

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOSEPH
BALCHUNAS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Joseph Balchunas, a fourth-grade teacher at Fairway Elementary School in Miramar, Florida. On May 18, 2000, the Florida Department of Education and the Burdines Corporation acknowledged his innovative teaching style by naming him Florida Teacher of the Year. I would like to congratulate Joseph on this tremendous honor, and thank him for serving as a positive role model for the students of Fairway Elementary.

With over 130,000 public school teachers statewide, only one person is recognized as Florida's Teacher of the Year. To select the one educator that epitomizes the ability to teach and communicate with students, the Florida Department of Education appoints a selection committee of teachers, principals, parents, and businessmen. This year the selection committee recognized Joseph for his innovative teaching philosophy, for his exemplary school and community service, and most importantly for his ability to inspire a love of learning in students of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Joseph has been teaching for only five years, making him, at age 28, a neophyte in the long list of educators who have previously been acknowledged as Teacher of the Year. A native of New York City, Joseph attended Nova Southeastern University and began teaching at Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary in Davie before moving to his current position at Miramar's Fairway Elementary School. Throughout his short term of service in Broward County, Joseph has proven himself to be a hero in the eyes of his students, speaking to them on a level they can understand. Indeed, he has found a balance between teacher, authority figure, and friend—a balance that makes active learning fun for everyone involved.

Educators statewide will benefit from this amazing South Florida teacher as Joseph serves as an ambassador for the Florida Department of Education throughout the next year. In this role, Joseph will tour the state and share his methodology with others. This award also qualifies him to be considered for the honor of National Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my Florida colleagues will join me in praising Mr. Joseph Balchunas for all of the wonderful things he is doing to help the youth of South Florida. I would like to congratulate Joseph, along with the students and parents of his fourth-grade class, on this amazing accomplishment. Indeed, Fairway Elementary School and the Broward County School Board should be very proud of Joseph

for the good work he is doing. In summary, I wish Joseph all the best in his future endeavors, and I thank him for his extraordinary work of positively influencing the youth of South Florida.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI DR. EUGENE
MARKOVITZ

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a remarkable person, Rabbi Dr. Eugene Markovitz of Clifton, New Jersey, who will be recognized on Sunday, June 11, 2000 because of his 50 years of service as the spiritual leader of the Clifton Jewish Center. It is only fitting that he be honored, for he has a long history of caring, generosity and commitment to others.

Rabbi Markovitz was recognized for his many years of leadership in Clifton, which I have been honored to represent in Congress since 1997, and so it is only fitting that these words are immortalized in the annals of this greatest of all freely elected bodies.

The 50-year relationship between Rabbi Eugene Markovitz and his congregation has added much to the rich history of the State of New Jersey. In addition, it has provided many years of friendship and leadership to the Clifton and Passaic Jewish communities and the community at-large.

Born in Romania, Rabbi Markovitz moved to America when he was 15 years old. His father, already living in the United States, brought him to this country along with his mother and five siblings. His father was a rabbi in Lexington, Massachusetts. Later in 1938, the family moved to New York. During these early years he worked at Wilson's meat packers. He spent most of his youth in Coney Island.

At Yeshiva University in New York, Rabbi Markovitz received both his bachelors and doctorate degrees. After he was ordained he worked as a student rabbi in Dover, New Hampshire. It was the small steps in the beginning of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make him a role model to the people that he now serves.

In 1950, the Rabbi moved to Clifton with his wife Klara. The two lived in Middle Village. Working together with 60 to 75 other families he helped create a new Jewish congregation in Clifton. The Clifton Jewish Center's popularity grew throughout the years. Often attracting 50 to 100 new members a year. People came from Passaic, Paterson, Newark and New York.

Services for the Jewish Center used to be held in the Grand Union on Clifton Avenue and junior congregation services were in the

Clifton Theater. In the 1950s the Hebrew School increased in size dramatically, so the building was expanded in 1958. The Jewish Center reached its peak in the late 1960s and early 1970s with 350 children attending Hebrew School each year.

The congregation under the leadership of Rabbi Markovitz has had many significant achievements. First, the Hebrew School helped to produce six rabbis. In addition, the annual silent Kol Nidre appeal is a wonderful accomplishment.

Noted for his civic involvement, the Rabbi is active throughout the City of Clifton. He is noted as the spiritual leader of the Clifton Jewish Center and as a good friend of the Clifton/Passaic community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Rabbi Markovitz's family and friends, the Clifton Jewish Center, Passaic County, the State of New Jersey and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Rabbi Dr. Eugene Markovitz.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF SMALL BUSINESS AND PAY-
ING TRIBUTE TO THIS YEAR'S
SMALL BUSINESS AWARD RE-
CIPIENTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize several small businesses and small business leaders from my home state of New Hampshire. As we all know, small businesses in the United States serve as the backbone of our economy, accounting for more than ninety-nine percent of America's employers and employing fifty-three percent of America's workforce. The role of small businesses, especially in New Hampshire, is essential in strengthening our economy, expanding opportunities for employers and employees, and providing goods and services that are second to none.

This year, several individuals and businesses from New Hampshire have been recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration for their exemplary contributions to the state. At the annual "New Hampshire's Salute to Small Business" dinner and awards ceremony, the following individuals and businesses will be honored for their overall promotion of small business and for their individual successes during the past year:

Joseph C. Leddy, CEO of Work Opportunities Unlimited, Inc., in Stratham, will be presented with the New Hampshire Small Business Person of the Year Award;

Carolyn Martin, of the Keene Sentinel, will be presented with the New Hampshire Small Business Journalist of the Year Award;

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