

# REAL MEN COOK

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SPEECH OF  
HON. DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2011

- Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Sunday, Father's Day, June 19, 2011, Real Men Cook was once again presented by the nonprofit, Real Men Charities, Inc. for the 22nd consecutive year. Real Men Cook is the largest national service day event on Father's Day in the United States, demonstrating that real men are nurturing: providing sustenance, care, love, and work to build healthy families and communities.

- It all began when Kofi Moyo and Yvette Moyo were joined by 10 women and 100 men in 1989 to create a commonsense way to increase male involvement, and to celebrate and demonstrate the rewards of family and community service.

- Real Men Cook family celebrations are the nation's longest-running urban Father's Day family event, featuring male volunteers from neighborhoods in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Memphis, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC, raising funds, and devoting time and resources to cook and serve samples of their favorite dishes to help nonprofit organizations.

- Real Men Cook has transformed Father's Day globally into an exciting and highly anticipated day, growing the tradition of individual and group service and family celebrations around food. Real Men Cook turns the spotlight on the bonus fathers and father-figures who step in when biological fathers are not involved in the lives of children, and encourages the celebration of those men.

- Real Men Cook generates national media attention each Father's Day, recognizing fathers and father-figures beyond grandfathers and uncles to coaches, ministers, teachers, neighbors and any man who has donated time and talent to help children and Real Men Cook events have been responsible for raising more than \$1 million for the Boys & Girls Clubs, Community Mental Health Council, the South Side YMCA, foundations, museums and family service organizations. In addition, Real Men Cook, through Real Men Charities, presents a Health & Wellness Pavilion in several cities on Father's Day, providing free health screenings, nutritional education, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

- This year, Real Men Cook is co-sponsored by Verizon, K&G Fashion Superstore, Illinois Lottery, Moo & Oink, Provident Hospital of Cook County, the Urban Health Initiative of the University of Chicago Medical Centers, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois, and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

I take special pride and satisfaction from my own longtime participation in Real Men Cook and I would encourage all Americans to follow this family tradition of volunteerism, family and community contribution on this Father's Day and Father's Days to come.