

enterprises and raising three children, Mr. Desai is a leader in cultural and educational institutions including serving as a Director and Board member of the Bharitya Vidya Bhavan; the Chairman of the Indian Culture Society of Union, New Jersey, and the President of Vraj. He has even been involved in aiding the completion of the Mahatma Gandhi Center and Hindu Temple in Wayne, New Jersey.

The New Jersey State Assembly and the Township of Clark, New Jersey have already written proclamations acknowledging Mr. Desai's remarkable achievements in his life. It is only fitting that I now also acknowledge Mr. Desai's most recent recognition. I would like to thank Mr. Desai for his contributions to the New Jersey community and congratulate him on this Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

A TRIBUTE TO BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF PASADENA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pasadena, which will be celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. For the past 70 years, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pasadena have remained committed to their motto of "Caring for our future, one child at a time."

Incorporated in 1937, the Boys Club of Pasadena, a member of the national organization, Boys Clubs of America, began by serving a Christmas dinner for 200 underprivileged boys in a rented space in Pasadena.

By 1953, the Boys Club membership had reached 4659, a drastic increase from 560 only ten years earlier. In the early 1960s, several milestones were achieved; the Boys Club acquired its own property, joined United Way of Los Angeles and received the National Program Award for Excellence for its Science Series Program.

Continuing to expand its services, the 1970s saw the Boys Club of Pasadena acquiring the Slavic Branch in Pasadena, becoming Pasadena's sponsor of the Summer Hot Lunch Program for Children, which served over 400 meals daily to club members, and the Boys Club Scholarship Program was formally established to aid young people with vocational, educational or fine arts pursuits.

The Boys Club of Pasadena opened the first childcare facility operated for pre-school children by any Boys Club. The Mackenzie/Scott Child Development Center opened in 1989 and was licensed by State of California for 88 preschool children. In 1990, the Center was accepted into the State of California Food Program and was formerly recognized by the City of Pasadena for excellence in child care.

In 1990, after the Boys Clubs of America changed its name to Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Boys Club of Pasadena changed its name to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pasadena.

Hilary Crahan became Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pasadena in 2004 and under her leadership the club has continued to emphasize both formal and informal education. Currently, over 7200 children participate at the five sites: Slavik Branch, the Mackenzie-Scott Branch, the Scott Child Care

Center, the Performing Arts Center, and the Orange Grove Learning Center. The more than fifty academically enriching programs include music and arts education, sports, technology training, leadership classes, and tutoring in math, English, and science.

It is my pleasure to honor the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pasadena on their anniversary of 70 years of dedicated service to the youth in the 29th Congressional District. I ask all members to join me in commending their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN PETER BOYNTON

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Peter Boynton. Captain Boynton will retire on June 1, 2007 after serving as Commander of Sector for the Long Island Sound, headquartered in New Haven, Connecticut, since June, 2004. Captain Peter Boynton has displayed a stalwart dedication to the safety and well-being of all those who travel on his waters and coastline for years. The Long Island Sound Sector includes 16 field units in Connecticut and on Long Island with 490 active duty military and civilians, 180 reservists and 1,800 volunteers with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. In his position as Captain, Boynton has been responsible for port safety and security, search and rescue, marine inspection and pollution response in Connecticut, Long Island and waters 200 miles offshore.

Captain Boynton has spent 10 years at sea on six Coast Guard cutters including the icebreaker Mackinaw, the cutter Spencer and the tall ship Eagle. He has commanded three cutters; Escanaba in Boston, Ocracoke in Puerto Rico, and Cape Morgan in Portland, Maine. His seagoing service includes spending five winters patrolling Georges Bank in the Gulf of Maine, and his Ocracoke crew seizing 23 tons of marijuana and 2 tons of cocaine in the Caribbean Sea.

Captain Boynton served at the White House as the Director for Global Affairs on the National Security Council staff, coordinating national policy for drug interdiction and migrant smuggling. He was also the senior Coast Guard liaison at the Department of State, coordinating international Coast Guard operations with the diplomatic community. He served as the Chief of Intelligence on a multi-agency drug task force in New York City.

Captain Boynton holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and an Ocean Engineering degree from the Coast Guard Academy. Captain Boynton holds an unlimited Master's License in the Merchant Marine. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal and Presidential Service Badge.

