

HONORING MORGAN ATKINSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Morgan Atkinson. Morgan is 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 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Morgan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Morgan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Morgan contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID
LUIS**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of David Luis, former battalion chief for the Ripon Consolidated Fire Department. He passed away on November 24, 2016, surrounded by loved ones.

Over 26 years, David dedicated himself to the Ripon Consolidated Fire Department. He advanced from firefighter to captain to battalion chief. He had a passion for helping people, which was reflected not only in his professional career, but also in his personal life.

When David was not working, you could find him coaching youth football or helping FFA members with their projects. He also served as a member of the Ripon High School Ag Advisory Board. His selfless service has left an impact on multiple generations.

An inspiration to his family, friends and community, David brought out the best in people. His life embodied simple principles of authenticity, kindness, loyalty, humility, hard work, integrity, and above all else, service. Our community will greatly miss David's presence, but his legacy will live on.

David leaves behind his wife Clarice, three children, Josh, Kaleigh, and Courtney, as well as his father, brother, sister, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing Dave Luis and thanking him for his many years of outstanding and heroic service to the Ripon community. God bless him always.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2016 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2016 recipients of the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations—NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The Medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from diverse ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage and culture. We honor these outstanding individuals because the important work they do today, creates a better world for all of us tomorrow. 2016 marks NECO's 30th anniversary. This momentous occasion was celebrated with a patriotic ceremony on Ellis Island and a re-commitment by the leaders of the organization to their mission of honoring diversity, fostering tolerance and promoting religious and racial unity across America.

Since the Medals' founding, more than 2,500 American citizens have received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, including six American Presidents, United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders. This Medal is not about material success, nor is it about the politics of immigration; it is about the people who have committed themselves to this nation, embraced the opportunities America has to offer, and most importantly, who have used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in our country and in the lives of its people.

Citizens of the United States hail from every nation known to man. The iconic metaphor of this nation as a veritable melting pot of cultures continues to ring true, and it is this diversity that adds to the unique richness of American life. It is the key to why America is the most innovative, progressive and forward thinking country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our forebearers to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This award serves to remind us all that with hard work and perseverance anyone can still achieve the American dream. In addition, by honoring these remarkable Americans, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they 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 to 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 2016 recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. I also include in the RECORD the names of this year's recipients.

2016 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Mustafa K. Abadan FAIA, Bahram Akradi, Dr. Fariba Etemadi-Nejad Alamdari, George C. Albano, Mark O. Asperilla, MD, Edward Avedisian, George A. Bannayan, MD, Dr. Rekha Bhandari, David C. Bohnett, VADM Raquel Cruz Bono, MD, Stephen Briganti, Rinaldo S. Brutoco, Barbara Peterson Burwell, John Campion, Ms. Teresa Carlson, Commissioner Patrick Carroll, Stephen J. Cassidy, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey (Ret.), Wendy Diamond, General Ann Dunwoody, Kamran Elahian, Reverend Kail C. Ellis, SA, PhD, Bill Evans, Tamsen Fadal, Hamed Faridi, PhD.

Omid Farokhzad, M.D., VADM James Gordon Foggo, Paul G. Gaffney II VADM (Ret.), Garo S. Garibian, MD, Augie Garrido, FBI Special Agent Stephen Gaudin, Colonel Peter T. Green III, Timothy Haahs, PE, AIA, Leroy Hood, M.D., Ph.D., Appo K. Jabarian, Hon. Richard A. Jones, Brigadier General Paul J. Kennedy, Mehmood Khan, MD, Prerna Mona Khanna, MD, MPH, FACP, FACPM, FACOEM, Gissou R. Kian, George Spiros Kleris, MD, PhD, Vrej Kolandjian, Jerry Kyser, Joshua Laird, Padma Lakshmi, Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, Mr. Hyung Ro Lee, Dr. Deborah Lieberman, Dr. Ajay Lodha, Asad M. Madni, PhD, DSc(H), ScD(H), DEng(H).

The Hon. Rosario Marin-Former US Treasurer, Eileen C. McDonnell, Captain Thomas S. Morkan, Robert Muzikowski, Alexander Navab, Dr. Chrysostomos L. Nikias, Ronald K. Noble, Thomas J. O'Donnell, Dr. Tony Orlando, Andrew F. Ortiz, JD, MPA, Carl Peterson, Charles Pinajian, Shervin Pishevar, Vincent F. Pitta, Esq., Lori Pollock, Jean Lenti Ponsetto, Issam Raad, MD, FACP, FIDSA, FSHEA, Daniel Ritchie, Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis, M.A. Ed, DHL, Peter Salovey, Ph.D., Akkaraju V.N. Sarma, MD, PhD, FAAFP, Michael H. Saudino, Sr, Edward H. Schauder, Esq., Major General Errol Schwartz.

Andrew Sieja, Major General John K. Singlaub (Ret.), Dr. Massih Tayebi, I. Lorraine Thomas, Edward Tom, Alice (Ali) Torre, Commissioner Benjamin Tucker, Mike Utley, Emmanuel E. Velivasakis, PE, FASCE, Jeanette Sarkisian Wagner, John C. Wobensmith, Doreen Wohl, Ambassador R. James Woolsey, Arthur William Zeckendorf.

