

{From the Washington Times, Friday, June 21, 2002}

**12 RECEIVE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALS—MANDELA, NANCY REAGAN, ROSENTHAL, MR. ROGERS HONORED**

(By Joseph Curl)

President Bush yesterday announced the recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a list that includes two writers, three entertainers, an athlete and a former first lady.

Among the dozen to receive the nation's highest civilian honor is A.M. Rosenthal, a Pulitzer Prize winner for foreign correspondence who became the executive director of the New York Times. He writes a weekly column now for the Washington Times.

"Believe me, it never occurred to me that I would be given a medal by the president—or anyone else," Mr. Rosenthal said in a telephone interview last night. The White House praised Mr. Rosenthal's efforts "to highlight the suffering of oppressed people, especially religious minorities."

Mr. Rosenthal began in newspapers in the 1940s traveled the world as a foreign correspondent. In 1960, won the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting from Poland. He served a stint in India before returning to New York to become the top editor at the New York Times. The other recipients, all of whom will receive their medals in a White House ceremony in July, are:

Nancy Reagan, wife of former President Ronald Reagan, for her long anti-drug work as first lady and her continued work against drug and alcohol abuse through the Nancy Reagan Foundation.

Nelson Mandela, who led the fight to end apartheid in South Africa over the course of his 73-year public life. Mr. Mandela was imprisoned by the South African government in 1962 and was released on Feb. 11, 1990. Mr. Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 and inaugurated as the first democratically elected president of South Africa on May 10, 1994.

Katharine Graham, who led The Washington Post until 1993 and, the White House said, "was known as an editor who maintained excellence by supporting her reporters and encouraging those who worked for her." She was chairman of the Post, but actually never held an editing position.

Hank Aaron, who holds the career records for home runs, at 755. Mr. Aaron, who was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982, played first on a team in the old Negro League and, the White House said, "was unfettered in his pursuit of excellence by frequent encounters with racism throughout his career."

Bill Cosby, a one-time stand-up comedian and one of the most popular television performers of the 1980s with "The Cosby Show," which revolutionized the portrayal of blacks on television. "Throughout his career," the White House said, "Dr. Cosby has appealed to the common humanity of his audience, rather than the differences that might divide it."

Plácido Domingo, a renowned opera singer, conductor and arts administrator over his 44-year career. "He was blessed with an unusually flexible voice, which has allowed him to perform in 188 different roles, more than any other tenor in the annals of opera performance," the White House said.

Fred Rogers, host of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" for over three decades, making the show the longest-running program in the history of public broadcasting. "All of his work has been emblematic of the same philosophy and goal: to encourage the healthy emotional growth of children and their families," the White House said.

Peter Drucker, a prominent pioneer of management theory. "Dr. Drucker has

championed concepts such as privatization, management by objective and decentralization" and is "currently applying his expertise to the management of faith-based organizations," the White House said.

Dr. D.A. Henderson, best known for his leadership of the World Health Organization's global small-pox-eradication campaign from 1966 to 1977. "He was also instrumental in initiating the WHO's global program of immunization which now vaccinates approximately 80 percent of the world's children against six major diseases," the White House said.

Irving Kristol, author, editor and professor. "Mr. Kristol's writings helped lay the intellectual groundwork for the renaissance of conservative ideas in the last half of the 20th century. His approach adapted traditional conservative thought with contemporary societal issues and became the framework for compassionate conservatism," the White House said.

Gordon Moore, co-founder of the Intel Corporation who directed the company's growth as the most successful development of the microchip. In November 2000, Mr. Moore and his wife established the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation with a multibillion-dollar contribution, funding projects in higher education, scientific research, the environment and San Francisco Bay Area projects.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom was established by President Truman in 1945 to recognize civilians for their service during World War II, and it was reinstated by President Kennedy in 1963 to honor distinguished service. It is the nation's highest civilian award.

**CELEBRATING SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE AND IN HONOR OF OFFICER JON D. COOK**

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender pride in San Francisco and to pay tribute to the memory of Jon D. Cook, the first openly-gay San Francisco police officer to lose his life in the line of duty.

This weekend marks the 32nd annual San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration entitled, "Be Yourself, Change the World!" This is our time to celebrate San Francisco's proud history of advocacy for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons and to recognize the important contributions the LGBT Community makes to our City and to our nation.

Officer Jon Cook's legacy is an important example of such contributions. On June 12, 2002, Officer Cook was killed when his police car collided with another police car as they both pursued a suspected violent felon. Before joining the force, he worked as a research scientist searching for a cure and treatments for HIV/AIDS. He also served honorably as a lieutenant in US Air Force intelligence with a top-level security clearance.

