

is currently retired from General Motors but hasn't been spending his time sitting around. Jim by working tirelessly on behalf of the less fortunate epitomizes a Hoosier Hero.

Jim has made Madison County a better community through his voluntary efforts. He serves on the Board of the Wilson's Girl's and Boy's Club, and raised a large amount of money so that the club may direct the energies of Anderson's youth in a positive direction. Jim is also the President of Madison County Community Foundation and he played an essential role in restoring the Paramount Theatre to its former glory and beauty.

Jim's work has given so many people, the most precious gift possible, hope. He doesn't do it for the pay, which is zilch; he does it for the smiles and laughter. Jim, you are a true hero in my book doing good works for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Jim Ault deserves the gratitude of his county, state, and nation and I thank him here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

HONORING LEE ECKERT

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Lee Eckert, a dedicated community leader from Millstadt, Illinois, in my congressional district.

Mr. Eckert has served the Village of Millstadt for 40 years as their Trustee. He and his wife, Lucille, live in Millstadt, where they raised their four children, Trudy, Lana, Kelly, and Toby.

Lee Eckert is retiring this month after a distinguished career of public service. During his tenure as chair of the Public Works Committee and Village Board, his tireless efforts can be recognized in many projects completed under his direction. Mr. Eckert skillfully guided the development of the Industrial Park and new sewer treatment plan for the Village of Millstadt. He also was instrumental in coordinating the building plans for the new government facility, which houses the Village Hall, Library, Mayor's Office, and until recently, the Millstadt Police Department.

What is most notable about Lee Eckert is his willingness to meet any challenge presented to him. I commend Mr. Eckert for his integrity, compassion, and commitment to the Village of Millstadt, so evident to anyone who has had the opportunity to know him. I want to join the community in thanking Mr. Eckert for his dedication and invaluable service for the past 40 years. I am confident that his future years of retirement will be as productive and fulfilling as his past.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lee Eckert for the example he has set for us all.

IN HONOR OF THE PAN GREGORIAN FUND OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK AND LONG ISLAND, INC. ON THE OCCASION OF THE ACADEMIC AWARDS BANQUET

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to the Pan Gregorian Fund of Metropolitan New York and Long Island on the occasion of their Academic Awards Banquet on Sunday, March 7, 1999.

The Pan Gregorian Fund, spearheaded by Tassos Manesis, is a non-for-profit corporation established in 1995 by the Food Industry Cooperative of New York, Inc. The Fund's main purpose is to advance, support, and promote the Hellenic-American education system, the Greek language, and academic excellence. Its activities are directed and carried out primarily by Greek-American restaurants and others involved in the food industry.

Since its creation in 1995, the Fund has awarded over \$100,000 in grants and scholarships to the top graduates of the Hellenic-American day schools, as well as teachers and principals in the New York City metropolitan area in recognition of their dedication to the education of youth.

In addition to the grant recipients, the Pan Gregorian will be honoring Dennis Mehiel, Stanley Matthews and Thomas Calamaras at the awards banquet.

Mr. Mehiel, a New York City native of Hellenic heritage, is the chairman, CEO and principal shareholder of the Four M Corporation, Sweetheart Cup Company, and The Fonda Group, Inc. Since 1978, he has been a leader in the field of education as a board member of the New Jersey independent high school for girls, a New York school for learning disabled children, Yeshiva University's Wuzweiler School of Social Work and the American Board of Overseers of Bar-ilan University.

In 1966, he returned to his birthplace, Washington Heights, and founded the "All The Way" program, a kindergarten through college education support program. "All The Way" provides educational enrichment and supplemental health and social services for children and their families, culminating in a four-year, pre-paid college education.

Mr. Matthews, born in Varvitsa, Lakonia, Greece, grew up during the German Occupation and the Civil War. He emigrated to the United States in 1951. He founded the Greek Children's Fund at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. As a result of a personal experience, he became acquainted with the financial and emotional stress cancer imposes on its victims and their families. His fund has raised approximately \$2 million to help Greek-American families who have to deal with a life-threatening illness in addition to the added burden of adapting to a new culture.

Mr. Thomas Calamaras came to the United States as an immigrant and proceeded to establish a family food service business. Today, he and his family are an example of successful businesspeople and community-minded individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to the Pan Gregorian Fund and its honorees, a group dedicated to extending a helping hand to others.

HONORING THE GOOD PEOPLE AT TROUT AND RALEY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the good people at Trout and Raley, a natural-resource oriented law firm in Denver, Colorado. Their work demonstrates an unparalleled commitment to sound practices, common sense and reason with regard to environmental policy. The tireless efforts, particularly of Mr. Bennett Raley, Mr. Jim Witwer and Mrs. Julie McKenna have gone to protect many diverse interests, to level the playing field with the federal government, to protect our heritage and to better our environment. This team is indeed a great asset to the people of the State of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I commend the people of Trout and Raley for all their efforts, and I look forward to working with them in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE C. LAVAL III AND FAMILY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Claude Laval III and his family for their continual support of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (JDF). This year, the JDF chapter in Fresno is honoring Claude Laval and family as the first recipients of the "Living & Giving Award." The Laval family played an instrumental part in the Pediatric Diabetes Center in Fresno, at Valley Children's Hospital. The mission statement of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation is to "Find a cure for Diabetes and its complications through the support of research." Mr. Laval is an active participant in promoting the JDF mission statement.

The Laval family became involved with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation 20 years ago when their daughter was diagnosed with Diabetes. Along with their support for JDF, the Laval family supported numerous Diabetes camps, making it possible for many children to attend the camps. They are also dedicated supporters of the JDF walks to cure Diabetes.

Claude Laval was born and raised in Fresno, he graduated from Stanford University in 1957. He is the sole owner and president of the Claude Laval Corporation. The Claude Laval Corporation is an International manufacturing company of filtration devices and down hole cameras. The Corporation is in its 27th year.

In addition to his Corporation, Claude is deeply committed to our community and actively serves on several state and local organizations. He has been on the Executive Committee of the Fresno Business Council since 1993, Chairman of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee and a member of the Fresno Business Council since 1996. Mr. Laval has served as Chairman of the Central Valley Business Incubator since 1997. His service is not only limited to the Central Valley, he serves as Director of International Forest Products in Vancouver, BC, Canada since