

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

the Volunteer Dedication Award given by The San Diego-Imperial Counties, AFL-CIO.

NALC Branch 70 was chartered in 1970, and has had a tradition of volunteering for charities, food drives, and legislative actions.

Unfortunately, due to the Hatch Act of 1939, the working letter carrier was prevented from taking any significant volunteer role in partisan political campaigns until 1993 when the Hatch Act was reformed.

NALC Branch 70, the United States Postal Service (USPS), along with the help of many other unions work together every year (on the 2nd Saturday of May) to collect food from our customers for those in our communities who are in need. This year will mark the 15th anniversary of the NALC Food Drive.

In 1982 the NALC Branch 70 and the USPS established a national program called Carrier Alert, of which Branch 70 is a member. This program, in simple terms, allows elderly and disabled customers to sign up for special attention from their letter carriers. When letter carriers suspect there is trouble they report it. One phone call could save a life; and in fact, lives have been saved through this program. The neighborhood letter carrier is always eager to help monitor the well-being of their customers. It is what letter carriers across the Nation do every day, with or without a formal program.

NALC Branch 70 and the USPS once a year also work with the Lions Club International by collecting eye glasses which are used to distribute to the poor throughout the world and was awarded the International Order of The Lion in 2005 by the Lions Club.

NALC Branch 70 understands it is not just about working together to help their own union, but working together with others so that everyone can have a better life. This is why the NALC Branch 70 is such a proud and distinguished member of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT GRADUATES OF PARAMUS' D.A.R.E. PROGRAM AT WEST BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Paramus Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of West Brook Middle School. More than 150 students are participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program at West Brook Middle School, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Breanne Babin, Nicole Becker, Tamar Beylerian, Isabella Blanco-Rivas, Nicholas Bushman, Julia Castronovo, Deborah Daoud, Arnold De Masi, Anthony Gallo, Tiffany Hsiung, Alisha Jadhav, Stephen McGuire, Lauren Mihalik, Christina Muller, Hayley Niland, Aisling O'Connor, Justin Ordonez, Jacqueline Paizis, Kevin Perusse, Kimberly Portes, Nicholas Ruso, Zacky Sungkar, Daniel Toppo, Maxwell Wagner, Matthew Warren, Nadia Admani, Christopher Akdemir, Emily Aranda, Varun Bhatt, Miranda Campbell, Gabriel Cepeda, Divya Dasani, Nadine Haddad, Connor Hagen, Noel Hodgins, Brittany Hovan, Kwon-Sung Jung, Kathleen McGee, Leah Paterno-Olivari, Michael Piquero, Brian Polsky, Diego Ramirez, Michael Rullis, Akari Saito, Amitoj Sawhney, Nicole Sicari, Victoria Stable, Nicole Tomic, Mimi Tsang, Alok Vaidya, Shefalee Vohra, Brandon Birdsall, Diana Blanco, Nicholas Bucci, Ryan Bucci, Steven Carrescia, Justin Cochran, Mark Cristaldi, Rebekah Daniel, Joseph Dobrowski, Aleah Dotson, David Elhananov, Zinath Froogh, Michelle Kim, Emil Lopez, Carla Nilo, Yusuke Oshimizu, Daniel Paolazzi, Rachel Rigolosi, Eric Rosenzweig, Erika Soto, Athanasios Stepas, Michael Thompson, Gregory Vaks, Zachary Yabroudy, Priyanka Abraham, Jafar Ali, Alexandra Arrighi, Matthew Askling, Nicole Cagar, Alex Castro, Jesse Christie, Tyler Deas, Nicholas Delgiorno, Ariana Delloso, Nina Fiorilla, Dean Fujita, Oscar Gonzales, James Hallihan, Nikolaos Haralambakis, Max Hopkins, Zalaikha Javed, Sofia Koutsoumbis, Matthew Lahanas, Lindsey Lucas, Kayla Mees, Janki Patel, Zachary Reuveni, Ryan Rivera, Liridona Shala, Pratyusha Valiveti, Matthew Alpher, Jason Back, Parita Bhandari, Thomas Bores, Brooke Bukowski, Randy Casallas, Harold Choo, Matthew DeMatteo, Julia Deutmoser, Jana Devaney, Margaret Doyle, Joseph Faris, Laura Heckelmann, Daniel Heidt, Yurina Iijima, Farah Kiki, Michelle Kim, Elyse Krupinski, Maya Peterson, Victoria Petruzzella, Victoria Poplaski, Justine Rizzitello, Adam Ron, Daniel Schauer, Emad Tirmizi, Kevin Tirpanciani, Lakhini Vyas, George Ayob, Jr., Shannon Barile, Tiffany Buchen, Francis Ciabrone, Alexandra Cooney, Julia Cuomo, Alyssa De Clemente, Julia Delloso, Erika Dipasquale, Jessica Goldman, Jessica Hazuda, Nicole Huaman, Sundesh Kodali, Kimberly La Vecchia, Matthew Lemash, Brian Monticello, Timothy Moran, Deanna Napoli, Shivam Raikundalia, Raquel Riggitano, Jacob Roth, Nicholas Salemme, Karan Shah, Zainab Shahsamand, Donovan Spivey, Carly Turton, Shawn Abraham, Joseph Akdemir, Asha Babu, Rachel Buchbinder, Allison Chang, Daniel Chen, John Chinchar, Inderpreet Dhaliwal, Lindsay Diamond, John Diaz, Sky Digirolamo, Stephanie Edelstein, Julia Gerogiannis, Michael Kim, Gina Kisley, Joseph Lee, Daisy Lee, Grace Lim, Annika Nungra, Alyssa Nungra, John Piccinich, Abraar Quraishi, Alexa Salinardi, Alexander Shater, Courtney Smallze, Rebecca Song, Ashlin Twardzik, Parth Vaidya.

TRIBUTE TO FAYE COWART

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Faye Cowart. Mrs. Cowart has served the community for 38 years as a leader in the area of public education. As an outstanding educator in the Los Angeles Unified School District since 1969, Mrs. Cowart has been dedicated to the promotion of student success and educational achievement.

Mrs. Cowart has been a long time resident of Altadena, CA, and began her career in education as a teacher in the Los Angeles School District. After teaching for several years, she served as a Title I Coordinator, Assistant Principal, and Compliance Coordinator in the Specially Funded Programs Branch. In each of these endeavors, she distinguished herself as a tireless advocate for improving the quality of education for all of our students.

I ask all Members to join with me in congratulating Mrs. Faye Cowart for her dedicated service and commitment to the promotion of quality education. I am sure that each person positively affected by Mrs. Cowart's service will also join me in wishing her much joy in the years to come and great thanks for her time, her energy, and her efforts.

DANIEL VINCENT WILLIAMS FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Vincent Williams, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ross has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. For his Eagle Scout project, Ross's leadership helped to replace the wire fencing around the backstop and painting the poles of the Winston R-VI School baseball field. This completes the fifth Eagle Scout project that improves the baseball field.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Vincent Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING COUNCILLOR LEONARD F. O'LEARY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Councillor Leonard F. O'Leary of Salem, MA. Councillor O'Leary recently announced that he would not be seeking reelection. It will be the first time since 1984 when