

I ask that the House join me today in recognizing Bob Dingman for a lifetime of service to his country and others, and for his example of determination, hard work and commitment to his faith.

IN HONOR OF JOHN DALLAGER

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 20, 2007*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John "J.D." Dallager's appointment as President and CEO of the Pike's Peak United Way.

After serving his country for 34 years in the United States Air Force, Mr. Dallager went on to serve the Colorado Springs as the Chairman of the Board of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Dallager's admirable sense of duty and clear commitment to the service of others enable me to say with confidence that he will be an excellent addition to the Pike's Peak United Way.

For over 80 years, the Pike's Peak United Way has sought to improve the lives of Coloradans living in El Paso and Teller Counties through numerous family support, emergency food and shelter, and charity grant programs. A strong leader, Mr. Dallager will provide direction to this valuable organization, allowing it to further serve the needs of my constituents. I am profoundly thankful for all that Mr. Dallager has done for Colorado's Fifth Congressional District and our Nation.

COMMENDING EXCEPTIONAL  
NORTHWEST INDIANA TEACHERS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 20, 2007*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend seven exceptional teachers from Northwest Indiana who have been recognized as outstanding educators by their peers for the 2006–2007 school year. These individuals are: Margaret Hurt, Susan Kucharski, John Nawrocki, Faylene Altomere, Eileen Meier, Amanda Johnsen, and Michelle Strong. These honorees will be presented with the Crystal Bell Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association. This prestigious event will take place at the Andorra Restaurant and Banquets in Schererville, Indiana on May 8, 2007.

Margaret Hurt, from the Tri-Creek School Corporation, has been a superior role model to her students at Lowell High School for 26 years, where she has served as Social Studies Chair for 20 years. Margaret also serves as co-coach for the Lowell Spell Bowl team. She is always willing to give her time to prepare students for the future, mentor new teachers, and promote new projects that will improve her school.

Susan Kucharski has 29 years of experience as a teacher and is this year's recipient from the Lake Central School Corporation. Susan is currently a fourth grade teacher at Protsman Elementary School. She is known for her giving nature and always going the

extra mile. She serves on the PL 221 School Improvement Team and Safety Committee and also plays the piano for annual musicals.

This year's recipient of the Crystal Bell Award from the School Town of Highland is Amanda Johnsen. Amanda is a fourth grade teacher at Warren Elementary School, where she has taught for 9 years. She has given extended time in the K-Kids Program, a partnership with the Kiwanis Club to develop student leadership and community involvement. Amanda serves as the school's Parent Teacher Organization liaison and led the girls' baseball team to a tournament championship.

John Nawrocki, a math teacher at Taft Middle School for 32 years, has been a great asset to the Crown Point Community School Corporation. He has served as Math Chairperson and moderator of the Math Bowl, and he has also served on the NCA/School Improvement Committee and ISTEP Cut Off Committee for the State of Indiana. John always goes to great lengths to make himself available to his students and faculty.

Eileen Meier, this year's recipient from the School Town of Munster, has been teaching for the past 24 years. Her expertise lies with foreign language, having taught German at Munster High School for the past 8 years. Eileen challenges her students to broaden their horizons and go the distance in reaching their goals.

Faylene Altomere is known for her dedication and consistency as a great educator. Faylene, a 43-year veteran of the teaching profession, is this year's recipient from the Hanover School Corporation. Faylene is currently a teacher at Jane Ball Elementary School and has played an active role in the lives of students from three generations of some families.

Michelle Strong is this year's Crystal Bell recipient from the North Newton School Corporation. Michelle is a beloved military veteran and art teacher at Lincoln Elementary School. She has shared her strength, positive nature, and love of art throughout her community and her school.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding educators on being recipients of the 2006–2007 Crystal Bell Award. Their years of hard work have helped to shape the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people, and each of these outstanding educators is truly an inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATING THE VILLAGE  
OF SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL-  
LINOIS

**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 20, 2007*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Village of South Chicago Heights, Illinois on their Centennial Celebration. On its founding day, March 7, 1907, 150 citizens of Hannah and Keeney Subdivision voted to incorporate as the Village of South Chicago Heights.

The first permanent settlers in the area, Adam and Phoebe Brown of Ohio, built a home and opened a general store some 74

years earlier at the intersection of Sauk Trail and the old Hubbard Trail. "Brown's Corner" became a busy crossroads, first allegedly for the Underground Railroad, then later for wagons, stagecoaches, railroads, and automobiles.

