

friend. He was a true gentleman, who touched many lives, and will be greatly missed by all those who knew him, including myself.

IN HONOR OF HONORABLE DENNIS  
P. COLLINS

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 25, 2002*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge the many accomplishments of Dennis P. Collins, who will be recognized Friday, January 25th, at Ireland's 32nd annual dinner dance to be held at the Hi-Hat Club in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Before becoming an elected official, Mr. Collins served in the United States Army; worked for the Tidewater Oil Company; the Edward F. Clarke Real Estate and Insurance Agency; and the Bayonne Water-Sewer Utility. He is a former Assistant Secretary Director of the New Jersey Real Estate Commission.

In 1962, Mr. Collins was elected to his first of three terms on the Municipal Council, two of which he served as Council President. He succeeded the late Mayor Francis G. Fitzpatrick in 1974 and served four terms as Mayor. He is the first individual to serve seven four-year consecutive terms in elective office and four consecutive four-year terms as Mayor in the history of Bayonne's municipal government.

Former Mayor Collins served as an aide to former Governor Tom Kean, United States Representative Dominic Daniels, Frank Guarini, and also served on my staff as a friend and trusted advisor. Since 1988, he served as an aide to Mayor Joseph V. Doria Jr. He has remained a part of Bayonne's public life for more than forty years.

Dennis Collins and the former Mary Bray celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on October 19, 2001; they have three lovely children as well as three wonderful grandchildren.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dennis P. Collins for his friendship, dedication, and enormous contributions on behalf of the residents of New Jersey.