

had an opportunity to experience the benefits of the program firsthand. The inner workings of democracy and the legislative process fascinated me. The information and education I received during my visit as a student provided me with the foundation to be an active member of my community and engage in the civics process.

I rise today in appreciation of the Close-Up foundation on their 40th Anniversary and thank them for the opportunity they have provided to hundreds of thousands of students from across our great nation. I look forward to meeting with the many more students that will visit our nation's capitol in the future.

HONORING MARRAKECH, INC. ON  
ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2011*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today to join the many who have gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Marrakech, Inc., a wonderful organization dedicated to providing an array of services to persons with disabilities. This is a remarkable milestone for this very special organization.

Marrakech was founded in 1971 with the establishment of the first halfway house in Connecticut for women with mental retardation. What began as a pilot program has grown into a respected organization and recognized leader in the development of innovative programs and services for people with challenging behaviors, families with complex needs, youth who are at risk, and people without disabilities who are unemployed and underemployed.

Marrakech, Inc. began as a crusade to prove a point, the brainchild of two young Yale undergraduates, Susan Waisbren and Francie Brody. It was all because of a young woman named Valerie Chain who Susan had met through Yale Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Susan and Francie came to know Valerie's friends as well. They soon realized how capable these young New Haven women with mild mental retardation were, and how they would thrive in a halfway house. Thus began their mission of creating an environment which would highlight the talents of these women and promoted their ability to self direct their lives. Marrakech House opened as a summer pilot program and

eight young women, including Valerie, spent the summer in a sublet, supervised apartment on Crown Street. Forty years later, Marrakech, Inc. subscribes to a practice that assures that each person who is referred for services has a highly individualized service plan.

One of Marrakech, Inc.'s goals has always been normalization, achieving a level of independence that would allow all people to become more a part of the community. Susan once said, "Normalization does not mean merely adjusting to society's norms. It means educating the community to expand its definition of 'normal.'" Yet, after the first summer of Marrakech, she added, "We never really wanted normalization. We wanted something better. Too often, normalcy in our society means conformity and compromise. We strove for consciousness, tolerance, and imagination."

In its forty year history, Marrakech has transformed the lives of thousands. For all of the good work that they are doing in our community and in the lives of their clients, I am proud to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Marrakech, Inc. on their 40th anniversary. I have no doubt that this extraordinary organization will only continue to enjoy great success in all of their endeavors on behalf of our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. JEANNE  
M. FOX

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2011*

Mr. Pallone. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Jeanne M. Fox, Commissioner at New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. Ms. Fox is the recipient of The Arthur E. Armitage, Sr. Distinguished Alumni Award, presented by the Rutgers School of Law-Camden Alumni Association. The award will be presented at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration. Her continuous outpouring of service and dedication to the residents of New Jersey is undoubtedly worth of this body's recognition.

Jeanne Fox was first appointed to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) on January 15, 2002, and was later reconfirmed for a second term on March 16, 2009. She currently holds the prestigious title of Commissioner and has previously served as NJBPU

President. NJBPU has regulatory jurisdiction over telephone, electric, gas, water, wastewater and cable television companies. Through her role at NJBPU, Ms. Fox has worked to ensure that consumers have access to safe and reliable services at reasonable rates. Under Commissioner Fox's leadership, the NJBPU became a leader among states in developing clean energy policies and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency. Prior to her appointment to NJBPU, Ms. Fox served as a Regional Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy. She also remains an active member with various organizations, including the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) as a member of the Board of Directors, Chair of the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment and member of the electric Power Research Institute's Public Advisory Council on Smart Grid.

Jeanne Fox graduated cum laude from Douglass College, Rutgers University, and received a Juris Doctor from the Rutgers University School of Law-Camden, where she was a classmate and a close personal friend of mine. Since graduation, Ms. Fox has remained an engaged member of the Rutgers University Alumni Federation, the Associate alumnae of Douglass College and a Rutgers University alumni Trustee for two terms. She currently serves on the boards of the Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey and has served as President of the National Women's Political Caucus. Ms. Fox remains a valued member of the Women's Political Caucus of New Jersey Executive Board, providing valuable experience as its past President. The organization remains dedicated to increasing women's participating in the political process and increasing the number of progressive women in elected and appointed office. Jeanne's exceptional record of service and leadership continues to resonate with constituents throughout New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Jeanne Fox upon receiving The Arthur E. Armitage, Sr. Distinguished Alumni Award presented by the Rutgers School of Law-Camden Alumni Association. Her unyielding leadership and contributions has proven beneficial to residents of my district and throughout New Jersey.