Officer Cook touched the lives of many people in San Francisco. More than 2,000 attended his funeral mass, including friends and family members, over 600 fellow officers from throughout Northern California, and hundreds

of residents and community leaders from the Castro and Mission districts that he served. His fellow policemen and women remember him as a dedicated officer who always wanted to be at the scene; residents remember with gratitude the way he looked out for them. "Jon loved being a cop," recalled his domestic partner of three years, Jared Strawderman. "He loved serving his community. He loved being in situations where he could help people. He wanted to go to where the trouble was and fix the problem."

To his parents Jon Sr. and Rosemary Cook; his siblings Bonnie, Brian, Wayne, Jamie and Gary; partner Jared Strawderman; and his many nieces and nephews; we share your loss, and we are grateful for the service Jon provided to the people of San Francisco.

The contributions of Officer Cook and so many others in San Francisco bring into sharp focus the need for basic protections of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons. As we mourn the loss of Jon Cook, we also reaffirm our commitment to the fight for equal rights for all and our belief in the beauty of our diversity.

**TRIBUTE TO JERRY L. BLOCKER, LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER, METRO DETROIT SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS**

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man whose leadership and achievements in broadcast television and journalism span the decades and have touched the lives of so many across southeastern Michigan and beyond. Each year the Metro Detroit Society of Professional Journalists holds its annual banquet, a celebration honoring local journalists and the recent work they have accomplished. This banquet, traditionally the biggest Society of Professional Journalists event of the year, also honors distinguished journalists who have shown outstanding dedication to journalism and whose contributions continue to leave a lasting impression on all those in the field, with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. This year, on June 26, 2002, the Metro Detroit Society of Professional Journalists honored three local journalists with Lifetime Achievement Awards, and among them they honored Jerry L. Blocker posthumously, who died on October 31 at age 70.

A pioneer for African American journalists in Detroit, Jerry Blocker was truly a model and a mentor for so many television journalists. Hired by Channel 4 after the 1967 Detroit riots, his work paved the way for so many young African Americans with aspirations for television journalism. He anchored weekend newscasts until 1975, and following a long and prosperous career, he retired from broadcast work in the early 1990s and established his own public relations firm, Jerry Blocker Enterprises, in Farmington Hills. Known for his characteristic low-key and matter-of-fact style, he devoted his life and profession to providing the highest standards of journalistic excellence.

Jerry Blocker always gave one hundred percent in every aspect of his life; his work, his

community, his family and his friends. Those who had the pleasure of knowing him and the benefit of working with him will surely continue to remember him as a dedicated, faithful friend to all. He will truly be missed.

I applaud Jerry Blocker and the Metro Detroit Society of Professional Journalists for their leadership, commitment, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting them for their exemplary years of leadership and service.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF EDS

**HON. MARTIN FROST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2002*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago, June 27, 1962, an industry was born with the investment of just \$1,000. That industry today is nearly half a trillion dollar market and provides jobs to more than 20 million people around the world.

With the founding of EDS, Electronic Data Systems, that day, the world started doing business in a different way as information technology services became part of the global economy. Today, information technology is pervasive. Whether we're using an ATM, making airline reservations, or renewing a driver's license, we are all surrounded by computing power that fundamentally affects how we live.

Plano, Texas-based EDS started small with just a few employees using the excess capacity of other company's computers. Today, EDS has 140,000 employees serving government and business in 60 countries with revenue of \$21.5 billion.

There have been many milestones along EDS's journey.

In the 1960s, EDS developed the first comprehensive system for managing public health care programs. Today, EDS processes 2.4 billion medical claims transactions a year.

In 1976, EDS started processing airline tickets sold by travel agents. EDS is now the largest provider of IT services to the airline industry.

EDS launched the systems-integration market in 1982 with the U.S. Army's Project Viable, a vast and complex human-resources system. At that time, it was the largest IT-services contract ever let by the U.S. Army.

In the 1990s, the United Kingdom's Inland Revenue Service selected EDS to become its IT services provider.

Today, EDS is building a vast intranet for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps under the largest IT contract ever awarded by the U.S. government. The value is \$6.9 billion.

EDS has long made significant contributions to its communities. Its award-winning JASON Project brings the thrill of discovery to hundreds of thousands of school children each year. The company also provides grants to elementary school teachers so they can bring the latest technology to the classroom. And each fall thousands of EDS employees go out into the community to lend a helping hand as part of Global Volunteer Day.

EDS is entering its fifth decade doing what it does best—managing and integrating information technology services. It is committed to building trust with each client and to making

available to all clients sophisticated information security and business-continuity services.

