

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. ALLEN  
"ALI" CAYIR

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to congratulate Mr. Allen "Ali" Cayir of Chino Hills, California for being awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, Inc. (NECO), the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. This medal is awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage.

A native of Turkey with an engineering degree from Istanbul Technical University, Mr. Cayir arrived in New York in 1980 with plans to begin a new life in Southern California. In 1989, he founded Transtech Engineering, Inc., which today is a multi-million dollar enterprise that provides professional and technical expertise to governmental agencies, educational institutions and the private development sector.

In addition to Mr. Cayir's professional success, he is an extremely active part of his community. His philanthropic contributions include diverse organizations such as Tools for Education at California State University, restoration work at Mission San Juan Capistrano and United Way.

Throughout his life, Mr. Cayir has demonstrated his commitment to community service as well as a passion to preserve and celebrate ethnic diversity. I am proud to honor Mr. Cayir's achievements and congratulate him on his receiving this prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BERNICE  
MCGRAIL FOR HER SERVICE TO  
THE TOWN OF CLINTON, MASSA-  
CHUSETTS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Bernice McGrail, an extraordinary woman who has devoted fully thirty-six years to the children of the Clinton, Massachusetts Public School System as a member of the School Committee. Today, a reception is being held in Bernice's honor so that the legions of former students, faculty, administrators and local officials can offer her their good wishes as she ends a remarkable record of public service to her beloved hometown. I regret that I am not able to attend today's reception to personally express my profound gratitude, respect and admiration to Bernice. However, I did want to submit these heartfelt words of appreciation into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that her immeasurable contributions to the development of generations of young people will be forever remembered in the annals of this great institution.

Bernice McGrail's tenure on the Clinton School Committee is not only noteworthy for

its longevity but also for the quality of the service she rendered. For Bernice, the job of serving on the school committee did not begin and end with the weekly public meetings. In painstaking detail, she reviewed all of the school department correspondence, meeting minutes, curriculum proposals and staffing recommendations. Bernice's knowledge of the school department budget is unrivaled and when combined with her dogged determination she was an especially effective advocate for the programs she vigorously supported. In addition to doing the difficult committee work, Bernice was also a constant presence at all of the numerous school social functions and activities. From graduations, to football games, to school plays and dances, Bernice never missed an opportunity to show her pride in the achievements of the school children. Her warmth and sense of humor have endeared her to so many people over the course of nearly four decades in elected office that Bernice is widely regarded as a political force of nature. Her support for any local initiative is prized and her endorsement of any candidate for elected office is coveted. I, for one, am eternally grateful for the loyal friendship, unwavering support and thoughtful advice Bernice has provided me during my career in Congress.

After thirty-six years of tireless dedication, Bernice McGrail is leaving a legacy of selfless public service that will not soon be equaled. She has made an indelible imprint on the Clinton Public School System and helped shape a promising future for an untold number of its students. Madam Speaker, there is no greater gift than that. I wish Bernice and her family continued good health and happiness and kindly ask that the United States Congress publicly acknowledge her exceptional service to the Town of Clinton, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment to recognize the month of March as Women's History Month. In our not-so-distant past, women could not vote, own property or maintain wages. Women were not expected to think independently of their husbands, and their work was limited to the household. But even when considered second class citizens, it was our mothers, daughters and sisters who prepared the next generation of Americans for the challenges that lay ahead. As Kofi Annan famously said, "When women thrive, all of society benefits, and succeeding generations are given a better start in life."

Without the American woman's devotion to society, our nation would not be the same. Countless women disguised themselves as men during the Revolutionary War to join the fight for independence. While their husbands, brothers and fathers fought the war abroad, women answered the call by working in factories, sending the allied forces to victory in WWII. Today, American women of every color

and background protect our nation at home and abroad by serving in our Armed Forces. Parents tell their children that women can be anything they dream of—soldiers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, and mothers—without doubt or hesitation.

Chicago's own women have contributed to their communities in significant ways. Carol Moseley-Braun, the first black female senator, attended the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Chicago Law School. Ms. Moseley-Braun was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992 where she introduced several bills that influenced education policy. Prior to becoming senator, she served as a member of the House of Representatives for ten years. Carol Moseley-Braun is recognized for her efforts in education reform and the years she dedicated to serving the state of Illinois. She is truly an example for our young women.

