

Even in the midst of difficult financial times, this award serves to remind us all that with hard work and perseverance anyone can achieve the American dream. In addition, by honoring these remarkable Americans, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America.

I commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and in congratulating all of the 2012 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor.

2013 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Mohamed Mike Ahmar, Varoujan Altebarmakian, MD, William C. Anton, Bharat H. Barai, MD, Brian Boitano, Noreen Salah Burpee, Hon. Woody Burton, Wendy Y. Chao, Melvin L. Cheatham, MD, Alina Cho, Byung Chang Cho, Im Ja P. Choi, Jerry L. Chong, Esq., Candice Chulee, Seamus Connolly, David C. Dauch, Warren Will David, Vidyasagar Dharmapuri, MD, Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Russell J. Ebeid, John David Eckstein, MD, Dr. Jamshid Ehsani, Mia Farrow, Joseph Fiorentino, RADM Moira N. Flanders, USN (Ret.), LTG Michael Flynn, USA, Jamshid Ghajar, MD, PhD, Hossein Gharib, MD, MACP, MACE, Dore J. Gilbert, MD, LTC USAR, Hubert Guerrand-Hermes, Xavier Guerrand-Hermes, Yong Hwa Ha, Kenneth S. Hershon, MD, Victoria Shoghag Hovanessian, Yousef Javadi, Hratch Kaprielian, Ara Kevork Karajerjian, AIC, CPC, Patricia J. Kennedy, Rep. Peter T. King, Michelle King Robson, Vahid Kooros, Kenneth Julius Kovach, Jackson H. Kuan, MD, Christopher J. Kuelling, Esq., Arthur Bihua Liu, Captain Gordon A. Loebl, USCG, Dr. J. Phillip London, RADM Brian Losey, USN, James Lu, Col. Robert M. Lucania, USAF (Ret.), Christine Eliska Lynn, Fasha (Farshad) Mahjoor, Dertad Manguikian, MD, Yvonne Marceau, Danny Masterson, Gail J. McGovern, Hon. Gregory J. Melikian, USAF (Ret.), Mark R. Melton, David Merage, Gary Mervis, Robert S. Milligan, H.E. Albert Alexander Montague, MG Patrick A. Murphy, USA, Kikanza Nuri-Robins, EdD, MDiv, 1st Lt Steven Ortiz, MA ANG, Mahendra R. Patel, Ramesh J. Patel, David Anthony Pope, John Psaras, Bruce Ramer, Alma Rangel, Assistant Chief Joseph J. Reznick, Monsignor Robert J. Romano, Ronald J. Ross, M.D., F.A.C.R., Pardis Sabeti, MD, DPhil, Homa Sarshar, Kamala Saxena, MD, Jack G. Shaheen, PhD, H. John Shamma, MD, Thomas Sherak, Deputy Chief Steven J. Silks, Anthony Spavone, Stephen J. Squeri, Valavanur A. Subramanian, MD, Aso O. Tavitian, Silvia Tchakmakjian, George Solon Tsandikos, Russell Thayer Tutt, Jr., Col. Lee A. Van Arsdale, USA, (Ret.), Argyris "RJ" Vassiliou, Richard A. Vermeil, Frank A. Visco, Wyan Hua Wang, Dionne Warwick, Wim Wiewel, PhD, Dar-yih David Wu, Vahe Stephan Yacoubian, MD, Christopher G. Zizza.

HONORING KIMBERLY DOUMA,
NAPA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kimberly Douma, who has been chosen as Napa County Teacher of the Year for 2014.

Since 1991, Ms. Douma has taught kindergarten, first, and second grades at West Park Elementary School in Napa, California. Throughout her teaching career, Ms. Douma has worked hard to serve her school community in the Napa Valley. She has been a member of the Napa Valley Unified School District Professional Standards Committee since 2010, served eight years as the West Park Leadership Teacher Representative, six years as the West Park Family Club Teacher Representative, and six years as the West Park School Site Council Teacher Representative. Further, Ms. Douma has offered free tutoring to at-risk children for the past three years and taught Before School Language Arts Intervention. Ms. Douma has co-chaired the West Park Elementary Carnival for the last 22 years, initiating various activities including the Visual and Performing Arts program, and the Food Booths and the Book Booth. She has been a member of the California Teachers Association and Napa Valley Educators Association for 22 years.

