garnett Parker and Opal Louise Parker of Wichita Falls. She attended Midwestern State University and the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Her grandfather, C.H. Parker, opened Parker Food Stores in Wichita Falls in the 1920s, the same time that her father-in-law, W.T. Brookshire, was opening his first Brookshire's Grocery Store in Tyler.

I have known Peaches and Bruce and their family for many years and have loved and admired them for their ability to so ably balance work, family and community commitments. They are one of the outstanding families in the Fourth Congressional District—and their efforts have helped so many in their community. In recognition of their many significant contributions, Peaches and Bruce were named the recipients of the 2002 Isadore Roosth Outstanding Philanthropist Award in Tyler.

Peaches was devoted to her family, her faith, and her community—and was a model of grace, goodness, and good humor. She was a friend and an inspiration to so many—and she will be fondly remembered by all those who knew her and loved her. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege today for me to pay tribute to an exemplary woman and outstanding citizen of East Texas who made an indelible impression on all those who met her—Peaches Parker Brookshire. She will be dearly missed.

HONORING REV. PAUL D.  
KENNEDY

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Reverend Paul D. Kennedy, pastor at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Worcester, Massachusetts and to recognize his achievement as the first ever recipient of the Children's Friends Inc. Ambassadors Award. I am proud of Rev. Kennedy's services.

The Children's Friend Inc. was established in 1849 by a group of concerned Worcester citizens to provide a "safe home" for the city's most vulnerable children: the orphaned, the abandoned, and the neglected children. The