

serve as a judge in order to solicit bribes. However it started, it has become part of the fun of the event for judges to offer to accept bribes from the various competitors, champagne being a favorite.

In all of these activities, she never hesitates to roll up her sleeves and do the actual work, whether it is getting up at 5 a.m. to pull weeds, or working on dune planting during winter storms. She uses her graphics skills to convince the public that they don't want to see resorts on the beaches, freeways in the canyons, and mega-mansions all over our native forest habitat. Joyce is a gem among gems, and we are indebted to her for her fierce devotion to the importance and the beauty of our natural resources.

## TRIBUTE TO ERIC PLAKS

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Eric Plaks, a teacher at Bronx Charter School for Arts in Bronx, NY. I wish to recognize Mr. Plaks for being named a National Board Certified Teacher by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This program was created in 1987 in order to honor teachers who meet high standards of excellence and professionalism. This

award also aims to identify and integrate highly competent and certified teachers into current educational reform efforts.

We must recognize that education is critical to building a society founded upon respect and acceptance and credit our teachers with producing our responsible leaders and citizens. They deserve to be honored for their commitment and contributions to this crucial foundation which touches the lives of all our children.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Mr. Plaks best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.