ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION 32ND ANNUAL GALA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which will be hosting its 32nd Annual Gala on Saturday, November 8, 2008, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award each year at this annual banquet.

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical service to the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, and they have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's charity ball, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Mr. James Gagan. Born in Chicago, Illinois on May 6, 1930, James Lawrence Gagan learned the importance of serving his community from a young age. This would become evident in his two separate stints in the United States Army between 1948 and 1954. Following his military service, Jim, as he is known by those closest to him, relocated to Northwest Indiana in 1956 and worked as a finance company manager until 1958. At that time, he founded a collection and prorating business now owned and operated by his brother, Larry. An astute businessman, Mr. Gagan later moved on to the oil industry when, in 1963, he founded United Penn Oil and Gas Company. Focusing on the leasing, drilling, and production of oil and gas wells, the company expanded to serve an area covering nine states. Remarkably, Jim's entrepreneurial success did not end there. In 1971, he conceived a new company that incorporated with United Consumers Club, Inc. Now known as Direct Buy, this company is now the most successful private buying club in the world, with more than one million members and 163 locations throughout the United States and Canada. Beginning with the vision of Jim Gagan, Direct Buy has become the gold standard in the merchandising industry. Mr. Gagan's impressive contributions to his industry are truly a source of pride for the First Congressional District. In addition, Jim has also been a partner in the development of one of California's premier golf clubs, Big Horn Country Club in Palm Desert, California, which has gained national recognition, and he has been an active participant in the restoration of Innsbrook Country Club, one of Indiana's oldest golf courses.

While his résumé is already impressive in and of itself, it is his service to those in need throughout the Nation that is most astonishing. Entirely funded by profits from Direct Buy, Jim formed the Friendship Foundation in May of 1985. This outstanding foundation, like Jim, is solely focused on improving the quality of life for those who are in need. Since its inception, the Friendship Foundation has contributed, both locally and nationally, to many people through organizations such as: Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army, Christian Haven Homes, Shults-Lewis Homes, Ronald McDonald House, The Caring Place, Baptist Children's Homes, Visiting Nurses Association, Meals on Wheels, Hebrew Association for the Deaf, Greater Hammond Community Center, Special Olympics, Opportunity Enterprises, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Respite Care Services, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Boy Scouts of America, Lake County Child Abuse Center, Hospice Home Care, Children's Memorial Hospitals of Indianapolis and Chicago, as well as many local food pantries, churches, and civic charities. Also, through Direct Buy, local nursing homes have annually received more than 1,500 Christmas gifts, consisting of much needed goods, and more than 1,000 children have had a brighter Christmas thanks to their efforts through the local Angel Tree project. For his efforts on behalf of his community, Jim has received many honors, including the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash, presented by the governor of the State of Indiana, in 1981.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Mr. James Gagan, for their outstanding contributions to their communities and beyond. Their unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States is truly inspirational. For these reasons, the Asian American Medical Association, its members, and Mr. Gagan are to be recognized, and I am proud to serve as their representative in Washington, DC.

IN RECOGNITION OF E. & J. GALLO WINERY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I along with Congressman COSTA rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of E. & J. Gallo Winery, a historic company that embodies California's agricultural prestige. Over the last 75 years, E. & J. Gallo Winery has transformed the winemaking industry in the United States and has made significant contributions to the economic strength and vitality of California.

Following the Prohibition era in 1933, two brothers, Ernest and Julio Gallo, decided to start their own winery. After discovering an old University of California pamphlet on winemaking in the basement of the Modesto Library, they began their business with only $5,900 on hand, a keen business sense, and an entrepreneurial spirit. Over time, they grew their small, family-owned business into one of the largest wineries in the world.

The Gallo brothers recognized the fertile soil of the San Joaquin Valley as an ideal location for starting a winery. Competing against hundreds of startup wineries across California following Prohibition, they quickly rose to the top by making wine affordable to everyday people instead of marketing solely to the upper echelons of society. Their business model caught on and E. & J. Gallo Winery quickly became one of the most respected in the business.

Decades later, E. & J. Gallo Winery has become one of the most influential wineries worldwide, with over 60 unique wines from a wide variety of locales. They have made a commitment to environmentally sustainable farming and have become a model for the rest of the industry. The Gallo Winery employs 4,600 people in the state of California, providing critical highly skilled employment opportunities in the San Joaquin Valley.