One year after incorporating, the residents worked together to build the village's first school, the U.S. Grant School. As the village grew so did the budget and city services. The first year's budget was \$3,800, which was met by property taxes and three saloon licenses at \$500 each.

In its early days the village steadily grew as immigrants of Italian, Polish, German and other ancestries moved here to work in nearby factories, railroads, and local businesses. South Chicago Heights is still home to many of these families and businesses.

The village has had only 12 mayors in 100 years, including the Honorable David Owen, who has served as mayor since 1989. Mayor Owen has officially declared South Chicago Heights as a good place to live, to work, and to raise a family; and the Centennial gives all 4,000 citizens a special opportunity to take pride in our history and to celebrate our heritage. On May 7, 2007, during the Founders Day program, the Village will dedicate a new Village Clock to start the next 100 years.

I am proud to represent the Village of South Chicago Heights and I congratulate them on 100 years of service and I look forward to future celebrations.

HONORING GEORGE TORNEY, EX-  
ECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PYRAMID  
ALTERNATIVES

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 20, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor George Torney, who became the Executive Director of Pyramid Alternatives in the City of Pacifica on August 6, 1976, and has served San Mateo County for 31 years. Under his leadership and guidance, Pyramid expanded its horizons beyond alcohol to recognize addictive personalities as they relate to all substance abuse. Pyramid now frequently collaborates with the San Mateo County Health Department to address links between substance abuse and mental illness.

Although George Torney's work with Pyramid began in Pacifica, the organization itself has since branched out into nine school districts and serves the entire San Mateo County community through seven offices, offering services in five languages. Pyramid has offered a wide range of counseling and education in the fields of: substance abuse, domestic violence, anger, management, first and multiple drinking driver programs, parenting issues and senior adult Services.

Madam Speaker, Pyramid has become an essential partner in the Bridges Program, an intensive alcohol and drug day treatment program for men and women operated by San Mateo County Adult Probation, Superior Court and the County Sheriff. This exceptional program helps non-violent offenders transition back into their families and the community.

Madam Speaker, after three decades of dedicated service, George Torney is retiring and Janeen Smith is assuming the Executive

Director role of Pyramid Alternatives. It is with great respect and deepest appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing George Torney and Pyramid Alternatives.

IN HONOR OF BUDDY LAROSA AS HE RECEIVES THE TREE OF LIFE AWARD

**HON. JEAN SCHMIDT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Buddy LaRosa as he receives the Tree of Life humanitarian award on April 30, 2007 from the Jewish National Fund.

The Jewish National Fund has bestowed its highest honor, the Tree of Life award, annually since 1981. Recipients of this prestigious honor are chosen on the basis of outstanding community involvement, professional leadership and humanitarian service. Previous national recipients have included Hank Aaron, Archbishop Joseph Bernardin and Donald Trump.

The Tree of Life award was named to symbolize the Jewish National Fund's efforts to reclaim and develop the land of Israel from barren and uninhabitable land into a land of lush green forests and fields, productive farmlands and varied tourism and recreation facilities.

The Jewish National Fund is honoring Mr. LaRosa because of his outstanding community service, active civic involvement and ongoing dedication to helping those less fortunate.

This talented and generous man is the name behind one of Cincinnati's most recognized and beloved eateries, LaRosa's Restaurant. A lifelong native of Western Hills, Buddy opened his first pizzeria there in 1954 with a couple of partners, limited funds, and his Aunt Dena's recipe. Today, Buddy is known as the "Pizza King" and LaRosa's, with its 15 company-owned restaurants, 45 franchise locations across the region, and more than 1,500 employees, is a household name synonymous with great pizza.

Buddy's commitment to the youth in the Cincinnati area is legendary. Buddy has often said, "To live a full life, be a credit to my family and community, and touch young people so that one day they too may experience the joys I have had." This philosophy, combined with a strong work ethic, is no doubt the recipe to Buddy's success.

Buddy was inspired to give back to the youth of our community after a fire devastated his Western Hills restaurant in 1973. Hundreds of area high school students, through their sports coaches, helped to rebuild his restaurant in a record 40 days. As a way to fulfill his personal goal of giving back to students in the community, Buddy founded the Buddy LaRosa High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1975. The Hall of Fame has seven new inductees each year and honors 12 local high school students for their academic and athletic achievements. Today, this outstanding program is a cornerstone of our community and has touched the lives of countless young people.

