

Their annual Stand Down event, at which returning veterans have an opportunity to meet with veterans organizations that provide the full range of services, has become one of the most anticipated events in the veterans community.

MAC-V not only provides for the physical and mental needs of our veterans, but also forms a welcoming circle of support, friendship and camaraderie that these brave men and women need most of all. Partnering with local companies, organizations, and an army of volunteers, MAC-V has become an important part of the Minnesota veterans community and I thank them for their service to those who have served us so well.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. ELLEN GALE
CATES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Ellen Gale Cates, an exemplary citizen.

Ms. Cates is the Assistant Program Director for the Wellness Center under the umbrella of the Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center, Inc. (BSFHC) in Brooklyn, New York. She has been a part of the Bedford Stuyvesant Family since 1994. The Wellness Center provides those who enter its doors with the tools, support and encouragement to better manage their health and wellness. The primary focus of the Wellness Center Team is to those who are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Cates is also the coordinator of the Faith Based Initiatives Project for the Bedford Stuyvesant Wellness Center. This project provides assistance in coordinating informative programs on HIV/AIDS prevention, education, counseling and testing for emerging churches and communities of faith. This project focuses on the responsibility of the communities of faith and community based organizations collaborating on affecting changes. Several ministries have been reached and have started their own programs through this initiative. Ms. Cates and the Wellness Center have been able to continue this on-going project through their affiliation and support from the NYC National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, INC.

Ms. Cates was appointed by Mayor Bloomberg as a member of the NYC Health and Human Service HIV/AIDS Council Committee, serving her 2-year term faithfully. Ms. Cates has served on several advisory boards, the longest being the South Brooklyn Legal Services Inc. She is an Active member of both the NYC DOHMH Office of Minority Health Borough of Brooklyn Ecumenical Advisory Group Faith Based HIV Task Force and the Faith-based High Blood Pressure Task-force.

Ms. Cates is a newly appointed member of Women of Faith Advocating Change (WFAC), chaired by Reverend Dr. Cheryl Anthony. WFAC is comprised of female clergy leaders, community service providers and elected officials representing Brooklyn neighborhoods. The mission is to address the disparities that adversely impact African American women and girls and find viable faith solutions through education, information and advocacy.

Ms. Cates has been a passionate yet a "quiet storm" in the fight against health disparities with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS in the urban community. Ms. Cates has determined that advocacy and leadership will be her path of alliance in this fight against HIV/AIDS in honor of those deserted hero's family members and friends who gave up their battle.

Prior to her coming into the non-profit sector, Ms. Cates worked as a telecommunications manager with Verizon for over 20 years. While transitioning from the corporate sector she worked with the NYC DOHMH as a Community Associate AIDS Hotline Counselor for more than 10 years. Ms. Cates holds a Bachelors Degree in Christian Education; and an Associates Degree from Pace University and an Associates Degree in Medical Assistance from the College of Staten Island. Ms. Cates serves at the St. Stephens United Church of God, as an Associate minister, under Bishop M.D. Williams, Overseer, in Brooklyn, New York.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2008 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2008 recipients of the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO)—a group representing more than 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritages, cultures and religions—the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage. Since NECO's founding in 1986, more than 1,700 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including 6 American Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders.

As we all know, citizens of the United States can trace their ancestry to many nations. The richness and diversity of American life makes us unique among the Nations of the world and is in many ways the key to why America is the most innovative country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our ancestors to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This medal is not about money, but about people who really seized the opportunities this great country has to offer and who used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in the lives of those around them. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups 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 promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all of the 2008 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. I also ask unanimous consent that the names of this year's recipients be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

LTC Madelfia A. Abb; Noubar B. Afeyan, PhD; Charles R. Ajalat, Esq.; Robert A. Altenkirch; Hon. Goli Ameri; Roger E. Ashley; Ahoud Avshalomov; Anthony P. Basile; Vasile Beluska; Daniel O. Bernstine; William Boesch; John William Butler, Jr.; LT Jack J. Cambria; Hon. Ben Nighthorse Campbell; Dr. Brian Carty, FSC; Dr. Samir Narayan Chaudhuri; Col. Dik Cheung, MD; Dr. Karlene ChinQuee; Annette Choolfaian; Abba A. Creasey, PhD; Hon. Joseph Crowley; Edward Deeb; Arthur A. Dugoni, DDS, MSD; Christopher Erikson; Richard Farkas; Peter B. Fodor, MD, FACS; Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD; Robert L. Ganley; Hon. George A. Grasso; Hon. Joseph R. Guccione; Noosheen A. Hashemi; Stephan S. Huh; Hon. Dora L. Irizarry; E. Neville Isdell; Chief Anthony J. Izzo; Dr. Stuart W. Jamieson; Trevor O. Jones; Patrick J. Kelly, MD, FACS; James W. Keyes; Laya Khadavi; Darioush Khaledi; Parisa Khosravi; Daewon Khym; Peter J. Kight; Wilson Ko, MD; MG Anthony R. Kropp; Pamela H. Kwatra; William Landberg; Fred Horst Langhammer; Anthony J. Lariccia; Young Bin Lee, MD; BGen. Paul E. Lefebvre; Robert H. Lessin; Demetrios G. Logothetis; Col. Eugene V. Lombardo; F. Joseph Loughrey; Xindi Lu; Terry J. Lundgren; Franklin R. Manios; Matthew J. McCoy; General Duncan J. McNabb; Maria Mehranian; Leo Melamed; Lewis C. Merletti; Bernd (Ben) Messing; Benjamin Mevorach; Avid Modjtabei; Jacqueline Murekatete; Mary Najarian; Vartkes Najarian, MD, FACS; Jacques Nasser; Long V. Nguyen, PhD; Franco Nuschese; CAPT. Robert R. O'Brien, Jr.; Ronald J. Onesti; Maria Otero; Randy Y. Owen; Mehmet C. Oz, MD, FACS; Laurice Y. Parkins; Richard P. Parrillo; Mukesh (Mike) Patel; Bhupendra R. Patel, MD; Gloria Perez; Hon. August B. Pust, PhD; Robin D. Rapaport; Lt. Cdr. Tamsen A. Reese; Michael P. Ricatto; Daniel M. Rooney; Thomas P. Rosandich, PhD; Harut M. Sassounian; Dhiraj H. Shah, MD; Jerome Shaw; Hon. Paull H. Shin; Sampat S. Shivangi, MD; Gary A. Sinise; Theodore M. Solso; Dr. Theodore J. Strange; Hon. Evelyn Lundberg Stratton; Haldun Tashman; Gerald N. Tirozzi, PhD; Stephen J. Trachtenberg; Nadadur Vardhan; Victor S. Wahby, MD; Aldona Z. Wos, MD; Chun To (Tony) Yeung; Louis S. Zamperini.

COLONEL JOHN D. DROLET

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sincerity that I take this opportunity to honor Colonel John D. Drolet. An Army Corps of Engineers officer since 1983, Colonel Drolet has spent the past two years as the District Commander for the United States Army Corps