

CONGRATULATING THE 2014 RECIPIENTS OF THE COVETED ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2014*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2014 recipients of the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations—NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The Medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from diverse ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage and culture. We honor these outstanding individuals because the important work they do today, creates a better world for all of us tomorrow. Since the Medals' founding in 1986, more than 2,000 American citizens have received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, including six American Presidents, United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders. This Medal is not about material success, nor is it about the politics of immigration; it is about the people who have committed themselves to this nation, embraced the opportunities America has to offer, and most importantly, who have used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in our country and in the lives of its people.

Citizens of the United States hail from every nation known to man. The iconic metaphor of this nation as a veritable melting pot of cultures continues to ring true, and it is this diversity that adds to the unique richness of American life. It is the key to why America is the most innovative, progressive and forward thinking country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our forebearers to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This award serves to remind us all that with hard work and perseverance anyone can still achieve the American dream. In addition, by honoring these remarkable Americans, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they have made to America.

I commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as to promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO and in congratulating all of the 2014 recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. I also submit the names of this year's recipients.

2014 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Salpy Akaragian RN-BC, MN; Iran Davar Ardalan; Marina Arsenijevic; Sherry S. Bahrambeygui; Lily Ring Balian; Maria Bartiromo; Gerald A. Benjamin; Robert S. Bennett; Norbert R. Berg; Narpat Bhandari; Barbara J. Bowers, M.D.; Ian Bremmer;

Major General Mark A. Brilakis; Charles Ta-Peng Chang; Edwin M. Chang, M.D.; Hazem H. Chehabi, M.D.; Quyen D. Chu, M.D.; Vice Admiral Daniel L. Cooper; Brigadier General Ruben A. Cubero; Vice Admiral Philip Hart Cullom.

H.E. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian; Samir A. Desai; Paul J. DiMare; Captain Jeffrey F. Dixon; Diana L. Ecclestone; E. Llwyd Ecclestone; Salim F. Fadi, M.D.; Phillip Frost, M.D.; Chief Thomas P. Galati; Diana Xing Wu Gao; Jean-Pierre Garnier, PhD.; Colonel Michael J. Gould; General Frank J. Grass; Scott Green; Felix 'Phil' Grucci; Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr.; Samuel R. Harris; Richard B. Herman, Esq.; Evander Holyfield; Joan B. Horning.

Professor David P.J. Hung, O.M.D., PhD.; Vahe Imasdounian; Jae Kung Jeung; Larry E. Jodsaas; Yue-Sai Kan; Shaygan Kheradpir; Minsun Kim; Gary Sze Kong; Gwen S. Korovin, M.D.; Dr. Alma Kunanbaeva; Kin Y. Lam, M.D.; Norma Lerner; Anita Bevaacqua McBride; Douglas W. McCormick; Honorable Robert Carl McFarlane; Raffi Megerian; Dr. Aria Mehrabi; David C. Meltzer, Esq.; Ali Mojdehi; Darioush Nasser, M.D.; Jerar Nishanian.

Herbert V. Nootbaar; Dattatreya Nori, M.D.; Pejman Nozad; Ivan Obolensky; Fatih Ozmen; Frank Pallone, Jr.; Peter Kihyo Park; Jorge M. Perez; Lauren Pizza; Rabbi Joseph Potasnik; Arun Kumar Pramanik, M.D.; Helen Psaras; Major General L. Scott Rice; U.S. Representative Edward R. Royce; Major General Jay Santee; Elizabeth Sarquis; Timothy R. Scully, CSC; Ketki Sharadkumar Shah, M.D.; Yash Paul Soi; Andrew Strzalkowski.

Abdul M. Suleman; Elie Tahari; Honorable David H. Thorne; Honorable Gaddi H. Vasquez; Elizabeth Lee Vliet, M.D.; Honorable John P. Walsh; Robert R. Weinstine, Esq.; Honorable Jesse White; Steven W. Wong; Yannis C. Yortsos, PhD; Lotfi Zadeh; Tim H. Zagat; Charles Zhang.

And receiving the International Ellis Island Medal of Honor, Ahmet Calik and Nigel Lythgoe.

**MR. MONROE MACK**

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2014*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated community leader and trailblazer, Monroe Mack of Tampa, Florida. Mr. Mack's boundless energy and constant civic engagement were an inspiration to all. Today, I am grateful to recognize his innumerable contributions and honor his legacy.

