

CAROL ANN GRANT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carol Ann Grant for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Carol Ann Grant is an 8th grader at Bennett Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carol Ann Grant is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Carol Ann Grant for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CHARLES ELACHI, DIRECTOR OF THE JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Dr. Charles Elachi, the Director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), who plans to retire this June after 45 years of service to the people of the United States of America.

Dr. Elachi's journey to become the Director of JPL is a source of inspiration and encouragement to every young person in America who dreams of making great discoveries or changing the world around them. Charles Elachi's life is a true Horatio Alger story. As Dr. Elachi wrote recently in an essay for the Smithsonian, "How did a boy from an ordinary, middle-class family in a little Lebanese village come so far? The answer is deeply connected with what I believed as a child and I still believe today: The United States is a land of freedom and opportunity, where anything is possible, and where dreams can and do come true."

Growing up in the small Lebanese town of Rayak, Charles remembers meeting "quite a few American visitors. Over and over again," he said, "I was struck by their open, positive attitude toward life, their attitude that anything is possible, no holds barred, regardless of family background, religion or color." As a boy, he loved watching the stars at night, and he says watching those stars helped inspire him to study hard at school. He was so successful at his studies that he distinguished himself as Lebanon's top science student, an honor which enabled him to attend any university he chose.

He first earned a degree in physics at the University of Grenoble, France, and then earned a degree in engineering at the Polytechnic Institute. When it was time to decide

on graduate school, those early positive memories of optimistic fearless Americans inspired him to go to California, where he earned admission to the California Institute of Technology. He fell in love with southern California, and earned a master's degree and a doctorate in electrical sciences from Caltech, a master's degree in geology from UCLA, and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Southern California.

His lifelong dreams about exploring the stars and his exceptional work in college brought him to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 1970. He first worked on Earth observing missions, and then moved on to planetary exploration and astrophysics. His scientific and engineering gifts and his natural talent as a leader led NASA to select Charles as the Science Team Leader on the Space Shuttle's Imaging Radar. JPL recognized his unique skills and assigned him to be a key part of the Magellan Imaging Radar which was so essential to visualize the surface of Venus through its permanent and total cloud cover for the first time.

NASA and JPL were so impressed with his work that he was then chosen to lead the radar science team for the extraordinarily successful Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn. Once again, his skill with orbital imaging radar systems proved essential in visualizing the surface of an alien world otherwise forever hidden beneath a permanent worldwide cloak of clouds—Titan. Charles' work as the leader of this radar team was a vital part of selecting the site for humanity's first successful landing on an alien world beyond the moon and Mars when the Huygens spacecraft landed on Titan in January, 2005. The Cassini orbiter continues to thrive far beyond its predicted lifespan and return groundbreaking scientific discoveries about Saturn, its ring system and its immense family of moons.

Charles Elachi was appointed as director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 2001, and under his visionary leadership, JPL scientists and engineers have discovered: conclusive evidence of water ice and long lasting rivers and lakes on Mars; created history's most detailed gravity field and ice maps of Earth; returned history's first samples and close up images of a comet; landed three complex and highly successful spacecraft on Mars; blasted the first artificial crater in a comet to learn what comets are truly made of; landed the first spacecraft on Titan and sampled its surface and atmosphere; discovered lakes and seas of liquid methane on Titan using Charles' imaging radar; created the first deep space telescopes to see the universe in ultraviolet and infrared; returned our first true close up images of dwarf planets and asteroids; created the most detailed map ever made of the Moon; discovered millions of black holes; discovered the first Earth like exoplanet in the habitable zone of another star; discovered conclusive evidence for immeasurable millions of exoplanets in our galaxy; set a still growing record for driving a spacecraft across the surface of another world with the unstoppable Opportunity lander on Mars; discovered the most luminous galaxy in the universe; discovered conclusive evidence for liquid water today on the surface of Mars; discovered immense geysers of frozen water erupting from a worldwide ocean beneath the frozen surface of Saturn's moon Enceladus; and laid the groundwork for what most planetary scientists

predict could be the first discovery of life beyond Earth in the vast oceans of Europa.

