

In an effort to address the neighborhood's concerns about crime and gang activity, Monsignor Moretta took the lead in bringing the successful Project CLEAR anti-gang program to Boyle Heights. I remember well when Monsignor Moretta first approached me about obtaining the federal funding needed to start and maintain the program. Monsignor Moretta explained that he was very concerned about our community because he was increasingly attending funeral services for those killed in gang-related violence, including the funerals of innocent bystanders caught in the line of fire.

Today, through intelligence-gathering, visible community patrols, gang-related arrests, and the investigation of gang-related crimes, the officers in the CLEAR Unit are credited with reducing crime in the area. The officers also work closely with school officials to reduce gang activity and local gang-intervention organizations to divert "at-risk" youth from gang involvement.

Monsignor Moretta has also led efforts to protect our children and families from a number of projects that raised significant health and safety concerns in the community.

Under his guidance, the Mothers of East Los Angeles (MELA) was formed in the 1980s to bring the community together to protest the building of a state prison. As part of this effort, Monsignor Moretta led 200 Latina mothers on a lobbying mission to Sacramento where they successfully voiced their concerns about the proposed prison with the governor and state legislators.

Ever since then, on behalf of the community's ongoing quest for social and environmental justice, Monsignor Moretta, in coordination with MELA and other local leaders, has worked to ward off other harmful projects. They have been at the forefront of efforts to stop the expansion of a plant that recycles petroleum and battery acids. They joined forces to oppose the siting of a toxic incinerator. And, most recently, they have been organizing to protest the proposed construction of a power plant that will increase toxic emissions in the area.

In addition to environmental causes, Monsignor Moretta and the Mothers of East Los Angeles have joined forces to bring stability and pride to neighborhoods through homeownership. They worked together to make low-income housing units available to area families. They also established the Boyle Heights Resident Homeowners Association and the Mothers of East Los Angeles Home Ownership Center to provide information and resources to help families become first-time homeowners.

Madam Speaker, on the occasions of Monsignor Moretta's 40th Anniversary of ordination and his 25th Anniversary as pastor of Resurrection Church, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Monsignor Moretta—or Father John as the community lovingly refers to him—on both of these significant anniversaries and, above all, in thanking him for his tireless advocacy on behalf of the Boyle Heights community.

BP'S 2008 A+ FOR ENERGY
TEACHERS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend twenty-five local educators from Northwest Indiana who have been recognized for their outstanding achievements in promoting energy education and conservation through innovative classroom activities. These individuals will be honored as part of BP's A+ for Energy program at a very special luncheon that will take place at the Radisson Star Plaza Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana, on Monday, July 21, 2008.

BP's A+ for Energy program, being offered in Indiana for the second year, recognizes community educators who have gone above and beyond to bring real-world, innovative ideas into our schools, allowing students to become involved in classroom, after-school, extra-curricular, or summer activities that will not only challenge and enrich their lives, but will also teach them the importance of energy conservation.

The twenty-five individuals selected as the winning A+ for Energy teachers, based on their grant submissions, were chosen by two independent panels of experts in the fields of education, science, and the environment. Each recipient will be awarded a cash grant of either \$5,000 or \$10,000 to take back to their schools, as well as a scholarship to attend a three-day energy training conference sponsored by BP, in partnership with the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). It is estimated that more than 8,400 students will benefit from these grants.

This year's A+ for Energy honorees are: Karen Augustyn of Tolleston Middle School in Gary (Project P.O.W.E.R.—Providing Our World with Energy Resources), Patricia Casella of Jefferson Elementary School in Hammond (Experience Energy! Talk It, Live It, Touch It, Share It), Stanley Casella of Montessori Academy in the Oaks in Hobart (The Elementary Energy News Network), Barbara Cerwinski of Saint John the Evangelist School in Saint John (SJE is Hot About Global Warming), Dr. Charles Costa of the Northwest Indiana Education Service Center in Highland (TREE: Transforming the Region through Energy Enrichment), Edna Crittenden-Gregory of Roosevelt High School in Gary (Energy-Wise Conservation Calendar), Michelle Frantal of Forest Ridge Academy in Schererville (Saving Two by Two), Dana Hoeckelberg of Forest Ridge Academy (The Energy K'Nexition Club), Susan Labovic of Forest Ridge Academy (Now Broadcasting . . . Electricity), Kathryn Midkiff of Gavitt Middle/High School in Hammond (Green Circle Project), Mary Moriarty of Gavitt Middle/High School (Renewable Energy), Sandra Platt of Lake Central High School in Saint John (Lake Central High School—Blue Goes Green), Thomas Puplava of the Diocese of Gary Catholic Schools in Merrillville (Energy from the Sun), Jill Sayers of Lake Prairie Elementary School in Lowell (Art and the Science of Energy: A Fusing of Concepts), Glenn Smith of Forest Ridge Academy (Super Solar Power at Our Indianapolis

500), Elva Sotello of Whiting Middle School in Whiting (Working for a Joule), Mary Beth Tabaczynski of Edison Elementary School in Hammond (Exploring the Power of the Wind), Georgia Veneziano of Our Lady of Grace School in Highland (Energy Dilemma: The Answer is Blowin' in the Wind), Jay Drew of Portage High School in Portage (The Biology of Alternative Fuels), Monica Hargarten of Liberty Elementary School in Chesterton (Exploring Energy), Lisa Hughes of Saint Patrick School in Chesterton (Solar Energy and the Greenhouse Effect), Angela Reyes of ALLWays Learning Child Development Center in Valparaiso (CampALLWays Energized), Christine Robbins of Hebron Elementary School in Hebron (Today's Students—Tomorrow's Consumers), Jean Sienkowski of Central Elementary School in Valparaiso (The Central Energy Academy), and Melody Winnell of Junior Junction Childcare in Portage (Rain Garden and Solar Greenhouse).

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding, innovative educators on their recognition as BP's 2008 A+ for Energy teachers. Their hard work and creativity have played and will continue to play a major role in shaping the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people, as well as in bringing to the forefront the importance of energy conservation.

HONORING MARIAN ORFEO

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marian Orfeo, a constituent from Lynnfield, Massachusetts and Director of Planning & Coordination with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), on being named the new President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). Marian will assume the Presidency at NACWA's Annual Conference, which convenes in Anchorage, Alaska this week.

Ms. Orfeo has served the MWRA in varying capacities for nearly two decades. The MWRA provides wholesale water and sewer services to 2.5 million people in sixty-one communities across eastern and central Massachusetts, including several in the sixth congressional district. As the Director of Planning and Coordination, her responsibilities include long-range planning to construct and renew MWRA's water and wastewater facilities and infrastructure as well as short-term strategic business planning for all agency functions.

Marian also manages the Authority's performance reporting system and is a member of the Steering Committee for the MetroFuture initiative of the Boston Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Over her career, Ms. Orfeo has demonstrated leadership and committed countless hours and tireless energy to efforts dedicated to the improvement of Boston's water quality and public health. As a result, she has earned the trust and respect of her peers, who recognize her as an environmental champion.

Marian Orfeo's public service career predates her twenty years of service with the MWRA. She previously worked for the City of