Monroe Mack was born in Campbellton, Florida, but later moved to Tampa where he spent the majority of his life. Mr. Mack's service to this country began when he joined the Army Reserves where he served as a 2nd Lieutenant and retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1985. Mr. Mack went on to graduate from Florida A&M University in 1956 with a degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences and later received an MBA from Nova University. He later married Laverne Griffin to whom he was married for 50 happy years.

Throughout Mr. Mack's career he was a pioneer for African American advancement in the Tampa Bay medical community. He created the pharmacy services at Clara Fry Memorial Hospital. Following the success of that pro-

gram, he moved to Tampa General Hospital, where he broke down racial barriers by becoming its first African American professional staffer and later rose to become its Director of Pharmacy. His trailblazing continued as he became the first African American to be appointed and reappointed to the Florida Board of Pharmacy by both Governors Reubin Askew and Bob Graham. He then chaired the Examination and Negative Formulary Advisory Committees, and served as their first African American President.

Mr. Mack's service was not limited only to his work in the medical field. Throughout his life, he displayed a passion for civic engagement and for shaping young minds. He inspired the next generation of pharmacists by working as a professor at both the University of Florida and Florida A&M University Colleges of Pharmacy. He also diligently advocated for greater engagement in politics throughout the community. Mr. Mack could often be found educating people about candidates and encouraging them to vote.

Even after his retirement from Tampa General Hospital, Mr. Mack continued to give countless hours in service to his alma mater. He chaired the alumni funding campaign which raised funds and created a \$100,000 Alumni Endowment for the FAMU College of Pharmacy. He was also inducted into the Gallery of Distinction in the FAMU College of Pharmacy.

Mr. Mack selflessly dedicated his life to our community. Countless students have benefited from his immeasurable philanthropic efforts and leadership in the medical industry. His commitment to civic engagement and education will always be remembered and appreciated. Mr. Speaker, I join the Tampa Bay community in recognizing Mr. Mack for a lifetime of exemplary service. Although Monroe Mack passed away on August 16, 2014, his life and legacy will live on.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION KINGS COUNTY AND BOB BEEDE

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2014*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Kings County and Bob Beede for being named the 2014 Agriculture Supporter of the Year by the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce.

For 100 years, UCCE advisors and specialists have worked with communities across California to solve economic, agricultural, natural resource, youth development, and nutrition issues. UCCE has 64 offices in California that act as local problem-solving centers bringing together local issues and UC research. Across California, more than 300 campus-based specialists and county-based farm and youth advisors work together to provide solutions to agriculture related problems. UCCE helps farmers develop more efficient growing methods, solve pest management problems, and institute irrigation methods that require less water. UCCE also promotes the importance of healthy eating habits and regular exercise to adults and children through the 4-H Youth Development Program.

Mr. Bob Beede, UCCE Emeritus Farm Advisor, has been an instrumental part of UCCE success for many years. In 1980, after two years as Staff Research Associate for tree crops and grapes at the Kearney Agricultural Center, Bob became a farm advisor for grapes, tree fruits, nuts, and vegetables in Kings County. Since 1980, Bob has served in many capacities, including advisor of Tulare County nut crops, which was his main focus until his recent retirement. Bob has had an incredible impact on the booming nut crop industry and is a world authority on pistachio production as well as a key advisor for walnut culture.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the University of California Cooperative Extension Kings County and Bob Beede for their recognition as 2014 Agriculture Supporter of the Year by the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SERGEANT KIMBERLY JAYNE JOWITT

### HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Sergeant, Kimberly Jayne Jowitt. Sadly, after a more than three-year battle with cancer, Sergeant Jowitt passed away on July 27, 2014. For more than three decades, she served the people of Hamilton County with a dedication that our community and the entire state of Indiana owe a debt of eternal gratitude.

Born on August 2, 1955 in Indianapolis, IN, Sergeant Jowitt was a lifelong Hoosier. After graduating from Heritage Christian School and Indiana University Kelley School of Business, she was hired as a civilian employee by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in 1978.

During her career with the Sheriff's Office, which spanned an admirable 37 years, Sergeant Jowitt held several positions serving Hamilton County; most recently as an administrative sergeant handling special assignments. A career public servant, she worked tirelessly to make Hamilton County a better place to live.