INTERNATIONAL ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Anthony von Mandl, Bedriska v. Mandl, Bill S. Hansson, PhD.

HONORING THOMAS BEALE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas Beale. Thomas is 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 714, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Thomas earned the rank of Warrior of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Thomas has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Thomas built a patio and fire pit for an

outdoor worship and recreation area at Dearborn Christian Church in Dearborn, Missouri.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote Number 589 on H.R. 4757, to expand the eligibility for headstones, markers, and medallions furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for deceased individuals who were awarded the Medal of Honor and are buried in private cemeteries, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH WALLACE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Elizabeth Wallace. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and wife. Elizabeth passed away peacefully on October 19th, 2016.

Elizabeth was born in Harbin, China on March 16th, 1944. At age 11 she emigrated with her mother, Edith, from China to Brazil, where she remained through high school. Elizabeth then traveled to California, where she met her future husband Joel "Bud" Wallace in San Francisco. They married in 1966 and moved to Merced, their home for the next 50 years. Although the Wallaces resided in Merced, Elizabeth identified herself as a "Citizen of the World", continuing to travel to many countries and fostering a lifetime passion for travel.

Between her travels Elizabeth was active in the Merced community. She played an important role in establishing the University of California, Merced. UC Merced's Yablokoff-Wallace Dining Hall and Elizabeth's Garden, named in recognition of her, are used and appreciated by students each and every day. She volunteered regularly at the historic Courthouse Merced and was active in bringing St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox church to Merced. She and Bud built Red Rock Winery, where she spent time in the tasting room.

Elizabeth is survived by her loving husband of 50 years, Joel "Bud" Wallace; her daughter and son-in-law, Lillian and Mark Dutra; and her son and daughter-in-law, Nicholas and Lisa Wallace. She has three grandchildren, Allison Dutra, Michael Dutra, and Vladimir Wallace; and her dog, Tippy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Elizabeth Wallace's memory. Her love of family and commitment to her community serve as an example to all citizens, not just of our nation but also of our world.

HONORING WILL CAVANAGH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader in our community, Will Cavanagh, whose humanitarian work is being recognized by The Pelham Civic Association at their Annual Dinner Dance Gala. Will is one of three honorees for "Persons of the Year" on November 4, 2016 in my district.

Will is a student advocate and visionary with over two decades of volunteer service to the Pelham School District, including four consecutive terms—12 years—on the Pelham Board of Education, where he served as Vice-President of the Board. Will actively participated in the implementation and improvement of educational programming in the district, which included giving students more access to Advanced Placement/Honors classes; expanding course offerings and building the Science Research program; and developing the Bridge Academy Program.

Will also supported the Pelham School District's work on scope and sequence of subject matter for all grades, which has been instrumental to programmatic improvements, particularly in light of Common Core standards.

Will chaired the District Committee that oversaw development of the School District's Five-Year Strategic Plan (2006–2011) and headed up the District's Turf Field Committee leading to the installation of the Pelham's turf field. Will also served as the Pelham Rec Soccer Commissioner for eight years during a period of great expansion. In addition, he is a member of the Pelham Civic Association and long-time volunteer in the community.

It is an honor to present Will Cavanagh with a Congressional Record. Congratulations to all honorees of the evening.

HONORING DAVID GARCIA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Garcia. David is 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 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years David has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, David has become an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. David has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. David coordinated with the Liberty Parks and Recreation department and planted 83 native Missouri plants at the Rush Creek Parkway roundabout near Liberty Hospital in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David Garcia for his accomplish-

ments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING GALE MCCOY FOR 33 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a remarkable civil servant, Gale McCoy. This year Gale is retiring from the U.S. Department of State after 33 years of service. I want to take this moment to highlight the career of this lifelong public servant.

Over the years, Ms. McCoy has served in several capacities. In 2007, she became the director of the Special Issuance Agency, which is charged with the task of processing diplomatic and official passport applications for the Department of Defense, the White House, and Congress. In 2011, Gale McCoy opened the Atlanta Passport Agency, which serves as the central hub for citizens across southeast. In 2016, the Agency issued over 38,000 passports. Under the leadership of Director McCoy the Atlanta Passport Agency has streamlined operations and put customer service at the forefront of their mission. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the hard work of Director McCoy and her staff, families are able to visit loved ones overseas, local business are able to grow internationally, and diplomatic work can continue without any impediments to travel.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of Georgia, I would like to thank Gale McCoy for the foundation she created that will ensure the Atlanta Passport Agency will continue serving the people of the Southeast. I would like to wish Gale and her family many more years of health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted:

YEA on Roll Call No. 588

YEA on Roll Call No. 589

CONGRATULATIONS DR. JOHN JUNGSMANN ON BEING NAMED AS MISSOURI'S TOP SUPER- INTENDENT DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John Jungsmann, superintendent of Springfield Public Schools, who has been named as Missouri's top superintendent and later this year will be a candidate for the nation's top superintendent.