RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.
PHOTO GALLERY
2023-2024

REFLECTIONS, VOLUME 2

www.RaoMusunuru.com

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

"If you cannot – in the long run – tell everyone
what you have been doing, your doing has been worthless."
-- Erwin Schrodinger

Dear Friends,
This is the simple story of my adult life,
making memories and leaving a legacy.
I sincerely hope that
you will find it interesting to browse through.

You may want to consider something like this for yourself.

See preface.

CELEBRATING

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AHA (AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION)

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHSC (PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE)

50th ANNIVERSARY OF CARES (COMMUNITY AGING AND RETIREMENT SERVICES)

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WPHS (WEST PASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF NEW PORT RICHEY

15,000TH (+) ANNIVERSARY OF NATIVE AMERICANS' LOCAL ESTABLISHMENT

50th (-1) WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

43rd ANNIVERSARY OF REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BAYONET POINT

10th ANNIVERSARY OF FEEDING PASCO'S ELDERLY

DEDICATION

TO
My Mother who gave me life
And
My Grandmother who sculptured me to become who I am
And
My Mother-in-law who presented to me her daughter,
a gift that keeps on giving

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TO
My wife of 49 years . . .
Loving and caring, sweet, sensitive and sensible, strong but shy.
And
My brother-in-law who helps anybody and everybody all the time.
And
Our genius son who is the pride and joy of our lives.
And
My longtime friends, partners, and staff.

Namasté

May the force be with you!



Dr. Rao Musunuru at his 60th birthday celebration.

Salutation

May the peace be with you!



Dr. and Mrs. Rao Musunuru
on their
20th Wedding Anniversary
in Las Vegas.



May the luck
be
with you!



May the joy
be
with you!



May the grace
be with you!

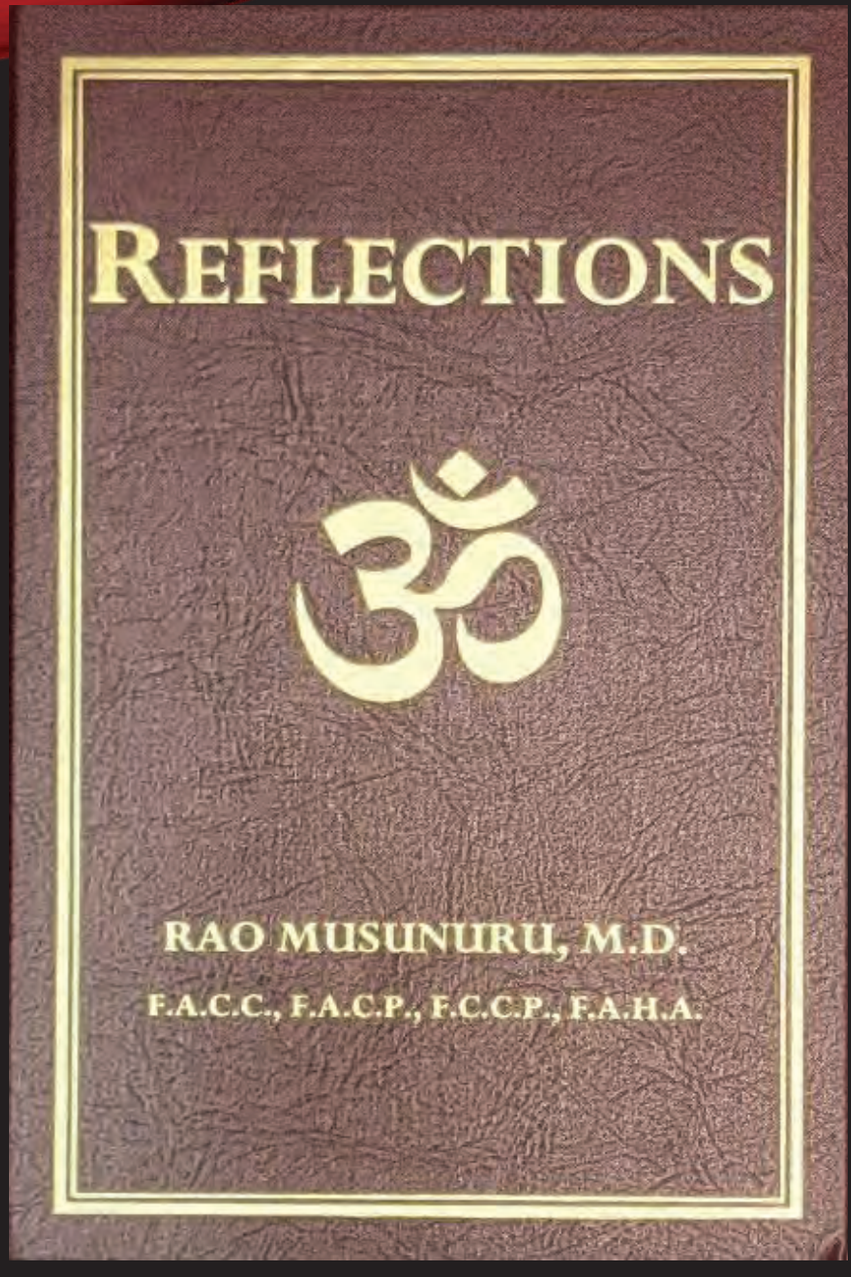




May the pride
be
with you!

Dr. Rao Musunuru conferring with his beloved brother-in-law, Dr. Rao Yalamanchili.





FYI

REFLECTIONS, VOLUME 1 ON LIFE, HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Rao Musunuru, M.D.

A
Compilation of select guest columns
recently published in major
newspapers
mostly from the
St. Petersburg Times/
Tampa Bay Times
"Florida's Best Newspaper"
2014

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SECTION ONE
PREFACE

PREFACE

At the suggestion of my beloved brother-in-law, Dr. Rao Yalamanchili, (who sponsored my migration to the U.S.A. in 1976 for further medical training), I published, in 2014, a collection of my monthly Tampa Bay Times guest columns covering several years entitled "Reflections".

A few years ago the same brother-in-law suggested that I publish another book (Reflections-Volume 2) with my life story since I moved to the United States. Between 1976 and 1981 we lived in New York City. We had a son and I finished further cardiology training.

Everything good has happened since our family of three moved to Pasco County in 1981. The weather is warmer, the place is peaceful and I have achieved a lot and contributed so much to the community. My close friends and family outside Pasco can't believe that one man can really do as much in so many ways, even at state and national levels. To respect my brother-in-law's wish, I put together, not a written book, but a photo gallery (also posted at RaoMusunuru.com) to document my life and work since we moved to the great state of Florida.

Continued…

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The album is divided into 20 sections. The section that highlights our son's work (section 10) is most worthy. This is not meant to be a comprehensive family photo album. (We all have many of them, probably in digital format, by now.) Going through about 50 boxes of papers and photos collected over decades and enjoying all the sweet memories was worth it for me. No effort was made to digitally restore photos, plaques or papers to save their authenticity, which is important to me.

I strongly encourage you to do something like this for yourself. Enjoying the memories and leaving a legacy is worth the effort.

As an afterthought, a prequel was added to the beginning of the book.

With heartfelt best wishes to you and yours! God bless!

Respectfully,

Rao Musunuru, M.D.

See related materials in sections eleven, fifteen, nineteen and twenty.

Also see Disclaimer, Health, Parent's Pride and Time 100 in the following pages.

Disclaimer

The contents of this pictorial book are simply a few reflections (good and bad) of my adult life in Pasco County, Florida. It took a lot of time and difficulty to assemble it, considering its historic nature. Any errors are unintentional.

Most importantly, none of the material is meant to express superiority in anyway over anybody else. I don't claim any higher moral ground or scientific authority. In fact it is quite the contrary. I am very well aware of my deficiencies, difficulties and differences. I have always been aware of the need for my betterment regarding my priorities, choices, words, actions and emotions.

This book has been composed at the suggestion of my brother-in-law. It may expose some of my innocence or ignorance, but definitely not arrogance.

Also this book is meant only for my family and those whom I consider my true friends. That hopefully will spare unproductive and unhealthy criticism. I hope you review this album in spirit of my intentions- to share moments from my life and career that I consider most important.

God Bless!

Rao Musunuru, M.D.

Health

I have enjoyed perfect health all my life until my neck surgery (emergency cervical laminectomy) for non-traumatic spinal cord compression in 2011 with stormy post-operative course, permanent autonomic dysfunction, auto-immune problem from medication needing immunotherapy, residual lung problem and chronic fatigue(pre-covid). You bet, I have been working and volunteering without missing a beat all these years except I started sleeping nine hours a day instead of five. Isn't that nice (and healthy).



Gifted by Colleague Robert Young, M.D.

Parent's Pride

-Rao Musunuru, M.D.

Blessed by a beautiful brain, sweet heart, kind mind, gentle soul, generous spirit and commitment to serve--as his name denotes, our son Kiran (literally meaning 'ray of light') symbolizes hope, positivity, knowledge, brilliance, enlightenment and awakening transcending borders and boundaries with an unconditional love for life. Of course, there are so many other Kirans of similar magnitude on this earth, thanks to the creator! All the blessed parents should feel equally proud.

Kiran rises above the physical bounds of finicky bodies and financial shackles. He is not manipulated by the fluctuations of the stock markets. He is immune to the glitz and glory of the materialistic life and living. His quest is to prevent death (prolong life) and preserve the quality of life for fellow beings in a manner unseen by humanity to date (with no disrespect to the advancements already achieved, for example immunotherapy), even if it means sacrificing some of his own.

Any pursuit of such magnitude and uncertainty requires enormous amount of patience, persistence, perseverance, resilience and of course sacrifice.

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Kiran truly understands the essential elements needed for success in medical research, searching for the unknown, unseen and unproven. He is also aware of the secret of success:

Trial-Error-Trial-and then Triumph

By editing genes (the basis and basics of life) he is not interfering with God's creation, but attempting to serve as his master maintenance mechanic, sometimes while the creation is still in the womb. He is sincerely praying that the creator will hire him for the job of training many other special skilled mechanics.

Gene-Editing

The Final Frontier of Medicine

To Boldly Go

To New Horizons

To Find New Treatment and Cures!

As parents we are committed with all our hearts to support all we can to meet the quest of our son and the others who aspire to his goal of preserving and improving the quality of life.


TIME 100 TALKS
REIM ING THE FUTURE OF THCARE
PRESENTING PARTNER
American Heart Association.
100 YEARS
Bold Hearts

‘80% of Cardiovascular Disease Is Preventable’: Health Experts Reimagine Heart Care

BY **CHANTELLE LEE** JUNE 25, 2024

More than 184 million people—about 61% of U.S. adults—are likely to have some type of cardiovascular disease by 2050, the American Heart Association (AHA) reported earlier this month. That will lead to a tripling in the costs related to heart disease. It’s a statistic that TIME senior health correspondent Alice Park cited to begin her discussion about the future of healthcare with AHA CEO Nancy Brown; cardiologist Kiran Musunuru; and Andres Acosta, associate professor of medicine at Mayo Clinic, for a TIME100 Health panel in New York on Tuesday.

The event was sponsored by AHA and is part of the TIME100 Talks series. The TIME100 Health list includes the most influential people in the health industry around the world.

Heart disease has been the leading killer of Americans since 1950. Brown, who has been CEO of the AHA since 2008, said

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the number of people in the U.S. living with the risk of heart disease—and the resulting cost—is "staggering." Part of the issue, she said, is the lack of equal access to healthcare and to social determinants of health, such as healthy food and a living wage. But another issue is the way the U.S. healthcare system approaches these types of medical conditions.

"I think that this country focuses a lot on treating conditions," Brown said. "But we're not focusing enough on prevention and helping people earlier in their lives understand the power of things that make a difference in their life. You know, 80% of cardiovascular disease is preventable."

Musunuru, a professor of cardiovascular medicine and genetics in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, said cardiovascular disease can be attributed to about half genetics and about half environment or lifestyle. There are ways to reduce risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease, such as cholesterol levels, blood pressure, and even obesity. The challenge, he said, is that these risk factors develop over time. And the country's current healthcare system attempts to cope with

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chronic disease with chronic treatment. While there can be merits to that approach, Musunuru said, it also puts "an outsized burden" on patients.

He suggested the healthcare system shift its focus to preventing chronic diseases, starting at an early age—like we do with vaccines to prevent infectious diseases.

"You're not going to eliminate heart disease, but can you push off heart attack and stroke by decades?" Musunuru said. "Instead of suffering a bad heart attack at age 60, maybe dying from it, it happens at age 100 and you enjoy 40 years of life you might not have otherwise had."

Acosta, who codirects the Nutrition Obesity Research Program and directs the Precision Medicine for Obesity Program at Mayo Clinic, discussed how some treatments can also help with reducing the risk of other diseases. Obesity, for instance, is one of the major risk factors for heart disease, and weight loss drugs like Wegovy and Zepbound are having a significant impact on treating it. AHA previously reported that people taking Wegovy decreased their risk of heart attack, stroke, or death from cardiovascular issues by

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20%, compared to those taking a placebo. Acosta said this data was a “game changer” and marked a “new era” in the management of obesity and cardiovascular disease.

The panelists also highlighted the importance of genetic testing. Few people have their genetics tested, Brown said, and a priority for the AHA is encouraging people to do so.

Musunuru researches the genetics of heart disease and aims to identify genetic factors that protect against disease. Having genetic information, he said, can help medical practitioners know early on what patients’ risks are for developing certain diseases and can allow patients to take a “proactive” approach to their health.

“Your genes are the same on the day you’re born as the day you die,” Musunuru said. “If you know what’s in your genes at the time you’re born, that gives you a forecast of what your life will look like as it unfolds.”

TIME100 Talks: Reimagining the Future of Healthcare was presented by the American Heart Association.

Continued...

SECTION TWO
PREQUEL

Prequel

This brief prequel highlighting the first 21 years of my life in India has been included in this book at the request of several individuals, including the current Pasco County Sheriff, a well-respected, noble gentleman and a true friend.

It so happens that this subject was already featured in a "special pictorial edition of PHSC Perspective in spring 2019" on the occasion of my 20 years of service (as of that time) as a member of "Pasco-Hernando State College's District Board of Trustees." This is an abbreviated version of my interview with Lucy Miller, then executive director of marketing and communications at PHSC. (Pictures excluded to save space).

Q: How would you describe your early life and family influences?

A: I was born and raised in a small rural farming village in South India, with no electricity; hence, with no modern amenities. (Obviously, money cannot buy everything). As well-to-do members of the farming community, we lived on the outskirts of the village- what might be considered serene "suburbs" at the time.

My mother and grandmother were my first, very important influences. When I was very young, I believed I had two mothers. I later realized that one was my birth mother; the other, my

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grandmother. Interestingly, when I called "Mother," different one responded, according to my needs.

Q. You often speak of your grandmother as being special. Why was she so influential?

A: My grandmother was very smart, despite having no formal education with no access to a school or library. Her "internet" consisted of a network of concerned mothers and grandmothers. She was passionate about education, making me walk two miles each way through the fields to attend a school in a larger neighborhood village (same with my two sisters. I was the escort).Frankly, I would have been happy hanging around the farm with my grandfather. Instead, my grandmother woke me up early every morning so I could study by the light of a kerosene lamp. Our alarm clock was the whistle of a train chugging through our village early each morning. My grandmother was wise and worldly. She encouraged me to listen to "The Voice of America" on a transistor radio en route to school, (that is how I learned about JFK's assassination) even though Russian influence in India was prevalent at the time. She insisted that I receive advanced education (after medical school) in the United States.

Q: How was your childhood unique, compared to the typical American experience?

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A: Like other happy villagers, four generations lived together in our big, sturdy house. My grandmother was the matriarch. I never heard the word "divorce" until I went to the city at 16, to attend medical school.

Q: What was it like to leave your life in India behind?

A: It was difficult. Sending me to the U.S. was an enormous sacrifice for my family. I was the only son of my father, who was the only son of my grandmother. My family was acutely aware of all that they would miss after I left, including not being able to enjoy my child and that I couldn't be there in time during their illness or passing, because of the distance that separated us. That kind of sacrifice can only come from a mother's love.

Even now, when I have a rare peaceful moment (quite rare because of my so called success in life, wished upon by my grandmother) and think of my grandmother, I get teary eyed!

Q: How has your village changed since your youth?

A: Just as I was leaving for college, electricity arrived, changing everything. My family helped build a telephone exchange, establish a library, and supported other causes needed for modernizing a community. Every village household eventually got TVs, phones and Internet. Cell phones, modern kitchens, mechanized farms, running water, and rapid transit became common and readily available. My

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grandmother was lucky to enjoy modern amenities into her 90's. However, like myself, many of the village's children relocated to cities and other countries. The community changed. The elderly learned to live alone. Unfortunately, there is always a price for progress.

Q: How did you meet your wife?

A: My would-be wife arrived in this world the same year I was born, in a neighboring village. Her family moved to a nearby town a few years after her birth. Though we did not know each other growing up, we were meant for each other. I attended an all-boys college, while she attended a neighboring all girls' college in the same town- both strict Christian schools. Then I moved on to medical school. Immediately after I finished medical school, when we were both 21 years old, a family friend arranged a blind date. It was the very first date for both of us. We liked each other, and have been happily married for 49 years (by now.) Of course, we argue at times, for silly reasons- often when she does not realize that I am teasing her. My in-laws were very proud and fond of me. Everybody that knows my wife describes her as a saint. My luck truly began when she entered my life.

Q: Why did you decide to become a physician?

A: I didn't, my grandmother did. As customary in our culture, at my birth I was told that my grandmother picked me up and announced

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that I would become well educated, noble, and rich; and then she named me "Koteswara" (part of my first name, which truly translates to "millionaire" in my native language). To fulfill her dream, I would become nothing other than a physician, a healer. She did not get any argument from me. I was my high school's valedictorian and did well in college, enabling me to enter the most respected medical school with a full merit scholarship. When I graduated medical school at age 21, I earned a gold medal (real gold) for academic excellence. My grandmother decided that I should study in the United States for advanced clinical training, even though I would have in reality earned more money and enjoyed a more luxurious life locally.

Q: How would you describe your early experience in the United States?

A: I legally emigrated to the United States in 1976 with my pregnant wife, $250 each, and two suitcases full of personal belongings. My salary was $500 per month, manageable because we lived with our relatives. My position included health insurance (which covered our son's delivery). My salary increased to 14,500 annually after six months. I received post-graduate medical training in New York City for five years. My brother-in-law, who trained at the same hospital, became my mentor. I chose cardiology because

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this specialty is truly at the heart of medicine. (Of course we became American citizens promptly)

Q: What did you do with your assets in India?

A: My Father donated some funds to charity and after his passing I voluntarily gifted all of my inheritance to my sisters (who, after their education, joined teaching profession- Thanks to my grandmothers' passion).

Q: What attracted you to Pasco County, Florida?

A: The weather… and destiny. I relocated in 1981 from bustling New York City, without knowing a single person in Pasco or Hernando counties.

Q: What has your experience been like in the community?

A: My success, in part, is owed to the first administrator of a newly built 50 bed rural hospital in Hudson, now Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point. The first day I walked into the hospital with full cardiology credentials and privileges, the administrator informed me that foreign physician specialists were not welcome. They wanted to build a reputable hospital with "good old boys," and I could leave town. That was in 1981 in the south. I accepted his challenge (pure innocence) and stayed. The rest is history.

However, I learned and earned some toughness while living in Brooklyn for five years, even making medical house calls in high risk

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areas, to make a living, raising our son as a prince. Also I always have been a slave for self-respect, hard work and honesty. I even lived off the street adopted by KKK in west Pasco.

I became instrumental in building a nationally acclaimed heart institute in Hudson, recognized as among the top 50 U.S. hospitals for cardiology and cardiac surgery by 'U.S. News and World Report'. I also built a premier "continuing medical education program." During the earlier years, the same administrator who had told me to leave town had a severe heart attack with cardiogenic shock. I was able to save his life with what was an experimental medicine at that time. A few years later, I became chairman of the board for the hospital.

Note: Please read further, if interested, to know the rest of my history and my son's story.



Modern replica of Dr. Rao Musunuru's reading lantern during school days!

SECTION THREE

HEART OF THE MATTER

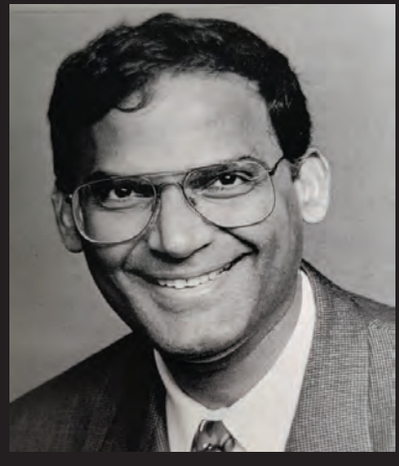
PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE (PHSC)

Formerly Pasco-Hernando Community College (PHCC)



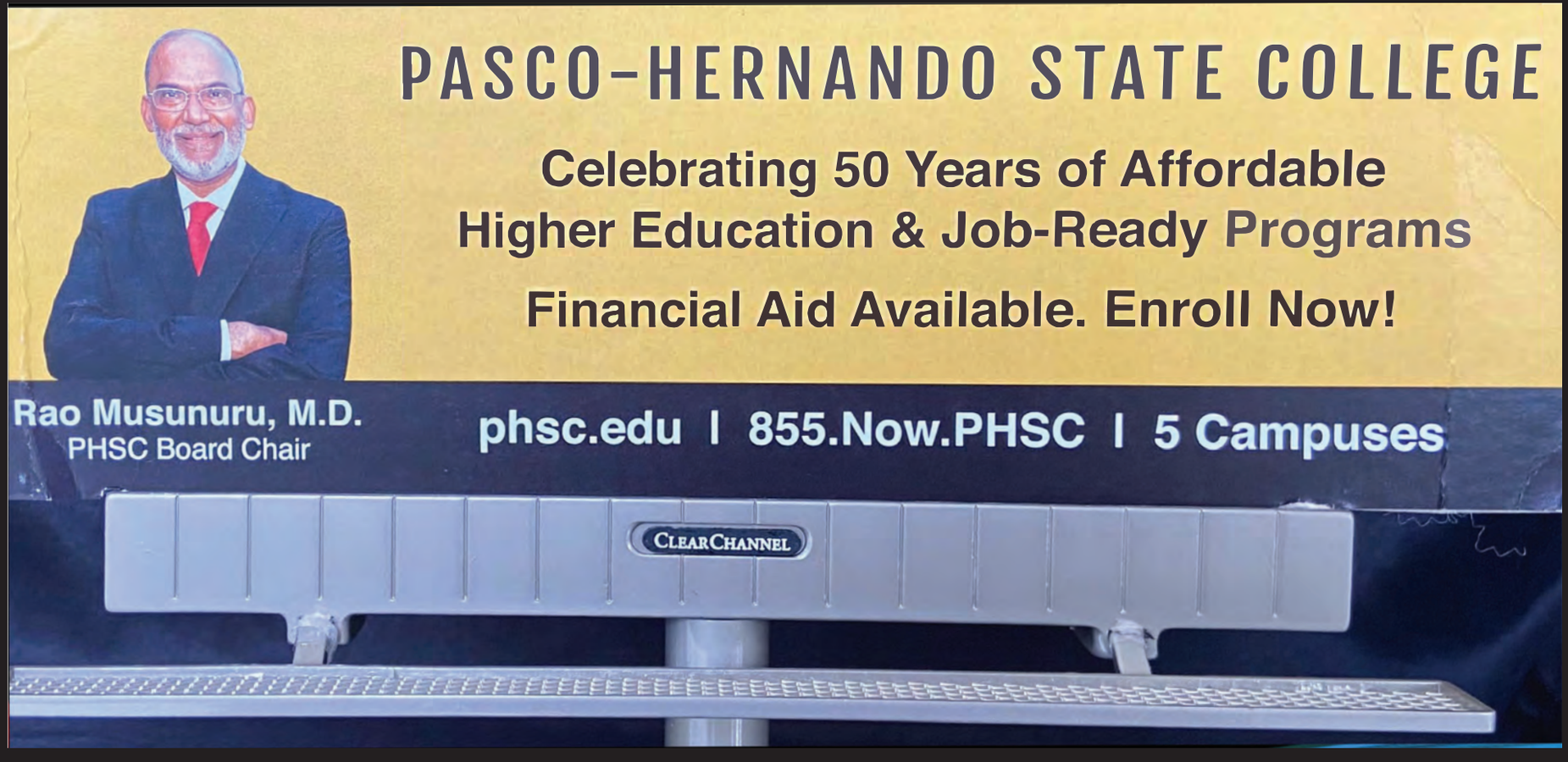
Higher education to transform lives and invest in tomorrow. Also, vocational training for immediate jobs and to contribute to the local economy.

Dr. Musunuru's Career at PHSC






- Nominated by four consecutive governors of the Great State of Florida
- Worked with three of PHSC's four college presidents, contributing to the tremendous growth of the college in many areas, earning a national award for Dr. Musunuru
- Served five times as the chairman of the District Board of Trustees
- Longest continuously-serving college board member in the history of the Florida College System, 1999-2022.


PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE
Celebrating 50 Years of Affordable
Higher Education & Job-Ready Programs
Financial Aid Available. Enroll Now!
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
PHSC Board Chair
phsc.edu | 855.Now.PHSC | 5 Campuses
CLEAR CHANNEL

PHSC CELEBRATES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



PHSC hosted a variety of events at all campuses in 2022-2023, commemorating **50 years of service** to Pasco and Hernando county residents.

PHSC WEST CAMPUS

West Campus, located off Ridge Road in New Port Richey, is the largest of PHSC's five campuses. In 50 years, PHSC has conferred **more than 60,000 degrees and certificates**. PHSC currently serves 10,000+ students annually.





WELCOME TO PHSC

The West Campus entry sign welcomes the public to the Rao Musunuru, M.D. Art Gallery.

PICTORIAL VIEWS OF

WEST CAMPUS, New Port Richey

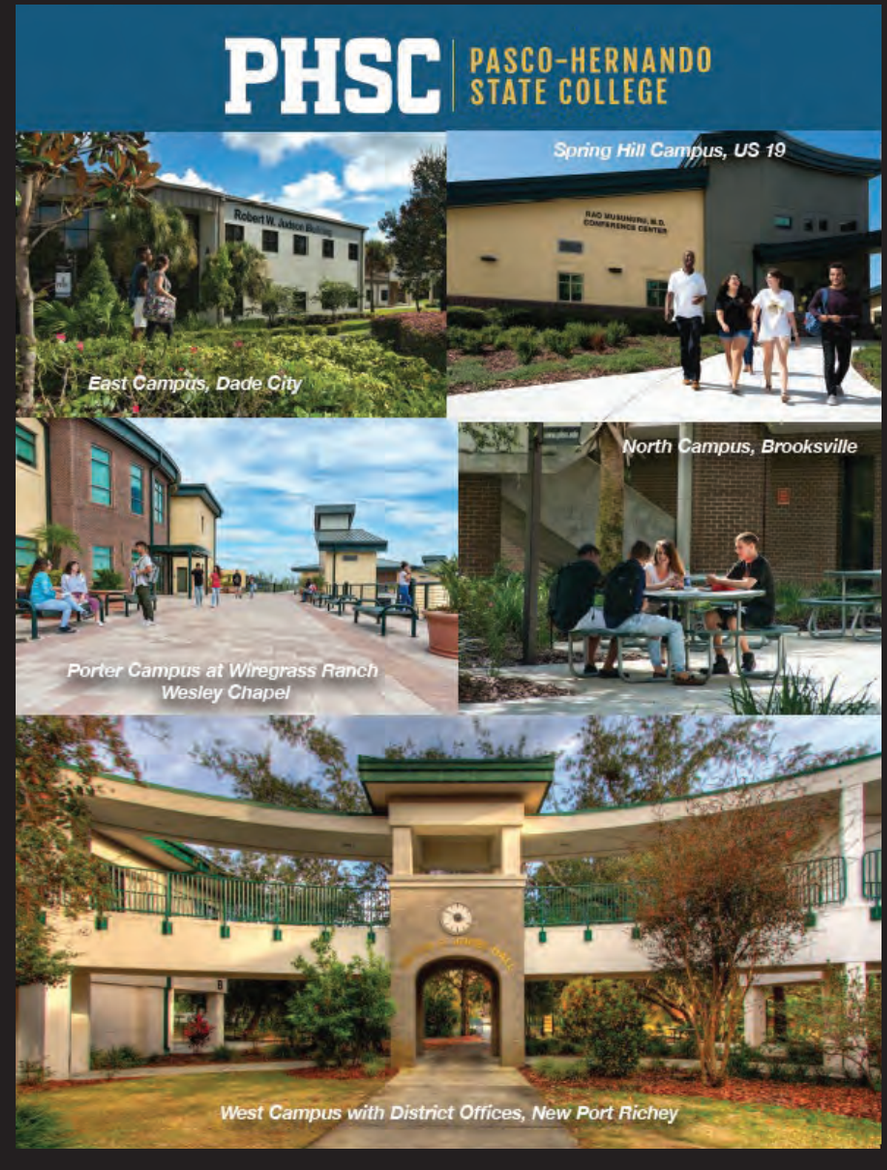
EAST CAMPUS, Dade City

NORTH CAMPUS, Brooksville

PORTER CAMPUS, Wesley Chapel

SPRING HILL CAMPUS, Spring Hill

PHSC offers more than 70 career and technical programs in addition to Associate and Bachelor's Degrees.



Scenic Views of West Campus







HISTORY MAKING

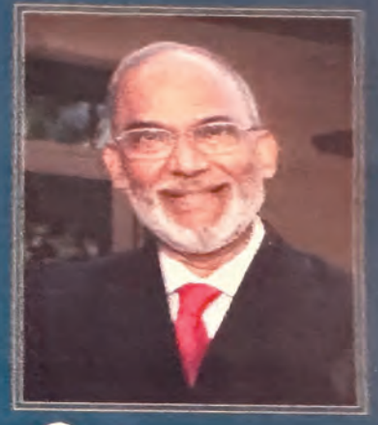
The District Board of Trustees honored Dr. Musunuru for **22 years of continuous service (1999-2022)**, distinguishing him as **one of the longest-serving trustees** in the history of the Florida College System.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Dr. Musunuru's accomplishments were highlighted in the **50th Anniversary Edition** of Perspective Magazine, Spring 2023.

Rao Musunuru, M.D. Receives Awards

Congratulations, Rao Musunuru, M.D., for receiving Lifetime Membership Awards from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the Association of Florida Colleges (AFC). The lifetime service awards are among the most prestigious honors bestowed upon leaders who have provided significant, exemplary service and long-term contributions to higher education.



Rao Musunuru, M.D.

Dr. Musunuru, a nationally renowned Hudson-based cardiologist, is among the longest serving trustees in the Florida College System and the longest serving member of the Pasco-Hernando State College District Board of Trustees. Appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush in 1999, Dr. Musunuru's tenure on the board extended through February 2022, spanning 23 years of consecutive service. He also served as Chair of the District Board of Trustees five times, supported countless PHSC initiatives, and generously funded many student scholarships.





The **National Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Award** recognized Dr. Musunuru for his distinguished service to Pasco-Hernando State College twice, in 2013 and 2022.





The Association of Florida Colleges (AFC) honored Dr. Musunuru with its **Life Membership Award** in 2022 at AFC's annual convention in Tallahassee.



Dr. Musunuru with his nominee and recipient of the **PHSC Distinguished Alumni Award**, Heather Fiorentino, former state representative and former Pasco County Superintendent of Schools, joined by PHSC Trustee, Robin Schneider in 2019.

INSIDE PERSPECTIVE

A special Spring 2019 edition of Perspective Magazine chronicled **Dr. Musunuru's life and career.**



ENRICHMENT THROUGH THE ARTS

Rao Musunuru, M.D. Art Gallery, located at the Alric C.T. Pottberg Library, West Campus.





State street sign



RAO MUSUNURU, M.D. CIRCLE BLVD.



PHSC's District Board of Trustees named the mile-long West Campus perimeter road after Dr. Musunuru,

PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The PHSC Women's Cross Country Team pose at the **Mrs. Prameela Musunuru Health and Wellness Trail.** The beautiful tree-lined mile-long trail around the Rao Musunuru, M.D. Blvd. rims the perimeter of the West Campus in New Port Richey, keeping runners and walkers safe.

-- November 2021



FOSTERING SOUND MINDS AND BODIES

An athletic trainer and student athlete train at the **Rao Musunuru, M.D. Cardio Center,** located at the West Campus Physical Fitness Center in 2018.



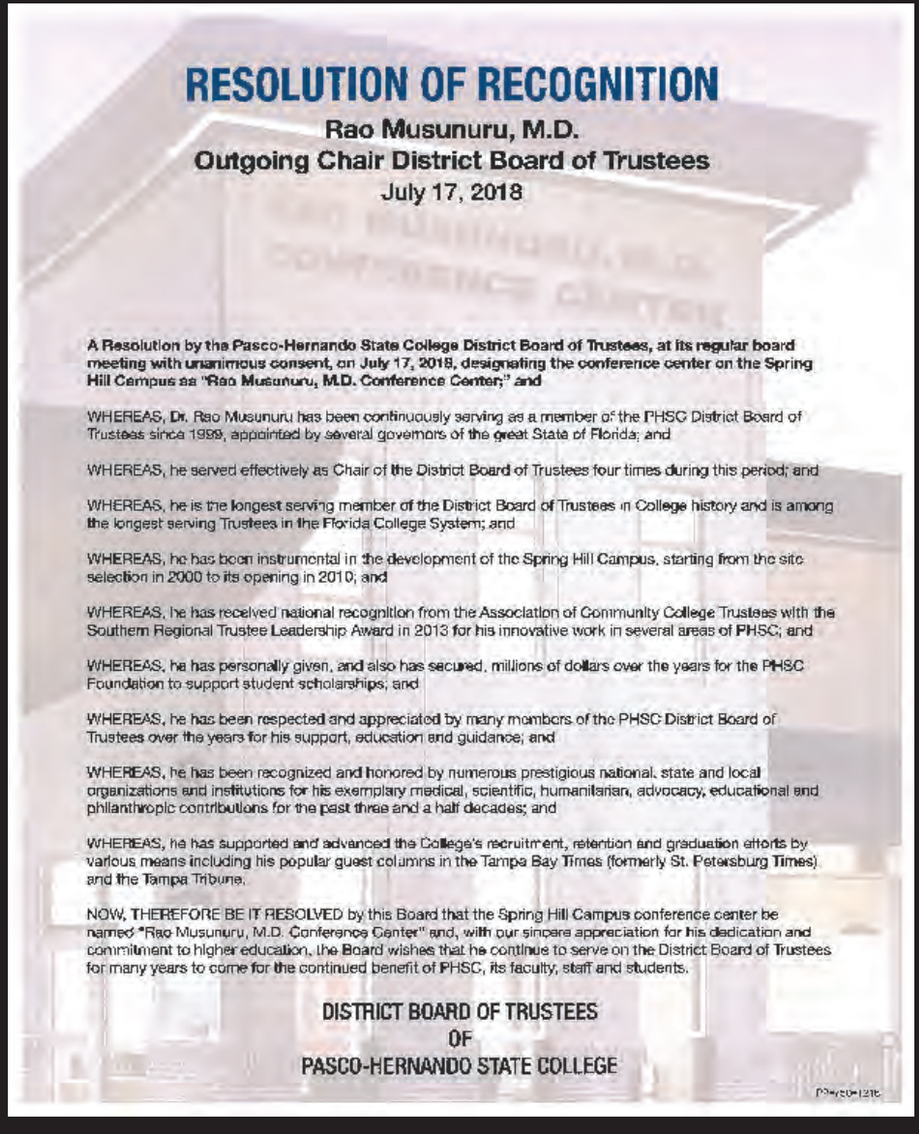
A LIFETIME OF GIVING BACK

Dr. and Mrs. Rao Musunuru
at the
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
Conference Center,
at the Spring Hill Campus.



RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

Dr. Musunuru was recognized for serving as chair of PHSC's District Board of Trustees in 2018. He served as a board member for 22 consecutive years and as chair five times.



RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

Rao Musunuru, M.D.
Outgoing Chair District Board of Trustees
July 17, 2018

A Resolution by the Pasco-Hernando State College District Board of Trustees, at its regular board meeting with unanimous consent, on July 17, 2018, designating the conference center on the Spring Hill Campus as "Rao Musunuru, M.D. Conference Center;" and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rao Musunuru has been continuously serving as a member of the PHSC District Board of Trustees since 1999, appointed by several governors of the great State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, he served effectively as Chair of the District Board of Trustees four times during this period; and

WHEREAS, he is the longest serving member of the District Board of Trustees in College history and is among the longest serving Trustees in the Florida College System; and

WHEREAS, he has been instrumental in the development of the Spring Hill Campus, starting from the site selection in 2000 to its opening in 2010; and

WHEREAS, he has received national recognition from the Association of Community College Trustees with the Southern Regional Trustee Leadership Award in 2013 for his innovative work in several areas of PHSC; and

WHEREAS, he has personally given, and also has secured, millions of dollars over the years for the PHSC Foundation to support student scholarships; and

WHEREAS, he has been respected and appreciated by many members of the PHSC District Board of Trustees over the years for his support, education and guidance; and

WHEREAS, he has been recognized and honored by numerous prestigious national, state and local organizations and institutions for his exemplary medical, scientific, humanitarian, advocacy, educational and philanthropic contributions for the past three and a half decades; and

WHEREAS, he has supported and advanced the College's recruitment, retention and graduation efforts by various means including his popular guest columns in the Tampa Bay Times (formerly St. Petersburg Times) and the Tampa Tribune.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by this Board that the Spring Hill Campus conference center be named "Rao Musunuru, M.D. Conference Center" and, with our sincere appreciation for his dedication and commitment to higher education, the Board wishes that he continue to serve on the District Board of Trustees for many years to come for the continued benefit of PHSC, its faculty, staff and students.

DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE



In honor of Rao Musunuru, M.D.
for his care and dedication to
John Angelini's well being
and long life

MORE TO LIFE

Elisabeth Angelini donated her husband's artwork in gratitude

as **Dr. Musunuru saved the artist's life twice.**

The artwork now graces the walls of the
Rao Musunuru, M.D. Conference Center.

FRONTIERS FOR THE FUTURE

Dr. Musunuru, Mrs. Prameela Musunuru and former PHSC President Katherine M. Johnson greet the late Don Porter, donor of the land for the Porter Campus. **The Bash at the Ranch event was sponsored by The Musunuru Family.**

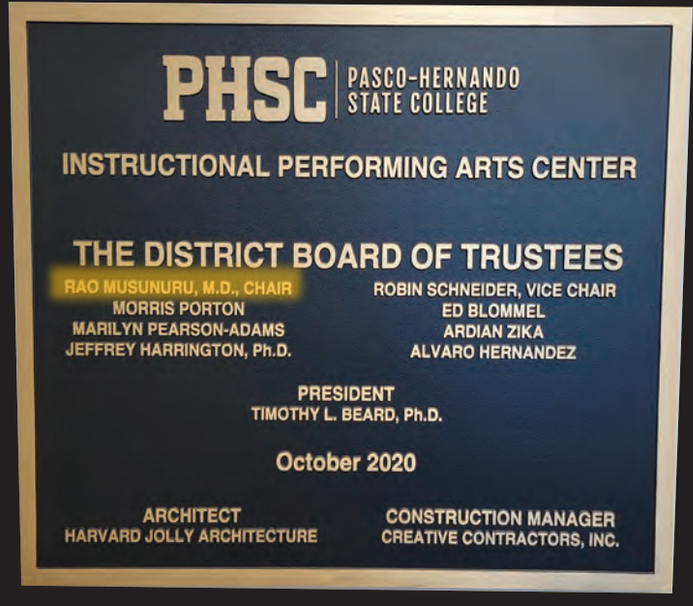


FUNDRAISING LEADERSHIP HONORED

Former State Senator Wilton Simpson, philanthropist Frank Morsani of Morsani School of Medicine at USF and Rao Musunuru, M.D. **– the longest serving member of the PHSC District Board of Trustees –** were recognized for their leadership in the Spring 2021 PHSC Perspective Magazine.



DEDICATION OF THE $25 MILLION INSTRUCTIONAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (IPAC), WESLEY CHAPEL





The PHSC Foundation provided **$1.2 million in student scholarships** during the 2021-2022 academic year.





In 1999, as a newly appointed member of the District Board of Trustees, Rao Musunuru, M.D. was impressed with the many opportunities provided by then Pasco-Hernando Community College. The nationally renowned cardiologist remains especially appreciative of the College's "open-door" policy that encourages students to pursue academic goals regardless of income, race, gender, age or former academic performance.

Dr. Musunuru was recognized as the presenting sponsor and the chairman of the **$1 Million Fundraiser,** held at PHSC's Instructional Performing Arts Center.



ANOTHER STARRING ROLE

Dr. Musunuru's leadership and generosity in supporting the **$1 Million Fundraiser** at the Instructional Performing Arts Center (IPAC) in Wesley Chapel was recognized with a Hollywood-style Oscar Award.

IN TUNE WITH TOMORROW

Dr. and Mrs. Rao Musunuru Music Studio, along with the drama studio, welcomes students to explore the arts at the Instructional Performing Arts Center, Wesley Chapel.



SUPPORTING THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED



Dr. Rao Musunuru, M.D. at the Chasco Coronation Ball, 2019.
Dr. Musunuru was recoginized as a long-time donor to the
Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired,
Dr. Musunuru supports the education of blind students at PHSC.

PROFOUND SENSE OF DUTY

A certificate recognizing a $10,000 PHSC scholarship, donated by Dr. Musunuru, is presented to Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco.





PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR

Dr. Musunuru, recipient of the Philanthropist of the Year award, with a news personality.



Dr. Musunuru received Philanthropist of the Year Award twice.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

May 2, 2012

Dr. Rao Musunuru
14100 Fivay Road, Suite 160
Hudson, Fl. 34667

Dear Dr. Musunuru:
It is my privilege to inform you that your school district selected you to receive the Commissioner's Business Recognition Award at the twenty-fifth annual awards reception.

Each year, the Florida education Foundation and the Florida Department of Education recognize those businesses throughout the state that have shown an outstanding commitment to improving education by partnering with schools in their communities. Your efforts have been noticed, and it will be our pleasure to honor you at this statewide event. Please plan to attend the awards reception on the evening of June 12, 2012, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel , 2900 Bayport Drive, Tampa, Florida. Event details will be sent to you at a later date. If you have any questions about the program, please call Deb Schroeder at the Foundation office at (850) 245-9671.
Congratulations on being selected for your exceptional education partnership program. Your community service is essential to helping us improve the quality of education, making Florida a state of educational distinction, and ensuring that education works in the Sunshine State.

Sincerely,
Gerard Robinson
Commissioner of Education

Dr. Musunuru provided CPR training to Pasco County students prior to their graduation.

He also helped support homeless children enrolled in Pasco schools.



APPRECIATION ON DISPLAY

Tribute case displaying awards and certificates of appreciation for Dr. Musunuru, located **near the lobby of the Rao Musunuru, M.D. Art Gallery,** West Campus.

MORE APPRECIATION ON DISPLAY

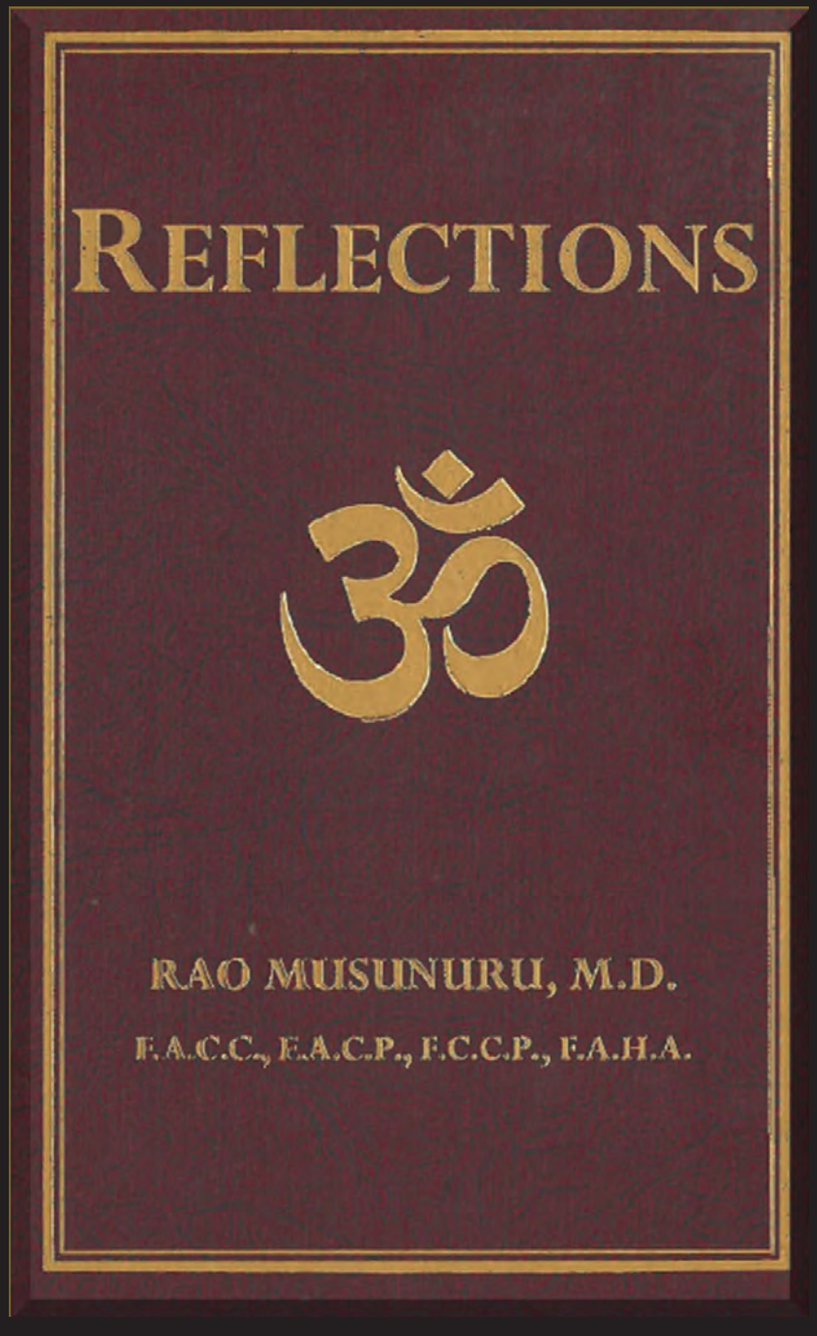


This case inside the Rao Musunuru, M.D. Art Gallery at the West Campus library recognizes Dr. Musunuru's many other contributions to PHSC.


Pasco-Hernando
1972
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Marco
QUARTZ
PRESENTED TO
RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.
BOARD CHAIR
2012 – 2013

PROMOTING PHSC IN THE PRESS

Dr. Musunuru's regular guest columns, published in the Tampa Tribune and the St. Petersburg/Tampa Bay Times over the years, **included many articles featuring PHSC and education.**



FAMILY VALUES

Thanks to a bequest by Dr. Musunuru, the "Dr. and Mrs. Rao Yalamanchili Administration Building" was named for his brother-in-law and his wife, who sponsored the Musunurus' immigration to the USA from India. The building welcomes new students to the West Campus in New Port Richey.





Fun, squishy heart-shaped giveaways featuring the phrase "Love Your Heart" were distributed at various PHSC events to honor Dr. Musunuru, nationally recognized cardiologist by the American Heart Association, and his commitment to community health and wellness.

SPREADING THE WORD ON HEART DISEASE PREVENTION TO SAVE LIVES



In 2003, Dr. Musunuru, served as District Board of Trustees chair at PHSC while simultaneously serving as the American Heart Association, FL, president and on the Board of Trustees for the nationally-acclaimed heart institute at Regional Medical Center. **During this time, he conducted a "community mass CPR training" for nearly 900 Pasco residents at PHSC's West Campus on a single Saturday. Dr. Musunuru received a national award from the American Heart Association (AHA) for this effort, the first of its kind in the nation.**

Dr. Musunuru was also instrumental in making PHSC a non-smoking institution, constantly teaching and preaching prevention of heart disease and stroke, in addition to enhancing campus safety efforts.





CELEBRATION AT PHSC ON FEBRUARY 1st, PERPETUAL "RAO MUSUNURU, M.D. DAY" FOR PASCO COUNTY

A resolution by the Board of County Commissioners of Pasco County, Florida, proclaiming February 1st as the "Dr. Rao Musunuru Day" in Pasco County in recognition of his exemplary medical, scientific, humanitarian, advocacy, educational, and philanthropic contributions at local, state, and national levels for more than three decades.

WHEREAS, Dr. Musunuru was instrumental in transforming a 50-bed rural hospital into a 290-bed Heart Institute at Bayonet Point/Hudson Medical Center that received recognition by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top 50 in the nation, which put Pasco County on the map for World Class Medical Care.