E. & J. Gallo Winery has been honored with countless awards for achievement in winemaking, including the American Society of Enologists Merit Award—the wine industry's highest honor—in 1964 for outstanding leadership in the wine industry, the Gold Vine Award from the Brotherhood of the Knights of the Vine wine fraternity, the 1983 Distinguished Service Award from The Wine Spectator, and the Winery of the Year Award in both 1996 and 1998 by the San Francisco International Wine Competition.

Few companies rival the generous spirit of E. & J. Gallo Winery. Throughout the state of California, they invested in local communities, including an endowment for the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto, and the establishment of the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center at the University of California at San Francisco for research into genetic, biochemical and neurobiological aspects of alcohol abuse.

Madam Speaker, it is our great honor and privilege to recognize E. & J. Gallo Winery on the advent of their 75th anniversary. Their contributions to the wine industry, to agriculture, and to the San Joaquin Valley are an inspiration to us all and we continue to wish them great success for many years to come.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DIANA HART

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, as you know, I will be retiring from this House at the conclusion of this Congress, but today I rise to pay tribute to a member of my staff, Diana Hart, who will also be retiring from service in this House.

A native of New Orleans, Diana lived in Germany for many years but decided to make the Washington area her home in the 1980s. Diana holds an associates degree in paralegal studies and joined my staff in 1986. As our office manager, Diana is also usually the first person a visitor to my office meets or a caller speaks with. Over these nearly 22 years of serving constituents and assisting guests, Diana has provided a warm welcome and a helpful demeanor with a continued focus on our office motto of ''Constituents First.''

Over the years, we have come to know Diana as a cat lover who is extremely devoted to her two cats. However, recently a new passion has inched its way into Diana's heart. That passion is her new grandson and her soon-to-arrive granddaughter. In her retirement, Diana is looking forward to being able to spend more time with both her grandchildren

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and her cats, and we all wish her well as she will have more time to pursue these passions. We are grateful to Diana for her service.

IN HONOR OF JACK AND GENEVIEVE CHAPMAN, THE REAL SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to share a story of two true public servants, Jack and Genevieve Chapman of Minnesota. As we enter a season when people's hearts and minds are turned to the spirit of giving, these two people have lived a life of selflessness and charity.

Jack Chapman of St. Paul was recognized by the Army as a Shot Expert Rifleman as an ROTC high school student. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, he was an electrical engineering student at the University of Minnesota. One year later, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was sent to the prestigious Bellevue Radio Materiel School at the U.S. Naval Research Lab. His lifelong love of Ham radio made him a perfect candidate for the new science of radar. He was assigned to the Marine Night Fighters in the South Pacific, the very first to use radar at night. He earned two Bronze Service Stars on the Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbon. Jack also earned the American Theater Campaign Bar before being honorably discharged to return home and complete his college education.

Genevieve Christgau of Minneapolis pursued a nursing degree and became a registered nurse working in the operating room at Asbury Hospital. Her status as essential personnel kept her from joining the Army Nurse Corps. But, as soon as her status changed, she enlisted and was assigned to the 77th Field Hospital in December 1944. Her tour took her to France where she worked with soldiers preparing to return home. Many had come from POW camps and were suffering severe malnutrition. Before her honorable discharge and return to the States, Genevieve was stationed in Nuremburg, Germany. When she returned home, she resumed nursing; this time in the Veterans Hospital in Minneapolis. During the Cuban Refugee Crisis, she worked at Fort McCoy, WI, and she earned certification as a Public Health Nurse, helping provide early childhood screenings and school nursing services.

Genevieve and Jack married on February 18, 1949 and continued to live a life of service. Both are active volunteers at Pax Christi Catholic Church. They also have been members of ''Friday Friends,'' a group that visits Presbyterian Homes, formerly the Eagle Nursing Home, and of Bridging, an organization that provides household furniture and goods to those who need them most. Always putting their family at the center of their generous spirits, they have raised seven children, giving them 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

These two fine people have lived a life of service to their country, their community, and their family. They are two of the many unsung heroes that make America work, and today I rise to sing their praises and to thank them for their selflessness.