As a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church Ms. Douma has participated on the Long Life Learning Committee for five years, served as a Sunday School Teacher, a Vacation Bible School Chair, and hosted five years of Christmas and Easter Pageants.

Ms. Douma has received accolades for her outstanding contributions as an educator in Napa from various community organizations, including Teacher of the Year from the Napa Rotary Club, and the Young Church Woman Award from the Women United of the Napa Valley.

Mr. Speaker, Kimberly Douma grew up believing that teachers could be tour guides to adventure. Inspired by her late father who was also a teacher, Kimberly is beginning to teach the children of students she had early in her career, and continues to inspire and engage every child that has the privilege to call her "Teacher". It is fitting that today we honor her ongoing commitment to excellence in education.

RECOGNIZING COBRA MOTO

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Cobra Moto, a manufacturer of premium race-ready mini motocross bikes for youth riders that are proudly made in the U.S.A.

Designed and produced in Hillsdale, Michigan, Cobra bikes were recently ridden to victory by three youth national champions at the

2013 Red Bull Amateur National Motocross Championship in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee. While I know the folks at Cobra were very excited at the results, this success doesn't come as a surprise to anyone in the motorcycling community.

Since 1993, Cobra has consistently delivered the most successful line of competition mini bikes in the country. Riders have driven these iconic little yellow bikes to more than 300 titles, a testament to the high standards Cobra demands from each one of their machines.

In this 20th year of producing quality competition dirt bikes, I offer my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the people of Cobra and the riders who enjoy their quality machines.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. CHERYL A. MARSHALL

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Cheryl A. Marshall who will be inducted as the seventh president of Crafton Hills College on September 27, 2013.

Dr. Marshall has had a distinguished career in the field of education. Having received her doctorate of education from the University of Southern California, Dr. Marshall has spent ten of the last twenty years as an educator in positions of leadership, changing the lives of her students for the better. As a member of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership's Education Council, she has contributed to the region-wide effort to address educational gaps and prepare our students for a strong presence in the workforce. As a former educator, I believe it is her specialization in educational management, strategic planning, and performance management that sets her apart.

A firm believer in the intrinsic value of education, Dr. Marshall fully understands and appreciates the vital role that education plays in our society. Having secured close to \$9 million dollars in grant funding during her career, she has been able to safeguard various programs and services would always be available in order for her students to succeed. During her tenure as Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Marshall ensured Crafton Hills College received full accreditation within just two years. Such dedication, exemplified by Dr. Marshall, makes Crafton Hills College an excellent institution of higher learning.

In closing, I'd like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Marshall, her husband Patrick and their two children on her inauguration. I look forward to seeing Crafton Hills College grow and prosper under her experienced direction.

IN RECOGNITION OF COL. CHARLES JACKSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary career of Col. Charles

Jackson who recently retired from his position as Assistant Vice President for Facilities at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton, Texas. For over a decade, he has competently overseen the rapid growth of new construction and renovation of numerous campus buildings. Prior to his work at UNT, Col. Jackson spent the majority of his career serving his country on active duty with the United States Air Force (USAF). As a registered professional engineer and member of the Association of Physical Plant Administrators, Col. Jackson has distinguished himself as an accomplished military and civilian engineer through his successful direction of numerous projects and developments, domestically and abroad.

Col. Jackson received a B.A. in civil engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a M.A. in engineering/facilities from the Air Force Institute of Technology. He served as the commander of the 7th Engineering Squadron at Carswell Air Force Base at Fort Worth, Texas. His civil engineer leadership positions include duty assignments stateside in Colorado, Texas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma and overseas in Japan, Germany and Belgium. Col. Jackson dedicated 30 years of his life as a civil engineer in the Air Force and achieved the rank of Colonel upon his retirement in May 1998.

Following his departure from the Air Force, Col. Jackson began employment at UNT as Facilities Maintenance Manager and was selected for his current position in 2005. Since 2000, the UNT campus has rapidly expanded to accommodate the growing number of incoming students. Col. Jackson has overseen the construction of four residence halls, seven major buildings and additional renovation projects. His proudest accomplishments include the Library Mall, the Net Zero Energy Lab, and the recent completion of the SMART project which will have a long-term beneficial impact for the UNT campus. Col. Jackson acted as a vital proponent of this project that will save the University over \$3 million in utility and operation costs annually and ensure reliable systems to support UNT into the future. The SMART project recently received a Green Ribbon Award in the infrastructure category from the U.S. Green Building Council North Texas as the best example of the implementation of sustainable infrastructure design, construction or management practices.

