

**SALUTING MORRIS PESIN, THE 'FATHER OF LIBERTY STATE PARK' –
HON. FRANK J. GUARINI (Extension of Remarks - August 05, 1992)**

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**HON. FRANK J. GUARINI
in the House of Representatives
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992**

- Mr. GUARINI. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in saluting Morris Pesin, who sadly passed away recently. He was a man whom many people reverently refer to as the 'Father of Liberty State Park,' which is in my district of Jersey City, NJ.
- On Monday, August 10, the people of Jersey City and the State of New Jersey will honor the memory of Mr. Pesin and the tremendous work he performed on their behalf.
- Morris Pesin was a man of the people. Throughout his lifetime, he fought for the rights of the proverbial 'little guy.' He has left a tremendous legacy by his dedication and hard work on behalf of the residents of Jersey City and all New Jersey.
- Mr. Pesin's fight for the city and eventually Liberty State Park began with an historic canoe ride from Jersey City to the Statue of Liberty in 1958. After showing who close the great statue was to New Jersey, Mr. Pesin charted a course to set aside open land in Jersey City to allow all of its residents to enjoy the breathtaking view of the Statue.
- The open land he helped to secure officially became known as Liberty State Park in 1976. Thanks to his efforts, residents of Jersey City and the surrounding area now have a free, open vista to use for recreation and the spectacular views of Miss Liberty and the New York Harbor.
- In addition to fighting for Liberty State Park, Mr. Pesin was long recognized as a community leader who fought for the rights of all people regardless of their status. Working in conjunction with the NAACP in 1938, Mr. Pesin helped break discriminatory practices at local restaurants. In 1940, Mr. Pesin helped his brother, Meyer Pesin, break the color line at Palisade Park when he helped begin a Federal court action against the amusement park's discriminatory practices. Mr. Pesin also played a role, in 1945, in the founding of the Hudson County Committee for Fair Employment Practices.
- Mr. Pesin's career as a public servant spanned 40 years. This included service as a councilman on the Jersey City Council, from 1969 to 1977. Mr. Pesin was also a member of numerous committees such as the Jersey City Planning Board, the Jersey City Cultural Arts Committee and the Historic Committee just to mention but a few. Mr. Pesin was also actively involved in saving and restoring the historic Hudson County Court House, now known as the Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. Courthouse.
- And in 1982, Mr. Pesin was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the Ellis Island Historic Preservation Committee.
- While continually fighting for his city and its residents, the most important part of Mr. Pesin's life was always his family. He was devoted to his wife, Ethel, and his children Sammy and Judy. We offer them our most heartfelt sympathies.
- Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in remembering Morris Pesin, a great American who is sorely missed.