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HONORING DR. FRANK EUGENE STAGGERS, SR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and career of Bay Area community leader and tireless advocate for the expansion of healthcare to the underserved, Dr. Frank Eugene Staggers, Sr. Dr. Staggers was known throughout the Bay Area as someone who believed that the health of the individual is directly tied to the health of the community. With his passing, we look to Dr. Staggers' tremendous legacy and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, Dr. Staggers served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army in Belgium during World War II. After returning home, Dr. Staggers attended Virginia State College in Petersburg, Virginia earning a Bachelor's degree in Zoology. He enrolled in Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee where he earned his degree in Medicine. Upon graduation, Dr. Staggers put his extensive knowledge to use as a medical resident in the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander with a surgical subspecialty in Urology. He eventually retired from the Navy with the rank of Commander in 1963.

Dr. Staggers worked tirelessly to ensure equality in healthcare, and the organizations he helped to found continue to carry out his vision, specifically the St. Luke's Society, an organization dedicated to creating an alliance between African American doctors and ministers, and the Alta Bates Summit Ethnic Health Institute, a community service focused on promoting community health awareness, organizational alliances, and health-provider training to underserved and minority populations that experience disparities in healthcare.

As an advocate for equality in healthcare, Dr. Staggers actively served in many leadership roles. Notably, he served as Chairman of the American Medical Association's Advisory Committee on Minority Physicians. He was also President, Vice Chair, and Chair of the California Medical Association Foundation, as well as President of the Alameda-Contra Costa County Medical Society. In addition, he was President and a member of the Golden State Medical Association, the National Medical Association, and the Sinkler Miller Medical Association.

For his many contributions and dedication to furthering minority access to healthcare, Dr. Staggers was recognized numerous times, including by the California State Legislature, the Golden State Medical Association, the National Medical Association, the Meharry Medical College, and the American Medical Association Foundation.

Dr. Staggers was a mentor to many, including myself. I benefitted from his wise counsel and input on my health care legislation and agenda while in the California State Legisla-

ture and in Congress. He was steady, focused and passionate as he shared his knowledge and clarity regarding what I needed to know and do to address health care disparities in communities of color. For that, I am deeply grateful.

As a board certified urologist, Dr. Staggers mentored minority medical students all across the United States, and he supported and was involved with many historic black colleges. This reflects Dr. Staggers' belief in, and commitment to nurturing the next generation to continue to build on the progress made by the previous generation.

On a personal note, I had the privilege to spend time with Frank and his beloved wife, my friend and colleague while serving in the California State Legislature, the Honorable Teresa Hughes. Frank and "Terrie" loved each other deeply. They were able to pull both of their very busy lives together, never neglected each other and gave their friends a glimpse of "true love" even in their golden years. The love he exhibited toward Terrie and his family was unconditional and inspiring.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors a great friend of the Bay Area and a true champion for equality, Dr. Frank Eugene Staggers Sr. His steadfast commitment to ensuring that minorities have access to better healthcare and quality of life will forever live on in the legacy that he leaves behind. I offer my sincerest condolences to his many loved ones and to all of those whose lives he touched over the years. He will be deeply missed.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,261,485,887,733.09. We've added \$6,634,608,838,820.01 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2014

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Catholic Schools Week and honor the accomplishments of America's Catholic schools. This year is the 40th anniversary of National Catholic Schools Week, an annual celebration of Catholic education.

With more than two million students enrolled nationwide, Catholic schools equip children with the knowledge and skills that will serve them for the rest of their lives. Catholic schools are pillars of academic excellence, graduating 99 percent of high school students and sending 85 percent on to college.

But these institutions go beyond merely providing a quality education. They also strive to instill values of faith and a commitment to social justice and service that grow today's students into tomorrow's leaders.

Catholic schools extend those same values to their local neighborhoods and communities. Beyond the classroom, schools encourage their students to give back and work together to improve the world around them. This dedication is on display every day in Illinois' 5th Congressional District at schools like Guerin College Prep High School in River Grove, Immaculate Conception High School in Elmhurst, St. Andrew School and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Academy in Chicago and many more.

Finally, Catholic schools demonstrate an admirable spirit of diversity and acceptance. Nearly 20 percent of attendees practice other faiths and more racial and ethnic minorities continue to enroll in Catholic institutions.

Catholic schools have a rich tradition of providing exceptional educations to our nation's youth. Today, I honor their many contributions and thank them for their service to our students and our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN EVANGELOS OF NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey as he is honored by the Hellenic Federation of New Jersey with the Alexander the Great Achievement Award at its Fourth Annual Banquet. Metropolitan Evangelos is celebrating his 10th anniversary as Metropolitan of New Jersey and is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Metropolitan Evangelos began his service to the Greek Orthodox church as a Deacon in 1987 and 2 years later was ordained into priesthood. In 1991, he was ordained Archimandrite by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America. As a Deacon, he served at the Orthodox Center of Ecumenical Patriarchate in Geneva and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

In addition to his role as Deacon, Metropolitan Evangelos also served as Assistant Director of Archives and Director of the Department of Registry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. He also served as assistant to the Dean of St. Demetrios Cathedral in New York, President of the Spiritual Court for the Archdiocesan District and Dean of the Hellenic Orthodox Community of Astoria "St. Demetrios Cathedral."

Metropolitan Evangelos was elected Bishop on April 12, 2003. A month later, he was ordained to the Episcopacy and he was enthroned as the Spiritual Leader of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey on May 11, 2003.

Founded in 2009, the Hellenic Federation of New Jersey is led by President Savas Tsivicos. Its mission aims to preserve and promote the history and culture of the Hellenic community. It is currently comprised of 44 Greek American organizations from across New Jersey. The Fourth Annual Banquet is