Although Sergeant Jowitt had many ups and downs during her battle against cancer, she remained faithfully optimistic and never lost her will to fight. She brought this same tenacity to her career serving Hamilton County becoming the first female officer, investigator and supervisor in the history of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. I am proud to represent a community with a legacy of female public servants as dedicated as Kim Jowitt.

As a member of the House Homeland Security Committee and Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications, I know firsthand the important role that public servants like Sergeant Jowitt play every day. Without people like Kim Jowitt, who are willing to dedicate their entire career to public safety and

service, Hamilton County would not be the safe, prosperous and vibrant community it is today.

Sergeant Jowitt is survived by her husband, Noblesville Police Chief Kevin Jowitt, and her daughter, Crystal. My condolences and well wishes go out to Sergeant Jowitt's entire family and the Hamilton County law enforcement community. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

### INTERNATIONAL PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK

#### HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate International Plasma Awareness Week, which will occur October 12 to 18, 2014. During this time, there will be observances throughout the United States and Europe designed to raise global awareness of the need for plasma to create lifesaving therapies, recognize the value that plasma donors contribute in saving and improving lives, and increase understanding of rare diseases and plasma protein therapies.

Raising awareness about plasma protein therapies is vitally important for the following reasons:

Plasma-derived therapies and recombinant blood clotting factors, collectively known as plasma protein therapies, are unique, biological products for which no substitutes or alternative treatments exist. They save and improve lives of individuals throughout the world;

Plasma protein therapies are used to treat bleeding disorders, primary immune deficiency diseases, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, and certain rare, neurological disorders;

These therapies are also used in emergency and surgical medicine to save and improve lives;

Plasma protein therapies have significantly improved the quality of life of, markedly improved patient outcomes for, and extended the life expectancy of individuals with rare, chronic diseases and conditions;

Healthy, committed donors provide plasma essential to manufacture these lifesaving therapies; and

There are over 430 plasma collection centers in the U.S. that have demonstrated their commitment to plasma donor and patient safety and quality by earning International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP) certification.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in commemoration of International Plasma Awareness Week, a time dedicated to raising awareness about crucial, lifesaving therapies attained through using plasma proteins.

### TRIBUTE TO TEAYS VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

#### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teays Valley Christian School, lo-

cated in Scott Depot, Putnam County, West Virginia, who is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its first graduating class with a Gala on October 18, 2014. I am happy to say that, under the direction of Principal Jack Davis, teachers and staff, Teays Valley Christian School has become one of the finest private, Christian schools in the state of West Virginia.

Founded in 1979, Teays Valley Christian School started in converted Sunday school classrooms at Scott Depot Christ Fellowship, offering kindergarten through 8th grade classes to approximately 65 students. The school expanded, offering kindergarten to 12th grade and currently, 351 students are enrolled from Putnam, Kanawha, Mason and Cabell counties. In addition, the student body represents 83 churches which support the school's emphasis on "unity of spirit across denominational lines."

The school's mission statement reflects the core values of the school and the reason for its formation: "Teays Valley Christian School is dedicated to working in partnership with the family to provide a high quality, balanced, Bible-based education that develops the essential knowledge, skills, and character traits necessary for students to make a lifelong commitment to Jesus Christ and to fulfill God's purposes in their lives."

Teays Valley Christian School is accredited through the Association of Christian School International (ACSI) and the North Central Association (NCA). It is affiliated with the Association of Christian Schools International, North Central Association, ACSI Ohio River Valley, West Virginia Christian Athletic Tournament, and the West Virginia Department of Education.

The school is proud of its rigorous academic curriculum and qualified staff that have provided an education to over 600 students, 90 percent of which have attended and completed college. The school's college entrance exam scores are consistently higher than state and national averages. The school is proud of two national merit scholars who have graduated over the past 5 years. A well rounded program is offered to students including programs in the fields of music, fine arts, drama, as well as athletics.

Since its humble startup, Teays Valley Christian School has evolved into a full scale academic institution offering students a well rounded faith based academic curriculum. The emphasis on hard work and academic achievement with a Christian foundation has proven to be a successful formula for the school, its students and alumni.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to Congratulate Teays Valley Christian School on its success and on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of its first graduating class. I wish the school great success with its upcoming Gala celebrating all graduates of this special academic institution. Hopefully, this will be the beginning of the next 30 years of academic excellence at Teays Valley Christian School. I am truly privileged to serve such a distinguished group of West Virginians.