CONGRATULATING MS. BONNY BEACH ON RECEIVING THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AWARD

HON. ED PASTOR
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Bonny Beach, Executive and Clinical Director of NDNS4Wellness at the American Indian Prevention Coalition, Inc., in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ms. Beach was recently named one of ten recipients of the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program Award, considered the nation’s highest honor for community health leadership. She will receive $120,000 for her work in preventing substance abuse in Native American youth.

Substance abuse and its associated health problems have had a devastating impact on the Native American population. Phoenix has the second largest Native American population in the U.S., with more than twenty-one tribes represented in the city and surrounding areas. Some 75,000 Native Americans reside in Maricopa County, where Ms. Beach’s organization is located.

Ms. Beach is a Native American who has seen firsthand the pain and destruction that substance abuse has exacted on her community. Tired of attending funerals resulting from an epidemic of alcoholism and substance abuse among Native Americans, she became determined to have a positive impact on her community. In 1997, she helped to establish the American Indian Prevention Coalition, an intertribal nonprofit organization that works with Native American youth and their families to improve the quality of life for indigenous people.

In 2000, she developed the NDNS4Wellness Behavioral Health Agency. NDNS4Wellness employs more than fifty Native Americans, providing culturally respectful prevention, educational, and counseling services through school-based programs. It also offers substance abuse treatment to some thirty Jews and housed twelve Jews within their own home. Between the ages of twelve and nineteen, Mr. Bosma showed great valor through his assistance in the Dutch resistance.

Yad Vashem honors both the heroism and tragedy of the Holocaust for those generations where World War II is a distant history lesson. It gives a memorial and a name to the millions of men, women, and children who lost their lives for their religion and culture. Yad Vashem provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the men and women who represent the best of the human spirit, living by principles and convictions, acting heroically in the face of adversity, and finding value in all human life.

Marinus, I offer you and your family my respect for your actions during World War II. Congratulations on receiving this prestigious award.

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boston Yacht Club (BYC) of Marblehead, Massachusetts, which this year is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Marblehead-to-Halifax Ocean Race. The race began in 1905 as an informal competition among sailors from the Boston, Eastern and New York Yacht Clubs. In 1939, the Boston Yacht Club joined with the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron to formalize this biennial event. The race is run on alternate years from the Newport Bermuda Race, as one of the premier ocean races of the North Atlantic. The course runs 360 nautical miles from Marblehead through the Gulf of Maine, across the Bay of Fundy and up to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

There are few sailing sights as thrilling as the Marblehead-to-Halifax Ocean Race, which traditionally begins the second week in July. More than 100 spectator boats look on as the race goes out, answered positively and enthusiastically and gave generously: Hank Hernandez, CEO of Las Palmas and Del Sol Healthcare; Doug Matney, CEO of Sierra Providence Health Network; Jim Valenti, CEO of Thomason Hospital; Jerry Wilson, District Manager of the Walgreen Company; Gerald Rubin, President and CEO of Helen of Troy; and Scott Wells of Cardinal Health.

Sadly, our world is plagued by terrorism, the war in Iraq, and now the mounting death toll and devastation caused by the tsunami in South Asia. However, the collective outpouring of compassion and quick action from across the globe to aid those in this time of overwhelming need is cause for hope.

El Paso has also shown that it is committed to assisting the tsunami victims and helping them rebuild their lives. Our entire community should be proud of our contributions to this effort.

HON. SILVESTRE REYES
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express our Nation’s gratitude for the El Paso community, which provided generous donations and assistance to help rebuild the lives of those hurt by the massive tsunami that crashed ashore in South Asia on December 26, 2004.

Just a few weeks after the Asian tsunami, I traveled to South Asia with colleagues from the House Armed Services Committee and the House International Relations Committee. As part of that trip, we traveled to Indonesia to deliver medical supplies to help contribute to the relief effort and assist those touched by the tragedy.

The most crucial component of this mission in Indonesia—providing medical supplies—would not be a reality without the charitable donations of numerous El Paso hospitals, organizations and individuals. Through their contributions—which amounted to nearly one ton of supplies such as gauze, surgical masks, syringes and antibiotics—the El Paso community has made a direct contribution to the relief efforts.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the following individuals who, when the call for supplies went out, answered positively and enthusiastically and gave generously: Hank Hernandez, CEO of Las Palmas and Del Sol Healthcare; Doug Matney, CEO of Sierra Providence Health Network; Jim Valenti, CEO of Thomason Hospital; Jerry Wilson, District Manager of the Walgreen Company; Gerald Rubin, President and CEO of Helen of Troy; and Scott Wells of Cardinal Health.