

Congratulations on your first eight-five years!

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2009 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 2009*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2009 recipients of the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition (NECO), 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 2,000 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including six 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 2009 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.

Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA (Ret), Hon. Eduardo Aguirre, Imam Shamsi Ali, Dr. Kaveh Alizadeh, Robert V. Allegrini, Hon. Victor G. Atiyeh, Archbishop Vicken N. Aykazian, Sir Julian Bachynsky, Ralph M. Bahna, George S. Barrett, Edward J. Bergman, Hamid Biglari, Carolyn A. Blashek, Paul F. Boulos, PhD, Lt.Gen. Ted F. Bowlds, USAF, CAPT Patrick C. Burns, USN, Dr. Samia E. Burton, Otto B.

Candies, John J. Casey, Ali Cayir, Sant Singh Chatwal, Dr. Walter R. Chitwood, Jr., Joseph Ilhawn Cho, Edward T. Cloonan, Duane E. Collins, David F. D'Alessandro, Shiv C. Dass, Kiran R. Desai, Robert D. Donno, Rayna Dubose, Emilio Estefan, Jr., Charles Fazzino, Sean T. Flanagan, John S. Gonsalves, James B. Hayes, CAPT Gregory P. Hitchen, USCG, W. Andrew Hodge, MD, Forough B. Hosseini, Susan Pien Hsu, PhD, Taffy A. Jowdy, James M. Kalustian, Rabbi Alvin Kass, Fred Kavli, Lisa Kazor, Kevin A. Kistler, Carol N. Lambos, Esq., BG James B. Laster, USMC, Leon Y. Lee, Oh Young Lee, Sandra Lee, Francine A. LeFrak, Nooshin Malakzad, Bishop Gregory J. Mansour, George D. Martin, Hon. Grace Meng, Thomas L. Mills, Esq., Joseph H. Moglia, Dr. Reza Momeni, Dr. Uma Mysorekar, Tavit O. Najarian, ScD, John F. Nickoll, Michael K. O'Malley, Rev. Timothy O'Neill, George Pagoumian, Young J. Paik, Hon. Mary Mitzi Purdue, Moises Perez-Martinez, Natale A. Picco, Jr. John Podesta, Linda Ann Pope, William A. Pope, David M. Puckett, Phil T. Pulaski, Hon. Bijan Rafiekian, Maj. Dan Rooney, USAF, Gaetano G. Scavone, Salman T. Sesi, Esq., Dr. Jatin P. Shah, Liu Tee Shuh, Brian J. Smith, Col. Stephen Smith, USA, Steven N. Stein, Carol K. Strauss, Chester A. Szarejko, Oscar S. Tatosian, Joseph J. Thoams, DDS, William H. Tilley, Lenny Tilman, Lana Todorovich, Chiling Tong, Pauline A. Turley, Anthony M. Valletta, Kathleen Waldron, PhD, Kevin M. Wall, The Venerable Lama Pema Wangdak, Jeffrey N. Watanabe, Esq., Gary E. Weksler, Sally Tsui Wong-Avery

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARILYN GIORDANO

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 2009*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marilyn Giordano, a wonderful woman who recently lost her courageous battle with colon cancer.

I came to know Marilyn through her work with the American Vitiligo Research Foundation. Vitiligo is a condition in which one's skin loses pigment and becomes discolored. It is a disease that can easily destroy the spirit of those it afflicts. Marilyn cared passionately about people with Vitiligo, especially children who are often not emotionally prepared to deal with its psychological affects. Marilyn dedicated her life to helping these precious children deal with their condition the best they could.

Marilyn's friend Stella Pavlides, the founder of the American Vitiligo Research Foundation, shared with me the courage with which Marilyn battled colon cancer. Stella said that Marilyn never lost faith that she would survive, refrained from complaining or asking why she was going through such an ordeal, and remained optimistic and positive until the very end, which came peacefully on April 29. That sounds just like the Marilyn I came to know.

Stella has asked me to become an advocate for raising awareness about colon cancer in the days since Marilyn's death. She correctly points out that colon cancer is one of

the most deadly forms of cancer in its advanced stages, though it also is one of the most treatable in its earliest stages. I was pleased that the House passed H. Con. Res 60 earlier this year, which supports the observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in March and emphasizes the importance of early detection and screening of this disease.

I also recently cosponsored H.R. 1189, the Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Early Detection, and Treatment Act, which would establish a colorectal cancer screening program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and provide grants to states for colorectal cancer screening and treatment programs. I believe the House should pass this vitally important bill to improve the detection and treatment of this deadly disease.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to honor Marilyn's life by passing H.R. 1189 and improving the detection and treatment of this disease. Although her earthly life has ended much too soon, I am certain that her legacy will live on in the lives that will be saved by raising awareness about this treatable but deadly disease, and in the children with Vitiligo whose lives she has forever changed for the better.

HONORING KENNEDY PATTERSON FOR HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man from Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that Kennedy Patterson from Marietta, Georgia, has received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

For the past year, Kennedy has attended the Air Force Academy Preparatory School. Kennedy has worked very hard during his year in prep school and the results speak for themselves. Before the prep school, Kennedy attended Marietta High School where he was a member of the Air Force JROTC. Kennedy is an Eagle Scout and has a black belt in Taekwondo. He has been recognized with the Admiral's Cup Award, the Aviator Wings Award, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Bronze ROTC Medal, the American Legion Military Excellence Medal, and the American Legion Silver Medal.

Kennedy Patterson is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Kennedy as well as his parents, James and Nell Patterson, for his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Kennedy that America has the finest military in the world. Our nation is fortunate to have his service.