

{From the Washington Times, Friday, June 21, 2002}

12 RECEIVE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALS—MANDELA, NANCY REAGAN, ROSENTHAL, MR. ROGERS HONORED

(By Joseph Curl)

President Bush yesterday announced the recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a list that includes two writers, three entertainers, an athlete and a former first lady.

Among the dozen to receive the nation's highest civilian honor is A.M. Rosenthal, a Pulitzer Prize winner for foreign correspondence who became the executive director of the New York Times. He writes a weekly column now for the *The Washington Times*.

"Believe me, it never occurred to me that I would be given a medal by the president—or anyone else," Mr. Rosenthal said in a telephone interview last night. The White House praised Mr. Rosenthal's efforts "to highlight the suffering of oppressed people, especially religious minorities."

Mr. Rosenthal began in newspapers in the 1940s traveled the world as a foreign correspondent. In 1960, won the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting from Poland. He served a stint in India before returning to New York to become the top editor at the *New York Times*. The other recipients, all of whom will receive their medals in a White House ceremony in July, are:

Nancy Reagan, wife of former President Ronald Reagan, for her long anti-drug work as first lady and her continued work against drug and alcohol abuse through the Nancy Reagan Foundation.

Nelson Mandela, who led the fight to end apartheid in South Africa over the course of his 73-year public life. Mr. Mandela was imprisoned by the South African government in 1962 and was released on Feb. 11, 1990. Mr. Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 and inaugurated as the first democratically elected president of South Africa on May 10, 1994.

Katharine Graham, who led *The Washington Post* until 1993 and, the White House said, "was known as an editor who maintained excellence by supporting her reporters and encouraging those who worked for her." She was chairman of the Post, but actually never held an editing position.

Hank Aaron, who holds the career records for home runs, at 755. Mr. Aaron, who was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982, played first on a team in the old Negro League and, the White House said, "was unfettered in his pursuit of excellence by frequent encounters with racism throughout his career."

Bill Cosby, a one-time stand-up comedian and one of the most popular television performers of the 1980s with "The Cosby Show," which revolutionized the portrayal of blacks on television. "Throughout his career," the White House said, "Dr. Cosby has appealed to the common humanity of his audience, rather than the differences that might divide it."

Placido Domingo, a renowned opera singer, conductor and arts administrator over his 44-year career. "He was blessed with an unusually flexible voice, which has allowed him to perform in 188 different roles, more than any other tenor in the annuals of opera performance," the White House said.

Fred Rogers, host of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" for over three decades, making the show the longest-running program in the history of public broadcasting. "All of his work has been emblematic of the same philosophy and goal: to encourage the healthy emotional growth of children and their families," the White House said.

Peter Drucker, a prominent pioneer of management theory. "Dr. Drucker has

championed concepts such as privatization, management by objective and decentralization" and is "currently applying his expertise to the management of faith-based organizations," the White House said.

Dr. D.A. Henderson, best known for his leadership of the World Health Organization's global small-pox-eradication campaign from 1966 to 1977. "He was also instrumental in initiating the WHO's global program of immunization which now vaccinates approximately 80 percent of the world's children against six major diseases," the White House said.

Irving Kristol, author, editor and professor. "Mr. Kristol's writings helped lay the intellectual groundwork for the renaissance of conservative ideas in the last half of the 20th century. His approach adapted traditional conservative thought with contemporary societal issues and became the framework for compassionate conservatism," the White House said.

Gordon Moore, co-founder of the Intel Corporation who directed the company's growth as the most successful development of the microchip. In November 2000, Mr. Moore and his wife established the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation with a multibillion-dollar contribution, funding projects in higher education, scientific research, the environment and San Francisco Bay Area projects.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom was established by President Truman in 1945 to recognize civilians for their service during World War II, and it was reinstated by President Kennedy in 1963 to honor distinguished service. It is the nation's highest civilian award.

CELEBRATING SAN FRANCISCO
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND
TRANSGENDER PRIDE AND IN
HONOR OF OFFICER JON D. COOK

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender pride in San Francisco and to pay tribute to the memory of Jon D. Cook, the first openly-gay San Francisco police officer to lose his life in the line of duty.

This weekend marks the 32nd annual San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration entitled, "Be Yourself, Change the World!" This is our time to celebrate San Francisco's proud history of advocacy for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons and to recognize the important contributions the LGBT Community makes to our City and to our nation.

Officer Jon Cook's legacy is an important example of such contributions. On June 12, 2002, Officer Cook was killed when his police car collided with another police car as they both pursued a suspected violent felon. Before joining the force, he worked as a research scientist searching for a cure and treatments for HIV/AIDS. He also served honorably as a lieutenant in US Air Force intelligence with a top-level security clearance.

Officer Cook touched the lives of many people in San Francisco. More than 2,000 attended his funeral mass, including friends and family members, over 600 fellow officers from throughout Northern California, and hundreds

of residents and community leaders from the Castro and Mission districts that he served. His fellow policemen and women remember him as a dedicated officer who always wanted to be at the scene; residents remember with gratitude the way he looked out for them. "Jon loved being a cop," recalled his domestic partner of three years, Jared Strawderman. "He loved serving his community. He loved being in situations where he could help people. He wanted to go to where the trouble was and fix the problem."

To his parents Jon Sr. and Rosemary Cook; his siblings Bonnie, Brian, Wayne, Jamie and Gary; partner Jared Strawderman; and his many nieces and nephews; we share your loss, and we are grateful for the service Jon provided to the people of San Francisco.

The contributions of Officer Cook and so many others in San Francisco bring into sharp focus the need for basic protections of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons. As we mourn the loss of Jon Cook, we also reaffirm our commitment to the fight for equal rights for all and our belief in the beauty of our diversity.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY L. BLOCKER,
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
WINNER, METRO DETROIT SOCIETY
OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man whose leadership and achievements in broadcast television and journalism span the decades and have touched the lives of so many across southeastern Michigan and beyond. Each year the Metro Detroit Society of Professional Journalists holds its annual banquet, a celebration honoring local journalists and the recent work they have accomplished. This banquet, traditionally the biggest Society of Professional Journalists event of the year, also honors distinguished journalists who have shown outstanding dedication to journalism and whose contributions continue to leave a lasting impression on all those in the field, with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. This year, on June 26, 2002, the Metro Detroit Society of Professional Journalists honored three local journalists with Lifetime Achievement Awards, and among them they honored Jerry L. Blocker posthumously, who died on October 31 at age 70.

A pioneer for African American journalists in Detroit, Jerry Blocker was truly a model and a mentor for so many television journalists. Hired by Channel 4 after the 1967 Detroit riots, his work paved the way for so many young African Americans with aspirations for television journalism. He anchored weekend newscasts until 1975, and following a long and prosperous career, he retired from broadcast work in the early 1990s and established his own public relations firm, Jerry Blocker Enterprises, in Farmington Hills. Known for his characteristic low-key and matter-of-fact style, he devoted his life and profession to providing the highest standards of journalistic excellence.

Jerry Blocker always gave one hundred percent in every aspect of his life; his work, his