

the 1870s on the heels of political turmoil in Poland.

According to the Texas State Historical Association Houston there were 55,000 people of Polish descent in Houston in 2000. Aspects of the Polish culture are important to Houston's heritage and are celebrated in our annual Polish Festival and Polish Film Festival. Houston is also the home to a Polish consulate. I am proud to support this resolution as an acknowledgement of Houston's enduring ties with Poland.

The relationship between the United States and Poland was first formally established in the wake of World War I. In 1919, the U.S. and the newly-formed Polish Republic established diplomatic ties creating a formal relationship between governments that also served to symbolize the shared cultural heritage. Twenty years ago, communism fell in Poland and was replaced with a democratic government and market economy. While the relationship between the U.S. and Poland was at times difficult under communism, the spirit of mutualism and desire for cultural exchange endured. The Fulbright Educational Exchange Program began in Poland in 1959 allowing students from both sides of the Iron Curtain to maintain and grow our shared heritage.

In the 20 years since the fall of communism, Poland has also developed into a strong ally for our country. In 1999, Poland joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, cementing our shared military interest. Poland has been a strong diplomatic and military ally in our struggle against terrorism across the globe by contributing troops to U.S.-led coalitions. Poland has also demonstrated its close ideological relationship with the United States through joint efforts on democratization, nuclear proliferation, human rights, Eastern European affairs, and reforming the United Nations. The United States and Poland have a strong relationship and I am proud to support this resolution celebrating the 90 years of diplomatic relations.

"FRIENDS OF THE FISHING
INDUSTRY"

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I have never learned more in my life than I have learned since 1992 when at the vote of the Massachusetts Legislature, the city of New Bedford and the town of Fairhaven were included in the congressional district I represent. These two communities together form the most successful fishing port in the U.S., and that industry enriches New Bedford and the surrounding areas not just economically but culturally and socially as well.

One of the leaders in that industry is Jim Kendall, a fisherman himself who has served in a number of important posts in helping preserve that industry and protect it against adversity.

He recently wrote an eloquent introduction to the announcement of the Friend of the Fishing Industry Award, which was presented to two men to whom the Greater New Bedford Area is greatly indebted: Raymond and Richard Canastra.

These two brothers have, as Jim Kendall's statement points out, been extremely creative in providing support for this industry. The work they have done for the open display auction confounded many skeptics who thought that it would never work, but their success in New Bedford has in fact been so widely hailed that it's led to the recent opening of a similar facility in Boston, helping revive a fishing port that had been declining to some extent.

Madam Speaker, I join Jim Kendall and others in the fishing industry and subsidies in Massachusetts in thanking Ray and Richie Canastra for their work and I ask that Jim Kendall's statement be printed here as an example of the kind of economic leadership individuals can provide to their community.

OFFSHORE MARINERS

WIVES' ASSOCIATION,

September 27, 2009.

INTRODUCTION OF 2009'S "FRIENDS OF THE
FISHING INDUSTRY"

This year's award to the Friend of the Fishing Industry is a bit different as we are proud to announce that the award is going to not just one, but two individuals. Not only have they contributed to the fishing industry here in New Bedford, but their efforts have extended throughout New England.

It's not often that you find two people who have come so far in a relatively short period of time, and who have returned so much to the industry that they obviously care so much about. Their innovation and foresight has not only proven to be a sound business venture for them, but a boon and stabilizing factor for the Greater New Bedford fishing fleet. It hasn't stop there either, their fortitude and determination now has extended to the ports of Gloucester and Boston.

They pioneered the concept of the open display auction here in New Bedford at a time and place when many of us doubted it could succeed. In 1985 through 1986 the industry had gone through a traumatic strike that changed the way business had been done for many years. The New Bedford seafood auction ceased to exist, and a buyers auction that replaced it, had also closed its doors. The industry was in turmoil, with little or no sense of balance that had existed for years before. The sale of a trip was as hard and as uncertain, as was the fishing trip itself.

They felt that an open display auction could work and benefit the fishermen, and the port of New Bedford, and they set about to prove it. It wasn't easy, it never is trying to convince people that there is a better way to do their business, business that they had been doing in basically the same way for years. They have proven that they were right, and the New Bedford fishing industry has benefited greatly because of it. The auction has provided stability to the sale of fresh fish and scallops, along with the recognition that New Bedford is still the port to go to for your best seafood.

Their efforts in beginning the auction and the continued developments, have helped the port of New Bedford regain the title of the richest fishing port in the country, and continues to help us maintain that distinction.

Recently they opened another display auction in the port of Boston, that is attracting fishing vessels to a port that was all but abandoned by the fishing industry. This is in direct contradiction to what has been occurring elsewhere, with the devastating changes for other ports that have lost not only their auctions, but their fishing industries and communities.

Their involvement has deepened over the years with them becoming deeply involved with the management process and fishery

science. Working with, most notably, Drs. Brian Rothschild and Kevin Stokesbury from the School for Marine Science and Technology at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. They have also helped to organize the fishermen not only here in New Bedford, but in Gloucester as well.

What may turn out to be one of their most important innovations is the Project to Save Seafood and Ocean Resources, along with its associated website, Savingseafood.org.

At a time when information is king, providing factual and unadulterated information to the American public is crucial. There is a desperate need to show the American consumer the value of New Bedford seafood, and the efforts that the New Bedford and New England fishermen have taken in order to provide them with healthy seafood. There is also a need to inform the consumer how we are striving to provide them their healthy seafood in a safe and sustainable manner. The American consumer and public also needs to know what the fishermen and their industry has gone through in order to bring this to them. I encourage you to visit the website at www.savingseafood.org.

Richie lives in North Dartmouth, with his wife Roberta, and their two lovely daughters, Sophia, and Noella. Raymond lives in Rochester with his wife Debbie and their two children Cassie and Kyler.

It gives me great pleasure to present "The Friend of the Fishing Industry Award" to two men whom I'm proud to have worked with over the years, my friends; Raymond and Richard Canastra.

A TRIBUTE TO JACK LEFKOWITZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jack Lefkowitz for his record of extraordinary service to New York's Tenth Congressional District.

Jack Lefkowitz is the President and Chief Executive Officer of New York MedScan, providing high quality diagnostic imaging services in a comfortable hospital outpatient environment. He greatly contributes to the quality of life for Brooklyn's neediest patients, working through the organization Yad Ephraim to prepare and deliver home-cooked meals tailored to the needs of each patient. Mr. Lefkowitz chairs Maskil El Dat, providing financial aid, meals, transportation, babysitting, and emotional support for impoverished Jewish families. I applaud Jack Lefkowitz's philanthropic activities, contributing both professionally and privately in our communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jack Lefkowitz.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HAR-
LEM'S BELOVED THORNTON J.
MEACHAM, JR., ESQ. A TRAIL-
BLAZER FOR AFRICAN-AMERI-
CANS, LAWYERS AND LEGAL
PROFESSIONALS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great pride as I pay tribute to my dear friend