HONORING GEORGE BARANOWSKI

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Mr. George Baranowski, of Schererville, Indiana. George has always been a dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizen, and I can say without hesitation that he is one of the most involved individuals I have ever known. As a businessman, entrepreneur, public official, and an avid volunteer, George has served the community in Northwest Indiana for many years. Through his service, he has brought honor to Americans of Polish heritage, and for his efforts, he will be honored with the Polish American Congress Meritorious Service Award at a banquet taking place at The Patio Restaurant in Merrillville, Indiana on Sunday, November 2, 2008.

George Baranowski was born on August 30, 1957 at Saint Catherine Hospital in East Chicago, Indiana. He was the third child born to immigrant parents, Mieczyslaw (Matt) and Janina Baranowski. A lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, George attended Saint Casmir Elementary School in Hammond before moving on to George Rogers Clark High School. Following his graduation from high school in 1975, George went on to study Electrical Engineering Technology at Purdue University, where he earned both his associate and bachelor degrees.

After receiving his associate degree, George began working at the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), where he remained until the completion of his bachelor degree. At that time, he accepted a position in management with Acme Steel in Riverdale, Illinois. Following seven successful years at Acme, George moved on in 1995, when he accepted a management position at BP Amoco in Chicago, Illinois. Recognized for his professionalism and leadership abilities, in 1999, George was awarded a position as Vice President at Prometheus Network Solution, Inc., thus allowing him to obtain one of his lifelong goals.

Having accomplished a goal he set forth for himself in business, George decided to move on, and after working for IBM for a period of time, he and his wife went into business for themselves. On October 1, 2004, George and his wife, Debra, opened their first Allstate Insurance Agency in Dyer, Indiana. Since then they have achieved great success, having been awarded Allstate's prestigious Honor Ring, Regional Champion, and Chairman's Club Member distinctions. In 2007, they were among the elite at Allstate as part of the top five percent. It is no surprise the couple opened their second branch in 2008.

Undoubtedly, George Baranowski has been extremely successful as a businessman and entrepreneur throughout his career. However, his efforts on behalf of his community have truly set him apart from his peers. As a public official, George is currently the Commissioner of the Dyer Redevelopment Commission and a Trustee for the Lake Central School Board. He has also served as Chairman of the Saint John Township Board as well as a Legislative Committee Member for the Indiana School Board Association, serving all of Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter Counties. He has also served as a member of the Chambers of Commerce for the communities of Schererville and Dyer, for which he is currently the Director. In addition to his many civic responsibilities, George has also been extremely active in various charitable and community-based organizations, including: Christmas in April, the Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, and the Polish American Congress.

A devout family man, George spends much of his spare time with not only his business partner, but his loving wife of 28 years, Debra. George and Debra have two sons, Brett and Bryan, and one daughter, Kristy.

Madam Speaker, George Baranowski has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of his community, and he has served as a source of pride for the Polish American community. His efforts have touched the hearts of many people throughout the years, and at this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

HONORING THE REVEREND GEORGE M. DOCHERTY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of the Reverend George M. Docherty, whose influential sermon in 1954 led to the insertion of the phrase ''under God'' in the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Docherty passed away on Thanksgiving Day in his home in Alexandria, PA at the age of 97.

Reverend Docherty came to the United States from Glasgow, Scotland to become the pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, which was attended by President Lincoln in the 1860s and later became known as ''Lincoln's church.'' It is tradition for the President to attend a special service at the church on the Sunday closest to Lincoln's birthday. It was during this special service on February 7, 1954, that Reverend Docherty gave a sermon before President Dwight D. Eisenhower calling for the Pledge of Allegiance to be amended to acknowledge God. Reverend Docherty took the phrase ''under God'' from the Gettysburg Address, in which Lincoln said, ''this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom.''

Reverend Docherty first heard the Pledge of Allegiance from his then 7-year-old son, Garth, and was surprised that it made no reference to God. He argued in his sermon to the President that ''To omit the words 'under God' in the Pledge of Allegiance is to omit the definitive factor in the American way of life.'' Without any acknowledgement of God, Reverend Docherty said the pledge could apply to nearly any nation, including the communist Soviet Union. The sermon had an immediate effect on President Eisenhower, and several bills were introduced in Congress that week to amend the Pledge. The bill to add ''under God'' to the Pledge of Allegiance was signed into law by President Eisenhower just 4 months later on Flag Day 1954.

The Pledge of Allegiance is a national symbol of unity and a reflection of our shared

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