

victims, in fact Terri was nominated for the award after her extensive work easing the trauma for the family of a high profile domestic violence case where the victim was murdered. She is also a model advocate for both her co-volunteers and the newer members of the program, mentoring them as they begin their training. Additionally Terri also serves on the Community Corrections Board and teaches victim empathy classes at the Mesa County Department of Youth Corrections and the Partner's Program.

Mr. Speaker, Terri Gird is a dedicated volunteer who devotes her spare time to aiding people of her Grand Junction Community in need. She is strong and talented member of the Grand Junction Police Department Victim's Advocate Program and I am honored to recognize her efforts before this body of Congress. Congratulations on your award, Terri, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

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HONORING MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miguel Rodriguez, Chief Community Relations Specialist for the Newark Housing Authority. On Thursday, October 7, 2004, friends, co-workers and family members will gather at Nanina's in the Park in Belleville, New Jersey to celebrate his retirement after 39 years of dedicated public service.

Mr. Rodriguez, or Don Mike as he is referred to by friends and colleagues, began his career in public service in the early 1970s when he was appointed Deputy Mayor of the City of Newark, New Jersey by former Mayor Kenneth Gibson, a position he held for sixteen years. In his current position with the Newark Housing Authority, Mr. Rodriguez is respon-

sible for providing information to the community regarding low-income housing options.

An active member of the greater Newark community, Mr. Rodriguez has founded various organizations, including the Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce of Essex County and the Newark Borinquen Lions Club. Additionally, Mr. Rodriguez has served on the Boards of the Newark Symphony Hall, the Essex County Board of Economic Development, and The Hispanic American Political Forum.

A strong believer in the power of education, Mr. Rodriguez established the Communications Information Marketing Scholarship Award (CIMA), a private, nonprofit organization that supports students from Hispanic and African American families who are pursuing a career in communications, and has provided over \$22,000 in scholarships for minority journalists.

A native of Puerto Rico and a resident of Newark for 44 years, Mr. Rodriguez earned a Bachelor's Degree from Shaw University in North Carolina. He is the proud father to Myra, Michael, Ricardo and Carlos, and the doting grandfather to six wonderful grandchildren.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Miguel Rodriguez as we celebrate his 39 years of public service to the City of Newark and wish him well as he begins a new chapter full of good work and many more contributions to our community.

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IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN  
DAVANZO, 2004 VOLUNTEER FIRE-  
FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 2004*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of the

4th Congressional District to recognize John DaVanzo of Mineola, New York.

I am extremely honored to congratulate Mr. DaVanzo as he was recently named the 2004 National Volunteer Fire Council's Volunteer Firefighter of the Year. Receipt of such an honor is testament to his impressive record of nearly sixty years of dedicated service to the Mineola Fire Department.

John DaVanzo is a man who has spent most of his life to serving the people of Long Island. He began his career with the Mineola Fire Department in 1947, eventually becoming captain. John later became a member of the department's Fire Council and was a delegate to the Southern New York and Nassau County Firemen's Associations.

In addition to his work with the fire department, John served as Deputy Mayor of the Village of Mineola and as a North Hempstead Councilman. For seventeen years, he was North Hempstead's Town Clerk and was honored as the New York State Clerk of the Year for 1986-87. He has also volunteered with worthy organizations like the American Cancer Society, Catholic Charities, and the Boy Scouts of America. In all of the undertakings that he has pursued, John has always been a leader, exhibiting consummate diligence and tireless effort.

Since 1978, the National Volunteer Fire Council has awarded those individuals who have made outstanding achievements in fire service and maintain an exemplary record of community service. This prestigious title is one of only two awards that the Council distributes each year and it is no surprise that John is one of the recipients.

Mr. Davanzo's tireless commitment to service has made a difference in the lives of many. Once again, I would like to offer my congratulations to him on this well-deserved national recognition and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.