

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. Bahrambegui; 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 Bevaquua 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.