Well-deployed information technology has fueled significant productivity gains in the last 40 years—particularly in the last decade. These gains are especially valuable today in an interconnected, global, digital economy. EDS is a big part of those gains.

The information-technology industry holds unprecedented opportunity. Everyone wants to be part of it. Many companies are realizing what EDS understood 40 years ago—that even the most groundbreaking technologies quickly lose their edge unless they are creatively and innovatively applied.

Some may think the forty-year milestone may mean middle age is approaching. Not in EDS's case. It is a company as focused on delivering value to its clients today as it was in 1962. It stays young by reinventing itself and listening to its clients.

Mr. President, please join me in saluting EDS for its many contributions to the information technology services industry and in wishing the company well for another 40 years.

2002 SNICKERS REGION I  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2002*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the 2002 Region I SNICKERS Championship to the Western New York area. The SNICKERS® Region I Championships are the most important United States Youth Soccer registered team competition conducted by the Region, or by any State Association within each State Association each year. As such, this competition requires that each State Association and all members of State Associations support the Championships as their first priority.

The 2002 SNICKERS Region I Championships will be held Friday, June 28th through Tuesday, July 2nd. I would like to extend congratulations to all teams, parents, referees and administration who will be participating in the 2002 SNICKERS Region I Championships. This most prestigious event will be a measure of accomplishment they will always cherish and remember.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend all of the participants in the 2002 Region I SNICKERS Championship for their focus on the young athletes of America's future. It is the goal of not only preparing the athletes for competition but to promote positive contributions towards an equally important world of physical fitness—with learning at the heart of all of our activities.

AMERICAN CITIZENS TAKEN  
AGAINST THEIR WILL TO SAUDI  
ARABIA

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2002*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I commend to our colleagues' attention an editorial from yester-

day's Wall Street Journal that highlights the many cases of American women who have been forcibly taken to Saudi Arabia. Even though they are U.S. citizens, once taken to Saudi Arabia, they have not been allowed to leave.

I hope the 107th Congress and this Administration will put a stop to this practice and receive assurances from the Saudi Government that it will not happen again.

[The Wall Street Journal; Review and Outlook]

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S WOMEN

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer should stop referring to grown women as children. The women in question are Amjad Radwan and Alia and Aisha Gheshtayan, three American citizens in Saudi Arabia whose fate has finally become an issue for Congress.

When reporters at a White House press briefing recently deluged Mr. Fleischer with questions about whether President Bush had raised their plight during an Oval Office chat with the visiting Saudi Foreign Minister, he repeatedly—eight times by our count—invoked the word “custody” or “custody of a child” to characterize how the “President views this.”

It's true that a number of American mothers have had an awful time getting children out of Saudi Arabia, though even here it beggars belief to reduce these to custody disputes. But two of the three cases that the House Government Reform Committee aired during its hearings did not involve children.

Amjad Radwan is 19 years old and, unlike her older brother, cannot leave Saudi Arabia because she is a woman and must have the permission of her Saudi father, who refuses to give it. In highly charged testimony delivered via videotape, Amjad's mom, Monica Stowers, told the House she remains in Saudi Arabia because she fears for her daughter's life; Miss Stowers further reported that both her son and daughter were raped by members of her former husband's family. Alia and Aisha Gheshtayan are also adults.

When pressed on this point, the State Department says it has made every effort to ascertain the women's wishes about returning to America. In the case of Miss Roush's daughters, however, State concedes that it hasn't seen them since the mid-1990s. Moreover, its own human-rights report on Saudi Arabia declares that “physical spousal abuse and violence against women” is “common” and that the Saudi government tends to look the other way. Translation: The only way these Americans are going to be able to speak freely, without fear of returning home to a beating, is to insist that Riyadh give them the exit visas that will allow them to come here.

The truth is that there isn't soul at State or the Saudi Foreign Ministry who doesn't understand that if President Bush were to express his displeasure to Crown Prince Abdullah, then Alia, Aisha and Amjad would be on the next plane for New York. And things would never have reached this dismal stage if the State Department hadn't signaled from the start that it was willing to let all the ground rules be set by Saudi law and custom—even in defiance of U.S. courts, arrest warrants and rights.

Last June, 23 Senators, including leaders Trent Lott and Tom Daschle, signed a letter urging Secretary of State Colin Powell “in the strongest possible terms, to intervene forcefully and in person with the Saudi authorities at the highest levels to secure the prompt release and repatriation of Alia and Aisha Gheshtayan.” The immediate answer was the standard State kiss-off: a letter explaining that the women were “subject to Saudi law.”