Captain Boynton has always gone above and beyond the call of duty, specifically when it comes to paying the utmost personal attention to the questions and concerns of the community. He has built a reputation for listening to problems, answering questions, and finding solutions. He has done an excellent job pro-

tecting the people who travel on the Long Island Sound by being accessible to hearing and responding to their needs. I applaud Captain Peter Boynton for his contributions and dedication to the United States Coast Guard and the Long Island Sound.

PRAISING LT. GOVERNOR DAVID PATERSON'S COMMITMENT TO MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES IN NEW YORK STATE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bestow praise to Lt. Governor David Paterson of the great state of New York for his commitment to empowering Minority and Women-Owned Businesses (MWBE). His initiative to start this dialogue has shown the lack of contracts that MWBEs receive from the major agencies and authorities in the state. Lt. Governor Paterson's leadership in this initiative will help to improve procurement practices in New York State by ensuring that MWBEs receive contracts that they are fully capable of performing.

Lt. Governor David Paterson's commitment to MWBEs will benefit businesses throughout the state just as the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone has done for business development, jobs, educational and health programs, and social services in Harlem, East Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood. Today I enter into the RECORD an article published by the New York CaribNews highlighting the efforts of Lt. Governor Paterson for the advancement of MWBEs in New York State.

[From the New York CaribNews, May 15, 2007]

LT. GOVERNOR PUSHES AGENDA TO BENEFIT MINORITY & WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

ALBANY, NY.—Taking an important step in fulfilling a campaign pledge to usher in a new era of accountability in the area of state government utilization of Minority and Women Owned Businesses, Lt. Governor David Paterson convened a meeting of executives from the state's major agencies and authorities. This historic gathering of state decision makers was part of a mandate issued in an Executive Order signed by Governor Eliot Spitzer on February 18th which, among other things, establishes an executive Leadership Council to examine state procurement practices and increase the utilization of qualified MWBE's.

Lt. Governor Paterson, who is leading the state's efforts to improve its MWBE program told Executive Leadership Council members, "Last year the state spent over \$11 billion in discretionary expenditures and MWBEs only received 3% of state contracts. This administration will reserve the negative inertia of the past 12 years and push to build the capacity of MWBE firms and increase the utilization of qualified MWBEs."

After laying out the vision for the new MWBE initiative, MWBE Development Executive Director Michael Jones-Bey explained the purpose of the Executive Leadership Council sating that, "This will be a forum to discuss best practices for implementation of procurement policies. It is also a means to hold agency executives accountable for compliance with state MWBE procurement laws."

For many in attendance the highlight of the meeting was where agency executives made their presentations. Each executive delivered a PowerPoint presentation reporting their agency's previous quarterly utilization of MWBEs for expenditures in the areas of construction, construction consulting, commodities, and services. This was followed by a presentation of their goals. This unprecedented public airing of MWBE agency performance was followed by a general group discussion of ways to tackle some of the common problems encountered by agency executives.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JACOB EAPEN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Jacob Eapen on being the 2007 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Dr. Eapen, a resident of Fremont, California, is a pediatrician who has spent countless hours through the years in community service. When he hasn't been serving on various boards in or near Fremont, he has provided medical assistance statewide and overseas. He has spent more than 25 years giving back to a world too often in need.

His endless work has earned him local, state and national recognition. His most recent award, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, is a prestigious honor given annually by the New York-based National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations. The medal celebrates the immigrant experience and seeks to honor Americans from a wide variety of backgrounds for their positive and lasting imprint on society.

In previous years, the medal has been awarded to six U.S. presidents; courageous heroes who created positive social change such as Rosa Parks and Elie Wiesel and athletes, including Muhammad Ali. He is one of just six Indo-Americans and one of 12 Californians to receive the Ellis Island Medal of Honor this year.

Dr. Eapen was born in Trivandrum, Kerala, in southern India where he grew up and received his medical degree. He earned his master's degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley. He spent five years in Sub-Saharan Africa as a teacher and physician. He recalls his days in Africa where he would arrive at the medical clinic at 8 a.m. and find 150 people waiting in line for medical help, including some who had walked for hours. This experience fueled his passion to value life and to make a difference in the lives of others.