WHEREAS…. WHEREAS…. WHEREAS…. WHEREAS…. WHEREAS…. WHEREAS …

DONE AND RESOLVED this 28TH day of January, 2014.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

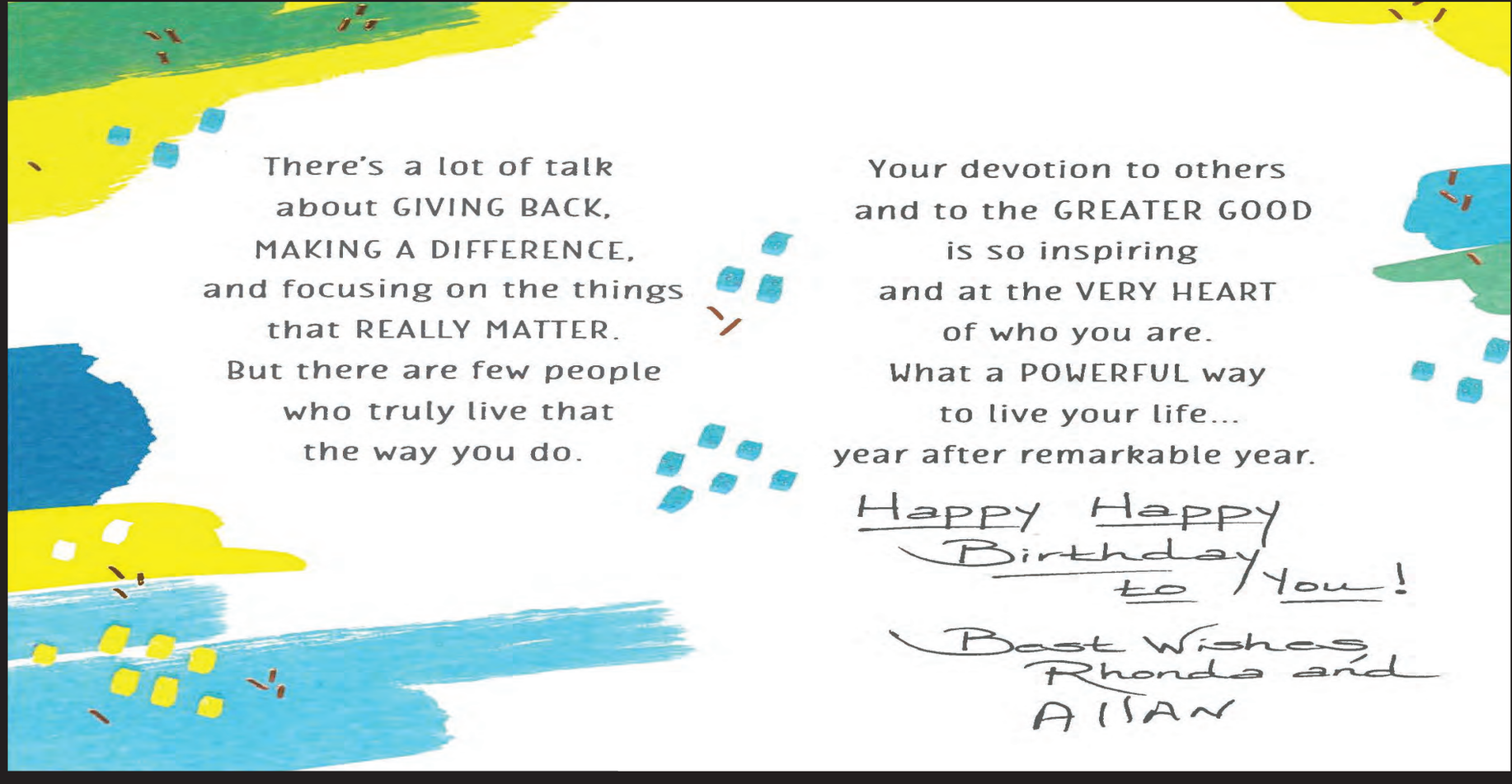
Dr. Musunuru not only helped to raise funds for the PHSC Foundation, but also utilized PHSC's West Campus to raise funds for community charities and organizations, for example: CARES.

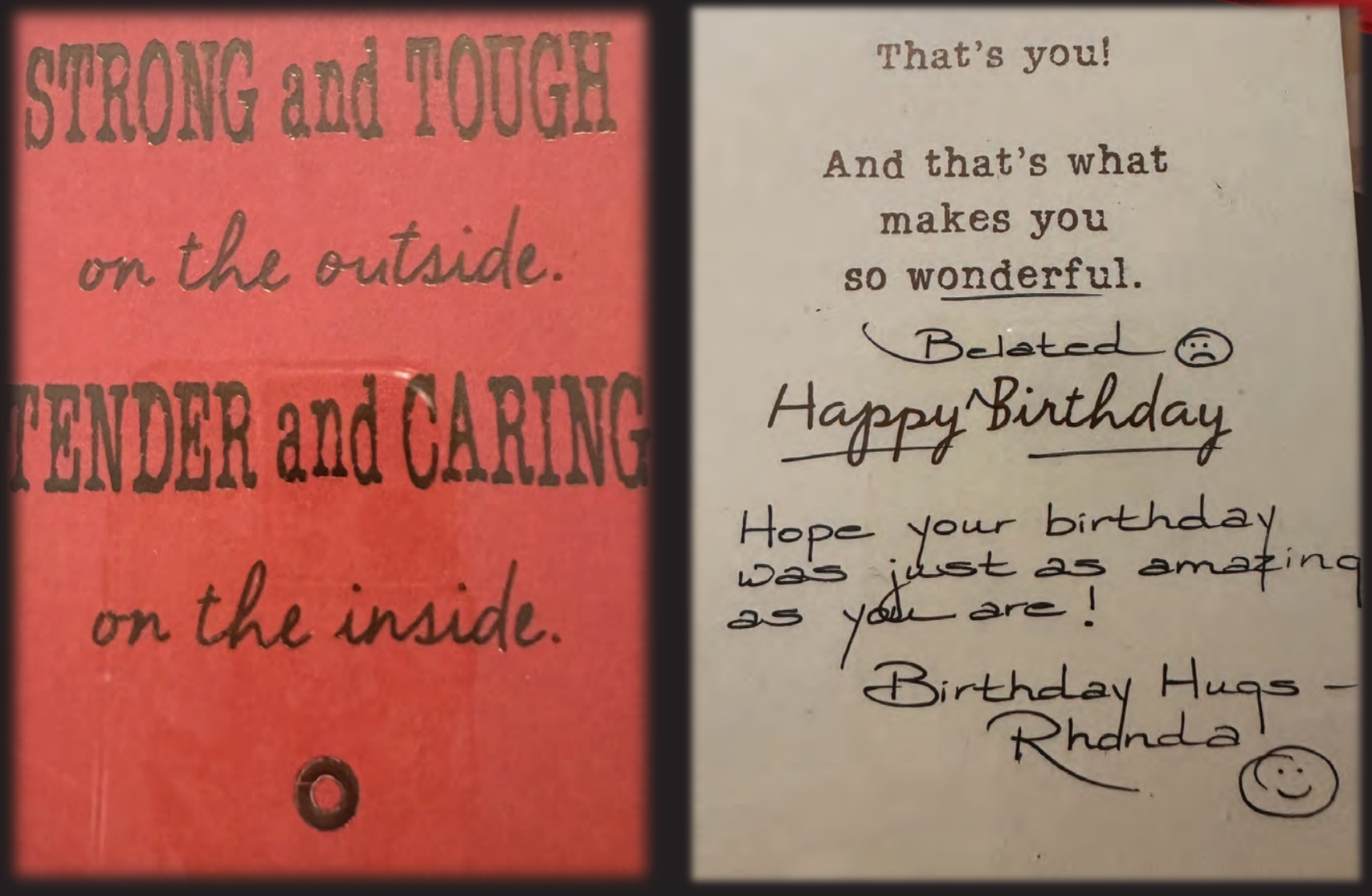






Expressions of Appreciation



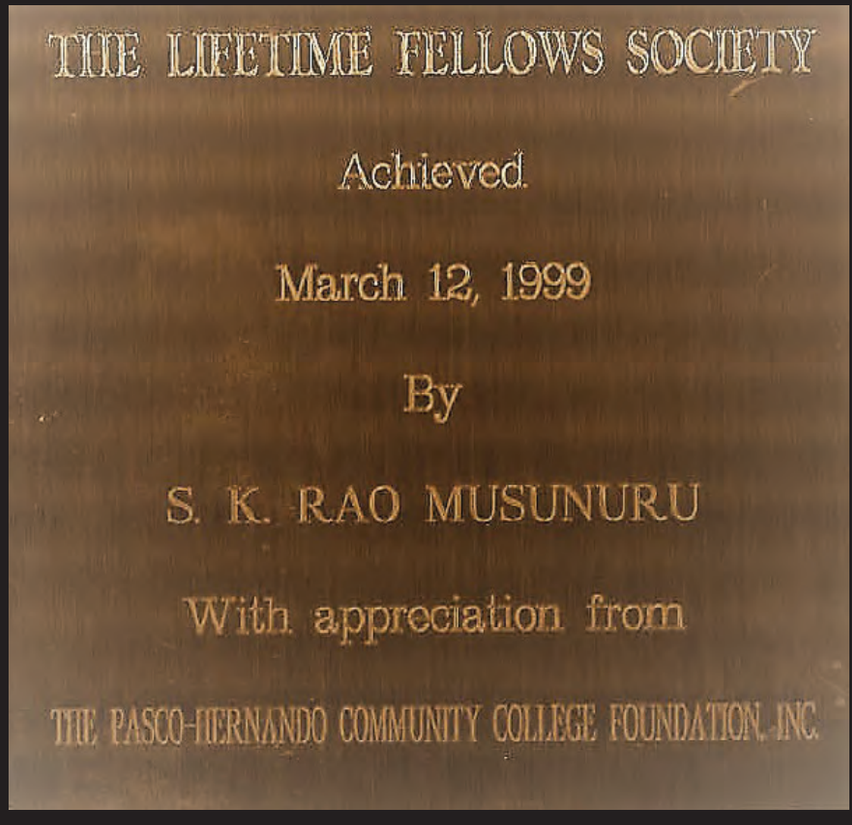


Dr. Rao Musunuru, in his mind, believes that this card reflects "who he really is". His family agrees 100 percent.

THANK YOU!

PHSC thanks Rhonda Dodge, at her retirement, for her 35 years of service to the College, including as Executive Administrative Assistant for two consecutive presidents of PHSC.







Dr. Rao Musunuru has supported PHSC financially, continuously from 1999 until now (January 2024) significantly, especially for student scholarships, the art gallery, student safety, etc.

"Life is not a matter of counting the years.…
It's a matter of making the years count."
– Abraham Lincoln

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."
– William Arthur Ward



"'Tis better to be silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt."
– Abraham Lincoln

"We owe a lot to Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.."

– Albert Einstein

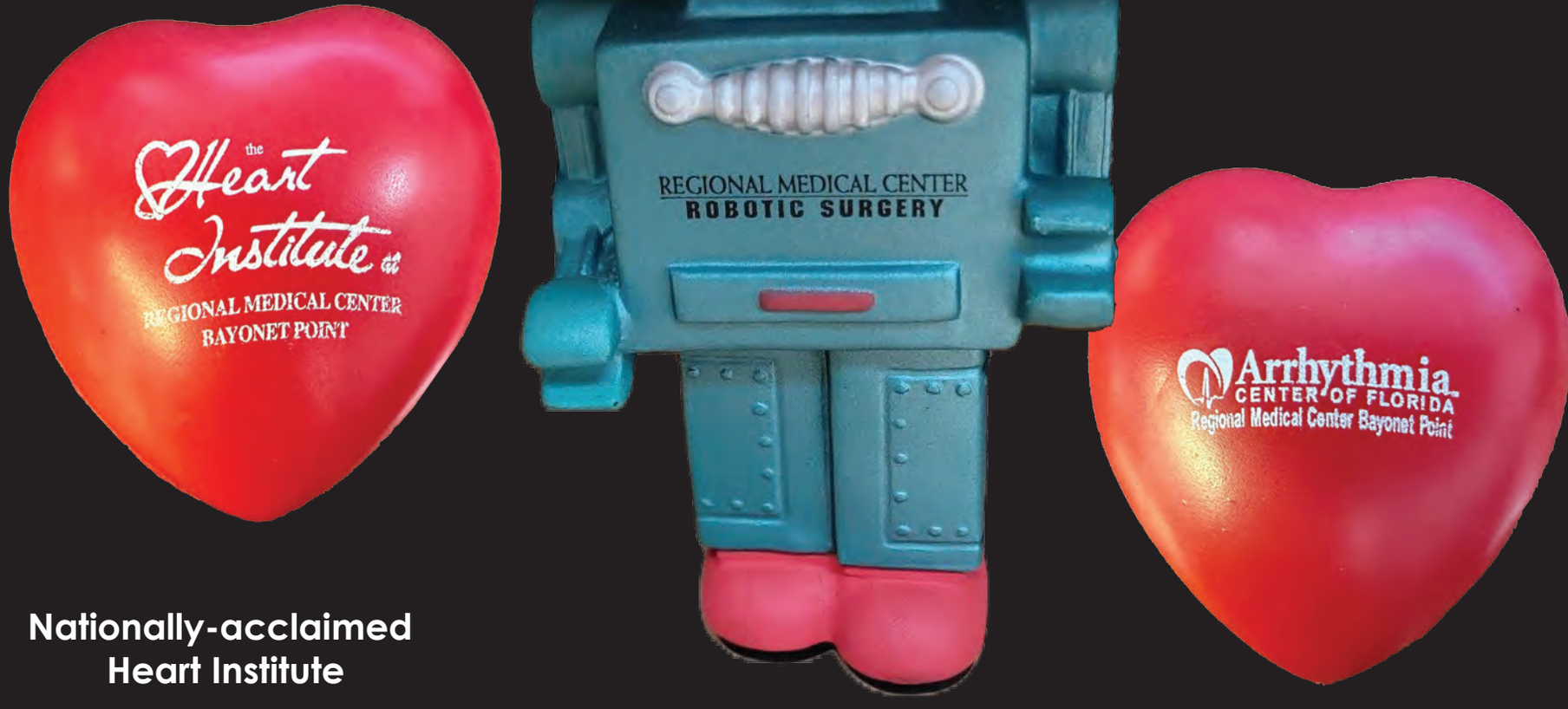


SECTION FOUR

HEART CARE AT ITS BEST

REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BAYONET POINT

Currently HCA Florida Bayonet Point Hospital



Nationally-acclaimed Heart Institute

Saving one life at a time day and night.

CARDIOLOGIST IS SANTA ALL YEAR

CARDIOLOGIST IS SANTA ALL YEAR

Do you believe in Santa? We have one here, in our community, who gives all year long, unconditionally and sincerely from the heart. He has touched so many lives, especially my family's and mine. My one wish this holiday season is that I could give to him just a portion of what he has given to me. My give to him is to share with you what I know of him.

During the past 25 years of my nursing career in this community, I have personally witnessed the heartfelt, compassionate care he gives to patients and their families, including my own. There were many times when he would show up in the unit where I worked at the hospital on the night shift in the wee hours of the morning to check his patients one last time before heading home. His dedication to his patients never stops. His caring extended beyond his patients to the point that he was instrumental in the establishment of a nationally recognized heart center for our community. He elevated cardiac care in this community to a world class level.

He is truly committed and dedicated to continuing education as evidenced by his involvement in our local schools and colleges. He strives to make this medical community the best through lectures and teaching at the bedside. For the past 14 years, he organized, hosted and spoke at one of the largest cardiac conferences in the country at nearby Innisbrook Golf Resort. He had well-renowned speakers in cardiac care come from all over the world. He also speaks at nationally prominent conferences where he focuses on prevention and quality of care. He has truly taught me more than any other teacher I have ever had.

His commitment to this community and to health care in our country is demonstrated in his volunteer work to community service and his active involvement in numerous local, state and national organizations such as the American Heart Association, CARES and Pasco-Hernando Community College, to name a few.

As an advocate, he is constantly promoting health and education by working closely with elected legislatures at the local, state and national levels. Just a few of his accomplishments are student health promotion, antismoking campaign, emergency cardiac and stroke care, research and indigent health care.

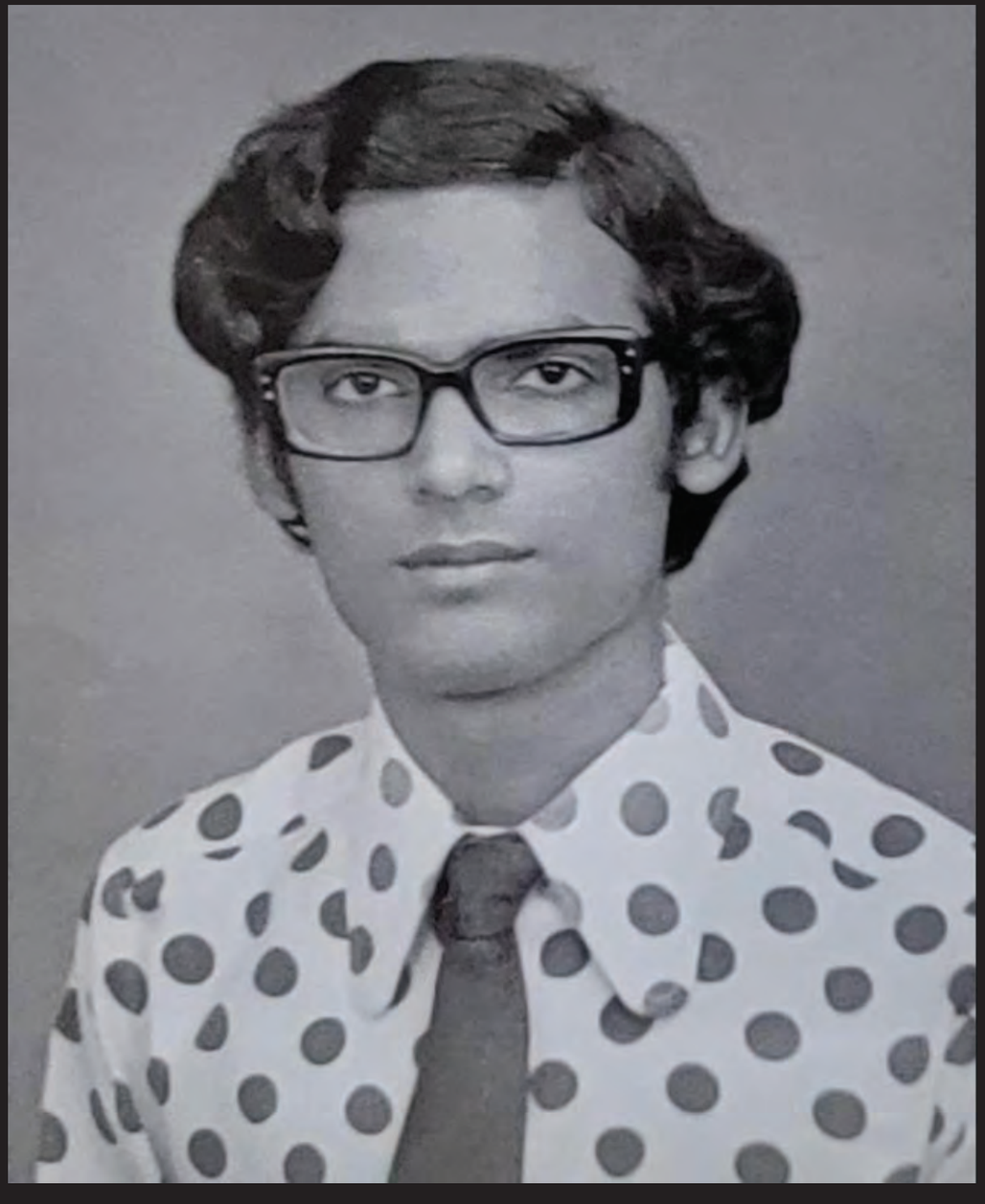
I have only touched on just a small part of this man. It would take a book to elaborate on all he does for our community and our country. I am sincerely honored and thankful that this Santa chose our community to live and practice in.

Who is this Santa? He is a cardiologist who continually gives every moment of everyday throughout the year.

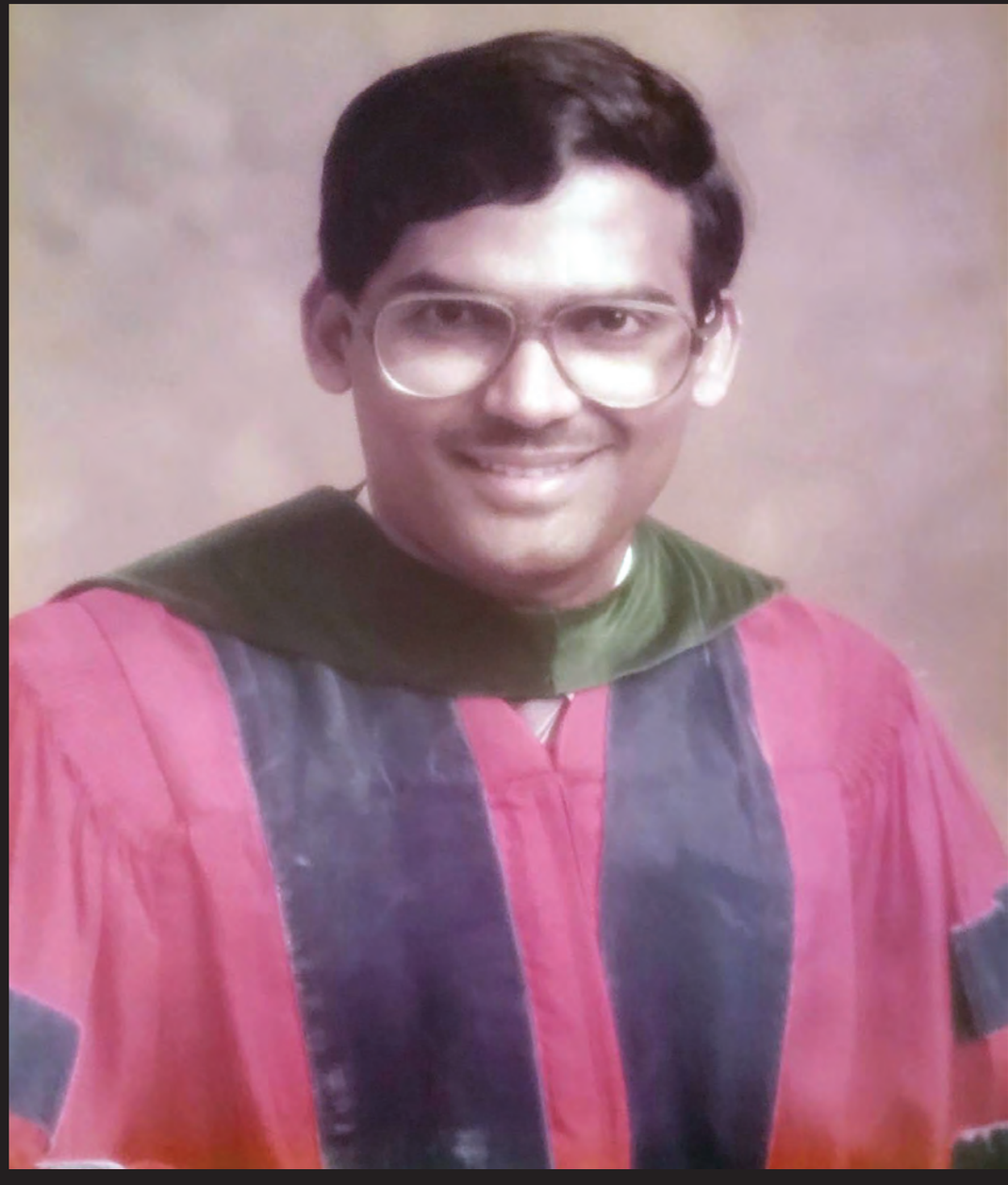
He doesn't have a white beard or a big belly, but he has a heart full of compassion and caring: Dr. Rao Musunuru.

Pauline Kidd-Przepis, Hudson
Letter To The Editor, **St. Petersburg Times - December 25, 2006**





Dr. Rao Musunuru received
a gold medal,
(real gold), at age 20,
for his academic
excellence at the time of his
medical school graduation.



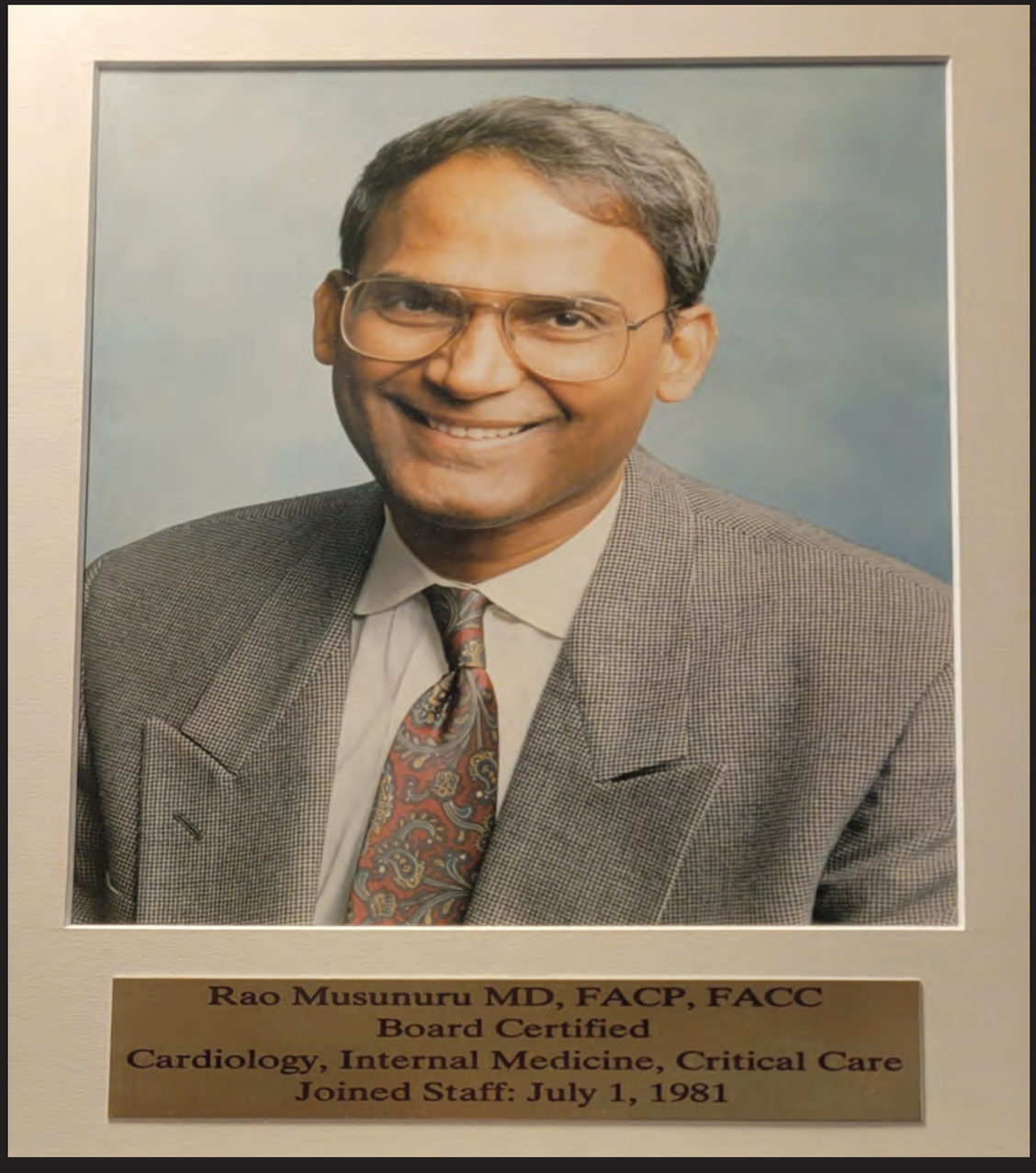
Dr. Rao Musunuru at his invocation for fellowship in "American College of Cardiology" (FACC) at the annual Florida meeting of ACC in 1981, the same year he started his cardiology practice in Hudson.

Dr. and Mrs. Musunuru, along with their son Kiran, at the grand opening reception of his medical office in 1982.
This is the first medical office on the grounds of the new 50-bed hospital in Hudson.



Dr. Rao Musunuru joined the medical staff of the hospital during the inaugural year, 1981.

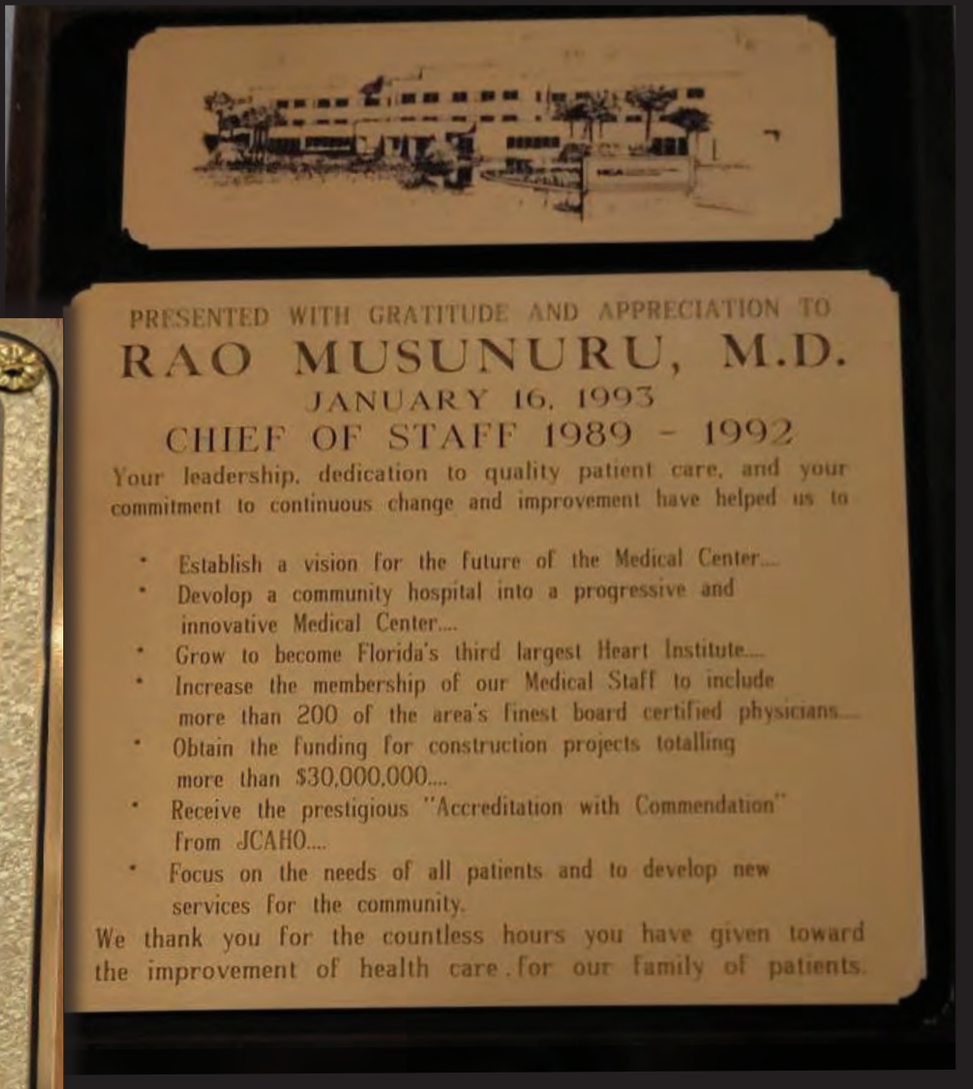
This photo was taken in the 1990s for the hospital to make this plaque, like they did for the entire medical staff.




1986
Physician Of The Year
RAO MUSUNURU.M.D.,F.A.C.C.,F.A.C.P.
A GENTLE MAN BY NATURE
A DOCTOR BY EDUCATION
AND
ADMIRED BY ALL
STAFF OF
HCA BAYONET POINT/HUDSON MEDICAL CENTER
HUDSON,FLORIDA


HCA Florida
Bayonet Point Hospital
Presented To:
Dr. Rao Musunuru
In Grateful Appreciation
For Your Years Of Service
1990-2004
1997-2001 Board Chair
2013-2020
2017-2020 Board Chair

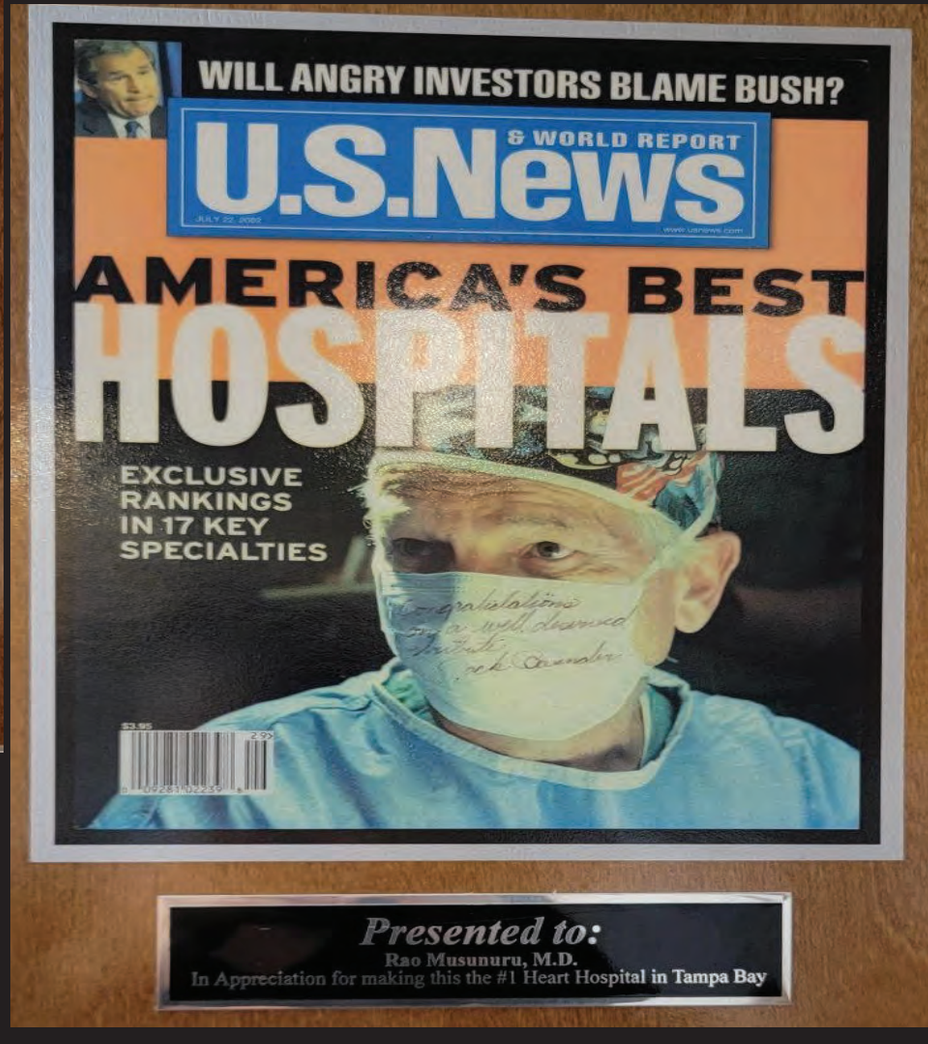

ONE OF AMERICA'S 50 BEST
CARDIOLOGY & HEART SURGERY HOSPITALS
Heart Institute at
Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point
IN RECOGNITION OF
YOUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE
AND YOUR CONTRIBUTION
TO QUALITY MEDICAL CARE
AS CHAIRMAN OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AT
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
BAYONET POINT
WE PRESENT THIS PLAQUE TO
RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.
JULY 29, 1999
YOUR COMMITMENT AND CONTRIBUTION
MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
TO RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION
AS A MEMBER OF AN ELITE GROUP OF
CARDIAC AND HEART SURGERY HOSPITALS
IN THE JULY 19, 1999 ISSUE OF
U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT


PRESENTED WITH GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO
RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.
JANUARY 16, 1993
CHIEF OF STAFF 1989 - 1992
Your leadership, dedication to quality patient care, and your commitment to continuous change and improvement have helped us to
• Establish a vision for the future of the Medical Center....
• Devolop a community hospital into a progressive and innovative Medical Center....
• Grow to become Florida's third largest Heart Institute....
• Increase the membership of our Medical Staff to include more than 200 of the area's finest board certified physicians....
• Obtain the funding for construction projects totalling more than $30,000,000....
• Receive the prestigious "Accreditation with Commendation" from JCAHO....
• Focus on the needs of all patients and to develop new services for the community.
We thank you for the countless hours you have given toward the improvement of health care.for our family of patients.


HCA
PRESENTED TO
P.AO MUSUNURU M.D.
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS LEADERSHIP,
DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT
VICE CHIEF OF STAFF
HCA BAYONET POINT/HUDSON
MEDICAL CENTER
1987-1988


A Compassionate Physician.
An Exceptional Man.
Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point
Congratulates
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
recipient of the
Physician
Humanitarian Award
~ 14th Annual Florida Medical Business Awards
The Heart Institute at
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
BAYONET POINT
www.heartoftampa.com


SILICON VALLEY'S NEW POOR: THE MIDDLE CLASS
All New EXCLUSIVE Rankings
U.S.News & WORLD REPORT
JULY 19, 1999
America's Best Hospitals
1999 ANNUAL EDITION
Where to find the top care in your area in 16 specialties— including Cardiology, Geriatrics, Cancer, Pediatrics, Neurology, and Orthopedics
$3.50
Presented By:
Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point
To Rao Musunuru, M.D. - Chairman
Board of Trustees


WILL ANGRY INVESTORS BLAME BUSH?
U.S.News & WORLD REPORT
JULY 22, 2002
AMERICA'S BEST HOSPITALS
EXCLUSIVE RANKINGS IN 17 KEY SPECIALTIES
$3.95
Presented to:
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
In Appreciation for making this the #1 Heart Hospital in Tampa Bay

HCA Hospital Corporation of America

February 10, 1993

Rao Musunuru, M.D.
14100 Fivay Road
Suite 180
Hudson, FL 34667

Dear Dr. Musunuru:

What a thrill for me to be able to return to the HCA Bayonet Point Hospital to see what you have accomplished during the short three and one-half years since my last visit. While I realize it has been a team effort, Dan Miller gives you the credit for the vision, the inspiration, and the leadership for developing the HCA Heart Institute at Bayonet Point.

It is truly one of the top heart programs in the United States, and with first class educational programs such as your annual conference, the external public will increasingly recognize it as such.

Congratulations.

Sincerely,

Tommy

Thomas F. Frist, Jr.

April 9, 2002

P 615 344-2670
F 615 344-2015

Thomas F. Frist, Jr. M.D.
Retired Chairman

Rao Musunuru, M.D
14100 Fivay Road
Hudson, Fl 34667

Dear Rao,

I wanted to take this opportunity to personally recognize you and the leadership you have provided to Bayonet Point over the past 20 years. Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point has grown from a small community medical surgical facility to a premier medical center with a nationally recognized and acclaimed cardiovascular program. This success is the result of hard work on the part of a large number of physicians and hospital staff.

The vision and leadership that you have exhibited over the past years has been a driving factor in Bayonet Point becoming one of HCA's flagship hospitals. HCA truly appreciates you and what you have helped this hospital accomplish.

I realize the time and energy necessary to make a hospital successful in today's competitive markets requires a group of dedicated leaders. Serving as Chairman of the Hospital Board of Trustees for the past five years, and as a member of the Board for years prior, has not been a simple task, particularly at a dynamic facility such as Bayonet Point. Your commitment and dedication to our hospital has been a significant factor in its success and I want to express my appreciation for the advice, guidance and support you have provided to our hospital leadership over the years. Clearly our patients, employees, medical staff and community have benefited from your contributions and service.

Dave Williams has told me about your community involvement, especially in the American Heart Association and Pasco/Hernando Community College, including your upcoming Chairmanship of both Boards. This tradition of community service is important and a further testimony to your leadership skills and commitment.

HCA prides itself on creating a culture which promotes the highest standards of medical care within our communities. This is only possible when we work closely with our physician champions in furthering HCA's "Tradition of Caring" through service and leadership in our communities.

Rao, thank you for your service not only to Bayonet Point, but to HCA and more importantly to the Pasco County community.

Very truly yours,

Tommy

MEDICAL CENTER
BAYONET♡POINT

October 20, 2017

To the Most Honorable Rao Musunuru M.D.,

Where does one start to thank you for your generosity, passion, caring, mentoring, coaching, and fatherly guidance and love? I have never met anyone like you. I will never forget meeting you for the first time as you were just recovering from surgery in the ICU and still had the passion for the hospital, its staff and our mission to be the first physician to greet its new CEO. I began to understand more and more your love for what you do and for your resilience to impart your passion in others. History will define excellence and the men who demanded it. You are a Man above Men. I hold you in the utmost respect as a Physician, Teacher, Philanthropist, Father, Husband, and Friend. There is nothing to give to a man who has everything and gives everything. I will leave you with my sincerest gratitude and the knowledge that you have touched me in such a constructive and productive way that I will share your legacy and touch others in an equally positive way.

"As Iron sharpens iron, so shall man sharpen another"

Proverbs 27;17

With warmest and sincerest gratitude!

Shayne George
Chief Executive Officer

Hospital Corporation of America

P 615 344-2670
F 615 344-2015

Thomas F. Frist, Jr. M.D.
Chairman Emeritus

March 24, 2010

Dr. Rao Musunuru
14100 Fivay Road, Suite 160
Hudson, FL 34667

Dear Rao,

Congratulations for being chosen as Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point Frist Humanitarian Award recipient!

Created in 1971, the Frist Humanitarian Award is the company's highest honor. Last year, the physician category was added to recognize outstanding physicians who consistently go beyond the call of duty in serving patients and their local communities. I am honored to call you a colleague. Your compassion, dedication and spirit inspire all of us to be better people.

I thought you would enjoy having a copy of this tribute to my father, for you possess so many of the wonderful attributes others admired in him. Thank you for giving so unselfishly of your time and talents to help your fellow colleagues, friends, and neighbors.

Again, congratulations on this incredible honor. Best wishes to you and your family!

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Frist, Jr.

REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
BAYONET POINT

July 12, 1999

Rao Musunuru, M.D.
14100 Fivay Road, Suite 160
Hudson, Florida 34667

Dear Dr. Musunuru,

Today is one of the highlights of my professional career. The naming of Regional Medical Center as one of "America's Best Hospitals" by U.S. News & World Report indeed makes me proud to be associated with this fine institution, its Medical Staff and employees.

While my association has been short in tenure, I have come to appreciate your leadership and sometimes tenacity in pushing the Heart Institute to the next level. You are truly a unique individual that has demonstrated that a single physician can provide vision, motivation and critical thinking that will result in a better place for patients. I want you to know that I appreciate your efforts on the part of the Heart Institute and I am glad to be able to share this moment with you.

Again, please accept my congratulations and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Griffin, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Hospital Corporation of America

P 615 344-1500
F 615 344-2015

Jack O. Bovender, Jr., FACHE
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

November 18, 2003

S. K. Rao Musunuru, M.D.
14100 Fivay Road
Suite 160
Hudson, FL 34667

Dear Dr. Musunuru:

Dave Williams recently made me aware that you are the recipient of the American Heart Association's 2003 Chairman's Award, which was presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions, held on November 10, 2003, in Orlando. Your sincere dedication to improving the healthcare in Pasco and Hernando counties and for that matter, across Florida, is no secret to HCA. Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point would not have its national reputation were it not for your continued leadership and commitment to the care and improvement of human life in your community.

To be singled out for this prestigious award from such a prominent national association clearly demonstrates your devotion to your profession. Please accept my personal congratulations on this outstanding recognition. HCA is very fortunate to have such a leader on Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point's Medical Staff and hospital Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

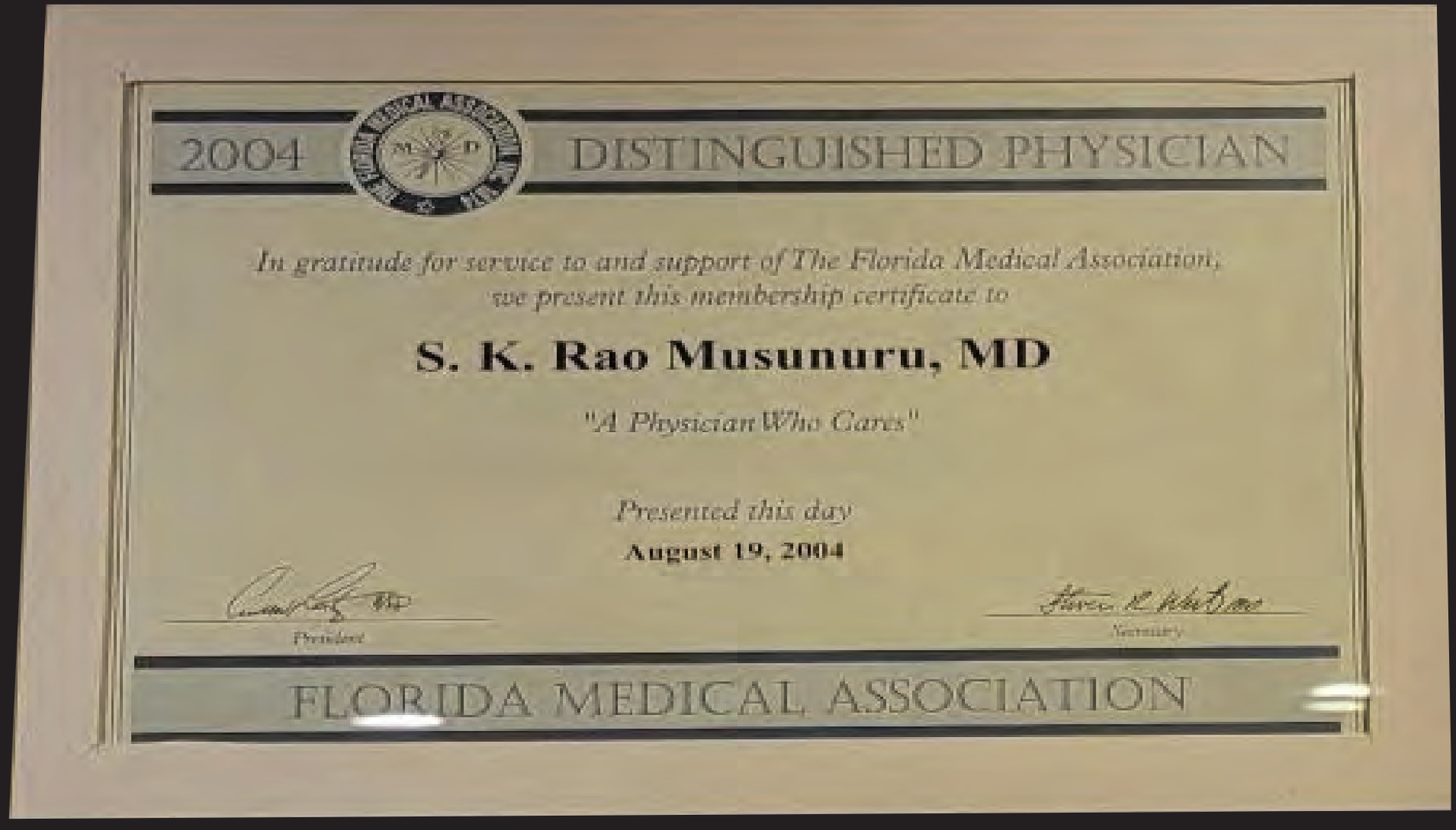
Jack

Jack O. Bovender, Jr.



Received The Frist Humanitarian Award twice.


