

him. He headed to Deltaville to relax and contemplate a career, but the future was decided for him. His father had sold his grocery business for \$5,000, which he used to buy a store for Norton. "When I came home my dad said, 'I got a place,'" he recalled. "My father never wanted me to leave home. Dad was a hard worker and expected the same from me." In January of 1946 Norton opened Hurd's Home Appliances, figuring that everyone would need appliances after the war. With his father's help he obtained credit and a stock of scarce home appliances, and had more customers than stock.

In 1947 he married Alvine Taylor, daughter of the founder of Taylor's Restaurant, still a Deltaville landmark. "When I came home from the war and saw Alvine Taylor, I knew she was the most attractive young woman I had ever seen anywhere," he said. "We were married two years later." They have three children: Myra Wall and Jack Hurd run Hurd's Hardware, and Michael, a former prosecutor, is an attorney in Deltaville; his office is in the renovated old store once run by Norton and his father. Jack and his wife live in the old Hurd home built by his great grandfather, Jesse C.; Michael and his wife live in a home Norton built in 1953.

Norton, a charter member and later resident of the Middlesex Lions Club, also has served as president of the Deltaville Community Association and the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, and for 25 years was on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Middlesex, First Virginia Bank. A member of the fire department and rescue squad, he has been a member of the Phillippi Christian Church since he was 12 and has served as a deacon, board member and elder. He is perhaps best known as a baseball coach and player, and once played with the Deltaville Deltas. He also has been inducted into the Lynchburg College Hall of Fame.

Hurd retired from his business in 1981, at age 65, but still is actively involved. While Jack now manages the store, Norton's often there on Saturdays and other days when Jack is off. Since he retired he has found more time to golf, often playing 36 holes straight.

Of his many awards and wartime memorabilia, he seems to treasure most a tattered copy of the Amelia High School yearbook compiled by his former students and dedicated to him. A copy was sent to him while he was fighting in the Pacific. He considers it perhaps his proudest possession.

It's unlikely Norton Hurd will earn any more dimes, as he did from his grandfather, for sitting still. That never was something he liked to do.

RECOGNIZING THE LAUNCH OF NATIONAL HEPATITIS B AWARENESS WEEK

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Hepatitis B Foundation, which is located in my state of Pennsylvania, as well as all the groups involved in the "AIM for the B" campaign which seeks to raise awareness for chronic hepatitis B. The "AIM for the B" campaign has been working over the past 3 years to encourage communities most impacted by the chronic hepatitis B virus, including Asian Americans, to seek treatment for the disease, and to prioritize the disease as a serious health issue in the U.S. and I commend them for this noble goal.

In the United States, approximately one out of every 10 Asian Americans is chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus, resulting in more than half of the chronic hepatitis B cases and half of the deaths resulting from chronic hepatitis B infection. Today, only a small percentage of diagnosed chronic hepatitis B patients are being actively managed for their disease. Every year, approximately one million people worldwide die from chronic hepatitis B because they are diagnosed past the point where medical care and intervention can be effective.

In December, I, along with Congressman MIKE HONDA, introduced H.R. 4550, the National Hepatitis B Act, which included strategies for expanded vaccination programs, primary and secondary preventive education and training, surveillance and early detection, and research. I want to thank Congressman HONDA for his tireless efforts on behalf of this issue and my 21 colleagues who have already recognized the importance of this legislation and are currently cosponsors of this bill. I encourage my colleagues to be a part of the solution to this terrible and silent disease and sign on to co-sponsor this important legislation.

Today, Congressman HONDA and I along with representatives from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), patient advocacy organizations, physicians and patients joined together at a Congressional Briefing in the Rayburn House Office Building hosted by the "AIM for the B" campaign to kick off National Hepatitis B Awareness Week. The week will educate communities, patients and families about chronic hepatitis B through events held across the country. The briefing was designed to increase knowledge of chronic hepatitis B as a serious health issue in the United States and to emphasize the importance of increasing diagnosis, screening and treatment. The briefing allowed us to communicate the potential consequences of chronic hepatitis B and to lay out actions needed to increase treatment rates for this extremely infectious disease.

I want to take this opportunity to especially recognize the Hepatitis B Foundation based in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. As a representative of Pennsylvania, I am pleased to support this national non-profit organization solely dedicated to the global problem of hepatitis B. The foundation was founded in 1991, with the support of Dr. Baruch Blumberg, who won the Nobel Prize for his discovery of the hepatitis B virus. In just 10 years, the Hepatitis B Foundation has grown from a grassroots effort into a national non-profit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B.

As we begin National Hepatitis B Awareness week, I urge my colleagues to reflect on the severity of hepatitis B and take steps to educate, raise awareness about and put an end to this disease. Together, we can make a difference in addressing this U.S. and global public health issue.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR.
NIRANJAN S. SHAH

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Niranjn S. Shah, a prominent Indian-American businessman, activist, and philanthropist, who was one of the few selected to receive the prestigious 2006 Ellis Island Medals of Honor. This award is presented to influential leaders of various fields and ethnic backgrounds who contribute greatly to American society. Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the heritage of those groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic and extraordinary individual achievement. Past medalists include six U.S. Presidents as well as Nobel Prize winners and leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports and government.

As a young man growing up in India, Mr. Shah was an academic standout obtaining his bachelor's degree in engineering from Sardar Patel University. After the completion of his studies in India he was given the opportunity to pursue a Master's degree in the United States, a big move for a young man from India. With the support of his family and his village, Mr. Shah left India for America and successfully obtained his Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Mississippi. After receiving his Master's degree he supplemented his engineering education with the Harvard Business School Executive Management program. With this incredible wealth of education a lack of opportunities still existed for a young Indian. So Mr. Shah went forward with his own American dream and decided to go it on his own and create what is now a thriving engineering firm. He is well known in his adopted hometown of Chicago for his engineering success. Any American who has flown through O'Hare International Airport, or has attended a convention at McCormick Place has seen first hand the work of Niranjn Shah and his engineering firm.

The spirit of making a better life was not limited to just himself but pushed him to provide assistance to those less fortunate than himself. Mr. Shah's generosity was extended to small villages in India and he has worked tirelessly to create a better U.S. Indo relationship. Mr. Shah is one of the few Americans who was also recognized this winter by the President of India through the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award, the highest Indian civilian award to be given to people of Indian origin, to recognize the contributions of the Indian Diaspora to India.

Mr. Speaker, Niranjn is an asset to the United States and his efforts are deserving of this prestigious award. Mr. Shah fully embodies the commitment and values that the Ellis Island Medal of Honor represents. Mr. Shah will receive this honor joined by his loving wife Pratima, and his two children Smita and Ajay. It is an honor for me to recognize this great American today.