Michelle Obama, our first black First Lady, has contributed greatly to the city of Chicago and to her country. Mrs. Obama, a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law, is an extraordinary example of grace and success for all women. She proves that women can do it all—have a high-powered career, be a devoted mother and wife, contribute to her community, and even campaign. As an advocate for national service and helping working women balance family and career, the First Lady continues to show that there is no limit to what a woman can do.

I salute the women who have sacrificed so much to serve our country. Each woman benefits our society in her own way, and whether an artist or a doctor, a teacher or a lawyer, a mother or a soldier every woman's success encourages future generations of young girls and women to follow their dreams. I am proud to recognize March as Women's History Month in our great nation.

IN HONOR OF 307TH BOMB GROUP/  
WING MACDILL/KADENA ERA  
(1946-1954)

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 307th Bomb Group/Wing (1946-1954), which is holding its 14th reunion this week in Tampa, Florida.

The 307th Bombardment Group rose from the reorganization of the U.S. Army Air Forces after World War II and the deactivation on August 6, 1946, of the 498th Bombardment Group.

As the initial SAC Bomb Group, the 307th was first tasked with developing tactics, operating procedures and training requirements to engage in anti-submarine and sea search operations. The high priority given their task also gave them priority in recruiting personnel, training and equipment. As a result, while the 307th was assigned 13 B-29 aircraft when it was instituted, it had 30 B-29s a month later.

The 307th was busy for the next few years but it was the outbreak of the Korean War that tested its mettle. In the summer of 1950, the 307th with 31 B-29s deployed from Florida's MacDill Air Force Base to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa and on August 8 began bombing runs on North Korea.

The B-29s bombed the enemy's transportation system and industrial facilities throughout North Korea. Following a November campaign against the bridges over the Yalu River into Manchuria, the B-29s bombed interdiction targets, communication and supply centers, and supported United Nations ground forces by hitting gun emplacements and troop concentrations.

For the next few months the wing's bombers participated in FEAF's bridge-busting campaign, flying numerous missions against key bridge spans, and helped U.N. ground forces blunt a communist spring offensive. On May 23rd, the 307th provided nighttime close-in support, shredding enemy positions along the entire battlefield with Loran Radar guided and aimed fragmentation bombs.

The 307th was integral in the war effort until the truce was signed in July 1953. As the truce talks were concluding, the 307th helped disrupt and spoil an enemy ground offensive, earning it a Distinguished Unit Citation. At the end of the hostilities, the 307th had flown more than 5,800 combat missions.

In 1954, the wing returned to the United States and was assigned to Lincoln Air Force Base in Nebraska. The B-29s were retired and the unit became a B-47 wing, ending an era.

Madam Speaker, most of the surviving veterans of the 307th Bomb Group/Wing who flew over Korea are in their 80s—including my friend Cy Johnson of Camarillo—and every reunion brings fewer of them together. I believe my colleagues will agree, however, that it's important to remember the 307th's role in bringing peace to the Korean Peninsula and fighting back the initial push of communist aggression. I therefore ask my colleagues to join with them and with me in commemorating their earned and rightful place in our American history.

#### RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE HOSPITAL CENTER FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 100 years of quality health care provided by Lawrence Hospital Center in Bronxville, New York.

Lawrence Hospital Center first opened its doors in 1909 to care for residents of Southern Westchester County and beyond, and it continues providing high-quality health care today. It was founded by William Van Duzer Lawrence, who recognized the need for high-quality and timely care for residents of New York City suburbs after his son, Dudley, nearly died en route to a hospital in New York City.

In its first year of operation, Lawrence had thirty beds and treated a total of 278 patients. Today, Lawrence Hospital Center has grown into a 291 bed acute-care facility that treats thousands of patients annually.

Lawrence has a strong history of leadership in health care and local medical excellence. In 2006 Lawrence became a leader in stroke care when the hospital became a designated New York State Stroke Center. Lawrence's Cancer Care program has also been accredited

by the American College of Surgeons with Commendation.

