

Established 10 years ago by Patrick P. Montuore of the Florham Park, NJ, Police Department, the Police Unity Tour started with 18 riders and has grown into a Nationwide project with participants and supporters from all over the country. The mission of the tour is to bring awareness to the lives of police officers who have died in the line of duty. The number of participants continues to grow with over 700 police officers participating last year.

In route to Washington, the tour will stop at Ground Zero, a place that will forever remind us of American heroes. The Police Unity Tour honors the heroes who lost their lives that day and reminds us that everyday our police officers, firefighters, and emergency service personnel devote their lives to protecting and serving our communities. Too many of these officers make the ultimate sacrifice and to them we are eternally grateful. We must never take their actions for granted and always remember the families and friends they leave behind.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the participants of the Police Unity Tour on their 10th anniversary and for the work they do honoring those police officers who have died in the line of duty.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LA PERLA CAFE IN PHOENIX, AZ

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to La Perla Cafe, a Mexican food restaurant in Glendale, Arizona, and its owners, the late Joseph Peralta Pompa, his wife Eva Macias Pompa, and their family, on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of their restaurant.

La Perla has been a popular family-operated restaurant in the west Valley since 1946. In an industry where small business owners sometimes struggle to survive, the Pompas have thrived by following one simple rule: Serving food as good as what you make at home.

The Pompa family history in Arizona dates back to the early 1900s. Joseph Pompa was born in Pierce, Arizona, the son of the Pompas from Sonora, Mexico. When he was one year old, his father abandoned the family, which included his mother and seven sisters. The family moved to Jerome, Arizona, and Joseph, or Joe, began working as a copper miner at the age of 14.

Eva Macias Pompa was born in Camargo, Chihuahua, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States at the age of 1, along with her widowed mother. They arrived in Clarkdale, Arizona, where Eva's mother made a living by cleaning houses. She eventually remarried and had five more children. Eva's stepfather later became very ill so Eva had to quit high school in order to work to support her family. She cleaned houses to help make ends meet.

Joseph and Eva Pompa met and married in 1935. When Joe married Eva, he was the Welterweight Champion for Arizona. Eva couldn't bear the violence of boxing, and Joe retired from the sport. He took correspondence courses on electronics when he had free

time, and received his degree. He was then hired as an electronic engineer at Goodyear Air Research.

The couple opened La Perla in 1946, determined to make their restaurant a success. Eva learned her cooking skills from her mother and had a passion for not only cooking Mexican food, but all ethnic foods. The Pompas were very kind, hard working people who wanted their children to have all the educational opportunities available, and to pursue a life defined by faith in God, pride in one's work, and happiness. As the restaurant took off, Joe and Eva had four children: Sylvia, Gloria, Joanne and Joseph. In 1961, Joseph senior passed away. Despite his sadness, the younger Joseph, also known as Butch, started working in the restaurant at the age of 13 to take his father's place. Butch grew up, married and had four sons and a daughter. Butch's son Gabe, a graduate of the San Francisco Culinary Art School, now is head of catering for La Perla and oversees cooking assistants.

La Perla has at one time or another employed aunts, uncles, cousins, and multiple generations of Pompa family members. The four generations of Pompas number into the hundreds and are part of the great American success stories woven into our U.S. history. Working as cooks, chefs, lawyers, teachers, salespeople, or real estate agents, all the Pompas have contributed to this country in their pursuit of the American Dream.

For this reason, I wish to honor The Pompas and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the family on the occasion of La Perla Cafe's 60th Anniversary, and wishing them many more years of success.

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, this is Cover the Uninsured Week. As we take this occasion to reflect on the ways in which we can cover the uninsured, I encourage my colleagues to address the issue head-on. We need a solution that will not only address the uninsured problem, but will also address the rising cost and inequities.

Consider that we pay almost twice as much for health per person than the average of other industrialized countries. Yet the World Health Organization ranks our health care system 37th in the world. The situation is worsening as costs continue to increase, employers continue to scale back coverage and the number of uninsured, now 46 million, continues to rise. Four out of five (82%) of the uninsured are in working families. 46% of all bankruptcies were either fully or partly caused by illness or medical bills according to a Harvard study. Three-quarters of those bankrupted by illness were insured when they first got sick. Our health care system based on private health plans gives us low quality, inefficiency, inaccessibility and is ultimately unsustainable.

The inefficiency of privately administered health care is especially stark. Between 1970 and 1998, total healthcare employment in the US grew 149 percent while the number of managers in health care grew 2348 percent.

Our businesses bear the burden of that inefficiency because they provide health care to most Americans lucky enough to have it. All other industrialized countries have universal health care that costs less. The result is that our businesses are losing competitive advantage. Ontario now makes more cars than Detroit. Canadian GM, Ford, and Daimler Chrysler signed a letter in support of their single payer health care system because of the advantage it gives them.

Managed care has failed. Employer based insurance is failing and dragging down American businesses. Consumer driven health care being trumpeted by right wing ideologues tries to control costs by providing less care, not more. Instead, we need to control costs by addressing the real inefficiencies, not by growing the uninsured and underinsured. We know exactly how to do it.

Traditional Medicare enjoys consistently higher satisfaction ratings than private insurance. Its overhead costs are about 3 percent compared to overhead costs of private health plans which average about 31 percent. Medicare's rates of cost increase have been significantly lower than in private health plans. We need such a time tested, rock solid model like Medicare to address our health care crisis. In fact, by addressing the inefficiencies, we could bring everyone in the U.S. under Medicare and they would pay no premium, no deductible, and no copayments.

Polls consistently find that Americans favor expanding government guaranteed health insurance like Medicare to all Americans. The Deans of medical schools including Harvard and Stanford, 14,000 doctors, including the former editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, and two former Surgeons General now support national health insurance like HR 676. Newspapers around the country are making the case for Medicare for All, including two recent editorials in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. Over 100 unions have officially endorsed it. HR 676 boasts the support of 69 members of Congress, including 9 ranking members of full committees and 28 ranking members of subcommittees.

Access the high quality health care is a right. I encourage my colleagues to support real health care reform that covers all of the uninsured and contains costs. Please support HR 676, the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act.

IMMIGRANTS ANSWER CALL TO SERVICE, CALL TO NEW LIFE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a problem we're seeing the effects of all over the country, immigration.

As a former cop, I respect and appreciate those who've dedicated their lives to serving others as well as those who appreciate the rule of law and honor it. In my time in Congress, I've seen these two values come together in an interesting way as my office has assisted in immigration casework.

Abdullah Yousify contacted my office because he needed citizenship to continue his work in Iraq with Northwest Medical Teams.