

(September 8, 2005) HONORING STEVE PALMER, OWNER OF PALMER PLACE RESTAURANT

HONORING STEVE PALMER, OWNER OF PALMER PLACE RESTAURANT ON RECEIVING THE RESTAURANT NEIGHBOR AWARD

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Palmer, owner of Palmer Place Restaurant and winner of the National Restaurant Association Restaurant Neighbor Award.

The Restaurant Neighbor Award is a component of the Association's Cornerstone initiative, a comprehensive effort to advance and promote the restaurant industry's role as the cornerstone of community involvement, the cornerstone of career and employment opportunities and the cornerstone of economy.

This year's small business winner is Palmer Place. Creating a foundation sounds like a daunting task only achieved by huge corporations with lots of money to give away. But Small Business Winner Palmer Place Restaurant and its H Foundation is living proof that smaller restaurants can achieve big things in community outreach.

After a close friend and colleague died of cancer, Palmer Place owner Steve Palmer wanted to organize a fundraiser to raise money for cancer research. Palmer teamed up with local business owners John Rot and David Rizner to create the H Foundation where 100 percent of the money raised would go toward finding a cure for cancer.

The H Foundation aims to support innovative, forward-thinking cancer research. In 2003, the foundation donated \$170,000 to the Lurie center, from which researchers generated \$1.5 million in grants. Additionally part of the \$200,000 the H Foundation donated was used to create a program called Families After Cancer.

It is my honor to recognize Steve Palmer of Palmer Place Restaurant for his many achievements both within and outside of the business community, fostering the growth of a community as well as helping to create change and promote progress in cancer research.