He is currently an elected member of the Washington Hospital board of directors and works as a practicing pediatrician in Newark with Alameda County Health Services. Dr. Eapen has previously served as a board member of the Association of California Healthcare Districts, medical director of a local health care clinic, Alameda County public health commissioner, U.N. high commissioner for refugees in the Philippines, and as an adviser to Alameda County's Every Child Counts Commission. In 2004, he received the Medical Board of California's First Physicians award.

I join Dr. Eapen's friends and admirers in congratulating him on receiving his most recent award, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. It

is well deserved and a fitting symbol of his endless commitment and contributions to make a better life for others.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD
PATTENAUDE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Pattenaude on the occasion of his being named chancellor of Maine's public university system, after 16 years of dedicated service to the University of Southern Maine. Richard's service to USM was extraordinary, and I join his many friends, coworkers and the students he taught in wishing him the best of luck in the next phase of his career.

Richard's service to public education began in 1972, when he took a job teaching political science at Colorado State University. His service to Maine's educational system began in 1991 when he became president of the University of Southern Maine.

Under his leadership, the University grew substantially in the classroom. Richard helped to add 12 new undergraduate, 5 masters and 2 doctorate programs to the course catalog, he rewrote the University's mission statement, and he led in the creation of the University's first and second strategic plans. Richard's influence extended beyond the classroom, however, and he made major contributions to improve USM's campus. He constructed over 75 million dollars worth of state of the art buildings and created more than 12 educational institutes—including the Multi-Cultural Student Center and the Center for Entrepreneurship—which responded to community needs.

Richard was truly successful in living up to his motto during his time with Southern Maine—he "worked hard, did well, had fun." His leadership as the University's president will be missed, but the school can rest assured knowing he will still be working diligently to make Maine's public university system better for future generations of students.

IN TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL DONALD J. WETEKAM

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today as co-Chair of the Air Force Caucus to honor Lieutenant General Donald J. Wetekam, Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics, for his long and exceptionally distinguished military career.

General Wetekam entered the Air Force in June 1973 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. A career logistics officer, Don has commanded three maintenance squadrons, a logistics group and a logistics center. He has served staff tours at both major command and Air Staff levels, and served as Chairman, Army and Air Force Exchange Service Board of Directors.

General Wetekam was responsible for leadership, management and integration of Air

Force civil engineering, security forces, logistics readiness, supply, transportation, and aircraft and missile maintenance, as well as setting policy and preparing budget estimates that reflect enhancements to productivity, combat readiness and quality of life for Air Force people.

Most importantly for the state of Georgia, General Wetekam served as Commander, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins AFB from 2002–2004. I watched as he created an excellent team atmosphere that led to use of LEAN and the introduction of unprecedented efficiencies at Robins. This model was the precursor to such efficiencies throughout the Air Force, culminating with Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AFSO 21).

Finally, Madam Speaker, I should note for the record that, although he has received numerous military awards, Don's Blues Brothers imitation is rumored to be quite special. A mutual friend told me it's the best he's ever seen, particularly the dance routine in "the very small, black pants." But that same friend added that he'd seen the routine twice, which was "to be honest, one time too many." So I'd guess Don's second career won't stray too far from his current day job. No doubt he will maintain his interest in running and NASCAR. He and his wonderful wife Sherrie are community-oriented folks who are involved in various charities. I hope they settle in Middle Georgia where they will always be welcome. If they do, I'll run with Don, maybe catch some NASCAR but certainly skip the Blues Brothers.

RECOGNIZING MILDRED AND
LESTER GUDGELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize two outstanding constituents of Missouri's 6th Congressional District: Mildred and Lester Gudgell of Meadville, Missouri. Mildred and Lester will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on June 7, 2007.

Mildred and Lester were married on June 7, 1947 in Trenton, Missouri. They have raised five children: Nancy, Peggy, Benny, Paul and Ray, who is now deceased.

Mildred and Lester Gudgell have been outstanding citizens of Meadville and Northwest Missouri. They are dedicated and active members of their community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Mildred and Lester Gudgell. Their marriage of 60 years is inspirational, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSO-
CIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 70 for receiving