Over the years, Buddy has generously given back through his involvement with the Cincinnati Golden Gloves for Youth Program and the Greater Cincinnati Police Athletic League.

Some of his other beneficiaries include various schools and charitable organizations such as Children's Hospital Medical Center, WCET-TV, and the Free Store Foodbank, Inc.

Buddy is a graduate of Roger Bacon High School and earned an associate degree in business technology. He also served his country in the United States Navy from 1948-1952. Buddy has been married to his wife, JoAnn Augustine, for 55 years and they have 4 children and 13 grandchildren.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate Buddy LaRosa on receiving the Tree of Life humanitarian award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FORT STANTON-SNOWY RIVER CAVE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ACT

**HON. STEVAN PEARCE**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area Act. This bill is a companion to legislation introduced by my state's Senior Senator, Mr. DOMENICI. Last year, the Senate passed this legislation but the House was unable to act on it before we recessed. It is my hope by introducing the bill today we can push the process along and get this legislation done this year.

The Fort Stanton Cave is a tremendous national resource, which includes a cave that has calcite flowing all along the cave formations. This truly rare resource deserves our protection. As the Representative of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, I am aware of how amazing cave formations can be and how valuable they are to educate and inspire our children.

This legislation does the following: (1) creates a Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave Conservation Area to protect, secure and conserve the natural and unique features of the Snowy River Cave; (2) instructs the BLM to prepare a map and legal description of the Snowy River Cave, and to develop a comprehensive, long-term management plan for the cave area; (3) authorizes the conservation of the unique features and environs in the cave for scientific, educational and other public uses deemed safe and appropriate under the management plan; (4) authorizes the BLM to work with State and other institutions and to cooperate with Lincoln County to address the historical involvement of the local community; (5) protects the caves from mineral and mining leasing operations.

This cave is a valuable resource that in time will share with us its many wonders, but to do that we must preserve this resource for the future. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting these important protections.

IN RECOGNITION OF HONOR FLIGHT MICHIGAN

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous gen-

erosity of Honor Flight Michigan, Inc. This organization's work to honor our veterans should be commended.

Honor Flight Michigan was founded in Royal Oak, Michigan by David Cameron and his wife Carole. After watching a report about a man in North Carolina who took World War II veterans to see their monument in Washington, DC, the couple was inspired to do the same. Realizing that many veterans lacked the funds or the ability to travel alone, Mr. Cameron made it his goal to take as many World War II veterans as he could to our nation's capital. Working closely with the Royal Oak American Legion Post 253, Honor Flight Michigan has begun its statewide effort to reach that goal.

This week, Honor Flight Michigan will be making its inaugural flight to Washington bringing 60 veterans to see the memorial they have waited 60 years to see. Mr. and Mrs. Cameron plan to take these trips monthly to ensure every veteran living today can see the memorial we have constructed to honor their bravery and sacrifice.

Out of the sixteen million who served in World War II, sadly only three million are alive today. In addition, we are losing them at a rate of twelve hundred a day. It is important that we let those veterans know the appreciation we have for them. Honor Flight Michigan does that, by treating these veterans as the heroes they are.

Today I salute Honor Flight Michigan for their tireless efforts on behalf of one of our nation's greatest assets, our veterans. When I look around this chamber and see the essence of our democracy I can't help but think of those who fought to ensure our freedom, our strength, and our democracy.

IN RECOGNITION OF EUGENE BAK

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eugene Bak for his outstanding efforts and devoted work to Polonia and America, and his tremendous amount of civic work for the benefit of the Polish American Cultural Center.

Gene and his family immigrated to the United States in 1952, after spending a total of seven years in deportation in Siberia as well as Polish refugee camps. He obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Seton Hall University and attended business programs at the University of Michigan, Harvard University and Syracuse University. Gene has spent his entire career in the chemical industry and retired as Board Director of OM Group (OMC) in 1999.

In 1982, Gene's affection for his beloved homeland led him to help the AmeriCares Foundation raise funds to ship medicine and medical supplies to the people of Poland. He has since been a vital asset to efforts to expanding Polish culture in the Cleveland area, and as cofounder and Executive Director of the Polish American Cultural Center he has refurbished facilities to house distinguished Polish speakers, artists, shows and displays. Under his leadership, the Polish Heritage Museum opened as part of the Cultural Center to celebrate Polish history, as well as the history of Polish Americans.