

ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION 32ND ANNUAL GALA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which will be hosting its 32nd Annual Gala on Saturday, November 8, 2008, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award each year at this annual banquet.

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical service to the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, and they have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's charity ball, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Mr. James Gagan. Born in Chicago, Illinois on May 6, 1930, James Lawrence Gagan learned the importance of serving his community from a young age. This would become evident in his two separate stints in the United States Army between 1948 and 1954. Following his military service, Jim, as he is known by those closest to him, relocated to Northwest Indiana in 1956 and worked as a finance company manager until 1958. At that time, he founded a collection and prorating business now owned and operated by his brother, Larry. An astute businessman, Mr. Gagan later moved on to the oil industry when, in 1963, he founded United Penn Oil and Gas Company. Focusing on the leasing, drilling, and production of oil and gas wells, the company expanded to serve an area covering nine states. Remarkably, Jim's entrepreneurial success did not end there. In 1971, he conceived a new company that incorporated with United Consumers Club, Inc. Now known as Direct Buy, this company is now the most successful private buying club in the world, with more than one million members and 163 locations throughout the United States and Canada. Beginning with the vision of Jim Gagan, Direct Buy has become the gold standard in the merchandising industry. Mr. Gagan's impressive contributions to his industry are truly a source of pride for the First Congressional District. In addition, Jim has also been a partner in the development of one of California's premier golf clubs, Big Horn Country Club in Palm Desert, California, which has gained national recognition, and he has been an active participant in the restoration of Innsbrook Country Club, one of Indiana's oldest golf courses.

While his résumé is already impressive in and of itself, it is his service to those in need throughout the Nation that is most astonishing. Entirely funded by profits from Direct Buy, Jim formed the Friendship Foundation in May of 1985. This outstanding foundation, like Jim, is solely focused on improving the quality of life

for those who are in need. Since its inception, the Friendship Foundation has contributed, both locally and nationally, to many people through organizations such as: Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army, Christian Haven Homes, Shults-Lewis Homes, Ronald McDonald House, The Caring Place, Baptist Children's Homes, Visiting Nurses Association, Meals on Wheels, Hebrew Association for the Deaf, Greater Hammond Community Center, Special Olympics, Opportunity Enterprises, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Respite Care Services, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Boy Scouts of America, Lake County Child Abuse Center, Hospice Home Care, Children's Memorial Hospitals of Indianapolis and Chicago, as well as many local food pantries, churches, and civic charities. Also, through Direct Buy, local nursing homes have annually received more than 1,500 Christmas gifts, consisting of much needed goods, and more than 1,000 children have had a brighter Christmas thanks to their efforts through the local Angel Tree project. For his efforts on behalf of his community, Jim has received many honors, including the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash, presented by the governor of the State of Indiana, in 1981.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Mr. James Gagan, for their outstanding contributions to their communities and beyond. Their unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States is truly inspirational. For these reasons, the Asian American Medical Association, its members, and Mr. Gagan are to be recognized, and I am proud to serve as their representative in Washington, DC.

IN RECOGNITION OF E. & J. GALLO
WINERY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I along with Congressman COSTA rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of E. & J. Gallo Winery, a historic company that embodies California's agricultural prestige. Over the last 75 years, E. & J. Gallo Winery has transformed the winemaking industry in the United States and has made significant contributions to the economic strength and vitality of California.

Following the Prohibition era in 1933, two brothers, Ernest and Julio Gallo, decided to start their own winery. After discovering an old University of California pamphlet on winemaking in the basement of the Modesto Library, they began their business with only \$5,900 on hand, a keen business sense, and an entrepreneurial spirit. Over time, they grew their small, family-owned business into one of the largest wineries in the world.

The Gallo brothers recognized the fertile soil of the San Joaquin Valley as an ideal location for starting a winery. Competing against hundreds of startup wineries across California following Prohibition, they quickly rose to the top by making wine affordable to everyday people

instead of marketing solely to the upper echelons of society. Their business model caught on and E. & J. Gallo Winery quickly became one of the most respected in the business.

Decades later, E. & J. Gallo Winery has become one of the most influential wineries worldwide, with over 60 unique wines from a wide variety of locales. They have made a commitment to environmentally sustainable farming and have become a model for the rest of the industry. The Gallo Winery employs 4,600 people in the state of California, providing critical highly skilled employment opportunities in the San Joaquin Valley.

E. & J. Gallo Winery has been honored with countless awards for achievement in winemaking, including the American Society of Enologists Merit Award—the wine industry's highest honor—in 1964 for outstanding leadership in the wine industry, the Gold Vine Award from the Brotherhood of the Knights of the Vine wine fraternity, the 1983 Distinguished Service Award from The Wine Spectator, and the Winery of the Year Award in both 1996 and 1998 by the San Francisco International Wine Competition.

Few companies rival the generous spirit of E. & J. Gallo Winery. Throughout the state of California, they invested in local communities, including an endowment for the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto, and the establishment of the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center at the University of California at San Francisco for research into genetic, biochemical and neurobiological aspects of alcohol abuse.

Madam Speaker, it is our great honor and privilege to recognize E. & J. Gallo Winery on the advent of their 75th anniversary. Their contributions to the wine industry, to agriculture, and to the San Joaquin Valley are an inspiration to us all and we continue to wish them great success for many years to come.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
RETIREMENT OF DIANA HART

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, as you know, I will be retiring from this House at the conclusion of this Congress, but today I rise to pay tribute to a member of my staff, Diana Hart, who will also be retiring from service in this House.

A native of New Orleans, Diana lived in Germany for many years but decided to make the Washington area her home in the 1980s. Diana holds an associates degree in paralegal studies and joined my staff in 1986. As our office manager, Diana is also usually the first person a visitor to my office meets or a caller speaks with. Over these nearly 22 years of serving constituents and assisting guests, Diana has provided a warm welcome and a helpful demeanor with a continued focus on our office motto of "Constituents First."

Over the years, we have come to know Diana as a cat lover who is extremely devoted to her two cats. However, recently a new passion has inched its way into Diana's heart. That passion is her new grandson and her soon-to-arrive granddaughter. In her retirement, Diana is looking forward to being able to spend more time with both her grandchildren