American Medical Association
Physicians dedicated to the health of America
Honors
S.K. RAO MUSUNURU, MD
As one of its Heroes in Medicine
2001 Pride in the Profession Awards
in association with
Pfizer



2004 DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIAN

In gratitude for service to and support of The Florida Medical Association, we present this membership certificate to

S. K. Rao Musunuru, MD

"A Physician Who Cares"

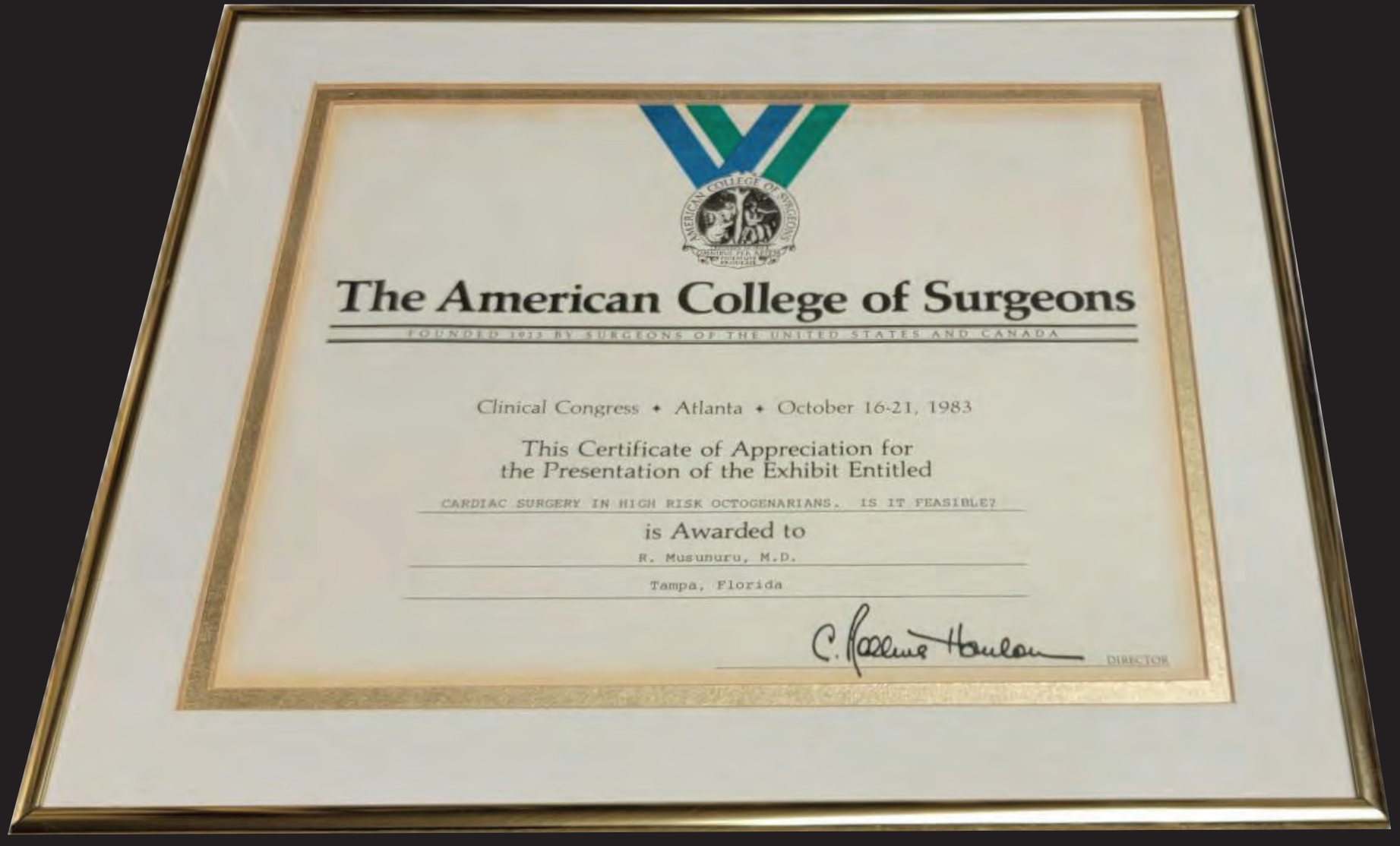
Presented this day

August 19, 2004

President

Secretary

FLORIDA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



The American College of Surgeons

FOUNDED 1913 BY SURGEONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Clinical Congress • Atlanta • October 16-21, 1983

This Certificate of Appreciation for the Presentation of the Exhibit Entitled

CARDIAC SURGERY IN HIGH RISK OCTOGENARIANS. IS IT FEASIBLE?

is Awarded to

R. Musunuru, M.D.

Tampa, Florida

C. Rollins Hanlon DIRECTOR

IT'S TIME FOR LOCAL TRAUMA CENTER

As I look out through the window from my private medical office next to the emergency room, I see daily patients being brought in by ambulance and then taken away by helicopter to Tampa or St. Petersburg. Most of them are victims of trauma. They do not know exactly where they are being taken, how long they may survive or what condition they may be in, if they do survive the transport.

I get very emotional and upset when I see the family members looking into the sky with tears in their eyes saying goodbye to their loved ones, as long as the helicopter is in sight. I can see on their faces many questions, but no easy answers. Where do they need to go from here? How do they get there? Whether their loved ones will still be alive when they get there? New place, new people, new doctors and new questions.

I never envisioned myself in that helicopter, as a patient. Like most other people, I used to think that I was invincible and nothing would ever happen to me. After my recent brush with death, I think differently. What if I was involved in a bad accident on my way to the hospital? Will there be enough time for me to survive while I'm being transported to a distant hospital in another county to get the necessary care?

Trauma is the leading cause of death in ages of people 44 and younger. Motor vehicle crashes are the No. 1 cause of trauma-related deaths and falls are the second-leading cause. Trauma also is a time-sensitive condition, just like heart attack or stroke. The quicker you can get to a capable treatment facility, the more likely you are to survive.

In 1981, when I started my cardiology private practice in Hudson, the 50-bed hospital did not even have an echocardiogram machine that I could use. I had to take out a loan and buy one, to make the right treatment decisions for heart patients. We used to send hundreds of patients to Tampa for heart catheterization and surgery. I used the same arguments about the need for local advanced cardiac care at that time and I faced the same objections, opposition and court appeals then that the proposed trauma center is now.

People said we were in the boon docks, did not have expertise, did not have the volume of patients, did not need one, wouldn't make enough money, wouldn't maintain quality, would hurt other doctors and hospitals and would destroy tertiary referral centers. Guess what? We prevailed with the heart center and we proved them all wrong. We became one of the top 50 cardiac centers in the country (U.S. *New & World Report*) within 10 years after we started a high-quality program.

Continued…

...Continued from previous page

We did not hurt any doctor or hospitals. It was a win-win situation. It actually promoted over-all quality of medical care for all other specialties at our hospital. We attracted highly qualified physicians in many specialties from all over the country. The hospital grew more than five times its original size and created lots of jobs. All other competing hospitals rose to the occasion and did their best to become providers of the best possible care which benefited both hospitals and patients. We save lives close to home with comfort and peace to the families. They did not need to travel distances to unknown places, dealing with unknown doctors and living in motels under most difficult circumstances.

It is about time to treat trauma like heart attack or stroke, taking the patients to the operating room, as soon as necessary, instead of waiting to load the patient into an ambulance or helicopter or even worse.

There is no local state approved trauma center in Pasco, Hernando, Citrus or Marion counties. Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, in Hudson, is willing to take the lead to do the right thing once again, by investing resources (with USF affiliation) to create a high-quality trauma center, that will meet rigorous government standards. The hospital will be required to treat all serious emergency trauma patients, irrespective of their ability to pay.

Please note that I am an experienced practicing physician and a concerned private citizen. I do not work for HCA and never did. The only conflict of interest, if one can call it that, is my compelling desire to reduce death and disability.

It is about time for the community and the government agencies to support and appreciate that time is of the essence in trauma care. Someday, it may make all the difference between life and death for you or your loved one.

Published St. Petersburg Times (tampabay.com/opinion) October 6, 2011

P.S. We prevailed to establish a quality trauma center, supporting trauma patients from our country and the surrounding counties, providing acclaimed patient care for about a decade now.

Lobby for Medicare Reform



Dr. Musunuru with previous Florida Governor and U.S. Senator Bob Graham at the "Medicare Reform Act" Panel discussion" 1999.

In 1999, Senator Bob Graham and health secretary Donna Shalala, convened a five hour forum in Tampa at USF, to a gathering of 200 elderly. Many state dignitaries spoke at the meeting.

Dr. Rao Musunuru was also invited to speak at the forum, representing the Florida Medical Community.

The St. Petersburg Times reported on Dr. Musunuru's comments: "I get the same question repeatedly from my patients," said Dr. Rao Musunuru, chief of staff at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point in Pasco County.

"Why can't an organization like Medicare, with 39-million members, get the same discount" that managed-care companies negotiate?"

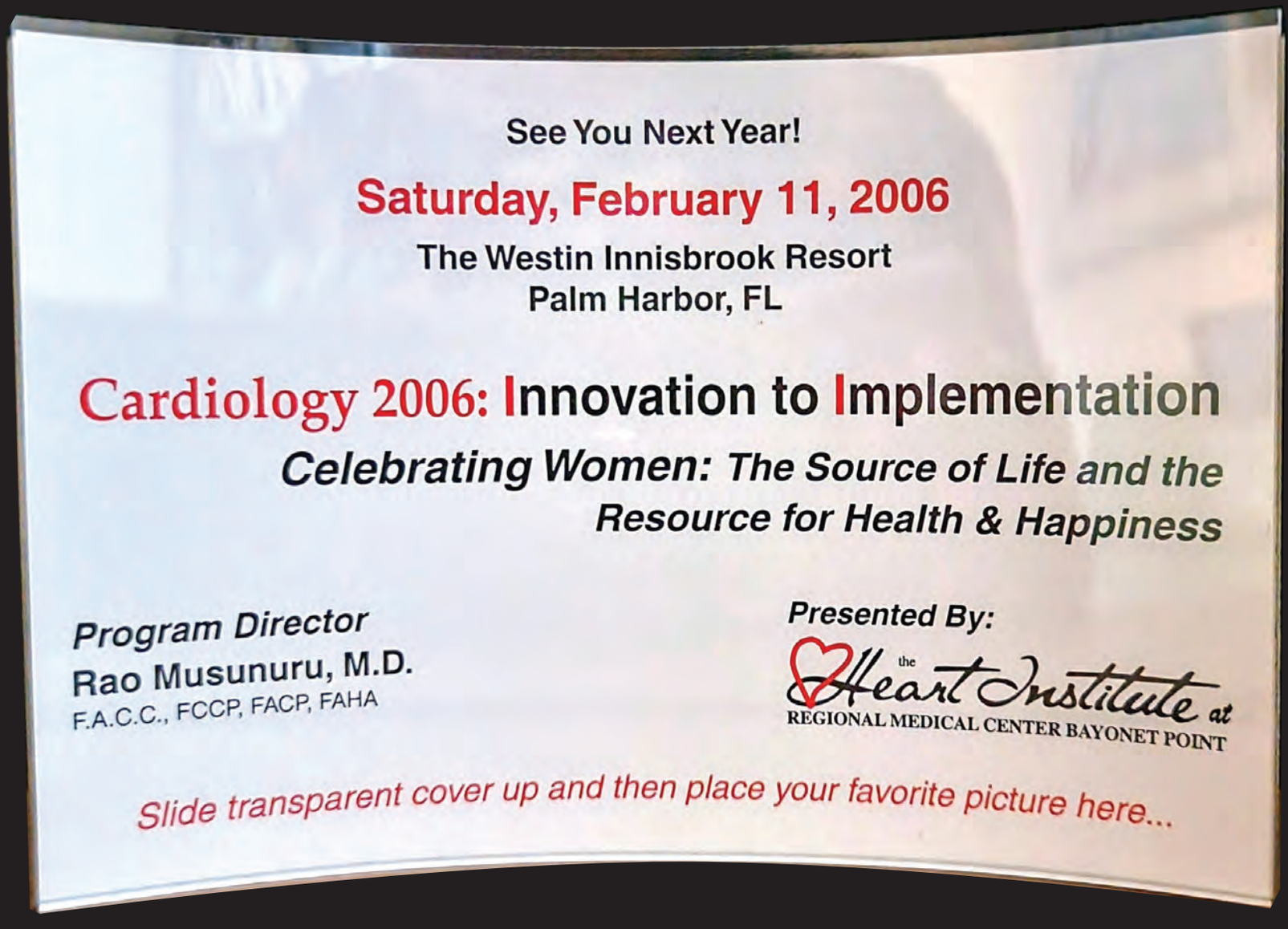


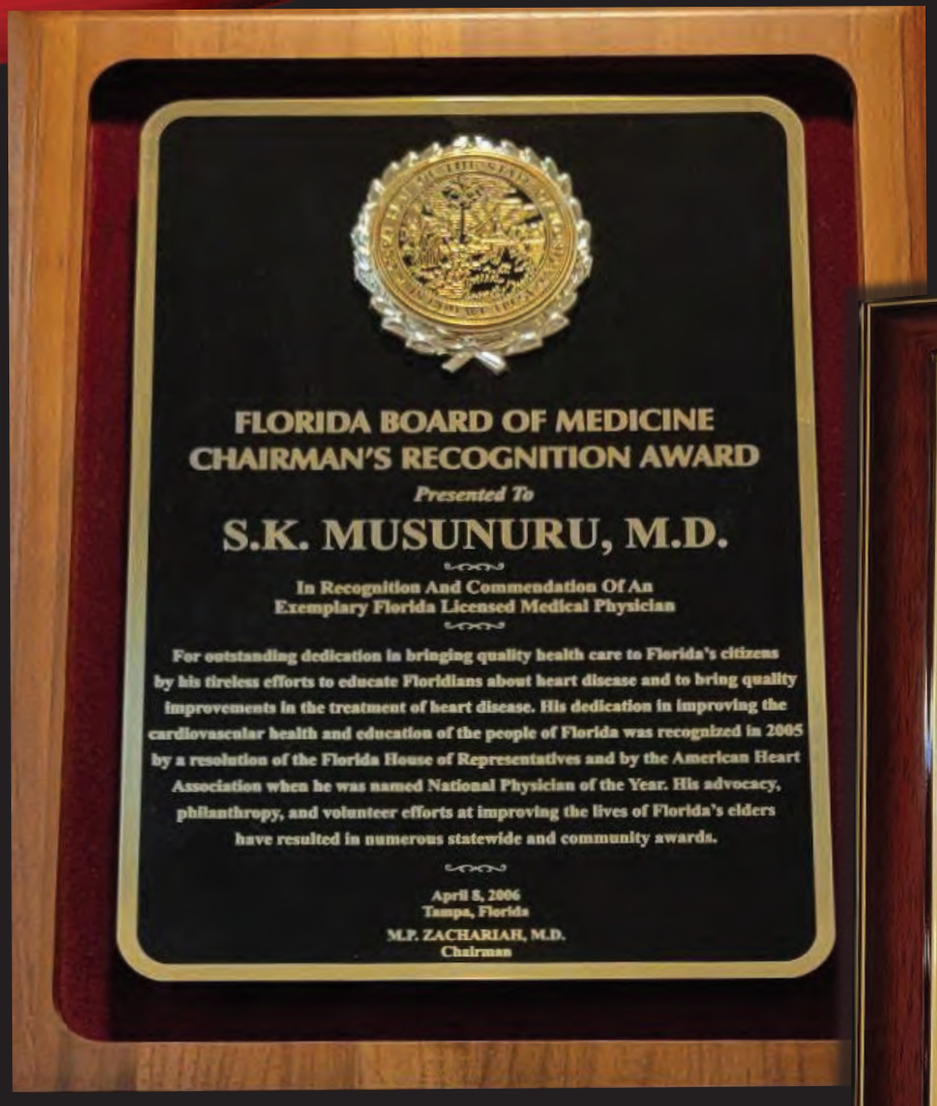
Official hat from ground breaking ceremony
Of the Heart Institute

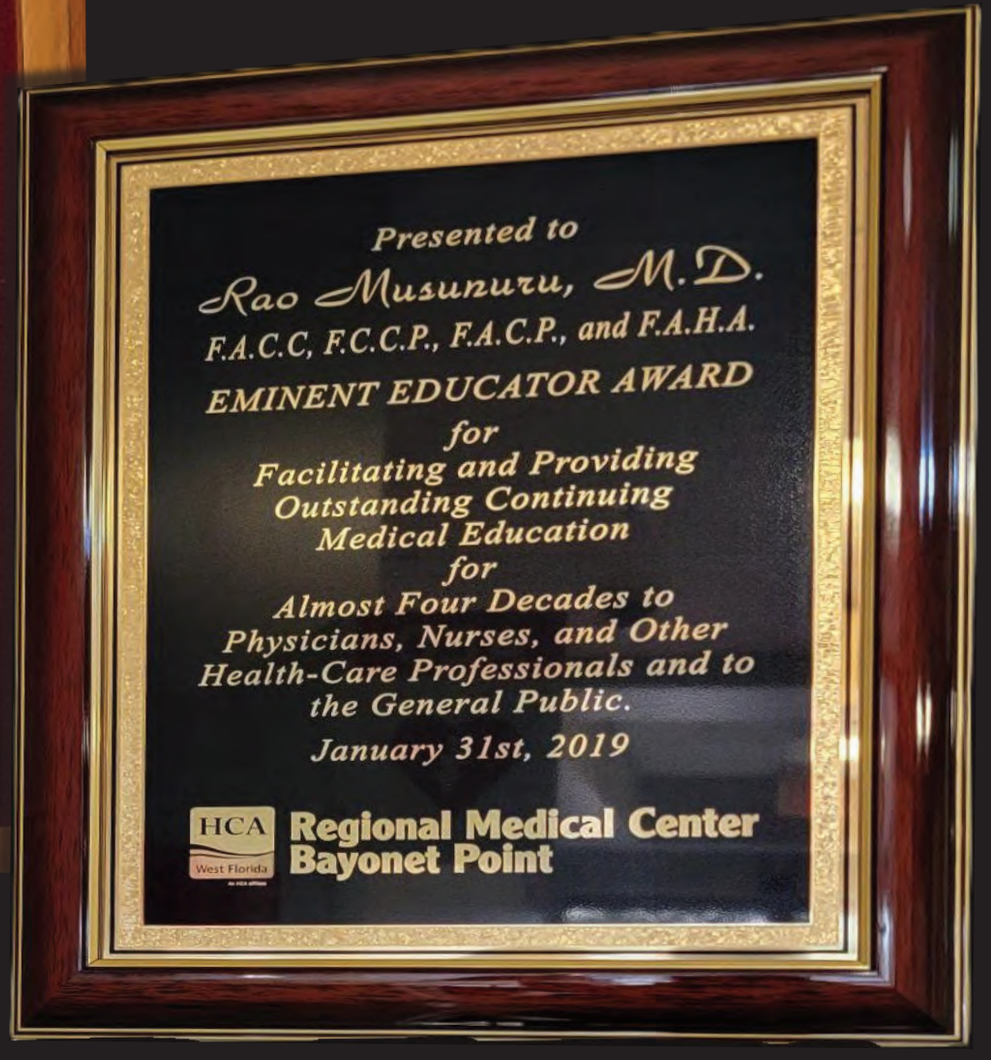
SECTION FIVE

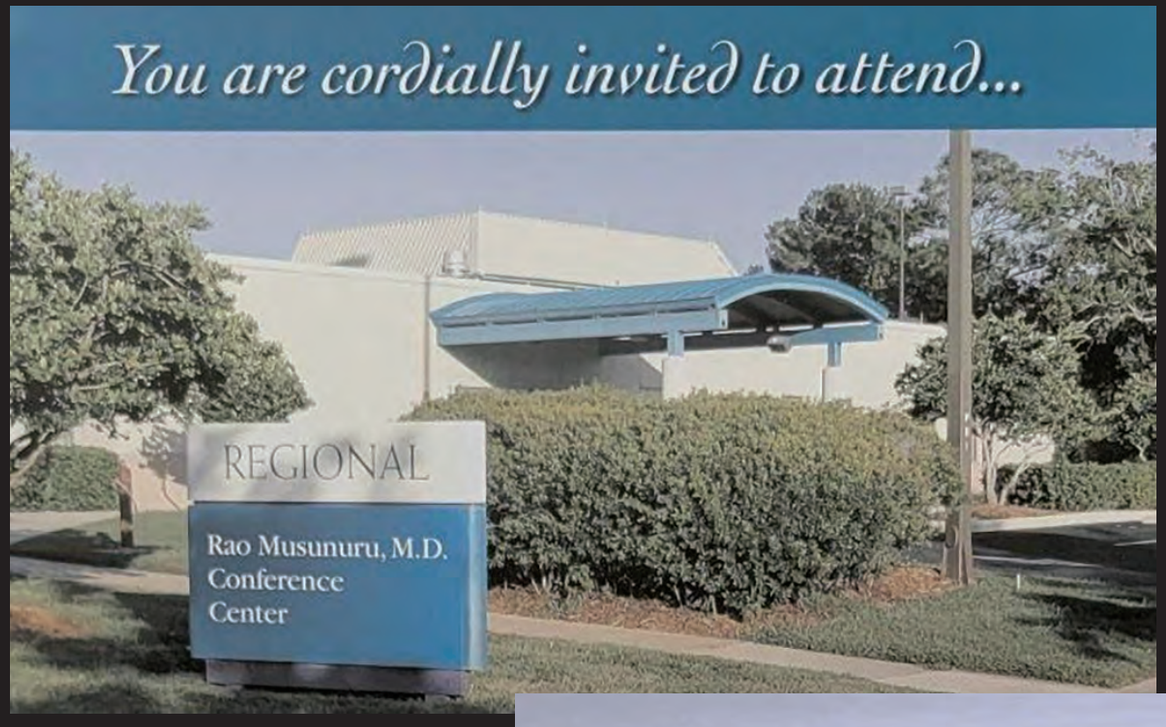
STATE OF THE HEART

MEDICAL EDUCATION


See You Next Year!
Saturday, February 11, 2006
The Westin Innisbrook Resort
Palm Harbor, FL
Cardiology 2006: Innovation to Implementation
Celebrating Women: The Source of Life and the Resource for Health & Happiness
Program Director
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
F.A.C.C., FCCP, FACP, FAHA
Presented By:
the Heart Institute at
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BAYONET POINT
Slide transparent cover up and then place your favorite picture here...


FLORIDA BOARD OF MEDICINE
CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION AWARD
Presented To
S.K. MUSUNURU, M.D.
In Recognition And Commendation Of An
Exemplary Florida Licensed Medical Physician
For outstanding dedication in bringing quality health care to Florida's citizens by his tireless efforts to educate Floridians about heart disease and to bring quality improvements in the treatment of heart disease. His dedication in improving the cardiovascular health and education of the people of Florida was recognized in 2005 by a resolution of the Florida House of Representatives and by the American Heart Association when he was named National Physician of the Year. His advocacy, philanthropy, and volunteer efforts at improving the lives of Florida's elders have resulted in numerous statewide and community awards.
April 8, 2006
Tampa, Florida
M.P. ZACHARIAH, M.D.
Chairman


Presented to
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
F.A.C.C, F.C.C.P., F.A.C.P., and F.A.H.A.
EMINENT EDUCATOR AWARD
for
Facilitating and Providing
Outstanding Continuing
Medical Education
for
Almost Four Decades to
Physicians, Nurses, and Other
Health-Care Professionals and to
the General Public.
January 31st, 2019
HCA
West Florida
Regional Medical Center
Bayonet Point



Naming of our Conference Center In Honor of
Nationally Recognized Cardiologist

Rao Musunuru, M.D.
FACC, FCCP, FACP, FAHA

In appreciation of his exemplary educational
Contributions to the medical community
As well as the public for more than 25 years.

Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at 11:30 am
A Special Luncheon Will Be Served

14000 Fivay Road, Hudson, FL 34667
(Map and directions on the back)

Please R. S. V. P by Wednesday, November 21st
Please call 727-869-5500 or email Marianne.Vigilis@hcahealthcare.com
or return in enclosed envelope.



Dr. Joseph Pino speaking at the event.


Rao Musunuru, M.D.
Conference
Center
REGIONAL
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
Conference
Center

Good Day: You have been selected by the Heart Institute at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point to be a special agent. As a special agent on this mission, you will have the opportunity to learn more about advances in Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery and also network with other special agents in this field. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to attend…



Cardiology 2001: MISSION POSSIBLE

Cardiac Conference
Saturday, April 7, 2001
The Westin Innisbrook Resort - Palm Harbor, Florida

AGENDA

7:00 a.m. **Registration & Breakfast**
Inverness Conference Center
Sponsored by: Boston Scientific (SciMed)

8:00 a.m. **Welcome Remarks**
J. Daniel Miller
President West Florida Division
HCA the Healthcare Company

8:05 a.m. **Review of the Mission**
Rao Musunuru, M.D., FACP
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point

Dr. Musunuru will moderate the program

8:15 a.m. **Chronic Inappropriate Sinus Tachycardia Syndromes**
Agustin Castellanos, M.D., FACC
Professor of Medicine
Director, Clinical Electrophysiology
University of Miami School of Medicine
Miami, Florida

9:15 a.m. **Primary Angioplasty for AMI**
Cindy L. Grines, M.D., FACC
Director, Cardiac Catherization Laboratories
William Beaumont Hospital

11:30 a.m. **Cell Therapy for CHF**
Rao Musunuru, M.D., FACC
Vice President
American Heart Association, Florida

12:30 p.m. **Luncheon**
Sponsored by: Guidant
Speaker: Sarah Fanous-Samaan
Health Reporter
The Business Journal

1:30 p.m. **Experiences with a New Miniaturized Ventricular Assist Device**
Michael E. DeBakey, M.D.
Chancellor Emeritus
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

2:30 p.m. **Endoluminal Repair of A.A.A.: Current Results and Future Implications**
Zvonimir Krajcer, M.D., FACC
Clinical Professor of Medicine
The University of Texas Medical School
Houston, Texas

3:30 p.m. **Review of Advances in Cardiac Surgery**





Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, a pioneer in cardiovascular surgery,
with
Dr. Musunuru, at this cardiovascular national seminar.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



Gifted by Don Vierling, M.D.


11th Annual
Cardiac
Conference
Cardiology 2003
BACK
TO THE
FUTURE
February 22, 2003



Gifted by Bob Duncan, M.D.


First Into
The Future
Annual Cardiovascular
Seminar
Saturday • April 20, 1996
Innisbrook Resort • Tarpon Springs
Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Christiaan Barnard
Performed the First Heart Transplant

CHRISTIAAN BARNARD
M.D., Ph.D.

Rao Musunuru
Bayonet Point /Hudson Cardiology Associates
14100 Fivay Rd.
Suite 160
Hudson FL 34667
USA

16 July 1996

Dear Rao,

You won´t believe it, but my overseas engagements were so extended that I only arrived back in South Africa yesterday and that is why you have not heard from me earlier.

I´d like to take this opportunity to thank you and your family and the various members of The Bayonet Point Heart Hospital for their hospitality and friendship which I received during my short stay in Hudson

I hope that we will meet again in the near future and I would like you to convey my best wishes to your wife and son.

Best regards,

Prof. Chris Barnard



Dr. and Mrs. Musunuru at their house in New Port Richey, with Dr. Christiaan Barnard, a pioneer in cardiac surgery from South Africa, that performed the first heart transplant.



Dr. Albert Starr is well-known for the development of the first metallic heart valve (Starr–Edwards)

HCA Heart Institute's Annual Cardiovascular Seminar

Saturday
January 28, 1995
Innisbrook Resort
Tarpon Springs

REACH FOR THE STARS

Meet the Stars in the Field of Cardiology January 28

Rao Musunuru, M.D., is pleased to announce the following physicians who will speak at the HCA Heart Institute's Cardiovascular Seminar.

Albert Starr, M.D.
Director, The Heart Institute at St. Vincent, Portland, Oregon. Dr. Starr is well known for the development of the first metallic heart valve (the Starr-Edwards). He is still in private practice, heading the Starr-Wood Cardiac Group in Portland.

Norman E. Shumway, M.D.
Professor, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Stanford University School of Medicine, California. Dr. Shumway is a pioneer in heart transplantation.

William C. Roberts, M.D.
Executive Director, Baylor Cardiovascular Institute, Dallas, Texas. Dr. Roberts was formerly with the NIH, and is an authority on atherosclerosis.

Nanette K. Wenger, M.D.
Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), Emory University School of Medicine, and Director of Cardiac Clinics, Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia

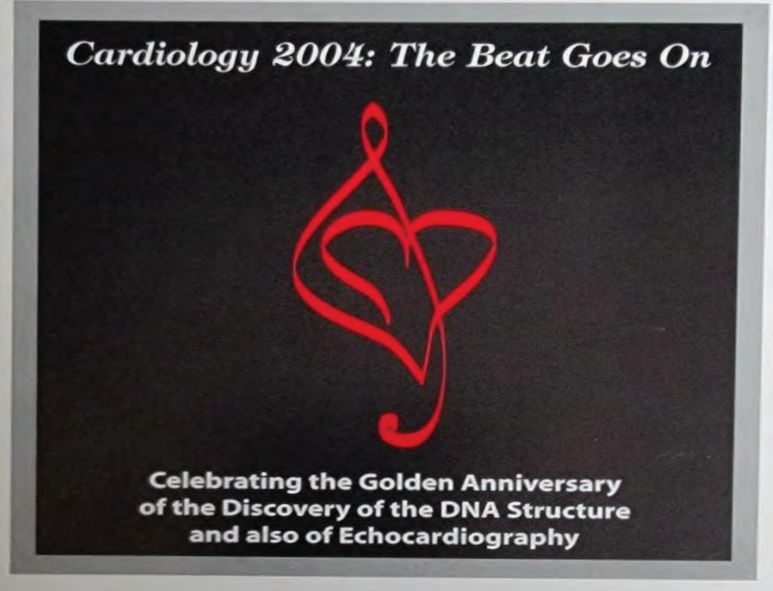
Richard M. Luceri, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami, Florida. Former Editor-in-chief, Journal of Electrophysiology. Dr. Luceri is an authority on electrophysiology.

R. Vijay, M.D.
Medical Director, HCA Heart Institute, Hudson; Director of the Heart Transplant Program, Tampa General Hospital, Tampa, Florida.

HCA HEART INSTITUTE

12th Annual Cardiac Conference

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2004
THE WESTIN INNISBROOK RESORT • PALM HARBOR, FL



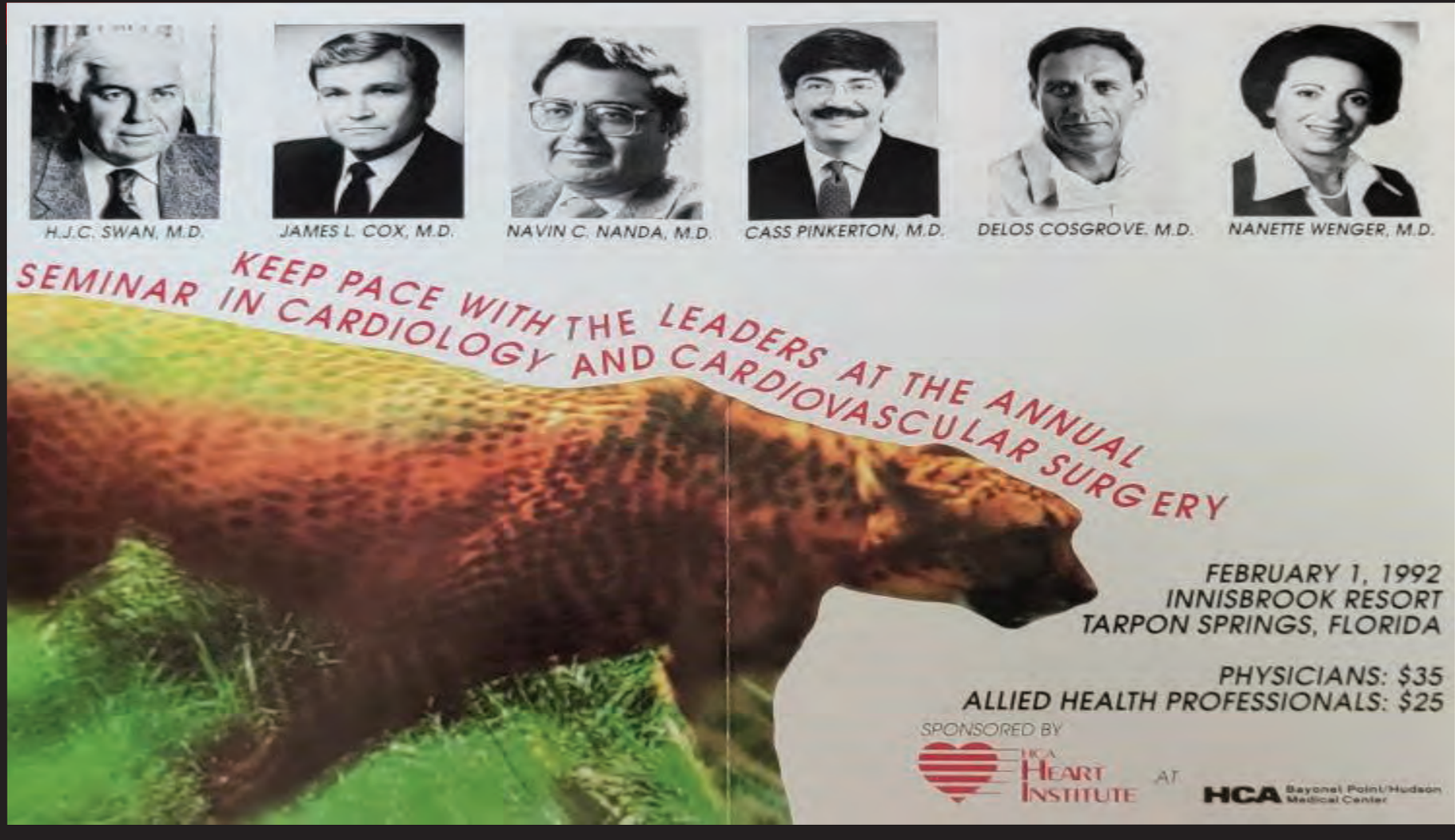
Special Feature:
"Prevention of Medical Errors"

Presented by: the Heart Institute at REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BAYONET POINT

Registration Information Enclosed

The Heart Institute at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point is honored to have been named:

- **America's Best Hospitals**
  Cardiology & Heart Surgery
  U.S. News and World Report, 1999 and 2002
- **Best of the 100 Top Benchmark Hospitals**
  Solucient, 2001, 2002
- **Best Hospitals in the Country for Cardiac Care**
  Money Magazine, 2003
- **100 Top Hospital - Benchmarks for Success**
  Solucient, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
  www.100tophospitals.com
- **Solucient 100 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals: Benchmarks for Success**
  Solucient, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
  www.solucient.com
- **Heart & Stroke Champions Award Winner**
  The American Heart Association, Florida/Puerto Rico Affiliate, 1998-99, 1999-2000


H.J.C. SWAN, M.D.
JAMES L. COX, M.D.
NAVIN C. NANDA, M.D.
CASS PINKERTON, M.D.
DELOS COSGROVE, M.D.
NANETTE WENGER, M.D.
KEEP PACE WITH THE LEADERS AT THE ANNUAL
SEMINAR IN CARDIOLOGY AND CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY
FEBRUARY 1, 1992
INNISBROOK RESORT
TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA
PHYSICIANS: $35
ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS: $25
SPONSORED BY
HCA HEART INSTITUTE
AT
HCA Bayonet Point/Hudson Medical Center

FEATURED SPEAKERS • AFTERNOON SESSION

PANEL DISCUSSION
MODERATOR: R. MUSUNURU, M.D.
PARTICIPANTS
H.J.C. SWAN, M.D.
CASS PINKERTON, M.D.
DELOS COSGROVE, M.D.
NANETTE WENGER, M.D.
R. VIJAYANAGAR, M.D.

Objectives: To offer the participants an opportunity of review and questions correlating to the various topics.

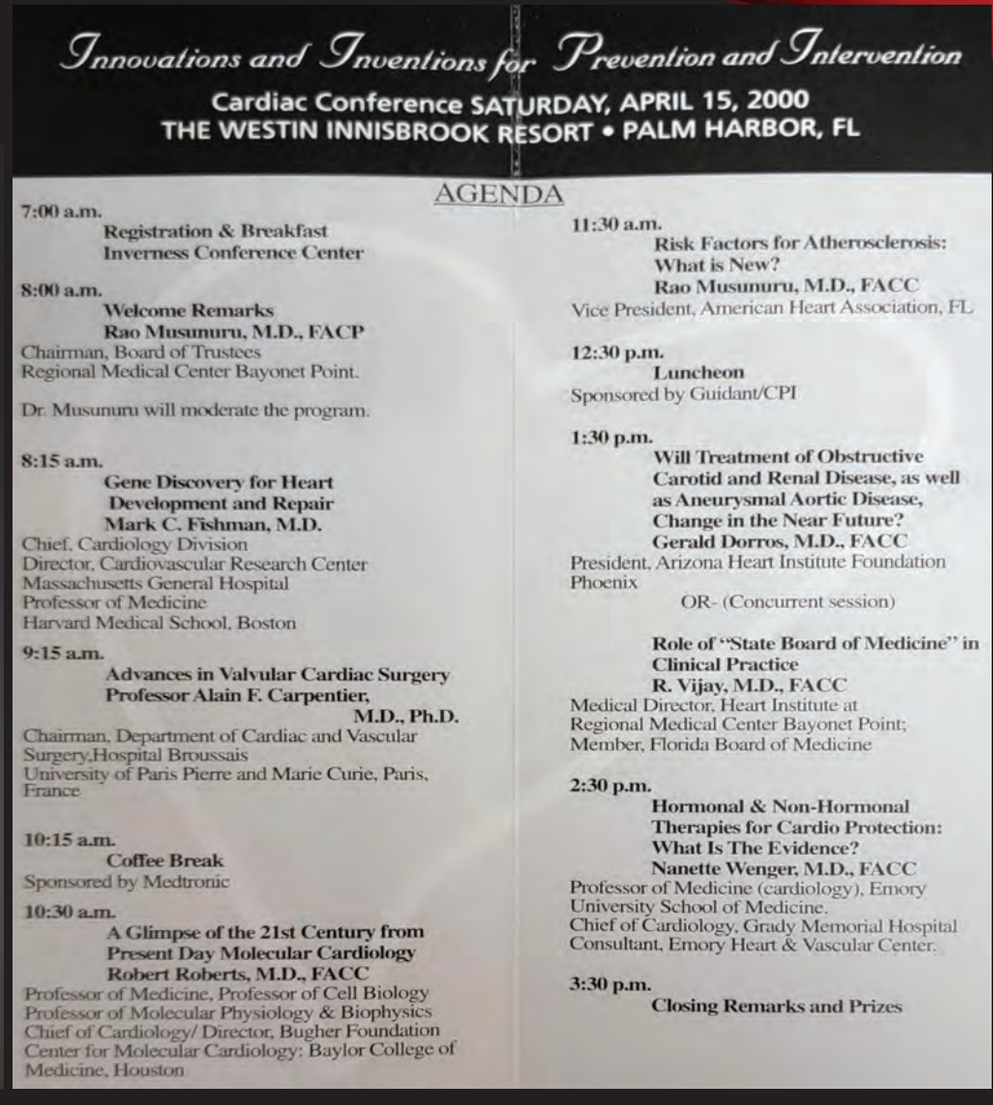
SCHEDULE

8:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast
8:50	Welcome Paul J. McKnight, Senior Vice President, (President, Florida Group) Hospital Corporation of America (Medical Surgical Division)
	FEATURED SPEAKERS:
9:00	H.J.C. Swan, M.D.
10:00	James L. Cox, M.D.
11:00	Navin C. Nanda, M.D.
Noon	Luncheon and Break
	FEATURED SPEAKERS:
1:00	Cass Pinkerton, M.D.
2:00	Delos Cosgrove, M.D.
3:00	Nanette Wenger, M.D.
4:00	**Panel Discussion** Cocktail Reception



Nanette Wenger, M.D.





Innovations and Inventions for Prevention and Intervention

Cardiac Conference SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2000
THE WESTIN INNISBROOK RESORT • PALM HARBOR, FL

AGENDA

7:00 a.m.
Registration & Breakfast
Inverness Conference Center

8:00 a.m.
Welcome Remarks
Rao Musunuru, M.D., FACP
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point.

Dr. Musunuru will moderate the program.

8:15 a.m.
Gene Discovery for Heart Development and Repair
Mark C. Fishman, M.D.
Chief, Cardiology Division
Director, Cardiovascular Research Center
Massachusetts General Hospital
Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School, Boston

9:15 a.m.
Advances in Valvular Cardiac Surgery
Professor Alain F. Carpentier, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairman, Department of Cardiac and Vascular Surgery,Hospital Broussais
University of Paris Pierre and Marie Curie, Paris, France

10:15 a.m.
Coffee Break
Sponsored by Medtronic

10:30 a.m.
A Glimpse of the 21st Century from Present Day Molecular Cardiology
Robert Roberts, M.D., FACC
Professor of Medicine, Professor of Cell Biology
Professor of Molecular Physiology & Biophysics
Chief of Cardiology/ Director, Bugher Foundation
Center for Molecular Cardiology: Baylor College of Medicine, Houston

11:30 a.m.
Risk Factors for Atherosclerosis: What is New?
Rao Musunuru, M.D., FACC
Vice President, American Heart Association, FL

12:30 p.m.
Luncheon
Sponsored by Guidant/CPI

1:30 p.m.
Will Treatment of Obstructive Carotid and Renal Disease, as well as Aneurysmal Aortic Disease, Change in the Near Future?
Gerald Dorros, M.D., FACC
President, Arizona Heart Institute Foundation
Phoenix

OR- (Concurrent session)

Role of "State Board of Medicine" in Clinical Practice
R. Vijay, M.D., FACC
Medical Director, Heart Institute at
Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point;
Member, Florida Board of Medicine

2:30 p.m.
Hormonal & Non-Hormonal Therapies for Cardio Protection: What Is The Evidence?
Nanette Wenger, M.D., FACC
Professor of Medicine (cardiology), Emory University School of Medicine.
Chief of Cardiology, Grady Memorial Hospital
Consultant, Emory Heart & Vascular Center.

3:30 p.m.
Closing Remarks and Prizes

The keynote speaker
Professor Alain F. Carpentier, M.D., Ph.D.
from France is a pioneer in
heart valve repair.



TOUCH THE WORLD OF CARDIOLOGY...

. . . AT THE ANNUAL SEMINAR IN CARDIOLOGY AND CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY
FEBRUARY 5, 1994
INNISBROOK RESORT, TARPON SPRINGS

REGISTER NOW!

HCA Bayonet Point/Hudson Medical Center

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Management of Survivors of Cardiac Arrest - Drugs or Devices?
Peter L. Friedman, M.D., Ph.D.

Management of Acute Myocardial Ischemia - a 25-year Experience with Intra-aortic Balloon Pump
Mortimer J. Buckley, M.D.

Thrombolytic Therapy
Ernest Scott Monrad, M.D.

Patterns of Atherosclerosis and Risk Factors
Michael E. DeBakey, M.D.

Nonvalvular Atrial Fibrillation - 1994 Guidelines for Management
Nanette K. Wenger, M.D.

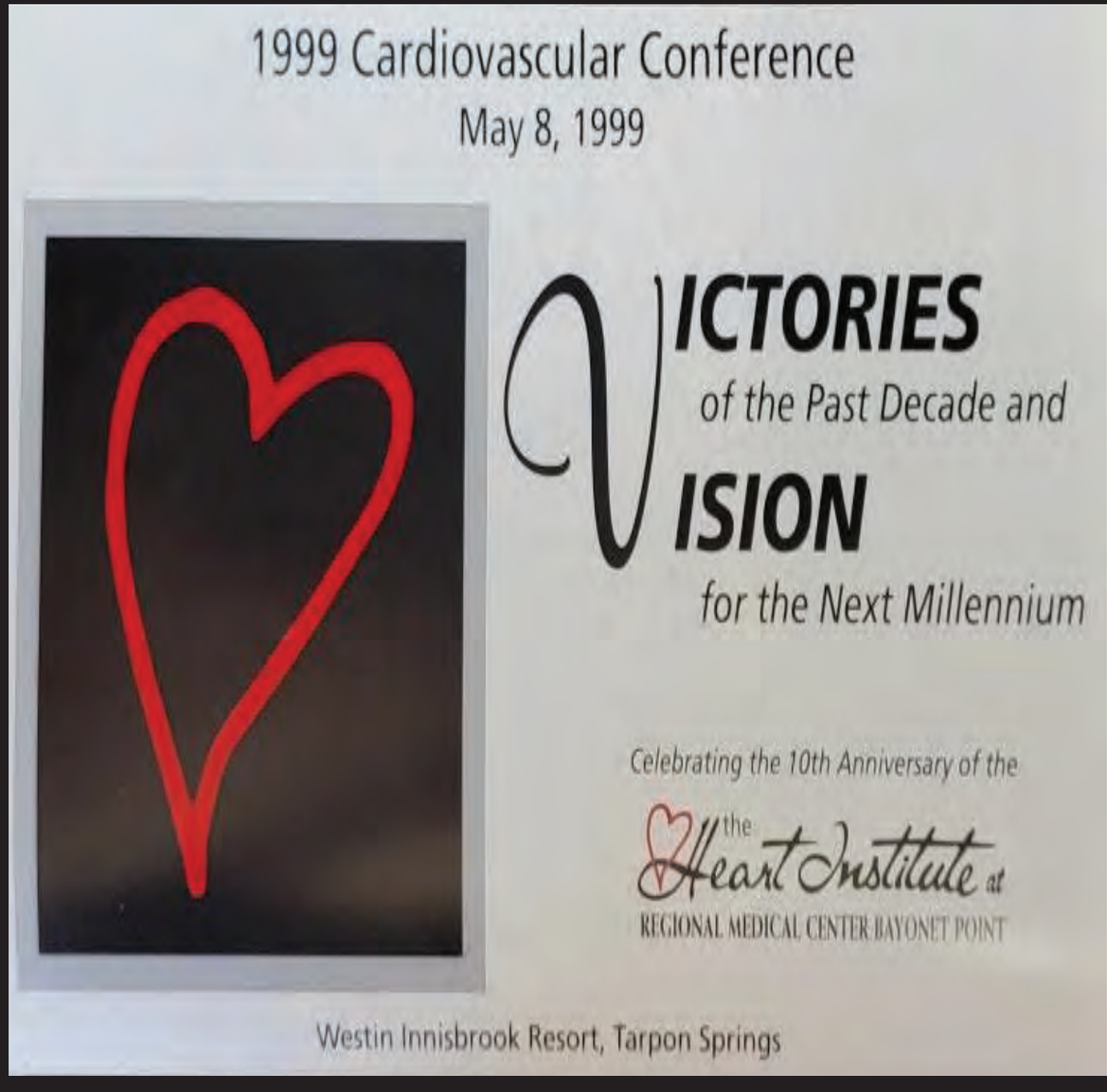
Interesting Case Presentations - Cardiovascular Surgery
R. Vijay, M.D.



From left to right,
Dr. Vijayanagar, Dr. Rao Musunuru
and Dr. Kiran Musunuru,
with the keynote speaker.



Dr. Rao Musunuru with one of the speakers.



13th Annual Cardiac Conference

Saturday, February 12, 2005

State of the Heart

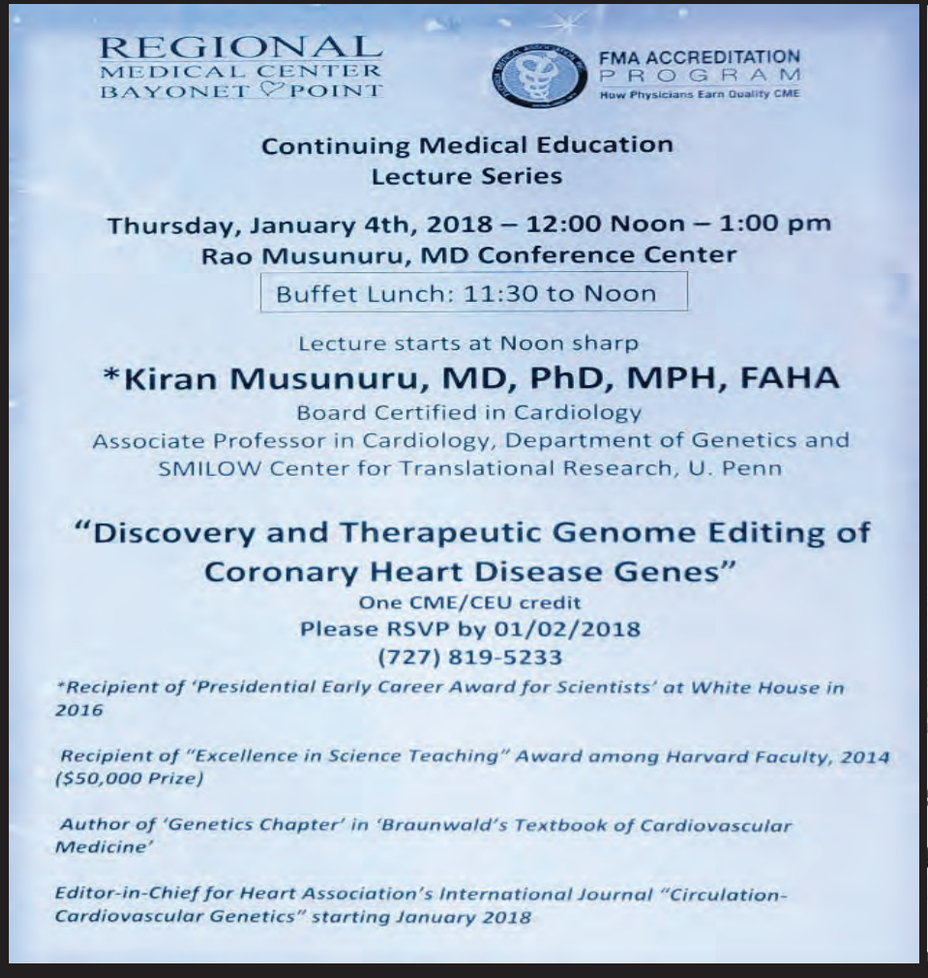
Celebrating American Heart Month and Valentine's Day

&

10th Annual Cardiac Conference

Saturday, May 11, 2002

Progress in Patient Care



REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER
BAYONET POINT

FMA ACCREDITATION
PROGRAM
How Physicians Earn Quality CME

Continuing Medical Education
Lecture Series

Thursday, January 4th, 2018 – 12:00 Noon – 1:00 pm
Rao Musunuru, MD Conference Center

Buffet Lunch: 11:30 to Noon

Lecture starts at Noon sharp

***Kiran Musunuru, MD, PhD, MPH, FAHA**

Board Certified in Cardiology
Associate Professor in Cardiology, Department of Genetics and
SMILOW Center for Translational Research, U. Penn

"Discovery and Therapeutic Genome Editing of Coronary Heart Disease Genes"

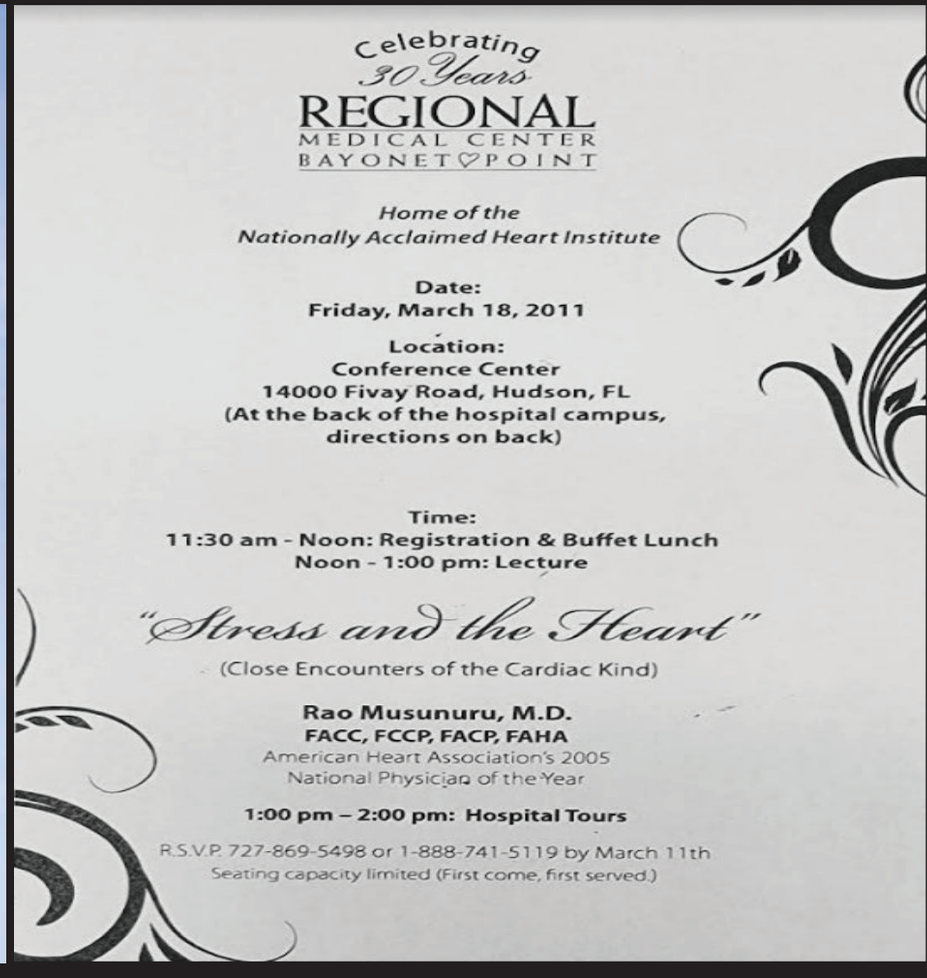
One CME/CEU credit
Please RSVP by 01/02/2018
(727) 819-5233

**Recipient of 'Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists' at White House in 2016*

Recipient of "Excellence in Science Teaching" Award among Harvard Faculty, 2014 ($50,000 Prize)

Author of 'Genetics Chapter' in 'Braunwald's Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine'

Editor-in-Chief for Heart Association's International Journal "Circulation-Cardiovascular Genetics" starting January 2018



Celebrating
30 Years
REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER
BAYONET POINT

Home of the
Nationally Acclaimed Heart Institute

Date:
Friday, March 18, 2011

Location:
Conference Center
14000 Fivay Road, Hudson, FL
(At the back of the hospital campus, directions on back)

Time:
11:30 am - Noon: Registration & Buffet Lunch
Noon - 1:00 pm: Lecture

"Stress and the Heart"

(Close Encounters of the Cardiac Kind)

Rao Musunuru, M.D.
FACC, FCCP, FACP, FAHA
American Heart Association's 2005
National Physician of the Year

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Hospital Tours

R.S.V.P. 727-869-5498 or 1-888-741-5119 by March 11th
Seating capacity limited (First come, first served.)

The Son and The Father







Heart valves, filters, clips, and grafts







Heart valves, filters, clips, and grafts

SECTION SIX

LOVE OF THE HEART

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION (AHA)
NATIONAL HEART, LUNG AND BLOOD INSTITUTE (NHLBI)



Serving humanity for the past 100 years.



Chairman of the Board
Barry Bennett, Esq.
Winter Haven

President
Lisa Whidden, R.N.
Winter Haven

Chairman-elect
Anthony Newbold
Delray Beach

President-elect
Charles Sand, M.D.
Tampa

Immediate Past Chairman
Caroline Wickham
Panama City

Immediate Past President
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
Hudson

Vice President
Janet Connors, R.N.
Ormond Beach

Secretary/Treasurer
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Palm Beach Gardens

John J. Brennan
Executive Vice President

E. Jerry Edman
Deputy Executive Vice President

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION OFFICERS THROUGHOUT FLORIDA MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED BY THE FLORIDA SOLICITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS ACT. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE WITHIN THE STATE (1-800-435-7352). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION # SC-00430. 100% OF THE PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION.

American Heart Association.
Learn and Live.

June 6, 2004

Florida/Puerto Rico Affiliate
8900 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street N. (33716-3801)
P.O. Box 42150 (33742-4150)
St. Petersburg, Florida
Tel 727.570.8500
Fax 727.570.8909
americanheart.org

Rao Musunuru, M.D.
Bayonet Point Cardiology
14100 Fivay Road, #160
Hudson, FL 34667

RE: Golden Heart Outstanding Achievement Award

Dear Dr. Musunuru,

Seldom, if ever, in the life of an organization does a volunteer with the dedication and passion such as yourself come along. I feel honored to have had the opportunity to serve with you and consider it a highlight of my year as Chairman of the Board to pen a congratulatory letter in your honor. THIS IS OUR HIGHEST VOLUNTEER AWARD! How appropriate that you are the recipient.

You have been a volunteer with the American Heart Association since your cardiology training days in New York City and have been actively practicing cardiology in Hudson, Florida, since 1981.

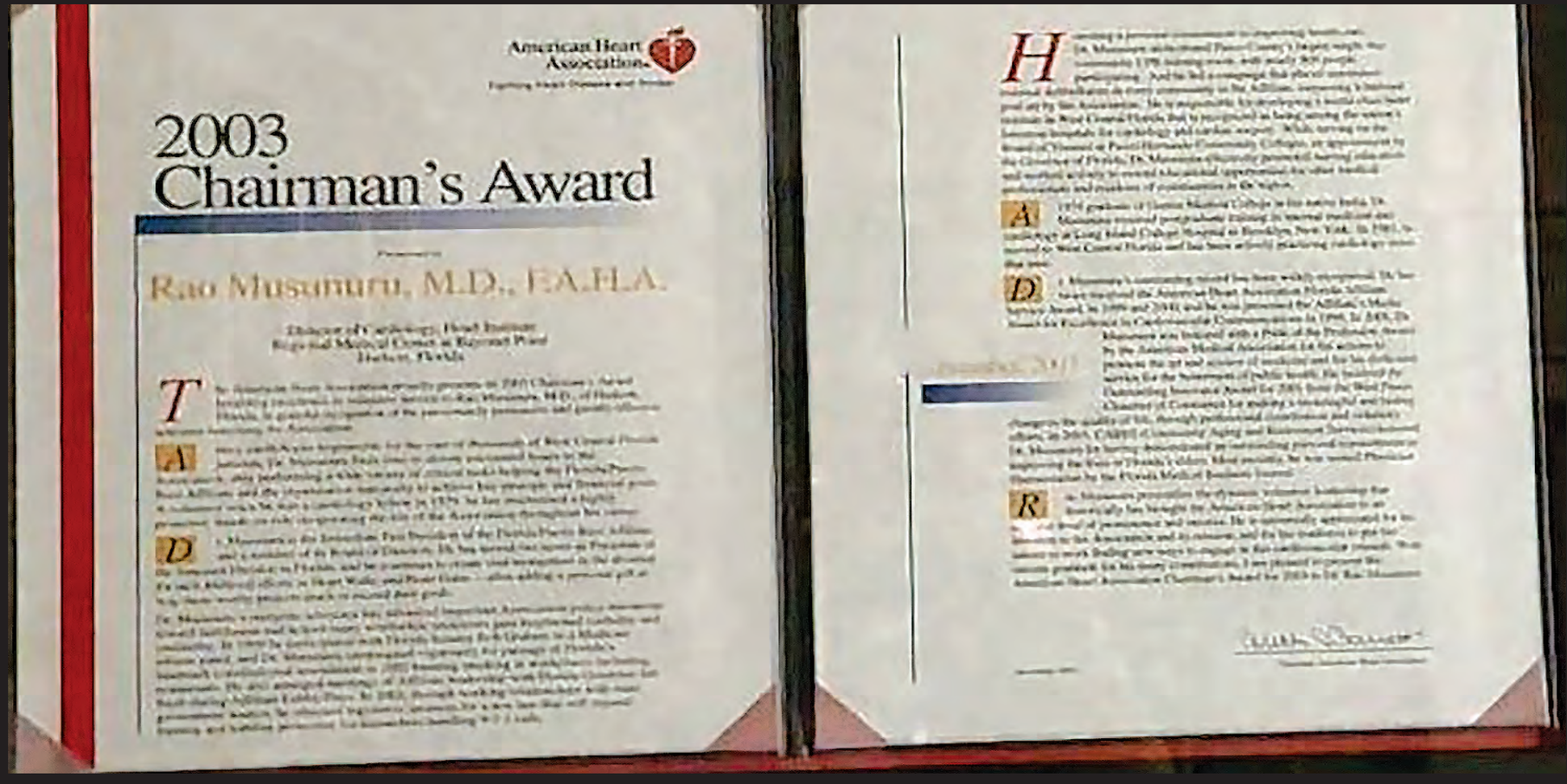
Over the years, you have served the Heart Association with the highest level of commitment and dedication through your expertise in many areas, including advocacy, education, programs and fund raising. Simply put, "you do it all!"

Serving as the 2002-2003 President of the Florida/Puerto Rico Affiliate, your creativity and generosity made the year and the annual meeting "An Affair To Remember". You were the recipient of the prestigious National Chairman's Award at the 2003 Annual Scientific Sessions, and you continue to serve the AHA with the same level of intensity, acting as the current Chairman of several new multi-year, impact-oriented projects, including the Heart Ready Awards, Heart on the Hill and the Professional Membership Enhancement task forces.

For your passion towards the mission of the American Heart Association, compassion for patients with heart disease and stroke, dedication to attaining the impact goal and your commitment to the community, we are proud to present you with this highest honor.

Warm regards,

Barry W. Bennett, Esq.
Chairman of the Board



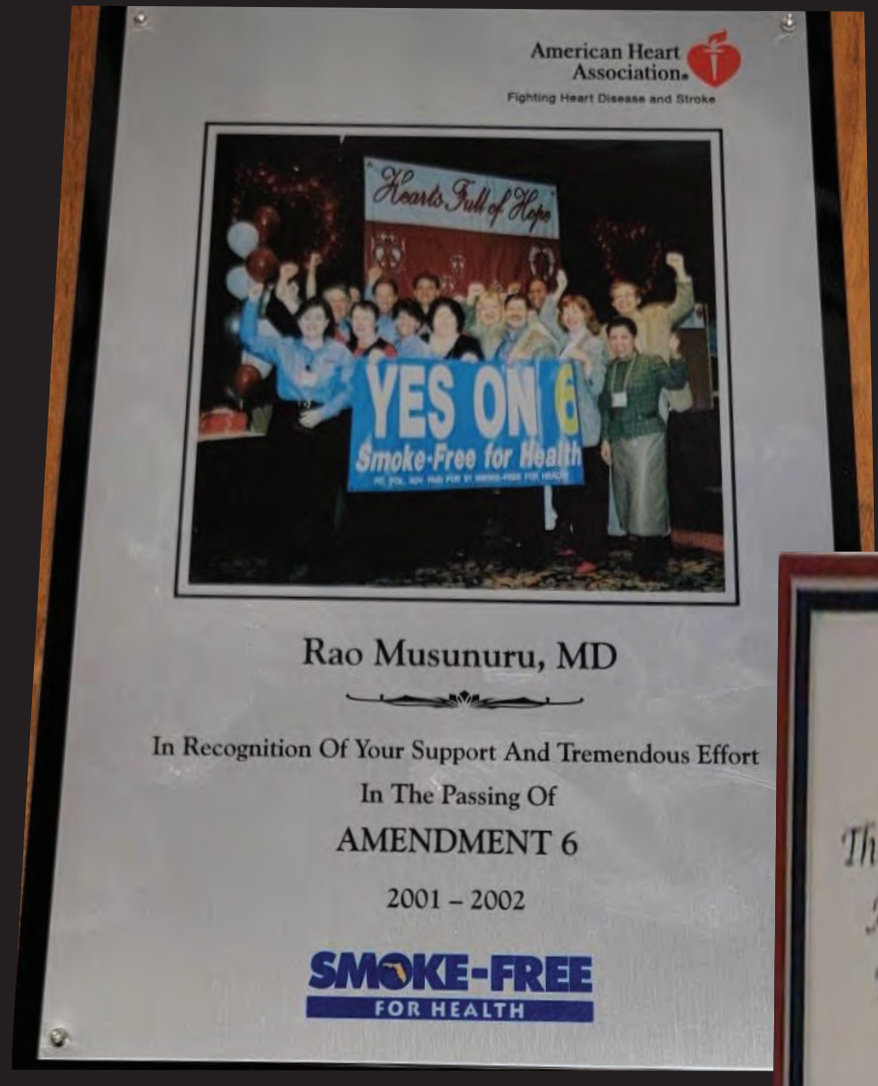
PRESENTED BY COLLETTA BARRETT

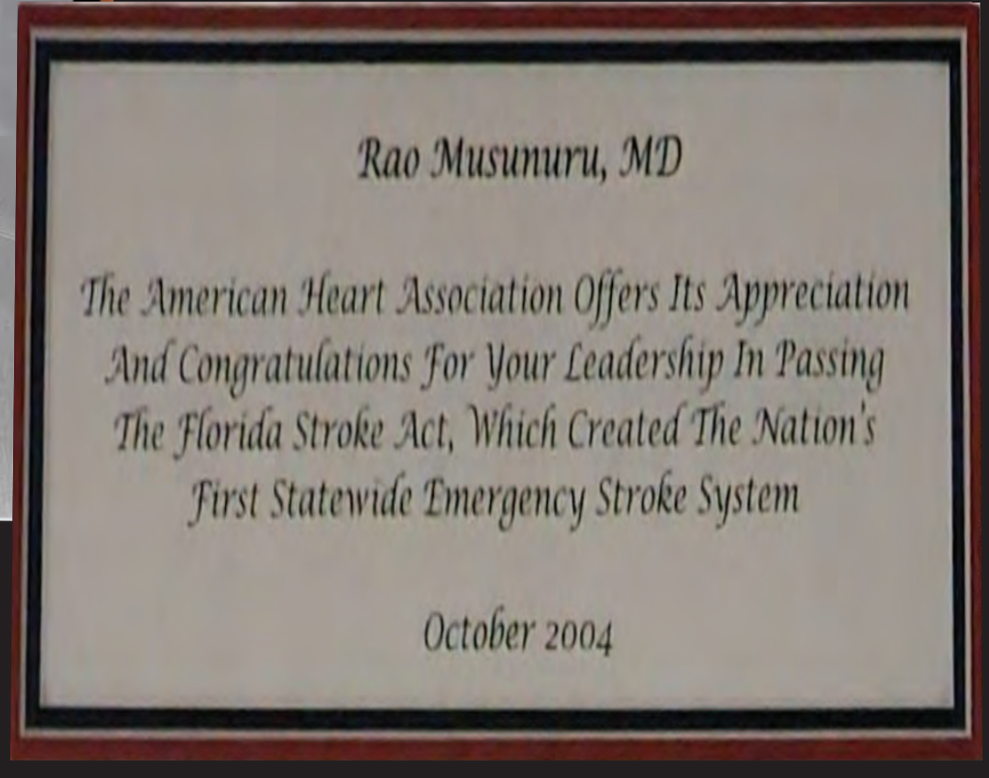
National Chairman of American Heart Association, 2003





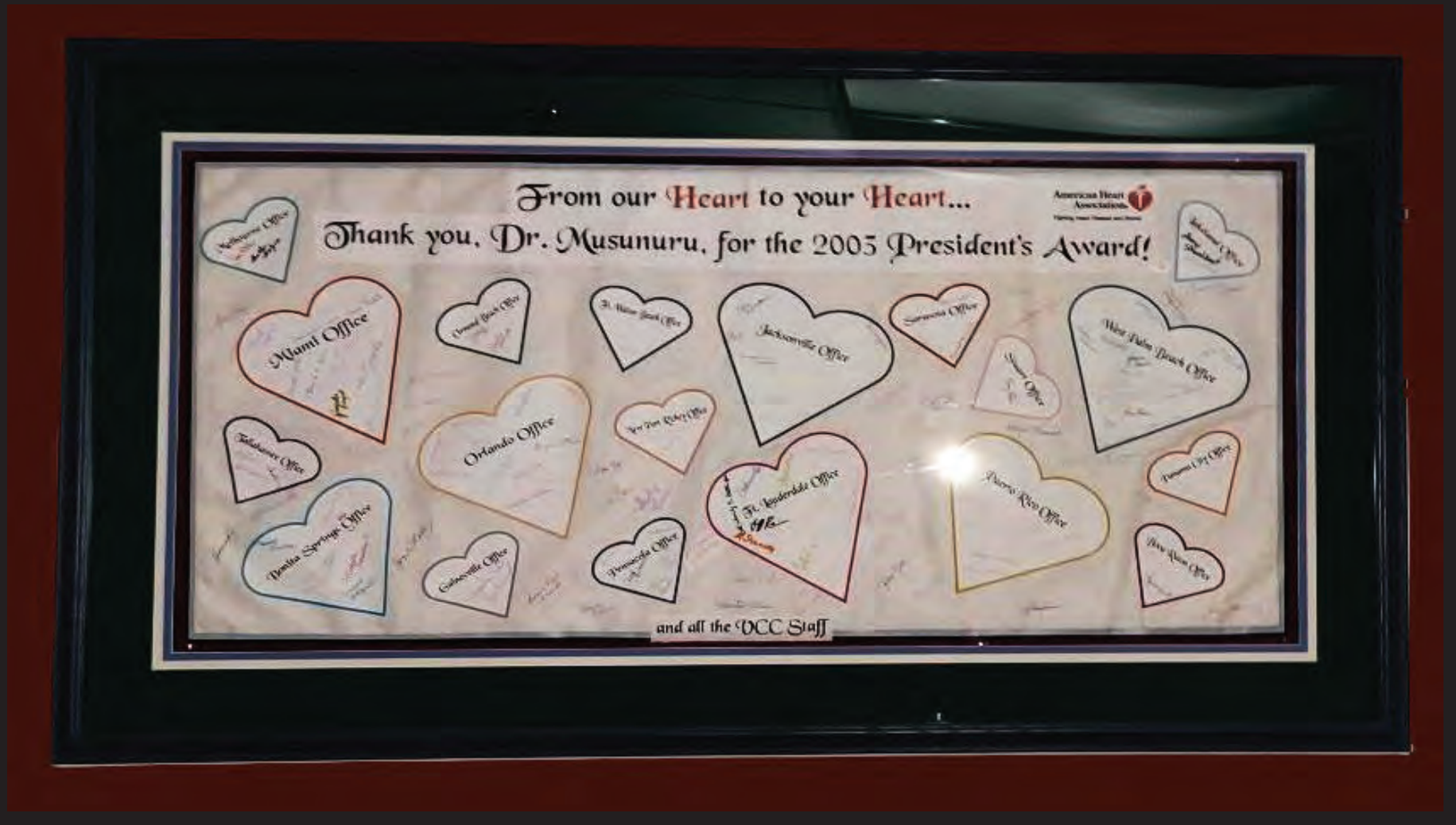
Third National AHA Award
"National Volunteer Advocate of the Year"


American Heart Association.
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke
Hearts Full of Hope
YES ON 6
Smoke-Free for Health
Rao Musunuru, MD
In Recognition Of Your Support And Tremendous Effort
In The Passing Of
AMENDMENT 6
2001 – 2002
SMOKE-FREE
FOR HEALTH


Rao Musunuru, MD
The American Heart Association Offers Its Appreciation
And Congratulations For Your Leadership In Passing
The Florida Stroke Act, Which Created The Nation's
First Statewide Emergency Stroke System
October 2004



Appreciation letters from the American Heart Association, 2003.


From our Heart to your Heart...
American Heart Association
Thank you, Dr. Musunuru, for the 2005 President's Award!
Miami Office
Jacksonville Office
West Palm Beach Office
Orlando Office
Ft. Lauderdale Office
Punta Gorda Office
Pensacola Office
and all the DCC Staff


American Heart Association
AMERICAN HEART WALK


American Heart Association
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE
HEARTSTARTER II
CPR DAY – MARCH 10, 2001
RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.



Dr. Rao Musunuru's AHA pins.

American Heart Association's "Rao Musunuru, M.D. Award of Excellence"

The American Heart Association has named their highest and most distinguished staff award for the Southeast Affiliate the "Rao Musunuru, M.D. Award of Excellence"

This award is given to one staff person annually who has demonstrated exceptional contributions and distinguished service in their field that impacted the entire region.

Recipients value and exhibit exceptional contributions and distinguished service in their field that impacted the entire region. Recipients also value and exhibit exceptional volunteer/staff partnerships, leadership, integrity, vision, inclusiveness, and sensitivity in their work.





More service awards from the American Heart Association.



Learn and Live; Live and Learn


LOVE
YOUR
HEART
EAT LESS & MOVE MORE
SLEEP WELL & DON'T SMOKE
Public Service Announcement From
RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.
FACP, FACC, FCCP, FAHA


National Heart
Lung and Blood Institute

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

JAN 29 2007

Rao S.K. Musunuru, M.D.
President
Bayonet Point/Hudson Cardiology Associates
14100 Fivay Road
Suite 160
Hudson, Florida 34667

Dear Dr. Musunuru:

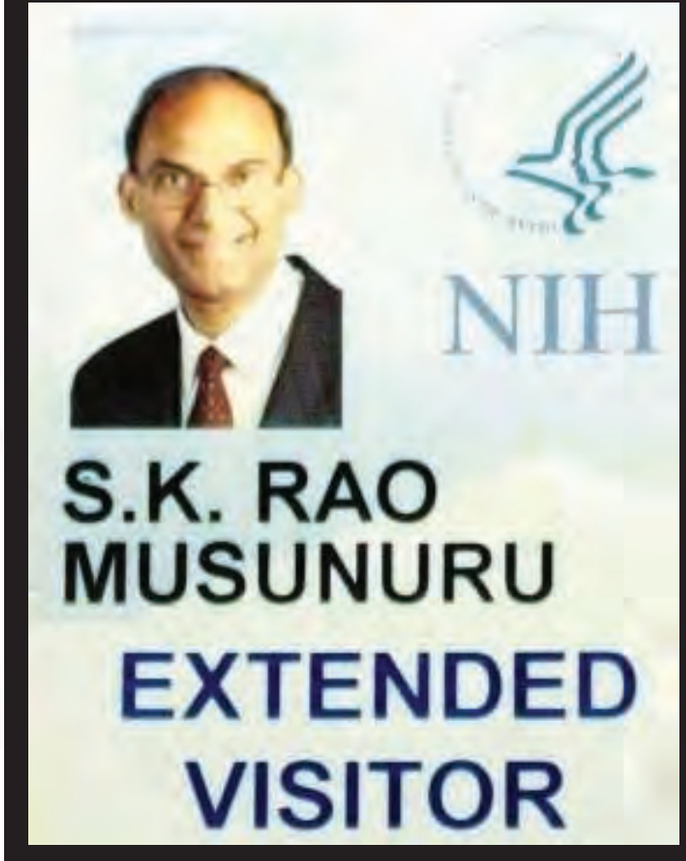
I am delighted to invite you to serve on the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council, National Institutes of Health, for a term beginning immediately and ending October 31, 2009, subject to prescribed appointment procedures. Enclosed is a copy of the Charter, which describes the structure and functions of the Council.

Please indicate your acceptance or declination on the enclosed Acknowledgment of Invitation form. Upon learning of your acceptance, I shall ask the Director of the National Institutes of Health to supply you with further information relating to your appointment.

I hope you will find it possible to accept this invitation and give us the benefit of your valued counsel.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt



Dr. Musunuru with
the director
of the NHLBI,
Dr. Elizabeth Nabel,
while serving
on the council.




National Heart
Presented to
S.K. Rao Musunuru, M.D.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council
2007 - 2009









SECTION SEVEN

FULL OF HEART

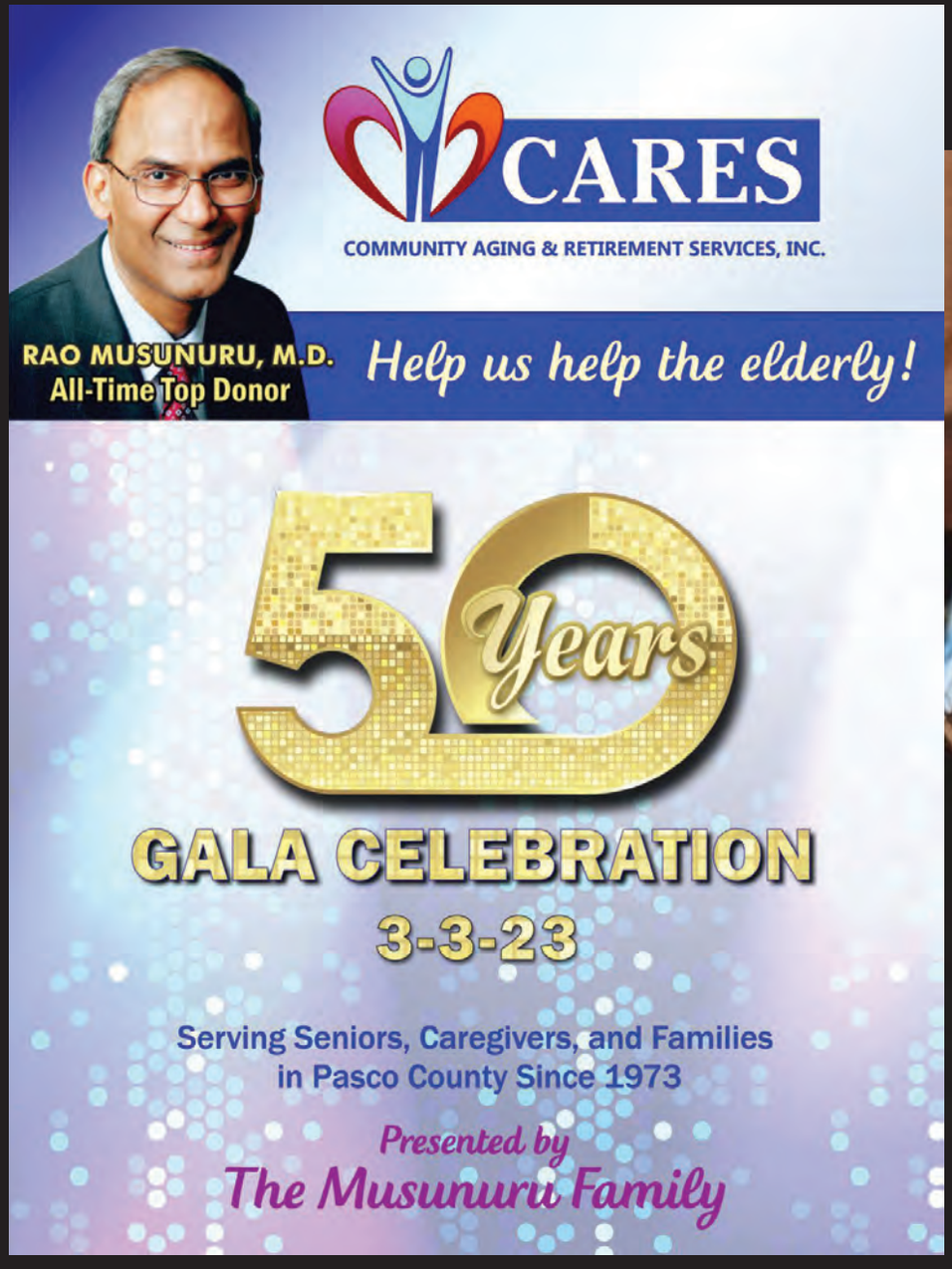
COMMUNITY AGING AND RETIREMENT SERVICES
(CARES)



"CARES" has been providing programs and services that help older adults stay in their homes by providing support for them, their caregivers and facilities for the past 50 years, in addition to running a free medical clinic.



An extensive and expensive project.

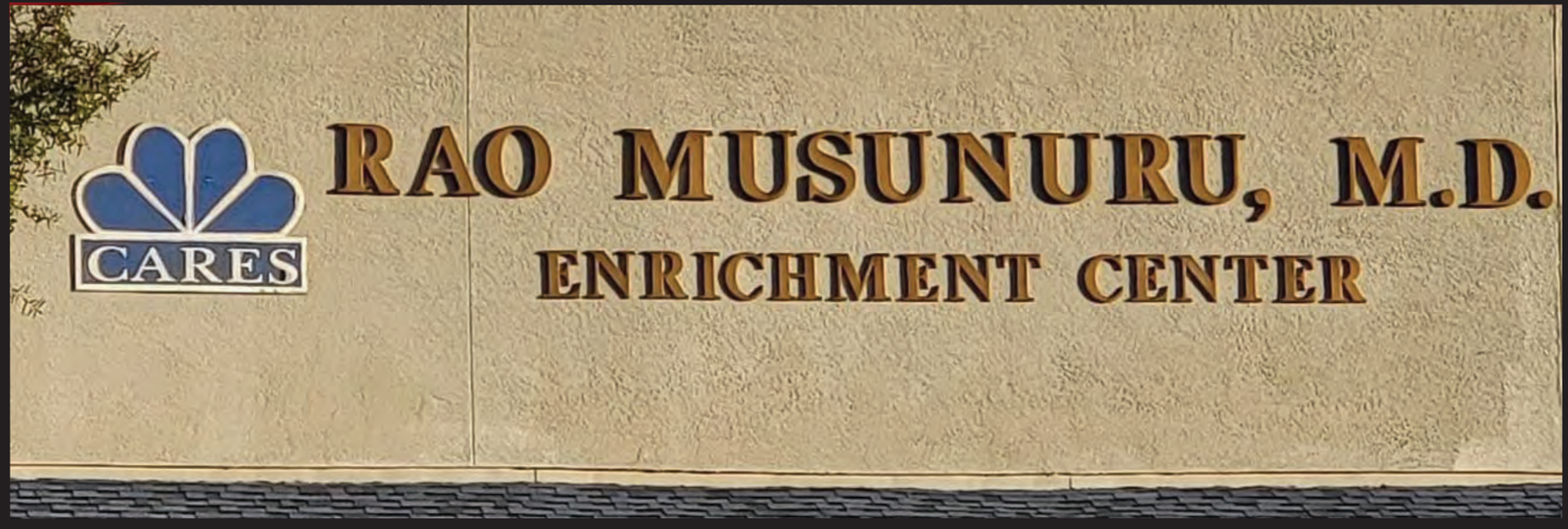




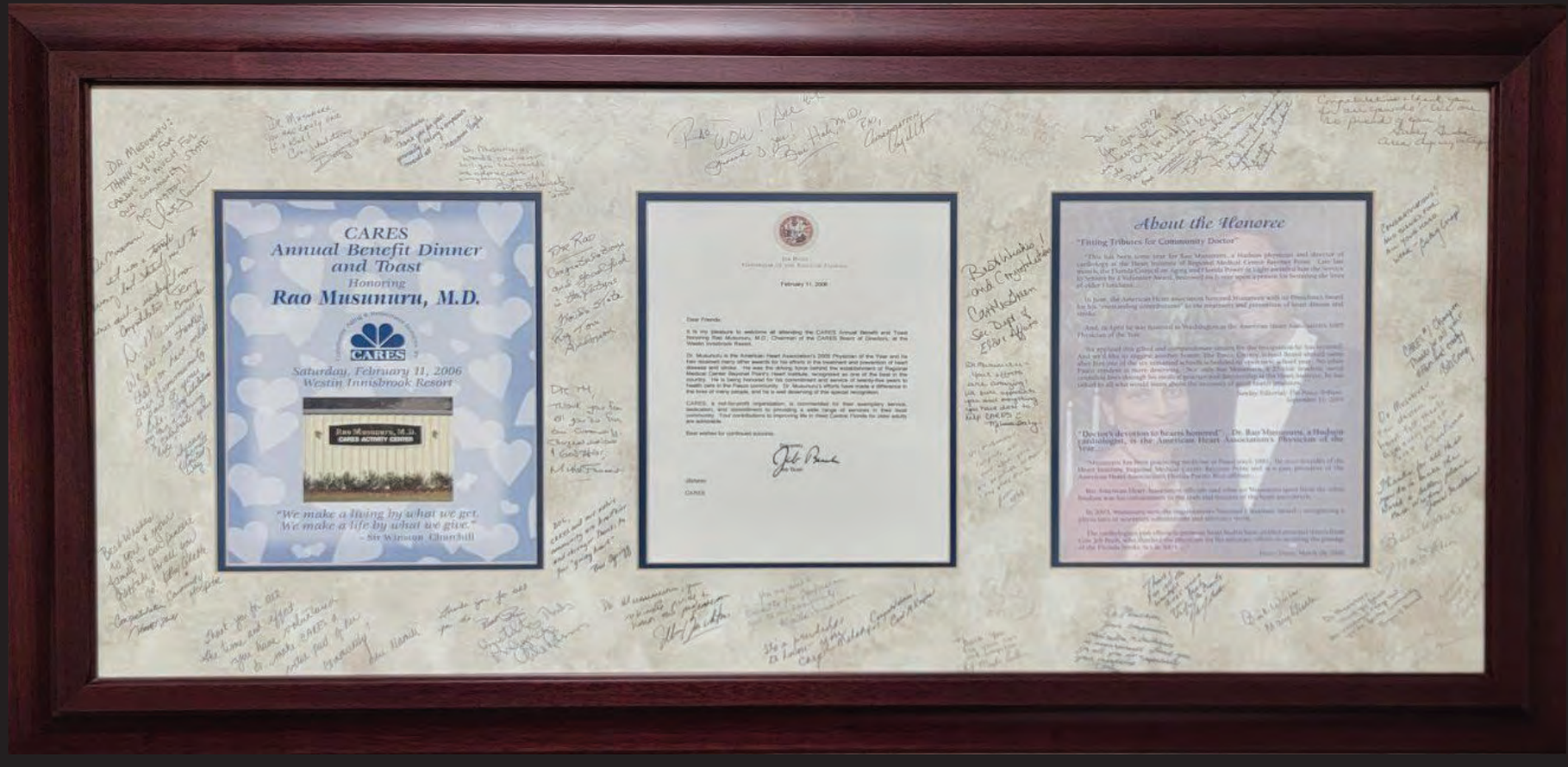
Dr. Musunuru captured by CARES to remain their "All-Time Top Donor"



County street sign
near the "CARES
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
Building"
in Hudson with the
Enrichment Center
and
Activities Center


CARES
RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.
ENRICHMENT CENTER


Rao Musunuru, M.D.
CARES ACTIVITY CENTER



Notes of appreciation on a display board at CARES fundraiser 2006, including a personalized letter from Governor Jeb Bush.

"Fitting Tributes for Community Doctor"

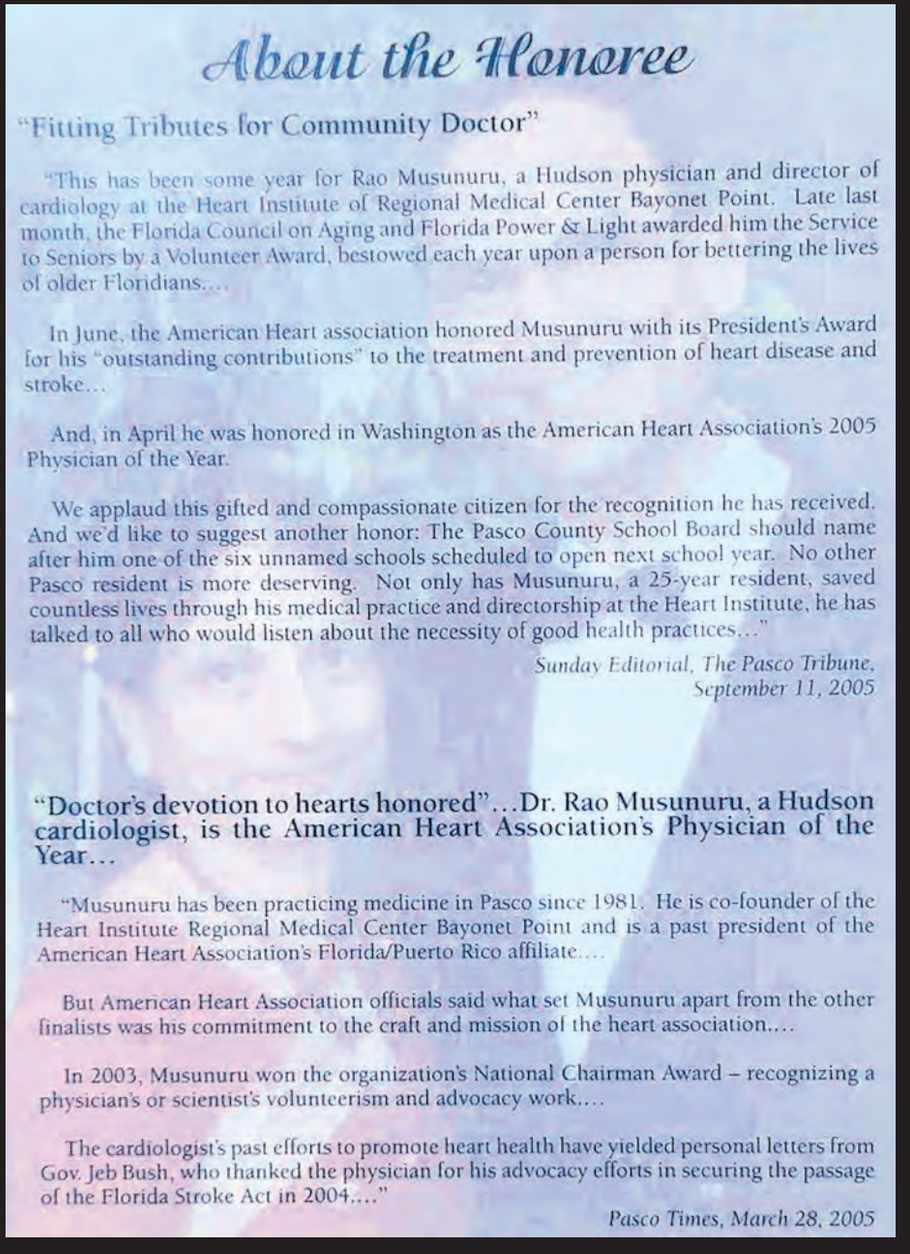
This has been some year for Rao Musunuru, M.D., a Hudson physician and director of cardiology at the Heart Institute of Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point. Late last month, the "Florida Council on Aging and Florida Power & Light" awarded him the "Service to Seniors by a Volunteer Award" bestowed each year upon a person for bettering the lives of older Floridians.

In June, the American Heart Association honored Musunuru with its President's Award for his "outstanding contributions" to the treatment and prevention of heart disease and stroke.

And, in April, he was honored in Washington, D.C. as the American Heart Association "2005 Physician of the Year."

We applaud this gifted and compassionate citizen for the recognition he has received and we'd like to suggest another honor. The Pasco County School Board should name after him one of the six unnamed schools scheduled to open next school year. No other Pasco resident is more deserving. Not only has Musuunuru, a 25-year resident, saved countless lives through his medical practice and directorship at the Heart Institute, he has talked to all who'd listen about the necessity of good health practices.

Sunday, Editorial, The Pasco Tribune
September 11, 2005



About the Honoree

"Fitting Tributes for Community Doctor"

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Sunday Editorial, The Pasco Tribune, September 11, 2005

"Doctor's devotion to hearts honored"...Dr. Rao Musunuru, a Hudson cardiologist, is the American Heart Association's Physician of the Year...

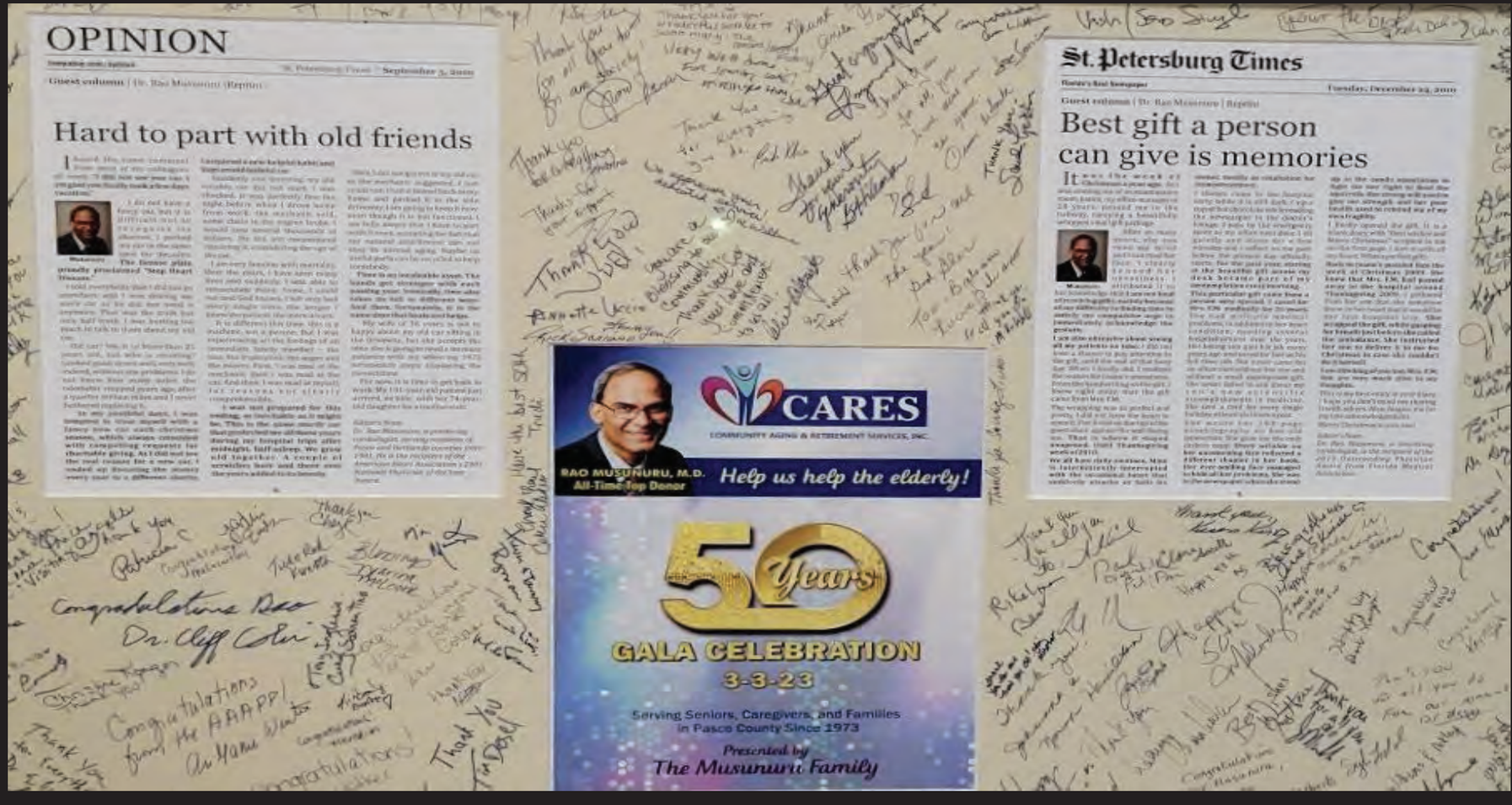
"Musunuru has been practicing medicine in Pasco since 1981. He is co-founder of the Heart Institute Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point and is a past president of the American Heart Association's Florida/Puerto Rico affiliate....

But American Heart Association officials said what set Musunuru apart from the other finalists was his commitment to the craft and mission of the heart association....

In 2003, Musunuru won the organization's National Chairman Award – recognizing a physician's or scientist's volunteerism and advocacy work....

The cardiologist's past efforts to promote heart health have yielded personal letters from Gov. Jeb Bush, who thanked the physician for his advocacy efforts in securing the passage of the Florida Stroke Act in 2004...."

Pasco Times, March 28, 2005



Notes of appreciation on a display board at CARES fundraiser, 2023.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE, DR. MUSUNURU

New Port Richey – on Feb. 11, CARES will stage its annual Benefit Dinner and Toast honoring Dr. Rao Musunuru for 25 years of service to the Pasco Community.

In a format reminiscent of the 1950s TV show "This is Your Life," participants will discover how the grandson of a farmer in India rose to national prominence in the medical and philanthropic communities in the United States, according to Bill Aycrigg, president and CEO of CARES.

Musunuru, director of cardiology at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, racked up many honors in 2005.

They include the American Heart Association's 2005 National Physician of the Year, the Heart Association's 2005 President's award and the Florida council on Aging 2005 Service to Seniors by a Volunteer award.

In 2001, the American Medical Association had honored him with the Pride in the Profession Award.

He received the Tradition of Caring award from Hospital Corporation of America in 2002.

In 2003, the heart association presented the National Chairman's Award to him. The same year he got the 2003 Physician Humanitarian Award from Florida Medical Business.

In 2004, he was recognized by the Florida/Puerto Rico Affiliate of the American Heart Association with the Golden Heart Outstanding Achievement Award and the Excellence in Cardiovascular Communications Media Award.

Dr. Musunuru has organized 14 annual national cardiology seminars at the Westin Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbor. He persuaded Dr. Christian Barnard, the South African who performed the first heart transplant, and Dr. Michael Debakey, who performed the first coronary heart bypass surgery, to come to Florida as keynote speakers for the seminars.

More than 1,100 medical and health care professionals from all over the country are expected to attend the daylong 2006 Cardiac Conference on Feb.11, which also will be held at the Westin Innisbrook Resort.

Dr. Kiran Musunuru, the cardiologist's son, who grew up in Pasco County and is clinical fellow at Harvard Medical School, will be a keynote speaker at the conference presenting "Snapshots of the Future: Cardiology in the Molecular Era."

The younger Musunuru authored a medical textbook at age 19 when he was an undergraduate at Harvard. And, he earned an editorial in the British journal *Nature Medicine* for his presentation in San Diego when he was a medical student.

Other speakers include Dr. Robert Eckel, the current national President of the American Heart Associations.

Dr. Rao Musunuru was the driving force behind the establishment of the Heart Institute, recognized as one of the best in the country, at Regional Medical Center.

He has been on the Governing District Board for Pasco Hernando Community College since 1999. He served as chairman in 2002 and 2003. He now serves as vice chair.

Continued…

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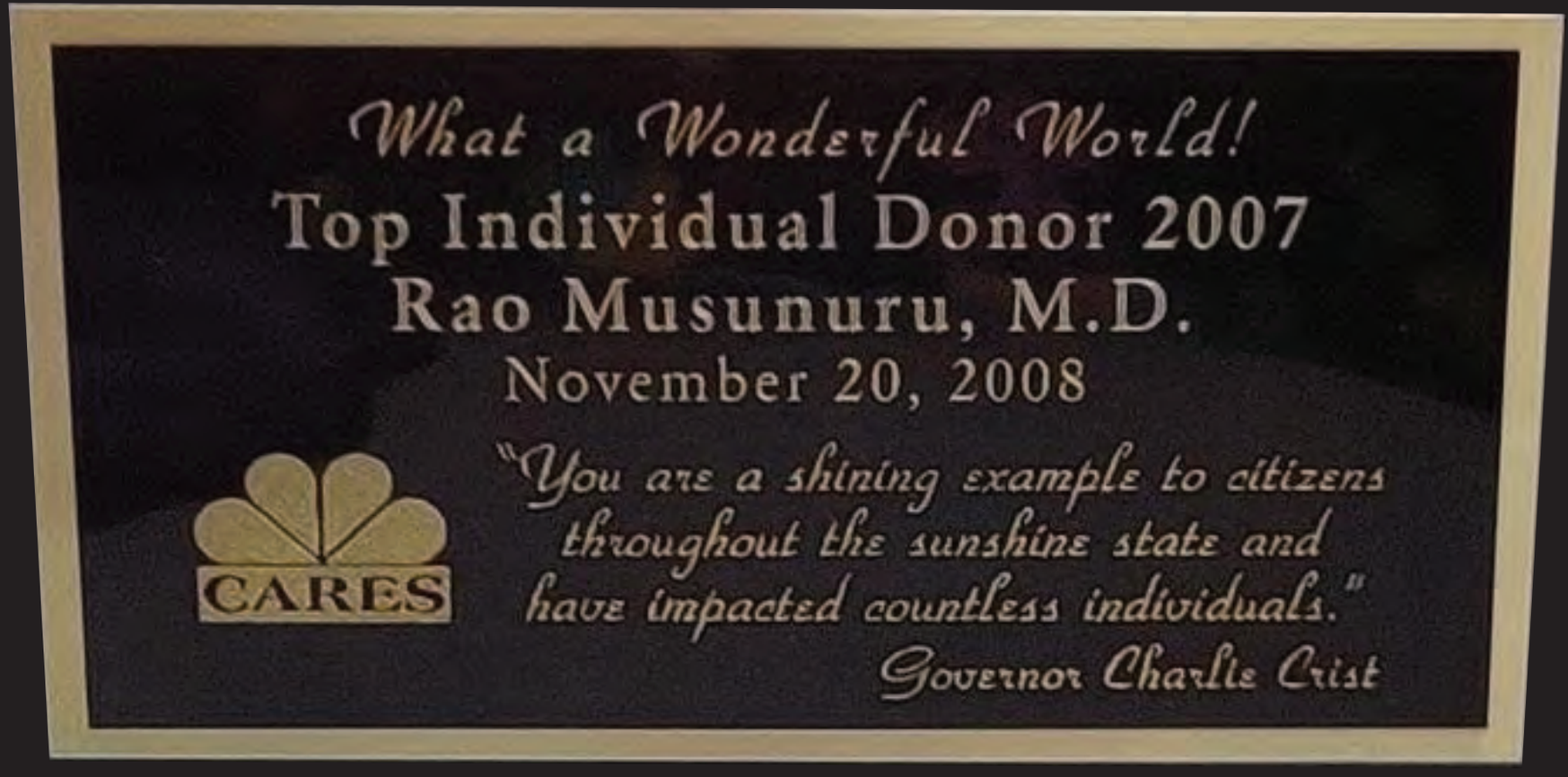
Gov. Jeb Bush commended the doctor for his advocacy efforts in the passage of the Florida Stroke Act in 2004.

