

RANGEL BULLETIN

Charles Rangel
CONGRESSMAN, 15TH DISTRICT

Contact: Emile Milne (202) 225-4365

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News from the Office of Congressman Charles B. Rangel

Immigration Hearing Scheduled for April 30th

Congressman Rangel will chair a community hearing on immigration. The event is scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 30th at the Audubon Ballroom, 3940 Broadway. Immigration advocates and experts have been invited to provide testimony on problems and proposals to resolve them.

Farewell to Attorney Johnnie Cochran

The Congressman calls Cochran's death from a brain tumor a tremendous loss to the national legal community and to Harlem in particular. Rangel praised Cochran as one who distinguished himself as a celebrated defense lawyer and legal scholar and always maintained his principles whether they were popular or not. In addition, Congressman Rangel said that Cochran was a champion of justice for the poor and downtrodden. He said Cochran believed in the economic and business development of the Harlem community and highlighted the attorney's involvement in the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone. "Upper Manhattan was the beneficiary of his leadership and business savvy when he agreed to chair the Empowerment Zone," said Rangel.

Funeral of Pope John Paul

Congressman Rangel attended the funeral of Pope John Paul in Rome as a member of the delegation representing the U.S. Congress. Paying respects on behalf of the nation and the people of New York, the Congressman described the late Pontiff as "a spiritual leader and warrior for human rights. The Pope was a humanitarian and intellectual powerhouse who led by example." Cong. Rangel recalled that he had met the Pope on fact-finding missions to Rome as chairman of Select Committee on Narcotics. "The Pope referred to me as his altar boy. On several occasions when he knew the Committee was in the city he requested that we meet with him at the Vatican. He was always compassionate and concerned about the plight of drug addicts."

Weighing in on Terrorism

The Congressman participated in a forum entitled "In the Face of Terrorism," sponsored by the Fred

Friendly Seminars. The program was a centerpiece of a national community outreach effort to encourage discussion of the terrorism issue in homes, schools, churches and workplaces. The program was videotaped in Washington, DC, for national broadcast on public television stations at a future date.

Celebration of Greek Independence

To mark the 184th anniversary of Greek independence, Congressman Rangel saluted the Greek community of New York during a reception sponsored by the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York.

Presbyterian Church of Ghana

During a fund raising event for the renovation of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana 259 West 123 rd St, Congressman Rangel reminisced about several of his visits to the West African nation and praised the contributions of Ghanians to New York . The Congressman also touched on the issue of trade between the U.S. and nations of Africa . Congressman Rangel is the author of historic legislation that in 2001 established a U.S. trade policy with Africa and opened the doors to imports from the continent. Both the U.S. and Africa have benefited. Total exports to Africa rose 25 percent to \$8.6 billion, while total U.S. imports increased by 40 percent to \$35.9 billion.

Washington Heights Post Office Named for Sgt. Riayan A. Tejada

Culminating Congressman Rangel's efforts to honor the first Dominican-born serviceman killed in Iraq , the Washington Bridge Post Office was formally named after Sgt. Riayan A. Tejada Post Office in an emotional ceremony attended by the family, local elected officials and community leaders. Shortly after the Sergeant's death in combat in Iraq on April 11, 2003 , Congressman Rangel introduced the bill in the House to rename the post office in the community in which the heroic Sergeant resided. Sgt. Tejada had also served in Thailand , South Korea , the Philippines , Australia and East Timor . He was awarded the Silver Star for valor in the line of fire in Iraq , and was awarded citizenship posthumously. "This recognition by the House and Senate is in honor of Sgt. Tejada's contribution to his country," said Rangel. "The goal in renaming the building was to transform the post office that serves his community into a lasting memorial of his sacrifice," he added .

Rangel, NAACP & AARP Speak Out on Social Security

At a press conference with representatives of the NAACP and American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Congressman Rangel warned of the potential impact of the President's privatization proposal on African-American retirees, disabled and retirees' survivors. He joined representatives of the NAACP and AARP in expressing opposition to any plan that would "decrease, jeopardize or gamble the guaranteed benefits that America 's seniors, the disabled and survivors currently receive from the Social Security program."

Praise for Academic Excellence at East Harlem's Village Academy

The Congressman joined the faculty and student body in celebrating the academic performance of students at the East Harlem school. The Congressman's visit was part of the school's Leadership Speaker series aimed at exposing students to successful adult role models in a variety of fields and to reinforce the values that are taught at the Academy. Village Academy, a charter school in East Harlem, has shown improvements in math and reading scores in recent years, placing it among the highest performing urban schools in the nation.

New York State Democratic County Dinner

The Congressman was on hand at the Waldorf Astoria-Hotel to show support for the Jefferson-Jackson Democratic County Committee and to congratulate this year's honorees including State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, former NY State Democratic Committee Chair Judith Hope, and Hassan Nemazee, New York finance chair for the John Kerry campaign.

Sports and Studies for East Harlem Youth

The Congressman took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of a newly-renovated Little League baseball field in East Harlem. The event was sponsored by *Reviving Baseball in InnerCities*, a year-round sports and education program for children in the area. Now in its 14th year, the program uses baseball and softball to teach young people the value of teamwork and to help them recognize their potential to succeed as adults.

Dr. Callendar Named to White House Panel on Aging

Congressman Rangel designated Dr. Eugene Callendar as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging. A former New York State Commissioner on Aging under Gov. Mario Cuomo, Dr. Callendar will join experts from throughout the nation at the White House next month to address problems facing senior citizens in America.

Rangel at White House for Talks with President Bush

The Congressman was among a group of key legislators who visited the White House this month for talks with the President about the nation's energy program.

William F. Ryan Health Center Honors Congressman Rangel

A special delegation from the William F. Ryan Community Health Center led by President & CEO Barbara E. Minch, dropped by Congressman Rangel's Harlem District Office to present him with the National Association of Health Community Centers award for his support for Federal Qualified Community Health Centers. Community health centers are key in providing care for Medicaid

patients and the uninsured.

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

2354 Rayburn House
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4365

NEW YORK OFFICE

163 W. 125th Street #737
New York, NY 10027
(212) 663-3900



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