These discoveries will be remembered throughout human history. "Only the United States could do this!" as Charles vividly remembers a foreign visitor saying on the night a rocket sky crane gently landed the Mars Science Lab on the surface of Mars in August of 2012. Charles was reminded that night of another day he felt the same sort of immense pride in his nation when he took the oath to become a United States citizen in August of 1979. "In this nation of immigrants," Charles wrote for the Smithsonian, "especially in science and engineering, where people try new things and solve problems, they don't ask where you're from. Instead, they ask who is the best person to help overcome a challenge."

"In other countries, you just don't find this merging of cultures, this melting pot. I think diversity truly enriches our society and makes the United States more intellectually and economically powerful. People from different backgrounds bring different ideas and thought processes. The best ideas rise to the top. I see that happen at NASA and JPL all the time. How else do you land a rover on a planet no human has ever visited, or design a robot to capture an asteroid?"

Charles tells us that "I believe this uniquely American spirit of optimism, the sense that anything is possible for anyone, is a key reason our nation is the world leader in space exploration. . . . That wonderful, very American spirit of opening doors, of pushing the frontier, of pursuing the seemingly impossible—that's what exploration is all about. When the United States landed on the moon and Neil Armstrong took that one "small step" on the surface, when we landed a rover on Mars, when we deliberately collided with a comet to study its interior, all those milestones made people here feel deep pride as Americans. But I also believe and hope that they made people around the globe feel deep pride as humans, pride in all the positive and amazing things we can accomplish when we work together."

Charles Elachi embodies everything that has made America the most prosperous and powerful and freest nation in the history of the world. His life and the scientific discoveries he has left us all as his legacy will inspire us and our children and grandchildren and their descendants for all time. Charles Elachi and his extraordinary team of scientists and engineers have made our lives as Americans and as members of the human race far, far richer because he and his team have dared and succeeded in achieving mighty things.

All Americans owe this wonderful good man an immeasurable debt of gratitude. We will reap the harvest of his visionary leadership for many, many generations to come. It is my great privilege to be his friend and to stand here today, on behalf of the people of Texas I represent who love NASA and its mission, and on behalf of the United States Congress, to thank Charles Elachi for his devoted service to America, to NASA, to JPL, to science and for helping lead humanity in our greatest era of discovery. May God always bless you and you and your family, Charles.

CLAUDIA VARGAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Claudia Vargas for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Claudia Vargas is a 12th grader at Mapleton Early College High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Claudia Vargas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Claudia Vargas for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CORA HOLSAPFEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cora Holsapfel for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Cora Holsapfel is a 12th grader at Northglenn High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cora Holsapfel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cora Holsapfel for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

GABRIEL GALLEGOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gabriel Gallegos for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Gabriel Gallegos is an 11th grader at Westminster High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gabriel Gallegos is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Gabriel Gallegos for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on April 21, 2016, I was unable to vote on H.R. 4890, To impose a ban on the payment of bonuses to employees of the Internal Revenue Service until the Secretary of the Treasury develops and implements a comprehensive customer service strategy. I would have voted in support of final passage of H.R. 4890, roll call No. 162, had I been present.

Additionally, I would have voted in support of final passage of H.R. 3724, the Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act, roll call No. 163.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 2644, to reauthorize the Federal Communications Commission for fiscal years 2017 and 2018, S. 421, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, S. 2607, to ensure appropriate spectrum planning and interagency coordination to support the Internet of Things, S. 2508, to reduce sports-related concussions in youth, S. 2829, to amend and enhance

certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, S. 2325, to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, S. 2817, to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, the nomination of Andrew J. Read, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine government reform, focusing on ending duplication and holding Washington accountable.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine counterfeits and their impact on consumer health and safety.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine S. 2812, to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize and improve the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, S. 2831, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide priority for applicants for a license to operate as a small business investment company that are located in a disaster area, S. 2838, to improve the HUBZone program, an original bill entitled, "Small Business Innovation Protection Act of 2016", an original bill entitled "Microloan Program Modernization Act of 2016", and an original bill entitled, "Prove It Act of 2016"; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the waters of the United States rule and the case for reforming the Renewable Fuels Association.

SR-428A

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine fixing the budget process, focusing on better budgets and better results.

SD-608

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United States-China relations, focusing on strategic challenges and opportunities.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1928, to support the education of Indian children, S. 2205, to establish a grant program to assist tribal governments in establishing tribal healing to wellness