The Florida House of Representatives last year passed a resolution on the floor congratulating and commending his dedication in improving the cardiovascular health and education of Floridians. CARES, which stands for Community Aging and Retirement Services, is charitable, nonprofit corporation that operates six senior centers and provides a wide range of service, such as a free medical clinic, custodial home care, adult day care and skilled Medicare services.

The Suncoast News, January 4, 2006
Suncoast News Staff Report

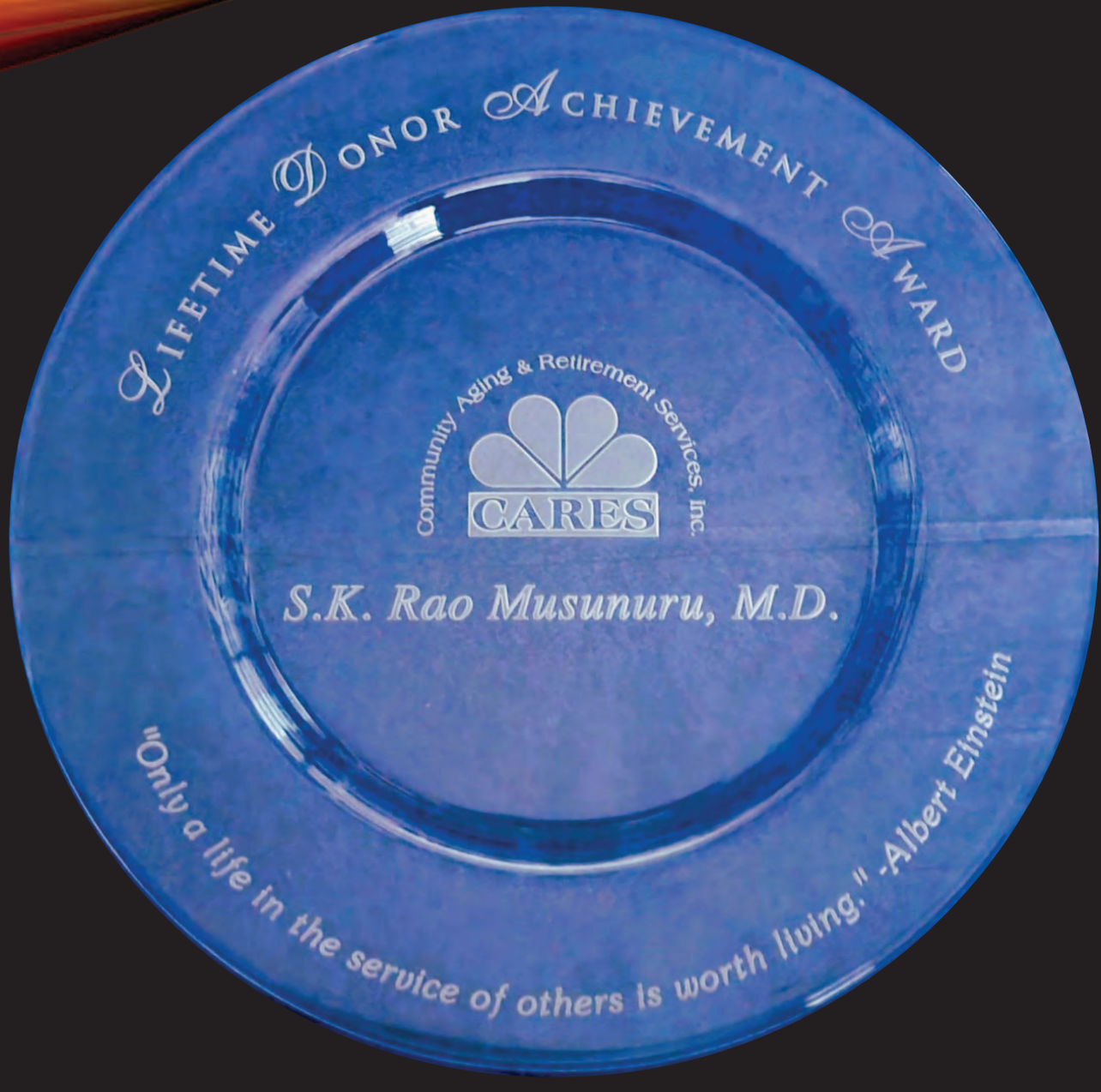


Earned national philanthropy award twice.

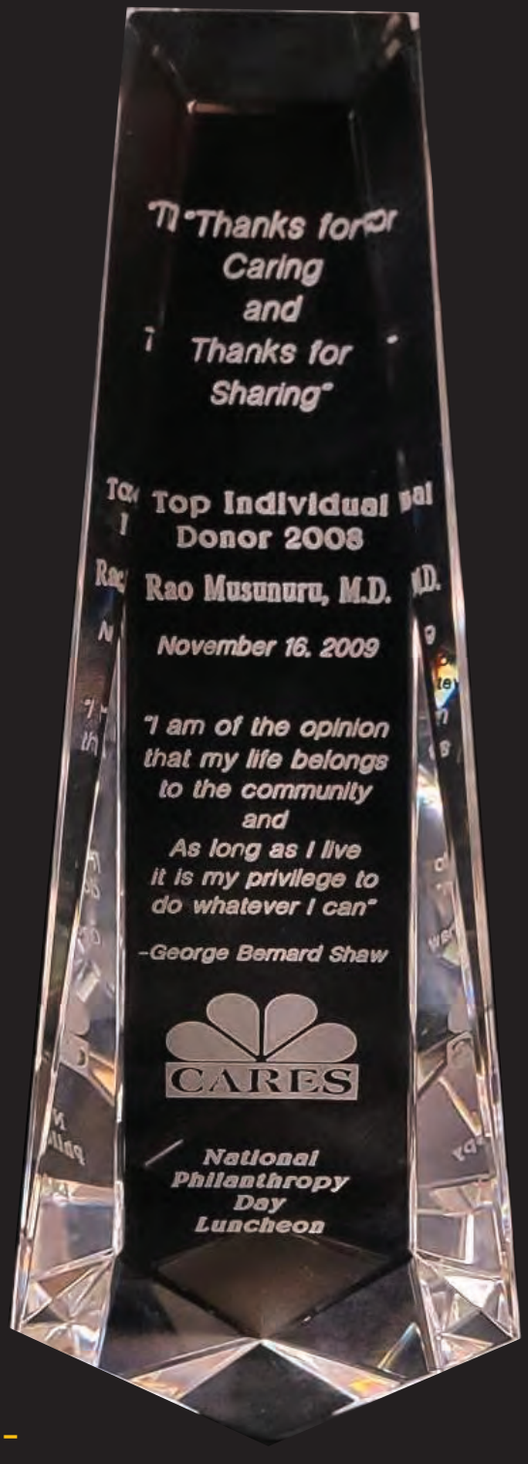

What a Wonderful World!
Top Individual Donor 2007
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
November 20, 2008
CARES
"You are a shining example to citizens throughout the sunshine state and have impacted countless individuals."
Governor Charlie Crist




Rao Musunuru, M.D.
Pulse of Pasco
Presented on
February 1, 2019
Community Aging & Retirement Services, Inc.
CARES
Celebrating
Seniors



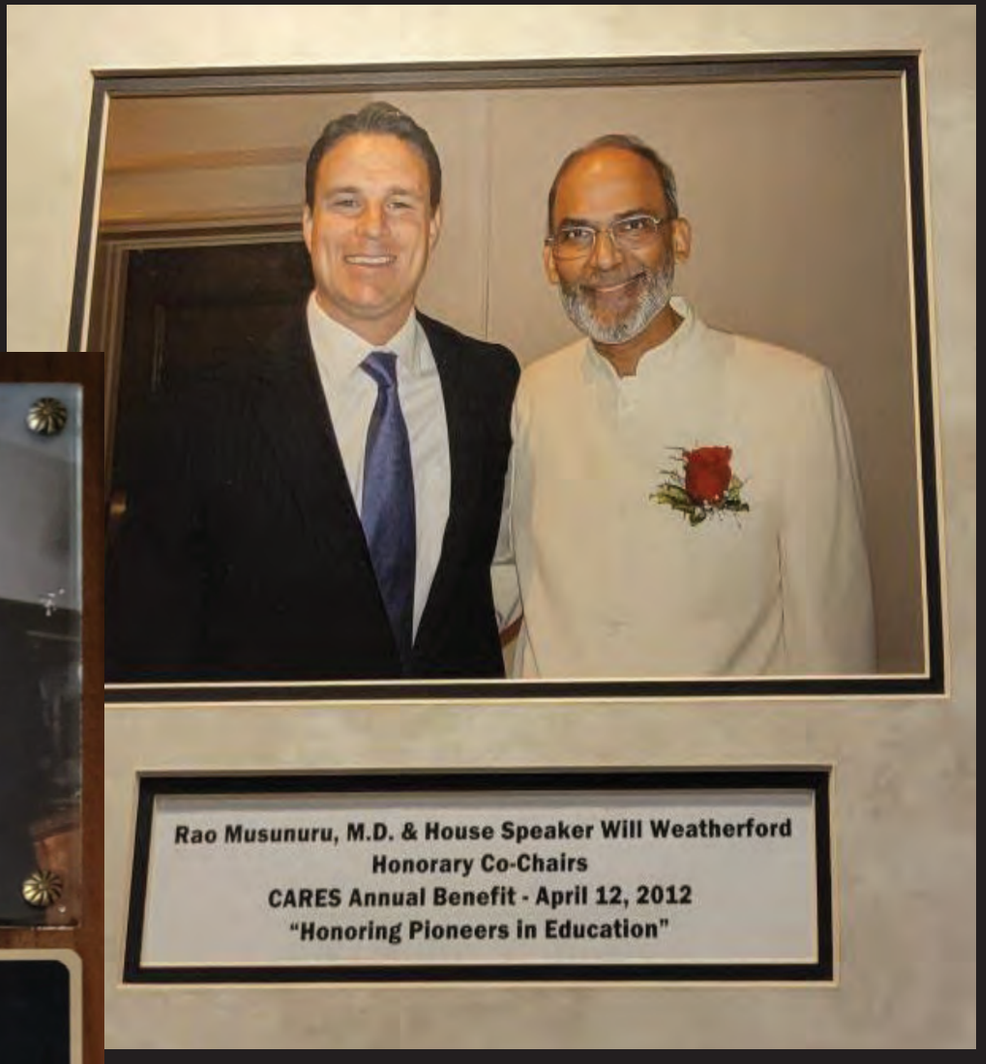
Giving back to the community.
Helping one person at a time!





Love the quote, how true!


CARES
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
with
Governor Charlie Crist and
State Senator Mike Fasano
"Caring & Sharing"
Annual Recognition Ceremony
September 24, 2007


Rao Musunuru, M.D. & House Speaker Will Weatherford
Honorary Co-Chairs
CARES Annual Benefit - April 12, 2012
"Honoring Pioneers in Education"

COMMITMENT, DEDICATION - THE VISION OF MUSUNURU

Hudson - Dr. Rao Musunuru is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular diseases, critical care medicine and nuclear cardiology.

He has been honored with fellowships in American College of Physicians, American College of Chest Physicians and the American College of Cardiology. Dr. Musunuru has been actively practicing cardiology in Hudson since 1981. His leadership led to the creation of Heart Institute at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, now ranked among the 100 Top Hospitals for Cardiology, and named one of the top 50 American's Best Hospitals in Heart and Heart Surgery by U.S. News 8J. World Report.

Having changed the standard and quality of care available to people of Florida's Suncoast Region, his efforts and passion to educate inspired a professional cardiac conference that now draws a top name national speakers and over 1,000 participants annually. His vision challenged others to improve access to CPR training. Never finished, he's busy working with the local chapter and hospital volunteers on a project to buy and place automatic external defibrillators (AED'S) in all patrol cars and accessible community locations.

A committed community volunteer, Dr. Musunuru is a dedicated political activist, communicating key issues and being of council to local and state leadership. That expertise led to his inclusion, along with Sen. Bob Graham and Secretary Donna Shalala on a high profile panel discussing Medicare Reform in October 1999.

He has been Involved with the American Heart Association as a volunteer since his cardiology training days while in New York City, serving in various capacities and on various committees both at the division and affiliate level. He is the current president of the Florida/Puerto Rico Affiliate.

His interest in education has led him to serve as the Chairman of the Governing District Board for Pasco-Hernando Community College. In April 2001, Dr. Musunuru was honored with a Pride in the Profession Award by the American Medical Association for his actions to promote the art and science of medicine and for his dedicated service for the betterment of public health. He received the Outstanding Innovator Award for 2001 from the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce for making a meaningful and lasting change to the quality of life, through professional contributions and volunteering efforts.

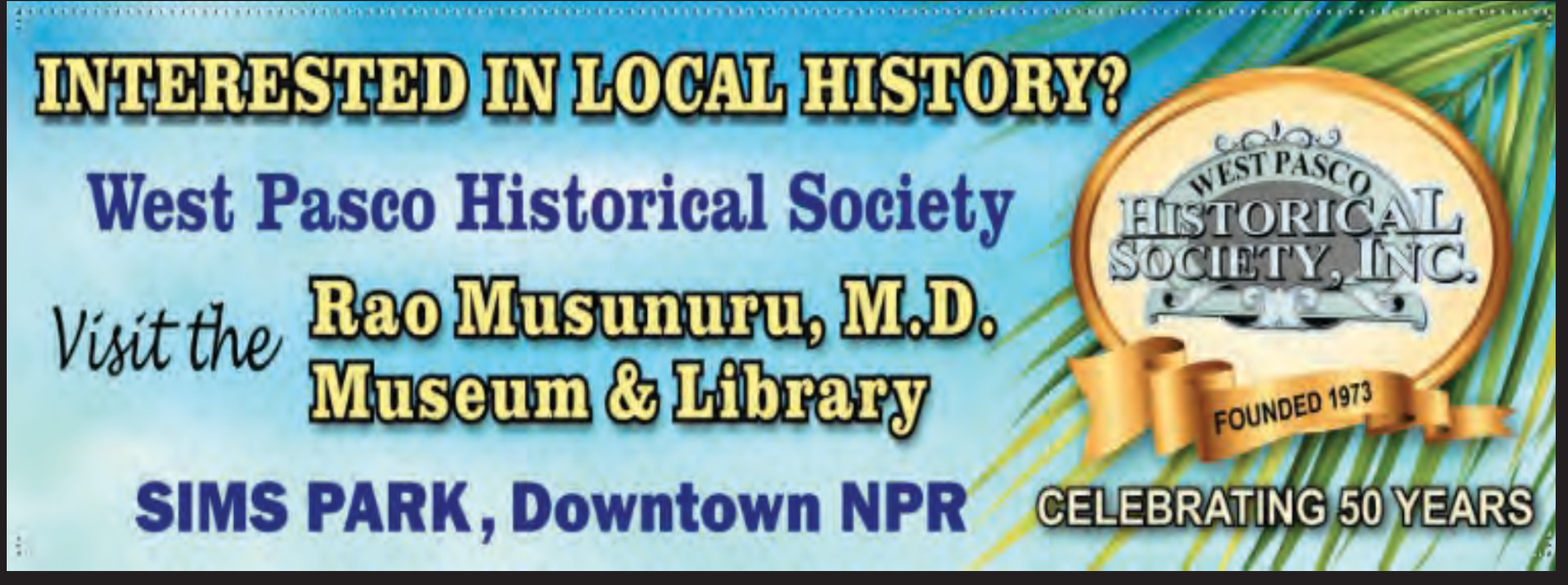
This year, Dr. Musunuru was honored by CARES {Community Aging & Retirement Service) for having demonstrated an outstanding personal commitment to improving the lives of Florida's elders. Most recently, he was named Physician Humanitarian by the Florida Medical Business Journal.

By Hernando Today Staff 2003

SECTION EIGHT

HEART OF PASCO

WEST PASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(WPHS)


INTERESTED IN LOCAL HISTORY?
West Pasco Historical Society
Visit the
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
Museum & Library
SIMS PARK, Downtown NPR
WEST PASCO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, INC.
FOUNDED 1973
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Earlier this year, the West Pasco Historical Society Board of Directors took unanimous action to name the Museum in honor of Rao Musunuru, M.D., in appreciation of his generous support at a critical moment in the Society's history and in recognition of his extraordinary medical, scientific, educational, philanthropic and humanitarian service to West Pasco over the past thirty years. The Board also approved to name the library wing of the museum in honor of the first president of the Society, Julie Obenreder.

The West Pasco Historical Society
Board of Directors & Members
Cordially Invite You to Attend
Two Very Special Events

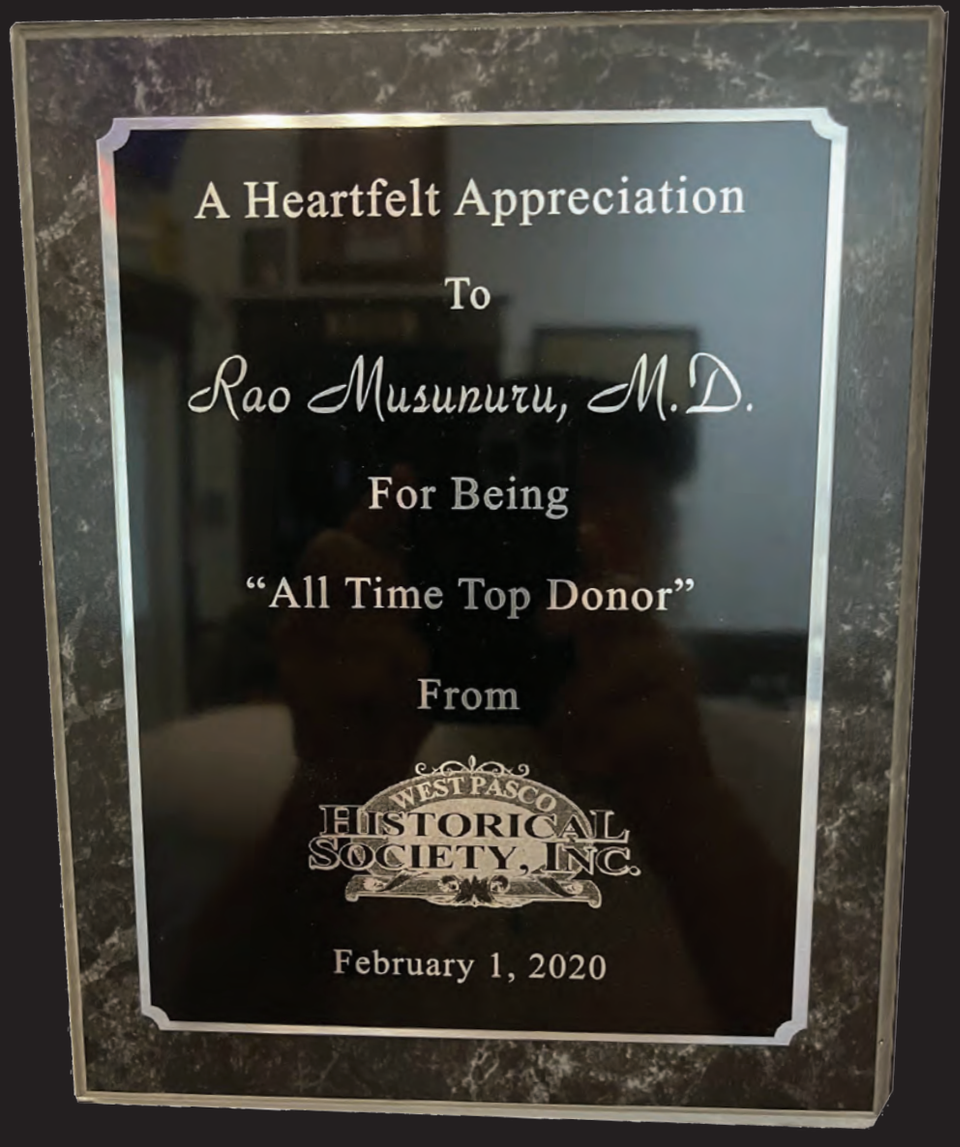
A Grand Re-Opening Open House
for the
Museum & Library
September 10, 2011, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
6431 Circle Boulevard, New Port Richey
(*at Sims Park by Orange Lake*)

A Celebration Dinner
September 16, 2011, 6 p.m.
Spartan Manor
6121 Massachusetts Avenue
New Port Richey
Dinner Tickets are $30.00
Sponsorship Opportunities Available
Sponsors names will be displayed in the Museum

For reservations, please return the enclosed
R.S.V.P. card by September 1st


WEST PASCO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, INC.
RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.
MUSEUM & LIBRARY
FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY
1:00 - 4:00


WEST PASCO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, INC.
RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.
MUSEUM & LIBRARY


A Heartfelt Appreciation
To
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
For Being
"All Time Top Donor"
From
WEST PASCO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, INC.
February 1, 2020


WEST PASCO
HISTORICA
SOCIETY, I
RAO MUSUNURU, M
MUSEUM & LIBRA

ALL-TIME TOP DONOR



Bob Langford of the West Pasco Historical Society (WPHS) presents Dr. Musunuru with the ALL-TIME TOP DONOR AWARD at a local history event at PHSC's West Campus Performing Arts Center.

WPHS manages the **"Rao Musunuru, M.D. Museum and Library"** at Sims Park, New Port Richey.

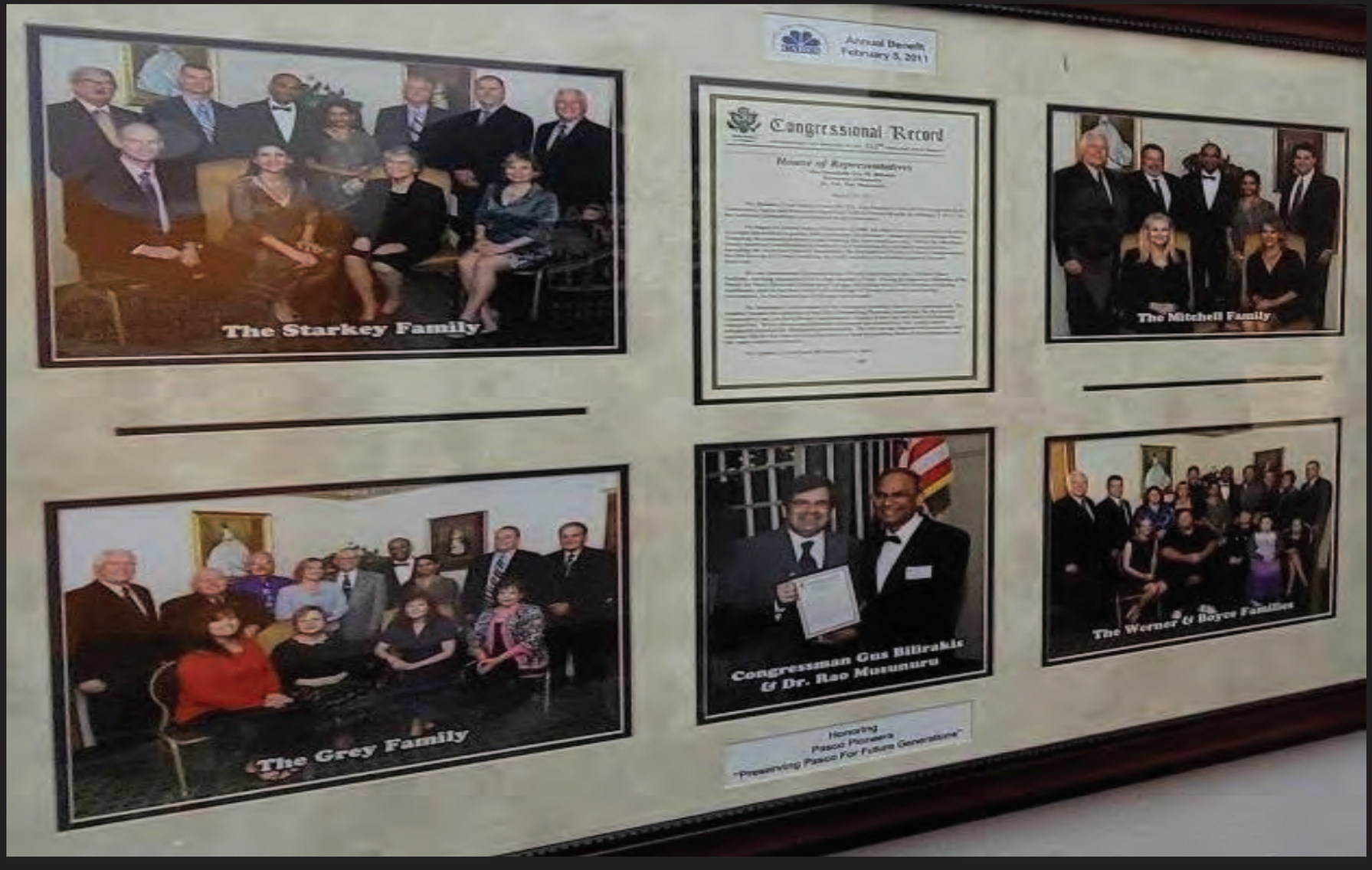
NIGHTS AT THE MUSEUM



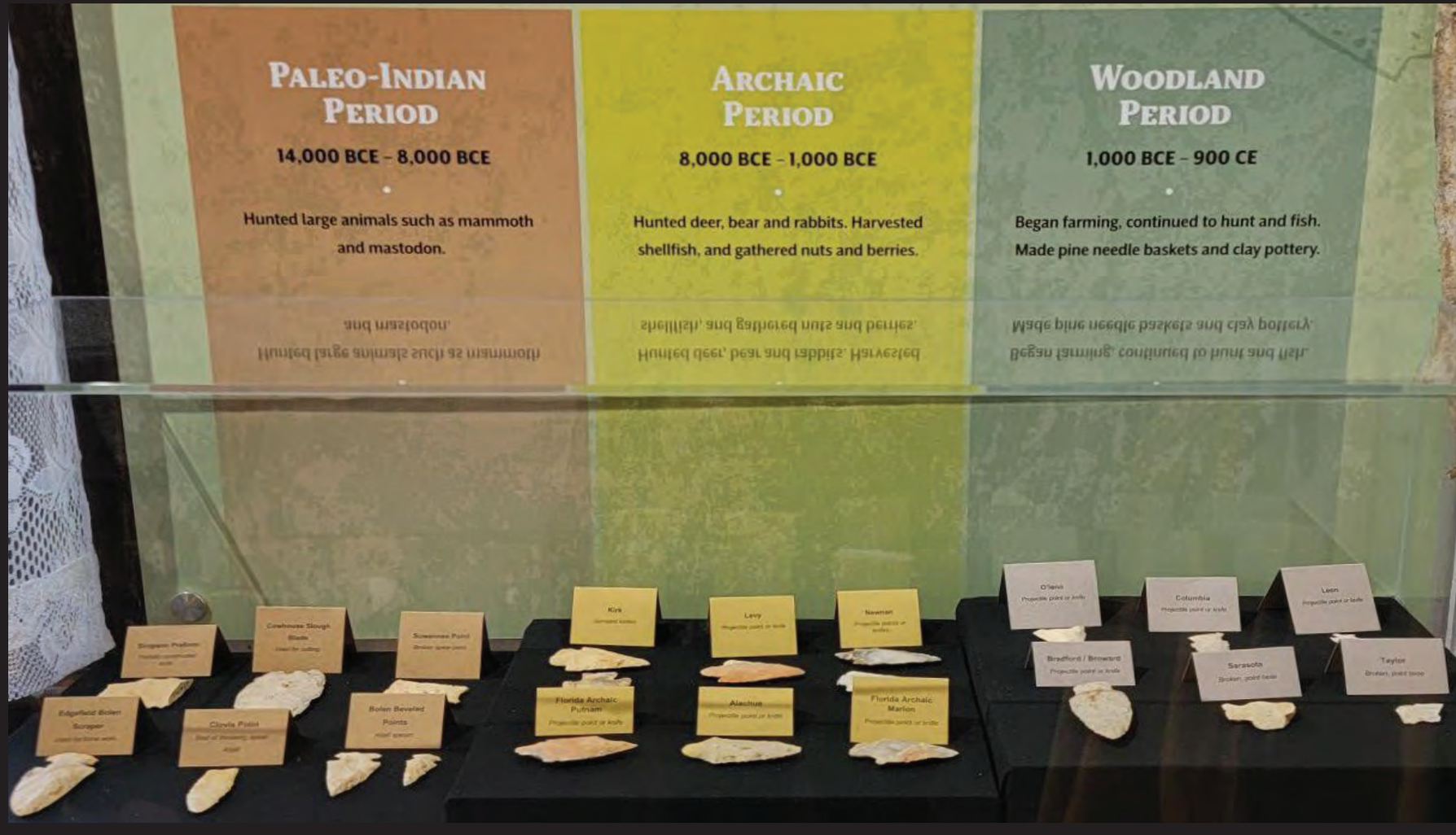
Located next to the
West Pasco Historical Society Rao Musunuru, M.D. Library and Museum,
lights reflect off of Orange Lake, formerly called "Blue Sink" and also "Crystal Lake," in
downtown New Port Richey.



West Pasco Historical Society Board of Directors Resolution
Rao Musunuru, M.D. Museum and Library



Dr. and Mrs. Musunuru honoring some of West Pasco's modern pioneers.


PALEO-INDIAN PERIOD
14,000 BCE – 8,000 BCE
Hunted large animals such as mammoth and mastodon.
ARCHAIC PERIOD
8,000 BCE – 1,000 BCE
Hunted deer, bear and rabbits. Harvested shellfish, and gathered nuts and berries.
WOODLAND PERIOD
1,000 BCE – 900 CE
Began farming, continued to hunt and fish. Made pine needle baskets and clay pottery.
Kirk
Levy
Newnan
Florida Archaic Putnam
Alachua
Florida Archaic Marion
O'Leno
Columbia
Leon
Bradford / Broward
Sarasota
Taylor

Hope Mound

In 1896, archaeologists Frank Cushing and Wells Sawyer excavated the Hope Mound, a burial site in what is now Holiday. It was named for Samuel Hope, an early pioneer and surveyor of the land prior to the Civil War.



University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

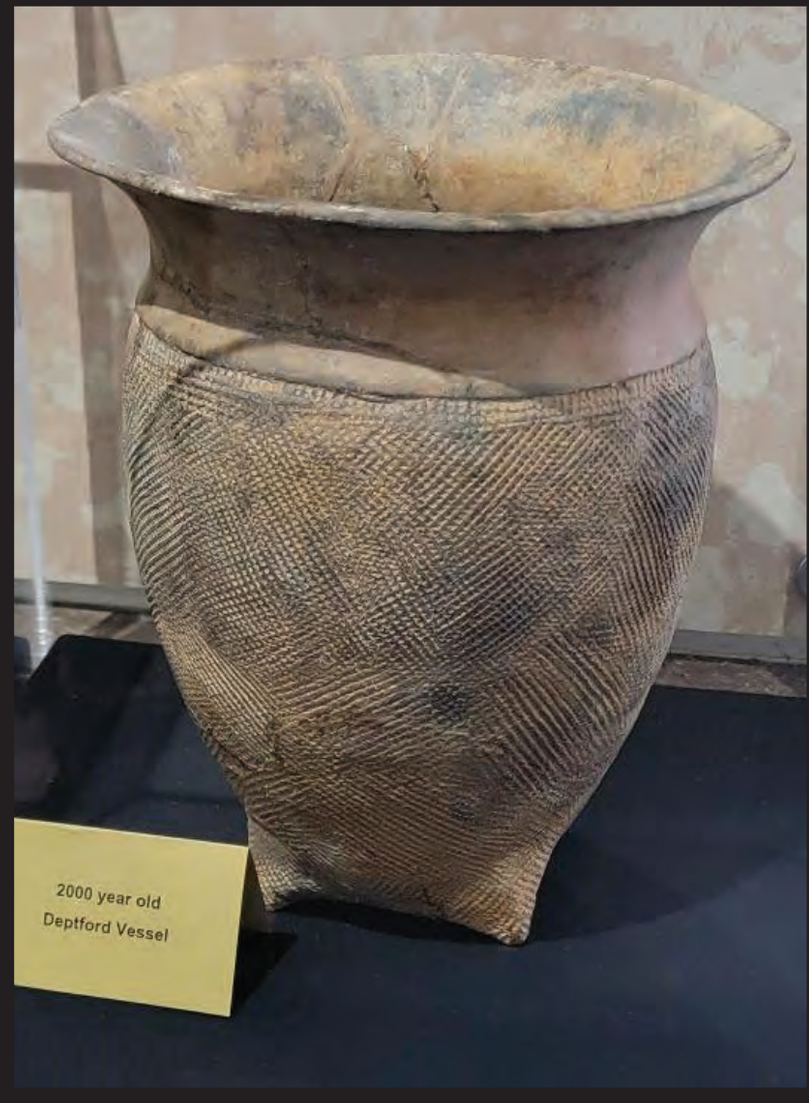
1896 painting of the Hope Mound by Wells Sawyer.

dug in the area and found several other pieces, an
then contacted local historian George Ferguson of
Hudson. Ferguson searched the area, found still m
pieces, and reassembled the vase to its original for

Think Like an Archaeologist

Look carefully at the ancient vessel below. There ar
two characteristics that identify it as being from th
Deptford culture. First, the waffle pattern imprinte
on the sides was made with a carved wooden padd
Second, notice the four support legs on the bottom
These legs are most commonly associated with May
remains in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula, and with th
Deptford culture of northwest Florida.

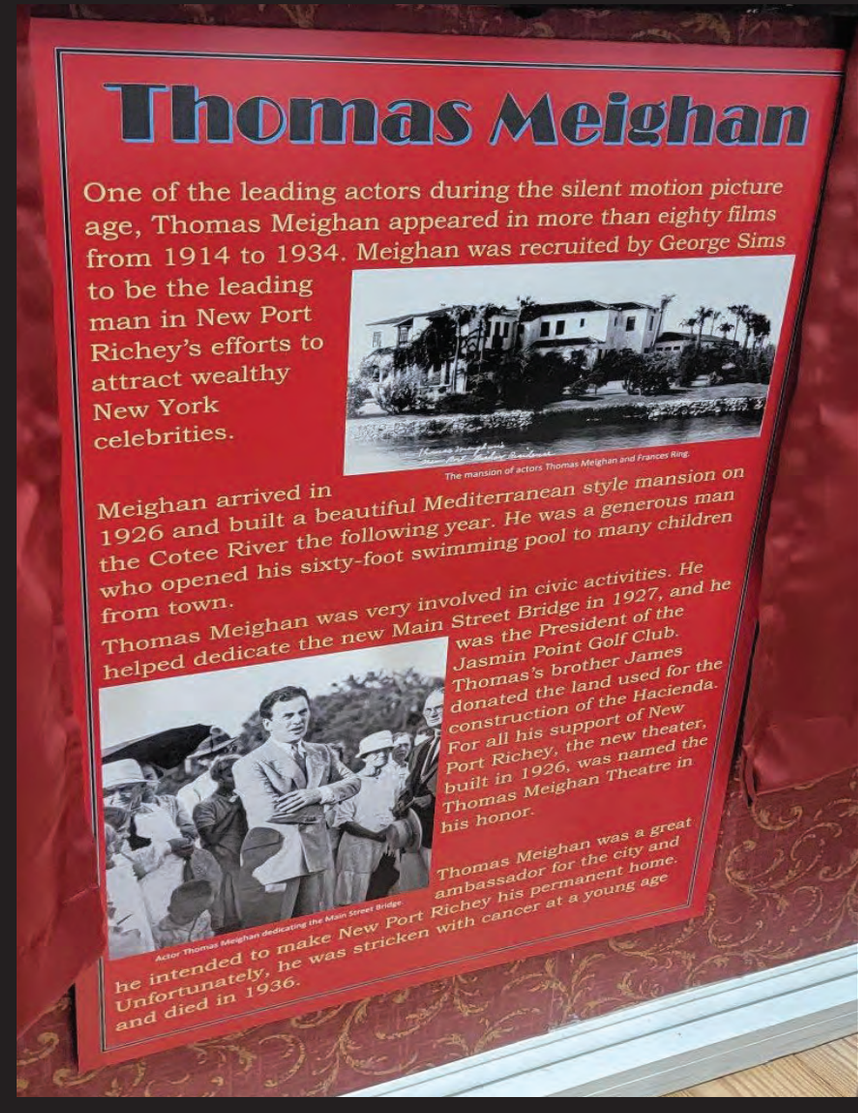

Seminole Patchwork


2000 year old
Deptford Vessel



Astronaut James B. Irwin, raised in Pasco, landing on the moon.

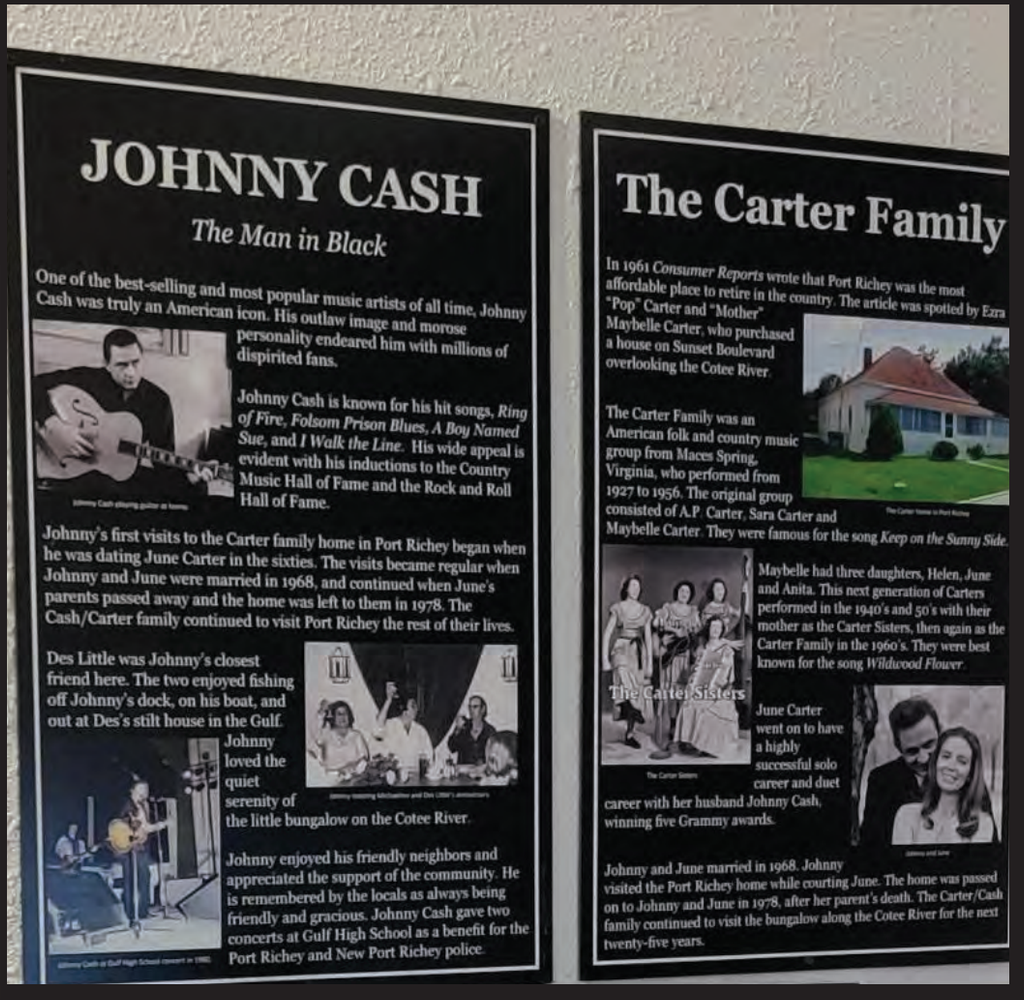

Celebrities in New Port Richey
Attorney Clarence Darrow
Actress Lupe Velez
Writer Ring Lardner
Actress Ann Harding
Sportswriter Grantland Rice
Flora Zabel

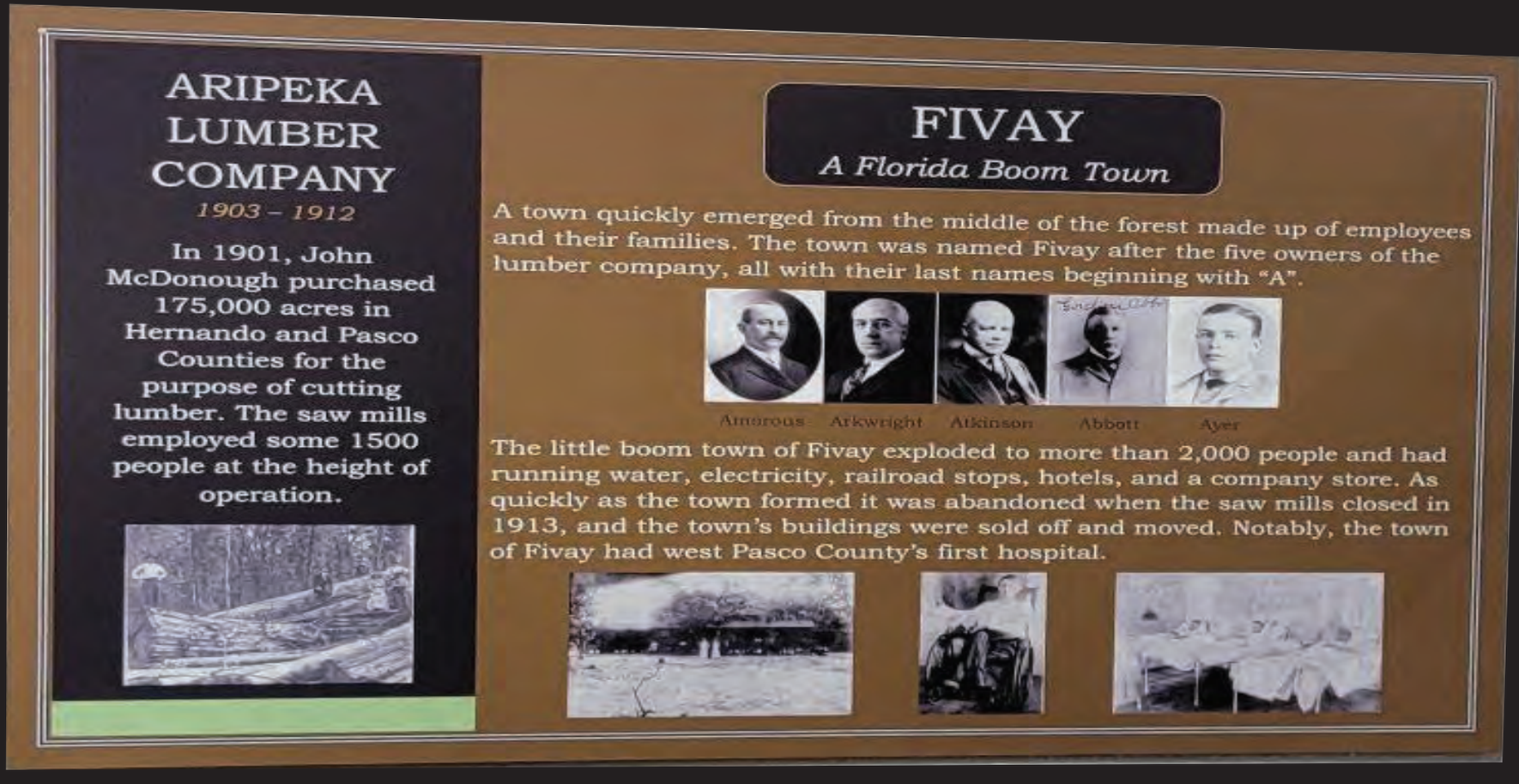

Thomas Meighan
One of the leading actors during the silent motion picture age, Thomas Meighan appeared in more than eighty films from 1914 to 1934. Meighan was recruited by George Sims to be the leading man in New Port Richey's efforts to attract wealthy New York celebrities.
The mansion of actors Thomas Meighan and Frances Ring.
Meighan arrived in 1926 and built a beautiful Mediterranean style mansion on the Cotee River the following year. He was a generous man who opened his sixty-foot swimming pool to many children from town.
Thomas Meighan was very involved in civic activities. He helped dedicate the new Main Street Bridge in 1927, and he was the President of the Jasmin Point Golf Club. Thomas's brother James donated the land used for the construction of the Hacienda. For all his support of New Port Richey, the new theater, built in 1926, was named the Thomas Meighan Theatre in his honor.
Actor Thomas Meighan dedicating the Main Street Bridge.
Thomas Meighan was a great ambassador for the city and he intended to make New Port Richey his permanent home. Unfortunately, he was stricken with cancer at a young age and died in 1936.



June Carter Cash, Johnny Cash and the Reverend Billy Graham at Des Little's fish camp.


WEST PASCO
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GOLFER GENE SARAZEN
Hall of Fame golfer Gene Sarazen lived in New Port Richey from 1927 to 1932. He was recruited to town as part of the movement to bring celebrities to New Port Richey and make it the "Hollywood of the East."
Residence of Gene Sarazen
Sarazen is one of only five golfers to win all four of golf's major championships. The others are Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods.
In 1932, Sarazen invented the modern sand wedge in the back of the H & S Garage on Grand Boulevard. He used the new club to win the British Open and US Open that year.
"They should have called it the Sarazen Wedge." Arnold Palmer
Probably the most famous shot ever made in a major championship occurred when Gene Sarazen holed a four wood from 235 yards away to help him win the 1935 Masters. It quickly became
Rao Musunuru, M.D. Mu m and Library
Sims Park, New Port Richey


JOHNNY CASH
The Man in Black
One of the best-selling and most popular music artists of all time, Johnny Cash was truly an American icon. His outlaw image and morose personality endeared him with millions of dispirited fans.
Johnny Cash is known for his hit songs, Ring of Fire, Folsom Prison Blues, A Boy Named Sue, and I Walk the Line. His wide appeal is evident with his inductions to the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
Johnny's first visits to the Carter family home in Port Richey began when he was dating June Carter in the sixties. The visits became regular when Johnny and June were married in 1968, and continued when June's parents passed away and the home was left to them in 1978. The Cash/Carter family continued to visit Port Richey the rest of their lives.
Des Little was Johnny's closest friend here. The two enjoyed fishing off Johnny's dock, on his boat, and out at Des's stilt house in the Gulf. Johnny loved the quiet serenity of the little bungalow on the Cotee River.
Johnny enjoyed his friendly neighbors and appreciated the support of the community. He is remembered by the locals as always being friendly and gracious. Johnny Cash gave two concerts at Gulf High School as a benefit for the Port Richey and New Port Richey police.
The Carter Family
In 1961 Consumer Reports wrote that Port Richey was the most affordable place to retire in the country. The article was spotted by Ezra "Pop" Carter and "Mother" Maybelle Carter, who purchased a house on Sunset Boulevard overlooking the Cotee River.
The Carter Family was an American folk and country music group from Maces Spring, Virginia, who performed from 1927 to 1956. The original group consisted of A.P. Carter, Sara Carter and Maybelle Carter. They were famous for the song Keep on the Sunny Side.
The Carter Sisters
Maybelle had three daughters, Helen, June and Anita. This next generation of Carters performed in the 1940's and 50's with their mother as the Carter Sisters, then again as the Carter Family in the 1960's. They were best known for the song Wildwood Flower.
June Carter went on to have a highly successful solo career and duet career with her husband Johnny Cash, winning five Grammy awards.
Johnny and June married in 1968. Johnny visited the Port Richey home while courting June. The home was passed on to Johnny and June in 1978, after her parent's death. The Carter/Cash family continued to visit the bungalow along the Cotee River for the next twenty-five years.



Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point
is on Fivay Road in Hudson, Pasco County



Gulf High School 1924 Student Body

1924 CONSTRUCTION OF MAXWELL BUILDING – STILL STANDING TODAY. FIRST HOME OF F.I. GREY REALTY, OLDEST REAL ESTATE FIRM IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA





WEST PASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
RAO MUSUHURU MD MUSEUM & LIBRARY


PICNIC GROUNDS
CIRCA 1924
Picnicing Up the Cotee River
New Port Richey, Fla.


Community Congl Church
1924
New Port Richey, Fla.

SECTION NINE

HEART OF GOLD

CHILD CARE

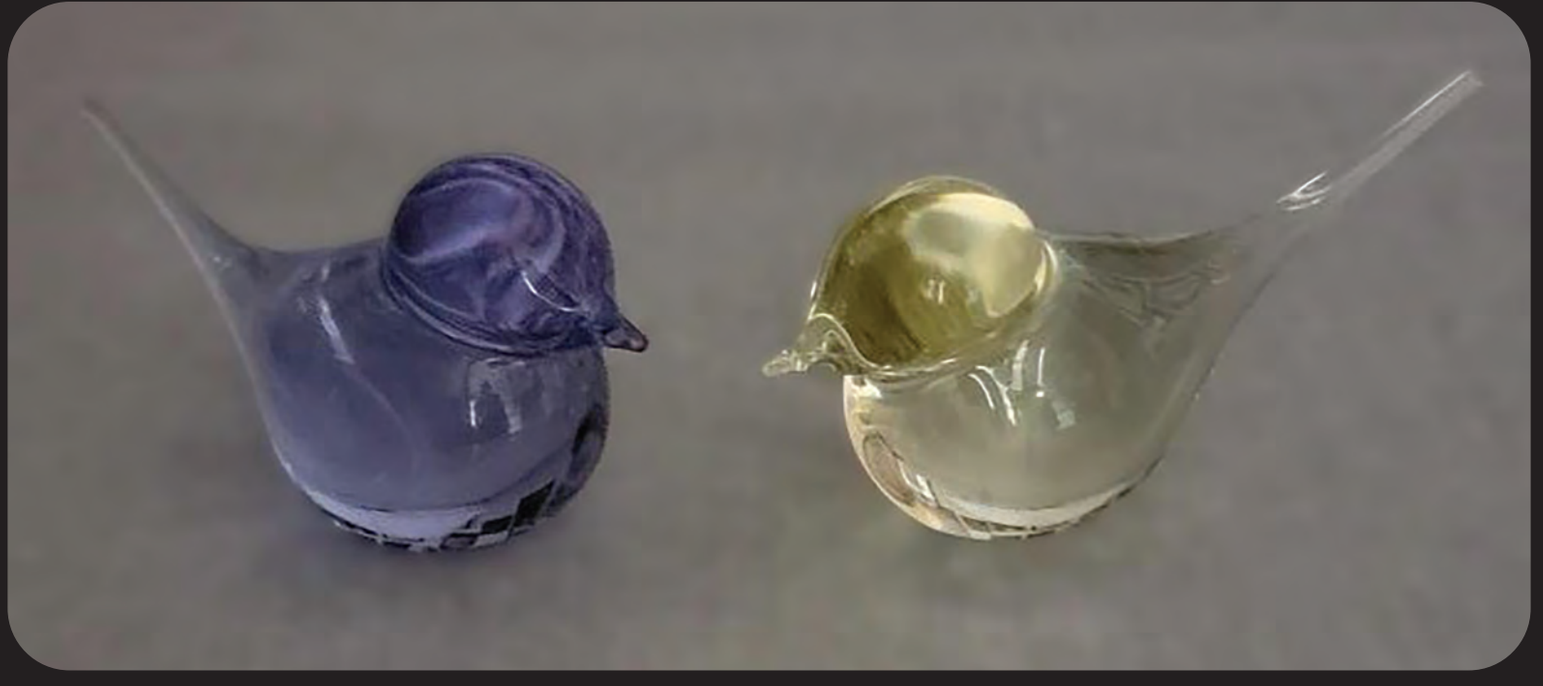


Dr. Musunuru orchestrated establishing a daycare center for children at the hospital, helping employees and physicians so that they can bring their children to be cared for while they're at work.

He duplicated the idea at PHSC to help hundreds of adult students to bring their young children to be cared for part-time while they're taking classes, which helped boost the number of women attending the college.



Dr. Rao Musunuru, far right, at the opening of the childcare center at the hospital.



SECTION TEN

HEART'S DELIGHT

PROFILE OF A POTENTIAL NOBEL PRIZE WINNER FROM PASCO

PROFILE OF A POTENTIAL "NOBEL PRIZE" WINNER FROM PASCO

-By Thomas Konda, M.D.

Kiran Musunuru, M.D., PhD, MPH, ML was born in New York City in 1976, while his father was undergoing postgraduate training in internal medicine and cardiology. He moved to west Pasco (FL) in 1981, where his father started a cardiology practice.

While in school, he was one of the top three national winners of "Mathcounts" (akin to spelling bee) in Washington, D.C. He wrote a computer program in genetics. Also he co-authored scientific publications about the mechanisms of actions of insulin (protein-kinase, etc.). He used to read EKG's with his father after making patient rounds. He also volunteered at the hospital fixing computers and teaching calculus to hospital employees. He also won national "Latin" essay writing competition.

At the celebration of Kiran's high school graduation arranged by his parents in an auditorium attended by family members and friends with their children, the usually shy Kiran astonished everybody with his an hour long program of music and magic (piano and advanced magic including Houdini's metamorphosis). That was the beginning of his public scientific presentations at national and international levels. He has become a star with his excellent command of language in addition to a commanding voice.

While at Harvard, as an undergraduate he started and edited "Journal of Undergraduate Sciences." Even though his major was biological sciences, he took "Advanced Engineering Calculus, Crystallography and Buddhism" as

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electives. He also co-authored a book "Cell-Cycle Regulators in Cancer" while undergraduate at Harvard.

While doing combined M.D., PhD program (on full merit scholarship) at Cornell and Rockefeller, (his thesis was in neurosciences at a molecular level) after a selected scientific presentation in California, he earned a glorified editorial in a prestigious journal "Nature Medicine" which ended with the sentence "The presentation marked Musunuru out as a future star in biomedicine". A lot of Nobel Prize winners were among the speakers and audience at that meeting. His presentation was sandwiched at the opening session between two presentations from two Nobel laureates.

While doing 2 years (instead of 3) internal medicine residency at Harvard (Brigham) he authored "Pocket Books" in internal medicine and critical care for the rest of the house staff. He received "Best Outgoing Resident Award" which is usually reserved for 3rd year resident. The director of the program described him as a "National Treasure" in writing. Also while doing residency, he worked as a consultant for a pharmaceutical company and guided them to produce new cardiovascular medicines (RNA based).

Kiran has been volunteering for American Heart Association (AHA) for decades. He has served on the leading roles for its scientific councils like clinical cardiology and functional genomics. He received national awards from AHA for his service in science; he also finds time to work with "needy students" in the inner cities.

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While doing first 2 years of interventional cardiology fellowship at Johns Hopkins, he simultaneously finished masters in public health (MPH) from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He later acquired masters in law (ML) covering patent, business and administration and also masters in regulatory affairs (MRA) covering drugs, devices and development, from University of Pennsylvania.

While continuing his cardiology research fellowship back at Harvard (Massachusetts General) he advanced the knowledge in 'stem cells and regenerative medicine'. He also earned "Excellence in Science Teaching" award among Harvard faculty. He was honored at white house by president Obama in person for "Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers". He was also bestowed the most prestigious American Philosophical Society's (started by Benjamin Franklin)"Judson Daland prize for Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Investigation" at its 275th anniversary in Philadelphia, in recognition of his work discovering and therapeutically targeting cardiovascular disease genes. It carried a $50,000 prize. Kiran also collaborated with MIT and Broad Institute.

Shortly afterwards, Kiran was recruited by University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia to become a tenured professor at a young age with his own research lab leading to many advances in gene editing. He voluntarily teaches undergraduates (biochemistry), medical students (genetics)and cardiology fellows-in-training (staying with them day and night when he is on call, developing and implementing treatment strategies for treatment of sick

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cardiac patients transferred from other hospitals. He earned "Excellence in Teaching Award" at University of Pennsylvania also.

He authored publications in many prestigious scientific journals over decades. He also served as the editor of International Circulation Journal: Genomic and Precision Medicine. He also contributed chapters in many cardiology books, including "Braunwald's Text Book of Cardiology." His latest books include "Crisper Generation" and "Genome Editing- A Practical Guide to Research and Clinical Applications", for scientists and researchers to learn the art. He conducts boot camps at national AHA meetings and he constantly preaches ethics.

At this point with all his extreme knowledge in various areas and aspects of physics, mathematics, biochemistry, computer literacy, clinical medicine, and research in genetics (well planned since his school time, as you can see) he began specializing in "gene editing" to create cures for diseases that did not have any until now, not only cardiovascular but also some metabolic (e.g.: Phenylketonuria) diseases. His latest endeavor is intrauterine gene editing to prevent damage from bad genes while baby is still in uterus.

He currently serves on NHLBI council. Collaborating with universities, NIH and pharmaceutical industry, Kiran is going to make a world of difference for the humanity all over the world.

Kiran frequently associates with Nobel Prize winners worldwide. He receives a lot of attention, appreciation and admiration from them. For example, recent 'Nobel prize winner in science' Jennifer Doudna published a book in 2017-"A crack in Creation." In the first two pages of the fourth chapter she described

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about her excitement about meeting Kiran at his lab at Harvard and marvels about his work and she writes “Kiran was already one step ahead of me about applications of “CRISPR” as a therapeutic tool” Without any doubt, he will earn a Nobel Prize for himself in the future.

Kiran dedicated his life to science and he is the self-proclaimed “Pope” for religion of “discovering cures for all kinds of diseases”. He is a down to earth humble person, very respectful to everyone, irrespective of their age or status. He is very kind to his students and researchers always giving them credit for all his own ideas, work and publications.

He is a person of many skills and talents. He is a package of brilliance, selflessness, generosity, and dedication. He encourages his parents to donate his inheritance to help the needy in addition to investing his own for the advancement of science.

Let us thank God for this gift to humanity!

Let us pray to God to bless Kiran and his parents for long healthy, happy and productive lives.

P.S. Dr. Thomas Suman Konda is a retired endocrinologist with a keen interest in academic and research medicine all his life. He has known Kiran, since Dr. T.S. Konda moved to Pasco County decades ago to support his wife (Nirmala), an excellent practicing cardiac anesthesiologist. He is also a successful stock market investor. He has always admired, enjoyed and encouraged Kiran, sharing their mutual enthusiasm and interest in medical research.

Rao,

Thanks so much for the invitation to attend Kiran's lecture on Feb 1st. I am very much impressed by his work and contributions.

I am sure he will get honored by getting a Nobel Prize one day. I always forward his lectures to my family and friends.

I congratulate you and your wife for raising such a dedicated soul. He is really a gift from God and we are so proud of him and you.

Thanks,

Sudhir Agarwal, M.D.

-- Personal message from a friend, 2023



From there, "wherever you go
Go with all your heart."



Kiran as an infant.



Happy young family in
New York City.
Kiran at eight months.





Kiran growing up.





A happy boy.




KIRAN





Always happy, happy.





Kiran at work,
learning himself
and from his Dad.



Kiran, future teacher.



Kiran at piano.



Feeding the body,
not only the mind.



Innocence at its best.





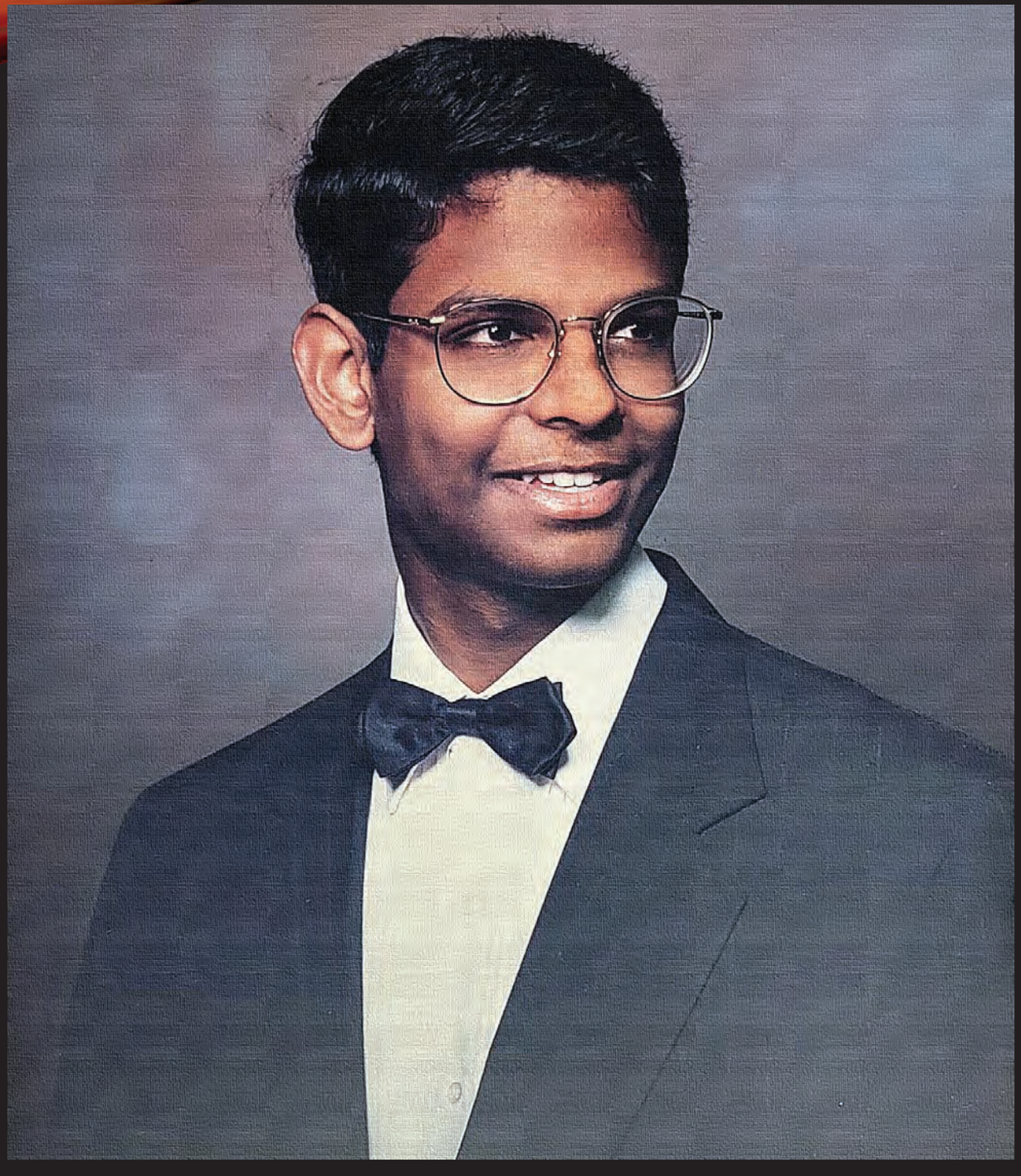
Kiran growing up.



Kiran's personal book library during his school years. *(Part 1)*



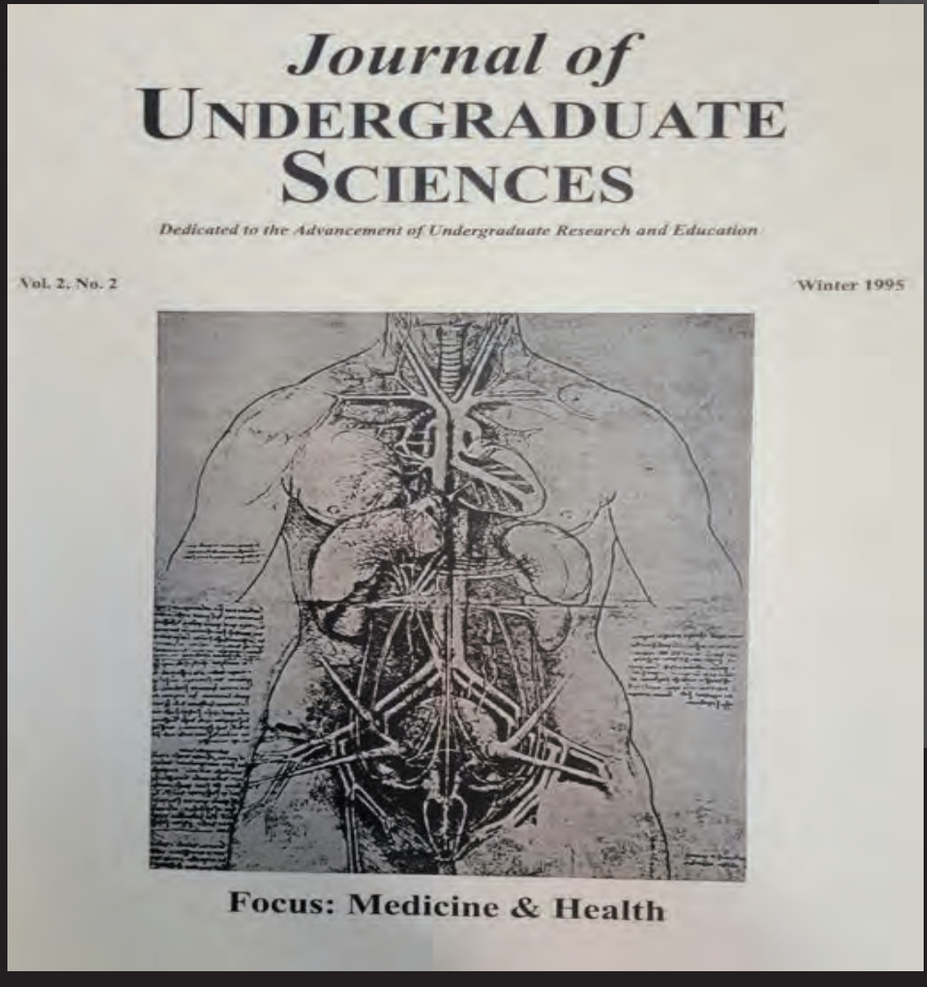
Kiran's personal library during his school years. *(Part 2)*



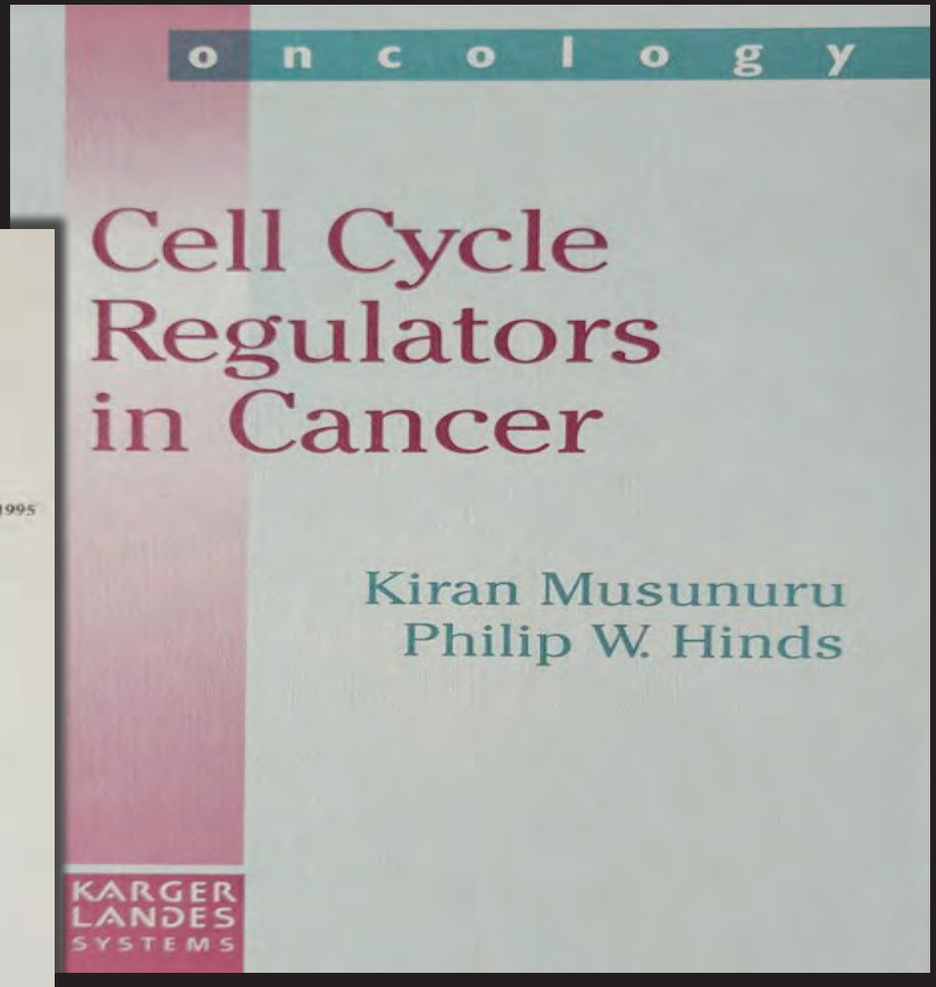
Kiran,
the
Performer



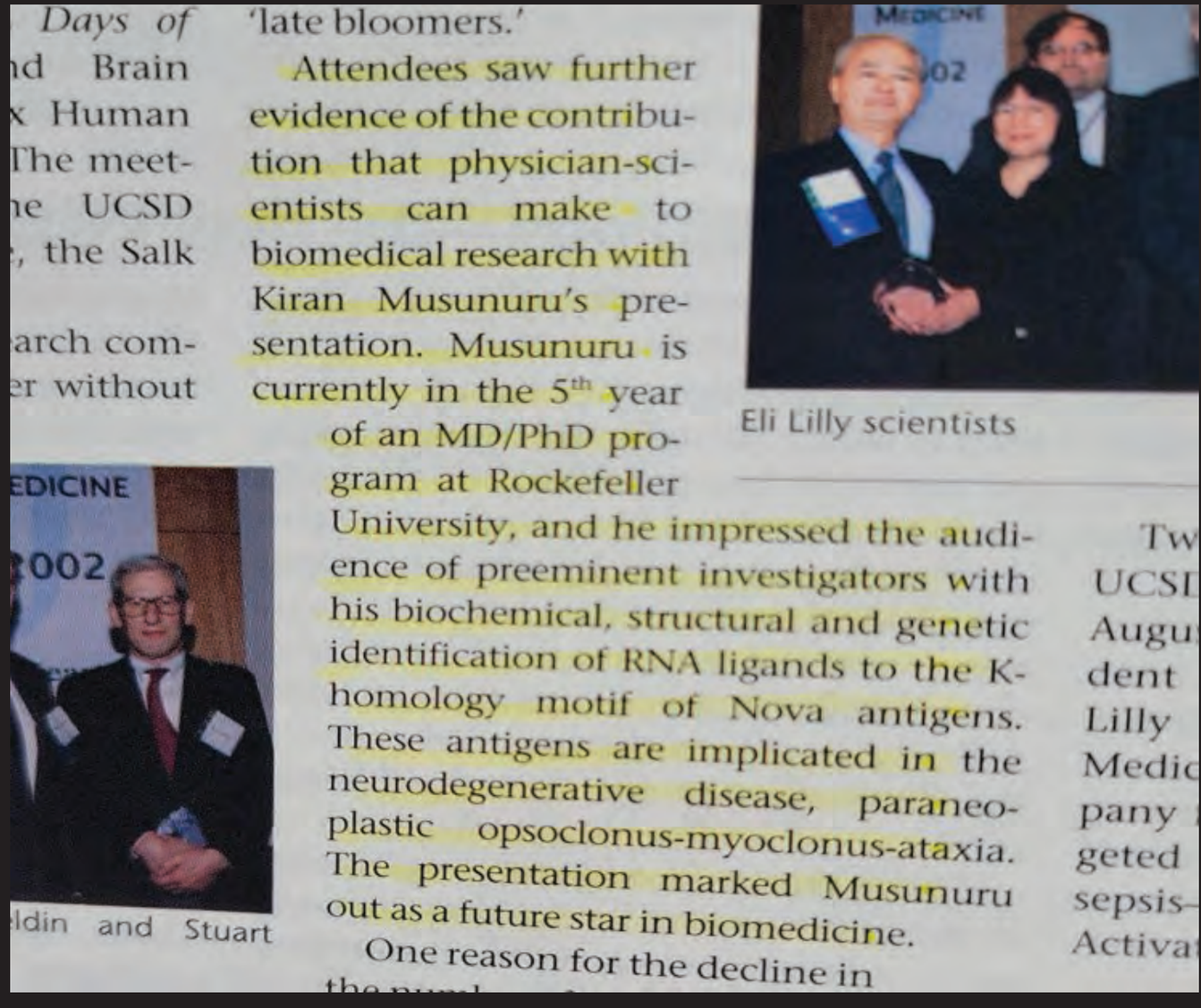
College graduation at Harvard with dad.



Kiran was the founder and first editor of this journal at Harvard while he was an undergraduate.



Kiran was the co-author for this medical book, written at age 20, while he was an undergraduate.



Days of
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'late bloomers.'

Attendees saw further evidence of the contribution that physician-scientists can make to biomedical research with Kiran Musunuru's presentation. Musunuru is currently in the 5th year of an MD/PhD program at Rockefeller University, and he impressed the audience of preeminent investigators with his biochemical, structural and genetic identification of RNA ligands to the K-homology motif of Nova antigens. These antigens are implicated in the neurodegenerative disease, paraneoplastic opsoclonus-myoclonus-ataxia. The presentation marked Musunuru out as a future star in biomedicine.

One reason for the decline in

Eli Lilly scientists

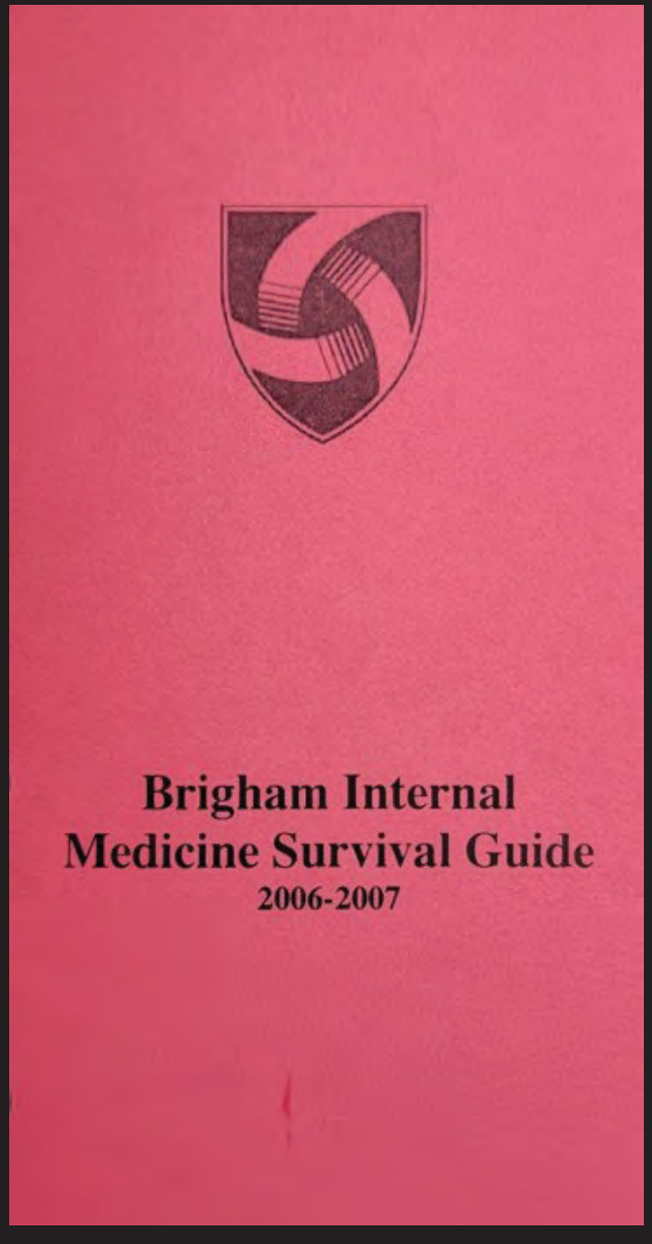
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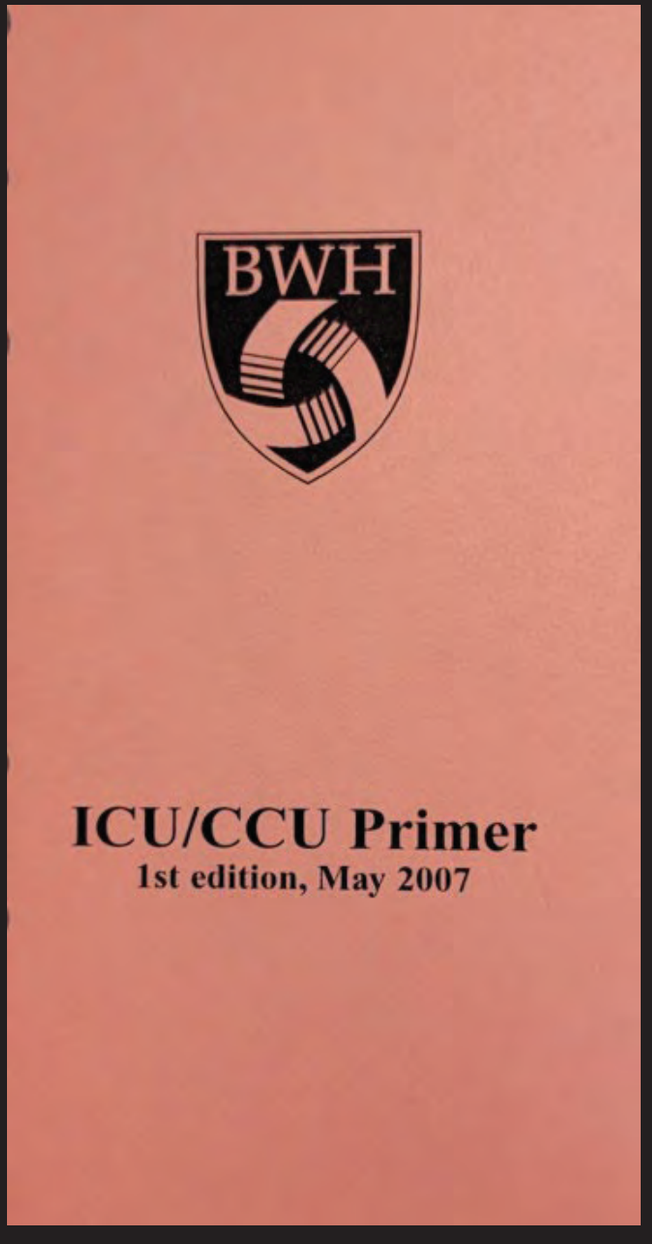
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Kiran was described as a "future star" in bio-medicine during his M.D./Ph.D. program.

Primer written for colleagues by Kiran as a first-year resident at Harvard.

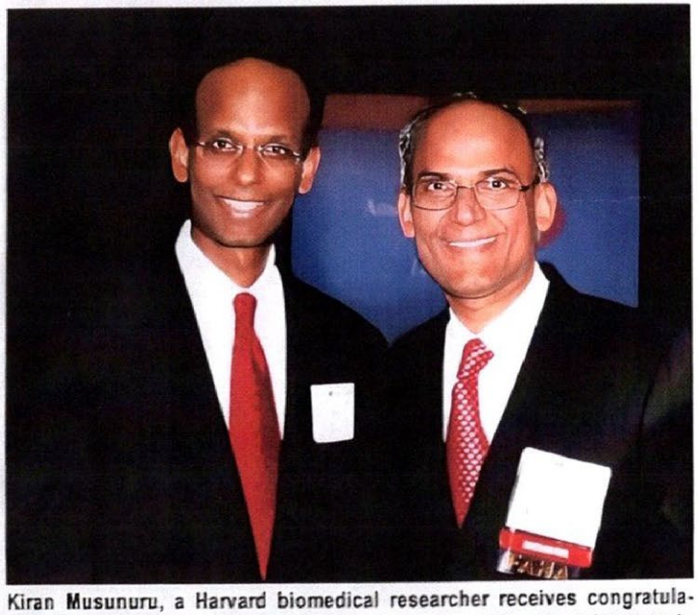




Primer written for fellows by Kiran as a second-year resident at Harvard.

suncoastnews.com ~ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016 ~ THE SUNCOAST NEWS/PASCO WEST

Researcher son of cardiologist to get presidential honor



Kiran Musunuru, a Harvard biomedical researcher receives congratulations from his father, cardiologist Rao Musunuru of the Heart Institute in Hudson. Kiran Musunuru will receive the Presidential Early Career Award for scientists and engineers.

Harvard's Kiran Musunuru studies heart disease

Suncoast News staff report

HUDSON — The White House staff announced that physician and biomedical researcher Kiran Musunuru will receive the Presidential Early Career Award for scientists and engineers.

Both Kiran Musunuru, 40, and his father, cardiologist Rao Musunuru of the Heart Institute at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, are board-certified cardiologists.

Kiran Musunuru, an assistant professor at Harvard, will get the highest honor bestowed by the United States Government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers. An event this spring in Washington, D.C., will celebrate his accomplishment.

He was also selected to receive another national award for his scientific and volunteer work from the American Heart Association this summer in Dallas.

Rao Musunuru has been practicing cardiology, serving residents of Pasco and Hernando counties, since 1981. He has been instrumental in establishing the nationally recognized Heart Institute. Both father and son have received national awards and recognitions over the years.

Kiran grew up in West Pasco. He received his master's degree from Cornell University, a doctorate degree from Rockefeller University and a master's in public health degree from Johns Hopkins University.

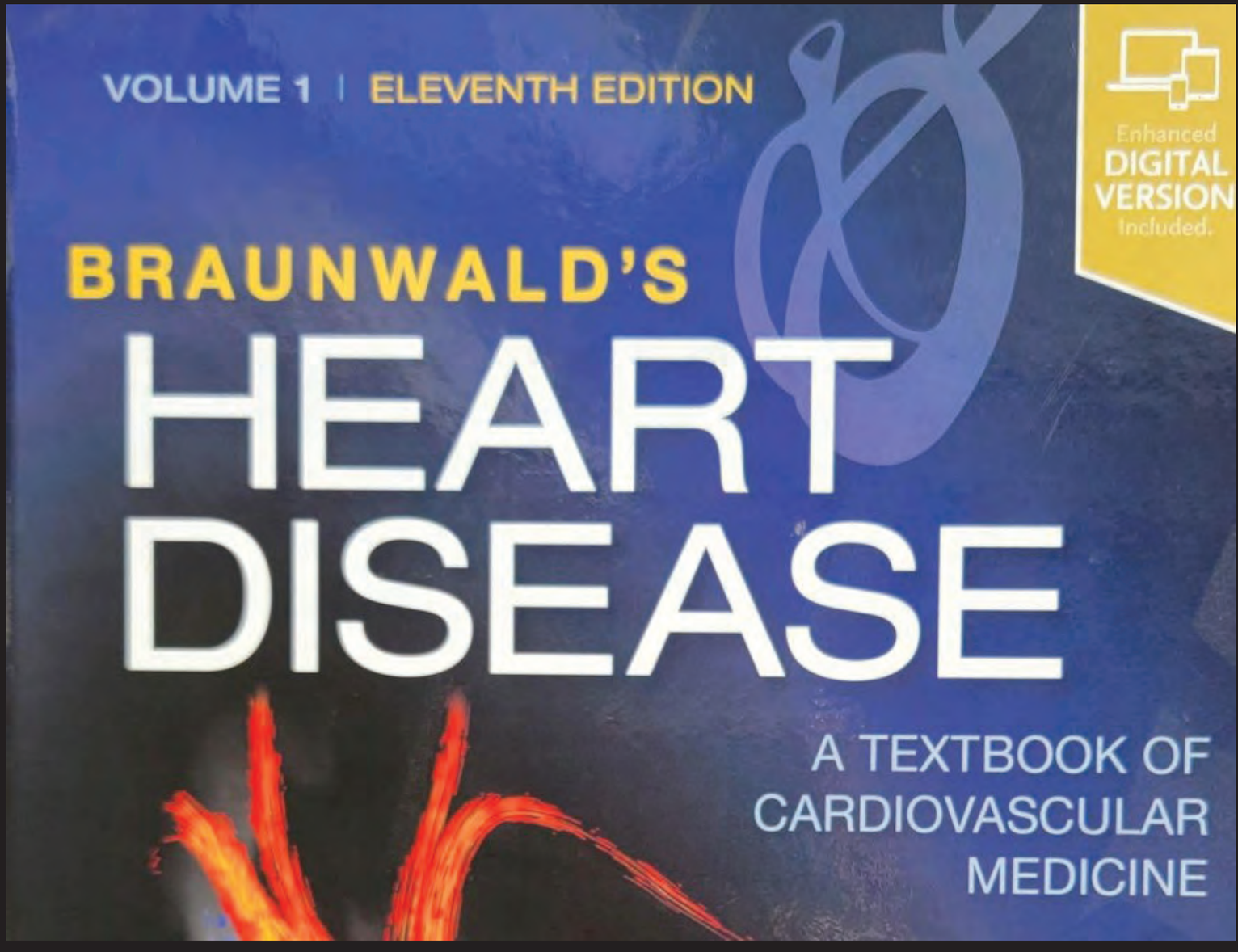
He published his first medical book, "Cell Cycle Regulators In Cancer," at age 19 as an undergraduate at Harvard.

He did his cardiology fellowship at Johns Hopkins and Massachusetts General Hospital.

He published extensively in many prestigious scientific journals. He wrote a chapter on Principles of Cardiovascular Genetics in the latest edition of Braunwald's Textbook of Cardiology.

He teaches undergraduates at Harvard, medical students at Harvard Medical School and patient care to the medical residents at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he is an associate physician. He runs his own research lab on the Harvard campus in the Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology. He lectures extensively all over the country.

Kiran Musunuru is pursuing genomic research on heart disease. He is striving to develop once-in-a-lifetime vaccine for prevention of coronary heart disease, thus preventing heart attacks. Many experts in his field describe him as a future prospect for a Nobel Prize.



Kiran wrote three chapters in this textbook of cardiovascular medicine.

INNOVATION NEEDS RESPONSIBILITY

In January 2009, I wrote a guest column in the *Tampa Tribune* titled "Unraveling Genome Has Great Potential, But We Are Not There Quite Yet."

Little did I know then that, by 2015, we would be there!

We have known for a long time that in humans, life is transmitted through 23 pairs of chromosomes in each cell, half of each pair contributed by each parent. The chromosomes are made of DNA, which is encoded into various genes.

In 1953, James Watson and Francis Crick unveiled the structure of DNA, cracking the code of life. Decades later, the entire human genome (all of the DNA sequences in a single cell) was mapped, made of billions of nucleotides (the chemical alphabet). The scientists then focused on identifying the tiny portions of the gene that are responsible for various functions and dysfunctions.

For a while, scientists toyed with the idea of altering DNA (the basic units of the gene), finally resulting in genetic engineering with recombinant DNA (cut and paste - cut the nucleotides from the genes of one organism and paste them into the genes of another) to introduce desired traits.

For example, by altering the genes of bacteria, large quantities of hormones (insulin, for instance), antibiotics and clot-busting medications were manufactured for human medical treatment, saving millions of lives. Similar benefits were achieved from transgenic animals.

For the past couple of decades, the technique was also used to produce transgenic crops called GMOs (genetically modified organisms) by splicing genes from one species into a different species to improve productivity and to enrich their quality.

For the past few years, scientists have embarked on the idea of "gene editing," a process that nature does all by itself to protect bacteria from viruses. The scientists observed it, learned from it and duplicated it in animals and humans.

When a bacterium is invaded by a virus, it keeps a genetic record of the virus in memory and when re-invaded by the same virus, it produces a powerful enzyme that effectively snips the virus out (a molecular scissor). Scientists named the process "CRISPER" and the enzyme "Cas9."

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This process of gene editing, which can be done on any living organism, has enormous potential in infinite ways to improve on nature. The applications can range from cancer research to curing diseases, production of vaccines to eliminating mosquito-borne illnesses, production of fuel and electricity to disposal of plastic and production of super crops to save endangered species.

This new genome-editing technique (deleting, altering or rearranging DNA) is precise, relatively quick and easy, and inexpensive. A CRISPER kit can be commercially bought for $130.

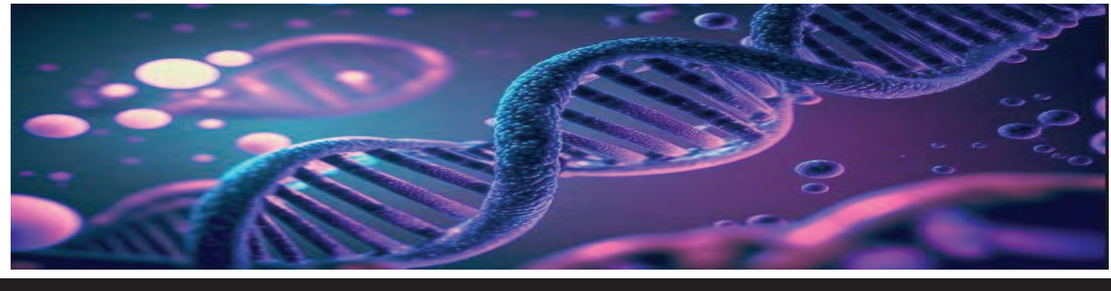
The story is all rosy, until one thinks of using this technique to edit germ-line cells (sperm, egg, embryo). The resulting change can be passed on to future generations forever. What might be the long-term unintended consequences of altering the genes permanently? A rogue scientist could go beyond the ethical, moral and legal limitations, producing designer babies, superior humans and super bugs.

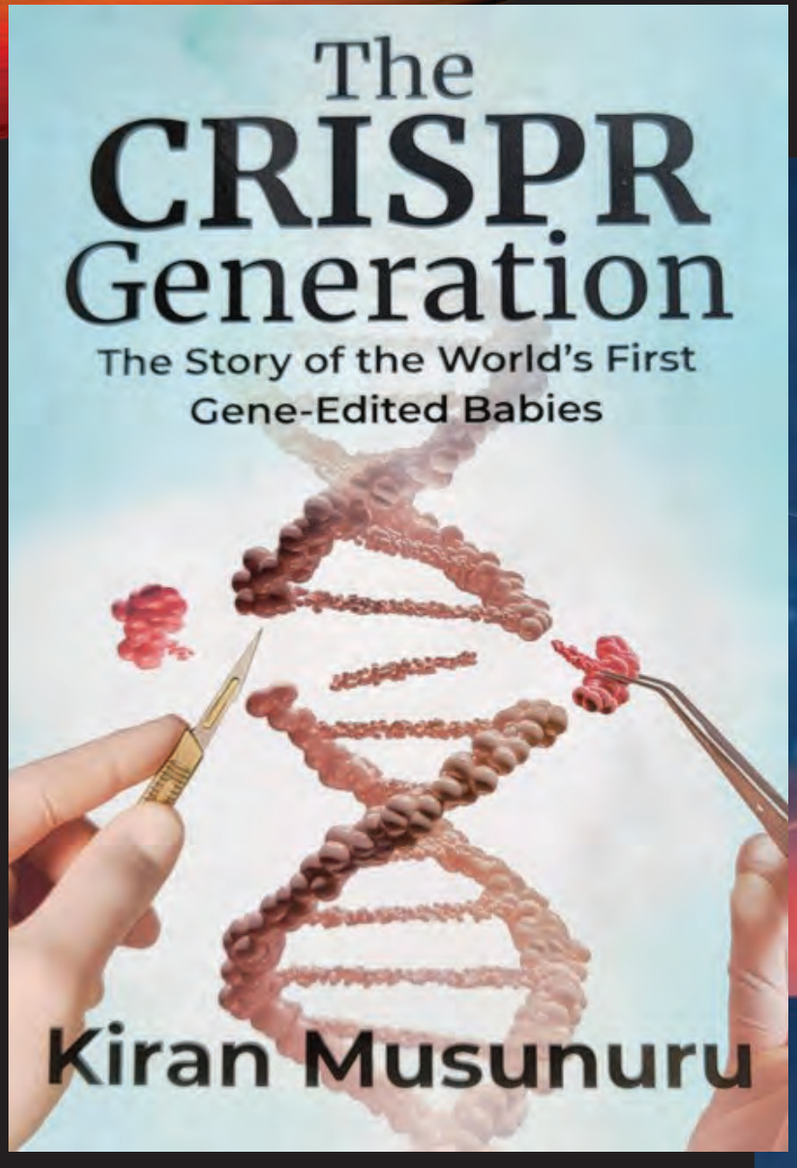
Are we trying to play God? I wouldn't even venture to go there in this column. However, I cannot help but wonder why the creator is empowering humans with super-intelligence to decode all the secrets of creation and the means to alter it in no small measure. What is the creator's ultimate plan? Only God knows.

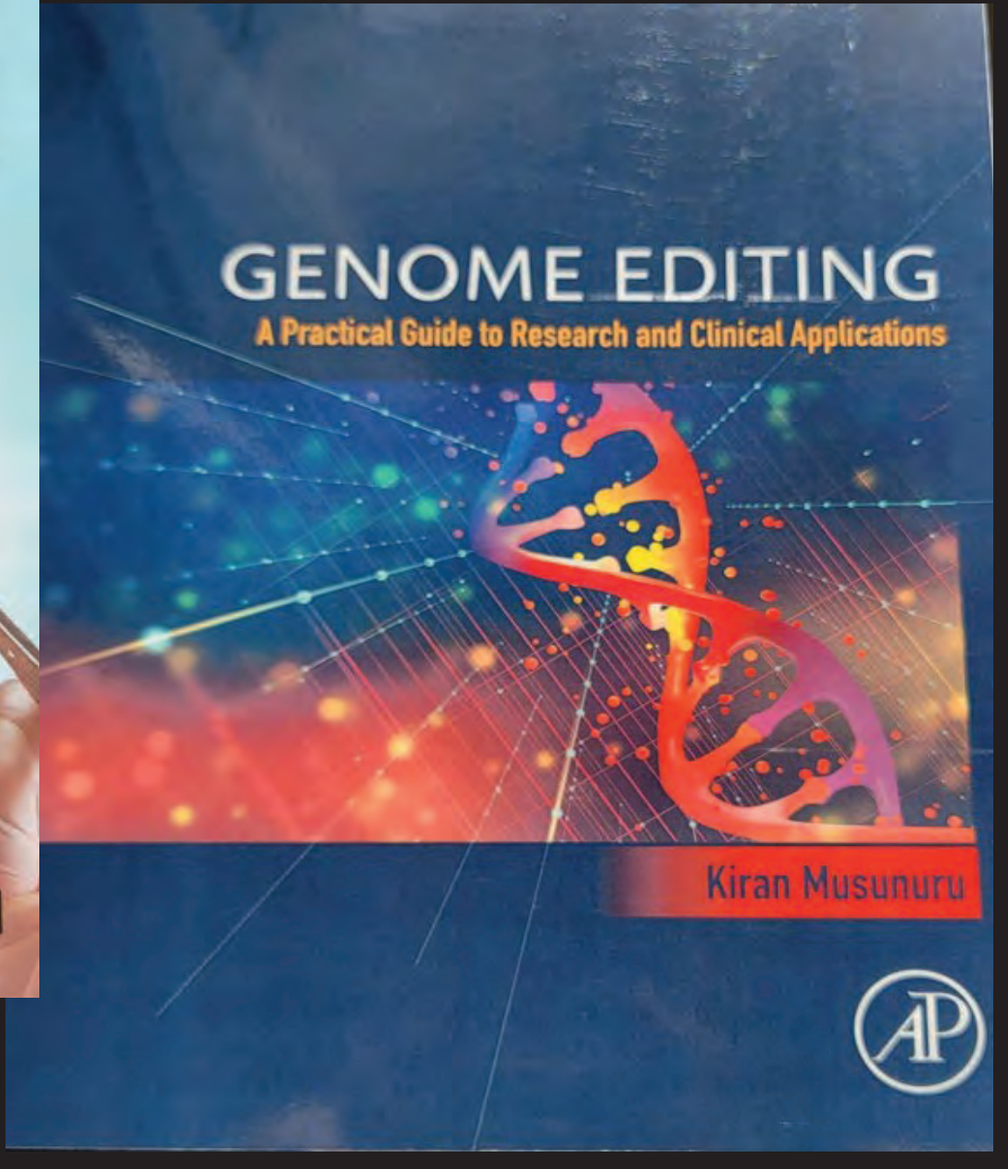
But the genie is out of the bottle, and gene editing is here to stay. This technology is one of the biggest things since nuclear energy. We can only hope that it will be put to good use.

Guest Column, Published Tampa Bay Times, September 23, 2016.

P.S. My son Kiran Musunuru, a nationally and internationally celebrated cardiologist from Harvard and University of Pennsylvania, is currently working with gene-editing techniques to find cures for several diseases that do not have any treatment or cure at this time.







