

of his retirement and his dedication to public service.

Mr. Lepsch has made a lifetime commitment to his community and Nation. As a young man, he served our Nation in the army during the Vietnam War. He has spent over 30 years as a member of the Attica Fire Department, serving as Chief, Rescue Squad Captain, EMT, and representing the department on various county and regional boards. He has served the residents of the Village of Attica as a Village Trustee for 10 years, most recently as Deputy Mayor. Mr. Lepsch has also been active in his parish church, serving as a parish board member and parish school volunteer accountant.

Colleagues, friends, and family alike hail Mr. Lepsch as someone who has exemplified genuine concern and dedication to his family and his neighbors and constituents.

It is with a great pride and gratitude that I rise to thank and honor Mr. Lepsch for his many years of commitment and loyalty to the citizens of Attica and Wyoming County.

HONORING GEORGETTE "TOOTSIE"  
LASKE ON THE OCCASION OF  
HER RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members who have gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the Branford community and a dear friend of mine, Georgette "Tootsie" Laske. After twenty-seven years of dedicated service to the Town of Branford, Tootsie has retired from municipal service. Though she will no longer be at Town Hall, I have no doubt that Tootsie will continue to be a fixture in the Branford community.

A life-long resident of Branford, Tootsie graduated from Branford High School where she was an active and skilled athlete. Playing basketball, field hockey, volleyball, and gymnastics, Tootsie was recognized in 1999 for her accomplishments with induction into the Branford Sports Hall of Fame. After high school, Tootsie began working for Security Insurance Company and Nationwide Insurance. However, in 1978, Tootsie was hired by then Town Clerk Peter Abondi as Branford's Assistant Town Clerk—a position which she held until her election as Town Clerk in 1992. In her many years of service at Town Hall, Tootsie has made residents and non-residents alike feel welcome with her complimentary Tootsie Roll candies. Her kind heart and special way with people made her a popular figure at Town Hall and there is no doubt that her presence will be missed.

Tootsie's dedication to her community extended far beyond her work at Town Hall. Our communities would not be the same without those individuals who so willingly volunteer their time and energy on behalf of others. Throughout her lifetime, Tootsie has been this kind of community member—always willing to help in any way that she could. Whether it was as a volunteer for the Special Olympics World Games Connecticut in 1995, as a long-time member of the Italian-American Women's

Auxiliary of Branford, or her work with a multitude of local civic organizations, Tootsie's unwavering efforts have touched the lives of many. I have no doubt that, though she will be enjoying her retirement, Tootsie will continue to find ways in which she can enrich the community as well as the lives of others.

I am also glad to have this opportunity to extend my personal thanks and sincere appreciation to Tootsie for her many years of support and friendship. Tootsie is an extraordinary woman and I consider myself privileged to call her my friend.

For her countless hours of service, both professionally and personally, to the Town of Branford, I am proud to rise today to join her husband, James; her four children, Kathleen, Nancy, Thomas, and James; her eight grandchildren, Jenna, Bridget, Kelly, Scott, Mikayla, Patrick, Allison, and Kirsten; family, friends, colleagues, and community members in extending my sincere congratulations to Georgette "Tootsie" Laske as she celebrates her retirement. Her generosity, compassion, and good heart have left an indelible mark on the Branford community and a legacy that will inspire generations to come. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SAN JOSE'S REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Catholic Charities of San Jose's 25th anniversary of its refugee resettlement programs.

Less than 1 percent of the refugees in camps are accepted by Western countries for resettlement. Refugees who have already suffered unthinkable crimes and injustices are often forced to wait in camps for as long as 10 years before being interviewed for consideration. The very lucky few who are accepted for immigration to the United States often arrive with little to no money, few, if any, family and only the hope and dream of a better life.

To ease this very difficult transition, Catholic Charities meets these refugees at the airport and begins the resettlement process immediately. They and their team of committed volunteers provide financial support for housing, food, clothing and other necessities, medical care, case management and independent living skills training such as budgeting skills, housing assistance and food preparation.

In their 25 years of dedication and hard work, over 20,000 refugees have been assisted in their quest to build a better life for themselves and their future generations. Catholic Charities of San Jose provides these valuable services at no cost to the immigrant.

This program is one of many that Catholic Charities provides in its overall vision of transforming lives. This wonderful organization strives to empower meaningful, quality living through economic, familial and emotional stability. Catholic Charities serves people of all beliefs, cultures, ethnicities and ages and serves a diverse population from various eth-

nic backgrounds and provides services in 17 languages.

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to have a warm, welcoming and nurturing organization in my district that appreciates and honors the diversity that makes America, and specifically San Jose, California, a desirable place to live, work and raise a family.

TRIBUTE TO THE GARY  
FRONTIERS SERVICE CLUB

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life and, unfortunately, his untimely death remind us that we must continually fight to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our Nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on Monday, January 16, 2006, at the Genesis Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, founded in 1952, sponsors this annual memorial breakfast.

This year the Gary Frontiers Club will pay tribute to five local individuals who, for decades, have unselfishly contributed to improving the human condition of others in the City of Gary. Those individuals who will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast include: Reverend Norman L. Hariston Sr., who is retired and a member of St. John Baptist Church; Dr. Alfonso D. Holliday II, a semi-retired physician who served Gary residents and is now a consultant; Roosevelt Haywood Jr., activist and former Gary City Councilman; Willie Kuykendall, a 1960's voting activist; and Cherrie B. White, a retired activist, will receive the 2006 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award.

The late Mrs. Rosa Louise Parks will become the only person to receive a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Honorary Drum Major Award for her single courageous act of dignified defiance on December 1, 1955, which set in motion the Modern Civil Rights Movement.

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set laudable goals, and they worked hard to achieve them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Gary Frontiers Service Club: