CONGRATULATING CIARA PETRONZIO ON HER PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ciara Petronzio, recipient of the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. This award recognizes Ciara’s outstanding leadership achievements and her contributions to improving the conditions of sick and abused animals in Arizona.

Ciara has volunteered for Rescue A Golden, an organization devoted to rescuing and providing care to golden retrievers left homeless in Arizona. She has helped ensure that a countless number of golden retrievers have been given the love and attention that they have lacked throughout their short lives. By taking the dogs on walks and giving them their needed medication, Ciara has truly made a difference in their lives.

Her passion for helping animals began at an early age as her family lost a valued member of their family when they had to put their dog to sleep. Her enthusiasm and excitement has made it possible for sheltered dogs to receive the necessary care and help that they require.

A community’s quality of life is determined by many factors, such as the policies set by city government and the programs available to its citizens. However, I believe that a community rises and falls on the shoulders of its citizens, and the contributions they make to that community. Ciara exemplifies this commitment and raises the bar for everyone around her.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ciara Petronzio’s continued work and advocacy for sick and abused golden retrievers in Arizona.

HONORING THE MTA LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the MTA Long Island Rail Road, LIRR, for 175 years of service to Long Island and the surrounding metropolitan area. As a subsidiary of New York State’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the LIRR has been an essential component to the development of Long Island communities and has served as a gateway into the economic growth of the region.

Chartered in 1834, the LIRR continues to be the oldest railroad in the United States still operating under its original name. Connecting communities stretching from Montauk, on the east end of Long Island, to Penn Station, in the heart of Manhattan, the LIRR serves 124 stations in Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan; and with 700 miles of track on 11 different branches, the Long Island railroad is the busiest commuter railroad in North America, serving over 87 million customers annually.

Throughout its 175 years, the LIRR has been a vital component of the New York metropolitan region’s transportation infrastructure, leading to the development of the Long Island communities it serves. Without the LIRR trains, more than 100,000 additional cars would use the roads into New York City each weekday.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to acknowledge and thank the Long Island Rail Road and wish them the best of luck in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GIUSEPPE PETROSINO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Lt. Detective Giuseppe Petrosino on the 100th anniversary of his death. Lt. Detective Petrosino was a pioneer in the fight against organized crime, and was the first New York City Police officer to be killed on foreign soil.

An emigrant from Padula, Italy, Petrosino joined the New York City Police Department on October 18, 1883. His relentless pursuit of gangsters and the mafia garnered him the reputation of being one of the most intense lawmen of the day. Petrosino was the architect of many programs designed to combat organized crime. These programs, including the Bomb Squad, the Canine Squad, and the Undercover Squad, are all techniques that are still used today.

In 1895, Theodore Roosevelt, who was at the time the police commissioner of New York City, promoted Petrosino to Detective Sergeant in charge of the department’s Homicide Division. He became the first Italian-American to lead this division. In 1908, he was promoted to Lieutenant and headed the Italian Squad, which was an elite corps of Italian-American detectives organized to deal with gangster criminal activities.

Lt. Detective Petrosino’s service with the Italian Squad was exemplary. In one instance, Petrosino countered a blackmail attempt on the life of the famous Italian tenor, Enrico Caruso. In another instance, Petrosino infiltrated the Italian based anarchist organization that assassinated King Umberto I of Italy. During this mission, he discovered evidence that the organization intended to assassinate President William McKinley during his trip to Buffalo. Petrosino’s warning to the Secret Service went unheeded, and President McKinley was tragically assassinated.

Lt. Detective Petrosino’s service led him to Italy on a top secret mission. Petrosino’s commendable career came to a tragic end, when he was murdered while waiting for who he thought was an informant.

The day of his burial in New York City was declared a holiday to allow citizens to pay their respects. The Manhattan funeral was attended by 250,000 people, a true testament to the honorable service Petrosino paid his community.

On this anniversary of his passing, I remember and applaud the dedication with which Lt. Detective Petrosino protected the citizens of New York. I am proud to honor him today.

HONORING RICHARD A. BERMAN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Richard A. Berman, the tenth President of Manhattanville College located in Purchase, New York. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Richard Berman has spent his career serving his community at the federal, state, and local levels. Before joining Manhattanville College, Mr. Berman served as executive vice president of the New York University Medical Center and was appointed to 2 New York State cabinet positions by Governor Hugh Carey.

In 1995, Manhattanville College was in financial trouble. Unable to meet its obligations and running annual shortfalls triple the size of its endowment, the college’s buildings were in disarray and low enrollment left dormitories half empty. Under Richard Berman’s passionate and pragmatic leadership, the college has more than doubled its enrollment, balanced its books, and earned top-tier recognition in college ranking guides.

In a 2003 article entitled “The Man Who Turned Manhattanville Around,” The New York Times recognized Richard Berman as a driv—er behind the revitalization of Manhattanville College. Within a decade, the college was transformed from a failing institution into a thriving, top-rated undergraduate liberal arts college committed to offering its students a rigorous academic experience within a nurturing and diverse environment. Later this year, Richard Berman will retire from Manhattanville College, leaving it a stronger and more sustainable institution than he found it.

Never one to limit his efforts to his local community, Richard Berman has projected his passion for peace and mutual understanding around the world. As chairman of the board of Seeds of Peace, he has worked to empower young leaders from regions of conflict with the leadership skills to work toward reconciliation and lasting peace. He has also provided strategic planning and leadership training at Kabale University in Africa, the only secular university in Uganda’s Western Region.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my friend Richard A. Berman for his remarkable service to the revitalization of Manhattanville College and his lifelong commitment to enriching the lives of others. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.