

Through this type of research, scientists can now account for about 30 percent of isolated cleft lip. Researchers supported by NIH's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) are working to identify the causes of cleft lip, develop better ways of treating clefts, and provide information on whether they might occur again in a family. Hopefully, better prevention strategies can also be an outcome of this work. Through continued research, American families can look forward to prevention of cleft lip and palate.

This is just one example of how the research funded with taxpayer dollars at the NIH is improving the health and well-being of all Americans.

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TRIBUTE TO FRED BARON

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of one of my long time friends, Fred Baron.

Widely known as one of the best trial lawyers in America, Fred Baron dedicated his life to making sure fairness was represented in the law and that the rights of the marginalized could not be trampled over. He was truly a champion of the working man, spending his whole career representing workers who had developed occupational illnesses. He was a pioneer in uncovering the harm that asbestos exposure causes.

I was most proud of Fred Baron when he advocated on behalf of several hundred children in the west Dallas section of my district who lived near a lead smelter that polluted their neighborhood. Thanks to his efforts not only were those families able to move, but the area has now been cleaned and is being made once again livable.

Fred Baron will long be known for the charitable work he and his wife were committed to. In 2002 he and his wife Lisa founded the Baron and Blue Foundation to help nonprofit organizations fight the problems of homelessness and displacement. The foundation was exceptionally helpful in helping many of the hurricane evacuees Dallas has seen in the last few years. Fred even spent many days after Hurricane Katrina consoling and counseling the victims who had made their way to Dallas, bringing them food, toiletries, and helping them out however he could.

Madam Speaker, Frederick Martin Baron is survived by his wife Lisa Blue-Baron, his son Andrew; daughter Courtney and her husband Brad Singer and their daughter Liza; daughters Alessandra, Caroline, and Nathalie; brother Robert and sister Joan; and the countless others he touched in the years he spent with us.

CONGRATULATING DR. ROHIT T. AGGARWALA AND THE CITY OF NEW YORK FOR RECEIVING THE "FRIEND OF THE ENVIRONMENT AWARD"

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Rohit T. Aggarwala, the Director of New York City's Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability, within New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Office of Operations, for receiving the prestigious "Friend of the Environment Award" from the Alley Pond Environmental Center (APEC) on November 13th, 2008. APEC, located in Douglaston, Queens, is a superb educational center committed to environmental understanding and awareness. Rit, as he is known by his friends and colleagues, is at the forefront of Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC initiative, a sweeping sustainability plan for New York City's future.

A native of New York City, Dr. Aggarwala holds a BA, MBA, and PhD from Columbia University, as well as an MA from Queen's College in Ontario. Prior to joining the City government, Dr. Aggarwala worked at the Federal Railroad Administration, and currently chairs a subcommittee at the Transportation Research Board, which is part of the National Academy of Science. He is the author of several articles about transportation policy and about the history of New York City.

Under Rit's leadership as Director, New York City's Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability is implementing a long-term sustainability plan to ensure New York City's continued prosperity, growth, and health. On Earth Day, 2007 the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability released PlaNYC, which included 127 separate initiatives to protect New York's future, including: housing an additional 1 million New Yorkers affordably; increasing access to parks, playgrounds and open spaces; reclaiming brownfields; developing critical backup systems for the aging water network to ensure reliability; providing additional reliable power sources and upgrading existing power plants; and reducing water pollution so we can open the City's amazing waterways for recreation.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Aggarwala and New York City's Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability for all of its hard work and dedication promoting sound environmental building practices, and for helping New York City lead the world as a Green global citizen.

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HONORING RYAN MICHAEL CURTIS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Michael Curtis of Kansas City, Missouri. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica, Troop 1247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Michael Curtis for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
RONALD G. MARMO

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of a great man, Hon. Ronald G. Marmo, who will retire after more than forty-one years at the Passaic County Courthouse. He will be honored on November 17, 2008 by his friends and colleagues for his outstanding service to the community.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for he has a long history of dedication and commitment to his community.

Judge Marmo was born in my hometown, Paterson, New Jersey, on June 8, 1942, to Tony and Rose Marmo. He grew up in the Stony Road section of Paterson, and attended St. Bonaventure Elementary School, and then went on to St. Bonaventure High School. Throughout his years at St. Bon's, he was taught by Franciscan nuns and priests, who instilled values and imparted teachings that served him well throughout his careers.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rutgers University, and a Juris Doctorate degree from Seton Hall Law School. Following graduation, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Gordon H. Brown, Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey Criminal Division in Passaic County. Upon completion of his clerkship, he was appointed an Assistant Prosecutor in the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. He served in that office for twenty-two years, under five different County Prosecutors. In 1970, he was designated Chief Trial Counsel and in 1975 he was appointed Chief of the Trial Section, a position he held for fifteen years.

Notwithstanding his supervisory position, his primary role throughout his years with the Prosecutor's office was as a trial attorney. He served as the State's attorney in hundreds of jury trials including dozens of homicide cases. He tried two lengthy capital cases which each resulted in a jury verdict of the death penalty. He was commonly assigned the trials of the most celebrated cases. Governor Jim Florio appointed him Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey in 1990. Judge Marmo was assigned to the Civil Division for two years, and later for two years to the Family Division. Otherwise, Judge Marmo was primarily assigned to the Criminal Division. He served for ten years as the municipal prosecutor for the Borough of North Haledon, as well as serving ten