

IN HONOR OF TOM AND BEVERLY  
JELEPIS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Tom and Beverly Jelepiss, the former Mayor of Bay Village, Ohio and his wife.

Tom Jelepiss was the Mayor of Bay Village from 1994 to 2000. In August of 2010, Tom was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. After ten months of treatment, Tom is now cancer-free. However, the experience left his wife, Beverly, overwhelmed with the responsibilities of maintaining a home, a family, and also their real estate business. Friends and Bay Village residents were eager to help the former mayor and his family by providing them with food, lawn care services, and other day-to-day needs for which they no longer had time. The couple realized how difficult a cancer diagnosis must be for people without such support, and was deeply thankful for the generosity of their friends and neighbors during their difficult time.

Tom and Beverly have decided to establish an organization called Friends From the Start that will provide the same basic services for other cancer patients. The organization's website will include links to businesses that are willing to offer their services for free or a reduced cost to people with cancer. Friends From the Start will be run by volunteers and will also have volunteers present to personally assist the patients.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Tom and Beverly Jelepiss, a couple familiar with the hardships of cancer who are dedicated to maintaining the quality of life for their neighbors should they battle this terrible disease.

GRACE APOSTOLIC CHURCH'S 65  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2012*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Grace Apostolic Church's 65 years of service in the community of Joplin, Missouri.

Grace Apostolic Church was founded in 1947, by the late Irving Baxter Sr. It was originally located at 16th and Pearl Street. In 1948, an Army chapel was picked from Fort Crowder and moved to the location on 15th and Pearl, where the church remained until 1967. In 1957, Reverend William J Garrett assumed the pastorate.

In 1966, land was acquired at 2601 Connecticut, where the new facility was built. The new building at 26th and Connecticut was dedicated in 1967 and Elder William Garrett served as Pastor for 52 years. In 2009, Dr. Gary W. Garrett assumed pastoral duties.

A major remodeling project was started by Pastor Garrett and has transformed this property.

Grace Apostolic Church has impacted the Joplin area for 65 years and is a purpose-driven church. The vision of Grace Church is to

help people, restore lives and families, and help meet the needs of the families that are hurting.

On May 22, 2011, Grace Church became a refuge for many who sought shelter, just minutes before the storm ravaged the city. Having been blessed by God and escaping the full impact of the storm, Grace Church stood and continually provided shelter, food, and encouragement to those in need.

Grace Church has an illustrious history of 65 years of service in Joplin, and has provided spiritual guidance for thousands of people spanning nearly seven decades. Grace Church has been blessed to serve Joplin and the surrounding communities.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL  
JEFFREY KNIGHT

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2012*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled today to recognize Lance Corporal Jeffrey Knight for his service to our country. Lance Corporal Knight was a combat engineer for the United States Marine Corps, who was severely injured while serving in Afghanistan in June of 2011, resulting in the loss of both legs and one hand. Currently undergoing treatment at Brooke Army Medical Center, Lance Corporal Knight takes great pride in the fact that no other soldier was hurt under his watch.

Thanks to the selfless sacrifice of Lance Corporal Knight and others like him, my children will sleep in a safer and freer America tonight. As a father, as a congressman, and as an American, I am honored to offer this small token of gratitude to Lance Corporal Knight for his brave service to our nation. As Ronald Reagan once said, "We will always remember, we will always be proud, we will always be ready, so we may always be free."

On behalf of the constituents of the Fifth District of Texas, I extend prayers and best wishes to LCpl Knight for a speedy recovery.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2012 ELLIS ISLAND  
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2012*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2012 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. We honor these outstanding individuals because they create a better world for all of us in the future by the work they do today. Since the Medal'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.

This medal is not about money, but about people who 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. 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. Even in the midst of difficult financial times, this award serves to remind us all that with hard work and perseverance anyone can achieve the American dream. In addition, by honoring these remarkable Americans, 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.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and in congratulating all of the 2012 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.

2012 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR  
RECIPIENTS

A. Marshall Acuff, Jr., Michael W. Allen, PhD, Nancy Arabian, Carol M. Baldwin, Michael D. Bennett, Neil Berg, Peter Bheddah, Ravishankar Bhooplapur, Herman Chanan, Sam Chang, Johnson Chen, Sanjiv Chopra, MD, MACP, William A. Cooper, Bitu Daryabari and Helene Irma der Stepanian.

Leena Doshi, MD, NYS Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy, Angelo Dundee, Robert F. Dunn, Annie Falk, Leonard A. Ferrari, PhD, Jason C. Fu, Bob Gaudio, Fletcher Doud Gill, Nishan Goudsouzian, MD, Richard H. Grace, Dr. Peter Gruss, VADM Robert S. Harward, USN, David A. Hirsch and Chung-Wha Hong.

Surendra Jain, MD, James J. Jimmerson, Esq., Robert Trent Jones, Jr., Dr. Henry (Hyun Suk) Kang, Kevork Karajerjian, AIA, Declan Kelly, Howard Kessler, Michele Kessler, Dalida Keuroghlian, Dongsuk Kim, Paul Klaassen, Gerda Weissmann Klein, Emrah Kovacoglu, Thomas C. Lee, MD and Harry Leibowitz, PhD.

Sugar Ray Leonard, Hoi Ken Leung, William Li, MD, Emily E. Lin, AIA, Superintendent David Luchsinger, Felix Luu, David E. Luzzi, PhD, MBA, David S. Mack, Spiro J. Macris, DDS, Kai D. Mai, DDS, Ray Mancini, Steven G. Mandis, John A. Mattiacci, DPM, Leonard Mazur and James H. McGuire.

Hon. Gregory W. Meeks, Papken Megerian, Lt Col Ed Monroe, USAF (Ret), Dr. Gordon H. Mueller, Colonel Mark Mykleby, USMC (Ret.), Ryan Nabors, MSIR, Ohannes Nercessian, MD, Helen Ngan Shim Ng, General Raymond T. Odierno, USA, BGen Joseph