Employing more than 400 physicians, Lawrence Hospital Center provides expertise in virtually every area of medical specialty. It is recognized for its professional excellence in bariatric surgery, cardiology, obstetrics, orthopedics, and oncology.

Committed to health care excellence, Lawrence Hospital Center has recently expanded and renovated its facilities in order to continue serving the growing population of Westchester County and surrounding areas. Recently, the hospital opened a state-of-the-art maternity center, expanded and improved its emergency department, and finalized plans for a future sleep center.

I am proud to recognize and thank Lawrence Hospital Center for providing 100 years of outstanding health care to residents of the New York Metropolitan Area, and I look forward to working with Lawrence Hospital Center to strengthen the health care system in the lower Hudson Valley.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ATHLETIC DIRECTOR RONNIE CHAVIS

**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, as co-chairman and co-founder of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I rise today to extend my most sincere congratulations to Robeson County Athletic Director Ronnie Chavis, who was honored by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) as 2009 National Athletic Director of the Year. Mr. Chavis, who has served the Public Schools of Robeson County for over 17 years as director of athletics, driver education, health, and physical education, was honored as Southern District Athletic Director of the Year on January 5, 2009. It was at the organization's national convention in Tampa, Florida, held during the first week of April, that Mr. Chavis was named NASPE's 34th Athletic Director of the Year.

Mr. Chavis is a long-time resident of Robeson County, which is my home county. He graduated from Prospect High School in 1968 and attended the University of North Carolina at Pembroke where, as pitcher, he led his baseball team to the College World Series with a 9-3 record. Mr. Chavis graduated from UNC—Pembroke with a degree in education in 1972, and began teaching and coaching at a local high school. Mr. Chavis later earned two master's of education degrees from Campbell University, one in physical education, and the other in administration and supervision. In 1989, he was named Athletic Director of the Public Schools of Robeson County.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Chavis used funds from a physical education grant to build fitness centers, complete with new conditioning and physical education equipment, for each of the seven high schools within his district. Furthermore, Mr. Chavis ensured that all 35 elementary and middle schools were furnished with adequate physical education supplies, equipment, and software. Mr. Chavis also partnered with the Public

Schools of Robeson County to provide funds for the lighting of all baseball and softball fields, and two football fields. Finally, Mr. Chavis established the Robeson County Coaches Golf Tournament, which has raised over \$15,000 to assist coaches and athletes that have experienced hardships.

Mr. Chavis is recognized by his colleagues as a highly dedicated professional who is able to motivate both students and coaches. His impact on the children of Robeson County and its youth sports community is evident. While a number of Robeson County athletes have gone on to play at the collegiate and/or professional level, many of Mr. Chavis' former students have emerged as doctors, lawyers, and coaches. Teaching discipline and perseverance, Mr. Chavis continues to inspire the lives of our children, molding individuals who will make many useful contributions to society. On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I extend congratulations to Mr. Chavis for his recognition as 2009 National Athletic Director of the Year.

#### HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment to honor Abraham Lincoln's legacy as we commemorate the bicentennial of his birth this year. President Lincoln had a tremendous impact on the progression of our nation. The 16th President of the United States successfully led the country through its greatest internal crisis, the American Civil War, preserving the Union and ending slavery with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. As a young man, Abraham Lincoln feared not achieving anything that would make men remember him. With hard work, dedication, and determination, today, Abraham Lincoln tops the list, for many, as one of the most influential—and most revered—Americans.

The spirit that guided him was clearly that of his Second Inaugural Address, now inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds . . ." Indeed, Lincoln's legacy is most alive in our continuous search for freedom, equality, and opportunity. I feel that it is only right for my fellow colleagues and I to pay homage to a great leader who helped pave the way for so many and who continues to inspire people today, two hundred years later.

As our newly elected 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, also from Illinois, begins his first term in office, the wounds of the nation and the world will begin to heal as he is guided and inspired by the former President Lincoln. Illinois is the state where Lincoln spent more than a quarter century of his life, serving as a lawyer and politician, leaving his mark in many towns and cities throughout the state. Long before being elected president in 1860, he served four terms in the state legislature and one in Congress. The state of Illinois honors Lincoln's legacy in a variety of ways including: The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the Lincoln