On a personal level, I am grateful to Col. Jackson for his advice and expertise as a member of my Service Academy Board. As a USAF Academy graduate and higher education representative, Col. Jackson's role was to comprehensively screen and interview high school and college applicants wishing to receive a congressional nomination and to advise me upon the selection of qualified service academy candidates.

I join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating Col. Charles Jackson upon his exemplary service to our community, state and Nation and extend my warmest wishes upon a well-earned retirement. His positive contributions and dedicated efforts will continue to enhance the University of North Texas for years to come, and I am privileged to represent the University of North Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 449, I was unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 2844.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

CONGRATULATING THE RIO RICO LITTLE LEAGUE JUNIORS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rio Rico Little League Juniors, this year's National Champions.

On August 16, 2013, Rio Rico (4-1) beat Goodlettsville, Tennessee 7-3 to capture the United States Championship at the Junior League World Series.

The Rio Rico Little League Juniors advanced through the state, regionals, and won the National Championship and represented the United States against the undefeated Asia Pacific Baseball Academy team from Taiyuan, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan).

On August 18, 2013, Nogales and Rio Rico both came together in celebration of the Little League's success. The streets were filled with fire trucks, fans, and family members who eagerly and fondly received the team for the champions they are.

I like to extend my deepest congratulations to the Rio Rico Little League boys and to the coaches that contributed to the very success and victory of the team.

I also give my most sincere thanks to the Rio Rico Little League juniors for their wonderful performance and for representing all of Arizona with such pride, dignity, and courage.

HONORING CITY MANAGER TOM ROBINSON

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Robinson for his public service to the people of La Mirada, California. Tom began with the city in 1985 as the Community Resource Manager and, in 2008, Tom was appointed City Manager. After 27 productive years of service to La Mirada and its residents, Tom has retired.

During his tenure with the City of La Mirada, Tom always provided strong leadership and knowledgeable direction for major projects. Those numerous projects included the City's Community Services Master Plan, the Social Services Model Plan, and the development of the Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center.

Over the past decade, Tom has worked tirelessly to ensure La Mirada operates on firm financial footing and never outside its fiscal

means. While the struggling economy has impacted many cities throughout Southern California, La Mirada has managed to maintain funding for all city services and capital improvement projects and Tom is a big reason why. It's no surprise La Mirada was listed by CNN and Money Magazine as one of the "Best Places to Live" in 2007.

As an active civic member, he has served as a member of the American Society for Public Administration, an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America, and a member and former president of the Rotary Club of La Mirada. Robinson has been recognized by the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO). The award recognizes exceptional service and career achievement by public communicators.

From one public servant to another, I praise Tom Robinson and commend him on his many years of outstanding public service and dedication to the City of La Mirada and its residents. Let us wish him and his family the very best in retirement.

HONORING CRISTIAN ROLDAN, RECIPIENT OF THE 2012-2013 GATORADE NATIONAL BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am here to congratulate Cristian Roldan, who is the recipient of the 2012-2013 Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year Award. This is an amazing feat that deserves our recognition.

In 1985, The Gatorade Company established an award to recognize high school athletes across the country. Since then, more than 12,500 students have been honored with the award of State Player of the Year and 250 National Players of the Year. This prestigious list includes many top professional athletes such as Payton Manning, Lisa Leslie, and Derek Jeter. The Gatorade Player of the Year award is presented to high school athletes that have achieved athletic excellence as well as high standards of academic achievement and model character on and off the field. Cristian was selected as the National Player of the Year out of 400,000 boys high school soccer players.

Cristian, recently graduated from El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera, CA. Cristian; a 5-foot-7, 165-pound midfielder; was without a doubt the catalyst of the El Rancho Dons boys' soccer team this past season leading them to a 29-2-1 record and the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section Division III title. Scoring 54 goals and 31 assists, he also helped the Dons capture the Division I title at the CIF Southern California Regional Soccer Championships. As the season came to a successful end, Cristian was awarded Most Valuable Player of the CIF Southern Section Division III.

In addition to his success on the soccer field, Cristian was a three-year varsity volleyball player, all while earning a 3.74 GPA his senior year. Cristian is a member of the California Scholarship Federation for his academic excellence and serves as a peer mentor in his spare time. Cristian has displayed