More books written by Dr. Kiran Musunuru

Indeed, not too far in the future, the standard of cardiovascular care may look quite different from current practices. Patients would undergo whole-genome sequencing at birth, thereby allowing so-called primordial prevention by assessing the genetic determinants of an individual's lifetime risk for cardiovascular disease and institution of appropriate counseling—starting with lifelong exercise and dietary habits and, as the patient advances in age, individually tailored preventive medications and therapies that address all the individual's various validated, causal genetic risk factors for disease. If cardiovascular disease should nevertheless emerge at some point in the patient's life, he or she would receive the specific therapies that have been demonstrated to be most efficacious and safest for individuals with that genetic profile, both in the acute setting and in the long term for secondary prevention. This standard of care would represent an important step toward ensuring that people everywhere enjoy longer lives free of cardiovascular disease.

Kiran's remarks from Braunwald's textbook of cardiology.

Kiran Musunuru-Wikipedia

Kiran Musunuru is an American cardiologist who is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. He researches the genetics and genomics of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. Musunuru is a leading expert in the field of gene-editing.

Early life and education

Musunuru is the son of Rao and Prameela Musunuru; he was born in New York City and grew up in Florida. His father is a renowned cardiologist who moved to the US from India in 1976.

Musunuru obtained a degree in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard College in 1997. He later obtained a PhD in Biomedical Sciences from Rockefeller University in 2003, and an MD from Weill-Cornell Medical College in 2004. Musunuru also graduated with a Masters of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2009, and an ML in Law from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2019.

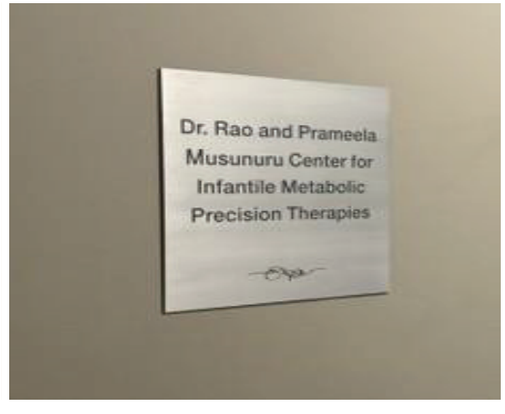
Musunuru was interested in heart disease early in his medical career, first training in Internal Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and then in Cardiovascular Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He also undertook postdoctoral work at the Massachusetts General Hospital, as well as the Broad Institute.

Research and career, Awards and honors, References- see-
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiran_Musunuru









Perelman School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

SECTION ELEVEN

HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE

COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY BY DR. RAO MUSUNURU

Dr. Rao Musunuru's Commitment to the Community

- By Robin Schneider

The community services of Dr. Rao Musunuru described in this photo album encompasses his voluntary work over the decades. He has been making his living by saving thousands of lives from cardiac disability and death, working hands-on day and night, since 1981 in Pasco County. Dr. and Mrs. Musunuru live a very simple life and give away a considerable portion of their earnings to help all needy and vulnerable – the young, the elderly, the indigent, the sick, the hungry, the homeless, the disabled, and disadvantaged (as evidenced throughout this photo gallery), through various local and national charitable organizations.

Dr. Musunuru was instrumental in starting and seeing through to fruition, Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point's renowned Heart Institute in Hudson, recognized by 'U.S. News and World Report' as one of the top 50 in the nation. He saw the need in the community, and made it happen through his voluntary leadership, dedication and devotion, and at no time has he expected or accepted any compensation for his efforts from HCA or the hospital. Dr. Musunuru epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and philanthropy. He leads by example, encouraging others to do the same, for the good of the community. I have been fortunate to work with him in various capacities for decades.

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Dr. Musunuru has served (as a volunteer) on several national leadership committees and councils of the American Heart Association (AHA) *for* decades. For his contributions to improve heart care for humanity, he received three national awards from the AHA. He even served as a Council Member for the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) while practicing cardiology full time in Hudson, Pasco County.

Dr. Musunuru was described in the "50th Anniversary PHSC Perspective" as a "healer of hearts, advocate for the arts, champion of higher education, philanthropist and humanitarian."

WHAT IS THE SECRET OF HIS SUCCESS?

He gives credit to his upbringing (especially his grandmother), higher education, and his family (especially his loving and supporting wife of 49 years), in addition to hard work and honesty. Of course, he is too modest to think of his intelligence, imagination, common sense, curiosity, and leadership skills. Dr. Musunuru is always thankful for his friends that truly appreciate him. He is as equally thankful to the ones that teach him through constructive criticism.

HOW DID HE END UP IN PASCO COUNTY?

"Simple destiny", he answers. "Home is where one's heart is and I followed my heart to Pasco in 1981". "Seeing a need, I helped to build heart care in Pasco to a top notch level in the nation, putting Pasco on the map".

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WHAT IS HE MOST PROUD OF?

To know Dr. Musunuru, is to know the love he has for his family. He readily mentions his internationally recognized cardiologist son, a graduate of Harvard, Kiran Musunuru, MD, PhD, MPH, ML, who grew up in Pasco County. Kiran has also studied at Cornell, Rockefeller, and Johns Hopkins Universities. Currently a professor and genetic researcher at the University of Pennsylvania, Kiran is a board certified clinical cardiologist and also an accomplished research scientist. He is an "excellent teacher" (supported by awards from both Harvard University and University of Pennsylvania). He is an author of many books, including Chapters in Braunwalds's Text Book of Cardiology. He is an internationally recognized speaker and has earned many national most prestigious awards.

Dr. Kiran Musunuru is in the process of discovering modern medications through ethical gene-editing technology for many dangerous and life-ending diseases that do not have any treatment. He is claimed in the top science circles as a contender for future "Nobel Prize" for discoveries that will help humanity at large.

WHAT IS BEHIND DR. KIRAN MUSUNURU'S HUGE SUCCESS?

"Genes (with magical mutations), guidance, governance (self), and God". Dr. Rao Musunuru clarifies that "most of the credit truly belongs to Kiran's mother for her compassionate caring and total dedication while I was busy working very hard every day".

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HOW DOES DR. MUSUNURU DO SO MUCH IN A DAY, EVERY DAY, FOR DECADES WITH SO MANY SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND ADVOCACY PROJECTS, IN ADDITION TO HIS CONSTANT ATTENTION TO HIS PATIENT'S AND FAMILY?

His simple answer: I wish I can do more! Maybe his "coat of arms" helps, as one patient surmised (see section 11) or "cloning" as I suspected after one of his lectures on genetics.

DOES DR. MUSUNURU HAVE ANY HOBBIES?

Knowing and working closely with him for decades, one thing is for certain, he does have several hobbies including writing, art, history, photography and entertainment. Yes, entertainment! For 14 years, he singlehandedly conducted yearly national cardiology conferences at Innisbrook Resort with "All the Pioneers in the field" for sold out audience of 1250 including one lecture of his own every year. Each year he would also present a homemade short video at the beginning of the conference, pertinent to that day's theme. Story, screenplay and role playing all done by himself. "Back to the Future" was one of his best, using one of his friend's DeLorean. He even conducted a "talent show" by the medical staff at one of the hospital's Christmas parties. His "celebrations" will never be forgotten by the attendees. In 2003, when he was the Florida president of American Heart Association, he organized an annual celebration at Innisbrook Golf Resort with the theme "An Affair to Remember." Dr. Musunuru changed his costumes (theme related) 10

Continued...

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times in 5 hours. Some of the staff, that was dating each other for years, spontaneously married that weekend at the end of the event. Of course, Dr Musunuru had a chapel ready in one of the rooms in anticipation. I can say that it was really an "Affair to Remember."

WHAT ARE DR. MUSUNURU'S BIGGEST ASSETS?

His confidence and his family.

WHAT IS DR. MUSUNURU'S BIGGEST COMPULSION?

ETHICS! He never takes a penny that he did not earn himself from anybody including hospital and private practice. He spends only his personal money for all his charitable work. He does not even accept gifts for Christmas or Doctor's Day from the hospital.

WHAT IS DR. MUSUNURU'S BIGGEST RESENTMENT?

Disrespect!

HOW DID DR. MUSUNURU BECOME SO SUCCESSFUL WITH 'ADVOCACY'?

I can answer this question easily. He has been a great "influencer" for patients, public and legislators for many decades through his writings, teaching and preaching long before social media was around. People from all walks of life recognize Dr. Musunuru's name, and have benefitted from something he has been involved with.

The people of Pasco, and surrounding communities, are truly blessed for the Musunuru family choosing Pasco County as their home. It is

Continued...

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no wonder he has been recognized by the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce over the years as "Outstanding Innovator" and "Outstanding Citizen" and "Eminent Pioneer". Those who have interacted personally with Dr. Musunuru over the years know firsthand his loyalty, brilliant innovation and guidance, as well as his dedication and compassion in making people's lives better. Those who have never met him benefit from his accomplishments, which truly warm his heart.

Dr. Musunuru remains thankful for the opportunity to serve the community, especially to his patients who have entrusted him with their care and to his faithful friends and associates who have supported him through the years.

Having been recognized at national level for his local work in various arenas including practice of medicine, science, higher education, advocacy, humanitarianism, philanthropy, etc., he has enjoyed a blessed life, without even considering the gift of his son to the humanity.

Need I say any more?

P.S.: The Schneider family has been long time close friends of the Musunuru family. Over the years Robin has worked for American Heart Association followed by marketing department of Regional Medical Center and currently works as program administrator in graduate medical education at Trinity. Mr. Schneider has recently retired as lieutenant for Hernando County Sheriff's office. Both families have one son each.



Dr. & Mrs. Musunuru and Mr. and Mrs. Schneider at a Heart Ball Fundraiser in 2003. Some of the money raised was used to buy automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) for Sheriffs' patrol cars in Pasco County, as they usually reach cardiac arrest victims minutes before ambulances arrives, which may make all the difference between life and death.



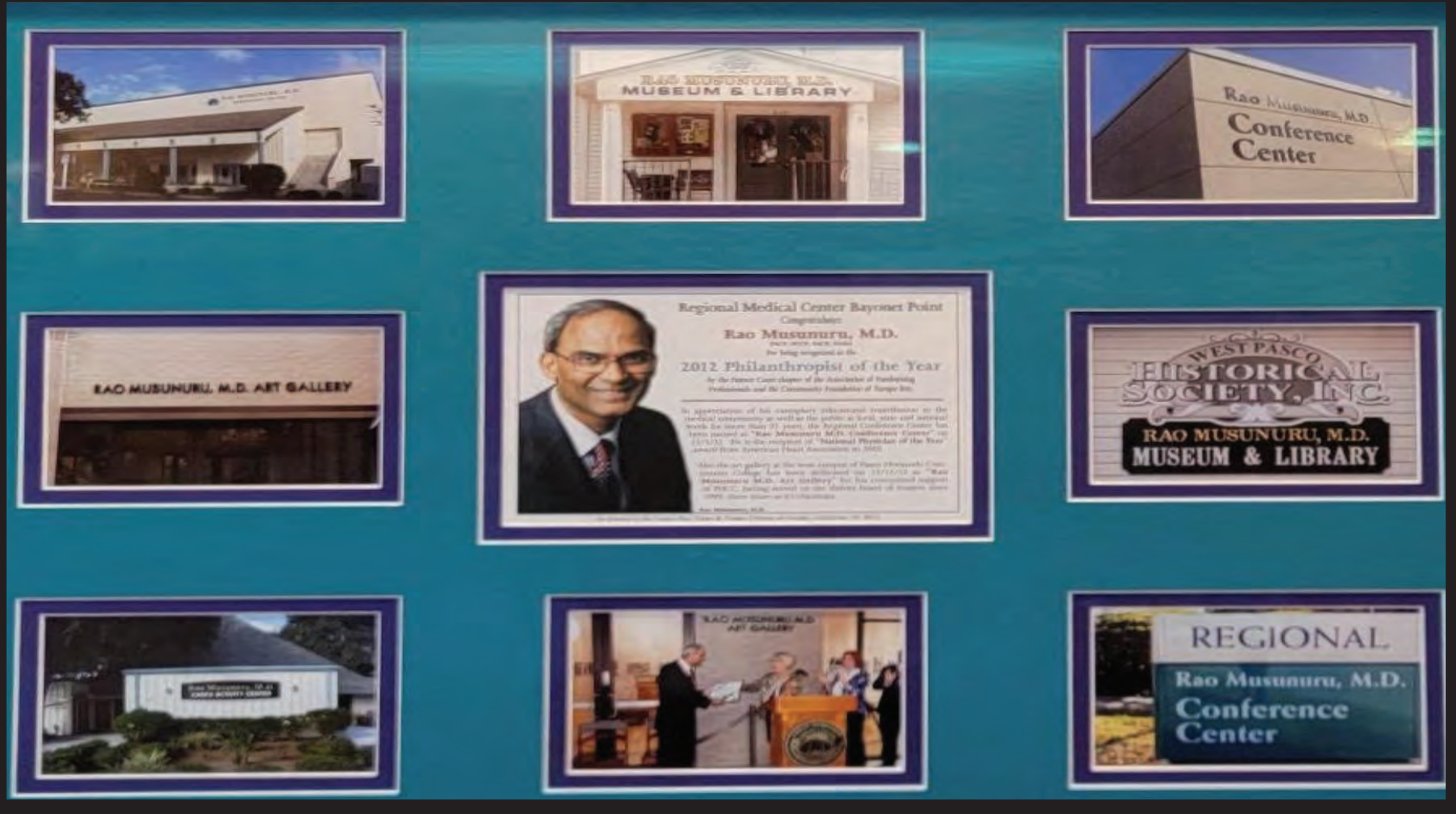
Dr. Rao Musunuru doing a magic trick at the medical staff's talent show for a Christmas party.

SECTION TWELVE

HEARTFELT APPRECIATION

SOME OTHER SPECIAL SERVICE AWARDS




MUSEUM & LIBRARY
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
Conference Center
RAO MUSUNURU, M.D. ART GALLERY
Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point
Congratulates
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
2012 Philanthropist of the Year
WEST PASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.
MUSEUM & LIBRARY
REGIONAL
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
Conference Center



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Michael Bilirakis
Ninth District
Florida

November 12, 2004

Dr. S. K. Rao Musunuru
2004 Outstanding Philanthropist
CARES, Incorporated
Port Richey, Florida 34668-2600

Dear Dr. Musunuru,

The theme of today's event, "Change the world with a giving heart," reminds me of a remark made by Helen Keller that, "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."

As you know so well, the purpose of the heart is to pump life through the body. In much the same way, as an Outstanding Philanthropist, Dr. Musunuru, you help to sustain the body of our community. Seeing needs in our community, you are among the first to step forward to provide a solution. You are among the first to offer your time, your talents and your resources, and the last to want recognition!

In so many ways your generosity is evident throughout our community. By promoting and strengthening the quality of life for others you truly do help to change the world.

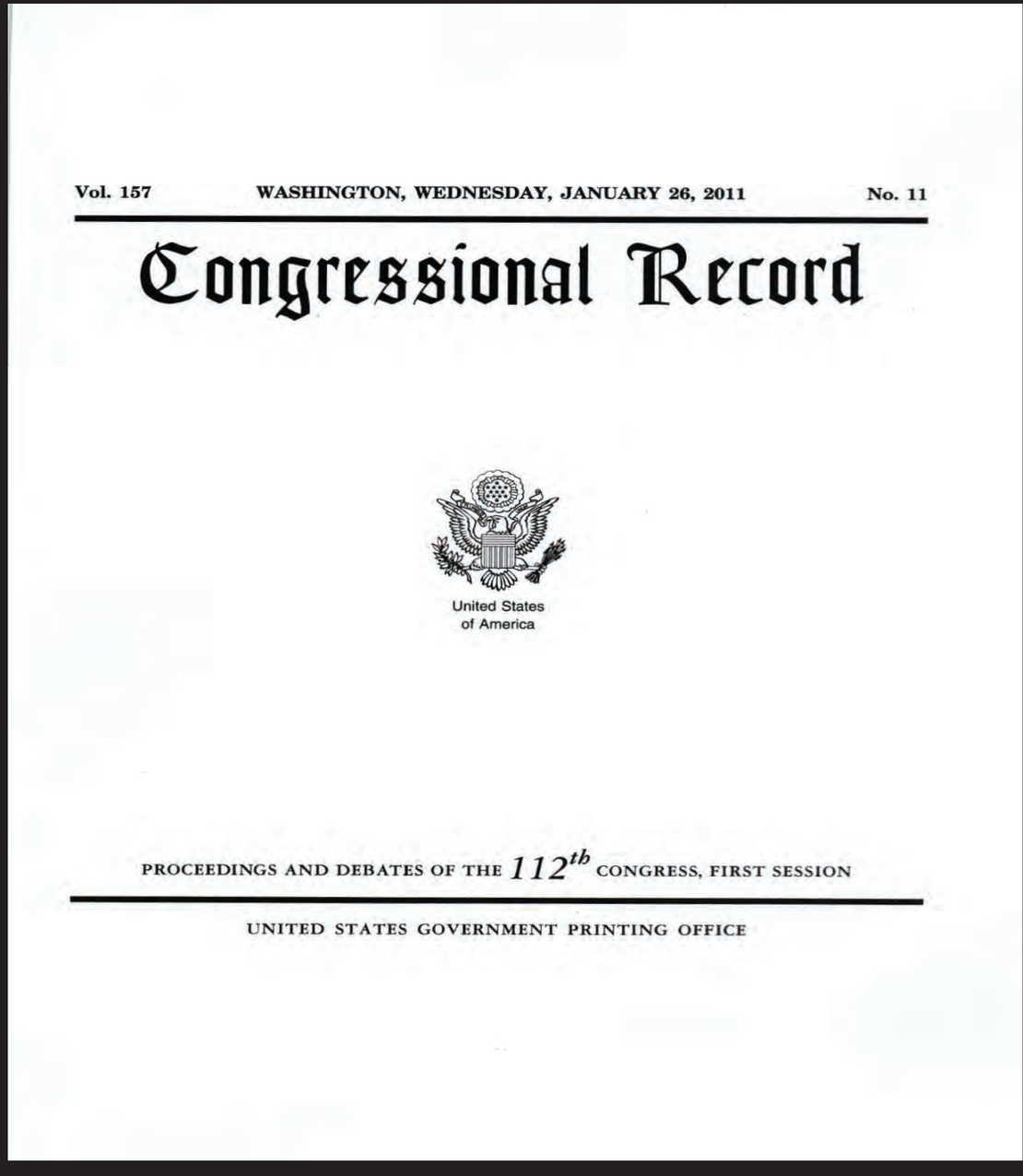
I am very pleased to join the community in thanking you for the much deserved honor you are receiving today. Congratulations!

Warmest regards,

Mike

Michael Bilirakis
Member of Congress

A kind, personalized letter from Congressman Michael Bilirakis (father) in 2004 to Dr. Musunuru



Vol. 157 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011 No. 11

Congressional Record

United States
of America

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Dr. Rao Musunuru recognized on the floor of the Congress in Washington, D.C.



Congressman Gus Bilirakis (son) presenting Dr. Musunuru with a copy of the Congressional Record recognizing him on the floor during the first session of the 112th Congress in Washington, D.C. on January 26, 2011.





Dr. Musunuru was recognized on the floor during the first session of 112th Congress in Washington, D.C. on January 26, 2011 and entered into the official Congressional Record of the United States of America.



State of Florida

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Resolution 9203

By Representatives Legg, Anderson and Rubinkis

A resolution congratulating Dr. Rao Musunuru on receiving the 2005 National Physician of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, the American Heart Association annually awards the Physician of the Year award to one practicing physician in the United States who has rendered outstanding contributions toward reducing disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rao Musunuru helped establish the Heart Institute at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point and is committed to educating the public and professionals about the prevention and treatment of heart disease, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Musunuru is dedicated to bringing cardiovascular health awareness to the community and has raised funds for fitness, created a cardiac care conference, and served as President of the Florida/Puerto Rico affiliate of the American Heart Association, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Musunuru was also the recipient of the American Heart Association's National Chairman's Award for 2003 and the Florida Golden Heart Outstanding Achievement Award for 2004, and

WHEREAS, the recipient of the 2005 National Physician of the Year Award is Dr. Rao Musunuru, who received the award in April in Washington, D.C., NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:

That Dr. Rao Musunuru is hereby congratulated on being awarded the American Heart Association's 2005 National Physician of the Year Award and for his dedication in improving the cardiovascular health and education of the people of the State of Florida.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Musunuru as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

This is to certify the foregoing was adopted by publication in the Journal on May 6, 2005.

Allan G. Bense, Speaker

John B. Phelps, Clerk

Dr. Musunuru was recognized on the floor of the House of Representatives of the great state of Florida.

JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

August 13, 2004

Dear Dr. Musunuru:

Congratulations on the passage of SB 1590, the Florida Stroke Act. I commend you on your efforts to pass this bill.

By focusing your energy, expertise, and special talents you have aided in improving the quality of life for your fellow man. I know that with your ongoing support and involvement our state will continue to be a leader in reducing heart disease and stroke.

Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Jeb Bush

JB/hkm

Dr. Rao Musunuru

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF FLORIDA

July 28, 2008

Dear Rao:

Congratulations on receiving the "Outstanding Citizen of the Year"!

Your actions have displayed selflessness and deep consideration for the welfare of others. Your dedication, hard work and commitment have helped you to receive this great honor. You are a shining example to citizens throughout the Sunshine State and have impacted countless individuals!

Again, congratulations and best wishes to you in all your future endeavors!

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

Note: Senator Mike Fasano was the key sponsor of the Florida Stroke Act, first of its kind in the nation, defining quality standards for acute stroke care.

Florida Governor Honors
Cardiologist-Volunteer Rao Musunuru

Dr. Rao Musunuru, a Hudson, Florida-based cardiologist, was honored by Florida Governor Charlie Christ with the prestigious "Point of Light Award", given to the state's outstanding citizens.

Dr. Musunuru, also a recipient of the Excellence in Caring and Sharing special recognition from the governor in 2007, was cited for his outstanding volunteerism and community service for Florida.

Congratulating him for being an 'outstanding citizen of the year,' the governor wrote, 'Your actions have displayed selflessness and deep consideration for the welfare of others.'

'Your dedication, hard work and commitment have helped you to receive this great honor. You are a shining example to citizens throughout the Sunshine State and have impacted countless individuals,' Governor Christ added.

Dr. Musunuru, the governor noted at the award ceremony, 'works tirelessly to serve the community through his dedicated service to cardiology, community education, charity and advocacy. The commitment that he demonstrates to promote heart health and education is a shining example to countless Floridians.'

"Recognition by the peers and the public is very flattering," said Dr. Musunuru, who has received numerous local, state, and national recognitions from organizations, institutions, and societies for his humanitarian and charity work and philanthropy, in addition to educational and advocacy activities. 'But the real return is the pure un-measurable pleasure of giving."

He said his favorite quote is from Winston Churchill: 'We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.'

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State representative Tom Anderson said Dr. Musunuru is 'a tireless supporter in his community' and has been a 'major contributor to the improvement of cardiovascular health of Floridians for many years.'

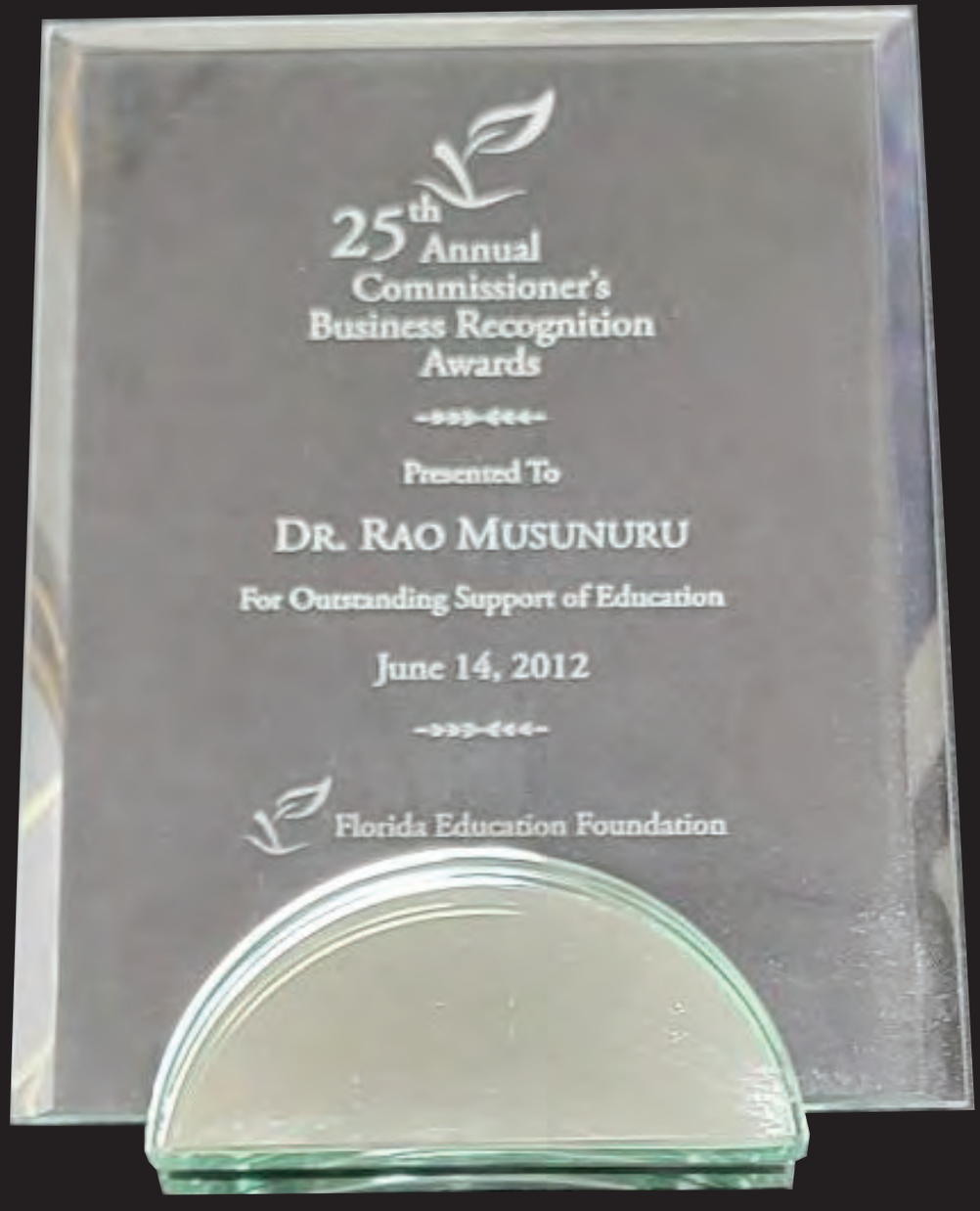
Dr. Musunuru has been instrumental in the orchestration and passage of many bills in the Florida legislature, including Emergency Medical Dispatch Bill in 2003, Florida Stroke Act in 2006, and Tobacco Prevention Program in 2006. For years, he has been reaching out to the public through teaching and preaching of proper prevention and prompt intervention of cardiovascular disease, which he said, is the number one killer of both men and women. He has received three national awards in the last five years from the American Heart Association; of which he is a long-time volunteer: The National Chairman's Award in 2003, the National Physician of the Year Award in 2005, and the National Volunteer Advocate of the Year Award last year.

He writes for newspapers, promoting cardiovascular health and educating the public about living longer and stronger. He has won the AHA's Media Award for the Excellence in Cardiovascular Communication. He also served as the president of the AHA's Florida affiliate.

He was instrumental in transforming the Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, a 50-bed rural hospital, into a nationally recognized heart institute among the nation's top50, according to *US News and World Report*. He is involved in academic medicine serving as a member of the National Leadership Committee of the Clinical Cardiology Council of American Heart Association. He is a member of the advisory council for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health and a member of the board of trustees for Pasco-Hernando Community College in west central Florida ad was recognized with the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Citizen Award 2008.

Dr. Musunuru, a graduate of Guntur Medical College in Andhra Pradesh, did his postgraduate training in New York City and moved to Florida in 1981.

India Abroad, September 19, 2008

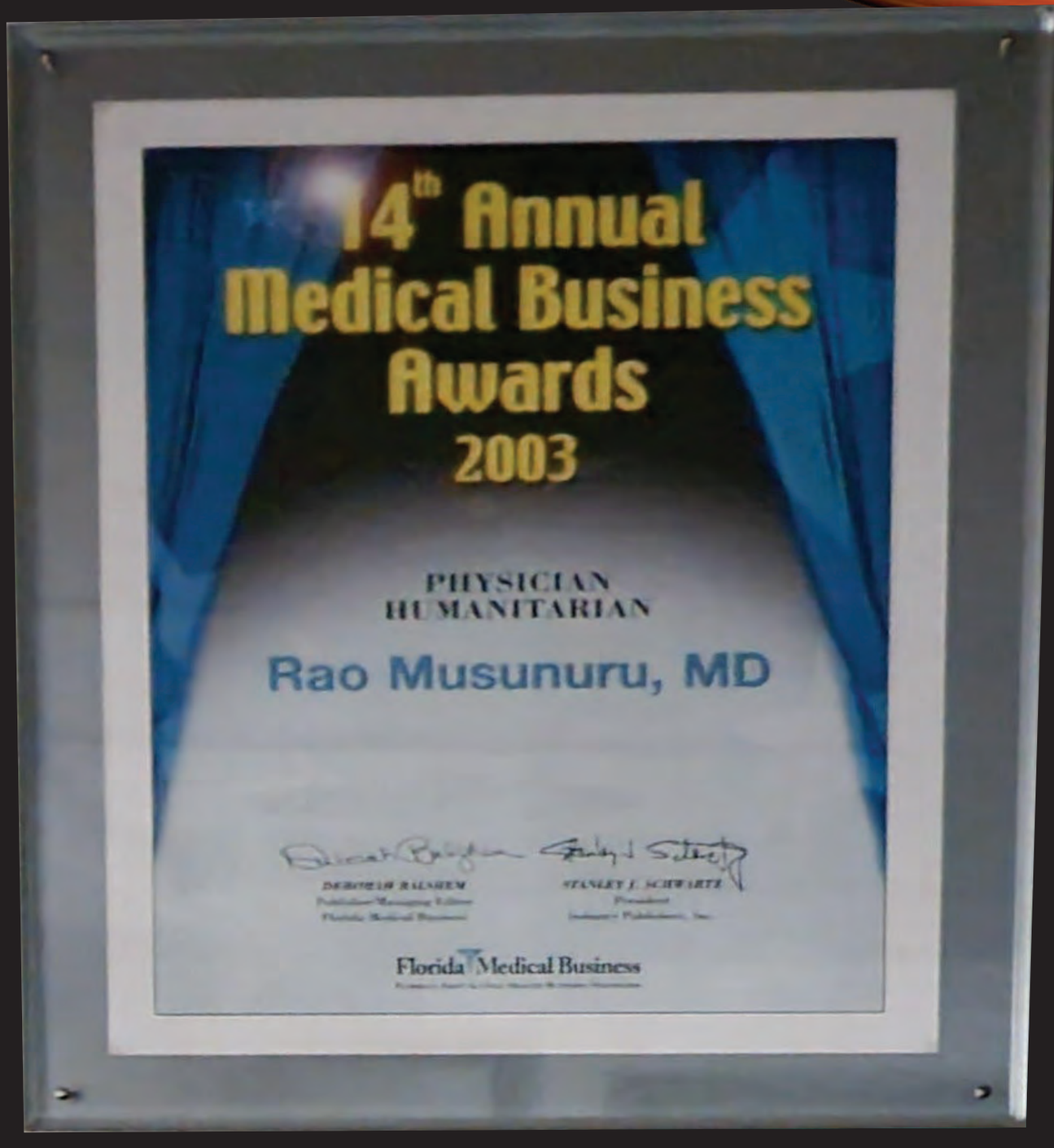


Dr. Musunuru helps homeless students enrolled in Pasco County Schools and helps provide CPR training before they graduate, working with the American Heart Association.


WEST PASCO
Chamber of Commerce
CONGRATULATES
Dr. Rao Musunuru
2001
Outstanding
Innovater Award
WEST PASCO
Chamber of Commerce
CONGRATULATES
Dr. Rao Musunuru
2008
Outstanding
Citizen Award

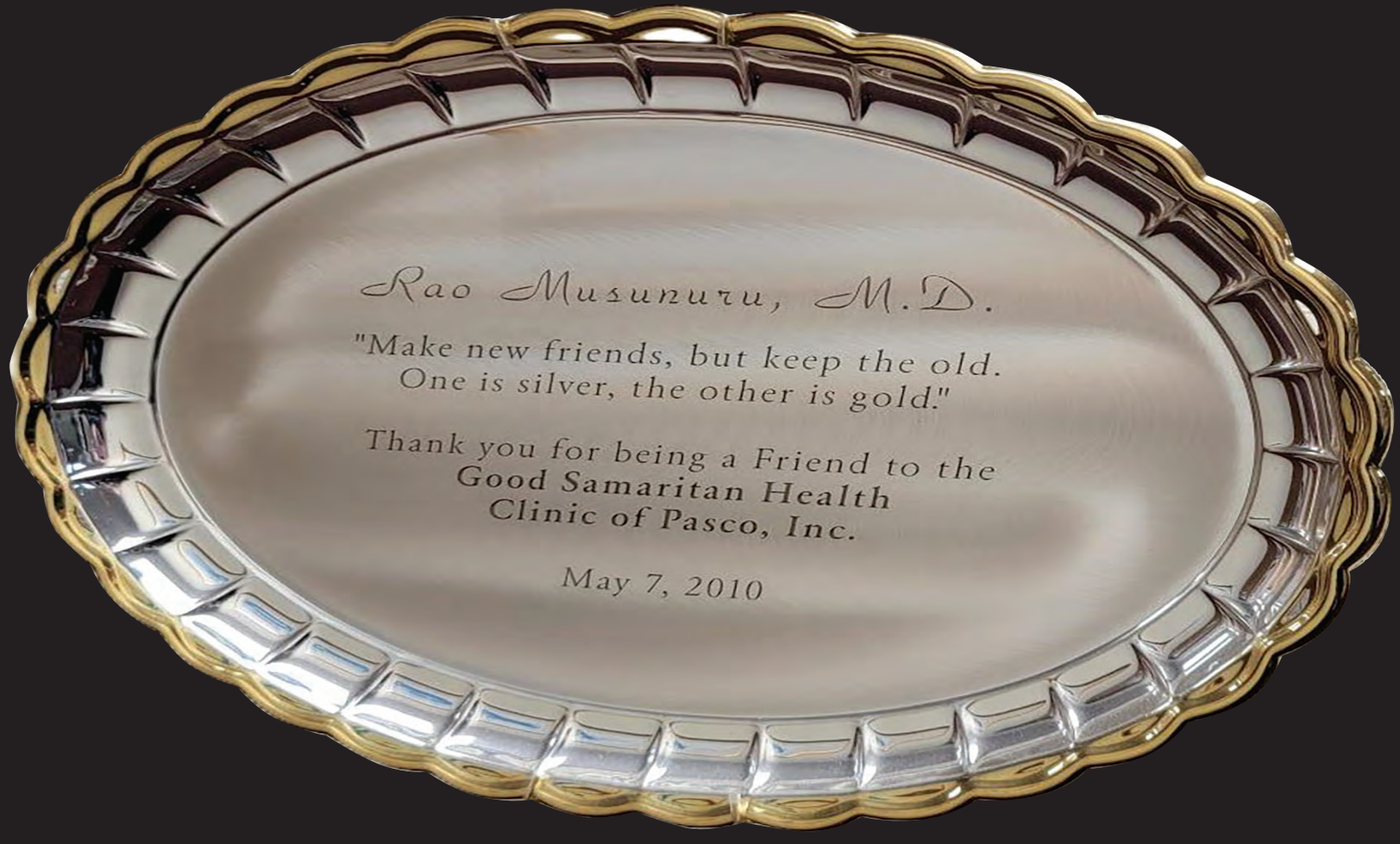

West Pasco Chamber of Commerce
Congratulates
Dr. Rao Musunuru
1999
Eminent Pioneer Acknowledgement Award
Finalist
In recognition of
your outstanding service in West Pasco
for more than 20 years.
WEST PASCO
Chamber of
Commerce
Gateway
to
Tropical
Florida


We Fight As One
PASCO SHERIFF
Presented to
Dr. Rao Musunuru, M.D.
For the generous commitment of time, support and inspiration you have given to our community and for your dedication to the Pasco Sheriff's Office.
October 6th, 2017


14th Annual
Medical Business
Awards
2003
PHYSICIAN
HUMANITARIAN
Rao Musunuru, MD
Florida Medical Business



Dr. Musunuru has been working with the organization "Feeding Pasco's Elderly" since its inception, helping the elderly who don't know where the next meal will come from, providing free food delivered to their homes.



Dr. Musunuru has supported both the
'Good Samaritan Health Clinic' and
'CARES Health Clinic' since their inception to help
the indigent, uninsured and underinsured.



Award from
Florida Council on Aging
for helping senior citizens.



Received National
Philanthropy Day
Award Twice



King Pithla and Queen Chasco,
Dr. Musunuru and Bonnie Howard,
in 2010



Dr. Rao Musunuru received a very special recognition in 2010 in Pasco, named after Indian King "Pithlachascotee"

THE STATE OF THE KINGDOM IS POSTIVE

How does it feel to be a king?

Lots of people asked me that last week, on the night of the 25th Anniversary Chasco Royal Coronation Ball after I was crowned 2010 King Pitla.

It is not easy to be king. Relating to Kermit's sentiment- there is all that smiling for hours and posing for pictures. Not that I am incapable of appreciating recognition. It is the awkwardness of being picked among all other known dedicated, devoted and well-deserving nominees that made me uncomfortable. Spending some time with Bonnie Howard, 2010 Queen Chasco, will be a bonus as I have admired her service to the community for a long time.

Little did I know that participating in the Chasco Fiesta Street Parade Saturday on the royal float would turn out to be one of the most enjoyable and memorable things I have done in many years.

Tens of thousands of children with their beautiful faces and innocent smiles lined the streets of downtown New Port Richey. There were parents with their children, grandparents with their loving families, teenagers with their best friends-all ages and all colors accommodating each other, enjoying each other, caring for each other and sharing with each other. So much joy, so much discipline, so much mutual respect, and so much love and affection all around. The pessimistic people who believe that the social fabric in our country is completely torn would have changed their minds instantly.

It is a long time since I have seen that level of happiness, satisfaction, and pure pleasure all around me. Feeling like a kid was much more enjoyable than looking like a king.

The parade was just one of the many fun events during the 11 day Chasco Fiesta. The 89th annual festival provides an opportunity for family fun in addition to a venue for about 30 nonprofit local organizations to raise much-needed funds. In Spanish, Chasco fiesta means "festival of frolic." Chasco also refers to the middle syllable of Pithlachascotee, the river running through New Port Richey.

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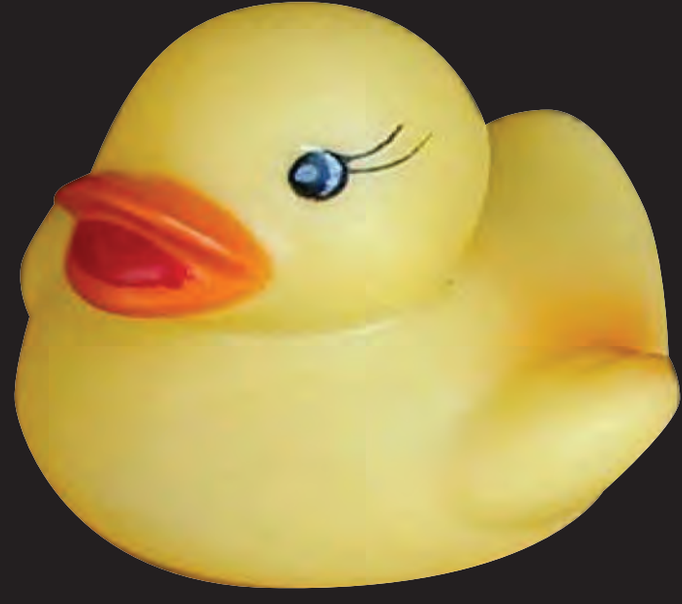
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People continue to ask me, "How does it feel to be a king?" The title may be new but the feeling is old. People of Pasco have always treated me like a king.

The world has truly become a small place. I was born hallway around the globe and I was educated halfway across the country, but I ended up serving people of Pasco County all my adult life. I did not know a single soul in Pasco when I moved here with my wife almost three decades ago. Pasco has been very good to us.

I do not know how many believe in destiny. But, an Indian American just received recognition given in honor of American Indians and the selection came from a group of impartial non-Indian Americans. This sort of thing can happen only in this great country.

Published St. Petersburg Times (tampabay.com/opinion) March 26, 2010




CHASCO
CORONATION BALL
The
Musunuru
Family
Presenting Sponsor
2011 & 2012
Rao Musunuru, M.D.
2011 King Pithla


LIGHTHOUSE
Presented to
The Musunuru
Family
In Recognition and
Appreciation of Your Support
for the 36th Annual Chasco
Coronation Ball as
Presenting Sponsor
2023


CHASCO
CORONATION BALL
Imperial Presenting Sponsor
The
Musunuru
Family
In Honor of All the
Past Kings and Queens
LIGHTHOUSE
FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND BLIND


CHASCO
CORONATION BALL
2024
Presenting Sponsor
The Musunuru Family
In appreciation of your generosity and support of the Chasco Coronation Ball
Presented By
LIGHTHOUSE



Dr. Musunuru, recognized for supporting the 'New Port Richey Library,' formerly the 'Avery Library,' during its Centennial Celebration.



Helping veterans and first responders cope with PTSD.


SENIORS in SERVICE
GEARED UP TO SERVE
Seniors in Service
Community Hero of Service
Presented to
Rao
Musunuru, M.D.
For your outstanding service
& dedication to the
Pasco County Community
February 16, 2023
SENIORS in SERVICE
GEARED UP TO SERVE
Congratulations, Dr. Rao Musunuru, on your recent recognition for philanthropic endeavors and services to frail and disadvantage citizens throughout Pasco County.
This award was presented by Seniors In Service of Tampa Bay (SIS) on February 16, 2023. SIS was founded in 1984 as a Florida non-profit with the mission to provide solutions to community challenges by engaging volunteers age 55+.
Senior In Service of Tampa Bay helps disadvantage children, frail elders, overwhelmed caregivers, disabled adulrs, struggling veterans, hungry families and more. their volunteers also benefit from staying active and purposeful.
Dr. Musunuru —You are a true Community Hero keeping our seniors safe and healthy!



Dr. Musunuru
was awarded the
International Rotary
"Paul Harris Award"
three times.

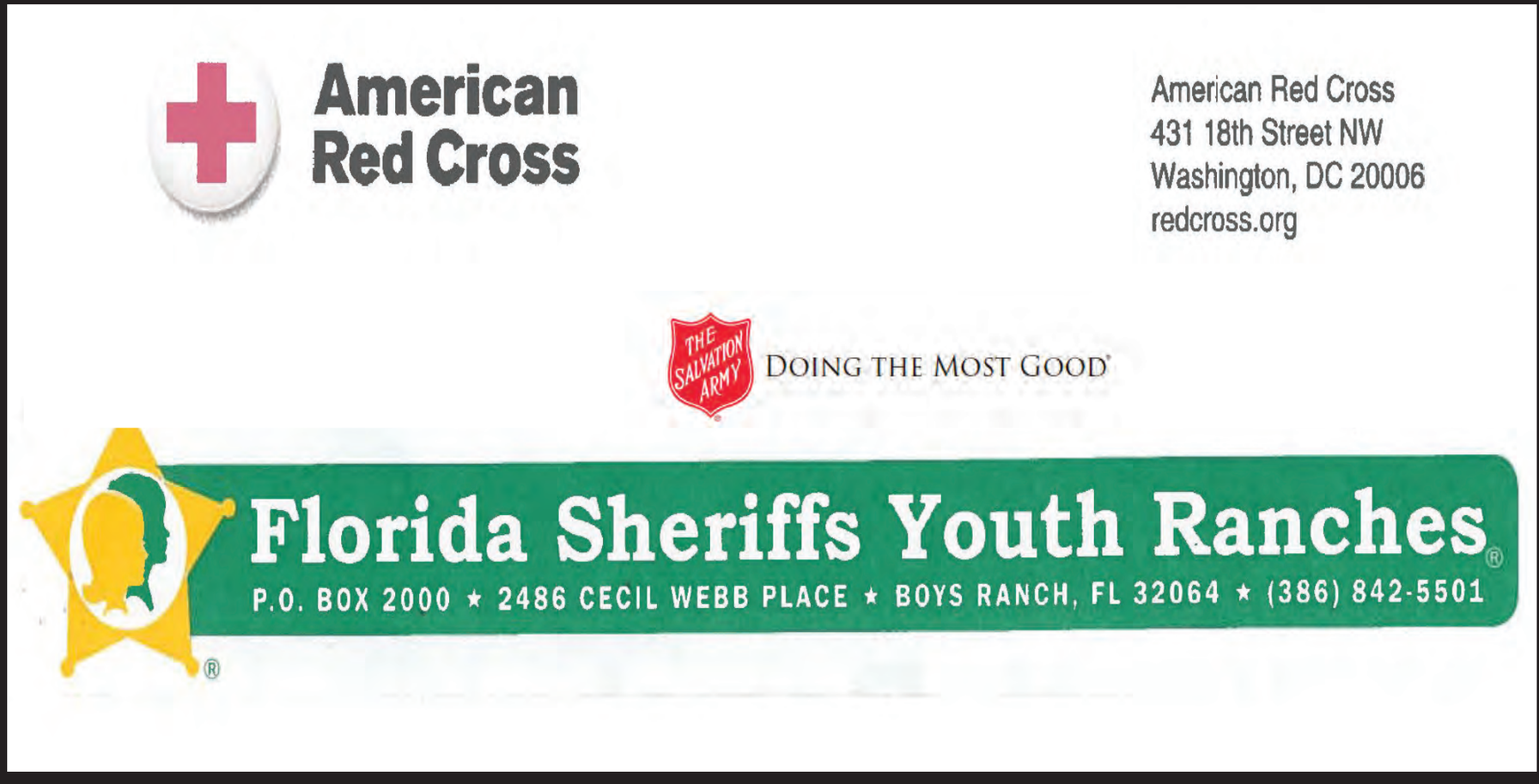

International Fellowship
of
Pastoral Counselors and Chaplains
Exceptional Service to
Humanity Award
DR. RAO MUSUNURU
For Excellence, Dedication,
and
Compassion
in Healing Your Fellow Man
You are an Inspiration and
Example to us all.
Annual I.F.P.C.C.Conference
July 15, 2006


The Federation of Indian Associations of Tampa Bay
Proudly presents
Outstanding Professional of the Year
Dr. Rao Musunuru
In recognition of your
dedication and service to
Indian American Community of Tampa Bay
on this 20th day of August 2006

Dr. Rao Musunuru M.D. Day
February 1st

Dr. Rao Musunuru, nationally recognized local cardiologist received an unprecedented recognition by the Board of County Commissioners of Pasco County proclaiming February 1st, the first day of Heart Month, as the “Dr Rao Musunuru Day” in Pasco County in recognition of his exemplary medical, scientific, humanitarian, advocacy, educational and philanthropic contributions at local, state and national levels for more than three decades.

Today, on “Dr. Rao Musunuru Day”, local organizations and leaders express their thanks for Dr. Rao Musunuru’s accomplishments for the Pasco County community.



OPEN YOUR HEART: GIVE AND FORGIVE



Dr. Musunuru, in addition to assisting the needy public, also helps animals through donations.

SECTION THIRTEEN

ART FROM THE HEART

SELECT SPECIAL GIFTS FROM PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

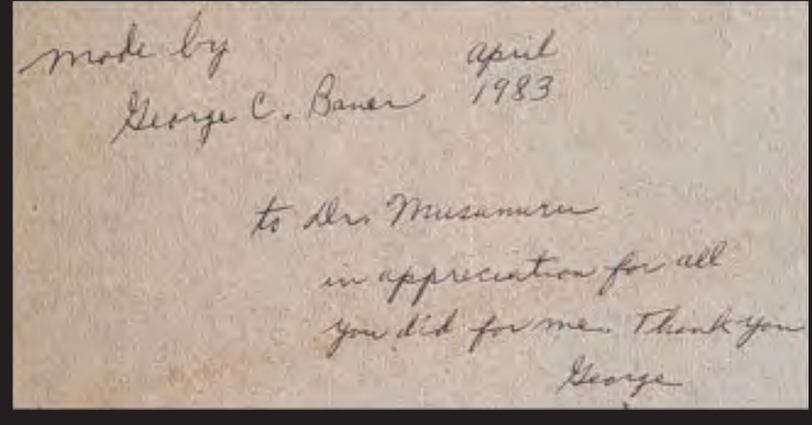


A patient's explanation as to how Dr. Musunuru can do so much single-handedly.



Made by a talented patient while recuperating from a heart attack in the hospital.





Handmade gift from a skillful patient.

A heart touching artistic expression after open heart surgery with happy tears.




