

the 3rd Infantry Division, and the Marine Expeditionary Force during Operation Iraqi Freedom. They fought for nearly a year in the streets of Baghdad and Ramadhi.

Many of those soldiers returned in April 2004 and were quickly deployed last summer to assist Floridians throughout our state who were devastated by four hurricane strikes. They served for up to 70 days helping with our state-wide recovery effort.

A large number of the troops my wife Beverly and I met with today at Camp Shelby are eagerly volunteering for a return to Southwest Asia to serve with Task Force Phoenix after having served earlier tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The troops that deploy for this mission join 1,976 Florida Army Guard and 200 Florida Air Guard troops who are currently deployed overseas. Since 9/11, 6,980 of the Florida Guard's 12,000 soldiers and airmen have been activated overseas to join in the international war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor and a privilege to be with these soldiers today to see the spirit of pride and devotion with which they serve. They are America's Team that seeks to root out terrorists to protect our nation and our allies. Their motto is "From the Front!" which is where Florida's Guardsmen have found themselves over the almost 4 years that we have fought this international campaign against terrorists. Under the outstanding leadership of Florida's Adjutant General Douglas Burnett, the 53rd Brigade Combat Team is ready to carry out this latest mission to serve as ambassadors for freedom and peace overseas. They are a credit to our state, our Nation, and the United States Army.

HONORING FRANK PEPE PIZZERIA  
NAPOLETANA AS THEY CELEBRATE  
THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, early in the twentieth century, Frank Pepe, an Italian immigrant living in New Haven, created the first American pizza by putting tomatoes on top of old bake-shop bread. The creation was so popular that he opened America's first pizzeria on Wooster Street—and so the local legend of Pepe's pizza is recounted. Today, I am proud to stand and join the thousands of Pepe's fans across the Nation in extending my sincere congratulations to Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana and the Pepe Family as they celebrate their 80th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this New Haven institution!

When Frank and Filomena opened their pizzeria in 1925, pizza was not considered a delicacy or a treat that you found on every street corner—in fact, it was a peasant meal. With hard work, countless hours, and dedication the Pepe's created a successful business that carried themselves and their extended family through the Great Depression and allowed them to raise their two children, Elizabeth and Serafina (Betty and Sarah). Throughout the years, Pepe's popularity grew outside the Italian-American community of Wooster Street and for four generations enthusiastic cus-

tomers have returned with their own families. The excitement and loyalty of their customers has never wavered—a truth that is reflected in the long lines of anxious patrons that are a constant on Wooster Street.

In fact, Pepe's has even inspired other pizza entrepreneurs, the first of which was Frank's nephew Sal Consiglio who opened his own restaurant, Sally's, just steps from his uncle's restaurant. Years later another former employee opened Randy's Wooster Street Pizza Shop.

When Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana first opened in 1925, it was the dream of Frank and his wife Filomena to have a successful neighborhood business where friends and neighbors could gather. Frank and Filomena could have only dreamed of the success their small business has come to be. Four generations later, the business is still run by family and the walls are still adorned with family photos as well as those of Bill Murray, Meryl Streep, and Matthew Broderick—just a few of the stars who have dined at Pepe's in the past. Their pizza is legendary and the ambience is unforgettable—enjoyed by neighbors and celebrities alike. However, it is not just the pizza that make Pepe's such a special part of our community. It is the history and community spirit of Frank Pepe and his family that has made it a New Haven landmark.

Today, as they mark their 80th anniversary, it is not just a celebration of a successful family business, but of a thriving community treasure. It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to join Frank Pepe's children, Elizabeth and Serafina, grandchildren, Anthony, Francis, Lisa, Bernadette, Genevieve, Jennifer, and Gary, as well as their family, friends, and extended family of customers and fans as they celebrate this very special occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD  
COUNCIL

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize several members of my district who have given their time in support of Congressional Award program.

Since 1979, the Congressional Award program has encouraged young people around the Nation to learn about their community, their government and themselves. Taking part in the program, young men and women ages 14 through 23 challenge themselves to accomplish established goals in voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and an expedition. Participants earn bronze, silver and gold medals based on their levels of achievement. This is a non-competitive, highly individualized program allowing all young people, whether fit or disabled, affluent or disadvantaged, to get involved.

Within Florida's First District, I have had the unparalleled support of the Congressional Award Council, most recently led by Martha Krehely. This council is one of only four chartered in the nation and has been a backbone in nurturing the program over the last decade.

Mrs. Krehely, along with her husband Don, Ann Ball, Jacqueline Young, Margaret Restucher, James Sheffer, Lamar Smith, Thomas Gilliam, Honor Bell, Henry Giles and Jeff Weeks, have selflessly devoted hundreds of hours over the years to young men and women working to achieve their goals. Through their efforts the program has grown so that over 120 young adults are currently participating.

Their tireless commitment led to dozens of participants earning their bronze, silver and gold medals. As several members move on to other challenges, we can all be grateful for the strength and character they helped foster in the lives of our future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the First Congressional District's Congressional Award Council and wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
(ADAP) FUNDING

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, ADAP, and the dire need for increased funding to help meet the needs of Americans living with HIV and AIDS. This necessary program provides medication to under and uninsured HIV/AIDS patients. Without ADAP, these people would not be able to obtain the necessary medication to prolong and improve their lives.

Every year since its inception, the number of people helped by ADAP has increased dramatically. While we are all aware of the limited resources this committee has been given to meet its many pressing needs, the ADAP program is simply and urgently a matter of life and death for over 136,000 Americans each year.

ADAP has been given a \$10 million increase in this year's appropriations bill over last year, but the reality is that to keep pace with current and anticipated patient needs, ADAP requires a funding increase of \$303 million. Without this funding, some 25,000–35,000 HIV+ Americans who may have relied on ADAP will not be able to this year.

In my home state of New York, where more than 22,000 people are enrolled in ADAP each year, I know first-hand the importance of the ADAP program. New York has been particularly hard-hit by the AIDS epidemic, with more than 160,000 residents diagnosed with AIDS, and 150,000 to 200,000 persons currently living with HIV/AIDS. The state government has been extremely supportive of ADAP, appropriating \$60 million for 2005 to supplement the federal program.

Despite New York's statewide commitment, there are dozens of states that find themselves unable to keep up with the demand for coverage under ADAP. As documented in the National ADAP Monitoring Report, some states are being forced to take drastic measures to offset the federal funding shortfall, including establishing waiting lists for AIDS medications, reducing drug coverage, and restricting eligibility.