Cardiology


a tender touch...
A CARING
heart



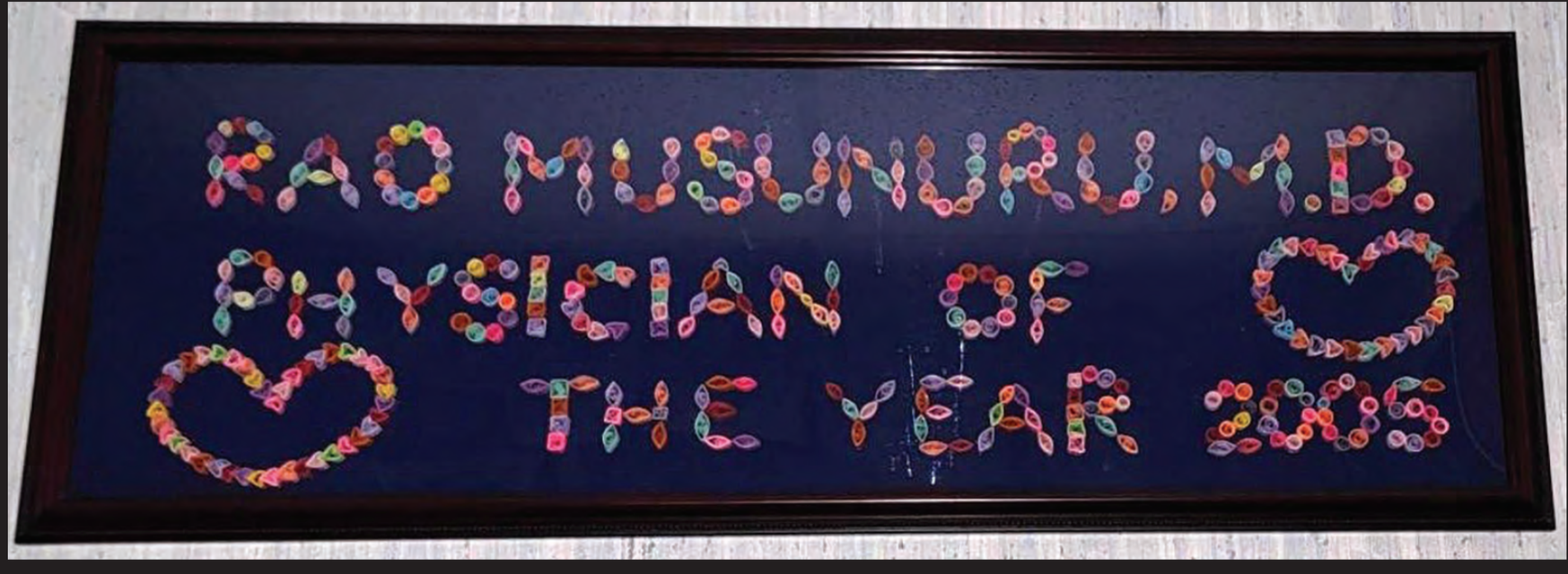
From a thankful, patriotic patient



This is a painting, not a photo.
From a thankful, highly skilled patient for saving his life twice.

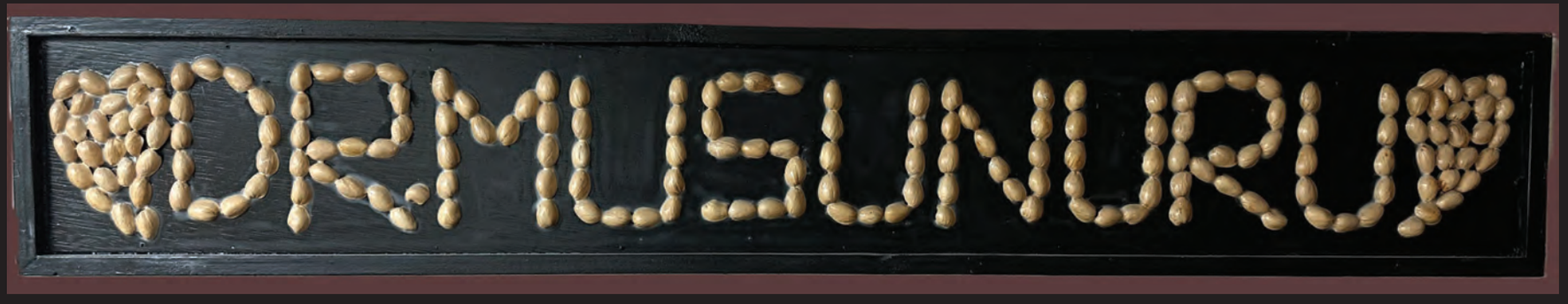


Is there a better gift to a heart doctor, other than a “heart”?



Quilling

Made of rolled paper of different colors and shapes.



Made of pistachio shells.
Aparna Kopuri, M.D.



Made of tabs from soda cans.



Happy 60th birthday
to Rao and Prameela
Musunuru in one of the
Indian languages,
made of
colored beads.

Made by
Dr. Aparna Kopuri,
a medical shool
classmate
of Dr. Musunuru.



A photograph taken by a nurse-patient.



A gift from a physician patient.



A gift from a faithful patient with a lot of faith.



A CRAFTY GIFT FROM AN INDIAN PATIENT.





RARE BEARS FROM DEAR PATIENTS





A KOALA BEAR AND A CUDDLY BEAR



Resident bears jumped on the shelf, to avoid shots.

All these birds followed the patients from their homes to our waiting room and stayed here, loving the company.



Who let the dogs in?





A beautiful peacock
from an appreciative
staff member
with good taste.





More artwork from Angelini.



From a lovely friend at
National American Heart Association.

SECTION FOURTEEN

HEART IN HAWAII

FOR YOUR PLEASURE

We visited several countries with family and friends.
I thought Hawaii is the best in the world. I was going to retire to Hawaii but I never retired, good for Pasco County.





Rainbows, rainbows, and rainbows without rain.



Talk about attraction!



Talk about beauty!

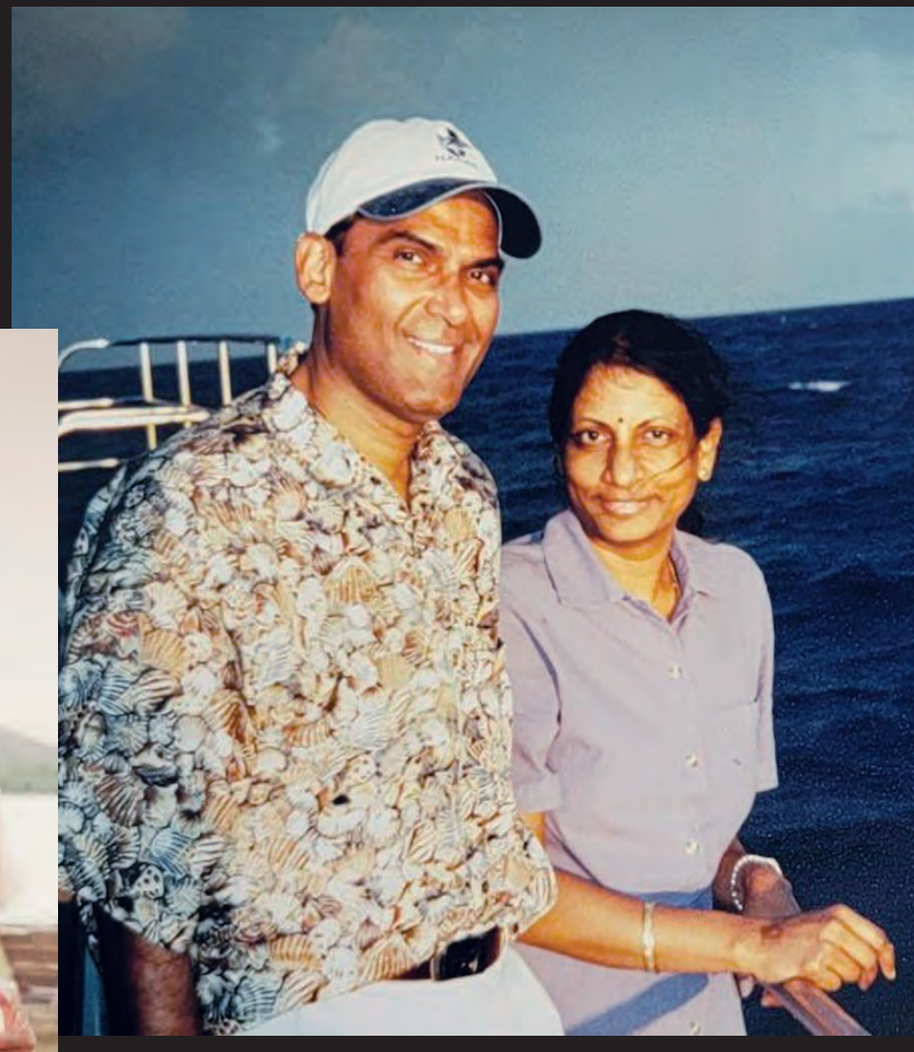


Don’t Worry.
Be Happy.



Mrs. Musunuru took these photos.





What a welcome!





Talk about good times: Alone for a change.



What a show! I'm talking about the view, not me.

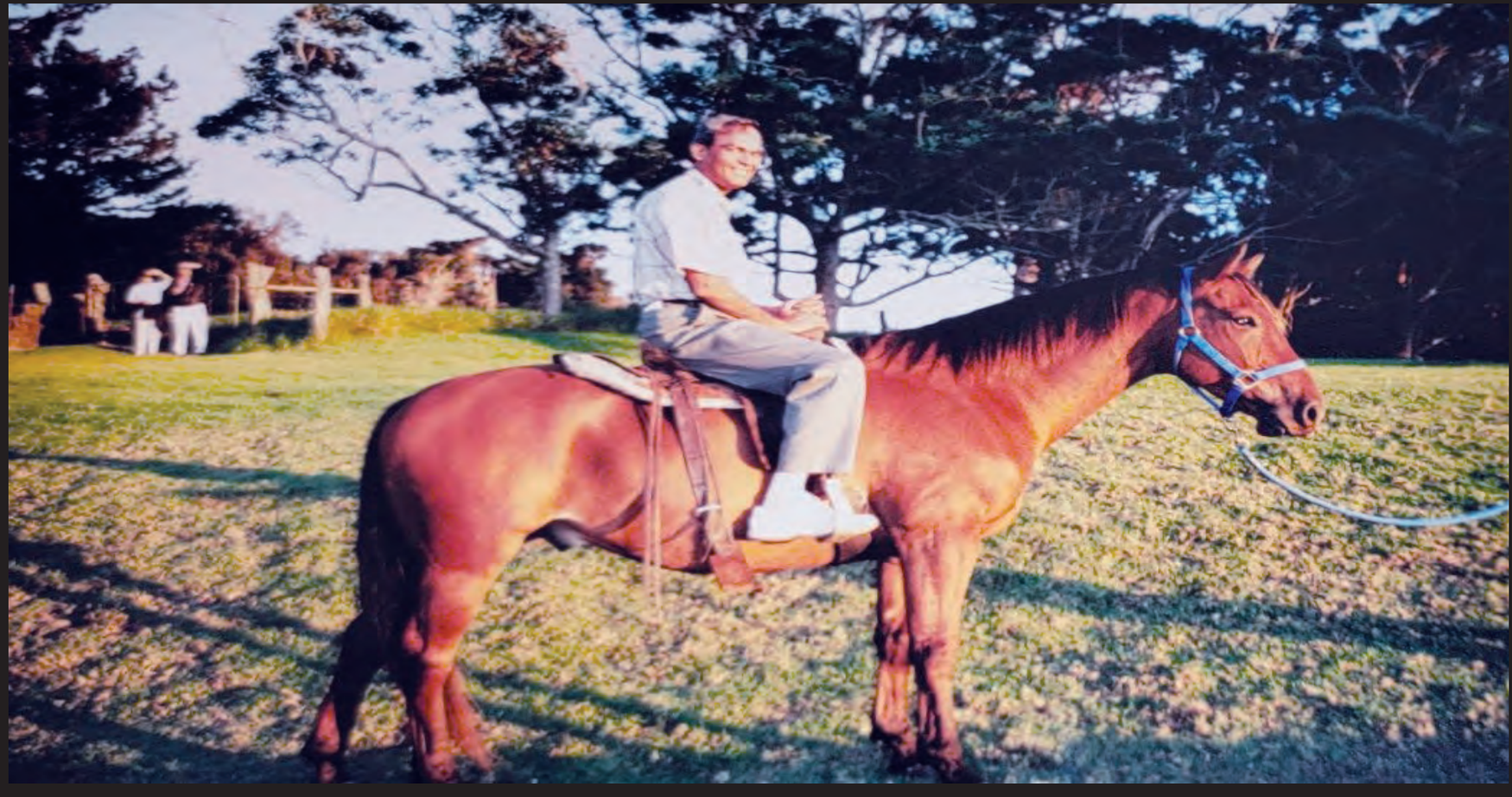


This is where I was going to build our house.





What do you expect? Falling water is blurry.



Trying to be sportive. No injuries, thank God!



Moonlight -- each night. . . . or is it sunrise?



What a landscape, a lava crater!

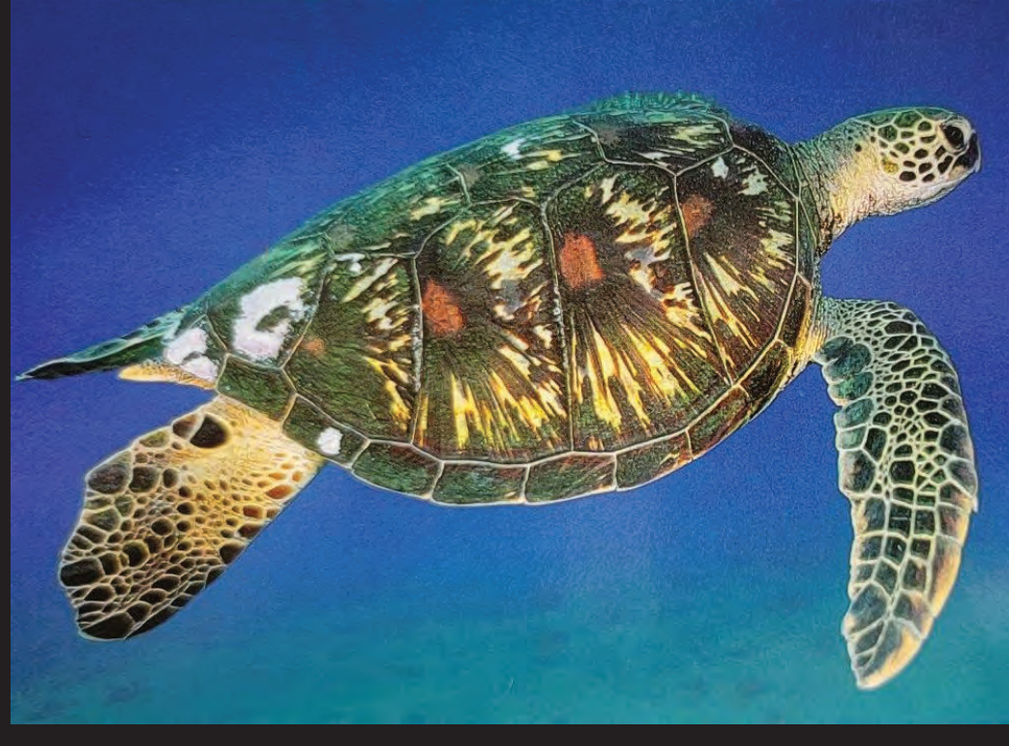


What a majesty of nature . . . naturally!



This is what I wanted to see every evening.





What a royal beauty!



SECTION FIFTEEN

HEART TO HEART

SELF EVALUATION

A SELF-EVALUATION BY DR. MUSUNURU

This is not an interview or somebody else writing about me. I hear other people's comments mostly second hand or third hand, some of them not so flattering. That happens to everybody. It would be easier to ignore this commentary, but that wouldn't be me. So here we go!

I speak my mind very clearly and candidly all the time. What you hear is what I mean. Most People appreciate that character trait and that is what gives me credibility.

I am very careful, but never fearful. I am forgiving, but not forgetful. "The key to failure is trying to please everybody."

Do people make donations publicly rather than anonymously, just to get recognition?

In my earlier days, I always gave donations anonymously. Once you donate money publicly, everybody else, the needy or otherwise start asking for money. If you are not able to or willing to give, you make enemies.

After making financial donations to CARES anonymously for many years, the CEO Bill Aycrigg convinced me to go public. They used to raise up to $30,000 for each fundraising event honoring very prominent and powerful people. Bill Aycrigg's contention was if I donated publicly and let them honor me, more people would donate

Continued...

...Continued from previous page

money out of respect for me and my name. Finally I obliged. That year CARES raised a quarter million dollars. Proof is in the pudding and the rest is history.

Why do people have buildings, bridges, parks or streets named for them?

Many recipients of considerable donations like to insist on recognizing the donor (living or deceased) in a special way. They feel compelled to recognize the generosity of the donor. The recognition also raises awareness for new potential donors.

Also, many people are recognized for significant non-financial contributions of their time or talent to society at large. It will be very rude and disrespectful to deny appreciation. Sometimes, people donate to recognize others that they care about whether they are alive or deceased.

I am a big supporter of appreciating and acknowledging anyone who makes contributions to help worthy organizations.

Also most of the time, the recognitions (plaques, certificates, naming, etc.) come from different sources to honor charitable donors. Nominations and decisions are made by elected or selected committees of organizations and institutions, often presented as a surprise during an event. It would be disrespectful not to accept the rewards.

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Why do people do charitable work where they live instead of where they are from?

Capable people actually do both! If one's capacity is limited (not every donor is a millionaire or billionaire), Theodore Roosevelt said "do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Why don't people that have money give it to their family members or friends or leave it to their children instead of giving it to strangers?

The keyword is "needy." Money should be offered to those truly in need.

The idea of dependence on inheritance spoils children. The only thing they need from parents is "love, guidance and a good upbringing."

Why do people donate in the first place, except to impress others or to brag about?

It is a matter of heart! People that raise this kind of question probably do not understand the concept of "sharing and caring for the community."

Do people make monetary donations just for tax advantages?

Show me somebody that donates his or her hard-earned money for the tax benefits and I will show you an ill-advised person. A person

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interested only in tax benefits will be better off keeping their money and enjoying it.

Do you want to know what I do? If I am able to give one million dollars away for a noble cause I will give it without expecting to take back any of it. If the government returns 30% of it, I will give that money to some other worthy cause. So on and so forth. You will be surprised how many organizations can make miracles with just 100 dollars or less.

Why do I wear "suits" all the time?

When you go to a funeral you dress up out of respect for the deceased person. I do the same thing for the living elderly patients who really appreciate it and tell me so. Even dead people are dressed up to look their best at viewings.

Why do you brag so much about my son?

My wife asks the same question. She is concerned that people may get bored or jealous. I explain to her that "jealousy is like acid, it corrodes its own container." We don't have to worry about others. I always brag to everyone about other people's children, when they accomplish good things. How can I resist being proud of my own son? I also remind her that "one has to be able to appreciate others, if he or she likes to be appreciated by others."

A billion children on the earth are like a billion stars in the sky. Everyone has their own place in the space. They are all of different

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sizes and shapes. They all have unique shades of brightness and shadow of darkness. They all have their own friends like planets around them. Sometimes they collude and sometimes they collide. Some of them steal, rush and push. Some of them help protect others. Some of them obliterate themselves into a black hole. Some get hit but still stay put. Typically, they all survive, grow up, get old and die. They all have different pre-determined life spans. While they glow, they shed light showing a pathway to others.

Why are you still wearing a mask and not join the crowds?

Strictly for personal medical reasons (viruses like covid, flu, rsv, bacteria causing pneumonias, allergens like fumes and dust). I already have some lung problems. I know it offends some people but living is better than dying.

Are you thinking of retiring?

Not anytime soon, God willing. Working gives me a reason to get up in the morning, continue to help long-time patients and continue to help the needy. Most importantly, it also keeps my mind sharp and socially connected.






Live
Simply

SECTION SIXTEEN

HAVE A HEART

TO HELP OTHERS

CARING SHOULD LAST YEAR-ROUND

Holiday season, the season of giving and the reason for celebration, is over and life back to normal.

We fed the homeless for a few days. We gave toys to the needy tots and teens. We provided shoes and clothes for the poor. We helped the economy by giving gifts generously to many people, even though they may have no need for them or they do not know what to do with them. We took a lot of photos documenting a lot of donations and decorations. We mailed a lot of cards. We even sang carols in the hospital hallways. We did our good deeds for the year. We are almost done. Life is back to normal.

Normal for whom? What about the poor, the needy, the homeless, the disabled and the disadvantaged until the next season? How do they get another holiday from the daily difficulties in life?

Talk to the increasing number of Americans who do not have a job and cannot afford adequate food or decent shelter. What about the looming health-care crisis, which we are managing to postpone, like we did with everything else, until now?

Let us face it. The government is neither going to be able to solve all the problems (it is difficult enough not to create more problems) nor make everybody equal (except for making everybody poor). We cannot exactly blame the government.

For many years, we, the people, have collectively, by majority, elected representatives in the government. In addition to the citizens taking responsibility to elect the right people (not necessarily the right party) to the government, the community has to take the responsibility to help needy neighbors. Government is too busy right now bailing out all

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the big corporations. There is no money for community projects which support the real needy.

Times are particularly tough now. Good times and bad times are cyclical things, just like the weather. We have to endure the bad, if we want to enjoy the good. Kindness, compassion and acceptance should replace selfishness, jealousy and hatred. Caring, sharing, giving and forgiving have to be a daily effort and a yearlong affair. It is not any particular season, but the overall survival and success of humanity that calls for real celebration.

Meanwhile, happy thoughts, kind words, pleasant reading, exchanging of cards and encouraging articles-all help. After all, happiness is a state of mind. Even though it is difficult to be happy on an empty stomach. I should know, I had been there not by chance, but by choice.

The season may be over, but the spirit of giving a hand should go on. The more we give, the more we are sure to get back in one form or the other.

Editor's note:

Cardiologist Dr. Rao Musunuru is a director at the Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Pasco and a former board chairman and now honorary board member for Community Aging and Retirement Services, Cares.

Published St. Petersburg Times (tampabay.com/opinion), January 18, 2009

ALL OF US BENEFIT WHEN WE HELP THE HOMELESS

"The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain, until it is secured for all of us" said Jane Addams, an American author, sociologist and the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

What a profound and accurate statement.

The economy is bad. No job. No income No home. No hope. No help. People living in the woods and panhandling on street corners-in the richest country in the world. Unimaginable and shameful.

Who is at fault? Who is to be blamed? Some will answer the "greedy rich." Some others will blame the "lazy poor." Some will accuse "irresponsible government."

There are many innocent victims like children and the disabled. What kind of circumstances contribute to the lack of simple self-respect that leads to begging on the streets?

They are mentally ill, some will claim. Wouldn't everybody in that situation become mentally ill even if they were perfectly sane before?

They are self-destructive and they use the money for alcohol and drugs. They don't care for themselves or their children, some will argue. Isn't that true with some of the rich? Don't they need to be helped?

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Some of them refuse shelters. They don't have a dime, but they want freedom, some will complain. Isn't freedom a basic instinct for all the living?

They don't make any effort to improve their situation. They are ill, they spread disease and they are a burden to society, some will contend. But what makes them that way? Whose responsibility is it to give them hope? Is one Mother Theresa enough for the entire world?

Statistics from 2009 reveal that over 640,000 men, women and children are without housing on any single night in our country. More than 1.5 million children are homeless annually in the united states- one in every 50 American children. About 16 million children regularly go to school with empty stomachs. These children represent the future of our country.

Florida has the third largest population of the homeless in the nation. Just in Pasco County, as many as 4,502 people were homeless on any given day in 2011. More than 56,000 children of school age were identified by the public school districts in Florida as being homeless during the 2010-2011 school year, including 2,230 in Pasco County and 497 in Hernando, according to the Council on Homelessness' 2012 Florida report.

Some of these homeless and hopeless convert top criminals. They have good incentive to become so- free boarding, good meals and all other so-called luxuries. What do they have to lose? It beats living on the street.

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The citizens are willing to spend about $20,000 per year to support each incarcerated convict, but we won't jump to help them before they get into trouble and hurt others. After serving their time, most of them are simply released back into the streets, to enter the revolving door.

People give hundreds of millions of dollars as political contributions so that the candidates can spread lies about each other. Imagine what that money could do for the hungry and homeless.

The institute of Medicine estimated that up to a third of health care spending in this country, $750 billion, was wasteful. Won't a fraction of that money be enough for indigent care?

There are a lot of strategic plans (federal, state and local) on the books to prevent homelessness and to help the poor and hungry. It is the help from neighbors that counts most.

There is no doubt that the majority of us try to help the needy. Do we do enough? Living rich is more important than dying rich. One doesn't need to be wealthy to live rich through helping others. As Theodore Roosevelt said. "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Indeed. It is in everyone's interest to do so.

Editor's note:
Dr. Rao Musunuru is a member of the Pasco County Homeless Advisory Board.
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September 21, 2012

SECTION SEVENTEEN

FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE HEART

DR. MUSUNURU'S PERSONAL SENTIMENTS

MORE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR OFFICE STAFF
40 YEARS: Joann Sweet
25 YEARS: Gisella Mars
10 TO 15 YEARS: Lisa Unterweger, Beth Kuebrich, Casey Scarborough, Beatrice Ortiz, Carolyn Depasquale, Brenda Culpepper, Rhonda Dean, Carol Bardi, Shirley Brindley
NEWCOMERS: Samantha Cody (granddaughter of Joann Sweet), Vivian Maynes, ARNP; Shannon Snider, Patricia Burke, Dr. Anton Lishmanov

HOSPITAL FRIENDS FROM THE PAST: Pauline Prezpis, Kurt Conover, Marianne Vigilis, Betty Heaton

IN MEMORY OF: Bettie Kruel, Caroline Smith

APPRECIATION AND BEST WISHES TO ALL GOOD FRIENDS!



Grandmas… hold our hands for a little while and our hearts forever.



… from
Kiran Musunuru

EVERY DAY SHOULD BE MOTHER'S DAY

"My Mother had a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it."

Leave it to Mark Twain to say something simple, elegant and accurate about a mother's unconditional love and commitment.

Mother's Day is celebrated in the United States on the second Sunday in May, but actually, every day should be Mother's Day. Mother is everything. Life does not exist or propagate without a mother.

Nothing in this universe is greater than a mother's love. A mother provides and protects. A mother will fight any element to death, to protect her child. A mother nurtures not only physical but emotional health. She is the custodian of moral, ethical, cultural and spiritual growth. A mother is the best mentor and most influential person for any individual.

"All I am, or can be, I owe it to my angel mother, " said Abraham Lincoln.
The only advice I gave my 16-year-old son when he left home for Harvard University was to "call your mother every single day." He did and still does at age 32.

I often hear people express frustration about how their elderly mother does not understand what they are saying, cannot or does not follow their instructions, does not make any sense when she is talking, does not eat right or take her medications, stays up all night, tends to fall and break things, becomes irritable for no good reason, or becomes sick too often.

Do you think that it ever bothered any mother when her children were doing exactly the same things as they grew up? Like Mark Twain said, she probably enjoyed all those annoyances immensely. Shouldn't the children be returning the favor, out of responsibility, if not respect and affection?

Don't forget grandmothers, godmothers, adoptive mothers, stepmothers and second mothers. The dictionary definition of mother includes a female who has adopted a child or otherwise established a maternal relationship with another person.
Growing up, the first few years of life, I always thought that I had two mothers. Later I found out, one was my birth mother and the other was my grandmother. I used to call both "mother." If I called for mother, when both of them were in the same room, they knew exactly which one I was calling depending on my need. They divided up responsibilities among themselves.

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Like all other happy families in the village, four generations of us lived in the same big, sturdy house. My grandmother was the matriarch. I never heard of the word "divorce," until I went to the city at 16, to attend medical school.

Until I came to the United States, I always took my grandmother's advice for all the critical decisions of my life. Not because I was dumb or controlled, but because I was smart enough to respect the wisdom of my elders, taking advantage of their life experiences. My grandmother did not have a formal education (there was no school or library in the village). But she had her own human Internet of concerned mothers and grandmothers. She made me walk or bike 2 miles each way across the fields, every day, to attend school in the nearest town, even though I would have been just as happy hanging around with my grandfather all day on the farm.

My grandmother knew enough about the world. She decided that I should come to the United States for advanced education. She thought that there was a better life in the distant land. It was definitely not for financial reasons. Even though I was born in a small rural village in India, we were well-to-do, being a part of the farming community in the serene suburbs. I already finished medical school in India. In those days, the practice of medicine was the most respected profession with guaranteed success in life, by any measure.

That was a big sacrifice for my mother and grandmother to send me away. I was the only son to my father, who was the only son to my grandmother.

They knew very well that they would not be able to enjoy raising my son and I would not be there when they needed me. More importantly, I would not be there when they died. (Both of them eventually passed away, and as expected, I could not get flights in time).

That kind of sacrifice can come only out of a mother's love.

I hope my mother and grandmother approve of what I did with my life and more importantly, how much I try to improve the lives of others in the community that I call my home. I sincerely hope that their sacrifice helped some people in some small way.

Published St. Petersburg Times (tampbay.com/option) May 10, 2009






Prameela
Musunuri
Behind every great man there
is an understanding woman

The momento to my wife Prameela on the previous page was given to her by Joann at my 60th birthday celebration.

How can I not agree with her?
– *Rao Musunuru*



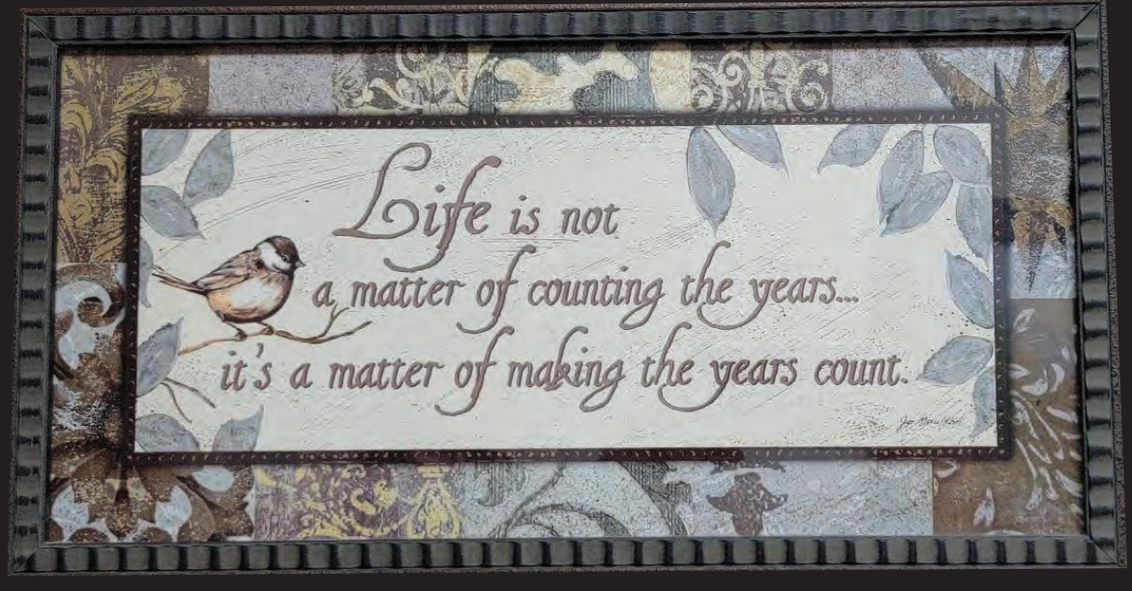
Joann Sweet, the office manager of 40 years

AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE…



Literally saving a life is the best gift and the highest form of service to that individual and his or her family.





Every day is
a season for
caring.

Every month
is a season for
sharing.

SECTION EIGHTEEN

HEAVY HEART

IN LOVING MEMORY

In Loving Memory

"When someone you love or like
becomes a memory that memory becomes a treasure."

Dr. Ed Abramowitz
John Angelini
Dr. Christiaan Barnard
Mildred Coffey
Ed Collins
Subhashini Devabhaktuni
Dr. Nagib Fares
Dr. Jerri Fletcher
Senator Bob Graham
King Helie
Bob Hubach
Dr. Andrew Jonas
James Koutsos
Fred Kuebrich
Dr. Rao Korabathina
Dr. Mukund Mody
Dr. S. Rao Mangipudy
Jeff Miller
Commissioner Pat Mulieri
Dr. M.L. Narayan
Dr. S. Nimmagadda
Dr. Steven Noel
Dr. Bill Paladine
Dr. S. Pinnamaneni
David Prace
Marge Prace
Dr. A.N.V. Rao
Arthur Roebuck (Dad)
Dr. Shanmugham
Dr. Ricardo Ubillus
Dr. Lakshminarasimhan Venu
Dr. Donald Vierling

This list is not complete by any means.
The names of our deceased family elders are not here.
They are where they are supposed to be…in our hearts forever.

SECTION NINETEEN

HEART AND SOUL

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Past, Present and the Future

You have visited a brief summary of my "past" in this photo gallery.

Obviously, "present" is the continuation of the immediate past.

"Future" is not known and not accurately predictable, but only one thing is certain-physical death. As the aging process continues- one gets closer to it. Heart stops and it all ends. Dust to dust.

But is the death going to be peaceful, painful, traumatic or dramatic? How will it be decided? By whom? Just random chance? The good or bad deeds of this life or previous life? Do the tricks people use to influence God work?

Do I go to heaven or hell? Who decides? Are they both in this universe somewhere? What happens to the soul? Would I face immediate reincarnation or have to wait until reconstitution of my elements into another being after a long time? Will I be in human form or some other? Would I like that body?

Do I stay in this universe or move on to a parallel universe after death? Can I meet myself?

Only God knows! Come to think of it, does God really exist? Where? In how many forms? Who is the most easy to please? I am a physician, not a physicist, mathematician, philosopher or theologist. Why should I worry about all this? It is what it is. Whatever happens, will happen.

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My Grandmother used to tell me that there is only one God. He has many incarnations. But then, why do we have so many religions? They all say the same thing-live clean and do not hurt others.

What would my family do with my expired body? Would they exhibit its worst version to everybody? I prefer that people remember me in my previous living form. Why confine me to a container? I would like the elements flow free for reconstitution. Dinners (I cannot eat, even if they serve my favorite food), celebrations (I am dead), fundraising in my name (can't people leave me alone, even after death), singing praises (especially by people that never said one good thing to my face, while I was alive) flowers, prayers, rituals-all for what? Oh, God have mercy. I told my family what I don't want. Too bad, I will have no control over anything. I hope at least my soul will hang around for a while, to remind them. I know that I will not be taking anything with me, except the good karma of good deeds. I lived all my life accordingly.

Watch out, I will be watching you from somewhere or nowhere. Who knows?





SECTION TWENTY

TAKE TO HEART

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Helping others fulfills our purpose here on Earth

How prominent, powerful, important and great do you think you are, and for that matter I am?

The universe we both live in is big, very big. It is 14 billion years old, made up of about 100 billion galaxies (clusters of stars). Each single galaxy contains hundreds of billions of stars. Simply put, there are more stars in the universe than grains of sand on any beach.

Each star is surrounded by several planets. Each planet has its own orbiting moons, in addition to hundreds of thousands of asteroids and billions of comets flying by each star.

One of the stars in our galaxy (the Milky Way) is the sun. It has eight planets orbiting it. One of these planets is Earth, with the right size and at the right distance from the sun to have liquid water and oxygen to support life forms, 9 billion years in making.

In other words, the earth is one of a trillion planets just in our Milky Way galaxy, and there are 100 billion other galaxies like it in the universe. Who knows how many other faraway planets in the universe are habitable.

The most intelligent of all the life forms on Earth is humans. You and I are two of the 7.5 billion people that have called Earth their home.

Now tell me how important, prominent and powerful both of us are.

I am not trying to make you feel insignificant, Quite the contrary. Actually you and I are very strong, powerful and immortal. We are formed of the same cosmic dust made of heavy elements that were manufactured by the thermo-nuclear fusion in the cores of the stars billions of years ago. When we pass, we will become part of the same dust that will be recycled over and over again, creating new life forever.

What matters is our existence, not the size or the duration. After all, 14 billion years ago before the great explosion (big bang), the entire universe was of "sub-pinpoint size."

Exactly who or what caused this explosion that created this very big expanding universe from almost nothing? Who formulated the physical principles that so

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exactly control all the heavenly bodies? Where did all the physical constants and constraints, chemical bases and balance come from? None of us know. I imagine this unknown and unseen supreme force gave way to the concept of "creator" or "God."

Faith is believing in something that you cannot see. You cannot see dark matter and dark energy, which are dominating and powerful forces in the universe. But we know they are there by observing their effect and influence on their surroundings.

The creator is not even secretive. Everything is in our plain sight to discover. He compacted a lot of intelligence in our meager 3-pound brains to discover the secrets of nature, to decode the secrets of life and to invent different ways of using the universe to our benefit. In our misguided quest for more control, humans came up with the concepts of selfishness, superiority, greed, jealousy and hatred.

The creator did not make you and I from the same mold, even though we are made of the same elements. God did not even make stars and planets the same. Some of us are more blessed than others, in many different ways. One thing is certain: Everyone and everything has a determined lifespan.

It is not how long we live that is important, but how well. Dust to dust. None of us can take anything with us. It is only through helping the needy and the less fortunate that we fulfill the purpose of our brief existence.

"To who is given, much is required."

Sharing and caring is the basic tenet of God's creation. No human can exist without the help of billions of brotherly bacteria that live within each of us.

There is nothing more Godly than helping somebody in need-any kind of help, any amount of help, within our means, and all the time.

That is the best way we can "give thanks" to our creator.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Guest Column Published by Tampa Bay Times
November 17, 2017

AVOIDING THE PURSUIT CAN HELP YOU BE HAPPY

Humanity is obsessed with happiness. Thousands of books are available on the topic and the pressure to be happy evidently escalates during the holidays.

The Declaration of Independence tells us the pursuit of happiness is one of our unalienable rights as citizens. But, the question is: what is happiness? How to achieve it? At what cost? Is there a dark side to it?

The definition of happiness itself is not clear, even though, for practical purposes, the word happiness is related to pleasure, satisfaction, gladness, gratification, felicitousness, joy and a sense of well-being.

Happiness is a state of mind. As Abraham Lincoln put it, "most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

"The purpose of life is to be happy on its own," the Dalai Lama is quoted as saying, "no amount of technological development can lead to lasting happiness. What is always missing is a corresponding inner development".

Some studies show that the people who are religious, married, conservative, healthy and outgoing tend to be happier. Not that all the others are not happy. The commonality seems to be "being content" and "having faith." Of course, having a job or home will help.

The measurement of happiness also is a difficult task. It is easily done at a personal level (though, not always accurate) by self-reporting. It can be measured at community or national levels by various indices. Costa Rica has been found to be the happiest nation on earth by any index. Interestingly, it dissolved its armed forces in 1949 and invested instead in education and preservation of the environment.

Can money buy happiness? People who answer yes tend to be the unhappy kind. People who answer maybe have some hope. Researchers say happiness peaks at a $75,000 yearly income. After that, they say, wanting more money is all about score keeping with friends and neighbors.

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"Look what I did."

"Look at what I got."

"I will have what they have."

It becomes one of the main sources of unhappiness.

True happiness promotes physical and mental health in many ways. Happiness is found, during a five-year scientific study, to reduce the risk of dying by 35 percent.

Concentrating on making other people happy instead of focusing on one's self will make one happier. As Buddha said, "thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

Being happy with what one has, may beget more of what one wants. Or, as Albert Schweitzer, said: "Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success."

We are reminded repeatedly about our responsibility to be happy and we constantly suffer from the unhappiness of not being happy.

The addiction to happiness can make us cross moral and ethical barriers. Like everything else, happiness is good only in moderation.

"If only we would stop trying to be happy," said American writer Edith Wharton, "we could have a pretty good time."

And, Henry David Thoreau said, "Happiness is like a butterfly: the more you chase it, the more it will elude you, but if you turn your attention to other things, it will come and sit softly on your shoulder."

It's eloquent advice that goes hand in hand with the wishes we receive this season:

Happy Holidays!

Published Tampa Bay Times (tampabay.com/opinion) December 20, 2012

MY FAVORITE QUOTES

"Do the kind of things that come from the heart. When you do, you won't be dissatisfied, you won't be envious, you won't be longing for somebody else's things. On the contrary, you'll be overwhelmed with what comes back."

– Morrie Schwartz

"Give of your hands to serve in your hearts to love…"

– Mother Teresa



"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity;
An optimist see the opportunity in every difficulty."

– Sir Winston Churchill

"The best way to age is to die young as late as possible."

– Ashley Montagu

"A committee is a group of the unprepared,
appointed by the unwilling to do the unnecessary."
– Fred Allen

"Affairs that depend on many rarely succeed."
– Francesco Guicciardini

"People who enjoy meetings should not be in charge of anything."
– Thomas Sowell

"If Columbus had an advisory committee
he would probably still be at the dock."
– Arthur Goldberg

"A common mistake that people make when trying to design something
completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools."
– Douglas Adams

"I've never had a humble opinion. If you've
got an opinion, why be humble about it?"
– Joan Baez

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."
– Theodore Roosevelt

"To avoid criticism do nothing, say nothing, be nothing."
– Elbert Hubbard

"The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything."
– William Connor Magee

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."
– Will Rogers

"Experience is a good teacher, but she sends in terrific bills."
– Minna Antrim

"Good judgement comes from experience, and
often experience comes from bad judgement."
– Rita May Brown



"Thousands of candles can be lighted from one single candle and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

– Buddha

"Everyone has to die ultimately.

It is not important

how one dies

it is more important

how one lived."

EXERCISE IS THE BEST MEDICINE, PROPORTIONAL TO ONE'S CAPACITY.

You have to exercise only on the days you eat!

RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.



SAVE LIVES, INCLUDING YOUR OWN.

YELLOW LIGHT MEANS - SLOW DOWN TO STOP
NOT SPEED UP!

A Public Service Announcement From
Rao Musunuru, M.D.

OBESITY IS THE WORST DISEASE, CONTRIBUTING TO MANY AILMENTS.

CALORIES COUNT

If you can't do without snacks between meals, try skipping meals between snacks!

RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.

DID YOU KNOW?

James (Jim) Benson Irwin was the eighth person to walk on the moon. He served as lunar module pilot for Apollo 15, the fourth human lunar landing,

AND

James Spencer Courier, the American former world number one tennis player and international tennis legend

were both raised in
Pasco County before they moved on!

PASCO PROUD!

"Open Spaces and Vibrant Places"

MORE QUOTES FROM DR. RAO MUSUNURU

"Listen to your heart when your brain cannot make up its mind."

"Happy heart and kind mind are the keys for good health!"

"You do take something with you after you die!
Good karma of good deeds. My heart believes it!"

"Jealousy is like acid, it corrodes its own container."

May God bless you with a pure heart!





Disney World, Orlando, Florida

Hi. How about our 50th Anniversary?

We did not forget you.

We visited you for every New Year's celebration for a decade,
while our son was growing up.
We have a lot of memories and momentos.

You're in our hearts.



Let the divine spirit be with you.

SIMPLIFIED EXPLANATION OF GENE-EDITING

By RAO MUSUNURU, M.D.

"Gene therapy" (an older technique) involves destroying an abnormal mutation to correct a particular disease.

"Gene editing" is relatively new, which became possible with the advent of "CRISPER" technique.

First, the abnormality in the gene (with mutation in one or more of its three billion bases) contributing to a particular condition, ailment or disease has to be identified.

Then, that abnormality has to be corrected by 'CRISPER technique' to achieve the desired result. The "medication" has to be transported to liver by intravenous injection utilizing 'synthetic lipid nano particles'. Lipid nano particle is a shell carrying synthetic 'guide RNA' directing the site of action and a 'messenger RNA' directing the mode of correction. The expected and achieved result (correcting the mutation that afflicts one or several bases out of 3 billion) is permanent, achieving the beneficial effect for life (one and done), treating or curing the condition or disease for good.

Gene editing once done on an individual, can also be undone if necessary.

Same thing can be done for the fetus in the uterus by injecting into umbilical vein, correcting the genetic abnormality that could have caused so much damage to the organs even before birth, inconsistent with continuation of life even for a few months, let alone few years even with all available, aggressive, extensive and expensive therapies. (My son, Kiran is embarking on this voyage).

Continued…

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Crossing the blood–brain barrier is still a challenge.

Finances of all this business are very complicated. I just would say that no researcher (PhD or MD PhD with clinical experience) can devote their life to this cause for money.....any amount of money. The final financial beneficiary is the pharmaceutical company that finally manufactures and markets the medication and its gambling shareholders.

The topic for the research comes out of the researcher's mind as a result of intuition, imagination, intellect and innovation. Initial funding for the work is mostly provided by grants from government or private institutions. The initial capital for animal experiments is provided by profit seeking "venture capital investors" in good faith (thank God for them). If animal experiments prove successful, very expensive and extensive clinical trials need to be done before marketing, monitored by committees to submit the information to FDA for determination of efficacy and safety, before final approval.

The credibility and reliability of the original researcher is the key for success from the beginning to the end. The researchers are strictly and legally controlled by the rules of "insider trading" with punishment up to and including imprisonment.

Thank you for your interest!

P.S.: Kiran's main research interest at this time is gene editing. He is also a teaching and treating board certified clinical cardiologist. He has masters degree in public health (MPH) from Johns Hopkins, in law (ML) covering patent (not patient), business and administration and also in regulatory affairs (MRA) covering drugs, devices and development, from University of Pennsylvania.

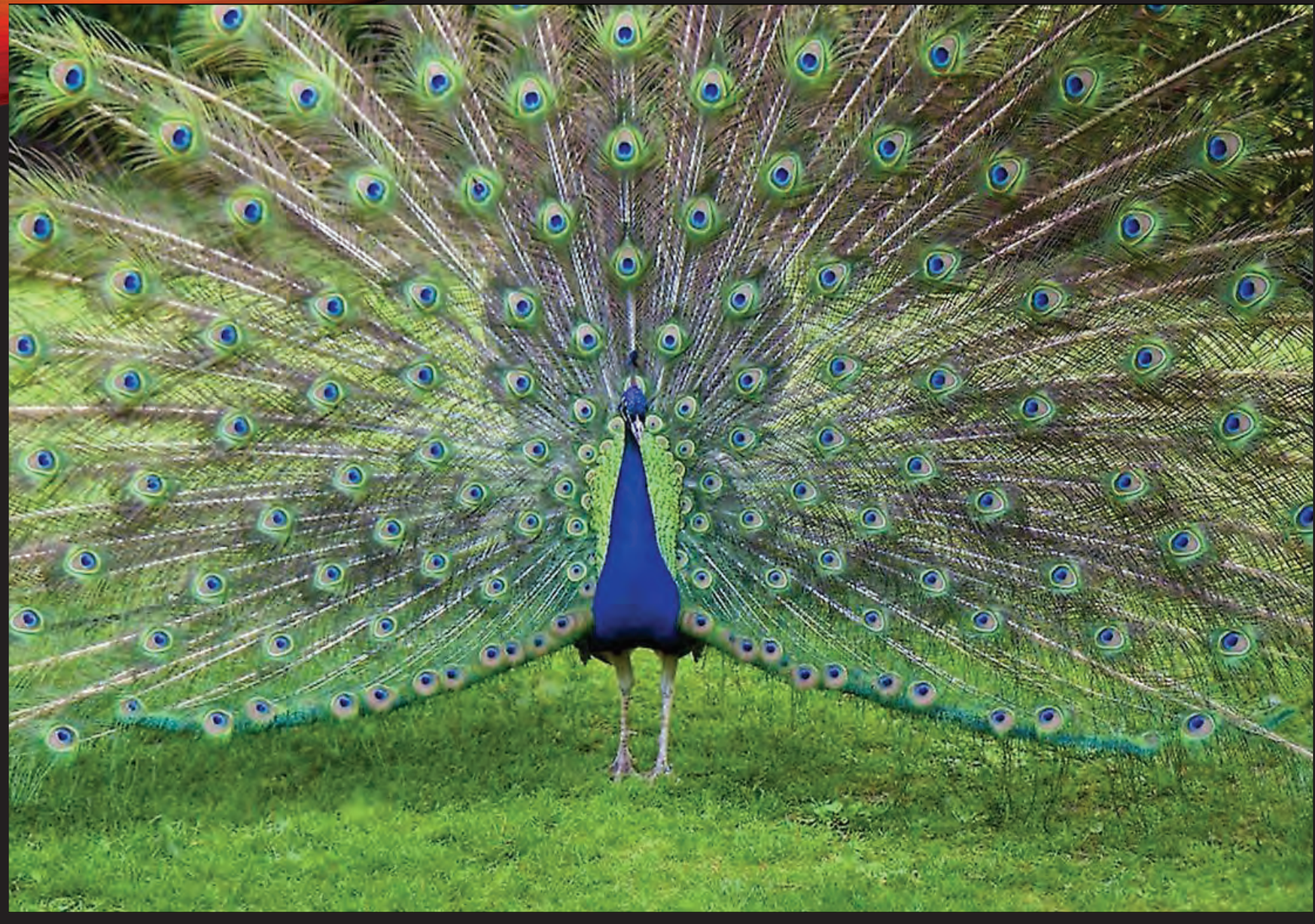


In consideration

Musunuru Family……..Center

At University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia



Thank you for allowing me to share my reflections with you.
Best wishes for health, peace and happiness.

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